

# Groton Daily Independent

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



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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

We have now hit week three of the yearly Minnesota Vikings roster breakdown. So far, we have covered the quarterback, running back and fullback positions. This week, we attempt to tackle the wide receiver position.

As the roster currently sits, there are 12 wide receivers battling it out for five or six roster spots. The Vikings boast one of the best wide receiver groups in the entire NFL. The position has certainly gone from lackluster to envious in just a couple seasons, primarily because of the emergence of Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs.

Adam Thielen led the Vikings in targets (143), receptions (91), receiving yards (1,276) and catches of 20-yards or more (20). His 1,276 yards were fifth in the NFL, which led to Thielen earning his first Pro Bowl invite. He is signed through the 2020 season and has a starting spot guaranteed. Hopefully he will hit pay dirt more often in 2018, as he was only in the endzone four times last year (third on the team).

Stefon Diggs missed two games last season because of injury but was still second on the team in targets (95), receptions (64) and receiving yards (849). He also led the Minnesota receivers with eight touchdown catches. He will undoubtedly be the other starting WR in 2018, although if he wants to take his game to the next level he will need to stay healthy (he has yet to play a full 16-games in a season). Diggs is also entering the last year of his contract, so I expect a contract extension to be finalized sometime between now and the start of the season.

Laquon Treadwell's 20 catches for 200 yards is good for the third highest stats of the Vikings' receivers last year. Entering his third year in the NFL, the former first-round pick has been labeled by many as a "bust". However, after watching the film I saw a huge jump from year one to year two. There were way too many times when he was open and wasn't even looked at, which is partly due to who is in front of him in the pecking order (Thielen, Diggs, Kyle Rudolph) and partly because Case Keenum rarely made it past his first or second reads on any given play. With another year under his belt, and a new quarterback behind center, I expect big things from Treadwell this year.

Last season, only five Vikings' wide receivers caught a pass. If Thielen, Diggs and Treadwell have a roster spot locked up, that leaves the remaining players fighting it out for the last two or three spots.

Jeff Badet – an undrafted rookie from Oklahoma. He is athletic and can return kicks, but has inconsistent hands and will be lucky to get a practice squad spot.

Chad Beebe – another undrafted rookie, this time from Northern Illinois. I couldn't find much film on him, but my best guess is he is just a camp body who will need to make a career shift this fall.

Stacy Coley – a seventh-round draft pick of the Vikings in 2017. Coley played in four games last year but didn't have a catch and only had one kick return (19 yards). He has a good shot to make the final roster.

Cayleb Jones – was on the Vikings' practice squad last season but will be hard pressed to make it back because he is suspended the first four games of the 2018 season for violating the NFL's performance enhancing drugs policy.

Tavarres King – drafted in the fifth-round of the 2013 draft by the Denver Broncos. After bouncing around from team to team, he has landed in Minnesota. Over the past two seasons with the New York Giants, he amassed 20 catches for 290 yards (while also adding three catches for 73 yards and a touch-

## 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



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down in the Giants' 2016 playoff game). He has a strong chance to make the Vikings' final 53-man roster.

Korey Robertson – undrafted rookie from Southern Mississippi. He isn't very athletic, but plays with strength and can out-muscle smaller cornerbacks. He is another camp body with a very small chance to make the practice squad.

Jake Wieneke – undrafted rookie from South Dakota State. He is the tallest receiver on the Vikings' roster at 6'4". While he isn't the fastest receiver, he has great body control and has shown the ability to adjust in mid air to make contested catches. He also seems to show up when the lights are the brightest, so I'm surely not going to count him out of at least making the Vikings' practice squad.

Kendall Wright – entering his seventh NFL season. He is very similar to Jarius Wright and will likely fulfill that role on the Vikings. He has a very good chance to make the final roster unless there is a cheaper, younger option who the team feels comfortable with.

Brandon Zylstra – played at Concordia-Moorhead before heading to the Canadian Football League. He led the CFL last season with 1,687 yards and five touchdowns on 100 catches. He's shown the ability to produce, now he will need to show he can do it in the NFL. Strong practice squad candidate.

Do you have any questions or comments? Reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Don't forget to check out next week's article, which will cover the tight end position. Skol!

**The Groton Community  
is Invited to**

**FREE** *Rootbeer Float*



**LIVE MUSIC**

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

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## Today in Weather History

June 11, 1982: Golf ball size hail fell in Hayti, in Hamlin County, creating three-foot drifts of hail.

June 11, 1990: Hail, up to golf ball size, cut a swath 1.5 miles wide and 50 miles in length from the Missouri River east of the Hyde County line. Thunderstorm winds destroyed a granary roof and downed numerous trees. Damage from large hail was considerable to crops with entire fields being wiped out. The County Agent placed crop damage estimates at 1.8 million dollars in Sully County. Hail also produced window damage to cars and homes.

June 11, 2008: A strong inflow of moist and unstable air into and over a warm surface front resulted in training thunderstorms and very heavy rain across parts of northeast South Dakota. Rainfall amounts of 2 to 6 inches occurred across much of the area resulting in widespread flash flooding. The flooding damaged many roads, bridges, and cropland. In Milbank, many basements were flooded and received sewer backup.

June 11, 2010: Thunderstorms produced damaging winds over a large part of southeast South Dakota beginning just before midnight on June 10th and continuing well into the predawn hours of June 11th. The storms also produced heavy rain, which caused flash flooding at several locations. Heavy rainfall of at least 3 inches caused Enemy Creek to overflow and flood nearby roads. The expensive also caused flooding of roads and basements in Mitchell. A motorcycle business was flooded, resulting in damage to merchandise, although little damage to the motorcycles was reported. Thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage in the Sioux Falls area. Wood and siding were blown off a new house, and a nearby fence was blown over. The winds caused tree damage, including 2 to 3-foot diameter trees blown down. Debris from the tree damage blocked several roads. Garages were blown off three homes which were next to each other, and other nearby homes suffered significant damage in an area on West Eli Court which was subjected to the strongest winds, estimated at 100 mph. Windows were blown out in several of these homes, and a large camper was overturned in the same area. A wind gust of 74 mph was measured elsewhere in the city. The winds blew down out power lines in parts of the city. Heavy rain caused flash flooding of several streets in the southern part of Sioux Falls, with water up to two feet deep. Basement flooding was also reported.

1842: A late-season snowstorm struck New England. Snow fell during the morning and early afternoon, accumulating to a depth of ten to twelve inches at Irasburg, Vermont. Berlin, New Hampshire was blanketed with eleven inches of snow during the day. Snow whitened the higher peaks of the Appalachians as far south as Maryland. The latest date for the occurrence of a general snowstorm in our period over northern New England and northern New York came in 1842 on the morning of 11 June. Zadock Thompson, a professor of natural history and the Queen City's longtime weatherman, commented: "Snow during the forenoon's boards whitened and the mountains as white as in winter."

1990: One of the most expensive hailstorms in U.S. history occurred as \$625 million of damage was caused along the Colorado Front Range from Colorado Springs to Estes Park. Golf to baseball sized hail fell along with heavy rain. 60 people were injured in the storm.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
 80% → 30%				 20%	 30%	
T-storms then Chance T-storms and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny
High: 72 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 89 °F





National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
6/11/2018 4:13 AM



**Scattered showers and thunderstorms today, then mostly dry through mid week.**

### 3 Day Forecast

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
		
71-76°	73-78°	79-85°

Published on: 06/11/2018 at 4:16AM

Scattered showers and thunderstorms will linger across the area today. High pressure will approach tonight, bringing mostly dry and cooler conditions to the region through midweek.

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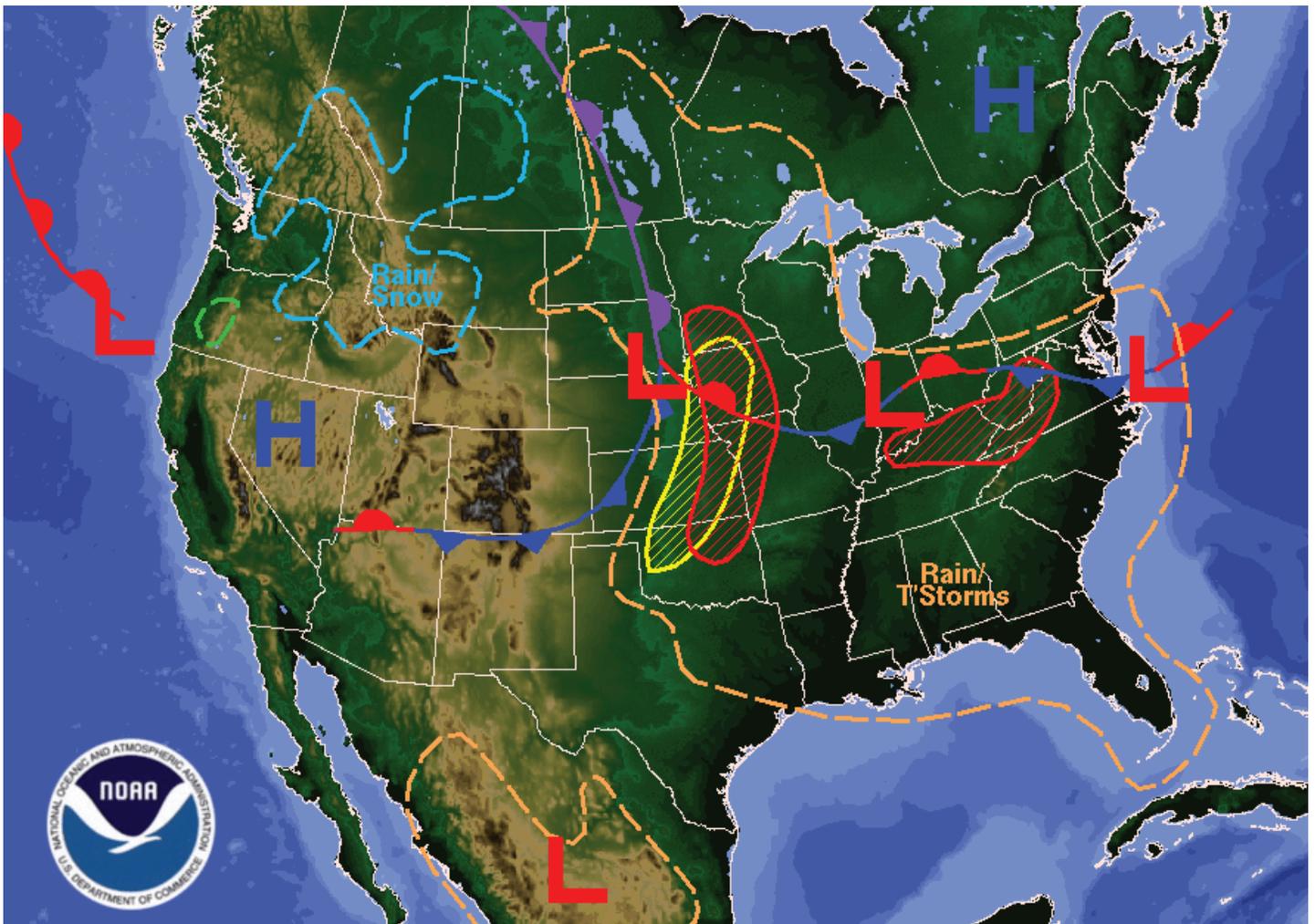
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 85.2 F at 3:09 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 62.9 F at 5:55 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 32.0 Mph at 2:29 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 104° in 1893**  
**Record Low: 31° in 1938**  
**Average High: 76°F**  
**Average Low: 53°F**  
**Average Precip in June: 1.30**  
**Precip to date in June: 0.29**  
**Average Precip to date: 8.44**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.59**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jun 11, 2018, issued 4:34 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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## **SPEAKING OF DEATH...**

Not many of us enjoy the topic of death. In fact, for most of us, it is a topic that we avoid until it is absolutely necessary. But the author of Psalm 116 made a rather significant statement that Christians can rely on with assurance, confidence and the hope that comes from being born again.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." What might this mean?

Certainly, we know that God is in control of our lives and everything that happens to the Christian. Nothing happens by chance because He is ultimately responsible for every event in our lives from our birth until our death. All of us have our individual obligation to Him and until our work is completed, death will not overtake us!

This verse also speaks of God's compassion. The word "precious" means "costly" or "dear." The death of a Christian is an object of great value to our Lord. All throughout our lives we have been born in to the Kingdom of God and have His guardian angels surrounding us. Their very last responsibility is to carry us to be with Him eternally.

Another gracious implication in this verse is the consequences of death. There will be no more sadness or sorrow or suffering. We will be free from our worries and woes. When we are with our Lord we will enjoy the peace of His presence and the joy of being reunited with our family and friends. There will be no more feelings of separation or loneliness and the longings of our hearts will be filled with the promise of life with Him.

Prayer: How great is the hope in our hearts, Heavenly Father, as we anticipate being with You forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

## 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

### **Aberdeen Cue Club offers pool players neat space**

By VICTORIA LUSK, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The rules of the Aberdeen Cue Club are relatively simple.

Pay your dues. Have fun. And mostly, "Just be a gentleman," said club President Charlie Gould.

"As far as keeping things legal, we're in South Dakota," he said.

That means there's no smoking or drugs allowed in the building. But a person could take in a six-pack of beer, and that's not a problem, Gould told the Aberdeen American News .

"We all engage in that once in a while. And then to just keep it civil and have good sportsmanship. That's the main thing we encourage here," he said.

That, and practice makes perfect.

Most of the club's 25 or so members have a goal of their own, he said. That's to improve his or her game.

"People can have fun while they are doing that," he said. "But here, more players actually want to get better."

Members pay a \$25 initiation fee, then \$25 a month to use the club whenever they want.

"We're a nonprofit, so we can keep our costs minimal and still encourage people to come in," Gould said.

"At any rate, it's inexpensive when compared to going to a bar and putting money in their tables. And we feel it's a much better atmosphere, but that depends on what a person likes," he said.

That doesn't mean that Aberdeen Cue Club members don't frequent local businesses. Most play some type of league, which rotates locations, he said.

The club also hosts city league matches Thursday nights.

"It's a win-win," Gould said.

The club got its start about six years ago. Last year, it moved to 1603 Sixth Ave. S.W., where a sign has garnered some attention.

The sign has made the club easier to find for out-of-town friends or guests, Gould said, and the newer space has allowed it to more than double the size of its original space. Guests have to pay \$5 per hour.

The original club space on First Avenue Northeast had three tables. Now, there are five.

"And that's what we'll have. We don't have room for any more," he said. "I won't say they are all in use (all the time), but it is a lot nicer place than we used to have.

"I had a place in (the current Geffdog building on Sixth Avenue) where we had some pool tables. That building got sold and we had to move. At that time, we created a members club and rented a place to put the tables we had," Gould said.

The club has a simple structure, he said.

"We try to encourage people to play pool and we take all kinds. We've got older people and younger people," he said. "It's mostly retired people like me."

The club currently has two female members and a few young adults, too.

"We just want a nice facility where we can play pool. We don't have anything else that we do in here. There are no other games. But we have snacks," he said. "I'm thinking we're successful. But I'd like to have more people in here all the time playing."

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

### **A South Dakota Christian radio station makes waves**

By ALEXA GIEBINK, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A local radio station is making waves on the Christian music scene.

Since launching in 2007, TheBlast.FM has grown its operations to include four internet radio stations that

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reach thousands of listeners daily.

Program director Colin "Cruz" Strombeck streams a range of Christian music from TheBlast.FM headquarters in Emery, which has about 450 residents.

"When I got started in radio in February of 1990, never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be talking to people on six continents around the world," said Strombeck, 47.

Years ago, the Tripp native felt a calling to spread his love for God through Christian rock and metal music. However, Strombeck's hardcore approach often proved too radical for many local radio stations.

So the mass communications graduate from USD decided to strike out on his own and launch TheBlast.FM. Finally, he had the freedom to curate his dream playlists.

"We are kind of the red-headed stepchild of the Christian music industry," joked Strombeck.

The mission of TheBlast.FM is to use aggressive, progressive Christian music internet radio to attract youth and young adults to the message of hope, meaning and purpose, and eternal life found only in Jesus Christ.

The company's inaugural station, the Blast, is a mix of Christian rock, alternative and heavy metal. And for fans of Christian pop and rap, there is the Blast Blender.

Meanwhile, the Implosion offers a steady stream of hardcore Christian metal Strombeck describes as "brutally in-your-face Christian music."

Strombeck's fourth and newest station, The Blastozoic Era, plays Christian rock, alternative and metal music from the 80s, 90s and early 2000s, the Argus Leader reported.

After launching three months ago, the classic Christian rock station has already expanded to FM and AM radio in Sioux Falls.

The Blastozoic Era is now a weekly radio show heard on TheBlast.FM's first affiliate, Sunny Radio.

"We are so excited to work with Colin to bring this retro Christian rock music radio show to Sunny Radio," said station owner John Small.

The show airs Sunday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m. following Casey Kasem. Those who live in the Sioux Falls metro area can tune in on 93.3 FM, and fans further out can listen on 1520 AM or online at sunny-radio.com.

"Our 80s format already has a few of the artists in regular rotation, but Colin has a deeper library that offers our regular listeners a fun treat to hear music from their past," said Small.

On the Blastozoic Era, listeners can expect to hear bands such as Mad at the World, Barren Cross, Bloodgood, Bride, Petra, Skillet, Disciple, Guardian and the Prayer Chain.

In the past few weeks, TheBlast.FM's four stations have drawn nearly 500,000 unique listeners in 82 countries.

"It's pretty cool that we reach people in places like Pakistan. We have listeners in some of the most anti-Christian countries," said Strombeck, who dreams of having a listener tune in from Antarctica someday.

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

## 81-year-old man driving ATV killed in South Dakota crash

GREGORY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say an 81-year-old man was killed when the ATV he was driving collided with a semi-truck in south-central South Dakota.

The crash happened around 6 p.m. Saturday on South Dakota Highway 47 north of Gregory.

According to the Department of Public Safety, the driver of the ATV started to slow down as he neared an intersection. The semi, hauling a flatbed of concrete culverts, also was northbound and began to merge into the passing lane to avoid hitting the ATV. But the ATV driver also merged into the passing lane as he started to make a left turn, and the two vehicles collided.

Authorities say the ATV driver was thrown from the vehicle and died at the scene. His name was not released. The truck driver was not hurt.

## Fungus associated with bat disease detected in South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The National Park Service says a fungus that causes a deadly disease of bats has been detected on bats in South Dakota for the first time.

The fungus that causes white-nose syndrome was detected on one western small-footed bat and four big brown bats in Jackson County at Badlands National Park last month.

The Rapid City Journal reports the fungus was detected during testing by the National Park Service Northern Great Plains Network and the University of Wyoming.

White-nose syndrome has killed millions of bats in North America since it was first discovered in New York in 2006.

While results confirm the presence of the fungus, they do not confirm the syndrome, which can only be confirmed by microscopic examination of tissue samples. Tissue samples were not taken during the sampling.

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

## South Dakota man dies in motorcycle crash in Minnesota

FOREST CITY, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota State Patrol says a South Dakota man has died in a motorcycle crash in central Minnesota.

The crash happened around 9:30 p.m. Saturday on Highway 22 in Meeker County.

According to the patrol, 57-year-old Leslie Lemke of Watertown, South Dakota, was traveling south on the highway when his Harley-Davidson went off the road and hit a driveway approach.

Lemke was thrown from the motorcycle. The patrol says he was airlifted to St. Cloud Hospital, where he died.

## Sioux Falls residents push for official flag

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Proponents of a red and blue flag flying over many homes and businesses across Sioux Falls are hoping to make it the city's official flag.

An informational meeting will be held June 12 for residents and City Council members to hear from the public about making the flag official. Sioux Falls could see a council vote as soon as June 19 if the meeting goes in flag supporters' favor, the Argus Leader reported.

"It matters because it's already been adopted by the people," said John Snyder, director of sales and marketing for 605 Magazine. "And we want the city to follow through as well."

The proposed red and blue flag was designed by Max Rabkin during a contest hosted by the Committee to Establish a Suitable Flying Banner for the City of Sioux Falls in 2014. The design won "Best of Show" and "People's Choice" after more than 3,000 community members voted for the flag.

The design has an ascending jagged line representing both the namesake falls and citywide growth. A sun in the left-hand corner pays tribute to the South Dakota state flag, and the almost red color on the bottom recalls the Sioux quartzite native to the area.

The flag was brought to a council vote in 2016, but didn't garner enough support from council members and former Mayor Mike Huether.

Snyder hopes Mayor Paul Tenhaken will see the regional marketing opportunities and importance of a unifying city symbol.

"When we have such a growing community of different cultures, religions and backgrounds, it's nice to have a symbol that represents everybody," said Zach DeBoer, flag committee member. "It's a nice reminder that we're all on the same team."

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

## Black Hills Life Flight to use Spearfish airport

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — The city of Spearfish is leasing space at its airport for Black Hills Life Flight. The Spearfish City Council recently approved a lease agreement between the city and Air Methods Corporation. The agreement says Air Methods would locate a doublewide trailer or modular building to the airport, which would be used by the Life Flight crew. It also says that the use and occupancy of the property would comply with the airport rules, regulations, and minimum standards.

City Attorney Eric Davis said Spearfish has been working to create a lease agreement since Air Methods approached the city about six months ago requesting to possibly use a portion of the airport.

The base, which previously operated from Rapid City, will provide emergency air medical services 24 hours a day to Spearfish, the Black Hills Pioneer reported. The base will also provide medical services to Northern Black Hills, eastern Wyoming and Montana, and to the southern part of North Dakota.

"This base move will help improve access to critical care services and interventions for more communities," said Dave Richardson, senior vice president at Air Methods. "We offer a flying ICU (intensive care unit), bringing experienced trauma clinicians to the patient. Air medical services serve as a bridge between rural communities and health care systems, and we believe that everyone deserves access to these life-saving services."

The agreement will be in effect until May 10, 2023. Air Methods has the option to renew the lease for two additional years.

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

## Brothel bans weighed in Nevada as legal pimp runs for office

By MICHELLE L. PRICE, Associated Press

PAHRUMP, Nev. (AP) — A state marketed as a place where people can indulge in all manner of sins is confronting its status as the only place in America where you can legally pay someone for sex.

A coalition of religious groups and anti-sex trafficking activists has launched referendums to ban brothels in two of the seven Nevada counties where they're legally operating. The push to outlaw the industry dovetails with a campaign by the state's most famous pimp for a seat in the state Legislature.

Nevada, according to brothel owner Dennis Hof, was built "on gaming, liquor, girls and mining."

"But there's a shift occurring," said Jason Guinasso, a Reno-based attorney involved with the effort to get the anti-brothel measures on the November ballot.

Hof, who has half a dozen brothels operating in the two counties and starred in the HBO adult reality series "Cathouse," is challenging incumbent Assembly member James Oscarson of Pahrump in a Republican primary on Tuesday.

Hof said Nevadans are "rough-and-tumble, live-and-let-live" and "it's awful that people would come in and try to change that culture, that they want to inflict their moral values on the rest of us."

Brothels, which are illegal in the counties that contain Las Vegas and Reno, harken back to Nevada's days as a mining territory about 150 years ago. Brothels were illegal but tolerated in some areas until 1971, when the Mustang Ranch near Reno became the first legal brothel.

It led to a movement that allowed counties with populations of 700,000 people or fewer to decide whether to legalize prostitution in licensed facilities. Outside of bordellos, prostitution remains illegal. Some brothels offer free limo rides from Las Vegas, offering to pick up guests from their Strip hotels.

Today, there are about 20 brothels operating in the state, mostly in rural areas. The state doesn't publicize how many are open, and most owners keep a much lower profile than Hof, who wrote a book titled "The Art of the Pimp," and has dubbed himself the "Trump of Pahrump"

Hof was also in the limelight in 2015, when former NBA player Lamar Odom was found unconscious at Hof's Love Ranch brothel in Crystal, Nevada, after a four-day, \$75,000 stay.

The Love Ranch, about an hour's drive northwest of Las Vegas through the Nevada desert, looks like a large single-story home with some statues and pink bicycles out front, along with a sign for "Dennis Hof's"

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Love Ranch Cathouse," advertising a gift shop, full bar and "no sex required."

Guests ring the front bell and are escorted into wingback chairs in the parlor, while the women in the house slip into their heels and assemble in a lineup to be chosen.

The brothel, like others, offers role-play themed rooms and spa-like services.

Sonja Bandolik, the brothel's 58-year-old madam who also works as a prostitute, said women there sign a contract for at least two weeks — enough time to get a background check and prostitution license from the local sheriff.

Women are also required to get regular tests for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, and condoms are required.

Bandolik, who has a short pixie haircut and a deep tan, said she decided to work in a brothel at age 51 after watching a western movie depicting an old saloon. She remarked to her husband that it would be "cool if we still had those."

She says her husband "loved the idea." He lives with her at the brothel and works as its general manager.

Bandolik, who estimated she made close to \$18,000 in May, calls her profession "soul-expanding."

Another woman living at the brothel, a 23-year-old with pale skin and long blonde hair who goes by the name Azalea Love, said she previously worked as a prostitute in Las Vegas but feels safer since she moved to the brothel three months ago.

"You have people around if you if something goes wrong," she said.

Though Hof said he's never had problems at the brothels until he started running for office, allegations of misconduct have been leveled at the pimp and his clients before.

In 2003, a prostitute at the Moonlite Bunny Ranch in Lyon County accused Motley Crue front man Vince Neil of grabbing her by the neck and throwing her against a wall.

Neil later pleaded no contest to a battery charge, but Hof has said he thinks the woman made up the story.

In April, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that two former prostitutes accused Hof of sexual assault several years ago, but the district attorney declined to prosecute Hof because the statute of limitations had expired.

Hof denies the allegations. He told The Associated Press the women's claims are "totally absurd" and both women became embittered against him because they weren't as successful in the sex industry.

Hof said the referendums are driven by moral crusaders tied to his political opponent. Guinasso is a partner at the law firm of Oscarson's political ally, Nevada Lt. Gov. Mark Hutchison. Guinasso and Oscarson have denied any connection between their campaigns.

Oscarson said he was surprised to hear about the anti-brothel efforts and is not involved. He thinks it's time for the brothels to go away but said he has not signed an anti-brothel petition.

"This is a man who simply wants to blame everybody else for his mistakes," Oscarson said of Hof.

Guinasso and others involved with the anti-brothel campaign say that many women in the brothels aren't there by choice - they may have grown up in poverty, have a past history of being a victim of sexual abuse or were sent to work in a brothel by an illegal pimp.

Bandolik, the madam, said it's possible that some of the women working there might have illegal pimps, but those pimps are not allowed in the brothel.

In November, voters in Lyon County, southeast of Reno, will weigh in after county commissioners put the issue on the ballot. And northwest of Las Vegas in Nye County, organizers are working to gather enough signatures to get the measure on the ballot this fall.

Guinasso said that even if the ballot measures don't pass, he'll consider it a victory that Nevadans will be re-thinking whether the industry belongs in the Silver State, particularly in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

Hof predicts the ballot measures will fail, but said if brothels were banned, illegal prostitution will flourish.

"The business is not going away," Hof said. "It's the oldest business in the world."

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## A theme of tolerance, inclusion at this year's Tony Awards

By JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A small-scale, intimate musical about hard-won cultural understanding was an altogether apt Tony winner on a night where tolerance and inclusion were constant themes.

"The Band's Visit," about an Egyptian police band that gets stranded in a remote Israeli desert town, forcing both sides to get to know each other, triumphed over much flashier shows to win best musical Sunday night — and a total of 10 awards. The closest runner-up, with six, was the blockbuster London import "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," which won best play.

One by one, the winners of "The Band's Visit" referenced the show's themes of acceptance and finding a common humanity. Tony Shalhoub, named best actor in a musical, spoke of his father's arrival at Ellis Island from Lebanon in 1920. "May we, their descendants, never lose sight of what they taught us," he said. Ari'el Stachel, who won for best featured actor, praised the show for "telling a small story about Arabs and Israelis getting along, at a time that we need that more than ever." Addressing his parents in the audience, Stachel, whose father was born in Israel, confessed that "for so many years of my life I pretended I was not a Middle Eastern person."

The show also won awards for its luminous lead actress, Katrina Lenk, and its director, book and score, among others. Producer Orin Wolf said the message was one of unity, in a world that "more and more seems bent on amplifying our differences." Composer David Yazbek, speaking later at the Tony after-party, said the show had special resonance amid "the climate of divisiveness that we're seeing." The show isn't just about Jews and Arabs, he said, "It's about any tribes that have figured out reasons to be at odds with each other."

The Middle East conflict, immigration, LGBT equality, gun control — many social issues came up, explicitly or implicitly, during the ceremony, which was hosted with a light (and musical) touch by Sara Bareilles and Josh Groban. The night's first big winner, Andrew Garfield, best actor in a play for "Angels in America," earned hearty cheers when he declared, "Let's just bake a cake for everyone who wants a cake to be baked." He was referring to last week's Supreme Court decision in favor of a Colorado baker who refused to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because of religious objections.

Garfield dedicated the award, his first Tony, to the LGBTQ community, for a "spirit that says no to oppression. It is a spirit that says no to bigotry, no to shame, no to exclusion. It is a spirit that says we are all made perfectly."

Lindsay Mendez of "Carousel," named best featured actress in a musical, tearfully recalled that early in her career, "I was told to change my last name from 'Mendez' to 'Matthews,' or I wouldn't work." She went on to say: "To all of you artists out there, just be your true self and the world will take note." In other acting awards, Nathan Lane won his third Tony — his first in a dramatic role — for playing Roy Cohn in "Angels in America." Glenda Jackson, 82, won best actress in a play for her fiery portrayal of an elderly woman in "Three Tall Women," and her co-star, Laurie Metcalf, won featured actress.

While there was clearly an undercurrent of resistance to the current administration in Washington, winners did not overtly attack President Donald Trump. Then came Robert De Niro, who arrived to present the most anticipated moment of the night — a performance by Bruce Springsteen — and began by launching an expletive at the president, pumping his arms for emphasis. And then he did it again. Many in the audience stood and cheered, while TV censors quickly bleeped out the offending words.

"That was the best part of the whole evening!" commented actor John Leguizamo later that night at the Plaza Hotel after-party. "I jumped to my feet." He added that "the Tonys have never been this political." Leguizamo himself, accepting a special Tony, brought up the fate of immigrant children in detention centers and the deaths of thousands of Puerto Ricans in Hurricane Maria. He also declared, "I'm an immigrant, and I'm not an animal" — referring to Trump's recent remarks that some people living in a country illegally or

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without legal permission are “animals.”

Several winners noted that elections are coming in November — among them playwright Tony Kushner, who wrote “Angels in America,” which won best revival of a play. He told viewers they have “21 weeks to save our democracy and heal our planet.” (On a lighter note, he also gave a shout-out to Judy Garland’s birthday.) Best musical revival went to “Once on This Island,” in a surprise win over “My Fair Lady” and “Carousel.”

By far the most emotional moment of the evening evoked the nation’s divisions over gun reform, when Melody Herzfeld, drama teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, was honored from the Tony stage. Herzfeld, the one-woman drama department at the school, has been credited with saving lives by barricading students into a classroom closet during the Valentine’s Day mass shooting that killed 17 people. She later encouraged many of her pupils to lead the nationwide movement for gun reform.

Herzfeld spoke during the pre-show. But later, students in her drama department surprised the audience by appearing onstage to sing “Seasons of Love” from the musical “Rent.”

They got the biggest ovation of the night.

AP writer Mark Kennedy contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that the official after-party was at the Plaza Hotel, not the Ritz Hotel.

## North Korea gets first big dose of Trump summit news

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Koreans got their first big dose of news Monday that their leader Kim Jong Un had arrived in Singapore for what even the state-run media was calling a historic meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump.

The news covered the front page of the ruling party’s newspaper and was the top — and only — item on the first news broadcast of the day on Korean Central Television, which for many North Koreans is the only channel available.

People crowded around poster stands at subway stations around the capital to read the news and gathered at noon in front of the city’s main train station to watch a big screen display of images of Kim getting off the special Air China flight that took him to Singapore.

A report by the Korea Central News Agency said the summit would have “wide-ranging and profound talks” and noted that it is being held “under the great attention and expectation of the whole world.”

The relative speed with which the state media got the news of Kim’s arrival in Singapore out to the North Korean public suggests a certain level of confidence that the meeting will go well — or at least well enough. For the North, Kim Jong Un has already won a huge propaganda bonus by merely having the summit and sitting down as an equal with the U.S. president, an accomplishment his father and grandfather sought but could never realize.

By prominently showing the Air China jet that flew Kim to Singapore, the reports also made no secret of China’s important role behind the scenes. That might not bode so well for Trump, who has expressed some concern about China’s influence.

Even so, the summit continues to be a highly sensitive topic in North Korea and it is difficult — even more so than usual — to get people to express their opinions about it. The media reports Monday follow months of only the scantest of coverage of the plans for Kim to meet Trump, though his summits with South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in and China’s President Xi Jinping received major coverage soon after they had ended.

“When I woke up this morning I saw the news in the newspaper that our respected Marshal went to Singapore for the North Korea-U.S. summit,” said Han Il Gwang, a Pyongyang resident, displaying typical

discretion when speaking to an Associated Press Television crew. "I know that Singapore is a very hot country so I wish that our respected Marshal stays healthy and comes back in good health."

Such characteristic caution when speaking in public notwithstanding, there is no doubt the prospect of the summit is generating a good deal of interest, and probably astonishment, among average North Koreans.

North Korea has so far presented Kim's sudden diplomatic overtures to his neighbors and to the United States as a logical next step following what Kim has claimed is the completion of his plan to develop a credible nuclear deterrent to what Pyongyang has long claimed is a policy of hostility and "nuclear blackmail" by Washington.

Those points were echoed in Monday's media coverage, which stressed that the talks with Trump would be focused on forging a relationship that is more in tune with what it called changing times — most likely meaning the North's new status as a nuclear weapons state — its desire for a mechanism to ensure a lasting a durable peace on the Korean Peninsula and, finally, denuclearization.

What exactly it has in mind for any of those broad topics remains to be seen.

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

## Maryland judge to hear foreign payments case against Trump

By TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — A Maryland federal judge will hear arguments in a case accusing President Donald Trump of violating the Constitution by accepting payments from foreign and state governments.

Monday's arguments before U.S. District Judge Peter Messitte will delve into the substance of the "emoluments clause" and what it means. The clause bans accepting benefits from foreign or state governments without congressional approval.

The plaintiffs, Maryland and the District of Columbia, have argued that Trump is capitalizing on the presidency and causing harm to businesses trying to compete with his Washington, D.C., hotel.

Justice Department lawyers have argued that such business activity, including hotel room stays, isn't an emolument.

A private lawyer for Trump has argued that the lawsuit should be dismissed because the president cannot be sued.

## Trump expresses optimism amid final Kim summit preparations

By ZEKE MILLER, CATHERINE LUCEY and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — On the eve of their unprecedented summit, President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un prepared Tuesday for a meeting that could define the fate of millions, along with their own political futures.

Trump forecast a "nice" outcome, while Kim spent the day out of view as both sides finalized preparations for the meeting, which was to kick off at 9 a.m. Tuesday with a handshake between Trump and Kim, an image sure to be devoured around the world. Trump and Kim planned to meet one on one, joined only by translators, for up to two hours before admitting their respective advisers, a U.S. official said. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about internal deliberations and insisted on anonymity.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters Monday that ongoing talks between the two countries were advancing well, but stressed the meeting would be the beginning of a process that would "set the conditions for future talks."

Pompeo added that the U.S. was prepared to take action to provide North Korea with "sufficient certainty" that denuclearization "is not something that ends badly for them."

He would not say whether that included the possibility of withdrawing U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula, but stressed the context of the discussions was "radically different than ever before."

"I can only say this," Pompeo said. "We are prepared to take what will be security assurances that are different, unique, than America's been willing to provide previously."

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The summit will be the first between a North Korean leader and a sitting American president. In Singapore, the island city-state hosting the summit, the sense of anticipation was palpable, with people lining spotless streets Monday waving cell phones as Trump headed to meet Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

As Trump and Lee sat down for a working lunch at the Istana house, Trump sounded optimistic, telling Lee, "we've got a very interesting meeting in particular tomorrow, and I think things can work out very nicely."

Trump also called the leaders of South Korea and Japan in advance of the summit, Pompeo said.

Meanwhile, U.S. and North Korean officials huddled at the Ritz-Carlton hotel Monday ahead of the sit-down aimed at resolving a standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal. A second round of meetings was planned for the afternoon as officials worked to lay the groundwork for progress to be made Tuesday, according to the official familiar with the preparations. Delegates were outlining specific goals for what Trump and Kim should try to accomplish and multiple scenarios for how key issues can be resolved.

The meetings also served as an ice breaker of sorts as the teams worked to get better acquainted after decades of minimal U.S.-North Korea contact. In a sign of lingering tensions, the North Koreans have been closely scrutinizing all American staffers are slated to be in any U.S.-North Korea meetings, including translators, photographers and logistical staff, asking how they can be sure the American are not actually spies.

Trump and Kim arrived in Singapore on Sunday, both staying at luxurious and heavily guarded hotels less than half a mile apart, with Trump at the Shangri-La Hotel and Kim at the St. Regis Hotel.

Pompeo, the former CIA director, spent the morning preparing with his top advisers, aides said. He was joined in Singapore by Ambassador Sung Kim, the U.S. envoy to the Philippines; and Ambassador Michael McKinley, a career diplomat Pompeo recently tapped to be his senior adviser.

Pompeo traveled twice to Pyongyang in recent months to lay the groundwork for Trump's meeting, becoming the most senior member of Trump's team to spend time with Kim face to face.

Trump has said he hopes to make a legacy-defining deal for the North to give up its nuclear weapons, though he has recently sought to minimize expectations, saying additional meetings may be necessary.

Asked Saturday about his goals, he said: "Well, I think the minimum would be relationship. You would start at least a dialogue, because, you know, as a deal person, I have done very well with deals."

The North has faced crippling diplomatic and economic sanctions as it has advanced development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Experts believe the North is close to being able to target the entire U.S. mainland with its nuclear-armed missiles, and while there's deep skepticism that Kim will quickly give up those hard-won nukes, there's also some hope that diplomacy can replace the animosity between the U.S. and the North.

As Trump was trying to build a bridge with Kim, he was smashing longtime alliances with Western allies, withdrawing from the G-7 joint communique, escalating a trade fight and launching blistering criticism against Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Trump continued to tweet angrily at Trudeau from Singapore, saying Monday "Fair Trade is now to be called Fool Trade if it is not Reciprocal."

One top Trump adviser cast the move as a show of strength before the Kim meeting. Economic adviser Larry Kudlow told CBS News in Washington that "Kim must not see American weakness," adding that by criticizing new tariffs, Trudeau was "pouring collateral damage on this whole Korean trip."

While advisers insist Trump has been reviewing briefing materials, he says his gut instincts will matter most when he gets in the room with Kim. He told reporters he thinks he will know almost immediately whether a deal can be made, saying: "I will know, just my touch, my feel. That's what I do."

Pompeo, however, stressed the president was "fully prepared."

Pyongyang has said it is willing to deal away its entire nuclear arsenal if the United States provides it with reliable security assurances and other benefits. But there are major doubts, given how hard it has been for Kim to build his program and that the weapons are seen as the major guarantee to his holding onto unchecked power.

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Any nuclear deal will hinge on the North's willingness to allow unfettered outside inspections of the country's warheads and nuclear fuel, much of which is likely kept in a vast complex of underground facilities. Past nuclear deals have crumbled over North Korea's reluctance to open its doors to outsiders.

Another possibility from the summit is a deal to end the Korean War, which North Korea has long demanded, presumably, in part, to get U.S. troops off the Korean Peninsula and eventually pave the way for a North Korean-led unified Korea.

Trump has also raised the possibility of further summits and an agreement ending the Korean War by replacing the armistice signed in 1953 with a peace treaty. China and South Korea would have to sign off on any legal treaty.

Associated Press writer Foster Klug contributed to this report.

## Democrats test liberal messages in midterm House elections

By **BILL BARROW** and **THOMAS BEAUMONT**, Associated Press

A single-payer health care advocate in South Texas. A gun restriction supporter in Dallas. Cheerleaders in Arkansas and Iowa for public option health care.

Weeks into the primary season, Democrats' midterm class is shaping up to test what liberal messages the party can sell to the moderate and GOP-leaning voters who will help determine control of the House after the November election.

It's not one size fits all, with every candidate checking every box wanted by the activists driving the opposition to President Donald Trump and the GOP Congress, and Democratic voters typically aren't tapping the most liberal choices in targeted districts. But, taken together, the crop of nominees is trending more liberal than many of the "Blue Dog" Democrats swept away in Republicans' 2010 midterm romp.

That means voters now represented by a Republican will be asked to consider some or all of the mainstream Democratic priorities that may have been considered "too liberal" in the past: more government involvement in health insurance, tighter gun laws, a path to citizenship for people in the country illegally, reversing parts of the GOP tax law, support for LGBTQ rights.

"You have ballpark 60 districts as diverse as Kansas and Staten Island. One bumper-sticker message will be self-defeating," said former congressman Steve Israel of New York, who led Democrats' national House campaign in 2012.

The question is whether that path results in Democrats gaining the 23 new seats they need for a majority. Israel disputes that the current slate represents an overall leftward shift, and national party leaders have still angered liberals with some of their recruitment choices.

Still, resistance leaders are confident of their influence. "We are seeing grassroots action and organizing in a meaningful way," said Maria Urbina, national political director of Indivisible, founded after Trump's 2016 election. "We see the party apparatus coming in behind some of this action on the ground."

To be clear, not every surviving candidate is a carbon copy of Bernie Sanders, the 2016 presidential candidate whose insurgent campaign emboldened the left with his calls for universal health insurance, a \$15-hour minimum wage and tuition-free college. But the influence of Sanders' inspired base is palpable, as winning nominees have adopted pieces, if not the whole, of an agenda that has become more typical within the party since it lost the House majority eight years ago.

At least to date, it's staved off a Democratic version of the 2010 tea party rise, when GOP leaders, even as they marched in lockstep opposition to then-President Barack Obama, watched archconservative outsiders defeat incumbent Republicans and fundamentally reshape the party's identity on Capitol Hill. The Democratic path seems to be more incremental evolution.

A key indicator is the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's "Red to Blue" program, the party's top candidates for flipping Republican seats. Twenty candidates with that designation have faced primaries already; only one of them — among the party's most conservative choices — has lost. (About two dozen more Red to Blue candidates have upcoming primaries, and the DCCC could add to its list.)

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On health care, at least two of the Red to Blue hopefuls past their primaries call explicitly for a single-payer, government health insurance system, four more want a government-run public option, and several others generically call for expanded coverage under the Democrats' 2010 health insurance overhaul. Eighteen were endorsed by End Citizens United, signifying their pledges to block corporations and wealthy individuals from spending unlimited amounts on campaigns.

A leftward shift on health care is clear in Arkansas, where state Rep. Clarke Tucker dominated a primary as the more centrist choice — he's among the Democrats saying he wouldn't back California's Nancy Pelosi for speaker — in a congressional district Trump won by almost 21 points.

A cancer survivor, Tucker does not support single-payer, but he does say all Americans, regardless of age, should be able to buy Medicare coverage. That's quite a leap from 2010, when then-Sen. Blanche Lincoln, a self-declared Arkansas centrist, joined other moderate Democrats to back the Affordable Care Act only after a public option was scrapped. She lost her 2010 re-election bid in a 21-point landslide anyway.

Beyond national Democrats' favored candidates, environmental lawyer Mike Levin won a November ballot spot in a Southern California district championing single-payer. He beat three other candidates who support Medicare-for-all health insurance. Together, the four Democrats received more votes than the eight-member Republican primary field in a district that retiring Rep. Darrell Issa has represented since 2001.

"I know that with a bold progressive agenda and with the continued mobilization of the progressive base in California 49, we're going to win come November," Levin said.

In some instances, the liberal arguments come from candidates who can sell themselves as trustworthy messengers, even if the message is stereotyped as out of place.

So Abby Finkenauer in an expansive northeast Iowa district and Colin Allred in metro Dallas can forcefully advocate for ideas like paid family leave, long a goal of the American labor movement. Finkenauer plays up her working-class roots as she also stakes out liberal positions on abortion rights. Allred still looks every bit the NFL defender he was before becoming a civil rights attorney. He's outspoken about LGBTQ rights while endorsing a \$15 minimum wage and a partial semi-automatic gun ban — all notable contrasts with the Republican congressman, Pete Sessions, he's trying to defeat in November.

Republicans, meanwhile, say bring it on.

"Wacky, far-left positions," said Courtney Alexander of the Congressional Leadership Fund, a GOP super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul Ryan, "aren't going to fly in suburban swing districts this fall."

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

## Trump takes more swipes at Canada after arrival in Singapore

By **KEN THOMAS, CATHERINE LUCEY and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump took more swipes at Canada and its prime minister over trade issues as he settled in for a summit with North Korea in Singapore, contending that "Fair Trade is now to be called Fool Trade if it is not Reciprocal."

Trump roiled the weekend Group of Seven meeting of industrialized nations in Canada by agreeing to a group statement on trade only to withdraw from it while flying to Asia. He complained that he had been blindsided by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's criticism of his tariff threats at a summit-ending news conference. In tweets, Trump insulted Trudeau as "dishonest" and "weak."

The attack on a longtime ally and its leader drew sharp criticism. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who also attended the summit, told German public television that she found Trump's tweet disavowing the G-7 statement "sobering" and "a little depressing." She also said the European Union would "act" against the U.S. trade measures.

Unbowed, Trump tweeted anew Monday morning from Singapore, repeating his criticism of U.S. trade policies with Canada — he also took aim at Germany — in a multitweet rant that went beyond 200 words all told. At one point he wrote, "Justin acts hurt when called out!"

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"Why should I, as President of the United States, allow countries to continue to make Massive Trade Surpluses, as they have for decades, while our Farmers, Workers & Taxpayers have such a big and unfair price to pay?" he tweeted.

Yet his top diplomat, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, downplayed the severity of the rift. Addressing reporters in Singapore ahead of Trump's summit Tuesday with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Pompeo said he was "unconcerned" that Trump's treatment of Canada — a close ally — boded poorly for his ability to forge peace with a longtime U.S. adversary.

"There are always irritants in relationships," Pompeo said, adding that without partners like Canada, "we wouldn't be in this place, we wouldn't have this diplomatic opportunity" with the North.

Still, other Trump advisers had taken up the attack in appearances on Sunday's news shows, leveling more withering and unprecedented criticism against Trudeau, branding him a back-stabber unworthy of Trump's time.

"There's a special place in hell for any foreign leader that engages in bad faith diplomacy with President Donald J. Trump and then tries to stab him in the back on the way out the door," Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro said on "Fox News Sunday."

Navarro said Trump "did the courtesy to Justin Trudeau to travel up to Quebec for that summit. He had other things, bigger things, on his plate in Singapore. ... He did him a favor, and he was even willing to sign that socialist communique. And what did Trudeau do as soon as the plane took off from Canadian airspace? Trudeau stuck our president in the back. That will not stand."

Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, suggested Trump saw Trudeau as trying to weaken his hand before the summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, saying the president won't "let a Canadian prime minister push him around. ... Kim must not see American weakness." Trudeau pulled a "sophomoric political stunt for domestic consumption" that amounted to "a betrayal," said Kudlow, who appeared on CNN's "State of the Union" and CBS' "Face the Nation."

In response to the initial tweets critical of her country and prime minister, Canada's foreign minister, Chrystia Freeland, said her nation "does not conduct its diplomacy through ad hominem attacks."

Trudeau, who had said at the news conference that Canada would retaliate for new U.S. tariffs, didn't respond to questions about Trump when the prime minister arrived at a Quebec City hotel Sunday for meetings with other world leaders. Freeland later told reporters that "we don't think that's a useful or productive way to do business."

A Trudeau spokesman, Cameron Ahmad, said Saturday night that Trudeau "said nothing he hasn't said before — both in public and in private conversations" with Trump.

And Roland Paris, a former foreign policy adviser to Trudeau, jabbed at Trump on Twitter: "Big tough guy once he's back on his airplane. Can't do it in person. ... He's a pathetic little man-child."

Trudeau said he had reiterated to Trump, who left the G-7 meeting before it ended, that tariffs would harm industries and workers on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. Trudeau told reporters that imposing retaliatory measures "is not something I relish doing" but that he wouldn't hesitate to do so because "I will always protect Canadian workers and Canadian interests."

The Americans' criticism of Trudeau left a former Canadian prime minister, Stephen Harper, stumped. "I don't understand the obsession with trade relations with Canada," he said on Fox's "Sunday Morning Futures," given that Canada is the biggest single buyer of American goods and services in the world. From promoting democracy and to fighting terrorism, "we're on the same page. We're the closest partners in the world, and you don't want to see a dispute over one particular issue poison everything."

Lukey reported from Singapore and Gillies from Quebec City. Associated Press writer Josh Lederman in Singapore contributed to this report.

## Kim Jong Un could give up ICBMs but keep some nuclear forces

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — After years of effort to develop nuclear missiles that can target the U.S. mainland, is North Korean leader Kim Jong Un really ready to pack them away in a deal with President Donald Trump?

Perhaps, but that wouldn't necessarily mean Pyongyang is abandoning its nuclear ambitions entirely.

Tuesday's meeting in Singapore between Kim and Trump comes after a sharp turn in North Korea's diplomacy, from rebuffing proposals for dialogue last year to embracing and even initiating them this year. The change may reflect a new thinking about its nuclear deterrence strategy — and how best to secure the ultimate goal of protecting Kim's rule.

A look at how Kim's appetite for talks swung amid the North's ups and downs in weapons development and what that says about how he might approach his negotiations with Trump:

### TESTS AND TALKS

North Korea's attitude toward dialogue in the past two years has seemed to shift with setbacks or progress in its weapons tests.

Even after starting a rapid process of weapons development following a nuclear test in January 2016, Pyongyang constantly invited rivals to talks that year.

It proposed military meetings with Seoul to reduce tensions and indicated it could suspend its nuclear and missile tests if the U.S.-South Korean military drills were dialed back. Washington and Seoul demurred, saying Pyongyang first must show genuine intent to denuclearize.

At the time, North Korea's quest for a credible nuclear deterrent against the U.S. was troubled. The military conducted eight tests of its "Musudan" intermediate-range missile in 2016, but only one of those launches was seen as successful. The country's path toward an intercontinental-range ballistic missile appeared cut off.

North Korea's stance on dialogue changed dramatically, though, following the successful test of a new rocket engine in March 2017, which the country hailed as a significant breakthrough.

The engine, believed to be a variant of the Russian-designed RD-250, powered a successful May flight of a new intermediate-range missile, the Hwasong-12, reopening the path to an ICBM. That was followed in July by two successful tests of an ICBM, the Hwasong-14.

Pyongyang's demands for talks disappeared. Proposals to meet from a new liberal government in Seoul were ignored. Determined to test its weapons in operational conditions, the North flew two Hwasong-12s over Japan and threatened to fire them toward Guam, a U.S. military hub.

The North's state media brought up President Richard Nixon's outreach to Beijing in the 1970s following a Chinese test of a thermonuclear bomb, saying it was likewise inevitable that Washington will accept North Korea as a nuclear power and take steps to normalize ties.

Kim talked of reaching a military "equilibrium" with the U.S. By all signs, he was fully committed to completing an ICBM program he intended to keep.

### THE DETERRENCE GAME

Kim's turn toward diplomacy this year suggests he may have concluded the nuclear deterrence strategy was failing, some analysts say.

After a November test of a larger ICBM, the Hwasong-15, Kim proclaimed his nuclear force as complete, but his announcement may have been more politically motivated than an assessment of capability.

Although the Hwasong-15 displayed a greater range than the Hwasong-14, there was no clear sign the North had made meaningful progress in the technology needed to ensure that a warhead would survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric re-entry.

New U.S. National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy reports released in December and January respectively also seemed to reduce the credibility of Kim's deterrence plans, said Hwang Ildo, a

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professor at Seoul's Korea National Diplomatic Academy.

In the documents, the U.S. assesses it could sufficiently defend against the small number of North Korean ICBMs — believed to be about 10 or fewer — with its 44 ground-based interceptors deployed in Alaska. Missiles fired from North Korea would have to pass Alaska to reach the U.S. mainland.

Experts are divided on whether the interceptors, which Washington plans to deploy in larger numbers soon, can be counted on to destroy incoming warheads. However, Hwang said, real capability doesn't matter as much as Trump believing that the system works, which reduces the bargaining power of the ICBMs.

Kim can't be the Mao Zedong to Trump's Nixon if the U.S. sees his weapons as containable. With North Korea's limited resources, as well as the threat of a pre-emptive U.S. attack, it's difficult for the North to mass produce enough ICBMs to overwhelm the interceptors in Alaska.

Rather than prolonging his nation's economic suffering, Kim may have concluded it would be better to deal away his ICBMs at the cusp of operational capability, especially when it was no longer clear the missiles would guarantee his survival.

"North Korea always tries to maintain flexibility and increase its options from step to step," Hwang said.

## A PAKISTANI MODEL?

What never changes for North Korea is that the survival of the Kim regime comes first.

Nam Sung-wook, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Korea University, said Kim is probably modeling a nuclear future after Pakistan, which began building a nuclear arsenal in the 1990s to deter India. Pakistan is now estimated to have more than 100 warheads that are deliverable by short- and medium-range weapons and aircraft.

Kim may be seeking a deal where he gives up his ICBMs but keeps his shorter-range arsenal, which may satisfy Trump but drive a wedge between Washington and its Asian allies, Seoul and Tokyo. In drills with shorter-range weapons in 2016, the North demonstrated the potential to carry out nuclear attacks on South Korean ports and U.S. military facilities in Japan.

In negotiations, Kim may try to exclude submarine technologies from a freeze or verification process to leave open a path toward sub-launched ballistic missile systems, Hwang said.

Then, if diplomacy fails and Kim goes back to building nuclear weapons, the systems would expand their reach and provide a second-strike capability to retaliate if North Korea's land-based launch sites are destroyed.

North Korea successfully tested a submarine-launched missile that flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles) in August 2016. Analysts believe the solid-fuel missile can hit targets as far as 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) away.

That said, it would take years for the North to develop a fleet of submarines that can quietly travel deep into the Pacific.

The immediate outcome of the summit in Singapore is likely to be a vague aspirational statement on the North's denuclearization, Nam said. When it comes to details, Washington and Pyongyang are destined to "muddle through" a lengthy process, wrestling over the terms of monitoring and inspections, he said.

Still, such a process would halt the growth of the North's nuclear program and prevent it from using its weapons to flex its diplomatic muscle, Nam said. It could take a decade or so for Kim to find his next move in nuclear deterrence if he's eyeing a submarine-launched system. That could be enough time for Washington, Seoul and others to convince Kim he just can't win the nuclear game.

Follow Kim Tong-hyung on Twitter at @KimTongHyung.

## Immigration firm seems to thrive after Trump lawyer's help

By **BERNARD CONDON, AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — AT&T and drug giant Novartis got nothing but bad publicity when they asked Donald Trump's personal attorney Michael Cohen for help with business, but a Florida immigration firm that tapped him appears to have gotten nearly everything it wanted.

When Nicholas Mastroianni II hooked up with Cohen last year, his business was threatened by a looming regulatory crackdown on the federal EB-5 program that offers foreigners permanent residency visas if they invest in certain U.S. real estate projects.

Cohen put Mastroianni in touch with a lobbying firm that was paying him for referrals. And although it's not clear exactly what the firm did, the proposed crackdown on the visa program collapsed and Mastroianni's business — U.S. Immigration Fund — is now set to pocket tens of millions in fees for acting as a visa broker in a string of ongoing projects.

"Without regulation, the fat cats are still lapping at the bowl," said David North, a fellow at the nonpartisan research firm Center for Immigration Studies who has supported the EB-5 overhaul efforts led by Iowa Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley.

Neither Cohen nor Mastroianni responded to requests for comment about their newly revealed business relationship.

U.S. prosecutors in Manhattan have seized documents from Cohen's office and home as part of a criminal investigation into his personal business dealings.

Mastroianni has been connected to Trump associates who faced scrutiny before. Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn reportedly investigated the family real estate firm once run by Trump adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner after an aborted effort by USIF to help the Kushners raise \$150 million in visa money in China.

Kushner Cos. said last year it would no longer seek visa money to avoid any perception of a conflict with Kushner's role in the White House.

In a recent interview with real estate trade publication *The Real Deal*, Kushner's father, Charlie Kushner, said he's been told that the Brooklyn investigation of his firm is over. A spokesman for the Brooklyn prosecutors wouldn't comment, citing a policy of neither confirming nor denying the existence of an investigation.

Mastroianni, 54, had a string of drug-related felonies in his 20s and a bankruptcy before founding what in eight years has become one of the most successful visa broker operations in the country.

USIF acts as a middleman connecting U.S. real estate developers seeking funding with visa-seeking investors from such countries as China, India and Vietnam who must make an investment of at least \$500,000. The firm's website boasts that it has raised \$3 billion for projects under the EB-5 program since 2010.

But early last year, all that was under siege. The proposed crackdown on the EB-5 program would have limited it to mostly struggling U.S. communities, hardly the kind of places where USIF was pursuing deals.

At the time, Mastroianni was in the midst of raising at least \$700 million for several buildings in the New York City area, including one in bustling Times Square in Manhattan and another in pricey Chelsea. Those deals alone could have generated about \$35 million in fees for Mastroianni.

A person familiar with Mastroianni's thinking says he was worried about changes in the EB-5 program when he reached out to Cohen. The lawyer referred Mastroianni to Squire Patton Boggs, a powerhouse lobbying firm that had a "strategic partnership" with Cohen that included a Rockefeller Center office and a \$500,000 retainer to send potential clients its way. The person was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and so requested anonymity.

Federal reports show that USIF, based in Jupiter, Florida, ended up paying \$370,000 to Squire Patton Boggs, an undisclosed cut of which went to Cohen.

Cohen's talk with USIF, which was first reported by *The Wall Street Journal*, was part of a referral business that complemented a consulting business set up to trade on his familiarity with Trump after decade-long work at the president's company.

After their names were leaked to the media earlier this year, companies that hired Cohen moved fast to distance themselves from him. AT&T said it was a "big mistake" turning to Cohen for advice on matters

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such as its proposed purchase of Time Warner, which is being fought by the Justice Department, and it announced its chief lobbyist would leave the company. Novartis, which was looking for advice on drug policy, said it realized after a single meeting with Cohen that he would be of no use. It called hiring Cohen an "error" and said its top lawyer would resign.

USIF, meanwhile, had a much different experience. The effort to crack down on EB-5 ultimately failed, with new, tougher regulations stalled and a congressional vote in March renewing the program for six months. Grassley blamed the loss in Congress on "big-moneyed New York City real-estate interests."

Just what Squire Patton Boggs did for USIF is unclear. Federal reports say USIF-funded lobbying efforts targeted "reform of the immigrant investor EB-5 program" without giving any detail, and a spokesman for the lobbying firm declined comment.

Several developers that could have been hurt by a crackdown also tried to influence debate. Federal reports show that New York-based Related Cos., for instance, spent \$750,000 starting in 2017 on EB-5 lobbying.

The intent of the 1990 law establishing the EB-5 visa program was to help rural and struggling communities and, though requirements have been loosened over the years, a building still needs to be in an area where unemployment is 150 percent above the average U.S. rate.

But companies raising money in upscale neighborhoods are allowed under the law to engage in a bit of gerrymandering, and so they've been creating odd-shaped maps that string together census tracts with low unemployment where they intend to build with other tracts with much higher rates.

For a 2015 residential complex called Trump Bay Street in a New Jersey neighborhood across the Hudson River from Manhattan, the developers got a map approved that included two dozen tracts, all linked together but some miles away from the booming waterfront. Mastroianni ended up raising \$50 million from wealthy Chinese for the project, which is partly owned by the Kushners and leases its name from the president's company.

Whether such deals can continue depends on a renewed push for EB-5 changes again this year. Grassley took the Senate floor recently to propose ridding the program of middlemen and their gerrymandering entirely, calling that part of it "too corrupted to be saved."

Michael Gibson, managing director of visa investment consultancy U.S. Advisors, said brokers like Mastroianni who focus on wealthy areas will get crushed if even the more modest changes are made.

"If they kill gerrymandering, these guys are done," Gibson said.

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## Robert De Niro bleeped at Tony Awards for Trump F-bomb

By LEANNE ITALIE, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With a bleep on live television and double fists raised in the air, Robert De Niro got the theater crowd on its feet at the Tony Awards with a rousing political introduction of his old friend Bruce Springsteen that was focused squarely elsewhere: on President Donald Trump.

De Niro, a staunch Trump opponent, dropped a couple of F-bombs heard clearly by the Radio City Music crowd Sunday night. The CBS television audience heard dead silence instead before he raised his arms — twice — and earned a sustained standing ovation.

The legendary actor urged the audience to vote in November and lauded Springsteen for his own political commitment before the singer sat at a piano for a moving performance based on his "Springsteen on Broadway" show that had him singing his classic hit, "My Hometown."

De Niro said of Springsteen: "Bruce, you can rock the house like nobody else and even more importantly in these perilous times, you rock the vote, always fighting for, in your own words, truth, transparency and integrity in government. Boy, do we need that now."

The anti-Trump sentiment swept backstage as playwright Tony Kushner and others from "Angels in America" spoke to reporters about its three big wins: best play revival and acting trophies for Andrew

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Garfield and Nathan Lane

"I agree," Kushner said when asked about the De Niro moment, dropping an F-bomb of his own in relation to the president.

"I can't believe De Niro did that," Kushner said. "Good for him. I mean, it's Robert De Niro. Who's gonna argue with him?"

Kushner went even further, calling Trump's presidency "the Hitler mistake" that put a "borderline psychotic narcissist in the White House."

## 'The Band's Visit' dances away with a leading 10 Tony Awards

By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The American, grown-up musical "The Band's Visit" outmuscled the acclaimed and sprawling British import "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" for the most Tony Awards on Sunday, capturing 10 statuettes, including best musical, on a night where the theme of acceptance flowed through the telecast.

"The Band's Visit" is based on a 2007 Israeli film of the same name and centers on members of an Egyptian police orchestra booked to play a concert at an Israeli city who accidentally end up in the wrong town. Its embrace of foreign cultures working together found a sweet spot with Tony voters.

"In 'The Band's Visit,' music gives people hope and makes borders disappear," producer Orin Wolf said upon accepting the best new musical crown, saying it offers a message of unity in a world that "more and more seems bent on amplifying our differences."

Tony Shalhoub, the "Monk" star who won as best leading man in a musical for his work on "The Band's Visit," connected the win to his father's 1920 immigration from Lebanon to New York's Ellis Island at age 8. "Tonight, I celebrate him and all of those in his family who journeyed before him and with him and after him," he said.

The show's Katrina Lenk, who won best actress in a musical, said the production "filled her stupid little heart with so much joy." She dedicated her award in part to the iconic Egyptian singer Umm Kulthum.

"The Band's Visit" also won statuettes for best direction, orchestration, sound design, best book and score, lighting and featured actor Ari'el Stachel, who gave a heartfelt speech about his past.

"For so many years of my life I pretended I was not a Middle Eastern person," he said, addressing his parents in the audience. He thanked the creators of the show "for being courageous for telling a small story about Arabs and Israelis getting along at a time that we need that more than ever."

The show's director, David Cromer, said the musical is also about loneliness and despair, and asked everyone to reach out to anyone for whom "despair is overwhelming."

The two-part spectacle "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" captured six Tonys, including best play, book, lighting, sound design, orchestrations and director for John Tiffany, who asked the crowd to sing "Happy Birthday" to his boyfriend. They obliged.

A British revival of "Angels in America," Tony Kushner's monumental, two-part drama about AIDS, life and love during the 1980s, grabbed three big awards, including best play revival and acting trophies for Andrew Garfield and Nathan Lane.

Kushner took the stage and pointed out there were 21 weeks until the midterm elections in the United States: "Twenty-one weeks to save our democracy, to heal our country and to heal our planet."

Garfield won his first Tony, for best leading actor in a play, and dedicated the win to the LGBTQ community, who he said fought and died for the right to love. He said the play is a rejection of bigotry, shame and oppression.

"We are all sacred and we all belong," Garfield said. He then referenced last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision which ruled in favor of a baker's right to deny a gay couple a wedding cake based on his beliefs.

"(Let's) just bake a cake for everyone who wants a cake to be baked," he said, to rousing applause. Lane, who won for best featured actor in a play, said "Angels" still speaks to society in the midst of "political insanity."

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In one of the ceremony's most mesmerizing moments, Melody Herzfeld, the heroic drama teacher who nurtured many of the young people demanding change following the February school shooting in Parkland, Florida, was honored from the Tony Award stage.

Herzfeld, the one-woman drama department at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, was cheered by the crowd at Radio City Music Hall. Herzfeld saved 65 lives by barricading students into a small classroom closet on Valentine's Day when police say a former student went on a school rampage, killing 17 people.

She then later encouraged many of her pupils to lead the nationwide movement for gun reform. Members of Herzfeld's drama department took to the Tony stage to serenade her with "Seasons of Love" from the musical "Rent."

In other wins, 82-year-old Glenda Jackson added to her impressive resume with a Tony Award for best actress in a play for her work in a revival of Edward Albee's "Three Tall Women." That show also yielded the featured actress win to "Rosanne" star Laurie Metcalf.

Billy Joel gave his friend Bruce Springsteen a special Tony Award. "This is deeply appreciated, and thanks for making me feel so welcome on your block," The Boss said. Later, Springsteen performed "My Hometown" on the piano from his sold-out one-man show, "Springsteen on Broadway." (Robert De Niro, who took the stage to introduce Springsteen's performance, started off with an expletive directed at President Donald Trump, which garnered him a sustained standing ovation from the crowd.)

Co-hosts Josh Groban and Sara Bareilles, talented and likable if not terribly thrilling, made somewhat subdued hosts, opening the show with a self-parodying duet on piano for all the losers out there — including them. "Let's not forget that 90 percent of us leave empty-handed tonight. So this is for the people who lose," they sang.

They went on to cover Sia's "Chandelier" — substituting her lyrics for ones that complained about singing live eight shows a week — and sang hits from Andrew Lloyd Webber shows and then closed the telecast with a song about Broadway dreamers.

Two of the shows going into the night with most nominations — Tina Fey's "Mean Girls" and "SpongeBob SquarePants," with 12 nods each — found the night tough. "Mean Girls" won nothing and "SpongeBob SquarePants" got only one for best set design.

The revival of "Carousel" won two awards — choreography and for Lindsay Mendez, who won best featured actress in a musical. She accepted in tears, recounting that when she moved to New York, she was told to change her last name to Matthews or she wouldn't work. She said she was happy to be in a production that "celebrates diversity and individuality." To all artists out there, she said: "Just be your true self and the world will take note."

Another show highlight was the lively performance by the cast of "Once on This Island" that included a sand-filled beach, real water and a goat. Onstage guests were volunteers and staffers from three organizations that bring relief to areas impacted by natural disasters. The show went on to win best musical revival, in an upset, beating "My Fair Lady" and "Carousel."

Online: <https://www.tonyawards.com/index.html>

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## Isolated Kim takes big gamble leaving home for Trump summit

By FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Spare a moment, as you anticipate one of the most unusual summits in modern history, to consider North Korea's leader as he left the all-encompassing bubble of his locked-down stronghold of Pyongyang on Sunday and stepped off a jet onto Singapore soil for his planned sit-down with President Donald Trump on Tuesday.

There's just no recent precedent for the gamble Kim Jong Un is taking.

As far as we know, his despot father only traveled out of the country by train, and rarely at that, because

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of fears of assassination. Kim, up until his recent high-profile summit with South Korea's president on the southern side of their shared border, has usually hunkered down behind his vast propaganda and security services, or made short trips to autocrat-friendly China.

While Singapore has authoritarian leanings, it is still a thriving bastion of capitalism and wealth, and Kim will be performing his high-stakes diplomatic tight-rope walk in front of 3,000 international journalists, including a huge contingent from the ultra-aggressive South Korean press — sometimes referred to by Pyongyang as "reptile media" — two of whom were arrested by Singapore police investigating a report of trespassing at the residence of the North Korean ambassador.

While he famously attended school in Switzerland, traveling this far as supreme leader is an entirely different matter for someone used to being the most revered, most protected, most deferred to human in his country of 25 million. Kim is, essentially, upsetting two decades of carefully choreographed North Korean statecraft and stepping into the unknown.

There's wild speculation about how Kim will perform on the world stage, although one question was answered Sunday: His grim-faced, well-muscled bodyguards marched alongside his armored limousine at one point in Singapore, just as they did when he met the South Korean leader in April. But amid the curiosity is an even more fundamental question: Why is he taking this risk at all?

Here's a look:

## THE LOGISTICS

First the nuts and bolts: How do you protect what many North Koreans consider their single most precious resource, the third member of the Kim family to rule and a direct descendant of North Korea's worshipped founder Kim Il Sung?

Hundreds of North Korean security experts have no doubt been up nights wondering how to safeguard Kim Jong Un since Trump shocked the world by accepting the North's invitation to meet.

Kim arrived Sunday on a Chinese plane, not his official plane, which is called "Chammae-1" and named after the goshawk, North Korea's national bird.

Kim may have shipped over the massive bulletproof and fireproof limousine that became a social media sensation when Kim was shown being driven across the border between the Koreas during his first summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, in April, with a dozen staunch bodyguards encircling the auto. He could be seen speeding through Singapore on Sunday in a black limousine adorned with large North Korean flags.

Singapore's The Straits Times reported earlier this month that the Singapore government declared that four black BMW sedans with armored bodies that can withstand gunshots, explosives and grenades were exempt from certain traffic rules through June 30. The newspaper said the vehicles weren't from a local authorized dealer, which suggests the cars were brought in specifically for the summit and may be used by Kim.

Kim's bodyguards traveled with him, providing trusted protection to back up local Singapore security who were controlling the perimeter and crowds,

One benefit of Singapore from the North Korean point of view is that there will probably not be any anti-North Korea protests during Kim's stay. "Singapore is like a police state. How can such rallies take place there? Anyone involved in rallies would be arrested," said Choi Kang, vice president of Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

Kim arrived Sunday at the St. Regis hotel, where his close aide has been based as he leads a North Korean advance team arranging security and logistics details. South Korea's Hankook Ilbo reported that Singapore recommended the St. Regis, which hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping during his 2015 summit with Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, because it can be easily secured.

## WHY'S HE TAKING THE RISK?

The short answer might be that, despite his safety worries, Kim could end up getting much more out of this summit than he will have to give up.

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The standard thinking goes that he needs quick help to stabilize and then rebuild an economy that has suffered amid a decades-long pursuit of nuclear bombs, and that the North Koreans see a unique chance to win concessions, legitimacy and protection from a meeting with a highly unconventional U.S. president who's willing to consider options past American leaders would not.

Kim also gets an "obvious and immediate win" by simply meeting with Trump, writes Joseph Yun, who was the top U.S. diplomat on North Korea until March.

It's "a sign of recognition that the North Koreans have sought for decades. In my meetings with North Korea's foreign ministry, its officials have repeatedly emphasized that only a leader-to-leader dialogue could break the nuclear impasse. At the root of this desire lies their central concern: regime survival," he wrote.

The summit has been portrayed as a "get to know you" meeting.

"That's a perfect deal for North Korea. They pocket all of it and lose essentially nothing," said Christopher Hill, President George W. Bush's lead nuclear negotiator with the North. "The North Koreans have already gotten what they need out of this. Their only issue is how much they have to give up. From what I can tell from (Trump's recent comments at the White House), they're not going to be asked to do much."

Kim may also be seeing the gamble in a light never considered by his autocratic father and grandfather because of "his determination to modernize North Korea," according to Ryan Haas, an Asia expert at the John L. Thornton China Center.

"Kim confronts rising expectations from within at the same time that he contends with ever-tightening sanctions from abroad," Haas wrote. "So, according to this logic, in order to satisfy internal expectations, he will need to reduce external pressure, and this dynamic could push Kim down the path of denuclearization."

Haas offers a useful warning, though, as people around the world settle in to watch the show in Singapore: "Virtually no North Korea analyst inside or outside of the U.S. government" expects Kim to actually give up his nukes.

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Associated Press writers Kim Tong-hyung and Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea and Gillian Wong in Beijing contributed to this report.

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Foster Klug is AP's bureau chief in South Korea and has covered the Koreas since 2005. Follow at [www.twitter.com/apklug](http://www.twitter.com/apklug)

## Migrants are saved, but stranded at sea by Italian politics

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

ROME (AP) — A private rescue ship carrying 629 migrants remained at sea Sunday evening after more than a day of not receiving permission to dock in either Italy or the small Mediterranean island nation of Malta.

Aid group SOS Mediterranee said the passengers on its ship, the Aquarius, included 400 people who were picked up by the Italian navy, that country's coast guard and private cargo ships and transferred. The rescue ship's crew itself pulled 229 migrants from the water or from traffickers' unseaworthy boats Saturday night, including 123 unaccompanied minors and seven pregnant women.

The Aquarius and its passengers were caught up in a crackdown promoted by the right-wing partner in Italy's new populist government, which has vowed to stop the country from becoming the "refugee camp of Europe."

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said he personally contacted Malta's prime minister, Joseph Muscat, to "explicitly at least take on the human assistance of persons in difficulty aboard the Aquarius."

But Muscat, "while comprehending the situation," rebuffed him, Conte said in a Facebook post late Sunday. That stance "confirms the latest unwillingness of Malta and, thus, of Europe, to intervene and take care of the emergency."

Like Malta, Italy didn't appear to be budging.

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Italy's firebrand interior minister, Matteo Salvini, who leads the anti-immigrant League party in the governing coalition, has long railed against what he depicts as Europe's failure to show solidarity with Italy during the migrant crisis in recent years.

"Starting today, Italy, too, begins to say NO to the trafficking of human beings, NO to the business of clandestine immigration," Salvini tweeted Sunday.

After leading an hours-long meeting with his coalition leaders Sunday night at the premier's office, Conte said Italy was sending two motorboats with medical staff aboard in case the migrants needed help but he made no mention of how the Aquarius might ever get into port.

Salvini and Italian Transportation Minister Danilo Toninelli, who is part of the 5-Star Movement faction in the new government, said in a joint statement Sunday that it was Malta's responsibility to "open its ports for the hundreds of the rescued on the NGO ship Aquarius."

"The island can't continue to turn the other way," the ministers said. "The Mediterranean is the sea of all the countries that face it, and it (Malta) can't imagine that Italy will continue to face this giant phenomenon in solitude."

Earlier, Malta said in a statement that the Aquarius took on the passengers in waters controlled by Libya and where Italian authorities in Rome coordinate search-and-rescue operations.

The Maltese Rescue Coordination Center "is neither the competent nor the coordinating authority," the statement said.

SOS Mediterranean spokeswoman Mathilde Auvillain told The Associated Press the ship was "heading north following instructions received after the rescues and transfers" Saturday night. The Rome-based rescue coordination center gave the instructions.

The aid group said in a statement it had taken "good note" of Salvini's stance, as reported earlier by Italian media. It added that the Aquarius "is still waiting for definitive instructions regarding the port of safety."

SOS Mediterranean said Maltese search-and-rescue authorities were contacted by their Italian counterparts "to find the best solution for the well-being and safety" of the people on the ship.

Farther west in the Mediterranean, Spain's maritime rescue service saved 334 migrants and recovered four bodies from boats it intercepted trying to reach Europe over the weekend. The rescue service said its patrol craft reached nine different boats carrying migrants that had left from Africa on Saturday and early Sunday.

One boat found Sunday was carrying four bodies along with 49 migrants. The cause of death was yet to be determined.

To the east, Libya's coast guard intercepted 152 migrants, including women and children, from two boats stopped in the Mediterranean off the coast of the western Zuwara district Saturday. The migrants were taken to a naval base in Tripoli.

Human rights groups oppose returning rescued migrants to Libya, where many are held in inhumane conditions, poorly fed and often forced to do slave labor.

Libya was plunged into chaos following a 2011 uprising. The lawlessness in Libya has made it a popular place for migrants to try to depart for Europe.

Driven by violent conflicts and extreme poverty, hundreds of thousands of migrants have reached southern Europe in recent years by crossing the Mediterranean in smugglers' boats that often are unseaworthy.

The United Nations says at least 785 migrants have died crossing the sea so far this year.

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Associated Press writers Joseph Wilson in Barcelona, Spain and Stephen Calleja in Valletta, Malta, contributed to this report.

## Mitt Romney and Donald Trump? 'It's really complicated'

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**, Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — On the edge of a mountaintop in Utah, it's getting complicated for Mitt Romney. With the sun setting over his shoulder, the former Republican presidential nominee and would-be sena-

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tor tells his audience, gathered on the patio of a resort, that President Donald Trump will win a second term. Romney also says that annual \$1 trillion deficits under Trump are "highly stimulative." And ignoring Trump's new trade tariffs, Romney says there's nothing already on the horizon that will push the U.S. into a recession.

Once the face of the "Never Trump" movement, Romney appears to be embracing Trump's presidency as he re-enters national politics, this time as a 71-year-old candidate for the Senate from Utah.

Perhaps no Republican leader demonstrates the transformation of the modern-day party better than Romney.

Two years ago, Romney attacked Trump's very same policies on trade, spending and national security. Today, like other candidates across the country this election season, Romney is taking an approach that suggests there's no room for an outspoken Trump critic in Republican Party.

"Whatever the disagreements have been, I think they've put them behind each other," said Anthony Scaramucci, a former Romney fundraiser who briefly served as Trump's communications director.

Scaramucci was among dozens of high-profile business and political leaders at Romney's annual summit in Park City this weekend. Outspoken Trump supporters were scarce.

The president has forgiven Romney, Scaramucci said, and Romney "can be an ally."  
It may not be that simple.

Many Romney loyalists, in comments in the hallways of the Stein Eriksen Lodge, said Romney remains deeply concerned about Trump's policies and leadership style. For many among the Trump faithful, Romney will never be forgiven for his speech two years ago when he laid out in stark terms his case for why a Trump presidency would be a disaster.

Publicly, the two men have been respectful to each other, at a distance, since the 2016 election.

Trump endorsed Romney's Senate bid on Twitter earlier this year. And on Friday, the president had this to say after learning Romney predicted a 2020 Trump victory: "Mitt's a straight shooter — whether people love him or don't love him."

The backhanded compliment is evidence of the lingering tension between Republican heavyweights who represent different wings of the GOP.

Romney is the face of the establishment. He spent much of the past decade working to strengthen the conservative movement and elect Republicans. Trump has taken over the GOP by attacking its own leaders at times with a brand of populism that defies long-cherished conservative positions on trade, fiscal discipline and foreign policy.

Romney must make it through the June 26 primary and the general election in November, but most see it as a foregone conclusion that he will succeed retiring GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch in this Republican stronghold.

The focus, therefore, has already begun to shift toward Romney's fit in Trump's GOP once he gets to Washington.

"There are issues he wants to dive deep on — and I don't think he'll be bashful in taking on Donald Trump or (Senate Majority Leader) Mitch McConnell for that matter," said Jason Chaffetz, a close Romney ally and a recently retired congressman from Utah. "He's no rookie freshman senator. He's going to come with a little more clout and gravitas than that."

Those closer to Romney suggest a murkier path ahead.

"It's really complicated," said Lanhee Chen, a senior aide on Romney's 2012 presidential campaign who remains close to Romney's inner circle. "I don't think he's going there to be an agitator."

But Chen said Romney sees a void in Congress he's eager to fill, particularly on foreign policy and federal spending, as more independent-minded Republican senators such as Arizona's Jeff Flake and Tennessee's Bob Corker prepare to step down, and Arizona's John McCain battles brain cancer.

In the time since Trump won the presidency, however, there are signs that Romney is inclined to defer to the undisputed Republican leader.

Romney disappointed some admirers with his prediction on Thursday about Trump's re-election. A spokeswoman later declined to say whether Romney was formally endorsing Trump's 2020 campaign. But Romney's words echoed across the political world, discouraging what remains of the GOP's Never Trump

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movement.

"Everybody gets sucked into the Trump vortex. I really thought Romney would somewhat stay above it," said Kendal Unruh, a Colorado-based conservative activist who tried to block Trump's nomination at the 2016 national convention.

Unruh said Romney's latest remarks prompted her to re-read his March 2016 speech in which he called Trump "a phony" and "a fake."

In that scathing attack, Romney warned that Trump's proposed tariffs would trigger recession, his spending plans would explode the national debt and his foreign policy would endanger America's security.

"All those things are happening," Unruh said. "Isn't it amazing what an endorsement can do? I've lost respect for Mitt Romney."

Romney has walked a fine line on Trump in his Senate campaign, aligning himself with many of the president's policies while subtly raising concerns about Trump's leadership style.

In his weekend remarks, Romney initially described the increase in deficit-spending under Trump as one of the "extraordinary stimulus actions" in Trump's first year in office. Romney later raised concerns about the cost of such red ink.

"We don't seem to be making much progress on that," Romney said.

With the primary approaching, Romney doesn't appear to be paying a political price for the balancing act in Utah, where Romney remains a beloved adopted son and many conservatives share mixed views of the president.

There are Romney critics, however.

Former Republican state lawmaker Curt Oda said he doesn't trust Romney. "I think he'll do things to stall the president, whether it's good or not ... just because he hates the president so badly," he said.

Scaramucci, however, insists there's no bad blood from Trump's perspective.

Romney "said the guy's going to win re-election," Scaramucci said. "I think he can be an ally."

## Unorthodox Trump faces toughest test yet in NKorea summit

By ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Embarking on a self-described "mission of peace," President Donald Trump puts his seat-of-the-pants foreign policy to its toughest test yet as he attempts this week to personally broker an end to North Korea's nuclear program in talks with Kim Jong Un.

The impulsive American president, who just this weekend sowed chaos within the Western alliance, is set to face his match on the global stage as he prepares to meet Kim in Singapore on Tuesday.

In the historic first meeting between the leaders of the technically-still-warring nations, Trump is prioritizing instinct over planning. Unlike traditional summits between heads of state, where most of the work is completed in advance, U.S. officials say the only thing certain ahead of these talks will be their unpredictability.

Ever since Trump shocked allies, White House officials and, by some accounts, the North Koreans themselves when he accepted Kim's March invitation for a meeting, the two leaders have lurched toward an uncertain encounter that could affect millions.

"It's unknown territory in the truest sense, but I really feel confident," Trump told reporters Saturday. "I feel that Kim Jong Un wants to do something great for his people and he has that opportunity and he won't have that opportunity again."

Trump landed in Singapore on Sunday evening, about four hours after Kim arrived in the island city-state. The two are scheduled to meet for the first time Tuesday morning.

Trump's engagement with Kim fulfills the North Korean ruling family's long-unrequited yearning for international legitimacy, itself a substantial concession after more than a generation of U.S. efforts to isolate the country on the global stage.

"It's never been done before," Trump said. "And obviously, what has been done before hasn't worked."

A triumvirate of forces is bringing the meeting to fruition, said Scott Snyder, senior fellow for Korea Studies and director of the Program on U.S.-Korea Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. He describes the

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summit as “produced by Kim, directed by (South Korean President Moon Jae-in), and inspired by Trump.”

Each man has his motivations: Hard-hitting sanctions and a desire for legitimacy brought Kim to the table. Moon’s efforts to avert a potentially catastrophic U.S. first strike pushed Trump and Kim to take a risk. And Trump is the first U.S. president willing to sit-down with Kim with so few concessions, believing his self-professed negotiating prowess will guide him through uncharted diplomatic waters.

Raising expectations in advance of the meeting, Trump said the outcome will depend heavily on his own instincts. The U.S. president said he will know “within the first minute” of meeting Kim whether the North Korean leader is serious about nuclear negotiations.

“I think I’ll know pretty quickly whether or not, in my opinion, something positive will happen. And if I think it won’t happen, I’m not going to waste my time. I don’t want to waste his time,” Trump said.

“This is a leader who really is an unknown personality,” Trump added of Kim. “People don’t know much about him. I think that he’s going to surprise on the upside, very much on the upside.”

White House aides described Trump in the days after receiving the initial Kim invitation as being obsessed by visions of winning the Nobel Peace Prize and of using the skills he laid out in his book “The Art of the Deal” to put his mark on the global order.

In recent weeks, though, Trump’s enthusiasm has been tempered somewhat by the challenge of deal-making with such an unpredictable opponent. And there are worries from the White House to East Asian allies that Trump’s desire for an agreement will lead him to accept any deal — even if it’s a bad one.

Trump is dangling before Kim visions of protection, economic investment and even a White House visit, in return for a commitment to abandon his nuclear weapons program. Kim, U.S. officials say, has agreed to put his stockpile of 50 or more weapons on the table for negotiation, but the two countries have offered differing visions of what that would entail.

Despite Kim’s apparent eagerness for a summit with Trump, there are doubts that he would fully relinquish his nuclear arsenal, which he may see as the guarantor of his survival.

U.S. defense and intelligence officials have assessed the North to be on the threshold of having the capability to strike anywhere in the continental U.S. with a nuclear-tipped missile — a capacity that Trump and other U.S. officials have said they would not tolerate.

Trump reiterated his promise Saturday that the U.S. “will watch over and we’ll protect” Kim and his government in return for him giving up the nuclear program.

With his Singapore summit, Trump is looking to temporarily escape his flaring personal conflicts with key U.S. allies over trade as well as domestic pressure like the swirling Russia probe. Acutely aware of his coverage in the media, Trump has enjoyed how the impending North Korea summit has overshadowed some of the more negative coverage of his tumultuous White House.

Still, Trump’s team has not always been on the same page, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo — who has been leading the administration’s efforts — more supportive, while the hawkish National Security Adviser John Bolton has been more skeptical. Bolton has been far less visible in the planning process, after a comment he made about favoring the “Libya model” for denuclearization enraged the North Koreans.

Libya gave up its nuclear program at an early stage only to see its longtime dictator overthrown and killed less than a decade later.

En route to Singapore, Trump left behind a trail of diplomatic wreckage as he exited the annual Group of Seven summit Saturday in Quebec, highlighting the extent to which he increasingly keeps his own counsel, eschewing the cautionary advice of aides and confident in his ability to single-handedly attempt to redraw the global order.

In Canada, the U.S. president threatened longtime allies over trade practices at a defiant exit press conference before abruptly withdrawing his endorsement of the group’s final joint statement and tweeting that host Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was “weak.”

“His message from Quebec to Singapore is that he is going to meld the industrial democracies to his will — and bring back Russia,” said Steve Bannon, Trump’s former campaign and White House adviser.

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Lucey reported from Souda Bay, Greece.

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## 'Ocean's 8' opens with franchise-best \$41.5M to top weekend

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Ocean's 8," the female-fronted overhaul of the starry heist franchise, opened with an estimated \$41.5 million at the box office, taking the weekend's top spot from the fast-falling "Solo: A Star Wars Story."

At a lower price point and in less fanboy-guarded franchise, "Ocean's 8" — despite ho-hum reviews — found nothing like the stormy reception than the female-led "Ghostbusters" reboot did on the same weekend two years ago.

Made for approximately \$70 million, "Ocean's 8" and its cast featuring Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett and Anne Hathaway, set an opening-weekend best for the franchise, not accounting for inflation. The three previous "Ocean's" films — starring Brad Pitt, George Clooney and Matt Damon, and based on the 1960 original "Ocean's 11," with Frank Sinatra — all debuted with between \$36-39 million in the last decade.

"Ocean's 8," also starring Mindy Kaling, Sarah Paulson, Awkwafina, Rihanna and Helena Bonham Carter, drew a largely female audience — 69 percent — for a result that slightly surpassed expectations.

"We thought we'd come in in the \$35-40 (million) range," said Warner Bros. distribution chief Jeff Goldstein. "Number one, it's fun. Number two, it hits an underserved audience. Unfortunately, there is just a lack of stories that are aimed right at women."

Yet the weekend's three new wide releases were all female fronted.

The horror thriller "Hereditary," starring Toni Collette, debuted with \$13 million, setting a new company record for A24, the indie distributor behind releases like "The Witch" and "Moonlight." The feature-film directing debut of Ari Aster, "Hereditary" has received rave reviews and been hailed as the year's scariest movie since its debut at the Sundance Film Festival. Either from disappointment or simply because they were stunned from fear, audiences gave "Hereditary" — about a family cursed after the death of its matriarch — a D-plus CinemaScore.

Less successful was "Hotel Artemis," starring Jodie Foster. The Global Road release, also starring Sterling K. Brown, Dave Bautista and Charlie Day, flopped with \$3.2 million in 2,407 theaters. Set in a near-future Los Angeles, "Hotel Artemis" is about a members-only hospital for criminals.

Coming between more massive blockbusters like the recent "Solo" and the upcoming "Incredibles 2" and "Jurassic World," the weekend was down about 20 percent from last year, according to comScore, when "Wonder Woman" was setting box-office records. But some of the story was still the same.

"There's a lot of women-powered revenue at the box office in the heat of the summer season," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "Films featuring female leads are killing it at the box office, but that's been going on for quite a while."

One of the early summer's more breakout hits has been the Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg documentary "RBG," which has made \$9.1 million in six weeks of release through Sunday.

Opening this weekend was another documentary that may prove a similar sensation: the Fred Rogers documentary "Won't You Be My Neighbor." The Focus Features release grossed \$470,000 in 29 theaters for a per-theater average of about \$16,000. The film, 99 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes, has been acclaimed for its portrait of the man behind "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." Focus said two thirds of the documentary's audience was under the age of 45.

Meanwhile, the troubled "Solo" slid to second place with \$15.2 million on its third weekend. It has now grossed \$176.1 million, well off its expected pace.

"Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" began its international rollout in 48 overseas markets with an estimated \$151.1 million, said Universal Pictures. That's a predictably strong start for a film expected to be one of the biggest of the summer. It opens Friday in China, and on June 22 in North America.

Initial reviews, which came out this week, were mixed for J.A. Bayona's sequel. But critics were also less thrilled with 2015's "Jurassic World," which grossed more than \$1.6 billion worldwide.

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

1. "Ocean's 8," \$41.5 million (\$12.2 million international).
2. "Solo: A Star Wars Story," \$15.2 million.
3. "Deadpool 2," \$13.7 million (\$18.5 million international).
4. "Hereditary," \$13 million (\$3.5 million international).
5. "Avengers: Infinity War," \$6.8 million (\$10.9 million international).
6. "Adrift," \$5.1 million.
7. "Book Club," \$4.2 million.
8. "Hotel Artemis," \$3.2 million.
9. "Upgrade," \$2.2 million.
10. "Life of the Party," \$2.1 million.

1. "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," \$151.1 million.
2. "Deadpool 2," \$18.5 million.
3. "Ocean's 8," \$12.2 million.
4. "Solo: A Star Wars Story," \$11.3 million.
5. "Avengers: Infinity War," \$10.9 million.
6. "Toilet: Ek Prem Katha," \$9 million.
7. "How Long Will I Love U," \$8.4 million.
8. "Happiness Is Coming," \$6.9 million.
9. "Black Water," \$6.2 million.
10. "Believer," \$3.9 million.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

This story corrects the spelling of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's last name.

## No voter registration point of pride, unease in North Dakota

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — John Erickson breezed into downtown Bismarck's government building, flashed his ID and picked up a primary ballot.

A few minutes later, the early voting ballot complete, Erickson traded pleasantries with friends and familiar poll workers and headed back to tend the cows and crops on his farm north of the state's capital city.

Erickson, 86, the proud non-owner of a neither a television nor computer, relishes the fact that he has never had to register to vote in his native state.

"I like life simple," he said.

In an era when hacking has raised concerns about the security of America's elections and President Donald Trump rages about voter fraud, North Dakota stands out as the only state that doesn't require voter registration.

Residents and most state and local election officials say the low-tech system in use for Tuesday's primary, as it has been for generations, works just fine.

"Honestly, if other states were to look at what we do and allow their paradigms to shift, I think they would say North Dakota has it right," Deputy Secretary of State Jim Silrum said. "There are no pre-election hoops to jump through and no extra burdens that have been put in place."

Proponents say the state's unusual system is no more vulnerable to fraud or abuse than those requiring a registration process. North Dakota does require a valid ID to vote.

Only one accusation of fraud — a man charged with voting in two counties in the 2016 election — has been prosecuted in the past several decades, Silrum said.

In Fargo's Cass County — by far the state's most populous — Auditor Mike Montplaisir is a fan of the casual system. Voter registration, he said, "puts another roadblock between the voter and the ballot box,

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and we don't see an advantage to it."

Such a system has a better chance of working in a place like North Dakota, among the least-populated states in the nation. It has about 755,000 people, slightly more than Seattle, and would be just the fifth-largest city in California.

But the state has been growing in recent years, as the fracking boom has attracted workers from all over the country. It's an influx that has changed the character of some towns, where lifelong residents no longer are familiar with all their neighbors.

That concerns Kevin Glatt, the Burleigh County auditor in Bismarck. He worries whether the system can keep working as the state grows.

"When I voted for the first time in North Dakota, everybody knew who I was," said Glatt, who cast his first ballot in the state more than 30 years ago. "Everybody does not know everybody anymore."

While the state is rarely on the national political radar, that is not true this year.

Any attempts to sway an election would have high stakes this November, as Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, the state's only Democratic statewide officeholder, faces a tough re-election fight from Republican Rep. Kevin Cramer. The race is seen as critical for control of the Senate.

North Dakota also was one of the 21 states targeted by Russian hackers during the 2016 presidential election, according to U.S. intelligence agencies. There is no evidence the hackers succeeded in penetrating any systems or altering data, but the attempt underscores what voting experts and some members of Congress say is an urgent need for states to beef up their election security.

Dave Will, a 71-year-old retired auto parts worker from Bismarck, said North Dakota's changing demographics make voter registration ripe for consideration.

"They should look at voter registration so that we know who they are and if they are from North Dakota," he said.

But his wife of 52 years, Jane Will, said she believes the system is fine the way it is.

"There is a risk to everything," she said. "If it's on a computer, it can be hacked."

For nearly two decades, North Dakota has maintained a database of voters, which is based on the names of people who cast ballots at their local precinct after first showing an ID. It is kept updated through any changes made to driver's license data or vital statistic records.

The so-called central voter file shows whether a person voted in each election but does not list political affiliations. Election officials say its only goal is to generate electronic election day poll books used by precinct workers to check IDs.

State Rep. Josh Boschee, a Democrat running against Secretary of State Al Jaeger this fall, said the state's election system security has fallen behind under Jaeger, who has been in the job 26 years. He has called for more comprehensive election system audits.

Jaeger said the state continually updates its cybersecurity protections as new ways of targeting are identified.

The retro system might also be seen as an extra measure of, said Mark Jendrysik, chairman of the University of North Dakota's political science department. Every county also uses paper ballots tallied on machines that are not connected to the internet.

"It's very hard to hack something so low-tech," he said.

North Dakota actually was among the first states to adopt voter registration, in 1895, but lawmakers repealed it in 1951. They criticized it as cumbersome and costly, and it has never returned.

North Dakotans generally prize their system, some because it's unique to the state.

Nineteen-year-old Tanner Carlson returned home to the town of Baldwin last month after completing his freshman year at the University of Oklahoma. He recalled a discussion in his political science class when he pointed out his home state's lack of voter registration, a fact that seemed to surprise his classmates and even the professor.

"I think it's great," Carlson said. He called it "a point of pride."

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## Cuba releases details of incident involving US official

By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba released details Sunday on the latest mysterious health incident involving a U.S. diplomat in the country, saying that Cuban officials learned of the episode late last month when the U.S. said that an embassy official felt ill after hearing “undefined sounds” in her home in Havana.

Cuba said in a statement released by its Foreign Ministry that U.S. officials reported on May 29 that a female embassy official had reported experiencing “health symptoms” after hearing the sounds in her home two days earlier.

Cuba said it sent investigators to the home who found no potential source of a sound and were not granted access to the official.

U.S. officials said Friday that they had pulled two workers from Cuba and were testing them for possible brain injury. There was no immediate explanation of why the Cuban statement only referred to one official.

The two individuals are considered “potentially new cases” but have not yet been “medically confirmed,” a State Department official said. Two other officials said the individuals have been brought for testing to the University of Pennsylvania, where doctors have been evaluating, treating and studying Americans affected in Cuba last year as well as almost 10 new possible cases from a U.S. consulate in China.

The officials weren’t authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity.

If confirmed by doctors to have the same condition, the two individuals would mark the 25th and 26th confirmed patients from the bizarre incidents in Cuba that were first disclosed last year and have been deemed “specific attacks” by the U.S. government. The United States has said it doesn’t know who is behind it, but has argued Cuba is responsible for protecting all diplomats on its soil. Cuba has denied any involvement in or knowledge of what may have caused the injuries.

“Cuba has publicly and officially reiterated its willing to cooperate seriously in the joint search for answers, clarity and the solution of the alleged facts,” the Cuban statement said Sunday. “The Ministry of Foreign Relations reiterates that no evidence of the alleged incidents has been presented, and maintains its unwavering commitment to cooperate with U.S. authorities.”

The potential new cases come as the U.S. has been issuing health alerts to Americans in China after a worker at the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou reported symptoms and strange sounds and was flown to the U.S. That worker was then medically confirmed to have “suffered a medical incident consistent with what other U.S. government personnel experienced in Havana, Cuba,” the State Department has said.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, June 11, the 162nd day of 2018. There are 203 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On June 11, 1776, the Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from Britain.

On this date:

In 1509, England’s King Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, “discovered” the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

In 1919, Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing’s first Triple Crown winner.

In 1938, Johnny Vander Meer pitched the first of two consecutive no-hitters as he led the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-0 victory over the Boston Bees. (Four days later, Vander Meer refused to give up a hit to the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost, 6-0.)

In 1942, the United States and the Soviet Union signed a lend-lease agreement to aid the Soviet war effort in World War II.

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In 1947, the government announced the end of sugar rationing for households and "institutional users" (e.g., restaurants and hotels) as of midnight.

In 1955, in motor racing's worst disaster, more than 80 people were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two of the cars collided and crashed into spectators.

In 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft; they were never found or heard from again.

In 1978, Joseph Freeman Jr. became the first black priest ordained in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

In 1985, Karen Ann Quinlan, the comatose patient whose case prompted a historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, New Jersey, at age 31.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that people who commit "hate crimes" motivated by bigotry may be sentenced to extra punishment; the court also ruled religious groups had a constitutional right to sacrifice animals in worship services. The Steven Spielberg science-fiction film "Jurassic Park" opened in wide release two days after its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, during a visit to Germany, raised the possibility of a military strike to thwart Tehran's presumed nuclear weapons ambitions; Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN'-geh-lah MEHR'-kuhl) joined Bush in urging further sanctions against Iran if it failed to suspend its nuclear enrichment program. For his part, Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahd) called Bush a "wicked man." Four Boy Scouts were killed when a tornado hit the Little Sioux Scout Ranch near Blencoe, Iowa.

Five years ago: A parade of FBI and intelligence officials briefed the entire House on the government's years-long collection of phone records and Internet usage, saying it was necessary for protecting Americans, and did not trample on their privacy rights. The American Civil Liberties Union and its New York chapter sued the federal government, asking a court to demand that the Obama administration end the program and purge the records it had collected. The Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks got into a bench-clearing brawl in the seventh inning that resulted in six ejections before the Dodgers won the game at home, 5-3.

One year ago: Supporters of LGBT rights marched and rallied in the nation's capital and dozens of other U.S. cities, celebrating gains but angry over threats posed by the administration of President Donald Trump. "Dear Evan Hansen," the heartfelt musical about young outsiders, took the best new musical trophy at the Tony Awards along with five other statuettes. The Stanley Cup returned to Pittsburgh after the Penguins defeated the Nashville Predators 2-0 in Game 6. Rafael Nadal (rah-fay-ehl nah-DAHL') won his record 10th French Open title by dominating 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 in the final.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., is 88. Comedian Johnny Brown is 81. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 79. Singer Joey Dee is 78. Actress Adrienne Barbeau is 73. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 69. Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk is 69. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 66. Actor Peter Bergman is 65. South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is 65. Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 62. Actor Hugh Laurie is 59. TV personality Mehmet Oz, M.D., is 58. Singer Gioia (JOY'-ah) Bruno (Expose) is 55. Rock musician Dan Lavery (Tonic) is 52. Country singer-songwriter Bruce Robison is 52. Actress Clare Carey is 51. Actor Peter Dinklage is 49. Country musician Smilin' Jay McDowell is 49. Actor Lenny Jacobson is 44. Rock musician Tai Anderson (Third Day) is 42. Actor Joshua Jackson is 40. Americana musician Gabe Witcher (Punch Brothers) is 40. Christian rock musician Ryan ShROUT is 38. Actor Shia LaBeouf (SHY'-uh luh-BUF') is 32.

Thought for Today: "Neither in the life of the individual nor in that of mankind is it desirable to know the future." — Jakob Burckhardt (YAH'-kawb BUHRK'-hart), Swiss historian (1818-1897).