

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 328 ~ 1 of 41

*“Aging is not lost youth  
but a new stage of  
opportunity and  
strength.”*

*-Betty Friedan*

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

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

- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Frost Construction Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Death Notice: Councilman Eddy Opp
- 2- Public invited to comment on proposed changes  
to state graduation requirements
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab
- 3- State Golf Results
- 3- Groton Care & Rehab Rootbeer Ad
- 3- Joan Kjellsen's 80th Birthday
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**FROST**  
CONSTRUCTION INC.  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR  
**605.290.1535**  
custom homes | remodels | additions

## Councilman Eddy Opp dies

Groton City Councilman Eddy A. Opp, 83, of Groton passed away Wednesday, June 06, 2018 at his home surrounded by his family. Services are pending.



## Public invited to comment on proposed changes to state graduation requirements

PIERRE, S.D. – The public is encouraged to engage in the statewide conversation about proposed revisions to South Dakota’s high school graduation requirements. The official public comment period on the related administrative rule changes is now open.

Members of the public can view the proposed rule changes and make public comment by visiting [rules.sd.gov](http://rules.sd.gov) and following the “Department of Education” link.\*

Written comments must be submitted by July 12. The state Board of Education Standards will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule changes at its July 16 meeting in Pierre. Individuals may also provide comment at this meeting.

Proposed changes to the graduation requirements aim to combine opportunities for rigor, student engagement and flexibility. The proposal was developed to provide students with multiple opportunities to meet their postsecondary and career goals within a framework of general high school graduation requirements.

“One major change in these proposed requirements is the concept of endorsements,” said Secretary of Education Don Kirkegaard. “The proposed requirements would allow all students to graduate with the same high school diploma, but additionally, students could earn advanced endorsements, which signify students have taken coursework with a specific focus.”

Students could earn more than one advanced endorsement, since they share some of the same course requirements. Students would not be required to earn endorsements.

The proposed endorsements are as follows:

Advanced: indicates a student has pursued the coursework consistent with entrance requirements for postsecondary education at a university

Advanced Career: indicates a student has career experience in a concentrated area, based on academic and/or workplace experience and a related credential

Advanced Honors: indicates a student has pursued advanced rigorous, academic coursework consistent with the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship course requirements

–30–

\*As rules are presented in a package, look for the rules package with a public hearing date of 7/16/2018. The proposed changes to graduation requirements are located on pages 49-71 of that document.

## 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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The Groton Community  
is Invited to



Rootbeer Float

Wednesday, June 13th  
6:30 p.m.

 **GROTON**  
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER  
1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

## State Golf Results

Ashley Fliehs and Payton Colestock represented Groton at the State A Golf tournament at Dell Rapids June 4th and 5th. Payton Colestock shot a 102 on day 1 and a 97 on day 2. Payton finished in tie for 37th place. Ashley shot a 115 on day 1 and a 115 on day 2. Ashley finished in a tie for 75th place.

80th Birthday . . .



**Joan Kjellsen**

Joan will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. Her family requests a card shower in her honor.

Greetings may be sent to:  
Joan Kjellsen  
208 Hillview Rd  
Sisseton, SD 57262

## James Valley Telecommunications 62nd Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 7th @Groton HS Arena

11:30am - 12:30pm Registration & Lunch

12:30pm Business Meeting

*JVT's office will be closed 11am - 2pm.*

Grand Prize \$500 Credit - must be present to win!

Free Membership Gift & Special Offers

Childcare Provided

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## Groton Area Fourth Quarter Honor Roll

### Seniors:

4.0 GPA: Alexis Gustafson, Jenifer Fjelstad, Marshall Lane, Hattie Weismantel, Gia Gengerke, Madilyn Wright

3.99-3.50: Anthony Sippel, Jackson Oliver, Luke Thorson, Alexandra Stange, Hayden Pigors, Jessica Bjerke, Madison Sippel, Hunter Monson, Tyler Iverson, Brandon Keith

3.49-3.00: Emma Donley, Erika Herr, Brenna Johnson, Hannah Lewandowski, Harleigh Stange, Mitchel Thurston

### Juniors

4.0 GPA: AnneMarie Smith, Emily Thompson, Jillian Barton, Ashley Garduno, Samantha Geffre

3.99-3.50 Alexis Simon, Cassandra Townsend, Kylie Kassube, Samantha Menzia, Kaitlyn Anderson, Taylor Holm, Kaitlyn Kassube

3.49-3.00: Tylan Glover, Micah Poor, Payton Maine, Miranda Hanson, Jennie Doeden, James Cranford, Jeremy Johnson

### Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Kaycie Hawkins

3.99-3.50: Kayla Jensen, Nicole Marzahn, Kaylin Kucker, KaSandra Pappas, Kya Jandel, Payton Colestock, Amelie Hartwig, Tadyn Glover, Caitlynn Barse

3.49-3.00: Indigo Rogers, Ashley Fliehs, Benjamin Higgins, Eliza Wanner, Rylee Rosenau, Thomas Cranford, Cade Guthmiller

### Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Isaac Smith, Erin Unzen

3.99-3.50: Samantha Pappas, Grace Wambach, Sage Mortenson, Alexa Herr, Tanae Lipp, Jasmine Gengerke, Trey Gengerke, Alexis Hanten, Regan Leicht

3.49-3.00: Tessa Erdmann, Hailey Monson, Grace Wiedrick, Steven Paulson, Dragr Monson, Alex Morris, Alyssa Fordham, Braden Freeman, Brooklyn Gilbert, Sarah Sippel, Chandler Larson, Tiara DeHoet

### Eighth Grade

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Allyssa Locke, Stella Meier, Madeline Fliehs, Trista Keith, Travis Townsend, Kennedy Anderson, Riley Gengerke, Madisen Bjerke, Julianna Kosel, Pierce Kettering

3.49-3.00: Jackson Cogley, Seth Johnson, Jordan Bjerke, Kansas Kroll, Kaden Kurtz, Hannah Gustafson, Jace Kroll, Lane Krueger, Alexander Dutchuk, Megan Fliehs

### Seventh Grade

4.0 GPA: Caleb Hanten

3.99-3.50: Kaleb Antonsen, Carter Barse, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, Cole Bisbee, Elliana Weismantel, Ethan Clark, Brooke Gengerke, Aspen Johnson, Kamryn Fliehs, Andrew Marzahn, Cadance Tullis

3.49-3.00: Tate Larson, Cole Simon, Dylan Anderson, KayLynn Overacker, Sierra Ehresmann, Cade Larson, Jackson Bahr, Porter Johnson, Gracie Traphagen, Shallyn Foertsch, Jacelynne Gleason, Isaac Higgins, Ava Kramer, Shaylee Peterson, Jessica Figueroa

### Sixth Grade

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Emily Clark, Claire Heinrich, Dillon Abeln, Hannah Monson. Jaycie Lier, Lexi Osterman, Ashlyn Sperry, Emma Schinkel, Lane Tietz

3.49-3.00: Kyleigh Englund, Abigail Jensen, Holden Sippel, Bradin Althoff, Anna Fjeldheim, Cadence Feist, Sydney Leicht, Lydia Meier, Anna Bisbee, Colby Dunker, Camryn Kurtz, Sara Menzia, Carly Guthmiller, Karsyn Jangula



## **SOCIAL SECURITY Q & A**

**By: Patty Hoffman**

**Social Security Public Affairs Specialist**

Question:

If I retire at age 62, will I be eligible for Medicare?

Answer:

No. Medicare starts when you reach 65. If you retire at 62, you may be able to continue medical insurance coverage through your employer or purchase it from a private insurance company until you become eligible for Medicare. For more information see our publication, Medicare, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs), or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question:

Where can I find general information about Medicare benefits?

Answer:

Social Security determines whether people are entitled to Medicare benefits, but the program is administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). You can visit CMS's Medicare website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), or call them at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Online or by phone, you can find answers to all your Medicare questions at CMS.

Question:

What's the best way to find out if I might be eligible for SSI?

Answer:

Our online Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool (BEST) will help you find out if you could get benefits that Social Security administers. Based on your answers to questions, this tool will list benefits for which you might be eligible and tell you more information about how to qualify and apply. Find BEST at [www.benefits.gov/ssa](http://www.benefits.gov/ssa).

Question:

My daughter is nineteen years old. In her senior year of high school, she had an accident that paralyzed her. It doesn't look like she will be able to work in the near future, and since she has never worked she hasn't paid Social Security taxes. Can Social Security still help her?

Answer:

Your daughter may qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. SSI is a needs-based program paid for by general revenue taxes and run by Social Security. It helps provide monetary support to people who are disabled and who have not paid enough in Social Security taxes to qualify for Social Security disability benefits. To qualify for SSI, a person must be disabled, and have limited resources and income. For more information, visit our website and check out our publication, You May Be Able To Get SSI, at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11069.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11069.pdf)

Question:

I'm thinking about getting disability protection from a private company. If I become disabled and have a private policy, would it reduce my Social Security disability benefit?

Answer:

No. Having private insurance does not affect your eligibility for Social Security disability benefits. But, you may be interested to know that workers' compensation and certain other public disability payments may affect your Social Security benefit. You can learn more and even apply for disability benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability). Also, read our publication, How Workers' Compensation and Other Disability Payments May Affect Your Benefits, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

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## Today in Weather History

June 7, 1982: Lightning struck a house in Sunshine Acres, north of Pierre, and the ensuing fire destroyed the interior. One person received minor burns. Over two inches of rain fell in Pierre causing Capital Lake to rise four feet. Water and mud flooded the State Maintenance Building.

June 7, 1993: A large F3 tornado destroyed a farmstead 9 miles southwest of Tulare. The tornado twisted the house on its foundation, virtually destroying it. This storm also destroyed a barn, three steel bins, three granaries, and two hog houses. Ten hogs were killed.

At least three more tornadoes damaged several farms in the Tulare and Redfield areas. A tornado hit one farm northwest of Tulare causing about 65,000 dollars in damage. Another tornado damaged a farm 5 miles west of Redfield.

1692: A massive earthquake strikes Port Royal in Jamaica, killing some 3,000 people. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1816: The following is found on page 31, from the book, "History of the American Clock Business for the Past Sixty Year, and Life of Chauncey Jerome," written by Chauncey Jerome. The book was published in 1860. "The next summer was a cold one of 1816, which none of the old people will ever forget, and which many of the young have heard a great deal about. There was ice and snow in every month of the year. I well remember on the seventh of June, while on my way to work, about a mile from home, dressed throughout with thick woolen clothes and an overcoat on, my hands got so cold that I was obliged to lay down my tools and put on a pair of mittens which I had in my pocket. It snowed about an hour that day." This bitter cold event occurred in Plymouth, Connecticut.

1816 - A famous June snow occurred in the northeastern U.S. Danville VT reported drifts of snow and sleet twenty inches deep. The Highlands were white all day, and flurries were observed as far south as Boston MA. (David Ludlum)

1972 - Richmond VA experienced its worst flood of record as rains from Hurricane Agnes pushed the water level at the city locks to a height of 36.5 feet, easily topping the previous record of thirty feet set in 1771. (The Weather Channel)




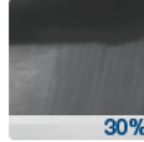



1987 - Thunderstorms in the Laramie Mountains of eastern Wyoming produced golf ball size hail, and up to five inches of rain in just one hour. Half a dozen cities in the Upper Mississippi Valley reported record high temperatures for the date, including La Crosse, WI, with a reading of 97 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

1988 - Snow whitened some of the mountains of northern California and northwestern Nevada. Twenty-six cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Rapid City SD with a reading of 104 degrees, and Miles City, MT, with a high of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from southern Oklahoma and eastern Texas to northwestern Florida through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned 22 tornadoes, including a dozen in Louisiana, and there were 119 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-2) tornado at Gross Tete LA killed two persons, injured thirty others, and another strong (F-2) tornado injured 60 persons at Lobdell LA. Softball size hail was reported at Hillsboro TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny	Chance Showers	Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Hot
High: 80 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 92 °F

## Strong to Severe Storms Possible, Mainly Tonight

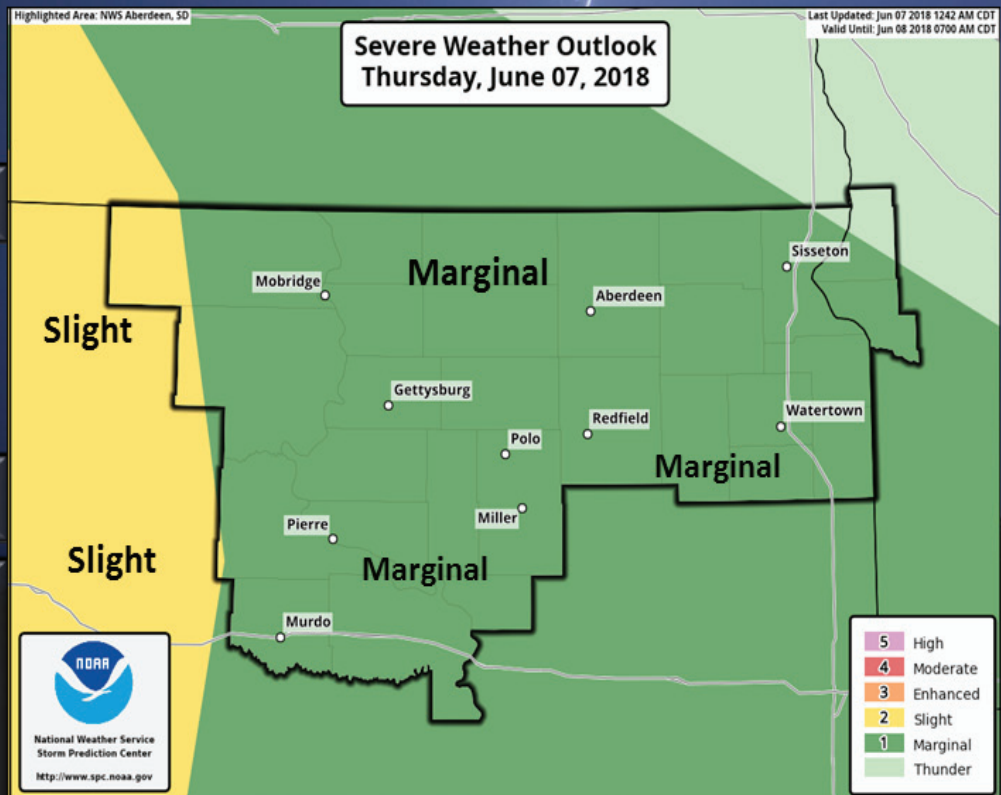


**Hail ~ 1**



**Wind ~ 60 mph**

**Storm Timing:  
7 pm to 3 am  
Friday**



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 6/7/2018 5:24 AM Central

Published on: 06/07/2018 at 5:40AM

Weak showers west river should die off this morning. Additional storms are expected to form over western South Dakota and then move east overnight. Some of these storms could be strong to severe. Hail and damaging winds will be the main threats.



# Groton Daily Independent

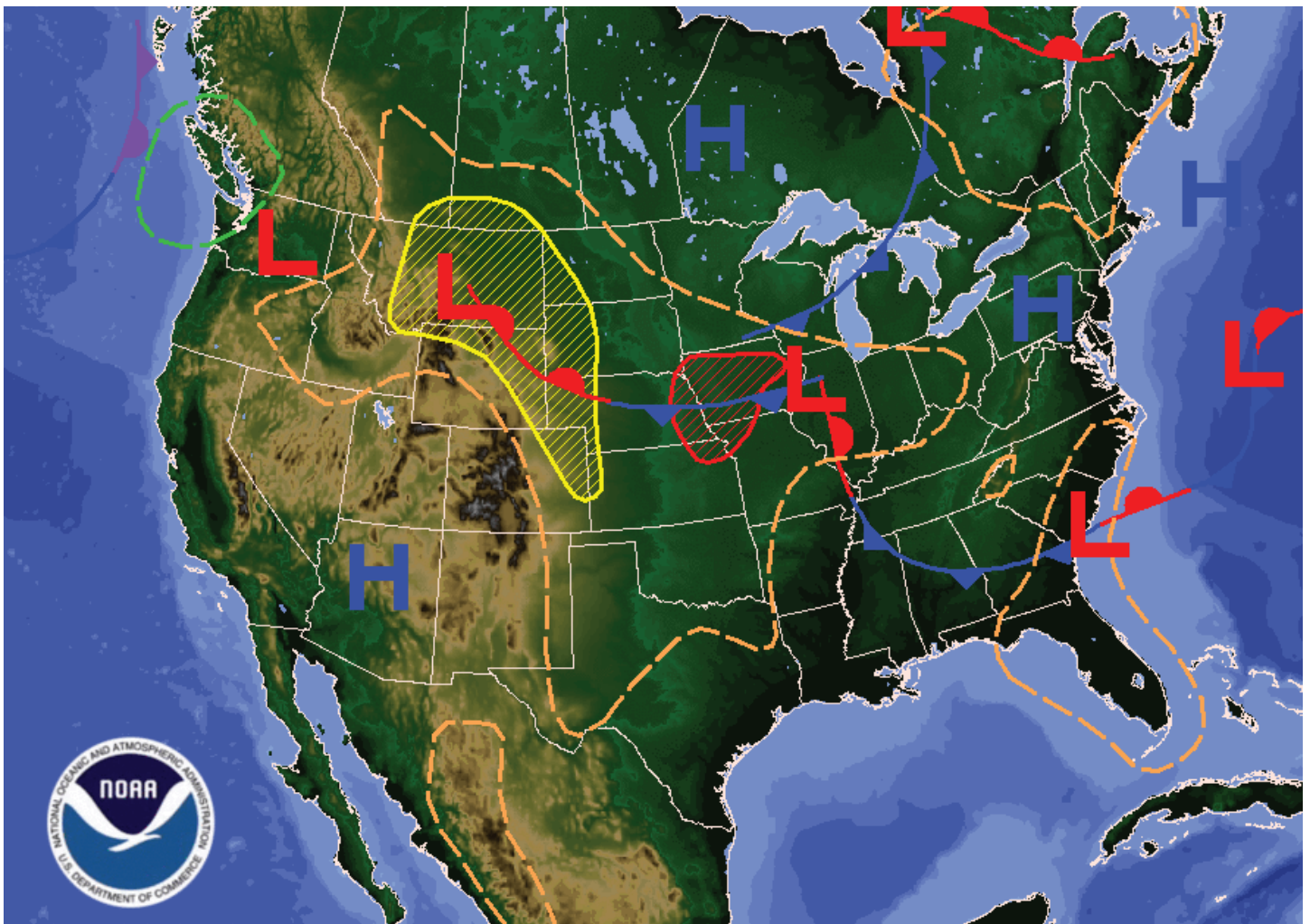
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 79.4 F at 1:06 AM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 62.6 F at 11:30 PM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 33.0 Mph at 1:32 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 95° in 1952**  
**Record Low: 28° in 1901**  
**Average High: 75°F**  
**Average Low: 51°F**  
**Average Precip in June: 0.81**  
**Precip to date in June: 0.29**  
**Average Precip to date: 7.95**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.59**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:19 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Jun 07, 2018, issued 4:47 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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





## I DIDN'T REALLY MEAN IT

Marcie stood before her Dad looking at her favorite toy car. Suddenly she jumped up in his lap and said, "You know, Daddy, this is my favorite toy. But I want you to have it."

Surprised, he asked, "Why, I know that you love this little car. Why are you giving it to me?"

"Because I love you," was her reply.

A few moments later she climbed back into his lap and said, "Daddy, I want my car back. I guess I didn't love you as much as I thought I did," and took her car back.

Many Christians have the same attitude toward God. We give ourselves to Him and then realize that it's going to bring about changes in our lives that we did not realize. So, we take back our "gift."

In Psalm 118 we read of a "festal" procession with people going "up to the horns of the altar." The people in this procession are taking a sacrifice to God. This is not unusual because throughout the Bible people take many different sacrifices to God. In this verse, however, the people in the procession are required to take their "bough" in their hands - their sacrifice - and "bind" it to the altar. Once the sacrifice was bound to the altar, it could not be taken back!

Paul wrote, "Give your bodies to God and let them be a living sacrifice." The sacrifice he writes of in this verse is not for our sin but for our salvation. When we accept His salvation He expects us to willingly "bind" ourselves to Him in loving service.

Prayer: Convict us, Lord, to become "willing" sacrifices and abandon ourselves in service to You forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 118:27 God is the Lord, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

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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

### Prospect of Native congresswoman galvanizes American Indians

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico, a state with deep historical ties to American Indians whose images and symbols are rooted in everything from the state flag to town names, has moved closer to electing the first Native American woman to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Deb Haaland's victory Tuesday in a Democratic primary for an open congressional seat encompassing the state's largest city of Albuquerque had Native Americans from Washington state to Oklahoma celebrating the possibility of a landmark in U.S. political history.

Haaland, a tribal member of the Laguna Pueblo who was born in Winslow, Arizona, defeated a crowded field of mainly Hispanic candidates. It came almost 50 years to the day that Robert F. Kennedy won South Dakota's Democratic presidential primary thanks to the Native American vote on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Haaland told The Associated Press on Wednesday that she credited her victory to the movement of Native American voting that Kennedy sparked and her 15 years working as an organizer registering such voters.

"The Native vote has helped a lot of candidates win. The Native vote can sway a statewide election," she said. "I think if we keep working hard to get out to vote and to stay active, we can have a larger say in our politics."

Haaland faces Republican former state lawmaker Janice Arnold-Jones and Libertarian candidate Lloyd Princeton, both of whom are white, in the general election. Democrats have held the seat in recent years.

News of Haaland's primary victory spread far beyond New Mexico, home to 23 tribes whose population is about 11 percent Native American.

"Her win brings us closer to this historic moment," said Mark Trahan, editor of Indian Country Today website. "Congress has never had a voice like her."

Trahan said Haaland's candidacy also generated excitement in Indian Country as more women of color run for office. Paulette Jordan, a Democratic candidate for governor in Idaho and member of the Coeur d'Alene tribe, came to New Mexico to campaign on Haaland's behalf.

Haaland, 57, also pulled together a multiethnic coalition that sought to work outside the usual white and Hispanic powerbrokers.

She won the support of the Congressional Black Caucus political action committee, and Rep. Gwen Moore, a black Democratic congresswoman from Milwaukee, traveled to Albuquerque this week to stump for her.

In last minute canvassing, Haaland had white teachers, Muslim volunteers and young Latina making last-minute calls on her behalf.

"This is going to be big," Moore told Haaland supporters before Tuesday's election.

Haaland said if she makes it to Congress, she will work to fight poverty in Native American communities and climate change.

Her Republican opponent credited Haaland for being a hard worker and for achieving a political milestone.

"But we've elected people based on their identity and sexual orientation before and what good did that get us?" Arnold-Jones asked.

The Republican said voters in the central New Mexico congressional seat are pragmatic and will be turned off by Haaland's "far left" stances on abortion, immigration and rolling back the state's oil production economy.

"These aren't the issues that will resonate with voters here," Arnold-Jones said. "You can't go into a legislative body and be mad at everyone."

Haaland said she knows what's at stake in the election — for New Mexico voters but also for Native Americans nationwide. That's why she intends to use her biography as a selling point so voters know she's faced adversity.

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"Yes, I know what it's like to have to live off food stamps ... yes, I've had my struggle with addiction," Haaland said referring to a bout with alcoholism. "Sadly, that affects our society here in New Mexico."

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash  
14-21-22-27-30  
(fourteen, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-seven, thirty)  
Estimated jackpot: \$53,000

Lotto America  
19-28-31-39-51, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 3  
(nineteen, twenty-eight, thirty-one, thirty-nine, fifty-one; Star Ball: four; ASB: three)  
Estimated jackpot: \$3.24 million

Mega Millions  
Estimated jackpot: \$127 million

Powerball  
23-28-41-53-56, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 3  
(twenty-three, twenty-eight, forty-one, fifty-three, fifty-six; Powerball: fourteen; Power Play: three)  
Estimated jackpot: \$87 million

## South Dakota's Noem not playing up gender in governor run

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Shortly after U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem rolled to the Republican nomination for South Dakota governor, she urged the party to unite behind her "bold vision" in a speech that made no mention of her chance to become the state's first female governor.

The victory Tuesday night followed a campaign against Attorney General Marty Jackley in which Noem declined to play up her gender, instead focusing on her farming and ranching background and negotiating the GOP's federal tax cuts with President Donald Trump. And there's no indication Noem will change course in a campaign where she already is the front-runner.

Noem said she's focused on what she wants to get done, not about the historic step for South Dakota women her victory would represent.

"It seems to me that people supported me last night based on my background, my experience and my vision for the state," Noem said Wednesday. "Sure, it would be incredibly special to be the first female governor, but I also think that people are supporting me because of the person that I am and what I bring to the table."

Marguerite McPhillips, president of the South Dakota Federation of Republican Women, said she's "very delighted" to be able to vote for a woman in the fall but doesn't expect Noem to start making a big deal of it now.

"I think she'll win on other issues. I don't think it'll be because she would be the first woman governor," said McPhillips, who declined to say whom she supported in the primary. "Kristi has some great ideas, and she's strong, and so it'll be a good governorship, and I'm looking forward to it."



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In the primary, some of Noem's advertising dovetailed with the #MeToo movement, with spots criticizing Jackley for denying a grievance from a former state agent who won a discrimination and retaliation lawsuit last year after a colleague harassed her. The ads took aim at Jackley's tough-on-crime credentials as the state's chief law enforcement officer.

South Dakota State University political science professor Lisa Hager said it's likely Noem didn't focus on the issue in part because women tend to fare better in politics emphasizing their experience.

"Rather than ... focusing on 'Hey, I can be the first woman to hold this position,' it was better for Kristi to really hammer on why she's qualified to hold that position to hopefully try to get away from any sort of stereotypes anyone might have," Hager said.

The Republican Governors Association highlighted Noem's victory in a Wednesday tweet about Republicans nominating "three dynamic female candidates for governor" in Alabama, Iowa and South Dakota. The Center for American Women and Politics says a record number of major party women filed to run for governor in the U.S. this year.

Noem is the favorite in the race against Democrat Billie Sutton, a state senator and former professional rodeo cowboy, in South Dakota's November election. She defeated incumbent Democrat Stephanie Herseth Sandlin in 2010 for the state's congressional seat and won three more times before running for governor.

Noem, a rancher, farmer and small business owner, has brought women-focused legislation in the U.S. House before. That includes a measure Trump signed into law last year requiring the U.S. to create a strategy to boost women's participation in negotiating peace and preventing conflict. But Noem said she generally believes there aren't really "women's issues," just a woman's perspective on every issue.

"We look at things a little bit differently, and that perspective is incredibly important to have good policy," Noem said.

In the South Dakota governor's race, Sutton said he thinks it's important that "we focus on the best person for the job."

"It's a choice of the status quo and politics as usual in the congresswoman, versus change and a better direction, which is me," Sutton said.

## Rapid City voters overwhelmingly approve \$130 million arena

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City voters have approved a measure to build a \$130 million arena to replace the aging Barnett Arena.

Nearly two-thirds of the approximately 17,000 voters in Tuesday's election approved the project. The vote, prompted by a citizen petition drive, came three years after residents rejected a \$180 million new arena proposal.

Had the less-costly replacement plan failed, the city would have renovated the existing arena for up to \$28 million to bring it into compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Rapid City is nearly 10 months behind a deadline the U.S. Department of Justice ordered for getting the Barnett Arena into compliance with ADA access guidelines.

Mayor Steve Allender has been pushing to build a new arena instead of renovating the old one, facing opposition from four of the city's former mayors.

The City Council approved in February issuing up to \$110 million in sales tax bonds and lease certificates of participation to fund construction of a new arena. Rapid City has also saved about \$25 million for a down payment on the new arena.

Construction costs are estimated at \$130 million, but the project carries a total price tag of \$182 million including interest.

The city hopes to break ground on the new arena next spring and have it completed in about two years, Allender said.

He said after the election results were announced, "This is a statement tonight about who Rapid City wants to be in the future and that's the type of Rapid City I want to work for."

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## Woman killed in Meade County crash

WASTA, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a 65-year-old woman has died in a traffic crash in Meade County.

The patrol says the woman was driving north of Wasta Tuesday afternoon when she lost control of her pickup truck on a curve. The truck traveled into a ditch and rolled over.

The victim, who was not identified, was alone in the vehicle and died at the scene of the crash. The patrol says she was wearing a seatbelt.

## High school golfer self-reports violation, loses state title

DELL RAPIDS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota high school golfer cost herself and her team a state championship when she self-reported an error she'd made on her scorecard.

Sioux Falls Christian won the Class A girls state golf tournament on Tuesday, with senior Kate Wynja finishing first overall for the second year in a row. Wynja, who finished several shots ahead, realized she'd submitted an incorrect scorecard, crediting herself with a 4 on No. 18 instead of a 5.

"I knew I needed to tell them," Wynja told the Argus Leader. "It was really sad, mostly because I knew what the result would be. I knew that I would be disqualified, and it broke my heart for the team. But I knew I couldn't leave without saying something."

She and her coach reported the violation to tournament directors, who had no choice but to disqualify her. That also meant her team finished second, not first.

Dan Swartos, a tournament director, called the situation "awful."

"I have so much respect for Kate to come up and do that," he said. "I cannot say enough for that young lady and how much integrity that took, and how proud I am to have kids like that in South Dakota."

There has been an outpouring of support for Wynja on social media, with teammates and competitors offering support.

"That was a tough situation in general (but) being surrounded by people who love me is awesome," Wynja said.

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

## \$18.3M grant awarded for Heartland Expressway in Panhandle

ALLIANCE, Neb. (AP) — Federal officials have awarded an \$18.3 million grant for work on the Heartland Expressway project in the Nebraska Panhandle.

The office of U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer, R-Neb., announced the grant in a news release Tuesday.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation will use the money to convert to four lanes a nearly 15-mile (24-kilometer) segment of U.S. Highway 385. That stretch runs north to Alliance from the state 62A junction.

The Heartland Expressway project includes four-lane highways spanning nearly 500 (805 kilometers). The expressway would connect Denver and Rapid City, South Dakota, running through Nebraska, and also connect to Interstate 25 in Wyoming.

## Voters in Pierre overwhelmingly approve \$37M water plant

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Voters in Pierre have approved a \$37 million water treatment plant.

Nearly three-fourths of voters in Tuesday's election were in favor of the project.

The proposal resulted from a study of Pierre's water system. The City Commission in February decided to put the matter to a public vote. Mayor Steve Harding called it a "quality of life" issue.

Pierre gets its water from wells, and the quality is poor. The new plant will draw water from the Missouri River. Design work will begin in the next couple of weeks. The city expects to complete the project sometime in 2021.

City residents will see their water bills rise by up to \$30 per month.

## Sturgis hosting national gathering of scooter enthusiasts

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The mecca for motorcycles is playing host to motor scooter enthusiasts this week. The Black Hills Pioneer reports Sturgis is hosting the Cushman Club of America National Meet. Cushman Motor Works in 1901 started manufacturing small motors for farm equipment and boats. It added motor scooters to its product line in 1936.

The Cushman Club of America has about 3,200 members. About 500 are expected to attend this week's gathering in Sturgis, which began Sunday and runs through Thursday. The group last gathered in Sturgis in 2010.

Sturgis is better known for hosting an annual motorcycle rally that draws hundreds of thousands of people from around the world.

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

## At Guatemala volcano, weather and danger hinder search

By MARK STEVENSON and SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

SAN MIGUEL LOS LOTES, Guatemala (AP) — Troublesome rain and more volcanic activity are hindering search and rescue efforts around Guatemala's Volcano of Fire, but when teams have been able to work in the hardest hit areas the death toll has continued to rise.

Efforts were cut short again Wednesday when a downpour forced teams to retreat for fear of mudslides. Boiling water flowing down the volcano's slopes from dangerously hot volcanic gas and ash also posed a threat. A day earlier, flows of super-heated volcanic material forced crews to pull back.

But between stoppages, search teams working with shovels and heavy equipment found more bodies from Sunday's big eruption. Remains were loaded into body bags and carried out on stretchers.

Guatemala's National Institute of Forensic Sciences raised the death toll to 99 late in afternoon, an increase of 24 bodies for the day. Only 28 of the total had been identified. At least 197 people were listed as missing.

"Nobody is going to be able to get them out or say how many are buried here," Efrain Suarez said, standing amid the smoking holes dotting what used to be the village of San Miguel Los Lotes on the flanks of the mountain.

"The bodies are already charred," the 59-year-old truck driver said. "And if heavy machinery comes in they will be torn apart."

Rescuers poked metal rods into the ground, sending clouds of smoke pouring into the air in a sign of the super-hot temperatures still remaining below the surface, which firefighters said reached as high as 750 to 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit (400 to 700 degrees Celsius) in some places.

A day after a new evacuation was ordered due to increasing activity by the volcano, a red alert remained in place for the departments of Escuintla, Sacatepequez and Chimaltenango, and people were advised not to linger near the affected zones.

The country's seismology and volcanology institute warned of new flows descending through canyons on the volcano's western slope toward the Pantaleon River, carrying boulders and tree trunks.

At a shelter in the Murray D. Lincoln school in the city of Escuintla, about 10 miles (15 kilometers) from the volcano's peak, Alfonso Castillo said he and his extended family of 30 had lived on a shared plot in San Miguel Los Lotes where each family had its own home.

The volcano is one of Central America's most active, and everyone was accustomed to rumbling and spewing smoke, so at first nothing seemed unusual Sunday, the 33-year-old farm worker said. But then a huge cloud of ash came pouring out.

"In a matter of three or four minutes the village disappeared," Castillo said. It was smothered in what he described as a "sea" of muck that came crashing into homes, inundating people, pets and wildlife.

The family holed up in a house that heated up "like a boiler" inside, he said, then made their way onto the roof and then to the upper story of another, concrete home. After a cellphone call to Castillo's brother,

rescuers arrived and took the family to safety.

But the life they knew was gone.

"Nobody wants to go back there. My children say they would rather be in the streets. ... There are many people who are helping us, but we have absolutely nothing. We could not get anything out," Castillo said. "For us, there is no tomorrow."

In past disasters in which authorities determined there was no chance of finding survivors and further efforts to recover bodies would be too difficult, areas have been declared burial sites, the final resting place of the victims.

Asked about that possibility, the director of Guatemala's disaster agency, Sergio Cabanas, said: "Not until the search efforts are over, and it would be left up to the people."

Associated Press writer Mark Stevenson reported this story in San Miguel Los Lotes and AP writer Sonia Perez D. reported from Escuintla.

## Underwood makes history again, Shelton wins top CMT Award

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

Carrie Underwood continued to make history as the most decorated act at the CMT Music Awards with 18 wins, while Blake Shelton walked away with the night's top prize.

Shelton, the only person to win two awards Wednesday, won video of the year for "I'll Name the Dogs" at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I've been doing this for 18 years. I have been making records and luckily enough you guys have accepted them," said Shelton, who also won male video of the year. "It's been a crazy ride."

Underwood won female video of the year for the Ludacris-assisted song, "The Champion," also giving the rapper-actor his first CMT Award.

"Thank you God for you guys — the fans," Underwood said. "Thank you Ludacris for wanting to inspire."

Ludacris didn't attend the show, but others from outside of country music were in the house, from Kelly Clarkson to Backstreet Boys, who both performed at the show.

The boy band also picked up an award, winning CMT performance of the year for the Florida Georgia Line-featured version of their classic hit, "Everybody," from the "CMT Crossroads" TV special.

"Seriously, so who would have thought?" BSB's Brian Littrell said of winning an award for their 20-year-old song.

"We're everything because of y'all," FGL's Brian Kelley said to the fans.

Another duet — Kane Brown and Lauran Alaina's "What Ifs" — won the former classmates collaborative video of the year.

"This is my first award I've ever won. It's an amazing feeling," Brown said.

Little Big Town — who hosted the show for the first time — won group video of the year and performed their funky single, "Summer Fever," which featured colorful lights and disco balls onstage.

Underwood, per usual, was a vocal powerhouse as she sang "Cry Pretty," earning of the night's loudest applause.

Some performers sang outdoors, including Luke Bryan, Chris Stapleton and Sam Hunt, who sang "Downtown's Dead" in downtown Nashville, walking the streets and going into bars during the performance.

Dan + Shay, who also performed, picked up duo video of the year.

Carly Pearce won breakthrough video of the year and cried as she walked to the stage to collect her trophy.

"Y'all, I sat in the stands with my mom ... wondering if I'd get here," she said. "Oh my goodness, I'm freaking out."

She won the award for her hit song, "Every Little Thing," telling the audience before she walked away: "To the guy that broke my heart, 'Thank you!'"

The CMT Music Awards, which kicked off with a spoof of the Royal Wedding, honors the year's best



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country music videos.

Online:

<http://www.cmt.com/cmt-music-awards>

## Trump commutes term of Kardashian-championed drug offender

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Flexing his clemency powers once again, President Donald Trump on Wednesday commuted the life sentence of a woman whose cause was championed by reality TV star Kim Kardashian West.

“BEST NEWS EVER!!!!” was the exuberant Twitter response from Kardashian West, who visited the White House last week to press the case.

Alice Marie Johnson, 63, had spent more than two decades behind bars, serving life without parole for drug offenses. She was released hours after the White House announcement and ran into her family members’ arms.

Michael Scholl, a member of Johnson’s legal team, said she was released just before 6 p.m. from federal prison in Aliceville, Alabama. Footage from local news station WVTM-13 showed Johnson running toward her family, throwing her arms wide-open and embracing them in front of a crowd of onlookers.

“Everybody was crying and hugging,” Scholl said.

“I’m just so thankful. I feel like my life is starting over again,” Johnson said moments after her release, calling Kardashian West an “angel” and thanking Trump “for giving me another chance at life and restoring me to my family.”

Unlike a pardon, the commutation will not erase Johnson’s conviction, only end her sentence.

Trump’s decision, his latest inspired by a celebrity champion, comes amid a flurry of recent pardons issued by the president. He says he’s considering a long list of other clemency actions for those famous and not, including former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who is serving 14 years in prison for corruption, and celebrity homemaker Martha Stewart, who served about five months on charges connected to an insider trading case.

Trump has been working outside the traditional pardon process usually overseen by the Justice Department, and has appeared to favor cases that catch his attention — because they’ve been championed by friends, celebrities or conservative media, or involve people he sees as rivals. Trump has also been drawn to cases in which he believes prosecutors may have been motivated by politics — situations that may remind him of his own predicament at the center of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian election meddling.

Trump recently pardoned conservative commentator Dinesh D’Souza, who was convicted of a campaign finance violation. And he granted a posthumous pardon to boxing’s first black heavyweight champion, which had been championed by actor Sylvester Stallone. The federal prosecutor who oversaw Stewart’s case in New York was James Comey, one of Trump’s principal antagonists and the man he fired as FBI director last year.

Some have seen the pardons as sending a message to former campaign aides now ensnared in the Mueller probe or other legal inquiries, including Trump’s longtime lawyer and legal “fixer” Michael Cohen, whose finances are under federal investigation.

Indeed, the wife of former Trump campaign aide George Papadopoulos, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his Russia contacts, appeared on Fox News this week to lobby her husband’s case.

“I trust and hope and ask to President Trump to pardon him,” Simona Mangiante Papadopoulos told Trump’s favorite network.

As he considers additional pardons, Trump is looking at cases where he can bring “relief to folks who he feels have been ‘treated unfairly,’ a term the president uses frequently to describe many different situations,” Kellyanne Conway, a top adviser to Trump, said Wednesday.

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Shawn Holley, Kardashian West's attorney who accompanied her to the White House last week, said the reality star was the one who broke the news to Johnson on Wednesday in what she described as "the most wonderful, emotional and amazing phone call with Alice, Kim and Alice's lawyers."

"Once Alice's family joined the call, the tears never stopped flowing," Holley said in a statement.

Kardashian West described the moment via Twitter.

"Telling her for the first time and hearing her screams while crying together is a moment I will never forget."

In a statement announcing the president's decision, the White House said Johnson "has accepted responsibility for her past behavior" and had been a model prisoner, working hard to rehabilitate herself and serve as a mentor to fellow inmates.

"While this Administration will always be very tough on crime, it believes that those who have paid their debt to society and worked hard to better themselves while in prison deserve a second chance," said a statement from the office of White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Attorney Brittany K. Barnett, another member of Johnson's legal team, said Johnson felt overwhelmed with emotion and like she's been "resurrected from the dead."

Johnson was convicted in 1996 on eight criminal counts related to a Memphis-based cocaine trafficking operation involving more than a dozen people. The 1994 indictment describes dozens of deliveries and drug transactions, many involving Johnson.

Federal courts including the Supreme Court rejected her appeals. Court records show she had a motion pending for a reduction in her sentence, but prosecutors were opposed, saying the sentence was in accord with federal guidelines based on the large quantity of drugs involved.

Her clemency had also been rejected by President Barack Obama, who commuted the sentences of hundreds of federal inmates convicted of drug crimes.

Kardashian West visited the White House last month to meet with Trump son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, who is overseeing the administration's push to overhaul the nation's prison system. She also met with Trump in the Oval Office, a photograph of which the president posted on Twitter.

Kardashian West thanked the president and his team and said Johnson's commutation "is inspirational and gives hope to so many others who are also deserving of a second chance."

The decision to commute Johnson's sentence was advocated by Kushner and Trump's eldest daughter, Ivanka. Others, including White House counsel Don McGahn and chief of staff John Kelly, were less enthusiastic, according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

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Associated Press writers Adrian Sainz in Memphis, Anthony McCartney in Los Angeles, Darlene Superville in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

## More Americans screened over mystery health issues in China

By **KELVIN CHAN** and **DAKE KANG**, Associated Press

GUANGZHOU, China (AP) — A U.S. medical team was screening more Americans who work in a southern Chinese city as the State Department confirmed evacuating a number of government workers who experienced unexplained health issues like those that have hurt U.S. personnel in Cuba and China.

The evacuations of the workers in Guangzhou followed medical testing that revealed they might have been affected. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said "a number of individuals" have been brought to the U.S. but didn't say how many were affected or evacuated. One case in Guangzhou had been disclosed last month.

She said tests are being offered to "any personnel who have noted concerning symptoms or wanted baseline screening."

Security guards outside the consulate checked reporter's IDs on Thursday and told them to leave the area and not attempt to talk to consulate staff.

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Asked about the latest incidents, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the U.S. had not formally raised the matter with Beijing.

"If the U.S. makes formal contact with us, China will continue necessary investigations in an earnest and responsible manner and maintain close communication and cooperation with the U.S.," Hua said at a regularly scheduled news conference.

China had earlier said it had no information about the cause of the symptoms.

The New York Times identified the latest American employee evacuated as Mark A. Lenzi, a security engineering officer who left Wednesday night with his wife and two children.

Lenzi told the Times he resided in the same apartment tower as the officer evacuated in April and suffered in recent months from what he called "neurological symptoms."

Lenzi's apartment was in one of several high-rise buildings in The Canton Place featuring restaurants and galleries spaced around a central plaza. Another diplomat who reported symptoms was at a different upscale building near the consulate.

A U.S. official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the situation publicly and requested anonymity, said the evacuated Americans are being brought for testing to the University of Pennsylvania. That's where doctors have been treating and studying patients evacuated from the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

The China incidents have raised fears the unexplained issues that started in Cuba in 2016 have expanded. The U.S. government has deemed those incidents "specific attacks" on American workers but hasn't publicly identified a cause or culprit. Most of the incidents were accompanied by bizarre, unexplained sounds that initially led U.S. investigators to suspect a sonic attack.

The preliminary findings of the medical reports on the 24 U.S. Embassy personnel affected in Cuba showed they had sensory and memory problems similar to the brain dysfunction seen with concussions.

The Penn team said the patients experienced persistent disability though rehabilitation therapy customized for them seemed to help.

Canada in April also ordered families of diplomatic staff in Cuba to return home after mysterious health symptoms were detected in 10 Canadians stationed on the island.

Canada said the 10 continued to show unexplained brain symptoms and that "medical information raised concerns for a new type of a possible acquired brain injury."

Symptoms included dizziness, headaches and an inability to concentrate.

The American government worker who was removed from China earlier reported "subtle and vague, but abnormal, sensations of sound and pressure."

In testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said China had "said all the right things and have demonstrated their willingness to help us identify the vector which led to this medical incident."

The China incidents affect one of the most important of the seven U.S. diplomatic outposts in the country. The Guangzhou consulate opened months after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Beijing and Washington in 1979 and moved to its new purpose-built facility in 2013.

It serves four southern provinces with a combined population of more than 204 million and processes more than 1 million visa applications of all types annually. It is also the only U.S. diplomatic installation in China authorized to process immigrant visas and handle adoptions.

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Associated Press writer Josh Lederman in Washington, D.C. contributed to this report.

## Trump likely to face a chilly reception at G-7 conference

By CATHERINE LUCEY and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Before President Donald Trump sits down with a third-generation North Korean autocrat, he will face what may well turn out to be a tougher crowd — some of America's oldest allies.

With his new tariffs increasing U.S. isolation, Trump heads to Canada on Friday for a meeting of the

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Group of Seven industrialized nations. The White House is expecting a chilly reception from Canada and West European countries, already frustrated over Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate accord and the Iran nuclear agreement.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel previewed the dynamics on Wednesday, telling the German parliament that "it is apparent that we have a serious problem with multilateral agreements here, and so there will be contentious discussions."

Anticipating a tense two days in Quebec, Trump has complained about having to attend the summit, particularly since it comes just before his high-stakes meeting in Singapore with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said two people with knowledge of his thinking. But the White House has signaled no change in plans.

"The president wants to go on the trip," Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, said of the summit in Canada. "The president is at ease with all of these tough issues.

"There may be disagreements," Kudlow added. "I regard this as much like a family quarrel."

Trump also is set to hold a series of one-on-one meetings, including with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron. Trump is unlikely to back away from the nationalistic policies that have frustrated and unnerved allies but which he sees as key promises to his most loyal voters. He has highlighted his efforts on Twitter, writing Monday: "The U.S. has made such bad trade deals over so many years that we can only WIN!"

Kudlow said allies should understand that Trump "will do what is necessary to protect the U.S., its businesses and its workforce," adding that Trump "has always said, and I agree, tariffs are a tool in that effort."

Trump announced in March that he was imposing tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum, but he temporarily granted a waiver to U.S. allies like Canada, Mexico and the European Union, and also to China, as his administration said trade talks were continuing. Trump ended that temporary relief this month, seeking to pressure the other countries to cut new trade agreements with the U.S. Japan was never granted a waiver, despite Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's pleas.

Asked if the administration will respect decisions from the World Trade Organization on tariffs, Kudlow said that "international multilateral organizations are not going to determine American policy. I think the president's made that very clear."

This will be Trump's second summit of the G-7, an informal gathering that meets every year under a rotating chairmanship. The member countries are: Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Germany, the United States and the Britain. The European Union also attends.

While trade is expected to dominate, Trudeau also wants to focus on gender equality and climate change. Kudlow was vague on whether the summit will produce a joint decision or a clear outcome on trade or other issues, saying "let them meet first."

The meeting comes after a gathering of G-7 finance ministers concluded last week with a message of "concern and disappointment" to Trump from the other six countries. Describing the tense three days, Bruno Le Maire, France's finance and economy minister, said it was "far more a G-6 plus one than a G-7."

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin responded: "We believe in the G-7, it's an important group," adding that Trump looks forward to the gathering.

The increasingly critical tone from allies is a shift after leaders spent the past year and a half seeking to woo and cajole the American president. Thomas Wright, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, told reporters that for Trump's first 500 days, "these countries generally were bent over backwards not to criticize President Trump. They tried to have close relations with him. They all tried to hug him close, as we used to say about Blair and Bush."

But Wright added: "There is a feeling, I think, over the last few months, that that approach has not borne fruit, and that they haven't really gotten anything for that friendly approach."

Canada in particular has been outraged by Trump's tariffs, taking umbrage at the argument that they were motivated by national security concerns. Trudeau told NBC: "The idea that we are somehow a national security threat to the United States is, quite frankly, insulting and unacceptable."

Edward Alden, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, said this marked the lowest point in



decades in Canada-U.S. relations, describing the two countries as allies that have "fought and died alongside each other" since World War I.

"This is deeply offensive to Canadians," Alden said.

Kudlow played down any conflict, saying he had "no doubt the United States and Canada will remain firm friends and allies whatever short-term disagreements may occur."

## House GOP in eleventh-hour attempt for immigration accord

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House leaders want to push fractured Republicans toward consensus on immigration, racing the clock as they seek to defuse a GOP civil war threatening to wound their hopes for keeping control of the chamber in November's elections.

Republicans planned a closed-door meeting on the topic for Thursday morning. But there were no indications that a deal ending the party's internal struggle over immigration was at hand and no definitive detail of where middle ground might be. If leaders fail to find a solution, that would give momentum to moderates seeking to stage election-year votes in just three weeks on the issue, a showdown that leaders want to head off.

GOP lawmakers emerged from the office of Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., on Wednesday saying he would present the rank and file with broad ideas for resolving a dispute that has split Republicans for years, damaging the party with Hispanic and moderate voters.

"There's some loose consensus right now," said Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., a leader of centrists threatening to force votes if they can't strike a deal with conservatives. He said leaders would unveil "an outline of a potential bill," while conservative leader Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., said Ryan would present "concepts."

Curbelo, Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., and other moderates need just two more GOP signatures on a petition to require immigration votes, assuming all Democrats sign on. If Thursday's meeting doesn't produce an accord, the moderates could reach that threshold quickly.

The major hang-up in GOP talks has been how, as the moderates have demanded, to offer citizenship to young "Dreamer" immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Conservatives have opposed creating a special pathway for them to become citizens, calling it amnesty.

"We've got the rule of law in this country, and nobody gets special consideration," said Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus.

Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., said a large group of conservatives he leads has discussed providing a pathway to citizenship to Dreamers in exchange for giving President Donald Trump nearly all the \$25 billion he wants to build his proposed wall with Mexico. In addition, the conservatives want to end a lottery that grants visas to countries with few immigrants to the U.S. and curb the relatives who can be brought over by immigrants, Walker said.

Democrats and at least some moderates would likely oppose such measures, giving it little chance of surviving in the more centrist Senate.

Walker said the more Dreamers who'd be given an opportunity for citizenship, the tighter curbs on family-based migration would be. Roughly 700,000 people are protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, an Obama-era policy that Trump has halted. But by some estimates, 1 million or more other people qualify for that program but haven't applied.

The moderates' petition would force House votes on four immigration bills, ranging from a liberal one helping Dreamers win citizenship to a conservative version curbing legal immigration.

GOP leaders and conservatives say the votes the moderates would force would probably produce legislation that is too liberal, with all Democrats joining a handful of Republicans to push it through the House.

Senate Republicans would block such a measure, and Trump would veto it if it went that far. But such an outcome could alienate conservative voters, damaging GOP chances for holding the House.

Because of those divisions, averting the issue completely unless an agreement is reached has been the GOP leadership's preference all year, until their hand was forced by moderates wielding the rarely used

petition process.

## As aid dries up, Gaza families pushed deeper into poverty

By **FARES AKRAM** and **MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH**, Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Samia Hassan used to have enough money to feed her two dozen children and grandchildren. Now she spends much of her time worrying about food, scouring Gaza's vegetable markets for end-of-day discounts or walking miles for a pot of free gruel from a soup kitchen.

Large numbers of Gaza families have been pushed deeper into poverty in recent months by Palestinian political infighting and the freezing of U.S. aid. Life is tougher than ever for most of the 2 million Palestinians locked into tiny, blockaded Gaza, where electricity is off most hours of the day, unemployment approaches 50 percent and the Islamic militant group Hamas rules with a tight grip.

"It's a perfect storm," said Hilary DuBose of the Catholic Relief Services, which has had to forego emergency food distributions because the Trump administration is withholding funds. "At the same time that the humanitarian situation in Gaza is worsening, humanitarian aid is disappearing."

Growing despair in Gaza has helped drive recent Hamas-led protests against the border blockade by Israel and Egypt. The closure was imposed after Hamas, branded a terrorist group by Israel and the West, seized Gaza in 2007, driving out forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The escalating crisis also spotlights the lack of a coherent Gaza policy by the external players trying to shape its future. Israel and Egypt say they need the blockade to contain Hamas, but have not offered a viable plan for Gaza. The international community wants the blockade lifted, but hasn't said how it would deal with Hamas, which refuses to disarm or renounce violence.

Hassan — who shares her unfinished cinderblock home with seven of her 12 adult children, three daughters-in-law and 16 grandchildren — said she joined the border protests repeatedly, intentionally getting close to the fence in hopes of getting shot and killed by Israeli troops.

"Death is better than this life," she said to her sons' astonishment as the family gathered for the meal breaking the dawn-to-dusk fast of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Hassan said she only pulled back because she realized she could end up crippled rather than dead and become a burden. In the past two months, more than 115 Palestinians have been killed and close to 3,800 wounded by Israeli fire in near-weekly border protests, with some facing lifelong disabilities.

Hassan, who wears the black robe and full face veil of ultra-conservative Muslim women, is angry at Hamas, which has fought three cross-border wars with Israel.

"It's because of them," she said of her family's hard times.

In the last war in 2014, the family taxi, an important source of income, was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike on a neighbor's house. After the war's devastation, her sons only found work sporadically and one — a father of six — is now in jail for being unable to pay his debts.

The family suffered a new blow after Abbas ordered his West Bank autonomy government to curtail its regular support payments to Gaza, in hopes of pressing Hamas to hand over authority.

The Hassans used to get \$500 every three months from Abbas' Palestinian Authority, but haven't been paid since the beginning of the year, along with tens of thousands of Gaza welfare recipients, said Social Affairs Ministry official Khaled Barghouti.

Meanwhile, some 60,000 former civil servants, paid by Abbas since 2007 to ensure their loyalty, have received only a fraction of their salaries since March.

With barely any money coming in, the Hassans increasingly rely on charity.

During Ramadan, Samia Hassan often walks five kilometers (three miles) to another Gaza City neighborhood to line up for wheat gruel cooked in a large cauldron over an open fire.

Hassan said her sons won't make the trip, embarrassed to be seen asking for handouts, but that she doesn't mind because her face is veiled.

On a recent afternoon, dozens of people jostled, pushing their aluminum or plastic food containers to be filled. The huge pot was empty within 10 minutes.

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"The situation is difficult for everyone," said Walid Hattab, 50, who owns a small coffee-and-spice store and cooks the free meals as Ramadan charity. Demand is up from last year, he said, noting that merchants have stopped selling on credit.

Along with the Palestinian Authority, the U.N. has been instrumental in propping up Gaza's fragile economy. About two-thirds of Gaza's residents are eligible for health, education or welfare services from UNRWA, the agency that aids descendants of Palestinian refugees from the 1948 war over Israel's creation.

Need has grown exponentially, with some 1 million people in Gaza now receiving U.N. food aid, compared to 80,000 two decades ago, said agency spokesman Chris Gunness.

At the same time, the Trump administration has blown a \$305 million hole into the agency's annual \$1.2 billion budget — the result of a decision earlier this year to suspend most aid to the Palestinians until further notice. Washington has said it's linking future funding to UNRWA reforms.

UNRWA has raised more than \$200 million from other donors, but is still struggling. Money for Gaza food distributions could run out in a couple of months, Gunness said.

With the exception of the funds already spent this year, all U.S. assistance to the Palestinians is under review. This includes projects funded by USAID and the State Department, including health, education, good governance and security cooperation programs.

There is no indication the review will be completed any time soon, if ever, and it appears to be driven in part by Abbas' decision to boycott Washington's Mideast peace efforts as well as Palestinian moves to assert themselves at the United Nations.

Charities such as Catholic Relief Services rely heavily on U.S. support. In Gaza, its operations have been underwritten by a five-year, \$50 million USAID grant. This year, the charity should have received about \$10 million, but hasn't gotten any money so far, said DuBose.

As a result, 20,000 Gaza families aren't receiving food vouchers and about 2,200 people eligible for job-creation programs are staying home, she said.

Muslim countries such as Qatar, Iran, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates have stepped up aid during Ramadan. Qatar is distributing 1 million meals for the month and Iran 11,000 per day.

But it's not clear if such aid will be sustained after the holy month.

On a recent evening, Samia Hassan and two dozen family members sat on the straw mat-covered floor of their home. Salad and leftover gruel from the day before had been laid out. Just before iftar, volunteers from a nearby mosque sent over a tray of rice with one chicken.

"It came at the right time," said daughter-in-law Samah, holding a toddler in her lap.

Such uncertainty is tough for Samia. "Our situation has never been like this," she said.

Daraghmeh reported from Ramallah, West Bank. Associated Press writer Karin Laub in Berlin contributed reporting.

## Uber decries ride-hailing price cap passed in Honolulu

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Honolulu leaders approved a measure Wednesday to limit prices that ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft can charge during peak demand, a cap that the companies say would be the first restriction of its kind in the United States.

The measure would prevent "surge pricing" if increased rates are higher than the maximum fare set by the city. Honolulu attorneys will review the measure before it goes to Mayor Kirk Caldwell, who would have 10 days to sign it into law, allow it to become law without his signature or veto it.

Uber sent emails to customers across the island of Oahu, which is where the rule would apply, urging them to oppose the rules that would impose "outdated taxi-style requirements on rideshare."

Oahu taxi drivers have been at odds with those who drive for mobile apps that connect riders with nearby drivers. Taxi companies complain that companies such as Uber and Lyft create an unfair playing field because they face fewer restrictions.

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Uber has been told the city hasn't received any consumer complaints about surge pricing, said Tabatha Chow, the company's senior operations manager for Hawaii. Honolulu has the highest taxi prices in the nation and Uber is 40 percent cheaper, she told council members Wednesday.

Surge pricing only happens during peak times such as rush hour, weekend nights and big events, she said, adding that fares go back down when more drivers are on the road.

If Uber and Lyft rides are cheaper, then why do they need to use surge pricing, asked Robert Deluze, owner of Robert's Taxis, who said ride-hailing companies have hurt the taxi business.

Councilwoman Kymberly Marcos Pine, who voted for the limits, said she was concerned to hear that U.S. Navy sailors getting off ships in Pearl Harbor recently were charged as much as \$221 to get to Waikiki when a cab ride was \$44. As the wife of a sailor, she said she wants to protect service members from being "price gouged."

Uber said in a fact sheet that surge pricing gives drivers the incentive to work in busier areas, which lowers wait times for riders and ensures reliability.

Riders and drivers who submitted testimony opposing the measure said taxis aren't as reliable or affordable as ride-hailing companies.

Uber driver Lisa Gonzales wrote that she drives to help support her family of six. During surge pricing, passengers have the option to accept or reject costs, she said, and that it's based on supply and demand.

Uber and Lyft officials testified in City Council committees last month that the cap on surge pricing would be the first such restriction on the companies in the country, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported.

"When demand for rides is greater than the number of drivers on the road, passengers may pay an extra percentage on top of the base ride amount," Lyft said in a statement explaining its "Prime Time" pricing.

A \$6 ride would become a \$9 ride during Prime Time pricing of 50 percent, the statement said, adding that it "only adds a percentage to the ride subtotal, which is calculated before any other fees or additional amounts."

Council Chairman Ernie Martin said he wrote the measure to ensure consumers won't pay an "unreasonable price." He said companies will still be able to employ surge pricing — or as he prefers to call it, "predatory pricing" — within limits.

The measure would set precedence nationwide, he said: "Other cities are struggling with this as well."

The city's Department of Customer Services would be tasked with setting the maximum price. Deputy Director Randy Leong told council members that the department opposes setting the threshold but will do so if it becomes law. It's difficult to dictate to businesses what they may charge, he said.

Uber released a statement after the vote saying that, if implemented, the bill will limit consumer choice and put the availability of Uber service on Oahu at risk.

## Samantha Bee is back, both angry and apologetic

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Comedian Samantha Bee returned to her TBS show Wednesday, apologizing again for using a crude epithet to describe Ivanka Trump but expressing anger that the ensuing controversy distracted from more important issues.

President Donald Trump had called for her to be fired for what she said on last week's episode of "Full Frontal," but TBS accepted her apology.

Immediately addressing the issue at the opening of her show, Bee said she hated to "contribute to the nightmare of 24-hour news cycles that we're all white-knuckling through."

"I should have known that a potty-mouthed insult would be inherently more interesting ... than this juvenile immigration policy," she said.

Bee had called Ivanka Trump a vulgar term in an attempt to encourage her to speak to her father about changing a policy where children of people entering the country illegally are being detained.

To drive her point home, Bee finished her monologue and went directly into another segment about immigration, knowing that she would have a curious audience tuning in to see her reaction.



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Cameras showed four dour-looking men dressed in suits with their hands on red buttons, who she introduced as her show's new censors.

"Civility is just nice words," she said. "Maybe we should all worry about the civility of our actions."

The former cast member on "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart now has one of TBS' most popular shows. After Bee apologized in a statement last week, TBS said the network also was at fault for letting the word through. "Full Frontal" does not air live, so the network has time to edit it.

"It is a word I have used on the show many times, hoping to reclaim it," Bee said on Wednesday. "I used it as an insult, I crossed a line, I regret it and I do apologize for that. The problem is that many women have heard that word in the worst moments of their lives. A lot of them don't want it reclaimed. They want it gone, and I don't blame them.

"I don't want to inflict more pain on them," she said. "I want this show to be challenging and I want it to be honest and I never intended to hurt anyone, except Ted Cruz."

After drawing a laugh at the mention of the Texas senator, Bee said that many men also were offended by her language. "I do not care about that," she said.

## **Pruitt aide resigns after she describes personal errands**

**By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt laughed off questions about whether he used his office to try to help his wife get a "business opportunity" with Chick-fil-A, while a close aide abruptly resigned amid new ethics allegations against her boss.

Pruitt said in a statement Wednesday that his scheduling director, Millan Hupp, 26, had resigned. It came two days after Democratic lawmakers made public her testimony to a House oversight panel that Pruitt had her do personal errands for him, including inquiring about buying a used mattress from the Trump International Hotel.

Last year, Pruitt also directed Hupp's younger sister to reach out to a senior executive at Chick-fil-A to inquire about a "business opportunity." At the time, Sydney Hupp, 25, was also working in Pruitt's office as an EPA scheduler.

That business opportunity turned out to be Pruitt's desire to acquire a fast-food franchise for his wife.

Federal ethics codes prohibit having staffers conduct personal errands and bar officials from using their position for private gain.

Despite the mounting scandals, President Donald Trump continues to stand by Pruitt and lavished praise on him Wednesday at a hurricane-preparedness briefing attended by Cabinet secretaries and agency heads.

"EPA is doing really, really well," Trump told Pruitt. "And you know, somebody has to say that about you a little bit. You know that, Scott. But you have done — I tell you, the EPA is doing so well. ... And people are really impressed with the job that's being done at the EPA. Thank you very much, Scott."

On Wednesday, Pruitt laughed when a reporter asked about the reports he had tried to use his government position to financially benefit his spouse.

"I mean, look, my wife is an entrepreneur herself. I love, she loves, we love Chick-fil-A as a franchise of faith," Pruitt told a reporter for Nexstar Media Group, which owns local television stations around the country. A Republican former Oklahoma attorney general, Pruitt added that there needs to be more locations of the fast-food chain in his hometown of Tulsa.

Founded in Atlanta, the Chick-fil-A chain is known for incorporating Christianity into its business code, including shutting down nationwide on Sundays. The two-generation family business has angered some customers and pleased others with its donations to conservative causes, including funding campaigns fighting same-sex marriage.

Democrats quickly pounced on Pruitt's statement, accusing him of using religion to try to deflect from his misdeeds.

"He's hiding behind a very cheap version of faith, in the form of chicken," said Rep. Gerry Connolly of Virginia, the ranking Democrat on a House subcommittee on Government Operations. "This is somebody

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who is profoundly ethically challenged, who's self-dealing. He's in the trough with all four paws and snout. ... We're dealing with a real pattern here, and frankly it's disgusting."

GOP members of Congress have largely followed Trump's lead in sticking by Pruitt, though there were increasing signs cracks are developing in that support.

Iowa Republican Sen. Joni Ernst suggested this week that it might be time for Trump to tell Pruitt to go.

Pruitt "is about as swampy as you get here in Washington, D.C. And if the president wants to drain the swamp, he needs to take a look at his own Cabinet," Ernst said Tuesday at an energy policy forum.

Pruitt is the subject of more than a dozen federal investigations into his lavish spending on travel and security, his dealings with subordinates and other matters.

Millan Hupp was described by former EPA staffers as one of Pruitt's closest and most loyal aides. She told the House panel that Pruitt had her ask about getting an "old mattress" from the Trump hotel at about the same time he was moving to a new apartment in Washington.

Pruitt also directed the elder Hupp, an Oklahoman like her boss, to book a personal trip to the Rose Bowl for him and search for housing for him in the Washington area, she told the investigators.

Pruitt's statement announcing her resignation called Hupp "a valued member of the EPA team." The EPA gave no reason for her departure.

She is the fourth senior EPA political appointee to resign in the last two months, since news first broke that Pruitt last year leased a bargain-priced Capitol Hill condo tied to an oil and gas lobbyist.

In appearances before congressional panels since then, Pruitt has repeatedly blamed subordinates for his alleged ethical lapses.

Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight committee investigating Pruitt, said Hupp shouldn't have to take the fall for her boss.

"Ms. Hupp cooperated with our investigation and should not become the latest scapegoat for Administrator Pruitt's litany of abuses, his disregard for our nation's ethics laws, and his refusal to accept responsibility for his own actions," Cummings said.

Pruitt's chief of staff, Ryan Jackson, and former top policy adviser Samantha Dravis are due to appear before the oversight committee's investigators later this month.

For his part, Pruitt suggested the criticism, investigations and unending stream of negative revelations about him were all political attacks motivated by his efforts to roll back environmental regulations.

"I just think that with great change comes, you know, I think, opposition," he said.

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Follow Associated Press environmental writer Ellen Knickmeyer at <http://twitter.com/KnickmeyerEllen> and investigative reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

## Ryan contradicts Trump's claim that the FBI planted a 'spy'

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a break with President Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan said Wednesday that he agrees there is no evidence that the FBI planted a "spy" in Trump's 2016 presidential campaign in an effort to hurt his chances at the polls.

He also issued a careful warning about Trump's recent assertion that he has the authority to pardon himself.

"I don't know the technical answer to that question, but I think obviously the answer is he shouldn't and no one is above the law," Ryan told reporters on Wednesday.

The comments come after Trump insisted in a series of angry tweets last month that the agency planted a spy "to help Crooked Hillary win," referring to his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton.

There is a growing sense that Republicans are uncomfortable with those statements. Ryan, R-Wisc., is one of three congressional Republicans who have now contradicted Trump on the spying matter, including House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., and Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C.

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Ryan, Gowdy and Burr all attended classified briefings on the matter late last month, following reports that the FBI used an informant in its Russian election meddling investigation to speak to members of the Trump campaign who had possible connections to Russia.

The Department of Justice held two briefings on Trump's orders after House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, R-Calif., had asked for documents concerning the informant. Trump said it was "starting to look like one of the biggest political scandals in U.S. history."

Gowdy said afterward that the FBI was doing its duty.

"I am even more convinced that the FBI did exactly what my fellow citizens would want them to do when they got the information they got," Gowdy said on Fox News last week. "And that it has nothing to do with Donald Trump."

Gowdy added, in a separate interview on CBS, that such informants are used all the time and "the FBI, if they were at the table this morning, they would tell you that Russia was the target and Russia's intentions toward our country were the target."

Ryan told reporters on Wednesday that he thinks Gowdy's "initial assessment is accurate," and he has seen "no evidence to the contrary" of what Gowdy said.

Hours after Ryan's comments, Burr told The Associated Press that he, too, agreed with Gowdy.

"I have no disagreement with the description Trey Gowdy gave," Burr said.

Democrats made similar comments immediately after the briefing. In a joint statement, the four Democrats who attended said "there is no evidence to support any allegation that the FBI or any intelligence agency placed a 'spy' in the Trump Campaign, or otherwise failed to follow appropriate procedures and protocols."

That statement was issued by Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, and the top Democrats on the Senate and House intelligence panels, Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia and Rep. Adam Schiff of California.

Despite the statements, some House lawmakers may continue to pursue the issue. Ryan said Congress has "more digging to do" and that he wished they had gotten the information earlier. Nunes has said the committee is still waiting for documents, and Ryan backed him on that Wednesday.

"We have some more documents to review, we still have some unanswered questions," Ryan said.

Burr, however, appeared ready to move on, saying the briefing he attended "sufficiently covered everything to do with this right now."

The Justice Department said late Wednesday it would extend an offer to top congressional lawmakers to brief them further and to provide another opportunity for the lawmakers to review "certain supporting documents" made available during the May 24 briefing. In a statement, the Justice Department said the department and the FBI "are prepared to brief members on certain questions specifically raised by the Speaker and other members." The department said the briefing could take place Monday or Tuesday.

On the pardon issue, Ryan joined Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in sending a subtle message to Trump.

Trump recently said he has the "absolute right" to pardon himself if it were necessary — which Trump says it won't be, because "I have done nothing wrong."

McConnell said Tuesday the question of whether Trump has legal authority to pardon himself is "an academic discussion," but Trump "obviously knows that would not be something that he would or should do."

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Associated Press writer Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

## Kim's charm offensive may benefit his army if sanctions ease

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — While raising hopes for denuclearization and a peace treaty to finally end the Korean War, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's newly found focus on diplomacy comes with an ironic flipside: It could be a godsend for his generals.

Kim's thinking on how his military fits in to his plans to foster detente on the Korean Peninsula and

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negotiate security guarantees from Washington may become clearer when he sits down with President Donald Trump next week in Singapore.

But one thing is already clear. Kim cannot survive without his loyal troops. Whatever grand strategy he has in mind will strongly reflect their interests — and that includes the ability to make lots of money.

Along with the nuclear bombs and intercontinental ballistic missiles that have gotten the world's attention, the Korean People's Army is deeply involved in everything from raising mushrooms and apples to running its national airline and selling the country's mineral resources abroad.

So they stand to benefit greatly if Kim succeeds in depleting support for sanctions by negotiating with Trump and the North's affluent neighbors.

Rivaled only by the ruling party itself, with which it is carefully intertwined, the military is the biggest and most formidable organization in North Korea. It consumes roughly one-third of the country's annual budget and employs 1 million-plus personnel, making its standing army one of the world's largest despite the North's small population of less than 25 million.

From the reign of Kim's father, one of North Korea's most important slogans has been "Military First." And since he took power, Kim has set his sights on simultaneously developing the nation's nuclear forces and its economy. His current diplomatic overtures to China, Seoul and Washington are based on his claim, laid out to party elites in April, to have already "completed" the development of his nuclear arsenal.

With the nuclear development mission accomplished, his argument goes, it's time to adopt a "new strategic line" that emphasizes the economy and the strategic use of diplomacy.

That should not be seen as a move against his military.

Just as shifts in the economy since Kim assumed power in late 2011 have created a growing income gap in the civilian sector, so have they contributed to growing disparity within the military ranks, suggests William Brown, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and former analyst with the U.S. State Department and CIA.

"Some units and some soldiers are making good money doing construction work and others are making essentially nothing doing their foxhole duty. Same for the officers," he said. "Some are coming out of their 10-year tour of duty with marketable skills, like driving and fixing taxis, and others with no skills at all."

Brown said that, in the long run, diplomatic success could free Kim to cut costs by reducing the military's bloated ranks. But he stressed that for now "keeping soldiers happy when others seem to be getting rich is of paramount importance."

"I get the sense that Kim is getting ready for another massive state wage increase to make state workers, including the military, a little more happy," he said.

The military's involvement in such a wide variety of side-businesses also means it is in its interest to see an increase in trade well beyond sales of nuclear technology or missile parts that will likely remain the target of international non-proliferation watchdogs no matter how well Kim's talks go.

"They own a large number of enterprises, and their share in the mining sector is probably one of the largest. So they've definitely lost out as sanctions have made North Korean coal and mineral exports plunge," said Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein, an associate scholar with the non-profit Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Silberstein added that the most important role of the military in the economy is its ability to readily provide manpower where needed, doing construction and road repair work, helping out with the harvest and working in the mines. "That role is hard to quantify," he said, "but it is likely massive."

Unconfirmed reports this week out of Seoul and Washington that Kim recently replaced his top three military officials could suggest he is already trying to ensure the military is properly positioned to handle more foreign investment and to toe his new line without being lured by an influx of money into corruption or insubordination.

Symbolic of the military's dual role, one of the three new generals, Kim Su Gil, was at Kim's side during a recent trip to the Wonsan-Kalma tourism zone, a massive development project along the east coast that Pyongyang hopes will become a major attraction for South Korean visitors if sanctions are lifted.

The area, crawling with troops known as "soldier-builders" erecting luxury hotels and paving new roads, was popular with South Korean visitors during a previous period of detente.



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Its popularity ended abruptly when a North Korean soldier fatally shot a South Korean woman who strayed into a restricted area.

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

## AP source: 2 Eagles planned WH visit; decisions individual

By ROB MAADDI, AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Eagles players and officials made individual decisions to not go to the White House for a scheduled celebration of their Super Bowl title, leaving two players actually planning to make the trip to Washington before the visit was canceled by President Donald Trump, according to players and a person familiar with the arrangements.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday because of the sensitivity of the issues.

All-Pro center Jason Kelce said players filled out forms anonymously indicating whether they wanted to go to the White House, not make the trip or go to Washington and do something else.

"It's a little bit disappointing as a country right now that we're so divided, I think that's the bigger disappointment," said Kelce, who became a folk hero in Philadelphia for an impassioned, profane rally speech he gave after a day of antics during the city's Super Bowl parade.

The players did not urge a collective decision on what to do as a team, giving each player his own option of whether to take the trip.

Defensive end Chris Long, who skipped the trip last year when he was with the New England Patriots and again decided early to not attend, said he hopes athletes on championship teams in all sports won't have to make the decision when Trump's term is up for re-election in 2020.

"The players didn't create this division (in the country)," Long said. "I'm extremely proud to be part of this team."

Safety Malcolm Jenkins, an outspoken leader for social reforms, held up handwritten signs on issues important to him and other players instead of verbally answering questions.

"You aren't listening," one sign said. Another said that former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick gave \$1 million to charity. Kaepernick began the wave of kneeling protests in the NFL as a way to protest racism and police brutality, and is working through a grievance case against the league after he was not signed by any team following his run with San Francisco.

Another sign by Jenkins read: "More than 60 percent of people in prison are people of color."

Coach Doug Pederson said before practice that he was looking forward to going to the White House to be recognized as Super Bowl champions but he wouldn't further discuss details of the trip's breakdown. He declined to provide information on how things escalated to the White House accusing players of abandoning their fans by deciding to not attend.

"What you've seen and what you've heard is enough. I'm not discussing it," Pederson said. "The team is great. We're united. Our goal is 2018. It's over. It's behind us. We're moving on."

Trump rescinded his invitation late Monday and instead turned the ceremony for the Eagles on Tuesday into his own brief "Celebration of America" after it became clear most players weren't going to show up. Trump tied the dispute to his criticism of players who have kneeled during the national anthem, even though no Eagles players kneeled for the song during the 2017 season.

Also Wednesday, hockey player Devante Smith-Pelly said he would skip a White House visit if the Washington Capitals win the Stanley Cup. Smith-Pelly, one of two black Capitals players, spoke about Trump to Canada's Postmedia.

"The things that he spews are straight-up racist and sexist," Smith-Pelly said with the Capitals a victory away from their first title. "Some of the things he's said are pretty gross. I'm not too into politics, so I don't know all his other views, but his rhetoric I definitely don't agree with. It hasn't come up here, but I think I already have my mind made up."

On Tuesday, NBA stars LeBron James and Curry both said they wouldn't visit.

Eagles Tight end Zach Ertz wore a Team USA soccer jersey while answering questions and said he's "proud to be an American."

"Everyone in this locker room understands that everyone's heart is in the right place," Ertz said. "We weren't going to let someone try and formulate an agenda. What's unique about this locker room is that everyone's treated with respect, people truly care about one another, people respect other people's opinions. We're united."

Long took a shot at NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for staying silent on the matter.

"If he doesn't want to stand up for his players, that's not my business," Long said. "I know my teammates are great men. There's men of faith in this locker room. There's men who serve their communities. There's men who have a lot who give back to people with a lot less."

For more AP NFL coverage: <http://pro32.ap.org> and [http://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Vegas shooting 911 calls: 'There's people shot everywhere!'

By KEN RITTER and REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Screams and pleas for help, descriptions of people falling amid rapid gunfire, and breathless questions about what to do next emerged Wednesday in 911 audio made public by Las Vegas police eight months after the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

"Shots fired! Shots fired! Hurry!" a woman screams, crying as a dispatcher asks where she is and the call disconnects. The dispatcher calls back and another woman answers.

"Machine guns are being fired into the Route 91 festival," she says. "It's coming from above, I would assume from the Mandalay Bay side over by the Luxor."

In addition to the 518 audio calls, police released video from a camera atop the Mandalay Bay resort that provided a bird's-eye view of the country music festival where 58 people died and hundreds were injured on Oct. 1.

The gunfire came from 32nd-floor windows into a crowd of 22,000 people at the Route 91 Harvest Festival across Las Vegas Boulevard.

Authorities say many more people were traumatized when Stephen Paddock, a 64-year-old high-stakes video-poker player, spent 10 minutes firing rapid-fire barrages with assault-style rifles.

The camera atop the hotel bears silent witness as floodlights sweep the concert crowd before the shooting starts; follows the massacre as bright lights come up and people flee; and shows small groups huddled over apparently injured victims.

After sunrise, covered bodies are seen as coroner's vans arrive at the green concert grounds.

The haunting 911 tapes reflect a range of emotions among callers, including panic, fear and desperation.

"We just ran from the concert. Can you tell us what's going on? We were there. It was bad," one man tells a police dispatcher from the safety of a nearby motel room where he and others took shelter.

The dispatcher asks if he is injured. "No," he replies then sobs. "Just not shot."

A woman tells a dispatcher that she's hiding under the concert stage where country music star Jason Aldean had been performing before he fled to safety when the gunfire started.

"There's a lot of people here that need ambulances," the woman tells the dispatcher. "There's people shot everywhere!"

Some first names are heard on the calls but last names and phone numbers were bleeped out on the recordings released under a court order obtained by media organizations including The Associated Press.

In one call, time-stamped about two minutes after police say gunfire was first reported, a man says he saw his best friend get shot in the stomach.

"Send everyone!" he pleads to the dispatcher, who asks if he's hurt.

"No, but there's a hundred people on the ground bleeding out, right now. Send everybody! There's ... people running for their lives right now. Please, there's another person shot in the leg. Please, hurry up!"

About the same time, a man who identifies himself as a military special forces member without a weapon says he hears automatic weapon fire.

"I have no idea where he is," the man says of the shooter. "It's a chopper that's going off. There's at least 20 that are down, it looks like. We're in the middle of the festival. I don't have visual on target."

The material, provided more than eight months after the shooting, represents the fifth batch of records made public without comment by Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo or his department. The FBI in Las Vegas also declined to comment.

Authorities say Paddock acted alone and that no link has been found to international terrorism.

Lombardo has said investigators don't know a motive for the attack and he doesn't think one will be determined.

The sheriff, who is running for re-election, told a Republican luncheon group earlier this week that he expects to release a final report about the investigation by August.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press journalists Scott Sonner in Reno, Nevada; Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City; Martha Bellisle in Seattle; P. Solomon Banda in Denver; Amanda Lee Myers in Los Angeles; Brian Skoloff, Terry Tang and Astrid Galvan in Phoenix; and Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska.

## Video details the moments before Florida school shooting

By CURT ANDERSON, AP Legal Affairs Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A just-released video interview with a campus security monitor at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School provides new details that may prompt another round of what-if questions about the Valentine's Day shooting that killed 17 people.

The video released by Broward County prosecutors Tuesday was recorded shortly after the shooting. In it, Andrew Medina told detectives he saw Nikolas Cruz get out of an Uber with a large bag and make "a beeline" toward the freshman building, moments before it became a killing scene.

Medina told detectives that he recognized Cruz, wearing a backpack and carrying a duffel bag, as a troubled former student and immediately radioed another unarmed security monitor to "keep your eyes open." That monitor entered the other side of the building, and then hid in a janitor's closet when shots rang out, Medina said.

Neither monitor was armed with anything but a radio. The Broward School District announced Wednesday that Medina and the other monitor have been reassigned from Stoneman Douglas while their actions are reviewed.

Following the shooting at the school in Parkland, many politicians including President Donald Trump have said more trained armed personnel should be stationed at schools to protect students.

He said Cruz turned to look at him as he approached the building on the golf cart.

"I'm telling you, I knew who the kid was," Medina told detectives. "Because we had a meeting about him last year, and we said, 'If there's gonna be anybody who's gonna come to this school and shoot this school up, it's gonna be that kid.'"

Medina said he heard 15 loud bangs shortly after the suspect went into the building, and drove his golf cart to pick up Scot Peterson, the armed school resource officer.

"You could kind of feel the percussion coming out of that building, the echo coming out of doors of the building," he told detectives.

Some parents say Medina should have called in a "Code Red," which would have triggered a massive law enforcement response and immediate lockdown of the school.

Andrew Pollack, whose daughter Meadow was killed, called The Associated Press on Wednesday to say Medina should be fired.

"All he had to do was say 'Code Red.' He was trained to say those words and he didn't do it. That's the incompetency of the Broward School District," Pollack said.

Yet Medina, who also coaches baseball at the school, told the detectives he didn't know Cruz was carry-

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ing guns in the bag, and while driving the cart toward Peterson, Medina said he radioed others on campus about "suspicious noises."

Medina said he was wary of calling a "Code Red" without more certainty about what was going on.

"I wasn't going to yell a (Code Red) because I didn't--I didn't really visualize a gun and I didn't really see the shots," Medina said. "We've been doing this training at the school, you know. Don't yell it unless you get a really good visual."

He said he and Peterson then heard more shots as they approached the freshman building, and the deputy told the unarmed Medina to "get out of here."

Medina said he then drove to the front of the school. Surveillance video showed Peterson taking up a position outside the building, which he never entered.

Vilified by the Broward County sheriff, Peterson resigned and retired. He was branded a coward and remained silent, until a recent interview for NBC's "Today Show." Peterson said he didn't know where the shots were coming from and thought it might have been a sniper shooting out from the building.

Part of Medina's job as a monitor at the school with more than 3,200 students was to unlock multiple gates before each school day ends. That's what he was doing when he saw Cruz emerge from the Uber.

In the shooting's aftermath, many state legislators and members of Congress have called for increased security measures at the nation's schools, such as fewer entry points at buildings and more locked doors on campuses.

Medina was already second-guessing himself when he was interviewed by detectives the day of the shooting, tell them: "I really wish I would have stopped him before, and we would have saved all this, but it really wasn't nothing I could do about that."

Cruz, 19, now faces 17 counts of first-degree murder. Lawyers said he'll plead guilty in exchange for a life sentence, but prosecutors are pursuing the death penalty.

Medina said Cruz, a former Stoneman Douglas student, was known as "Crazy Boy" around campus because of troubling behavior, such as wearing a camouflage mask, writing the number "666" and putting swastikas on his backpack.

Pollack said Cruz should have been stopped immediately.

"My dog would know better than to let 'Crazy Boy' walk into the school," he said.

\_\_\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Freida Frisaro in Miami and Terry Spencer in Fort Lauderdale contributed to this story.

## Kate Spade's husband says she suffered from depression

NEW YORK (AP) — The husband and business partner of designer Kate Spade, who died in an apparent suicide, said she suffered from depression and anxiety for many years.

She was seeking help during the last five years, "seeing a doctor on a regular basis and taking medication for both depression and anxiety," Andy Spade said in a statement released on Wednesday.

He said there were "personal demons she was battling."

The designer was found hanged in the bedroom of her Park Avenue apartment on Tuesday. She was 55 years old and had a 13-year-old daughter.

Spade was working as an accessories editor at Mademoiselle magazine when she launched her company with her husband in their apartment in 1993.

Andy Spade, the brother of comedian David Spade, said she "sounded happy" the night before her suicide.

"There was no indication and no warning that she would do this," he said. "It was a complete shock."

He said he and his wife had been living separately for the past 10 months but saw each other or spoke every day. He said they were not legally separated and never discussed divorce.

Coach, now known as Tapestry, bought the Kate Spade brand last year for \$2.4 billion. The couple recently had started a new handbag company, Frances Valentine.

"We were best friends trying to work through our problems in the best way we knew how," Andy Spade said.



## First lady returns to public eye after 'little rough patch'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Melania Trump has reappeared.

The first lady showed herself in public Wednesday for the first time in nearly a month, seated alongside her husband, President Donald Trump, for a briefing on the federal government's preparedness for the hurricane season that began June 1.

The routine meeting at Federal Emergency Management Agency headquarters took on outsized significance after the White House revealed that Mrs. Trump would accompany her husband. Before Wednesday, she had not been seen off the White House grounds since May 10, days before she was hospitalized to treat a benign kidney condition.

The first sighting of the first lady came as she and the president strolled down the walkway from the Oval Office and climbed into "the Beast," his idling limousine. She was wearing a belted trench coat and her customary high heels.

Minutes later, Mrs. Trump took her seat alongside the president at one end of a long conference table as the FEMA briefing began, appearing to be her usual self.

"She's doing great. She went through a little rough patch, but she's doing great," Trump said at the top of the meeting, surrounded by his Cabinet as several governors and other officials participated by video conference. "And we're very proud of her. She's done a fantastic job as first lady."

He added: "The people love you. The people of our country love you. So thank you, honey."

The first lady smiled and nodded as her husband and others spoke during the portion of the briefing that was open to journalists. She and the president later spent a few minutes greeting FEMA employees. Mrs. Trump stepped with ease, smiled and was heard telling one worker "thank you very much."

It was her first appearance away from the White House since she and the president traveled to Joint Base Andrews to welcome home three Americans who had been released from detention in North Korea.

Several days later, the first lady underwent a procedure to treat a kidney condition. She spent five days in the hospital before returning to the White House on May 19 to continue her recuperation. She held private meetings with her staff and worked on projects, though she skipped a few public events where her participation seemed likely, including a Medal of Honor presentation and a sports "field day" for professional athletes and kids on the South Lawn.

But speculation mounted as week after week passed without a public appearance, spawning wild theories about where she might be and what might have happened to her.

The first lady addressed the issue on Twitter last week, saying: "I see the media is working overtime speculating where I am & what I'm doing. Rest assured, I'm here at the @WhiteHouse w my family, feeling great, & working hard on behalf of children & the American people!"

Her husband was less charitable Wednesday.

"The Fake News Media has been so unfair, and vicious, to my wife and our great First Lady, Melania," he wrote on Twitter. "During her recovery from surgery they reported everything from near death, to facelift, to left the W.H. (and me) for N.Y. or Virginia, to abuse. All Fake, she is doing really well!"

Trump also paired the text of the tweets with video of himself and the first lady on his Facebook page.

Fox News Channel, Trump's favorite cable network, aired a segment this week in which the hosts of one of its shows criticized news reports about the first lady. Kellyanne Conway, one of Trump's top advisers, echoed the criticism.

"I think it's a shame that most of the coverage of the first lady in the last several weeks has been about conspiracy theories that have no basis in fact," Conway told reporters at a breakfast meeting.

Earlier this week, the first lady participated in a White House event for military families. Journalists were not granted access out of respect for the families, meaning Mrs. Trump was seen only by those who attended.

But video posted on Twitter showed the first lady strolling into the East Room accompanied by the president. She later tweeted event photos that showed her sitting next to the president.

## **GOP's Cox faces tough slog in race for California governor**

**By JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Republican John Cox thinks high taxes, a high cost of living and a growing housing crisis give him an opening to take on Democrat Gavin Newsom in the fight to be California's next governor.

But he faces a tough slog convincing voters that they should cast their lot with a Republican in a state where the party's support has eroded and Democrats routinely win every statewide election.

President Donald Trump's tweeted endorsement helped Cox unify Republicans and get through Tuesday's primary. But it could weigh him down as he reaches out to independent voters.

"The idea that somehow wrapping yourself in the cloak of Donald Trump is going to help you win in California, I'm trying to be diplomatic here, it's peculiar at best," said Mike Madrid, a Republican political consultant who opposes Trump and worked on Democrat Antonio Villaraigosa's campaign for governor. He said he'll watch how the race unfolds before deciding whether to vote for Cox in November.

Newsom, the lieutenant governor and former San Francisco mayor, finished first in Tuesday's primary with a third of the vote, followed by Cox at 26 percent. Villaraigosa, the former Los Angeles mayor, was a distant third at 13 percent. Because of California's "jungle primary," candidates from all parties appear together on the ballot and the top two finishers advance to a runoff in November.

Trump tweeted his congratulations and expressed optimism: "Great night for Republicans! Congratulations to John Cox on a really big number in California. He can win."

Newsom quickly responded with a tweet of his own: "Please come campaign for him as much as possible."

He wasted no time presenting Cox as Trump's man in California, where the president was outpolled by 3.4 million votes in the 2016 election. He sought to tie Cox to Trump policies that are unpopular with a wide swath of the state electorate — from offshore drilling to tougher immigration enforcement.

"I'm arguing for something very different. This is going to be a really easy race to explain to folks," Newsom told reporters at San Francisco's Ferry Building, where a crowd of about 30 supporters and fans trailed him as he meandered down the hall. He greeted and took photos with people, and stopped at a coffee shop the day after the primary.

Cox, a millionaire businessman from San Diego and perennial candidate, is positioning himself as an outsider with the business savvy to confront California's high cost of living. He's pledged to reduce barriers to housing construction and lower taxes, while challenging what he characterizes as the corrupt influence of special interests in Sacramento.

"We are going to take this state and we are going to make it livable and affordable," he said Wednesday on Fox Business Network.

"If John Cox is successful at presenting himself as a positive alternative, particularly on issues related to the economy, affordability and crime, I think those are prime opportunities right now," said Ron Nehring, a former state GOP chairman who lost to Newsom in the 2014 race for lieutenant governor.

Republicans are always underdogs in statewide contests, Nehring said, but he sees Newsom as vulnerable to the perception that he's elitist and out of touch.

Still, Cox showed no signs of moderating the aggressive tone that generated excitement among conservatives, saying "Gavin Newsom wants to turn this state into Venezuela."

Cox, 62, became wealthy as a lawyer, accountant, wealth manager and investor in the Chicago area. He now owns thousands of apartment units in the Midwest.

In the early 2000s, he ran unsuccessfully for a string of offices in Illinois — U.S. House, twice for the U.S. Senate, and Cook County Recorder of Deeds, a job he wanted to see eliminated. He also ran for Illinois GOP chairman.

He bought his house in Rancho Santa Fe, outside San Diego, in 2007 and moved there full-time in 2011, according to spokesman Matt Shupe.

He's a strong supporter of a ballot initiative that would repeal recent increases in gasoline and diesel taxes, which is likely to qualify for the November ballot. The state GOP sees it as way to get more Republicans to the polls.

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On Tuesday, a Republican-backed effort to recall state Sen. Josh Newman was successful. The Orange County Democrat was targeted for supporting the gas tax hike.

Bob Shrum, a longtime Democratic political consultant who is now director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California, was skeptical that Cox could use the prospect of repealing the gas tax to propel himself to victory.

"Voters can do that on their own," Shrum said of voting to repeal the tax. "They don't need to vote for him to do it."

Howie Wynn, a 71-year-old Huntington Beach resident and member of the Republican National Committee, said he didn't vote for Cox on Tuesday but would in November.

"After yesterday I'm more encouraged than I was before. Still, I don't think he has a chance," he said. "This is a Democratic state."

Associated Press writers Lorin Eleni Gill in San Francisco and Amy Taxin in Huntington Beach contributed.

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

## Analysis: HUD plan would raise rents for poor by 20 percent

By JULIET LINDERMAN and LARRY FENN, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Housing Secretary Ben Carson says his latest proposal to raise rents would mean a path toward self-sufficiency for millions of low-income households across the United States by pushing more people to find work. For Ebony Morris and her four small children, it could mean homelessness.

Morris lives in Charleston, South Carolina, where most households receiving federal housing assistance would see rents rise an average 26 percent, according to an analysis done by Center on Budget and Policy Priorities for The Associated Press. Her increase would be nearly double that.

Overall, the analysis shows that in the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas, low-income tenants — many of whom have jobs — would have to pay roughly 20 percent more each year for rent under the plan. That's about six times greater than the growth in average hourly earnings, putting poor workers at an increased risk of homelessness because wages haven't kept pace with housing expenses.

"I saw public housing as an option to get on my feet, to pay 30 percent of my income and get myself out of debt and eventually become a homeowner," said Morris, whose rent would jump from \$403 to \$600. "But this would put us in a homeless state."

Roughly 4 million low-income households receiving HUD assistance would be affected by the proposal. HUD estimates that about 2 million would be affected immediately, while the other 2 million would see rent increases phased in after six years.

The proposal, which needs congressional approval, is the latest attempt by the Trump administration to scale back the social safety net, under the belief that being less generous will prompt those receiving federal assistance to enter the workforce. "It's our attempt to give poor people a way out of poverty," Carson said in a recent interview with Fox News.

The analysis shows families would be disproportionately impacted. Of the 8.3 million people affected, more than 3 million are children.

Morris, a pediatric assistant, said she sometimes works 50 hours a week just to get by. Her four young children would be hit hard if her rent increases, she said.

"Food, electricity bills, school uniforms," she said. "Internet for homework assignments and report cards. All of their reading modules at school require the internet, without it they'll be behind their classmates. The kids are in extracurriculars, those would be scrapped. I would struggle just to pay my bills."

The impact of the plan would be felt everywhere.

Rent for the poorest tenants in Baltimore, where Carson was a neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and where his own story of overcoming poverty inspired generations of children, could go up by 19 percent

or \$800 a year. In Detroit, where Carson's mother, a single parent, raised him by working two jobs, rents could increase by \$710, or 21 percent. Households in Washington, D.C., one of the richest regions in the country, would see the largest increases: \$980 per year on average, a 20 percent hike.

"This proposal to raise rents on low-income people doesn't magically create well-paying jobs needed to lift people out of poverty," said Diane Yentel, CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. "Instead it just makes it harder for struggling families to get ahead by potentially cutting them off from the very stability that makes it possible for them to find and keep jobs."

While the Department of Housing and Urban Development says elderly or disabled households would be exempt, about 314,000 households could lose their elderly or disabled status and see higher rents, according to the analysis by the policy center, which advocates for the poor.

Carson's "Make Affordable Housing Work Act," announced April 25, would allow housing authorities to impose work requirements, would increase the percentage of income that tenants are required to pay from 30 percent to 35 percent, and would raise the minimum rent from \$50 to \$150. It would eliminate deductions, for medical care and child care, and for each child in a home: Currently, families can deduct \$480 per child, significantly lowering rent.

Donald Cameron, president and CEO of the Charleston Housing Authority, calls the proposal catastrophic. "We'd lose a lot of people within a very short time: the ones with the smallest pocket books, the least discretionary income," he said.

Not all recipients of housing assistance think the plan is unfair.

"I'm in favor of it," said Shalonda Skinner, 29, who lives in public housing with her five children. "Housing helps a lot of people. It will probably put a good amount of people out because some people don't like to work, they're not independent. But it's fair."

If her rent were to go up, she said, "I'd work more," taking on more hair clients.

Melissa Maddox Evans, general counsel for the Charleston Housing Authority, said she believes the proposal is based on a faulty premise — that most public housing residents don't have jobs and that rent increases will incentivize work.

"Most tenants here work two or three job," she said. "When they are going out and finding work, are they going to make enough to accommodate that increase?"

The policy center conducted its analysis based on 2016 HUD data. It includes tenants living in public housing and receiving Section 8 and project-based vouchers. It excludes housing authorities participating in the Moving to Work program, which allows districts to determine their own distinct rent policies.

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Fenn reported from New York.

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Follow Linderman at <http://twitter.com/JulietLinderman>

## Hawaii volcano gives experts clues to boost science

By SOPHIA YAN and MALCOLM RITTER, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii's Kilauea volcano may be disrupting life in paradise with its bursts of ash and bright-orange lava, but it also has scientists wide-eyed, eager to advance what's known about volcanoes.

The good news is: Volcanoes reveal secrets when they're rumbling, which means Kilauea is producing a bonanza of information.

While scientists monitored Big Island lava flows in 1955 and 1960, equipment then was far less sophisticated. Given new technology, they can now gather and study an unprecedented volume of data.

"Geophysical monitoring techniques that have come online in the last 20 years have now been deployed at Kilauea," said George Bergantz, professor of earth and space sciences at the University of Washington. "We have this remarkable opportunity ... to see many more scales of behavior both preceding and during this current volcanic crisis."

Starting May 3, Kilauea has fountained lava and flung ash and rocks from its summit, destroying hundreds



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of homes, closing key highways and prompting health warnings. Kilauea is one of five volcanos that form the Big Island, and is a "shield" volcano — built up over time as lava flows layer on top of layer.

Technically speaking, it has been continuously erupting since 1983. But the recent combination of earthquakes shaking the ground, steam-driven explosions at the top, and lava creeping into a new area some 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the summit represents a departure from its behavior over the past 35 years, said Erik Klemetti, a volcanologist at Ohio's Denison University.

What's happening now is a bit more like the Kilauea of nearly a century ago. In 1924, steam explosions at the summit lasted for more than two weeks.

Scientists are looking into what caused the change and whether this shift in the volcano's magma plumbing system will become the new normal.

Radar allows researchers to measure the height of ash plumes shooting from the summit, even when they occur at night. Plume heights are an effect of how much heat energy is released and the explosion's intensity.

"It's one of the key factors that dictates how far ash will be dispersed," said Charles Mandeville, volcano hazards coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey. The other is where the winds are blowing. Such knowledge is useful in alerting the public.

Scientists can also monitor where gas is emerging, as well as determine its composition and volume. They can even measure the subtle rise and fall of the ground over a broad area and time — down to seconds — which suggests when and where magma is pooling underground.

Discovering variations or correlations between past and present activity provides more clues on what's happening. It also helps scientists understand past lava flows, anticipate what could occur next, and pinpoint signs or patterns before an eruption.

"You're sort of zeroing in on finer and finer levels of detail into how the volcano works," said Michael Poland, a U.S. Geological Survey volcanologist. "The more stuff you put on the volcano to make measurements, the more you realize there's stuff going on that you never knew."

Better technology has also meant U.S. Geological Survey scientists have been able to accurately forecast Kilauea's behavior as it sputters over Puna, the island's most affected district.

"They've been spot on," said Janine Krippner, a volcanologist at Concord University in West Virginia. "It's incredible — they're looking at things happening below the surface, using the monitoring equipment that they have, the knowledge they have of past eruptions, and have been able to get people to not be in a deadly area."

This is unfortunately not always possible, as nature can be unpredictable. On June 3, Guatemala's Volcano of Fire sent a mixture of hot gas, rock and other material racing down its slopes and inundating the valley, killing nearly 100 people.

Krippner compared the Guatemala eruption to opening a can of soda after shaking it vigorously. Volcanic gas underneath created bubbles that expanded, increasing pressure that blew magma apart when it reached the surface, spewing cooled lava rocks ranging from the size of sand grains to boulders.

Explosions can be bigger, or occur differently, than expected, and that presents a learning opportunity for scientists, who work on computer models to map out areas that may be at higher risk in the future. "Looking at the footage afterward, we can start to tease out how these things actually work," Krippner said, as it's often too dangerous for experts to physically get close to an eruption.

Volcanic eruptions happen fairly regularly — as many as 60 occur worldwide each year — but many are in isolated areas, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

After Kilauea's 1924 summit explosions, the volcano entered a decade of piddly rumblings, followed by 18 years of silence. Experts say Kilauea may be heading toward years — even decades — of little or no activity.

For now, volcanologists feel a "tremendous amount of responsibility" to learn as much as possible from the volcano, Poland said. Its latest activity has destroyed about 400 homes — including roughly 280 in just the past few days — and displaced thousands of residents. Lava from Kilauea has also downed power

lines and knifed across highways.

"It's coming at a great cost in terms of impact on the lives and livelihoods of so many people — we owe it to the people of Puna to make sure that we learn the lessons the volcano is teaching us," Poland said.

Ritter reported from New York.

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

## Dad takes Japan Inc. to court alleging paternity harassment

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Brokerage manager Glen Wood was still negotiating with his bosses to take three or four weeks of paternity leave when his son was born six weeks premature.

Wood, 48, a Canadian who has lived in Japan for 30 years, thought he wasn't asking too much of Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley, just a small part of what the law guarantees: up to 12 months of paid maternity or paternity leave and your job back.

Japan's parental leave system is relatively generous by international standards — at least, on paper. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has championed such policies, saying they're needed to prevent the country's shrinking population from freefalling by better balancing work and family life.

But practice often diverges from principle in Japan Inc., where loyalty to the company nearly always comes before family and taking time off can be a liability.

According to the labor ministry, only 3 percent of eligible men — compared with more than 80 percent of working women — take advantage of Japan's parental leave system, which does not differentiate between men and women when it comes to childbirth and child-care leave.

Wood's bosses were extremely reluctant to let him take time off, but after a few days of haggling, he decided he simply had to go.

The baby was in intensive care at a hospital in Nepal, where his partner was working and had given birth.

"It was a time of real panic," he recalled.

Wood returned to work five months later, in March 2016, after his son recovered and could be safely brought to Japan.

That's when the harassment started, he says.

Wood was chided for not showing up at meetings he had not been invited to. His job assignment was changed against his will. Wood was told to take a DNA test to prove he was really the boy's father. He did that.

Three times, he was ordered to take psychiatric tests administered by two company-appointed doctors. Both gave him a clean bill of health and recommended he be allowed to return to work, according to Wood.

"I love my job," he said.

Wood sued the brokerage in February in Tokyo District Court, seeking his original job back and back pay, including bonuses, which he was denied after October 2017. He was officially dismissed earlier this year.

A ruling is likely to take more than a year.

Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley said in a statement it responded "with sincerity" to Wood's paternity leave requests. It denied any harassment occurred and declined comment on specifics of the lawsuit.

Generally few Japanese are willing to fight unfair treatment in court out of fear of being considered a troublemaker in this harmony-loving nation, where litigation can be expensive and fruitless. Most lawsuits that are filed are about maternity harassment rather than paternity harassment, making Wood's case highly unusual, said his lawyer, Yoshitatsu Imaizumi.

"The law guarantees the right, but the thinking that prevails is that men should just work," said Imaizumi. "That kind of old-fashioned thinking is deeply rooted."

There are no criminal penalties for companies that don't comply with maternity or paternity leave standards. The most the government will do is put a company on a "blacklist." And taking time off for childbirth

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is not as culturally accepted in Japan as in Europe, where it is commonplace, or even in the U.S., where there is no federally mandated parental leave system. Some states and many companies provide such benefits.

Kaori Sasaki, chief executive of ewoman Inc., a consultant for companies on gender diversity, says harassment training is on the rise at Japanese companies, but dramatic improvement results only if people's basic consciousness changes, not merely by putting such systems in place.

"To take a positive note, one can say things are better — compared to 30 years ago," she said. "But to be negative, one can also say things haven't changed all that much. Progress has been subtle, I'd say."

Women complain they are often pressured to quit when they become pregnant. Expectations for men taking time off for new parenthood are so low that having a man take even one day off is considered an achievement for a Japanese company, Sasaki said.

A government campaign to encourage men to take time off, dubbed "ikumen," in a reference to the Japanese word "ikuji" or "child rearing," so far remains more a slogan than a reality in Japan, which placed 114th out of 144 economies in the World Economic Forum's latest global gender equality rankings. Taking into account disparities in income and occupational opportunity, education, health care, political empowerment and other sociological factors, Japan had the worst standing among the Group of Seven major economies.

Companies should realize that they are hurting their own performance, morale, team work and brand image with outdated management practices, said Wood, making his son giggle with delight during a recent outing to a Tokyo park.

"They need to catch up with global standards very quickly, and they need to change," said Wood. "What they did is wrong."

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

## How major US stock indexes fared Wednesday By The Associated Press

U.S. stocks rallied for their fourth gain in a row Wednesday as banks climbed along with bond yields. On Wall Street there were signs investors were getting a bit less nervous about trade tensions.

On Wednesday:

The S&P 500 index climbed 23.55 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,772.35.

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 346.41 points, or 1.4 percent, to 25,146.39.

The Nasdaq composite advanced 51.38 points, or 0.7 percent, to 7,689.24.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks picked up 11.32 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,675.95.

For the week:

The S&P 500 is up 37.73 points, or 1.4 percent.

The Dow is up 511.18 points, or 2.1 percent.

The Nasdaq is up 134.91 points, or 1.8 percent.

The Russell 2000 is up 27.97 points, or 1.7 percent.

For the year:

The S&P 500 is up 98.74 points, or 3.7 percent.

The Dow is up 427.17 points, or 1.7 percent.

The Nasdaq is up 785.85 points, or 11.4 percent.

The Russell 2000 is up 140.44 points, or 9.1 percent.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 7, the 158th day of 2018. There are 207 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to the Continental Congress stating "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

On this date:

In 1099, the First Crusade began besieging Jerusalem, which was captured the following month.

In 1654, King Louis XIV, age 15, was crowned in Rheims (rams), 11 years after the start of his reign.

In 1769, frontiersman Daniel Boone first began to explore present-day Kentucky.

In 1892, Homer Plessy, a "Creole of color," was arrested for refusing to leave a whites-only car of the East Louisiana Railroad. (Ruling on his case, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept it renounced in 1954.)

In 1929, the sovereign state of Vatican City came into existence as copies of the Lateran Treaty were exchanged in Rome.

In 1948, the Communists completed their takeover of Czechoslovakia with the resignation of President Edvard Benes (BEH'-nesh).

In 1958, singer-songwriter Prince was born Prince Rogers Nelson in Minneapolis.

In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, struck down, 7-2, a Connecticut law used to prosecute a Planned Parenthood clinic in New Haven for providing contraceptives to married couples.

In 1977, Britons thronged London to celebrate the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who was marking the 25th year of her reign.

In 1981, Israeli military planes destroyed a nuclear power plant in Iraq, a facility the Israelis charged could have been used to make nuclear weapons.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that religious groups could sometimes meet on school property after hours. Ground was broken for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

In 1998, in a crime that shocked the nation, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man, was hooked by a chain to a pickup truck and dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas. (Two white men were later sentenced to death; one of them, Lawrence Russell Brewer, was executed in 2011. A third defendant received life with the possibility of parole.)

Ten years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton suspended her pioneering campaign for the presidency and endorsed fellow Democrat Barack Obama. Longshot Da' Tara spoiled Big Brown's bid for a Triple Crown by winning the Belmont Stakes. Ana Ivanovic (ee-VAH'-noh-vich) won her first Grand Slam title by beating Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-3 in the French Open. Veteran sportscaster Jim McKay, 86, died in Monkton, Maryland.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama vigorously defended the government's just-disclosed collection of massive amounts of information from phone and Internet records as a necessary defense against terrorism, and assured Americans, "Nobody is listening to your telephone calls." President Obama opened a two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) in Rancho Mirage, California. A gunman went on a chaotic rampage, killing his father and brother and three other people before being fatally shot by police at Santa Monica College in California. Former French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, 84, died in suburban Paris. Death row inmate Richard Ramirez, 53, the serial killer known as California's "Night Stalker," died in a hospital.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced his choice to replace James Comey a day ahead of the ousted FBI director's congressional testimony, tapping Christopher Wray, a white-collar defense lawyer with a strong law enforcement background. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a stunning pair of deadly attacks on Iran's parliament and the tomb of its revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Keith Urban picked up four CMT Music Awards in Nashville, including video of the year.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director James Ivory is 90. Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner is 89.



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Actress Virginia McKenna is 87. Singer Tom Jones is 78. Actor Ronald Pickup is 78. Poet Nikki Giovanni is 75. Actor Ken Osmond (TV: "Leave It to Beaver") is 75. Former talk show host Jenny Jones is 72. Americana singer-songwriter Willie Nile is 70. Actress Anne Twomey is 67. Actor Liam Neeson is 66. Actress Colleen Camp is 65. Singer-songwriter Johnny Clegg is 65. Author Louise Erdrich (UR'-drihk) is 64. Actor William Forsythe is 63. Record producer L.A. Reid is 62. Latin pop singer Juan Luis Guerra is 61. Vice President Mike Pence is 59. Rock singer-musician Gordon Gano (The Violent Femmes) is 55. Rapper Ecstasy (Whodini) is 54. Rock musician Eric Kretz (Stone Temple Pilots) is 52. Rock musician Dave Navarro is 51. Actress Helen Baxendale is 48. Actor Karl Urban is 46. TV personality Bear Grylls is 44. Rock musician Eric Johnson (The Shins) is 42. Actress Adrienne Frantz is 40. Actor-comedian Bill Hader is 40. Actress Anna Torv is 39. Actress Larisa Oleynik (oh-LAY'-nihk) is 37. Tennis player Anna Kournikova is 37. Actor Michael Cera is 30. Actress Shelley Buckner is 29. Rapper Iggy Azalea is 28. Actress-model Emily Ratajkowski is 27. Rapper Fetty Wap is 27.

Thought for Today: "The history of the world shows that when a mean thing was done, man did it; when a good thing was done, man did it." — Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer and statesman (1833-1899).