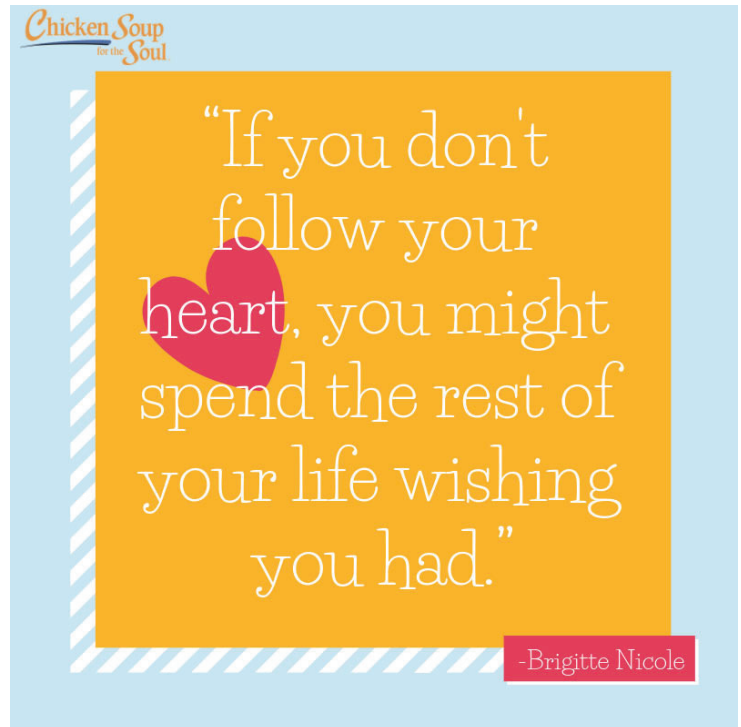


# Groton Daily Independent

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**Click on Ad to sign up!**

## **OPEN:** Re-cycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



## Greenhouse Raffle

**Prizes are:**  
Greenhouse (12'x7.5', 2 shelves, 2 outlets, light)  
Hunting Blind (Hexigon with 6 shooting windows)  
Free delivery within 20 miles  
2 Dairy Queen \$50 Gift Cards

**Need not be present to win. \$10 Donation**  
**Drawing to be held April 15th**  
**Contact any Robotics member for a ticket or call Jim Lane at 605/397-7013.**

## Groton Senior Citizens

January 14: Groton Senior Citizens met January 14 and had a meeting. Fourteen members were present. President opened with the flag pledge. Officers were elected for 2019. president Ruby Donavon, vice president Ella Johnson, Secretary Elda Stange, treasure Eunice McColister meeting adjourned and cards were played.

January 21: Twelve members were present. Erichler hearing aid came and spoke and tested are hearing.

February 18: Twelve members were present. We celebrated January and February birthdays played Bridge , had cake and ice cream . Missed several meetings because of weather.

March 18: Twelve members were present. Played cards and had lunch.

March 25: Thirteen members attended . Had the pot luck dinner. Had the flag pledge after dinner played bingo. Sarge Likness won black out. Cards were played after bingo. Door prizes went to Don Darwin, Sarge Likness, and Beulah Hoops.

# NOW HIRING!

## Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

**Looking for assemblers - both shifts**

**\* New Starting Wage - \$15/hr day shift and  
\$16/hr night shift  
Overtime Available**

### **BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- Short-term Disability and Long-term Disability
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit [www.uslbm.com/careers](http://www.uslbm.com/careers) or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

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## Organized Chaos placed third at State DI

Organized Chaos placed third at the State Destination Imagination Tournament held Saturday in Pierre. Pictured in back are Sage Mortenson, Jackson Dinger, Carter Barse and Team Manager Lindsey Monson; in the middle are Rylee Rosenau and Alyssa Fordham; and in front are Team Manager Tina Fordham and Hailey Monson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**HARR**  
Motors

4255 6th Ave

Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!



# Groton Daily Independent

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## Awesomesauce Dumplings Placed Third at State DI

The Awesomesauce Dumplings placed third at the State Destination Imagination Tournament held Saturday in Pierre. Pictured left to right are Team Manager Tina Kosel, Axel Warrington, Corbin Weismantel, Rebecca Poor, Jeslyn Kosel, Team Manager Joni Groeblichhoff; in front, left to right, are Natalia Warrington, Nicolas Groeblichhoff and Jacob Tewksbury.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



### Groton Lions Club

Saturday,  
April 13,  
2019  
10 a.m.  
Sharp



Groton City Park  
(Weather Permitting)

Your local Lions Club members have filled and will be hiding nearly 1,200 Easter eggs for the annual event. Children from ages infant to 10 are welcome.

The Groton City Park will be divided into 3 age groups (Under 4, 4-6 and 7-10) for the Egg Hunt. We ask that all parents/children meet at the picnic shelter to begin.

## Groton City Notice

Sump Pumps must  
be discharged  
**OUTSIDE!**

Failure to comply will result in fines.

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Community Events

**Sunday, April 7, 2019**

Pops Concert at Groton Area High School  
2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

## Silver Skates Annual Meeting

Does your child enjoy ice skating?  
Do you like to see community traditions continue?  
Do you have creative or organizational talents waiting to be shared with others?

Please join us for the Carnival of Silver Skates annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the warming house.

## Groton City-Wide RUMMAGE

Sponsored by  
the Groton  
Lions Club

# SALE



**Saturday, May 4, 2019**  
**8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

All listings are due by 5 p.m. on April 24 to City Hall or email your listing to [city.april@nvc.net](mailto:city.april@nvc.net). \$15 per listing.

Listings will be available on Groton, SD Lions Club Facebook Page and [www.city.grotonsd.gov](http://www.city.grotonsd.gov)

## Hiring High Schoolers!

If you are 16 or older and need a summer job, the Groton Rehabilitation Center has the job for you!

During the summer, you can work inside and get some experience for a CNA career in the future!

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

## 2019 Groton Area Elementary Kindergarten Roundup (Screening) for children turning 5 on/or before Sept. 1, 2019

**Friday, April 12**

Parents of children who will be turning 5 on or before September 1, 2019, in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.

\*Students currently attending Junior Kindergarten will not be screened at this time.

Packets will be sent home this week with a scheduled time and additional paperwork that will need to be completed.

Kindergarten Roundup will take place at the Groton Area Elementary School. Please check in at the office.

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## Service Notice: Otto "Pete" Schinkel

Services for Otto "Pete" Schinkel, 81, of Ferney will be 2:00 p.m., Monday, April 8th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Burial will follow at a later date in St. Paul's Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel from 5-7 p.m. on Sunday with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Pete passed away April 2, 2019 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center.

## Service Notice: Ronald Bawek

Mass of Christian Burial for Ronald "Ron" Bawek, 71, of Conde will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 5th at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Turton. Father Mike Kelly will officiate. Burial will take place in St. John's Catholic Cemetery, Conde at a later date under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the church on Thursday from 5-7 p.m. with a wake service at 7:00. A rosary will be said at 6:45 p.m.

Ron passed away Monday, April 1, 2019 at his home.

Shop the  
**Rural Route Road Trip**  
April 6th 9am-6pm  
April 7th 12-6pm

*Shop over 20 businesses who specialize in handmade and vintage goods! Pick up a Rural Route Road Trip ticket at any location, collect punches at each business to be entered to win a door prize. For more information check out this event on Facebook.*

**Groton**

- Front Porch 605 - 1506 W. Aspen Ave.

**Turton**

- Dusty Décor 57 - 40336 161st St.

**Doland**

- Just Beecuz Floral & Gifts - 205 Dakota St. W.
- Out of the House - 205 Dakota St. W.

**Redfield**

- Spink Co. Mercantile - 6 E. 7th
- Stuck on Scrapbooking - 632 Main St.
- Hardie Homespun - Main St. Mini Plaza

**Tulare**

- Prairie Pickers - 37485 183rd St.

**Chelsea**

- JB's Country Store - 36836 155th St.

**Aberdeen**

- Junque Shack - 422 S. Illinois St. - Suite 3

**Ipswich**

- Love Repurposed - 3585- 133rd St.
- Styles by Sylte - 921 Prairie View Ave.

**Faulkton**

- Oil Up Buttercup - 710 Main St.
- Quilter's Corner - 148 8th Ave. S.
- The Lazy Way Café - 117 8th Ave. S.
- 212 Flea Market - 708 Main St.
- The Shops - 600 Main St. - Unit 4
  - 163rd St. Design
  - R Duo Designs
  - By The Creek Boutique
  - The Steel Barn
  - Tiny House Boutique
  - Stepping Stone Embroidery
  - Designs by Deliah

SD-638867-1



## Groton Airport Wins Award

Groton Airport was selected for the Best Maintained Basic Service General Aviation Airport in South Dakota for 2018. The award ceremony was held on March 27 during the South Dakota Airports Conference. The conference was held in Watertown and was attended by about 130 people. The award was presented by Tom Koch of the SD Department of the Transportation, Office of Air, Rail & Transit. The award recognizes the "team" effort in maintaining the airport including Finance Officer Hope Block, county officials, Airport Manager Terry Herron, and airport workers.

Tom Koch and Colton Stahl inspected all public airports in South Dakota in 2018 and evaluated them based on the criteria below. This award is the first time that Groton Airport has won the award.

The Best Maintained Small General Aviation Airport Award was present to Harding County Airport, Buffalo. The Best Maintained Medium General Aviation Airport Award was presented to Hot Springs Airport. The Best Maintained Large General Aviation Airport Award was presented to Chan Gurney Airport, Yankton.

Starting in 2004, the SD DOT Local Transportation Program – Air, Rail & Transit established an award program to recognize the "Best Maintained Airports" in the state. From 2004 through 2010 two categories of airports were recognized: Small GA and Large GA, with the air carrier airports excluded.

Starting in 2011, three categories of airports were eligible for the "Best Maintained Airport" awards based on the new categorization of airports in the SD State Aviation System Plan 2010-2030.

Starting in 2018, four categories of airports were eligible for the "Best Maintained Airport" awards.

The new categories and list of airports were as follows:

**Basic Service Airports:** Arlington, Clear Lake, Corsica, Custer State Park, Groton, Herreid, Howard, Isabel, Kadoka, Kimball, Lake Andes, Lake Preston, Presho, Timber Lake, White River. [Footnote: Harrold became private in 2010; Dupree closed in 2011; North Sioux City became private in 2011; McIntosh closed in 2013; Bowdle became private in 2015]

**Small General Aviation Airports:** Bison, Buffalo (Harding County), Canton, Clark, DeSmet, Eagle Butte, Edgemont, Eureka, Faith, Faulkton, Flandreau, Highmore, Hoven, Martin, McLaughlin, Murdo, Onida, Parkston, Pine Ridge, Platte, Rosebud, Sisseton, Springfield, Wall, Webster, Wessington Springs.

**Medium General Aviation Airports:** Belle Fourche, Britton, Chamberlain, Custer, Gettysburg, Gregory, Hot Springs, Lemmon, Milbank, Miller, Mobridge, Philip, Redfield, Sturgis, Vermillion, Wagner, Winner.

**Large General Aviation Airports:** Brookings, Madison, Mitchell, Spearfish, Tea (Lincoln County), Yankton.

**Air Carrier airports** -- excluded from consideration: Aberdeen, Huron, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown.

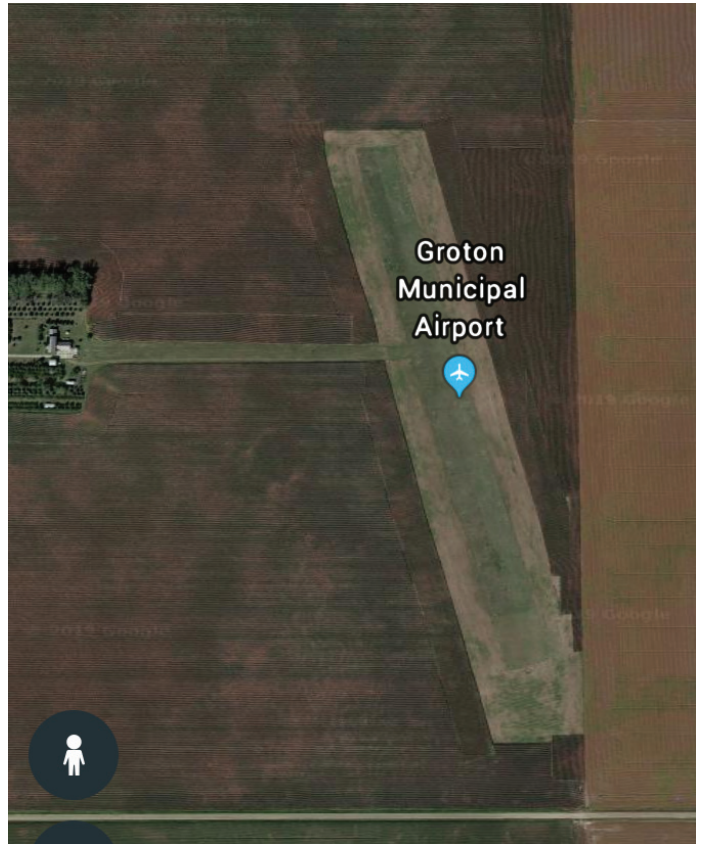


Photo from Google Earth

## **The criteria for the annual SD Airport Awards are:**

Airport must have all lights working including PAPIs (precision approach path indicator) and beacon (if applicable). There can be no burnt out bulbs, damaged bases, missing lights, etc.

Airport needs to be mowed in all areas that are required to be mowed.

All fences need to be maintained well and all gates closed and locked.

The entrance road must be in good shape with no potholes or bumps.

Airports need to keep their pavements in workable condition -- meaning proper maintenance needs to be done like crack sealing, crack repair, and FOD (foreign object debris) removed.

There can be no obstructions that are in the approach slope areas. Obstructions are usually trees, but can be anything that penetrates the different approach slopes.

Pavement marking should be to FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) standards and in good shape.

All signs leading to the airport and on the airport (airside signs) should be readable, straight, not faded, and in proper place.

The airport should look neat, free from debris, and be kept up in a tidy fashion. In general it should look nice and be pleasing to the eye.

## **Expect garbage rates to increase**

Kent Mauck from Heartland Waste Management, Inc., Mobridge, was on hand for the bid opening of the three-year garbage bids. They submitted the only bid which was \$12.95, up from \$10.45 last time. The city charges its customers \$11 and Finance Officer Hope Block said the garbage rates will have to be adjusted accordingly. Mauck said that the garbage rates in this area are very reasonable. He said in other parts of the state, the fee is \$19 or more a month.

The question was asked about recycling which brought a number of interesting comments. Mauck said they serve 35 communities and only a couple do recycling. He said to be honest, much of the recycling goes to the landfill because there is no market for it. Councilman Karyn Babcock added that the United States is selling its plastic recycling to China and China is simply dumping the plastics into the ocean.

There was discussion on the flooding around Groton. There is a lot of ice buildup in the rushes south of town and until a path is carved through, it is backing up into the golf course. The water is receding in some areas, but there is a lot still of water to come from the north. Councilman Jay Peterson said that there are issues at the Pierpont Lake spillway where the water is undermining the the spillway. That could affect the water around Groton.

Clean-up week has been set for April 29 through May 3.

The water tower is back to two booster pumps as the second one was repaired on Tuesday.

The city received a notice that a loan recommendation of \$1,798,000 at 2.75 percent interest for 30 years. The loan would be for the new water tower. The total cost of the project, which includes some water main extensions, is \$2,078,000.

Waster Water Superintendent Dwight Zerr said that the city waste water is operating at full capacity. He said it's important that sump pumps are discharged outside.

Dan Sunne reported on the electrical department. He reported on a couple of areas where water has been an issue.

The second meeting in April was moved to Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m. due to the elementary concert on April 16.

Groton will be hosting the District 6 South Dakota Municipal League meeting in 2020. About 100 people attend the event.

The council hired Lucas Simon, Kannon Coats and Wyatt Locke as baseball grounds keepers and Brad Penning as U12 softball coach.



## Today in Weather History

April 3, 1968: Heavy snowfall, up to ten inches, was accompanied by winds of over 60 mph in parts of South Dakota. Snowdrifts of up to 4 feet were reported, and many roads were closed. Aberdeen was one of the hardest hit areas with 10.5 inches of snow and wind gusts of 62 mph. The strong winds and localized areas of icing caused considerable damage to utility lines.

April 3, 2003: Dry vegetation, along with windy conditions, caused a grassland burn northeast of Bath, near the James River in South Dakota, to get out of control during the early afternoon hours. Strong north to northeast winds of 20 to 35 mph caused the fire to spread quickly south along the James River. The fire became one and a half miles wide and burned six miles to the south before it was brought under control. A total of 4,000 acres were consumed. The smoke from the fire could be seen from miles around and lowered visibilities enough to close State Highway 12 two different times. At one point, traffic had to be diverted on Highway 12 for six hours due to the low visibility in smoke. Also, the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad was delayed in Bristol and Andover on April 3rd because of the smoke. Twenty-one fire departments with around 250 people worked to bring the fire under control.

April 3, 2007: A sharp frontal boundary along with an upper-level disturbance brought an unusual band of heavy snow across northern South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 6 to 12 inches occurred from Eureka to Summit. Roads became snow covered or slushy making travel difficult. Due to the poor road conditions, several vehicles ended up in the ditch. Several schools and events were either postponed or canceled. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Eureka and Milbank, 7 inches at Conde, 8 inches at Hosmer, Columbia, Summit, and Britton, 10 inches at Webster, and 12 inches at Waubay.

April 3, 2009: An area of low pressure moved across the Central Plains producing widespread snow over central and north central South Dakota. Along with the snow came strong north winds of 15 to 30 mph causing areas of blowing snow and reduced visibilities. The snow and reduced visibility caused some travel problems. Snowfall amounts ranged from a few inches to almost a foot of snow. Some of the snowfall amounts included; 6 inches near Presho and Okaton, Fort Thompson, and Timber Lake; 7 inches in Murdo and 16 S Ree Heights; 8 inches 14 NNE Isabel and 11 inches 3 NW Parade and 6 E Hayes.

1898: An avalanche near Chilkoot Pass, Alaska in the Yukon during the Gold Rush buried 142 people and killed 43 others.


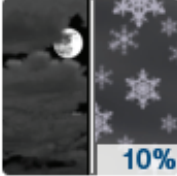



1964: KAUZ in Wichita Falls, Texas broadcast the first live television pictures of an F5 tornado moving through the city. Seven people were killed, 111 injured and 225 homes were destroyed during the twisters 5 to a 6-mile path. Extensive damage was done at Sheppard Air Force Base where three tanker planes, a hanger, the power plant, and the chapel were all destroyed. Damage estimates exceeded \$15 million.

1974: A "Super-Outbreak" of tornadoes ravaged the Midwest and the eastern U.S. Severe weather erupted early in the afternoon and continued through the next day. Severe thunderstorms spawned 148 tornadoes from Alabama to Michigan, most of which occurred between 1 PM (CST) on the 3rd and 1 AM on the 4th. The tornadoes killed 315 persons, injured 5300 others, and caused 600 million dollars damage. Alabama, Kentucky, and Ohio were especially hard hit in the tornado outbreak. One tornado destroyed half of the town of Xenia, Ohio killing 34 persons. Another tornado, near the city of Stamping Ground, Kentucky produced a path of destruction a record five miles in width. A tornado raced through Guin, Alabama at a speed of 75 mph. Two powerful tornadoes roared across northern Alabama during the early evening hours, killing fifty persons and injuring 500 others. Some rescue vehicles responding to the first tornado were struck by the second.


1987: An extensive, slow-moving low-pressure system produced very heavy snows over the Appalachian Region lasting through April 5th. 60 inches fell at Newfound Gap in western North Carolina, the most substantial single storm snowfall in the state's history. Up to 36 inches was reported in southeastern Kentucky. The total of 25 inches at Charleston, WV easily surpassed its previous record for the entire month of April of 5.9 inches. The 20.6 inch total at Akron, OH established an all-time record for that location. Snow closed interstate 40 for the first time since it was opened in 1967. Lightning and thunder accompanied the snow in some areas while a trace fell as far south as Mobile. The snow was the first snow ever reported in April in Mobile since records began in 1872. The storm became known unofficially as the "Dogwood Snowstorm" as many trees had fully bloomed.

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
				
Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 43 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 60 °F

**Today**  
40s



Rain, mainly over the southwestern half of South Dakota. Precipitation mixing with snow overnight over portions of central and eastern South Dakota.



National Weather Service  
**Aberdeen, SD**  
Check out your latest forecast at  
[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)



**High water remains.**  
**Turn Around, Don't Drown!**  
Continue to monitor water levels. Listen to the advice of local officials, and never go around flood barriers.

**Warming through Saturday**

**Thursday**  
Light morning rain or snow over eastern SD.  
Little to no accumulation.  
**43 to 60°**  
warmest west of the Missouri River

**Friday**  
**56 to 70°**  
coldest over eastern SD along the ND/SD border

**Saturday**  
Chance of mainly morning light rain. A few rumbles of thunder possible.  
**60s**  
except low 70s south of Pierre

**Sunday**  
Chance of light rain.  
**56 to 61°**

4/3/2019 3:31 AM

Published on: 04/03/2019 at 4:32AM

Rain will stay mainly across the southwestern half of South Dakota today, mixing with snow overnight across portions of central and eastern South Dakota. Little to no snow accumulation is expected. High temperatures will warm through Saturday. Light rain may return Saturday morning, along with a few rumbles of thunder. Although not widespread, the chance of light rain will continue into Sunday.







## ITS ALL IN THE FAMILY

The nice thing about friends is that you get to choose them. But, when it comes to family members, you're stuck with what you get. And boy, did I ever get stuck, said the comedian.

No doubt that many of us feel this way about our Moms and Dads or brothers and sisters. And, even though names and addresses vary, all families have some things in common and some things that are vastly different. But, there are two primary truths that cannot be denied: One is that God intended parents to be the primary teachers and influencers of their children. And the other is that family ties are never completely severed no matter where parents or children eventually complete their lives. An invisible bond remains.

The contrast between a wise son bringing joy to his father and a foolish son bringing grief to his mother implies that this family is divided or dysfunctional. It emphasizes the fact that the behavior of one member of the family affects the behavior of all of the other family members. This tragedy is seen throughout the Bible.

The joy infused into the family by the wise son does not eliminate the grief that invades a family from a son who is foolish. The foolish son is the one who, by his behavior, brings hardships to the parents as well as others in the family.

However, the hardships need not remain. Again and again, Solomon reminds us that gaining wisdom from God is a choice that will change. This is the result of being born again.

Prayer: Because You love us, Father, no parent or child is beyond Your mercy and grace. Your Son offers us hope! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 10:1 A wise son brings joy to his father and a foolish son brings grief to his mother.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

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## News from the Associated Press

### **Forklift accident precedes building products fire**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a forklift accident touched off a partial roof collapse and fire at a building materials supplier in Sioux Falls.

Employees evacuated Allied Building Products Tuesday afternoon after fire broke out at the business. The Argus Leader says an initial investigation shows a forklift hit a support beam, causing a partial roof collapse and electrical sparks ignited some nearby construction materials.

Officials say the building has heavy damage. Nearly two dozen firefighters were on the scene.

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

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

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

Mega Millions

33-47-58-59-64, Mega Ball: 25, Megaplier: 3

(thirty-three, forty-seven, fifty-eight, fifty-nine, sixty-four; Mega Ball: twenty-five; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$88 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$54 million

### **Culver, Mooney take different paths to Tech and Final Four**

**By STEPHEN HAWKINS AP Sports Writer**

Hometown standout Jarrett Culver was the first recruit Chris Beard reached out to when he got to Lubbock as Texas Tech's head coach three years ago.

Then, when the Red Raiders were coming off their first NCAA Elite Eight appearance last season and had to replace a senior All-Big 12 point guard, they targeted Matt Mooney, a graduate transfer from South Dakota who began his college career at Air Force after accepting his only Division I offer.

The two guards who got to the Big 12 Conference school in the plains of West Texas in distinctly different ways have helped lead Texas Tech (30-6) to the Final Four for the first time.

"Hard work pays off. For believers, you reap when you sow," Mooney said. "They didn't pick us to win the Big 12 or to be here right now, but we keep believing in each other, and we're going to keep doing it."

At one point last weekend in Anaheim, Calif., before the Red Raiders beat top seed Gonzaga in the West Regional final, Beard asked Culver if the sophomore was having fun.

When Culver responded "Yes sir," Beard drew laughter in the room when he told the Big 12 player of the year and second-team AP All-American: "We should do this again next year together."

The 6-foot-6 Culver, Tech's leading scorer and rebounder at 18.9 points and 6.4 rebounds a game, is expected to be a high draft pick in this year's NBA draft. But first comes Texas Tech's first Final Four game Saturday night in Minneapolis against Michigan State (32-6). And then maybe a trip to the title game.

Even though he grew up close to the Texas Tech campus, Culver dreamed of "going other places, bigger places" to play college basketball. He went to only a few Red Raiders games, but Beard told him during a long recruiting process that he could make a legacy in his hometown.

Culver has now been a part of Texas Tech's two deepest runs in the NCAA Tournament. Before last season, the Red Raiders had never been to the Elite Eight and their previous Sweet 16 had been in 2005, when the guard was only 6 years old and Beard was an assistant coach there for Bob Knight.

Beard has seen a different level of maturity this season in Culver, a kid who has always loved the game



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and put in the work. Instead of just shooting in the gym for a couple of hours, he now does calculated work.

"Specifically, I think he's become a better defensive player. And on offense, he's just a much better passer," Beard said. "I think as a freshman, he was a confident scorer, a young great player. Now he's a legitimate guy that can beat you with the pass or the shot, and so I think he's just developed."

Not only has he increased his scoring and rebounding averages (11.2 ppg, 4.8 rpg as a freshman), Culver has nearly two more assists per game (from 1.8 to 3.7 as a sophomore).

Mooney had a lot more schools interested in him when the 6-3 guard decided to leave South Dakota after two seasons. He started all 68 of his games with the Coyotes, averaging 18.7 points and making 36 percent of his 3-pointers.

With All-Big 12 guard Keenan Evans among five seniors gone after last season, along with high-soaring freshman forward Zhaire Smith for early entry in the NBA draft, the Red Raiders got older again with two grad transfers who became full-time starters — Mooney and 6-10 post Tariq Owens from St. John's.

It didn't take long for the older newcomers to blend in with their new team.

"For me, it's just proving yourself all over again to a new group of guys, your teammates and your coaches," said Mooney, who has averaged 11.0 points and made 38 percent of his 3s while starting every game.

Mooney also earned a new nickname for his approach to the game and his competitiveness.

"He overthinks things. He's a perfectionist. The great thing about him is he is detailed-oriented and he's got a little bit of stubbornness to him. He thinks he's the best player in the country but all the great ones do," Beard said.

"On the flip side, it can get annoying from time to time. So (guard Davide Moretti) gave him the nickname professor. 'All right, Professor. You're right on everything.' Those guys have a special relationship."

And a special season.

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More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/MarchMadness> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Arkansas House OKs 72-hour waiting period for abortions

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The Arkansas House has moved the state closer toward adopting one of the strictest abortion waiting periods in the country, approving a measure that would require women to wait 72 hours before undergoing the procedure.

The House on Tuesday voted 75-13 on legislation that would expand the waiting period, which is currently 48 hours. The Senate had previously approved the bill, but it must go back to that chamber to consider an amendment.

If enacted, the bill would make Arkansas the sixth state with a 72-hour waiting period. Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Utah currently require women to wait for 72 hours.

The proposal is among several abortion restrictions Arkansas lawmakers have advanced this year, including an 18-week ban on the procedure that was signed into law.

## South Dakota moisture looks good in 1st weekly crop report

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The first weekly crop report of the year in South Dakota shows plenty of moisture available for South Dakota farmers.

The Agriculture Department says in its monthly crop report that topsoil moisture supplies in the state are rated 99 percent adequate to surplus, and subsoil moisture is 98 percent in those categories.

The state's winter wheat crop also looks to be in good shape, with only 3 percent of the crop rated less than fair and 38 percent rated good or excellent.

## Spearfish student wins South Dakota's duck stamp contest

By KAIJA SWISHER Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — It's been nearly a decade since a Spearfish student won Best in Show in the South Dakota Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Jane Doerges, 15, broke the streak recently.

"I didn't think I'd be getting Best of Show," Doerges told the Black Hills Pioneer.

Doerges's art was selected from 427 entries submitted from students K-12 across South Dakota.

A sophomore at Spearfish High School, Doerges took a photo of a wood duck last year at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives and decided to give oil paints a try, recreating the photo for the contest.

"I worked on it on and off for about two-and-a-half months," she said. "I worked on it once or twice a week, because oils take forever to dry. It was pretty long, but I mainly just started with the body of the duck and then worked out from there."

Doerges said that she felt the artwork turned out quite well, comparing it to the photo.

"I really enjoyed painting it, because painting is something that ... calms me, and it's a way for me to deal with my anxiety and stress with schoolwork, just stuff like that. I really enjoyed painting it," she said.

The contest also paired well with one of her other hobbies, bird watching.

"I'm a bird nerd," Doerges said.

Doerges is no stranger to the contest or the fish hatchery: This is the second year that she has entered the contest, and three generations of her family were honored as 2018 Distinguished Hatchery Friends in January at the Booth Society, Inc.'s Winter Mixer, including her grandparents, Joe and Carol Doerges; her parents, Kyle and Heather; and her and her brother, Tim. At the time, the family described that the children first experienced the hatchery in the stroller during their mother's daily jogs, and since then the kids still frequently visit and volunteer at the hatchery. Both participated for all three years in Hatchery Helpers, the middle school youth volunteer program.

Doerges's stamp now moves on to the national level of competition, set for April 19, in Washington, D.C. She will compete with the Best of Show winners from other states.

"I feel very honored for going, and in a way, representing all of South Dakota's Junior Duck Stamp contestants," she said.

Doerges said that she plans to keep painting, and looking ahead to career goals, she is interested in something related to biology or zoology.

She encouraged students who have never participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest to let themselves go and let their hands do the work.

"Don't criticize yourself, and stay confident," she urged.

The Junior Duck Stamp Program connects youth with nature through science and art. It teaches a greater awareness, increasing respect and appreciation for natural resources. Pairing science with visual art strives to initiate curiosity in both subjects. The contest is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Booth Society, the nonprofit friends group of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives, coordinates the South Dakota contest.

"The artwork submitted by students was fantastic," said Karen Holzer, South Dakota Junior Duck Stamp Contest coordinator and executive director of the Booth Society. "Every year I am amazed at the artistic skills the students demonstrate in the artwork. Competition is tough, with a growing number of students competing every year."

Holzer said it was exciting to have a Spearfish student win.

"It is always wonderful to have a local student place in an event such as this," she said. "Jane's art has a unique touch because she created her painting from an image of a wood duck that she had photographed on the hatchery grounds. Not only will Jane's work be traveling to the National Junior Stamp Contest, but at the same time the image of one of our own wood ducks also will be going."

Hannah Parrett was the last Spearfish student to win Best in Show in the contest, and she took the title two years in a row in 2009 and 2010. She placed 10th at the national contest in 2009.

In addition to the artwork judged in the contest, the students also wrote and submitted a conservation message. "Preserve the present for the wellbeing of the future" was chosen as the 2019 South Dakota Conservation message and was submitted by Erika Symens, 13, of Amherst, South Dakota. The winning conservation message will also be judged at the national level.

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

## Nebraska receives hay donations from people around the US

By **RANDY DOCKENDORF** Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Many teenagers would spend spring break catching up on sleep or spending time with friends.

However, 17-year-old Kylie Bos is spending it with her father, Jamie Bos, as the Michigan residents haul hay bales to various parts of flood-devastated areas of Nebraska.

Jamie Bos has performed previous runs for Farm Rescue, an organization that benefits producers hit by major illness, major injury or natural disaster, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

For Kylie Bos, it's a first-time experience. She was intrigued by her father's commitment to help others. She also liked the idea of spending quality time with him.

"He made it sound fun," Kylie Bos said. "I help him by making sure the hay is strapped tight to the semi."

Jamie Bos sees his mission as helping those in need. "These producers have lost their machinery, livestock and buildings because of flooding," he said.

So far, he has hauled hay from seven states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Montana and Nebraska. The names of the donor states are visible on signs and bales of hay.

On this trip, Verdigre has become the ground zero for collecting, transferring and transporting hay to hard-hit areas. Knox County, Nebraska, and its western neighbors have suffered tremendous losses of livestock, feed and fences, along with the prospect of little or no crop this year.

Initial estimates place Nebraska's agricultural losses at \$1 billion. However, that figure could soar as more losses are discovered and the full impact is realized for things like delayed or no planting.

Over the course of a week, the Boses have logged hundreds of miles, starting with their initial 12-hour trek from Michigan to North Dakota to pick up the first shipment of hay. They trucked it to Nebraska and have remained in the Cornhusker State for daily hauls of hay to hard-hit areas.

"We've gone to places like Hemingford and Fullerton," Jamie Bos said. "At first, we were driving 700 miles a day. Now, we're making shorter trips and are probably traveling 300 miles a day."

Kylie Bos believes she has received rewards from the hay recipients far in excess of what the Boses have provided.

"The people are so friendly. If we stop to check our hay load, people ask if something is wrong," she said. "And when we drop off the hay, the people are so appreciative of what we're doing."

The father-daughter duo are part of a staggering outpouring of support from across the nation. Tons of hay donations have poured onto the grounds of the Zim Metal and Welding business owned by Curt and Sherri Zimmerer. The business is located along Nebraska Highway 14 on the north end of Verdigre, a community of about 600 residents.

The Zimmerers are no strangers to the livestock industry. They owned the neighboring livestock sale barn for 23 years. The new Verdigre Stockyards owners have allowed use of their grounds for the arrival, transfer and transporting of hay rolling into the community.

The response has exceeded the Zimmerers' wildest expectations. They enlisted the help of their daughter, Hannah Sucha, who teaches fourth grade at Creighton, Nebraska.

Sucha created a social media site that drew attention far beyond the original goal of reaching some local hay suppliers.

"Curt was looking for a few bales of hay to help (Verdigre farmer Willard Ruzicka and his family), and the whole thing blew up. I think it went viral," Sherri Zimmerer said. "We started getting hay from all over



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the country. We were getting hay from Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas. I think the Kansas hay donations were (a repayment) because of the help that Nebraska gave them during the Kansas fires."

One hay donation even came from Pennsylvania.

"We had a husband, wife, their baby and dog who were the first ones to come from Pennsylvania," Sherri Zimmerer said. "Then we had another group who were part of (Lycoming County FFA alumni) group from that state. One of the trucks in their group blew a tire, and the hay started on fire. But they got it taken care of and arrived here a little after midnight Sunday."

New Holland corporate members Koletzky Implement of Yankton and Dinkel Implement of Norfolk, Nebraska, paid for the freight and fuel to get the latter Pennsylvania hay to Verdigre.

Other groups arrived with more than hay, Sherri said.

"A Kansas group brought three envelopes with them and asked for the names of three individuals who had the greatest need around here," she said. "When those three people opened the envelopes, each one contained \$100 and a letter of encouragement."

An Ohio group made the Nebraska trek after learning about it during their priest's sermon, Sherri Zimmerer said.

"The priest talked about the Nebraska disaster and his own experiences growing up on a farm and seeing others hit by disaster," she said. "The parish dedicated its offertory collection toward helping Nebraska flood victims, and they arrived with hay. They said, 'There was something leading us here, and we came.'"

In another instance, a girl raised \$4,500 within 24 hours to help the Nebraska farmers and ranchers. One man donated \$5,000 directed toward the purchase of fencing.

The outpouring of support has become overwhelming and emotional, Sherri Zimmerer said.

"On Saturday, we had 25 semis in the parking lot at one time," she said. "We found places for them. We had 10 trailers backed up, waiting to unload hay."

The Zimmerers have also received loads of donations besides hay, requiring them to find storage locations on their property or in town.

"We started receiving supplies, things we didn't even ask for. We were getting socks, boots, jeans and all sorts of other clothing," she said. "We've even gotten veterinary supplies, pallets of dog and cat food, calf bottles and lick tubs. We could start our own veterinary supply store."

For now, the Zimmerers are asking for donations to focus on hay, fencing, poles, barbed wire and cash for the purchase of such items.

Greg Rudoff works at the Zimmerers' office and has kept track of the hay donations.

"We're at 70 loads, which is what (Curt Zimmerer) wanted, and each load is averaging 30 bales," Rudoff said.

The Zimmerers said they marvel at the non-stop volunteer efforts during the last three weeks. They pointed to Marvin Soucek, Kenny Vacok, Jeff Olerich and his dog, Ginger, as constant presences on the scene.

Sherri Zimmerer stopped for a moment of reflection, that perhaps the Zimmerers had been put in place to handle such an undertaking.

"We ran the sale barn for 23 years, and we sold it two months ago," she said. "If we still owned the sale barn, we wouldn't have been able to do any of it. It's like there was a sign, telling us to sell the sale barn in order to make all this possible."

Curt Zimmerer added that he has been inspired by others in the midst of disaster.

"There's so much love being shown here, to total strangers. It's hard to get your head around it," he said. "We need to hear more stories of generosity like this."

## Sioux Falls officials: Land sale process aims at flexibility

By JOE SNEVE Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — City Hall's visions for the eastern edge of downtown Sioux Falls aren't changing — more housing, residential and commercial development and jobs.

But a new method for selling off the 10 acres of city-owned land that once served as a rail yard for BNSF Railway will allow the city and the private sector more flexibility when it comes to what gets built on the property — and when.

Mayor Paul TenHaken's office recently announced it was scrapping the request for proposals and qualifications process traditionally used by City Hall when targeting purchasers and developers for public-private partnerships. Instead, it plans to use what's called a "negotiated sale" process that more closely mirrors the way land is bought and sold in the private sector, the Argus Leader reported.

"A lot of it has to do with timing," said Dustin Powers, an urban planner with Sioux Falls Planning and Development Services. "If someone is looking for a redevelopment site, the RFP has to be available at that exact time. ... This process is a continuous process so that we always have develop-able ready sites as part of this property."

To go along with the listing of the land on the city's website, a property brochure is available for review by interested parties outlining the city's vision and goals for the rail yard site. Erica Beck, chief of staff for the mayor, said it's easier to digest and a more user-friendly document than a traditional request for proposal, or RFP, that spells out benchmarks and requirements like the amount of housing, commercial and retail space that a potential project must achieve.

But the process isn't as restrictive as an RFP or request for qualifications (RFQ), because those benchmarks can be tweaked and retooled if developers have ideas to achieve the city's goals in a different way, Beck said.

"If a developer or a business owner came forward and they wanted to propose something out of the ordinary, very innovative and new to our community that didn't necessarily fit what was defined, in the RFP process they couldn't even have that conversation with city staff," she said. "This gives them the opportunity to talk about that with the city."

The process will provide more transparency than the traditional request for proposals or qualifications as well.

Under former Mayor Mike Huether, the public and City Council weren't made aware of what developers or project concepts City Hall was pursuing until a project was ready for formal approval, which was late in the process when the bulk of contract terms and building plans had been finalized.

For example, the city began negotiating with the developers behind the now defunct Black Iron Railyard project months before that proposed development was announced in July 2018.

With the negotiated sale process, Powers said the City Council will be made aware when City Hall enters the negotiation process, at which time the name of the developer, the targeted site will be disclosed and the general concept being considered.

Formal approval will come later after a price and building plans have been negotiated.

Sharing information earlier in the process should ease conflicts generated by the handling of RFPs and RFQs by past administrations, City Councilor and former assistant city attorney Janet Brekke said.

"We never got any info until the final decision was made. ... That could have been much more open," she said. "If you have no information about it, you can't really defend what the city is doing."

There's no timeline for when the first deal will come forward on the rail yard property, but Beck said with the amount of interest from prospective developers has been strong, she expects progress on the site sooner than later.

## Native American women set record in Rapid City election

By MATTHEW GUERRY Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An unprecedented number of Native American women are running for office in the Rapid City municipal election in June.

Saying that the city council ought to better reflect the people it represents, four of them officially announced their candidacy in front of the city administration in downtown Rapid City.

"I am running because I think everyone deserves a voice at the table," said Cante Heart, who is running for a council seat in Ward 5.

With Rosebud Sioux member Lance Lehmann running in Ward 4, Native Americans are represented in the five city elections and the mayor's race, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Natalie Stites Means, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, is challenging two-term Mayor Steve Allender. The winner will be the first mayor to serve a four-year term.

Stites Means identified access to social assistance and criminal justice as two of the issues important to her. She said that the city council's recent adoption of an ordinance penalizing panhandling was what drove her to file for candidacy several days ago.

The council, she said, failed to recognize that the ordinance unfairly targeted Native Americans.

"I thought that was really paternalistic and really reflected a lack of sophistication on their part in terms of understanding what cultural differences are, what diversity is and what racism is," she said.

One of the two three-year seats in each of the city's five wards are up for grabs on June 4 as well.

Stephanie Savoy, a Rural America Initiatives employee and member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, will be running for the seat in Ward 3 to replace incumbent Jason Salamun, who is not seeking reelection. Jeff Bailie, Brittany Richman and Gregory Strommen also are running to represent Ward 3.

Two of the five Native American women running are the sole challengers of two council incumbents seeking reelection.

In Ward 1, Terra Houska is running against Lisa Modrick, who was first elected to the council in 2016. Heart, of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, is running against Darla Drew, first elected in 2014, in Ward 5.

Ramona Herrington, of the Oglala Sioux, is facing off against Bill Evans in Ward 2 to replace Steve Laurenti, who also is not seeking reelection.

In Ward 4, council President Amanda Scott, who has served on the council since 2012 and chairs several committees, is being challenged by Lehmann and Tim Johnson.

Council members Becky Drury, Ritchie Nordstrom, Chad Lewis, John Roberts and Laura Armstrong each have one year remaining in their terms.

The candidates said that while minority representation in city hall is important, the issues they see do not only affect Native Americans.

"We are prepared and I am prepared as a candidate to address the needs of all," Stites Means said. "I am not interested in being the mayor of Native American Rapid City. I am interested in being the mayor of this city."

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

## Six-year-old girl dies in tumble over cliff in South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A 6-year-old South Dakota girl fell to her death from a cliff near Rapid City where officials have pushed back against installing signs and railings, despite at least eight other fatal plunges in recent decades.

Pierre kindergartner Sadie White Twin died Sunday at Falling Rock, a popular scenic area off Highway 44, according to the Pennington County Sheriff's Office.

Officials haven't provided details about the circumstances surrounding the girl's death.

Falling Rock's cliff towers several hundred feet above Rapid Creek, and there have been at least eight prior fatal accidents at the site since 1985, according to the Rapid City Journal's archives. The age of



victims range from 6 to 50, and three of the deaths were reported to have involved alcohol.

There have also been at least 10 non-fatal falls from the cliff.

The path to the cliff's edge is situated on public land in the Black Hills National Forest.

Scott Jacobson, the forest's public affairs officer, declined to comment on the safety issues at Falling Rock.

Pennington County Search and Rescue doesn't believe that signage, railings or other preventative measures are needed, said Tammy Stadel, an official for the rescue squad. Stadel said Falling Rock isn't more dangerous than other sites in the Black Hills.

"There's an inherent risk anytime folks go out and participate in an activity in the wilderness, whether they're hiking or mountain-biking or just walking along trails," Stadel said.

Public safety and U.S. Forest Service officials have expressed similar sentiments over the years.

When an 8-year-old boy fell to his death in 2005, the forest's then-district ranger, Bob Thompson, said signage at the site could make the federal government liable for accidents on federal land that weren't marked as dangerous.

## **Airman, Good Samaritan struck and killed in ditch**

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say an airman stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base and another man who had stopped to help him following a crash were struck and killed by a semi that veered off an icy highway in southwestern South Dakota.

The Highway Patrol Tuesday identified the victims of Friday's crash as 25-year-old Airman Rueben Gilbert. The Air Force says Gilbert was a member of the 28th Communications Squadron at Ellsworth.

The other man killed was 27-year-old Christopher Swope of Wheat Ridge, Colorado. The patrol says Gilbert lost control of his car on Highway 18 near Hot Springs, entered the ditch and rolled over. Swope stopped to help and both men were struck as they stood in the ditch by the semi that slid off the highway and jackknifed. The semi driver suffered serious injuries.

## **May to meet UK opposition leader for Brexit compromise talks**

**By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Theresa May and the leader of Britain's main opposition party were due to meet Wednesday for talks on ending the impasse over the country's departure from the European Union — a surprise about-face that left pro-Brexit members of May's Conservative Party howling with outrage.

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay said the government was not setting preconditions for the talks with Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, but was also not offering a "blank check."

"There will need to be compromise on all sides," he said.

After failing repeatedly to win Parliament's backing for her Brexit blueprint, May dramatically changed gear Tuesday, saying she would seek to delay Brexit — again — and hold talks with the opposition to seek a compromise.

"The country needs a solution, the country deserves a solution, and that's what I'm working to find," May told lawmakers on Wednesday.

Corbyn said he welcomed May's "willingness to compromise to resolve the Brexit deadlock" and looked forward to talks with her later Wednesday.

May's bid for cross-party talks points Britain toward a softer Brexit than the one she has championed since the June 2016 decision to leave the EU. Labour wants the U.K. to remain in a customs union with the bloc to ensure frictionless trade. May has always ruled that out, saying it would limit Britain's ability to forge an independent trade policy.

But May's Brexit deal with the EU has been rejected three times by Parliament, amid opposition from both pro-EU and pro-Brexit lawmakers.

Barclay said the "remorseless logic" of Parliament's failure to back the prime minister's deal was that the country was heading toward a softer form of Brexit.

"The alternative to that is no Brexit at all and I think that would be very damaging from a democracy

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point of view," he told Parliament's Brexit committee.

May's decision to negotiate with Corbyn is risky for both the Conservatives and Labour, and could widen divisions over Brexit that run through both parties.

Labour is formally committed to enacting voters' decision to leave the EU, but many of the party's lawmakers want a new referendum that could keep Britain in the bloc. They will be angry if the party actively helps bring about Brexit.

The Conservatives are even more bitterly split between those who want to keep close economic ties with the EU and Brexiteers who say Britain must make a clean break in order to take control of its laws and trade policy.

The Brexit-backers condemned May's shift. Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Brexit "is becoming soft to the point of disintegration." Ex-Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith said he was "absolutely appalled" by May's talks with Corbyn.

Junior Wales Minister Nigel Adams quit his post, sending the prime minister a letter criticizing her for seeking a deal with "a Marxist who has never once in his political life put British interests first" — a reference to the left-wing Corbyn.

"It is clear we will now end up in the customs union. That is not the Brexit my constituents were promised," Adams wrote.

May's change of plan came just days before Britain faced a disruptive no-deal departure from the EU. That would mean tariffs and other barriers to trade between Britain and the bloc, with the potential for border gridlock and shortages of goods.

The leaders of the EU's 27 remaining countries have given the U.K. until April 12 to leave the bloc or to come up with a new plan, after British lawmakers three times rejected an agreement struck between the bloc and May late last year.

The House of Commons has also failed to find a majority for any alternative plan in two days of voting on multiple options.

European Council President Donald Tusk gave a cautious welcome to May's change of course.

"Even if, after today, we don't know what the end result will be, let us be patient," he tweeted — a suggestion the EU would wait for Britain to present a clear plan.

The European Parliament's Brexit chief, Guy Verhofstadt, tweeted that May's move toward compromise was "better late than never."

Meanwhile, pro-EU lawmakers are not banking on talks between May and Corbyn succeeding. A group of legislators intent on avoiding a no-deal Brexit are trying to ensure Britain cannot crash out of the EU, either by accident or by design.

A bill scheduled for debate Wednesday would compel May to seek to extend the Brexit process beyond April 12 in order to prevent a no-deal departure. Its backers hope to push the bill through into law before May attends a summit Wednesday in Brussels, where EU leaders expect to hear details of Britain's new Brexit plan.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

## Newly elected Chicago mayor: Victory means 'a city reborn'

By SARA BURNETT and HERBERT G. McCANN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago Mayor-elect Lori Lightfoot's resounding victory was a clear call for change at City Hall and a historic repudiation of the old-style, insider politics that have long defined the nation's third-largest city.

Lightfoot, a former federal prosecutor who'd never been elected to public office, defeated Cook County Board President and longtime City Council member Toni Preckwinkle on Tuesday with backing from voters across the city. Late results showed Lightfoot, 56, winning every one of the city's 50 wards.

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Lightfoot also made history, becoming the first black woman and the first openly gay person to be elected Chicago mayor. Chicago will become the largest U.S. city to have a black woman serve as mayor when Lightfoot is sworn in May 20. She will join seven other black women currently serving as mayors in major U.S. cities, including Atlanta and New Orleans, and will be the second woman to lead Chicago.

"Out there tonight a lot of little girls and boys are watching. They're watching us, and they're seeing the beginning of something, well, a little bit different," Lightfoot told a jubilant crowd at a downtown hotel. "They're seeing a city reborn."

She pledged to make Chicago "a place where your zip code doesn't determine your destiny," to address the city's violence and to "break this city's endless cycle of corruption" that allows politicians to profit from their office.

Lightfoot emerged as the surprising leader in the first round of voting in February when 14 candidates were on the ballot to succeed Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who decided against running for a third term.

She seized on outrage over a white police officer's fatal shooting of black teenager Laquan McDonald to launch her reformer campaign. She got in the race even before Emanuel announced he wouldn't seek re-election amid criticism for initially resisting calls to release video of the shooting.

Joyce Ross, 64, a resident of the city's predominantly black West Side who is a certified nursing assistant, cast her ballot Tuesday for Lightfoot. Ross said she believes Lightfoot will be better able to clean up the police department and curb the city's violence.

She was also bothered by Preckwinkle's association with longtime Alderman Ed Burke, who was indicted earlier this year on charges he tried to shake down a restaurant owner who wanted to build in his ward.

"My momma always said birds of a feather flock together," Ross said.

Preckwinkle said she called Lightfoot Tuesday night to congratulate her on a "hard-fought campaign."

"While I may be disappointed I'm not disheartened. For one thing, this is clearly a historic night," she told a crowd gathered in her South Side neighborhood. "Not long ago two African American women vying for this position would have been unthinkable. And while it may be true that we took two very different paths to get here, tonight is about the path forward."

That path will have major challenges. Chicago has been losing population, particularly in predominantly African American neighborhoods hit hardest by violence and a lack of jobs.

The new mayor will take over a city that faces massive financial problems. She will have just a few months to prepare a new budget, which in 2020 is expected to have a roughly \$250 million deficit. Lightfoot also will take over the worst-funded public pensions of any major U.S. city. Chicago's annual payments to the retirement systems are slated to grow by \$1.2 billion by 2023.

She has expressed support for a casino in Chicago and changing the state's income tax system to a graduated tax, in which higher earners are taxed at a higher rate — two measures lawmakers have tried for unsuccessfully for years to pass.

Violence and policing will also continue to be an issue, and one that has proven to be politically difficult.

The Chicago Police Department must implement a federally monitored consent decree approved in January. It followed the McDonald killing and a U.S. Justice Department review that found a long history of excessive use of force and racial bias by officers.

While voters also elected several newcomers over City Council veterans, Lightfoot will have to work with a council that has a sizable number of members who are the type of politicians she railed against during her campaign.

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Associated Press reporter Don Babwin contributed.



## Palestinians largely ignored in run-up to Israeli election

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In a charged election campaign that has been heavy on insults and short on substance, Israel's conflict with the Palestinians has been notably absent from the discourse.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud Party has offered no plan for what many believe is the country's most existential problem. His main challenger in the April 9 vote speaks vaguely of "separation," while Netanyahu's hard-line partners speak openly of the once unthinkable idea of annexing all or parts of the West Bank. Talk of a Palestinian state, the international community's preferred solution for the past two decades, is non-existent.

It is a far cry from past elections, when peace with the Palestinians was the central issue for voters. This apparent lack of interest reflects widespread disillusionment in Israel over years of failed peace efforts.

But it also is a testament to Netanyahu's success in sidelining the issue. Capitalizing on internal Palestinian divisions and promoting sometimes contradictory policies, Netanyahu has succeeded in managing the conflict without addressing the bigger issue of how two intertwined peoples will live together in the future. Strong backing from the Trump administration has given him an extra boost.

"The peace track is currently in a coma," said Shmuel Rosner, a senior fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute. "There's not much hope for a viable solution to be revived in the near future, so people can just keep pushing it aside until someday it comes back to haunt them."

Netanyahu took office in early 2009 and under heavy pressure from then-President Barack Obama reluctantly stated his support for an independent Palestinian state, albeit with many conditions, which were rejected.

Things quickly went downhill, and serious peace talks never took place during Obama's time in office.

Throughout his tenure, Netanyahu has repeatedly cast blame on the Palestinians, accusing President Mahmoud Abbas, who seeks a negotiated settlement with Israel, of incitement and promoting "terror." At the same time, he has maintained behind-the-scenes security cooperation with Abbas' forces in the West Bank in a joint struggle against the Hamas militant group.

In the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, Netanyahu has engaged in frequent rounds of fighting, but is also conducting behind-the-scenes negotiations with his bitter enemy in hopes of maintaining calm.

The Trump administration has further sidelined the Palestinians by cutting hundreds of millions of dollars in aid and recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, prompting the Palestinians to sever ties with the U.S. A long-promised peace plan, which the White House says will be released after the election, faces dim prospects, if it is even released.

With the peace process in a deep freeze, it is perhaps no surprise that none of the major Israeli parties are talking about the Palestinians.

"The Palestinian cause is totally absent in the Israeli elections, and when it comes, it comes only in a negative context," said Ahmed Majdalani, a senior Palestinian official. "This is worrisome, because it tells us that we are going from bad to worse."

The Palestinians seek the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — for an independent state. The so-called two-state solution is widely backed internationally as the best way to end the conflict.

If Israel continues to rule over millions of Palestinians, the thinking goes, the Palestinians will eventually abandon their dream of statehood and instead demand Israeli citizenship and full equality. In such a scenario, Israel would no longer be able to be both Jewish and democratic.

Israelis accuse the Palestinians of rejecting generous peace offers, most recently in late 2008, a narrative the Palestinians reject. The Israelis also point to the 2005 withdrawal from Gaza, which cleared the way for Hamas to seize power from Abbas' forces two years later.

Ahead of the election, several religious and nationalist parties, along with individual members of Netanyahu's Likud party, have openly called for annexing parts or all of the West Bank. These plans include a range of proposals for the Palestinians, including nonvoting residency rights, possible citizenship or financial

incentives to emigrate.

It remains unclear how hard these parties, all potential coalition partners for Netanyahu, will push, though Trump's recent recognition of Israel's annexation of the occupied Golan Heights has led to stepped-up calls for annexing West Bank territory.

Likud spokesman Eli Hazan said he does not expect annexation to be on the agenda. He said the party "strongly believes" in the status quo. "We are against the one-state solution and two-state solution. Both ways may lead to the end of Israel as a Jewish and democratic country," he said.

Yohanan Plesner, president of the Israeli Democracy Institute and a former lawmaker, said he did not think Netanyahu would give in to the annexation calls. "At the end of the day, West Bank annexation is the prerogative of the prime minister," he said.

Netanyahu's main challenger, former military chief Benny Gantz, has given Israel's "peace camp" some dim hope.

His Blue and White party's platform devotes just a few sentences to the Palestinians, promising "an open horizon for political settlement" and pledging to work with Arab neighbors to find a way to "deepen the separation." It makes no mention of Palestinian statehood, and says Israel will continue to maintain control of parts of the West Bank and never divide Jerusalem.

Ghassan Khatib, a former Palestinian negotiator, said the lack of interest on the Israeli side is harmful to the Palestinians in the short term but much worse for Israel in the long term.

"It means the end of the two-state solution," he said. "The alternative will be an apartheid system, and this will cause huge damage to Israeli democracy and the image of Israel."

Yossi Beilin, one of the chief architects of Israel's historic 1993 interim peace agreement with the Palestinians, said Netanyahu's policies have been "devastating" for peace prospects. Yet he remains confident the two-state solution will one day be adopted due to a lack of alternatives, and even believes that Gantz "for sure" will pursue a peace deal if elected.

Ironically, Trump's peace plan, if released, may force Netanyahu's hand, Beilin said. If elected, Netanyahu will have a hard time resisting his close friend's proposal while his hard-line coalition partners oppose any concessions to the Palestinians.

"The impact of the plan might be very interesting," Beilin said.

Associated Press writers Isabel Debre in Jerusalem and Mohammed Daraghmeh in Ramallah, West Bank, contributed.

## Police arrest man they say killed rapper Nipsey Hussle

By **ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a nearly 48-hour manhunt, police arrested the suspect they say gunned down Nipsey Hussle in front of the popular rapper's South Los Angeles clothing store.

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies detained Eric Holder, 29, on Tuesday afternoon in the city of Bellflower, two days after the shooting and 20 miles away from the crime scene. LAPD detectives quickly arrived to verify that he was the suspect they'd sought.

The focus now shifts from the streets to the courtroom. Holder is likely to be charged with killing Hussle and to make his first appearance in front of a judge in the next two days.

Authorities announced Holder as a suspect Monday night, publicizing his face and name and publicly urging him to turn himself in. Police said a tip from a citizen led them to Holder.

Hussle and Holder knew each other, and the two had some kind of personal dispute in the hours before the rapper was killed, police Chief Michel Moore said at a news conference earlier Tuesday.

The two men had several interactions on Sunday, and Holder returned to the store with a handgun and opened fire on Hussle and two other men, who survived the shooting, police said.

The chief did not reveal how the two men were acquainted or offer any details about their dispute, but he emphasized it was a personal matter between Hussle and Holder. Hussle acknowledged that he was

involved with a gang when he was younger, and police said Holder is a gang member, but the chief said gang rivalries played no role in the shooting.

After shooting Hussle and the two other men, Holder fled in a waiting car driven by a woman, Moore said. The police chief and the president of the city's Police Commission, Steve Soboroff, had been scheduled to meet with Hussle on Monday to discuss the relationship between the police force and the inner city.

At Tuesday's news conference an emotional Soboroff read from the email Hussle sent asking for the meeting.

"Our goal is to work with the department to help improve communication, relationships and work towards changing the culture and dialogue between LAPD and your city," Hussle said in the email.

A memorial with art, flowers and tributes to Hussle grew around the store that he had hoped would be an anchor to revive the blocks around it.

Hundreds of fans and friends came to celebrate him. The scene grew tense Monday night when one man brandished a gun and caused a stampede that left nearly two dozen people injured, police said.

The 33-year-old Grammy-nominated rapper, whose real name was Ermias Asghedom, had recently purchased the strip mall and planned to redevelop it into a mixed-use commercial and residential complex.

The plan was part of Hussle's broader ambitions to remake the neighborhood where he grew up and attempt to break the cycle of gang life that lured him in when he was younger.

"Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman on Tuesday joined a chorus of prominent names who have praised Hussle for his art and his humanity.

"He's a person that — he didn't see himself just rising on his own, that he saw himself rising with his community, with the people that he actually grew up with and knew," Boseman told The Associated Press at the CinemaCon expo in Las Vegas. "So to me, anybody that puts that much energy back into their surroundings, you have to honor them."

Boseman added, "People knew where his heart was. And his music was great."

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Associated Press Writer Amanda Lee Myers contributed.

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Associated Press Writer Amanda Lee Myers contributed.

## Brunei invokes laws allowing stoning for gay sex, adultery

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — New Islamic criminal laws that took effect in Brunei on Wednesday, punishing gay sex and adultery by stoning offenders to death, have triggered an outcry from countries, rights groups and celebrities far beyond the tiny Southeast Asian nation's shores.

The penalties were provided for under new sections of Brunei's Shariah Penal Code. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah instituted the code in 2014 to bolster the influence of Islam in the oil-rich monarchy of around 430,000 people, two-thirds of whom are Muslim.

Even before 2014, homosexuality was already punishable in Brunei by a jail term of up to 10 years. The first stage of the Shariah Penal Code included fines or jail for offenses such as pregnancy out of wedlock or failing to pray on Fridays.

But under the new laws — which apply to children and foreigners, even if they are not Muslim — those found guilty of gay sex can be stoned to death or whipped. Adulterers risk death by stoning too, while thieves face amputation of a right hand on their first offense and a left foot on their second.

"Living in Brunei, we already knew that our sexual identity is taboo and should not be expressed. We already felt belittled before the law came to place," said a 23-year-old member of the LGBTQ community who wanted to be identified only as Kun out of fear of reprisal from the authorities.

"Now with it, we feel even smaller and the ones who could potentially oppress us have more opportunity to harass us to say and do what they want," he said.

Celebrities including George Clooney, Elton John and Ellen DeGeneres have voiced opposition to the new laws, and have rallied a boycott of nine hotels in the U.S. and Europe with ties to Hassanal, who is still sultan.

"Are we really going to help fund the murder of innocent citizens?" Clooney wrote Thursday on Deadline Hollywood.

Clooney said that while you can't shame "murderous regimes," you can shame "the banks, the financiers and the institutions that do business with them."

There has been no vocal opposition to the new penalties in Brunei, where the sultan rules as head of



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state with full executive authority. Public criticism of his policies is extremely rare in the country.

Hassanal, who has reigned since 1967, has previously said the Penal Code should be regarded as a form of "special guidance" from God and would be "part of the great history" of Brunei.

On Tuesday, the United States joined the United Kingdom, Germany and France in urging Brunei to halt its plans.

"The United States strongly opposes violence, criminalization and discrimination targeting vulnerable groups, including women at risk of violence, religious and ethnic minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons," State Department deputy spokesman Robert Palladino said in a statement.

Brunei's Southeast Asian neighbors, some of whom have laws banning sex between men, were silent.

But LGBTQ citizens of other nearby Muslim-majority countries were concerned about the broad penalties.

"I am very worried that Indonesia or Malaysia may follow the lead," said a 24-year-old man from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital, who wanted to be identified only by his first name, Ludwig. "I think people nowadays, especially the younger generation, are quite OK with LGBT, but those who are not make the loudest noise and they are the reason why it seems like everyone is against it."

Nearly two-thirds of Malaysia's 32 million people are Muslim. They are governed by Islamic courts in family, marriage and personal issues. Last year, two Malaysian Muslim women were convicted under Islamic laws and caned for attempting to have sex with each other.

Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, urged Brunei's government to "stop the entry into force of this Draconian new penal code."

"Any religion-based legislation must not violate human rights, including the rights of those belonging to the majority religion as well as of religious minorities and non-believers," she said in a statement on Monday.

Phil Robertson, the deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, called on the sultan to "immediately suspend amputations, stoning, and all other rights-abusing provisions and punishments."

"Brunei's new penal code is barbaric to the core, imposing archaic punishments for acts that shouldn't even be crimes," Robertson said in a statement on Wednesday.

Rachel Chhoa-Howard, Brunei researcher at Amnesty International, decried the "vicious" laws and asked the international community to condemn them.

## In 1st quarter, Sanders takes early lead in 2020 fundraising

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

A handful of Democratic presidential candidates are touting the amount of money they've raised in the first fundraising period of a 2020 primary fight that will last into next spring. The totals for the first quarter, which ran through March 31, are the first measure of how candidates are faring.

Details for the entire field won't be known until candidates file their required disclosures with the Federal Election Commission by April 15, but here are some takeaways from what the campaigns have released so far:

### BERNIE REALLY IS A FRONT-RUNNER

Bernie Sanders joins former Vice President Joe Biden atop many polls of prospective Democratic primary voters. But Sanders has something Biden doesn't have (yet): a campaign operation raking in cash.

The senator from Vermont, who showed surprising fundraising heft in his upstart challenge to Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton four years ago, raised more than \$18 million in the 41 days between his official campaign launch and March 31, giving him \$28 million cash on hand.

Those totals are expected to lead the Democratic field, putting pressure on other heavyweights, including Biden, who is still deciding whether to run and who is navigating accusations that he's acted inappropriately toward women.

Besides Sanders, Sen. Kamala Harris of California put up an impressive \$12 million haul. Former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas didn't offer a fundraising total Tuesday, but aides said he raised more than \$1 million over the weekend and previously said he raised more than \$6 million in his first 24 hours as a candidate.

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Sanders' haul shows that his base is just as enthusiastic as it was four years ago. In fact, it may be growing. The senator's campaign noted that of his 525,000 unique donors, about 20% are new, about 100,000 are registered independents and about 20,000 are registered Republicans.

As impressive as Sanders' fundraising has been, it's not as large as previous presidential contenders who were more reliant on big donors.

In her first quarter as a candidate ahead of 2016, Clinton topped \$45 million. In 2007, when then-Sen. Barack Obama and Clinton were beginning their long battle for the 2008 nomination, the favored Clinton opened with an initial fundraising quarter of \$36 million, while the underdog Obama pulled in \$26 million.

## EXPECTATIONS GAME: MAYOR PETE WINS

Sanders' fundraising haul set the curve for all candidates and will give pause to some of the other perceived heavyweights in the field, particularly his fellow senators Harris, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. (Harris is the only candidate of that group to release her fundraising totals.)

But the biggest winner may be Pete Buttigieg, an unlikely headline-grabber even among a group of lesser-known candidates that includes governors and members of Congress.

The 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, raised \$7 million, calling it "a great look for our first quarter." That might be an understatement.

Such a sum ensures Buttigieg can finance a legitimate campaign operation for months as long as he's not a profligate spender. (Former Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker learned in the 2015-16 Republican presidential campaign that being an early fundraising leader is no guarantee of success; he spent big, ran out of money and dropped out before the Iowa caucuses.)

Just as important as the bottom line: Buttigieg said he has almost 160,000 unique donors, a mark that meets the new grassroots fundraising thresholds that the Democratic National Committee has set for candidates to qualify for the initial summer debates.

## SMALL DONORS RULE THE DAY

It's a new day in Democratic politics, with small donors carrying the day.

Sanders touts that he's held zero traditional fundraisers and has an average donation of \$20 — less than 1% of the \$2800 maximum. Sanders' campaign says the senator got 88% of his money from donors who contributed \$200 or less.

Buttigieg said his average contribution is about \$36, with 64% of his total coming from those donating \$200 or less. Andrew Yang, an entrepreneur who's never held political office, has raised just \$1.7 million, but his campaign says it's come from about 80,000 donors averaging less than \$18 per contribution.

This shift largely reflects politicians reacting to a progressive base that looks with suspicion and distrust on big-money donors.

For example, Warren is among the perceived favorites in the field but has promised she'll be financing her campaign without leaning on traditional donors.

Harris isn't eschewing high-dollar fundraisers. In a recent stop in Atlanta, she held one small-dollar event but also a high-dollar gathering sponsored by bundlers who'd pulled together at least \$28,000 for her campaign. Yet when her campaign aides released fundraising totals for the first quarter, it wasn't the big checks they touted. Rather, they emphasized that 98% percent of her contributors gave less than \$100.

Gordon Giffin, a former Canadian ambassador under President Bill Clinton, recently hosted a fundraiser for Klobuchar in his metro Atlanta home. Traditional fundraising isn't going away, Giffin said in a recent interview, "but that grassroots money can more than make up for it, and candidates have to prove they can do that."

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

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

### 1. TRUMP EXPLORES ART OF THE CLIMB-DOWN

The president pivots on two big policy fronts, easing up on threats to close the U.S. border with Mexico and delaying any changes to "Obamacare" until after the 2020 election.

### 2. 'A CITY REBORN'

Lori Lightfoot, who's black and openly gay, will be Chicago's next mayor, a historic repudiation of the old-style, insider politics that have long defined America's third largest city.

### 3. BREXIT CHIEF: NO 'BLANK CHECK' IN TALKS

Stephen Barclay says some Labour proposals, such as a customs union with the EU, would be "very difficult" for the government to accept, but a compromise is needed to avoid a no-deal divorce.

### 4. WHAT POLICE ARE SAYING ABOUT NIPSEY HUSSLE SLAYING SUSPECT

Authorities say 29-year-old Eric Holder and the rapper-businessman knew each and had some kind of personal dispute.

### 5. BRUNEI INVOKES SHARIA LAW

The laws would punish gay sex and adultery by stoning offenders to death while thieves would face amputation, moves that have triggered a global outcry.

### 6. WHO TOOK EARLY LEAD IN 2020 FUNDRAISING

Bernie Sanders is leading Democratic presidential candidates in the early money chase, while Mayor Pete Buttigieg of Indiana posts surprising results.

### 7. IN ISRAEL ELECTION, PALESTINIAN ISSUE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND

The lack of interest reflects disillusionment after years of failed peace efforts but also is a testament to Netanyahu's success in sidelining the issue.

### 8. HOLLYWOOD ACTRESSES DUE IN BOSTON COURT

Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin are facing federal charges that they participated in a wide-ranging college admissions cheating scam.

### 9. NO KIBBLE FOR MAX

U.S. pet owners are increasingly feeding fresh food to their dogs and cats, but some veterinarians question the trend.

### 10. SUCCESS IN MARCH TIED TO NBA-CALIBER TALENT

An AP analysis of rosters of perennial NCAA Tournament teams concludes it takes pro-ready talent — players who leave school early — to go far consistently.

## Lightfoot wins Chicago mayor race; pledges end to corruption

By SARA BURNETT and HERBERT G. McCANN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Former federal prosecutor Lori Lightfoot easily won the Chicago mayor's race Tuesday, earning support from every part of the city to defeat a longtime political insider and become the first black woman and openly gay person to lead the nation's third-largest city.

Lightfoot, who had never been elected to public office, delivered a commanding victory over Toni Preckwinkle, who served in the City Council for 19 years before becoming Cook County Board president. Preckwinkle also is chairwoman of the county Democratic Party.

Lightfoot promised to rid City Hall of corruption and help low-income and working-class people she said had been "left behind and ignored" by Chicago's political ruling class. It was a message that resonated with voters weary of political scandal and insider deals, and who said the city's leaders for too long have invested in downtown at the expense of neighborhoods.

"Together we can and will make Chicago a place where your zip code doesn't determine your destiny," Lightfoot told a cheering crowd at her victory party. "We can and we will break this city's endless cycle of corruption and never again — never ever — allow politicians to profit from elected positions."



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She said people are seeing “a city reborn” — a place where race and “who you love” don’t matter. Chicago will become the largest U.S. city to have a black woman serve as mayor when Lightfoot is sworn in May 20. She will join seven other black women currently serving as mayors in major U.S. cities, including Atlanta and New Orleans, and will be the second woman to lead Chicago.

Preckwinkle said she called Lightfoot Tuesday night to congratulate her on a “hard-fought campaign.” “While I may be disappointed I’m not disheartened. For one thing, this is clearly a historic night,” she told a crowd gathered in her South Side neighborhood. “Not long ago two African American women vying for this position would have been unthinkable. And while it may be true that we took two very different paths to get here, tonight is about the path forward.”

Congratulations poured in for Lightfoot, 56, who has one daughter with her wife, Amy Eshleman. Brian Johnson, CEO of Equality Illinois, said the civil rights organization for lesbian and gay people was “thrilled” with the outcome.

“This victory is historic, and it is also an undeniably proud moment for the LGBTQ community,” Johnson said.

Pete Buttigieg, the openly gay mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who’s running for president in 2020, said on Twitter that Lightfoot “will be a terrific new leader for her city and in the community of American mayors.”

Lightfoot emerged as the surprising leader in the first round of voting in February when 14 candidates were on the ballot to succeed Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who decided against running for a third term.

Lightfoot seized on outrage over a white police officer’s fatal shooting of black teenager Laquan McDonald to launch her reformer campaign. She got in the race even before Emanuel announced he wouldn’t seek re-election amid criticism for initially resisting calls to release video of the shooting.

“I’m not a person who decided I would climb the ladder of a corrupt political party,” Lightfoot said during a debate last month. “I don’t hold the title of committeeman, central committeeman, boss of the party.”

Preckwinkle countered that her opponent lacks the necessary experience for the job. “This is not an entry-level job,” Preckwinkle said repeatedly during the campaign.

Joyce Ross, 64, a resident of the city’s predominantly black West Side who is a certified nursing assistant, cast her ballot Tuesday for Lightfoot. Ross said she believes Lightfoot will be better able to clean up the police department and curb the city’s violence.

She was also bothered by Preckwinkle’s association with longtime Alderman Ed Burke, who was indicted earlier this year on charges he tried to shake down a restaurant owner who wanted to build in his ward.

“My momma always said birds of a feather flock together,” Ross said. Truly Gannon, a 39-year old mother of four who works as a dietitian, said she wasn’t bothered by stories that portrayed Preckwinkle as an insider aligned with questionable politicians like Burke. She supported Preckwinkle, based on her experience.

“I’m not sure Lightfoot would be able to handle the job like Preckwinkle,” she said. The campaign between the two women got off to a contentious start, with Preckwinkle’s advertising focusing on Lightfoot’s work as a partner at Mayer Brown, one of the nation’s largest law firms, and tagging her as a “wealthy corporate lawyer.”

Preckwinkle also tried to cast Lightfoot as an insider for working in police oversight posts under Emanuel and police oversight, procurement and emergency communications posts under Mayor Richard M. Daley.

But Preckwinkle had to spend much of her campaign answering for her ties to Chicago’s political establishment, including Burke.

Despite the barbs on the campaign trail, the two advanced similar ideas to boost the city’s deeply troubled finances, which include an estimated \$250 million budget deficit next year and billions in unfunded pension liabilities.

Both candidates expressed support for a casino in Chicago and changing the state’s income tax system to a graduated tax, in which higher earners are taxed at a higher rate — two measures lawmakers have tried for unsuccessfully for years to pass.

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Associated Press writer Don Babwin contributed to this report.

## As Baltimore struggles, latest scandal sucks away attention

By DAVID McFADDEN Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore already faced daunting challenges: soaring violent crime, a thriving drug economy and poverty so intense that some derelict neighborhoods look like they were hit by a plague. Now, Mayor Catherine Pugh is embroiled in a strange scandal, sucking attention away from those core issues while embarrassing Maryland's biggest city on a national scale.

The allegations surrounding the first-term mayor conjure up a bizarre world where no-contract financial deals intersect with children's picture books, of all things. Since 2011, the Democrat has somehow received payments totaling at least \$700,000 for tens of thousands of self-published 20-page books with titles like "Healthy Holly: Fruits Come in Colors Like the Rainbow."

Her main customers for the hard-to-find paperbacks: a \$4 billion medical network, on whose board she served, that paid her personal business half-a-million dollars for 100,000 copies; and a health care provider that bought "Healthy Holly" books after she became mayor, as that company was seeking a city contract.

It's Baltimore's latest chapter of murky politics and alleged corruption, of odd bedfellows and weird contradictions. For many locals, it's yet another reminder that their hometown seems doomed to repeat cycles of tawdry mismanagement, reinforcing tales of homegrown sleaze ingrained in pop culture by the gritty TV drama "The Wire."

"Baltimore's insular politics, with its interlocked civic and political elite, and without clear divides among parties or factions, creates the conditions for scandals like this one," said Daniel Schlozman, a political science professor at Johns Hopkins University.

For Pugh, an affable, image-conscious politician who was once the state Senate majority leader and ran a public relations firm, the stakes could not be higher. Allegations of blatant self-dealing have left her increasingly isolated and politically vulnerable. As a growing chorus presses for her resignation, her spokespeople say she's retreated to her home on doctor's orders, taking an "indefinite" leave of absence due to a pneumonia bout.

Yet at a rambling press conference last week, Pugh painted her "Healthy Holly" initiative as entirely well-intentioned, while calling her whopping \$500,000 book deal with the University of Maryland Medical System a "regrettable mistake." She held up baby bibs and onesies emblazoned with words like "play" and "crawl" that she said were part of a "Healthy Holly" lifestyle message.

As public trust appears to erode with each new revelation, many political observers wonder if an indictment will come from an investigation into Pugh's financial dealings as an elected official. On Monday, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan formally asked for a criminal investigation into Pugh's activities by the State Prosecutor's Office, which investigates public corruption.

Pugh's lawyer, Steven Silverman, said she looks forward to cooperating with the state prosecutor's investigation and will provide "as much information as possible to put this matter to rest."

While the accusations raise clouds over Baltimore's mayor, Pugh hasn't been indicted for anything and it's far from clear how long the criminal investigation will take. Pugh might even try forging ahead, at least through 2020 when her term expires, but many political analysts believe she would never be able to wield power effectively.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. Pugh came to office contrasting her clean image with her main opponent, ex-mayor Sheila Dixon who was forced to depart office in 2010 as part of a plea deal for misappropriating about \$500 in gift cards meant for needy families.

But as Baltimore Sun columnist Dan Rodricks wrote of Pugh in a Tuesday piece, it turns out "the woman who was elected because she did not come with baggage turns out to have had a matching set of luggage you'd need five bellhops to carry."

Acknowledging that Baltimore faces more tough times due to the latest scandal, Democratic U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings urged people to focus on the many Baltimoreans working hard to transform the city in ways big and small.

"I want everyone to remain focused on the fact that there are thousands of good people doing important

work every single day to make Baltimore a better place to live and work," said Cummings, a native of the city, in a statement touching on Pugh's leave of absence.

That kind of pep talk is recurrent in Baltimore, a city with a shrinking population and public officials who keep getting into trouble. Just last week, Pugh's onetime police commissioner, Darryl De Sousa, was sentenced to 10 months in federal prison for tax fraud.

A crowning frustration preoccupies city leaders: Baltimore's latest scandal is unfolding amid the overwhelming, unmet expectations of citizens in large swaths of the startlingly segregated city. There's a failing school system, crumbling infrastructure, and a beleaguered police department under federal oversight.

Some members of Baltimore's influential legislative delegation in Maryland's capital are now describing Pugh's scandal in almost existential terms.

"I hope that she's doing some real soul searching," said state Sen. Bill Ferguson, a Baltimore Democrat. "This is such a distraction from where we need to be and the issues that we should be focused on to really help rebuild a great American city, so now we've just got to pull it together and figure out what the future holds."

Another city Democrat, Sen. Antonio Hayes, put it more bluntly: "It's frustrating as hell."

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## Trump takes a step back from threat to close southern border

By JILL COLVIN and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump eased up on his threats to close the southern border as officials across his administration explored half-measures that might satisfy the president's urge for action, like stopping only foot traffic at certain crossings.

Facing a surge of Central American migrants trying to enter the U.S., Trump last week threatened to seal the border this week if Mexico did not immediately halt all illegal immigration into the U.S., a move that would have enormous economic consequences on both sides of the border.

While Trump on Tuesday did not back off the idea completely, he said he was pleased with steps Mexico had taken in recent days and renewed his calls for Congress to make changes he contends would solve the problem.

"Let's see if they keep it done," he said of Mexico. "Now, if they don't, or if we don't make a deal with Congress, the border's going to be closed, 100%." He also said that he might only close "large sections of the border" and "not all of it." He added that his posturing was "the only way we're getting a response."

Later Tuesday, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen held an emergency call with Cabinet members and White House aides, saying, "We are going to treat it as if we have been hit by a Category 5 hurricane," according to a person on the call. The person was not authorized to discuss the call publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Nielsen was creating an emergency operations center and named U.S. Border Patrol official Manny Padilla as an operational crisis coordinator to manage the response from within the different immigration agencies at the Department of Homeland Security. Padilla is a 30-year Border Patrol veteran and was recently the head of the Rio Grande Valley Sector in Texas.

His job will be different from that of the immigration or "border czar" that Trump is considering, the official said.

Closing the border completely would disrupt manufacturing supply lines and the flow of goods ranging from avocados to cars, making for a "potentially catastrophic economic impact," in the words of Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader.

Some inside the administration also worry it would only exacerbate illegal immigration.

Meantime, administration officials grappled with how they might minimize the impact of a shutdown or implement less sweeping actions.

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White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow, for example, told CNBC he's been looking at potentially keeping truck lanes open.

"We are looking at different options, particularly if you can keep those freight lanes, the truck lanes, open," he said. As for the hundreds of thousands of tourists and workers who cross the border legally, Kudlow said, "that may be difficult."

Earlier, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders had told reporters that, while, "Eventually, it may be that it's the best decision that we close the border," the president was "not working on a specific timeline" and all options remained on the table. The Council of Economic Advisers, she said, was conducting a number of studies on the impact, and "working with the president to give him those options."

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said in an appearance on MSNBC that closing only certain entry ports, or parts of all of them, could be among the steps short of closing the entire border.

It was a shift from Trump's threat late last week to seal the whole border, and quickly. "I am not kidding around," he said then, exasperated by the swelling numbers of migrants, thousands of whom were being released into the U.S. because border officials had no space for them. Arrests along the southern border have skyrocketed in recent months and border agents were on track to make 100,000 arrests or denials of entry in March, a 12-year high. More than half of those are families with children, who require extra care.

With southern border facilities near a breaking point, U.S. officials are busing many migrants hundreds of miles inland and dropping them off at bus stations and churches. Trump has mocked and vowed to end that "catch and release" practice but overwhelmed authorities saw no choice.

Responding to Trump's threats, Nielsen rushed home late Monday night from Europe, where she was attending G7 security meetings and intended to fly to the border mid-week to assess the impact of changes already made, including reassigning some 2,000 border officers assigned to check vehicles to deal with migrant crowds and new efforts to return more asylum seekers to Mexico as they wait out their case.

Officials were hoping to have as many as 300 asylum seekers returned to Mexico per day by the end of the week near Calexico and El Paso in Texas and San Ysidro in California. Right now, only 60 a day are returned.

Nielsen has also requested volunteers from non-immigration agencies within her department and sent a letter to Congress seeking more money and detention space and broader authority to deport families faster. The request was met with disdain by Democrats.

Even absent the extraordinary step of sealing a national border, delays at border stations have been mounting due to the personnel reassignments, Homeland Security officials said. When the Otay Mesa, California, entry port closed for the night Monday, 150 trucks were still waiting to get into the U.S.

Shutting certain border stations or parts of them would not be unprecedented. Over the Thanksgiving holiday last year, Trump claimed he'd already "closed the border" after officials briefly closed the north-bound lanes at San Ysidro, California, for several hours in the early morning to bolster security because of concerns about a potential influx of migrant caravan members.

Mexican officials announced Monday they'd pulled 338 Central American migrants —181 adults and 157 children— off five passenger buses in a southern state that borders Guatemala, and said they had detained 15 possible smugglers on immigration law violations. But that was not unusual for Mexico, which has for years been cracking down on migration.

In 2014 then-President Enrique Peña Nieto launched a program that was described as ensuring orderly migration but in practice resulted in making it much more difficult for Central Americans to transit.

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Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey and Darlene Superville in Washington and Maria Verza in Mexico City contributed to this report.

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## 'Obamacare' repeal off the table for GOP until after 2020

By LISA MASCARO and CATHERINE LUCEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Not any longer."

And with that, a triumphant Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell appeared to close the book Tuesday on a divisive Republican debate, convincing President Donald Trump to shelve plans to replace the Affordable Care Act until after the 2020 election.

"I made it clear to him that we were not going to be doing that in the Senate," McConnell told reporters.

It was a rare public disclosure of private counsel from the Republican leader. And it signaled that, after two years in Trump's Washington, Republicans on Capitol Hill are figuring out how to handle the president and his impulsive swerves on policy.

Trump insisted Tuesday it was his idea to switch course.

"I wanted to delay it myself," Trump said during an event at the White House. "I want to put it after the election."

Facing a court deadline, Trump seized on health care last week, backing a lawsuit seeking to strike down the Affordable Care Act. Trump's motivations were as political as they were legislative. He didn't want to cede the issue again in the 2020 campaign, according to a person familiar with the conversations who was not authorized to speak publicly.

"We're going to keep the presidency, and we'll vote in the best health care package we've ever had," he said.

The Trump and McConnell had not spoken for days. The president stunned Republicans last week by

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announcing he wanted to try again to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, insisting the GOP could become the "party of health care." Republicans wanted no part of a do-over after their failure to replace the law in 2017. Facing a revolt from the ranks, McConnell told the president he needed him to listen, according to a person who was granted anonymity to discuss the private call.

McConnell explained to Trump that senators are open to tackling specific aspects of health care — namely, trying to lower prescription drug prices. But Trump's promised big, new health care bill wasn't going happen with Democrats running the House. Instead, Trump could focus on the issue during the election.

Several times McConnell told Trump to listen, the person said. And it worked. Trump told McConnell he "accepted" the situation and "would be developing a plan that he would take to the American people during the 2020 campaign." That night, Trump tweeted as much.

"So we don't have a misunderstanding about that," McConnell said Tuesday.

Trump's shift — he tweeted late Monday that Congress will vote on a GOP plan after the elections "when Republicans hold the Senate & win back the House" — made clear that the health care debate will be left for voters to decide during the race for the White House.

That arrangement suits Democrats just fine. They are denouncing Trump's attempt to overturn the ACA in court and floating various health care plans, including an expansion of government-funded Medicare with so called "Medicare for All," setting up a stark contrast between the parties for the campaign trail.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Trump will "hold Americans hostage through 2020" on an issue that affects millions of people. He said that Trump "insists he has a magic plan that we can see if only the American people re-elect him."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California said Democrats' health care battle with Trump is "a values fight."

After Trump dropped the issue on Republicans last week, many hoped it would just go away. They had no comprehensive proposal to replace the ACA law and no big plans to unveil one. Publicly and privately, Republicans tried to talk to Trump.

McConnell has made it clear Republicans should spend their time attacking "Medicare for All" proposals rather than revisiting the ACA debate, according to a Republican granted anonymity to discuss the private thinking.

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., a Trump confidant, called shifting the debate to 2021 "a very pragmatic decision." He said Tuesday that "spending quality time to develop a comprehensive strategy" would be "critical."

Trump's effort to repeal former President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law narrowly failed in the Senate in 2017 when Republicans controlled both chambers in Congress. He still blames the late Sen. John McCain for joining other senators to oppose a last-ditch plan.

While Republicans gained Senate seats last fall, GOP senators — particularly those up for re-election next year — weren't looking for another fight over the law. They saw how the issue played in 2018, when Democrats made it the cornerstone of their successful drive to win back the House.

Preserving health care protections, and especially for people with pre-existing conditions, resonates with voters. According to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 115,000 midterm voters nationwide, nearly 4 in 10 Democratic voters identified health care at the top of a list of key issues.

As Democrats have blamed Republicans for trying to end the ACA, GOP-backed challenges to the 2010 law are making their way through courts.

Last week, the Trump administration told a federal appeals court it wants the entire Affordable Care Act struck down, an outcome that could leave millions of people uninsured.

In his late-Monday tweets, Trump claimed Republicans are developing a plan with cheaper premiums and deductibles that "will be truly great HealthCare that will work for America."

Republicans appeared relieved that, for now, that battle will be fought during the campaign, rather than in Congress.

The No. 2 Senate Republican, John Thune of South Dakota, said the president "has some big ideas and, to his credit, wants to solve problems." But Thune said, "you run into that wall of reality," of a divided Congress with Democrats in control of the House, which requires bipartisanship.

"Trying to convey what the obstacles are to getting what he wants to get done in the next two years is something I think a number of our members conveyed to him," Thune said.

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman, Alan Fram, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Darlene Superville and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

## Trump urges even more defense spending by NATO allies

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump praised NATO countries for increasing their financial contributions to the Western alliance, but he hounded them to pay even more, saying America still shoulders a disproportionate share of the cost of protecting Europe.

The president met Tuesday with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who was in Washington to mark the 70th anniversary of the organization formed to counter Russian aggression.

The two leaders had kind words for one another. But in the past, Trump has called NATO "obsolete" and suggested he might pull the U.S. out of the alliance if member nations didn't significantly boost their defense spending.

"We've worked together on getting some of our allies to pay their fair share," Trump told reporters. "At some point, it's going to have to go higher."

Trump took credit for the increased spending. However, spending by the 29 NATO countries, which dropped after the end of the Cold War, has actually been rising since 2014 — before Trump took office.

"Prior to our getting here, NATO's spending was going way, way down," he said. "It was just a one-way road down. And since I became president ... it's been a rocket ship up, and we have to keep it that way."

After Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, member countries agreed to boost defense budgets and "move toward" spending 2% of their gross domestic product on defense by 2024. The U.S. spends about 3.4% of its GDP on defense.

Since Trump took office, European allies and Canada have added \$41 billion to their defense budgets. By the end of next year, this will rise to \$100 billion, Stoltenberg said. Germany, however, remains the main target of Trump's ire because it now plans to spend 1.5% by 2024, which is lower than the 2% guideline.

"Germany is not paying their fair share," Trump said. "I have a great feeling for Germany, but they're not paying what they should be paying. We're paying for a big proportion of NATO, which is basically protecting Europe."

Stoltenberg has said that the 2% guideline was not invented by the United States and was a target the 29 allies set in 2014 before Trump took office. But he thanked Trump for his "strong commitment to NATO" and for his leadership in getting member nations to increase their commitments.

"The allies are really stepping up," Stoltenberg said in an interview later with The Associated Press.

"The clear message from President Trump has helped — is having a real impact. And this is about doing what NATO allies have pledged to do. We still have a long way to go — much to do — but we have really seen very strong progress in defense spending from NATO allies."

At times, Stoltenberg has served as a buffer between Trump and some European allies that he has angered.

Trump, who ran on an "America First" platform, slapped tariffs on the European Union, and pulled the U.S. out of the landmark Paris Climate Accord and the Iran nuclear deal. Trump's eagerness to get along with Russian leader Vladimir Putin — in spite of Russia's meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and numerous other aggressive moves in recent years — has alarmed those who view Russia as a growing threat.

"NATO's single greatest challenge is the absence of strong, principled American presidential leadership for the first time in its history," two former U.S. envoys to NATO, Nicholas Burns and Douglas Lute, wrote in a report on the 70th birthday for the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.



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Lute and Burns said NATO leaders considered not holding a 2019 summit to mark the 70th anniversary at all because they feared Trump would “blow up a meeting in controversy as he has done each time he has met with NATO leaders during the past two years.” The alliance plans a scaled-down summit of leaders in December that Trump is expected to attend.

Allies see Trump as NATO’s “most urgent, and often most difficult, problem,” they wrote in their report. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo defended Trump, saying their conclusion was “just simply wrong” and adding that the administration has worked hard to make NATO stronger.

Stoltenberg is slated to address Congress on Wednesday morning — a first for a NATO secretary-general. The invitation to speak to a joint meeting of the Democratic-controlled House and the Republican-controlled Senate shows the bipartisan support the 70-year-old trans-Atlantic alliance enjoys among lawmakers in spite of Trump’s occasional jabs.

The NATO foreign ministers’ first session Thursday will focus on Russia. The ministers are expected to endorse a package of measures to improve NATO’s defenses in the Black Sea.

Other topics will be NATO’s mission in Afghanistan and Turkey’s announced decision to buy a Russian surface-to-air missile system. Turkey is a NATO ally, but the Russian system is not compatible with NATO systems and is considered a threat to U.S. F-35 aircraft.

They also will talk about U.S. and Russian plans to withdraw this summer from a 1987 landmark arms control treaty. The U.S. accuses Russia of violating the treaty; Moscow says the U.S. is not in compliance.

If the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty is scrapped, neither Washington nor Moscow would face legal constraints on deploying land-based cruise or ballistic missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles). Defense officials say the Pentagon plans to begin flight tests later this year of two types of missiles that have been banned by the treaty for more than 30 years.

“Russia is deploying more and more of these weapons and therefore we call on Russia to come back into compliance with this treaty,” Stoltenberg said.

Associated Press writer Lorne Cook in Brussels contributed to this report.

## AP Analysis: Success in March tied to NBA-caliber talent

By EDDIE PELLIS and LARRY FENN Associated Press

In the 30 seasons since the NCAA Tournament started morphing into “March Madness,” 120 teams have traveled the road to the Final Four. That’s 120 unique formulas that have worked to make it onto college basketball’s biggest stage.

For all the debate about what counts more toward building a championship program — great teams with veteran leaders and role players versus outstanding individual talent, even if that talent only makes a short pit stop in college before going to the pros — an Associated Press analysis of rosters found that one factor outweighs all else:

The most surefire way to consistently advance deep into the tournament is by amassing players with enough NBA potential to leave college early.

The AP analyzed rosters of every team to make the tournament at least 10 times over the last 30 years and saw a trend that goes beyond the anecdotes and occasional tales of magical runs that have underscored the storytelling driving this debate for decades. The conclusion, as succinctly summed up by Gonzaga coach Mark Few: “It’s not a big secret. If you want to win and advance in this tournament, you have to have NBA talent.”

“You can get the NBA talent through recruiting one-and-dones, or you can do it through development,” Few said. “But whether it’s one-and-dones or two-and-dones, you have to have it.”

A wealth of NBA talent has been the mainstay on perennial contenders such as Kentucky, Duke and Kansas, which are among the programs that stand out in the AP analysis. Of the 79 teams the AP charted (including seven that made fewer than 10 appearances but went to the Final Four at least once), those blue bloods, along with North Carolina and Connecticut, were the only programs that averaged nearly

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three wins — a trip to the Elite Eight — per tournament appearance since 1989. All of those teams were also in the top 10 of programs that had the most early entries in the NBA draft over the same span.

And though this year's Final Four is being touted as one in which experience and teamwork won out over NBA-ready talent, three of the teams in Minneapolis this week do, in fact, have underclassmen on the roster who could be first-round draft picks. Sophomores Jarrett Culver of Texas Tech and DeAndre Hunter of Virginia are potential lottery picks in this year's NBA draft, and even Auburn made it this far with the help of now-injured sophomore Chuma Okeke, who is widely considered to have first-round ability.

The reality only serves to heighten the debate about what is essentially the professionalization of college basketball. It's an issue that has become increasingly fraught in the wake of FBI investigations that further reinforced the influence that big money, shoe companies and the prospects of pro stardom have on the college game.

"There are some things that are wrong with it, things that take place that are inappropriate," said Auburn coach Bruce Pearl, who himself has been previously banned by the NCAA and, more recently, has seen a handful of his Tigers assistants caught up in the current probe. "That's the business of college basketball. The reason why the NCAA is involved in this is because it's their job to monitor."

There are, of course, exceptions to the talent-equals-titles rule. This year's Michigan State squad doesn't appear to have any NBA-ready underclassmen on its roster, even though the Spartans are a program that traditionally draws that sort of talent.

The Loyola-Chicagos, George Masons and VCU's of the world are the teams that prove, semi-regularly, that anything is possible, and are a big part of the reason the tournament captivates America every spring. But they are the outliers. The reality is that gritty, unselfish teamwork is nice, but raw talent is better.

"It's like when I go to (fried chicken restaurant) Grandy's, do I want double mashed potatoes or mashed potatoes and corn?" said Texas Tech coach Chris Beard. "I want both. So we would love to have All-Americans and turn 'em into grinders."

As Gonzaga's role in the sport has morphed from plucky underdog to perennial power over the past two decades, Few says he's changed his strategy from one that emphasized roster building, to one that focuses on roster management.

"The most important part of the year now is April and May," he said, in a nod to the period when NBA-caliber players such as Rui Hachimura and Brandon Clarke make their decisions about whether to stay or go. "You project what they're going to do, then you plan accordingly."

No program runs on the hamster wheel of quick turnover more than Kentucky. Not surprisingly, the Wildcats, thanks largely to the impact of the one and done factory John Calipari has been running for the past decade, have been to the tournament 29 times since 1989 and sent 45 players to NBA before they graduated. They average just shy of three victories per trip, and just shy of 1.7 early departures per year they've appeared. In the AP analysis, they are alone in their own quadrant of the data grid.

Not included in the study are teams that didn't make the tournament despite having one-and-done and other early-entry talent. Ben Simmons spent one year at LSU, and Markelle Fultz spent a season at Washington, but neither played in March Madness.

On the other end of the spectrum, having NBA talent is no guarantee of success. Both Texas and Southern California have put more than a dozen early entry players into the league over the span of the study, but their victories-per-tournament average hovers around 1.

And yet, the way the top programs have ensured consistent success, the analysis proves, is by repeatedly securing that kind of talent.

But there's a chance everyone might have to recalibrate.

With the NBA and its players union considering changes that could end one-and-done, and possibly allow players to go to the NBA straight from high school — the way the system worked for decades before 2006 — Kentucky's path to success could be in peril.

"I don't know how it will play out, but we'll try to be first in whatever we're doing," Calipari said.

It's not only the Wildcats who might need to adjust.

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Even programs like Michigan and UConn, which tend to keep players around longer, haven't shied away from the realities of college basketball in the 2000s: one-and-dones drastically improve your outlook, like it or not.

"We've never said we're not going to take a one-and-done guy," said Wolverines coach John Beilein, who leads a program that, in many ways, wrote the first chapter of the book on modern basketball when the Fab Five came through in the early 1990s. "But at the same time, we're going to be very open with a young man, that if you're coming, this is a destination. This is not a stopover."

Over the three decades the AP studied, Michigan averaged 2.375 wins in each of its 16 NCAA Tournament appearances, while sending 16 players early to the NBA.

Like Beilein — and unlike Calipari — Duke's Mike Krzyzewski is nowhere near as outspoken about embracing his school's role as a place where the most talented players are welcome to camp out for a year before heading to the NBA.

In 2015, the Blue Devils won the title with two freshmen who left to become lottery picks. (Jahlil Okafor and Justise Winslow). This year, the Blue Devils have three potential one-and-dones in Zion Williamson, Cam Reddish and R.J. Barrett.

They came up 1 point short of the Final Four — agonizing, for sure, but hardly an indictment of a formula that has worked for decades.

It's a formula more schools would like to get their hands on.

"We don't shy away from that," said Beard, who led Texas Tech to its first Final Four this year. "Our goal is to have a team at Texas Tech one day where every guy on the team is an NBA player. No doubt about it, to play on this stage, you have to have pros, and you've got to evaluate and recruit and develop them."

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/MarchMadness> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## **Police: Suspected killer of rapper Nipsey Hussle arrested**

**By ANDREW DALTON and AMANDA LEE MYERS Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police on Tuesday arrested a man they say fatally shot rapper Nipsey Hussle and evaded authorities for two days.

Eric Holder, 29, was captured in Bellflower, a Los Angeles-area city about 20 miles southeast of Hussle's clothing store, where the musician was shot Sunday.

Hussle and Holder knew each other, and the two had some kind of personal dispute in the hours before the rapper was killed, Police Chief Michel Moore said.

Police released Holder's name and photo Monday night and asked for public's help in finding him.

It was not immediately clear how authorities located him. He was detained first by sheriff's deputies until LA police arrived and confirmed that he was wanted in Hussle's slaying, authorities said.

The two men had several arguments on Sunday, and Holder returned to the store with a handgun and opened fire on Hussle and two other men, who survived the shooting, police said.

The chief did not reveal how the two men were acquainted or offer any details about their dispute, but he emphasized it was a personal matter between Hussle and Holder. Hussle acknowledged that he was involved with a gang when he was younger, and police said Holder is a gang member, but the chief said gang rivalries played no role in the shooting.

After shooting Hussle and two other men who survived, Holder fled in a waiting car driven by a woman, the police chief said.

Moore had urged Holder to surrender, addressing him directly at a news conference Tuesday morning.

The police chief and the president of the city's Police Commission had been scheduled to meet with Hussle on Monday to discuss the relationship between the police force and the inner city.

Both Moore and Police Commission President Steve Soboroff said they were devastated when they learned Hussle had been killed on the eve of their talk.

An emotional Soboroff read from the email Hussle sent asking for the meeting.

"Our goal is to work with the department to help improve communication, relationships and work towards changing the culture and dialogue between LAPD and your city," Hussle said in the email.

A tense scene unfolded Monday night at an impromptu memorial for Hussle in the parking lot where he was shot. A man brandishing a gun caused a panicked stampede. At least 19 people were injured in the chaos, including two people who were taken to hospitals in critical condition, police said.

At least one of the critically injured persons was struck by a car, and the other one had a "penetrating injury," although it was unclear whether that person was stabbed or cut by broken glass on the ground, a fire department spokeswoman said.

Two other injuries were serious and 15 were considered non-life threatening.

"It's been a tough few days for Los Angeles," Garcetti said. "Nipsey Hussle was an artist who touched our city and lives."

An autopsy completed Monday showed that Hussle was shot in the head and torso. The 33-year-old rapper, whose real name was Ermias Asghedom, had recently purchased the strip mall where the shop is located and planned to redevelop it into a mixed-use commercial and residential complex.

The plan was part of Hussle's broader ambitions to remake the neighborhood where he grew up and attempt to break the cycle of gang life that lured him in when he was younger.

The rapper sold demos for just a few dollars in those streets before becoming an underground phenomenon for a decade with his much-sought-after mixtapes. Last year he had a mainstream breakthrough with his album "Victory Lap," a major label debut that got him a Grammy nomination.

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Associated Press Writer John Antczak contributed to this report.

## Michael Brown's mother loses Ferguson City Council race

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Michael Brown's mother was defeated Tuesday in her bid for a seat on the City Council in Ferguson, Missouri, where her son died in a police shooting that helped give rise to the national Black Lives Matter movement.

Lesley McSpadden finished third in a three-way race in Ferguson's 3rd Ward. Unofficial St. Louis County election results show the winner was Fran Griffin. The race also featured Keith Kallstrom, who was the incumbent.

"I congratulate Fran on her victory. I feel proud of the positive race we ran, and I loved talking to the Ferguson community," McSpadden said late Tuesday night in an emailed statement. "Tomorrow, the work continues and I intend to be a part of it no matter my position. I'm not going anywhere."

Brown, a black 18-year-old, was fatally shot by white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9, 2014, touching off months of protests and violence. Wilson claimed he was forced to shoot when the unarmed Brown came at him menacingly after attacking the officer during a street confrontation. A St. Louis County grand jury's November 2014 decision not to indict Wilson sparked renewed unrest in the St. Louis suburb, where two-thirds of the 21,000 residents are black.

"I wanted to go back and do something right in a place that did something so very wrong to my son, and I think that's what my son would want as well," McSpadden, 39, said in an interview with The Associated Press prior to the election. She had pledged to make police accountability one of her top priorities.

McSpadden, who spelled her first name "Lezley" for an autobiography but said she otherwise goes by Lesley, was new at being a candidate but has been at the edge of politics since her son's death. She's been front and center in the national Black Lives Matter movement. She endorsed Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in early 2016, at a time when Clinton was fending off a primary challenge from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

She was among seven "Mothers of the Movement" who appeared on stage at the Democratic National Convention in 2016. Those mothers lost children in police shootings, in police custody or from gun violence. Also in 2016, McSpadden testified in favor of a Missouri Senate bill aimed at increasing use of police body



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cameras.

In the aftermath of Brown's death, Ferguson's criminal justice system drew heavy criticism for its treatment of poor and minority residents. Police were accused of singling out blacks for unnecessary traffic stops and harassing them on the street. The municipal court was accused of heaping on fines for minor offenses.

While the U.S. Department of Justice also found no grounds to prosecute Wilson, the agency's blistering report of the police and municipal court practices led to a consent agreement requiring reforms that are still being implemented.

McSpadden's campaign drew skepticism from some in Ferguson. LaTasha Brown, president of the South-east Ferguson Neighborhood Association, said she was concerned that McSpadden mostly campaigned from afar rather than getting in touch with the community.

"The 3rd Ward needs somebody who's going to mingle with the people," Brown said. "You can't make change from a distance. If you don't know what your constituents are going through, if you're not there to hear what they're saying, how can you lead these people and make decisions for these people?"

Griffin did not immediately return a phone call for comment Tuesday night. Both she and Kallstrom have long been active in Ferguson.

Griffin has served on several boards and commissions, including serving on the city's Parks and Recreation Board. Kallstrom was a councilman for 10 years, took seven years off, then won three-year terms in 2013 and 2016.

McSpadden said she moved to Ferguson a year ago from a neighboring community specifically to run for the council.

"I wanted to come back to a place that caused me so much pain and did me so wrong, and to do something right," McSpadden told the AP.

## Forget kibbles: US sales of fresh pet food are soaring

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Kibbles for Fido? Nope. These days he's getting diced chicken with sweet potatoes and spinach.

U.S. pet owners are increasingly feeding fresh food to their dogs and cats. Some order pre-proportioned meals of meat and vegetables or frozen raw meat online. Others find them in refrigerators at big retailers like Walmart.

Later this spring, Petco and its partner, California-based JustFoodForDogs, will open a kitchen at its flagship store in New York where it expects to make 2,000 pounds of fresh pet food every day.

Proponents say fresh foods preserve nutrients better than canned or dried ones, mimic ancestral diets and improve pets' health.

"Just as people have become skeptical of highly processed foods for themselves, they're looking critically at their pets' foods as well," said Amy Zalneraitis, part-owner and chief brand officer of We Feed Raw, a 10-year-old raw food meal plan service based in Maine. "They think: How could something with a shelf life of over year be better than real, fresh food?"

But some veterinarians question the trend. They say established pet food companies like 51-year-old Royal Canin are backed by decades of research, while the verdict is still out on fresh food.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says raw pet food has a high risk of bacterial contamination. The agency is also investigating a link between grain-free diets that contain peas, lentils and potatoes and elevated levels of heart disease in dogs.

"There are so many essential nutrients, from all different classes, that need to be considered," said Dr. Lindsey Bullen, a pet nutrition specialist with the Veterinary Specialist Hospital of the Carolinas. "If they are too high or too low, or in an inappropriate proportion, it can cause significant problems for that pet that the client might not see for months or years to come."

Bullen says about 20 percent of her clients feed their pets fresh food. When they do, she said, she ques-

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tions them about the recipes they're following to make sure they're providing essential nutrients. Canine and feline supplements can help round out fresh meals.

Pet food trends tail human ones. When gravy was popular in the 1950s, Gravy Train dog food appeared. In the 1980s, Fancy Feast cat food mirrored a growing interest in gourmet food.

This time, younger buyers are fueling the trend, choosing pet foods they consider safer and more natural, says consulting firm Mintel.

U.S. sales of fresh pet food in groceries and pet stores jumped 70 percent to more than \$546 million between 2015 and 2018, according to Nielsen, a data company. That doesn't include online sales or people making their own fresh pet food. It's still just a fraction of the \$25 billion U.S. pet food market.

Deb Colgan was initially hesitant when she caught her husband feeding raw meat to their two German shepherds seven years ago. But after researching the benefits, they started buying raw meat and bones from the grocery. She works with her vet and adds supplements like vitamin E, salmon oil, probiotics and a joint supplement.

One of her dogs stopped vomiting regularly and gained weight. The other stopped getting ear and urinary tract infections. Those dogs eventually died, but the Colgans have continued the diet with two new dogs.

"It's very much a relief they are so healthy, and we do believe it's because how they eat," said Colgan, of Oconomowoc, Wis. "I can't imagine us ever going back to commercial."

Feeding pets raw food is the most expensive option. According to Nielsen data, the average fresh pet food costs \$5.26 per pound, while the average frozen raw pet food is \$6.23 per pound.

Colgan spends \$300 a month on three 10-pound rolls of meat plus vegetables, fruit, fish and freeze-dried dog treats. By comparison, 30 pounds of Freshpet Vital brand turkey, peas carrots and rice, which is sold in refrigerated tubes, costs around \$85. A 31-pound bag of Purina One Smart Blend dry dog food costs \$33.79 on Amazon.com.

NomNomNow, which makes pre-proportioned fresh meals specific to each pet, says its service costs \$2.60 to \$3.80 per meal for a 35-pound dog and \$1.50 to \$2.80 per meal for a 12-pound cat. That's a lot more than a 55-cent can of Friskies, but it's in line with some prescription pet foods.

The San Francisco-based company, which was founded four years ago, says it's making hundreds of thousands of meals per month and delivering them to customers in 48 states.

"The general health consciousness of Americans is transferring to their pets, because we do consider pets as part of our family," said Lynn Hubbard, the general manager of NomNomNow's Nashville production facility.

Jesse, a pitbull lab mix from Austin, Texas, suffered from diarrhea, vomiting and itchy skin for most of her seven years. Vets tried steroids, which stopped the itching but made her gain weight. Her owner, Lannay Kibodeaux, tried cooking for her and feeding her raw food, but those didn't ease her problems either.

So Kibodeaux turned to NomNomNow, which developed a specialized diet for Jesse and sends her four recipes on a rotating basis. Her health has vastly improved, and she's off steroids, says Kibodeaux. And she likes the food better than the meals Kibodeaux was fixing for her.

"She literally will skip over to the bowl and keep licking the bowl after she's done," said Kibodeaux, a senior administrative assistant at the University of Texas. "It's just the answer to prayers for me."

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AP Video Journalists Carrie Antlfinger in Oconomowoc, Wis., Allen G. Breed in Cary, N.C. and Kristin Hall in Nashville contributed to this story.

## Trump team and China resume uphill effort to end trade rift

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Wednesday will resume negotiations with China toward ending a trade war that has deepened uncertainty for businesses and investors and dimmed the outlook for the global economy.

The two sides are to meet for the ninth time, with analysts expressing optimism that the world's two

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biggest economies might be near some kind of agreement. Negotiators met in Beijing last week in talks that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin described as "constructive." Now, Vice Premier Liu He, a close confidante of President Xi Jinping, is leading a Chinese team to Washington.

"We have been encouraged by the tone of the negotiations," Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, told reporters Tuesday.

Brilliant estimated that the two sides are 90% of the way to an agreement but cautioned that "the last 10% is the hardest part, the trickiest part."

At the heart of the dispute are the Trump administration's allegations that China steals technology and coerces U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets — all part of Beijing's zeal to overtake U.S. technological dominance. To pressure China, the United States has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods. The Chinese have counterpunched by taxing \$110 billion in U.S. imports.

Forecasters at the World Bank and International Monetary, among others, have downgraded their outlook for the global economy, partly because the U.S.-China rift is damaging trade and causing businesses to slow their investment until they know how the dispute will end.

Tensions have eased somewhat since President Donald Trump met Xi in Buenos Aires late last year and the administration ended up suspending its plans to raise tariffs on \$200 billion of the Chinese imports to buy time for negotiations

"We're making headway," Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, said Tuesday, describing the talks as "a larger, grander discussion than anything we've ever had in U.S.-China relations."

Analysts say two major sticking points, in particular, stand in the way of any agreement.

First, Trump wants to preserve at least the 25% tariffs he has imposed on \$50 billion in Chinese imports as a way to maintain leverage over Beijing. China wants those sanctions lifted.

Second, the two sides must develop a mechanism to ensure that China honors any commitments it makes in an agreement. The administration complains that China has repeatedly failed to keep promises it made in previous trade talks.

The Chinese are widely expected to agree to buy substantially more American products — likely including soybeans and natural gas — to help narrow the United States' trade deficit in goods and services with China, which hit a record \$379 billion last year. America's trade deficit with China has been a chronic complaint of Trump, although many economists say a bilateral trade gap is relatively insignificant.

Congressional Democrats and others have warned Trump against reaching any agreement that settles for more U.S. exports to China without also requiring Beijing to adopt serious economic reforms.

"Stand firm" Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Tuesday. "Skip the political photo op and make good on your promise to stand up for American businesses and workers when China takes advantage."

Christopher Adams, a former China specialist at the Treasury Department and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative who is a senior adviser at the Covington & Burling law firm, added: "There has to be something substantive on the structural issues. Otherwise, the criticism will be severe."

Whatever negotiators agree to, analysts say, they are unlikely to end the long-standing tensions between America's mostly open, capitalist economy and a Chinese economy in which the Communist Party and the central government command the dominant role.

Even with a deal, Adams said, "a lot of the underlying issues will still be with us unresolved because they're rooted in fundamental differences between the US and Chinese systems."

## 2nd Texas chemical fire in about 2 weeks kills worker

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A tank holding a flammable chemical caught fire at a Texas plant Tuesday, killing one worker, critically injuring two others and sending panicked employees fleeing over a fence to safety.

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez confirmed the fatality in a tweet and said the two injured had been taken by helicopter to a hospital. The two injured were in critical condition, said Rachel Moreno, spokes-

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woman for the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office.

Authorities shut down a roadway near Tuesday's fire at a KMCO chemical plant in Crosby, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northeast of Houston, Gonzalez said. Fire crews battled the blaze for about 5½ hours before they extinguished it, according to the fire marshal's office.

All residents within a one-mile radius of the plant were ordered to stay indoors or shelter in place for about four hours. It was not immediately known how many residents were affected by the shelter in place. Crosby has about 2,300 residents. The fire sent a large black plume of smoke into the air.

The fire erupted about two weeks after a March 17 blaze at a petrochemical storage facility in Deer Park, located about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Crosby. That fire at a facility owned by Intercontinental Terminals Company burned for days and triggered air quality warnings. Crosby also is where an Arkema chemical plant was inundated by water during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Some chemicals eventually caught fire and partially exploded.

"It is disturbing and it is problematic that we're seeing this incident in a facility, especially on the heels of" the fire in Deer Park, said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, the county's top administrator.

Samantha Galle lives less than a mile away from the plant and said she heard and felt an explosion Tuesday.

"It shook everybody's house around here," the 23-year-old said.

Gonzalez said a transfer line at the KMCO plant ignited in the area of a tank of isobutylene — a flammable colorless gas used in the production of high octane gasoline — which then caught on fire.

The fire spread to a nearby warehouse where dry chemicals are stored.

Moreno said the Environmental Protection Agency has been testing air samples from the area around the plant and has not found any harmful readings.

Worker Justin Trahan told Houston television station KPRC that he heard "some panic on the radio" but no alarms sounding before the plant caught fire.

"We didn't think anything of it — we didn't think it was anything severe," he said.

Trahan said employees began running after "the tank ignited."

He said that he and other colleagues had to jump over a fence to escape because all the gates were locked.

Pilar Davis, a product manager with KMCO, said none of the emergency evacuation points at the plant were blocked during the fire.

At a news conference late Tuesday afternoon, John C. Foley, chief executive of KMCO, said a cause of the blaze is still being determined.

"We will conduct a thorough investigation ... and take steps to ensure this doesn't happen again," Foley said.

Davis said the fire initially ignited with isobutylene but was fueled by ethanol and ethyl acrylate. All three are chemicals and solvents used to make fuel additives at the plant.

Davis declined to comment on the worker who was killed and the two who were injured, only saying they were part of KMCO's operations department.

KMCO, which was founded in 1975, is a chemical company that offers coolant and brake fluid products and chemicals for the oilfield industry.

The Crosby, Sheldon and Channelview school districts asked students and staff to shelter in place at all their campuses. But later Tuesday afternoon, all three districts lifted those orders to shelter in place.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality said that it has dispatched emergency response personnel to conduct an initial assessment of the fire.

Foley said his company's number one priority "is safety and compliance."

"We have a long track record of investing in the people, the systems and the assets to operate safely," he said.

Meanwhile, the Texas Attorney General's office filed a petition in state district court in Austin on behalf of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The petition seeks a permanent injunction, civil penalties and reasonable attorney fees, court costs, along with recovery of investigative costs.



KMCO has had environmental violations in the past, according to a review of records.

In 2016, KMCO's corporate agents pleaded guilty to a federal criminal charge of violating the Clean Air Act. A plea agreement document stated that a plant employee made false entries in logs of air testing of tanks that were known to be leaking chemicals. Another employee then used those falsified logs to submit reports to the federal and state environmental authorities. The document says the violation went on between 2008 and 2012.

A year earlier, the EPA cited KMCO for failing to comply with regulations on its risk-management plan for the plant, but settled with the plant for a \$2,700 penalty.

Texas has served the plant with three notices of violation of a federal clean-air law since last August, the EPA website shows. Harris County had obtained an injunction against KMCO in 2009 that required the firm to pay \$100,000 in civil penalties and give investigators easy access to the plant and prompt notification of releases.

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Houston, Jake Bleiberg and Terry Wallace in Dallas, Jill Zeman in Little Rock, Arkansas, Adam Kealoha Causey in Oklahoma City and Ellen Knickmeyer in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

## Maduro loyalists strip Venezuela's Juan Guaidó of immunity

By SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Maduro loyalists stripped Venezuela's Juan Guaidó of immunity Tuesday, paving the way for the opposition leader's prosecution and potential arrest for supposedly violating the constitution when he declared himself interim president.

But whether the government of President Nicolas Maduro will take action against the 35-year-old lawmaker following the Constituent Assembly's decision remains unclear. Guaidó has embarked on an international campaign to topple the president's socialist administration amid deepening social unrest in the country plagued by nearly a month of power outages.

He declared himself Venezuela's interim president in January, and vowed to overthrow Maduro. So far, however, Maduro has avoided jailing the man that the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump and roughly 50 other nations recognize as Venezuela's legitimate leader.

A defiant Guaidó spoke publicly moments after the vote, saying he's undeterred, while knowing he runs the risk of being "kidnapped" by the Maduro government.

"We are aware of that," Guaido said. "But we will not change our path."

He cited low wages driving millions abroad and the spate of blackouts that have crippled the nation's public transportation, water services and communications.

The Trump administration has threatened the Maduro government with a strong response if Guaido is harmed and Florida Senator Marco Rubio — who has Trump's ear on Venezuela policy — said before the vote that nations recognizing Guaidó as his country's legitimate leader should take any attempt by Maduro's government to "abduct" him as a coup.

"And anyone who cooperates with this should be treated as a coup plotter & dealt with accordingly," Rubio said on Twitter.

However, the vote against Guaidó was unanimous, and Constituent Assembly president and socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello accused the opposition of naively inviting a foreign invasion and of inciting a civil war.

"They don't care about the deaths," Cabello said. "They don't have the slightest idea ??what the consequences of war are for a country."

The Constituent Assembly, which is made up entirely of Maduro loyalists, met a day after Maduro ally and Venezuela Supreme Court of Justice Maikel Moreno ordered it to strip Guaidó's immunity for violating an

order banning him leaving the country while under investigation by the attorney general. The opposition leader is also accused of inciting violence through street protests, and of receiving illicit funds from abroad.

The Constitution guarantees immunity for elected officials, and says that in order to withdraw immunity the accused lawmaker must be given a preliminary hearing before the Supreme Court. The action must be approved by the National Assembly — steps that weren't taken in Guaidó's case.

The Constitutional Assembly was created two years ago, when Maduro became frustrated by the democratically elected and opposition-dominated National Assembly rejected the president's policies. Its creation essentially replaced the National Assembly, rendering it powerless.

Guaidó has dismissed the Maduro-stacked high court and Constituent Assembly as illegitimate, and continued his calls for Maduro to step down.

Guaidó has come under increasing pressure in recent weeks, and Tuesday night's vote was but the latest instance of that. Officials have jailed his chief of staff, Roberto Marrero, and accused him of involvement in a "terrorist" scheme to overthrow the government. Maduro's government also barred Guaidó from holding public office for 15 years for allegedly hiding or falsifying data in his sworn statement of assets.

The opposition leader, however, has drawn masses of Venezuelans into the streets and garnered broad international support, demanding Maduro give up rule of the crisis-wracked nation.

Defying the court order, Guaidó left the country in late February for a ten-day tour of South America, meeting with foreign leaders who support the Venezuelan opposition and who reject Maduro's election last year for a second six-year term.

Maduro blames Washington of attempting a coup to overthrow him and install Guaidó's puppet government aimed at seizing Venezuela's vast oil reserves.

Geoff Ramsey, a Venezuela researcher at the Washington Office on Latin America, said the Maduro government may be assessing its strength amid the global community.

"This seems like an attempt to test the waters, weighing how the international community would react to detaining Guaido," Ramsey said. "The government is reasserting its authority while also sending a clear signal to the opposition: we are in control."

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Associated Press writers Jorge Rueda and Fabiola Sanchez contributed to this story.

## Chinese woman carrying malware allegedly got into Mar-a-Lago

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A woman carrying two Chinese passports and a device containing computer malware lied to Secret Service agents and briefly gained admission to President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club over the weekend during his Florida visit, federal prosecutors allege in court documents.

Yujing Zhang, 32, approached a Secret Service agent at a checkpoint outside the Palm Beach club early Saturday afternoon and said she was a member who wanted to use the pool, court documents said. She showed the passports as identification.

Agents say she wasn't on the membership list, but a club manager thought Zhang was the daughter of a member. Agents say that when they asked Zhang if the member was her father, she did not answer definitively but they thought it might be a language barrier and admitted her.

Zhang's story changed when she got inside, agents say, telling a front desk receptionist she was there to attend the United Nations Chinese American Association event scheduled for that evening. No such event was scheduled and agents were summoned.

Agent Samuel Ivanovich wrote in court documents that Zhang told him that she was there for the Chinese American event and had come early to familiarize herself with the club and take photos, again contradicting what she had said at the checkpoint. She showed him an invitation in Chinese that he could not read.

He said Zhang was taken off the grounds and told she could not be there. Ivanovich said she became argumentative, so she was taken to the local Secret Service office for questioning.

There, he said, it became clear Zhang speaks and reads English well. He said Zhang said she had traveled

from Shanghai to attend the nonexistent Mar-a-Lago event on the invitation of an acquaintance named "Charles," whom she only knew through a Chinese social media app. Ivanovich said she then denied telling the checkpoint agents she was a member wanting to swim.

Ivanovich said Zhang carried four cellphones, a laptop computer, an external hard drive and a thumb drive containing computer malware. She did not have a swimsuit.

"While the Secret Service does not determine who is permitted to enter the club, our agents and officers conduct physical screenings to ensure no prohibited items are allowed onto the property," a U.S. Secret Service spokesperson said in a statement. "This access does not afford an individual proximity to the President or other Secret Service protectees. In such instances, additional screening and security measures are employed."

Zhang is charged with making false statements to federal agents and illegally entering a restricted area. She remains in custody pending a hearing next week. Her public defender, Robert Adler, declined comment.

There is no indication Zhang was ever near the president. There is also no indication that she is connected to Li Yang, a Chinese native, Republican donor and former Florida massage parlor owner.

Yang recently made news after it was learned she was promising Chinese business leaders that her consulting firm could get them access to Mar-a-Lago, where they could mingle with the president.

## Asian shares edge higher ahead of US-China trade talks

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Shares rose in Asia on Wednesday ahead of the resumption of trade talks between the U.S. and China in Washington.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index advanced 0.9 percent to 21,689.83 and South Korea's Kospi added 0.5 percent to 2,188.74. The Shanghai Composite index rose 0.2 percent to 3,189.43. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rebounded 0.8 percent to 29,870.54.

The S&P ASX 200 in Australia gained 0.6 percent to 6,278.70. Shares were higher in Taiwan and Singapore but were fell in the Philippines.

Trade negotiations between the U.S. and China are due to restart later Wednesday in Washington. Negotiators from the world's two biggest economies are aiming to put to rest a dispute over technology and other issues. They met in Beijing last week.

Both sides have said they were making progress toward a deal, but how close they are getting is unclear. "There has been so much chatter that U.S.-China trade is in the price and there is obvious merit to that as we have been talking about 'progress' for many months," Chris Weston of Pepperstone Group Limited said in a market commentary.

Traders also cheered a private survey released Wednesday showing that China's services sector expanded in March. China's Caixin Services PMI, a survey of service industry purchasing managers, had a reading of 54.4 in March. This is markedly better than February's reading of 51.1 and the sharpest improvement since January 2018.

The index is on a 100-point scale, with 50 separating contraction from growth. This added to optimism after China released encouraging manufacturing data over the weekend.

On Wall Street, a listless trading day resulted in an uneven finish for stock indexes. Gains by big technology companies were offset by losses in other sectors. The broad S&P 500 index was almost flat, finishing at 2,867.24 on Tuesday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 0.3 percent to 26,179.13 while the Nasdaq composite was 0.3 percent higher at 7,848.69. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks gave up 0.2 percent to 1,553.32.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude picked up 26 cents to \$62.84 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 99 cents to \$62.58 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 40 cents to at \$69.77 per barrel. It closed 36 cents higher at \$69.37 per barrel in London.

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CURRENCIES: The dollar strengthened to 111.47 yen from 111.32 yen late Tuesday. The euro jumped to \$1.1220 from \$1.1205.

## Today in History

By the Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, April 3, the 93rd day of 2019. There are 272 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 3, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered what turned out to be his final speech, telling a rally of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, that "I've been to the mountaintop" and "seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land!" (About 20 hours later, King was felled by an assassin's bullet at the Lorraine Motel.)

On this date:

In 1860, the legendary Pony Express began carrying mail between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. (The delivery system lasted only 18 months before giving way to the transcontinental telegraph.)

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Missouri, by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, New Jersey, for the kidnap-murder of Charles Lindbergh Jr.

In 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces began their final assault on Bataan against American and Filipino troops who surrendered six days later; the capitulation was followed by the notorious Bataan Death March.

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Smith v. Allwright*, struck down a Democratic Party of Texas rule that allowed only white voters to participate in Democratic primaries.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist communism.

In 1965, the United States launched the SNAP-10A nuclear power system into Earth orbit; it was the first nuclear reactor sent into space.

In 1968, North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.

In 1974, deadly tornadoes began hitting wide parts of the South and Midwest before jumping across the border into Canada; more than 300 fatalities resulted from what became known as the Super Outbreak.

In 1996, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) was arrested at his remote Montana cabin. An Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

In 2003, Atlantic magazine editor Michael Kelly, 46, became the first American journalist to be killed while covering the Iraq war.

In 2017, a divided Senate Judiciary Committee panel voted 11-9 along party lines to favorably recommend Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch to the full Senate. North Carolina scored the last eight points for a 71-65 win over Gonzaga and an NCAA title.

Ten years ago: An ethnic Chinese from Vietnam, Jiverly Wong, opened fire inside an immigrant community center in Binghamton, N.Y., killing 13 people, most of them immigrants, before taking his own life. The Iowa Supreme Court unanimously legalized gay marriage. The Labor Department reported unemployment reached 8.5 percent in March 2009, the highest in a quarter-century. Tom Braden, who helped launch CNN's "Crossfire" and whose memoir "Eight is Enough" inspired a TV show, died in Denver at age 92.

Five years ago: The Associated Press reported that the U.S. government had masterminded the creation of a "Cuban Twitter" designed to undermine the communist government in Havana. Serial killer Tommy Lynn Sells was put to death in Texas after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected his lawyers' demand that the state release information about where it had gotten its lethal injection drug. David Letterman announced



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during a taping of the "Late Show" on CBS that he was retiring as host in 2015 (Stephen Colbert was named as his replacement a week later).

One year ago: A woman opened fire with a handgun in a courtyard at YouTube headquarters in San Bruno, California, wounding three people before fatally shooting herself; family members said she was upset with the company's handling of her videos and believed she was being deprived of income and views. President Donald Trump said he wanted to use the military to secure the U.S.-Mexico border until his promised border wall was built.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Doris Day is 97. Conservationist Dame Jane Goodall is 85. Actor William Gaunt is 82. Songwriter Jeff Barry is 81. Actor Eric Braeden is 78. Actress Marsha Mason is 77. Singer Wayne Newton is 77. Singer Tony Orlando is 75. Comedy writer Pat Proft is 72. Folk-rock singer Richard Thompson is 70. Country musician Curtis Stone (Highway 101) is 69. Blues singer-guitarist John Mooney is 64. Rock musician Mick Mars (Motley Crue) is 63. Actor Alec Baldwin is 61. Actor David Hyde Pierce is 60. Rock singer John Thomas Griffith (Cowboy Mouth) is 59. Comedian-actor Eddie Murphy is 58. Rock singer-musician Mike Ness (Social Distortion) is 57. Rock singer Sebastian Bach is 51. Rock musician James MacDonough is 49. Olympic gold medal ski racer Picabo Street is 48. Actress Jennie Garth is 47. Actor Jamie Bamber is 46. Actor Adam Scott is 46. Christian rock musician Drew Shirley (Switchfoot) is 45. Comedian Aries Spears is 44. Actor Matthew Goode is 41. Actress Cobie Smulders is 37. Rock-pop singer Leona Lewis is 34. Actress Amanda Bynes is 33. Actress-comedian Rachel Bloom is 32. Actress Hayley Kiyoko is 28. Rock musician Sam Kiszka (Greta Van Fleet) is 20.

Thought for Today: "The world is not black and white. More like black and grey." — Graham Greene, English author (born 1904, died this date in 1991).