

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Click on Ad to sign up!**



## 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.**

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

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

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## WINTER STORM WATCH

Issue Date:4:50 AM Mon, Apr 8, 2019

Expiration:7:00 AM Fri, Apr 12, 2019

...WINTER STORM WATCH IN EFFECT FROM WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH FRIDAY MORNING...

\* WHAT...Blizzard conditions possible. Total snow accumulations of 8 to 18 inches or more possible. Winds could gust as high as 45 mph.

\* WHERE...Portions of northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota.

\* WHEN...From Wednesday afternoon through Friday morning.

\* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Travel could be very difficult to impossible. Blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility.

The hazardous conditions could impact the morning or evening commute.

A Winter Storm Watch for blizzard conditions means there is a potential for falling and/or blowing snow with strong winds and extremely poor visibilities. This can lead to whiteout conditions and make travel very dangerous.

# 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.uslbn.com/careers](http://www.uslbn.com/careers) or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

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## Community Events

### Monday, April 8, 2019

7:00pm: School Board Meeting, Groton Area High School

### Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Track meet in Groton is cancelled

### Wednesday, April 10, 2019

5:00pm: FCCLA Banquet, Library Conference Room

### Thursday, April 11, 2019

4:00pm: Junior High Track Meet at Sisseton

6:00pm: Indoor Track Meet at Northern State University, Aberdeen

### Friday, April 12, 2019

8:30am- 3:30pm: KG Roundup (Screening) at the Groton Area Elementary School

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.



 **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!!!**



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WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



## Potential Impacts:

- Moderate to heavy snow
- Strong/gusty winds
- Dangerous travel

## Estimated Timeline:

- Tue night/Wed across the High Plains
- Wed night-Fri across Upper Midwest/Great Lakes

## Major Winter Storm Expected for portions of the Northern Plains/Upper Midwest Wed-Fri

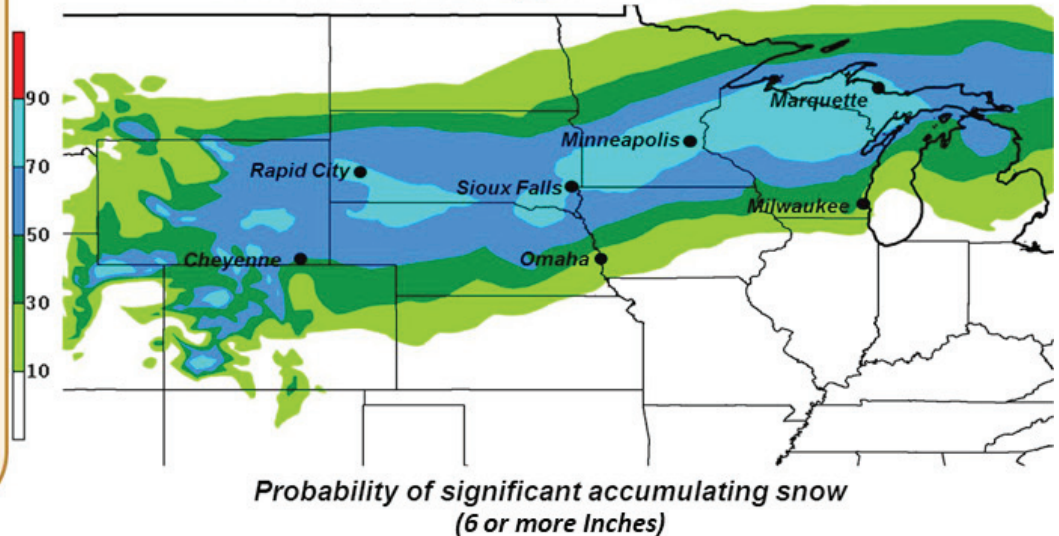


Image prepared at 1:00 PM EDT 4/7/19. Please refer to products issued by local NWS offices for details specific to your location.

Published on: 04/07/2019 at 1:52PM

We continue to monitor for a potentially high impact storm system with rain/snow and strong winds for the middle of the work week. Models continue to show this general trend, though we've seen some minor shifts in the storm track. Unfortunately that means that its difficult to nail down the transition of precipitation across the region, and who will see how much moisture. Stay tuned for future updates.

## Groton City Notice

**Sump Pumps must  
be discharged  
OUTSIDE!**

**Failure to comply will result in fines.**

## 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



## POPS Concert



**Tylan Glover sang a solo entitled, "Someone Like You."**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Madeline Schuelke performed a solo entitled, "Count On Me."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Desiree Yeigh (back) and AnneMarie Smith did a piano duet entitled, "The Greatest Showman Medley."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Left: Samantha Pappas performed a solo entitled, "What Makes You Beautiful."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Right: Trinity Smith sang a solo entitled, "Rainbow."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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The Jazz Band performed several selections. They were "Green Onions," "My Only Wish," "Love Potion Number 9," "Don't Know Why" and "Birdland." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Cody Swanson and Tylan Glover had a duet entitled, "Take What You Got." Also pictured are Austin Fordham, Roger Frank II, Brandon Barrett and Ron Parker. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



A good size crowd showed up for the afternoon performance of the POPS Concert. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Alexis Hanten sang a solo entitled, "Summertime."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**AnneMarie Smith sang, "Love Is Here to Stay."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Julianna Kosel sang, "Legends."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The finale was the Prismatic Sensations performing, "Illusion of Life," "Outcast," "What About Us/People Like Us," "Beautiful Things/Stand in the Light," and "Raise You Up/Just Be/Born This way."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Carter Barse and Kim Kohrs helped with the table duty after the afternoon performance of the POPS Concert.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Ashley Garduno played the piano and sang, "Hit the Lights."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Hailey Monson and Alyssa Fordham were the Masters of Ceremony.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



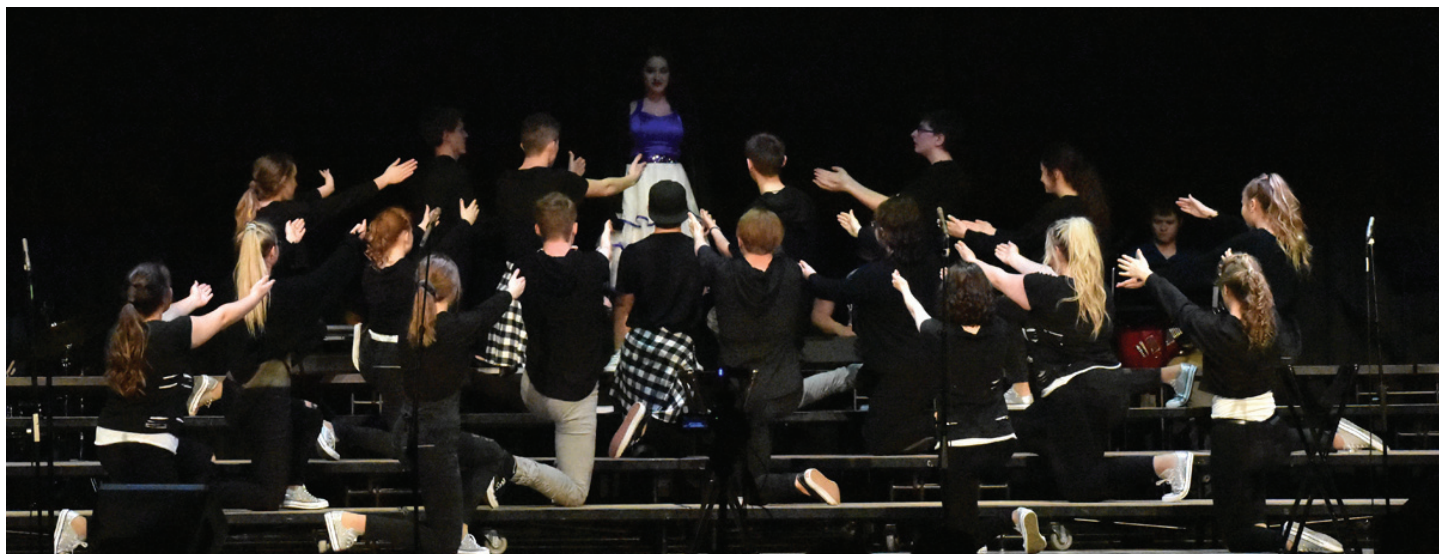
**Dragr Monson pours some pop for Dorene Nelson.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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## Bonus Photos





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**Pictured left to right are Dan Feist, Tannor McGannon, Corbin Reich, Lee Iverson, Isaac Higgins, Adrian Knutson, Travis Townsend, Alec Dutchuk, Noah Tullis, Steven Paulson, River Pardick, Thomas Cranford, Isaac Smith, Nick Morris, Jim Lane.** (Courtesy Photo)

## Two GT Robotics teams compete at U.S. Open Robotics Championship

G-Force and G.A.T. Wrenches were two of seven South Dakota high school VEX robotics teams to compete in the Create U.S. Open Robotics Championship in Council Bluff, Iowa last week. Both Groton teams were able to reach the elimination rounds (playoffs) of their divisions! There were 234 high school robotics teams competing at this tournament from 35 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and China. These teams were divided into four divisions. The two day U.S. Open is an Invitation only tournament, so the right to attend must be earned.

G.A.T. Wrenches (Noah Tullis, Thomas Cranford, Adrian Knutson, Corbin Reich) was doing well during the first day and one-half with six wins, three losses and one tie. They were in 17th place in their division when the qualifying rounds ended. This was the highest ranking of any South Dakota team in all four divisions. Noah Tullis works hard leading his team to develop a very competitive robot. Alliance selection of 24 alliances created the bracket for the elimination rounds. However, G.A.T. lost their first round match by two points. The elimination rounds are single loss elimination, so that put them out of the tournament.

G-Force (Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon, Dan Feist) had a tough start to their tournament, losing the first two matches when their robot stopped moving part way through the match. With the help of VEX technicians, they were able to determine that most likely the radio receiver was being blocked by the metal on their robot, even though they had not moved it from previous tournaments. But they moved the receiver for the third match and the stop did not reoccur. Thank you VEX technical support. They came back from the two losses to end the qualifying rounds in 35th place in their division with a record of four wins and six losses. After alliance selection, allied with a team from China who was ranked 33rd at the end of the qualifying matches, G-Force and their alliance partner won their first match handily and won the second round match by one point, both of these matches were upsets when they beat higher ranked alliances including the second ranked alliance. But they were not able to continue this upset string, they



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lost their match in the third elimination round, when mechanical problems caused their cap lifting fork not to deploy.

Seven other Groton robotists attended the tournament. The tournament gives them a chance to see many different robot designs and learn building technics. During the tournament, the non-competing robotists are required to do research to answer several questions about the other robots at the tournament and write a report with the information they found. Hopefully this will help them earn their way to the U.S. Open next year! Attending the U.S. Open gives GT Robotists a great opportunity to see a lot of great robot in action without the expense of traveling the VEX Robotics World Championship in Kentucky. The robotists would love go to Worlds but that is too many dollars and not a good use of the limited resources.



**Pictured left to right area Adrian Knutson, Nick Morris, Travis Townsend, Jim Lane, Corbin Reich, Steven Paulson, Isaac Smith, Lee Iverson, and alliance partner from China.** (Courtesy Photo)



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## Today in Weather History

April 8, 1995: Ten inches to two feet of snow fell in central South Dakota in a five-day period, beginning April 8th. Many roads became impassable. Several businesses, government offices, and schools closed on the 11th. Twenty-four inches fell at Ree Heights and Gettysburg, 20.0 inches at Faulkton, 18.0 inches at Kennebec, 16.0 inches at Pierre, and 10.0 inches at Doland.

1919 - A tornado swarm in northern Texas resulted in the deaths of 64 persons. (David Ludlum)

1926 - The lightning-set oil depot fire near San Luis Obispo CA boiled over and engulfed 900 acres. Many tornado vortices resulted from the intense heat of the fire. One such tornado traveled 1000 yards, picked up a house and carried it 150 feet, killing the two occupants inside. (The Weather Channel)

1938: Snow began to fall over central Oklahoma during the previous evening and continued to this day. In Oklahoma City, several snowfall records for the month soon fell to the storm, including the record for most total snowfall during April. The Oklahoma City snowfall totals of 0.8 inches on the 7th and 3.3 inches on the 8th remain daily records. In fact, the 3.3 inches of snow on the 8th is the most ever to fall on any single April day. The 4.1 inch total for the month is still the largest April monthly snowfall total.

1973 - A severe storm brought high winds and heavy snow to Iowa. Belle Plain received 20 inches of snow, and 19 inches blanketed Dubuque, record totals for both locations for so late in the season. Snow drifts up to sixteen feet high closed highways. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A cold front crossing the Northern Plateau and the Northern Rocky Mountain Region produced high winds in northeastern Wyoming. Winds gusting to 69 mph at Sheridan WY downed power lines and caused some property damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong northerly winds ushered cold air into the north central U.S. The strong winds, gusting to 60 mph at Rapid City SD and Williston ND, reduced visibilities in blowing dust over the Dakotas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






1989 - Two dozen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. Phoenix AZ equalled their record for April of 104 degrees established just the previous day. (The National Weather Summary)

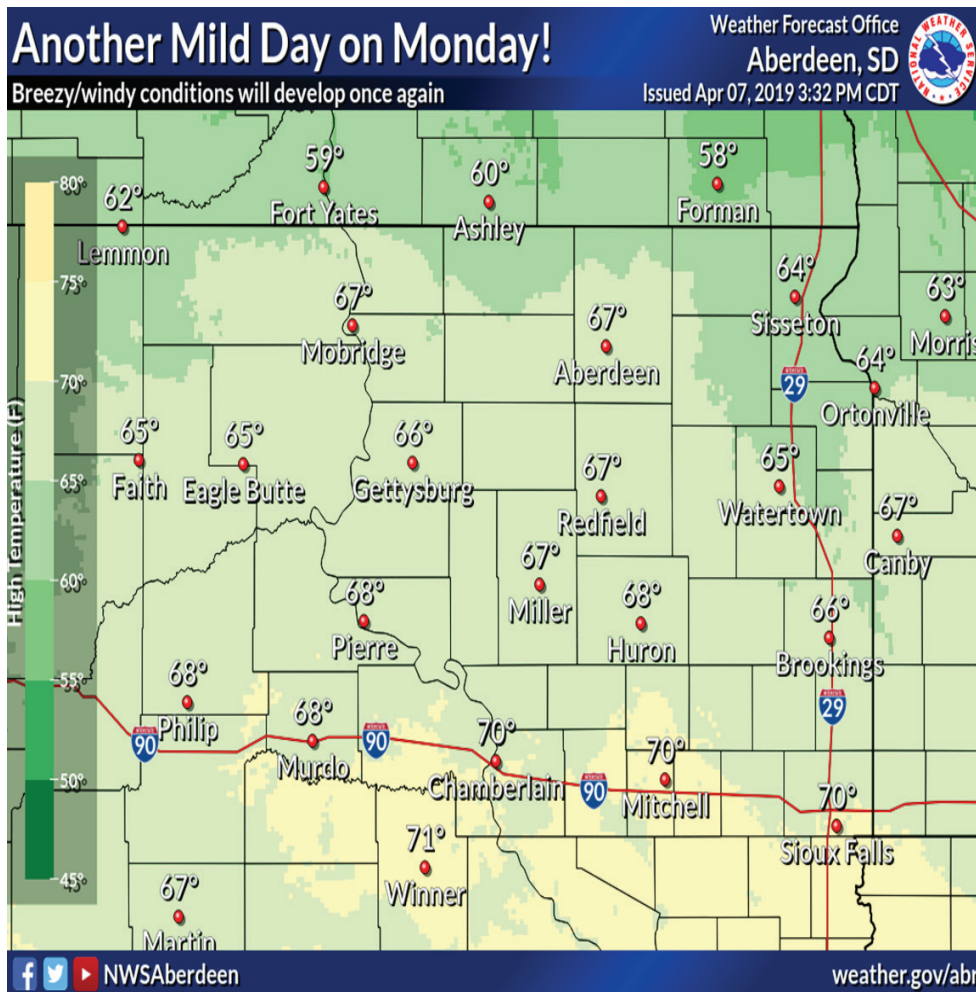
1990 - Twenty-two cities reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and 30s across much of the eastern U.S. Freezing temperatures severely damaged peach and apple orchards in West Virginia, where prolonged mild weather since January had caused an early blooming of spring vegetation. State and Federal agencies estimated a 50 percent loss in production for peaches and "Delicious Red Apples". (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: A major F5 tornado struck western Jefferson County in Alabama leveling the communities of Oak Grove, Rock Creek, Edgewater, McDonald's Chapel, Sylvan Springs and Pratt City. The tornado lifted just two miles from downtown Birmingham. The twister had a track of 20 miles with the damage path averaging between 1/2 and 3/4 of a mile in width. 34 people were killed, 221 injured and 1,000 homes destroyed.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
Mostly Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Rain	Rain/Snow Likely	Rain/Snow Likely and Patchy Blowing Snow
High: 67 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 35 °F



Published on: 04/07/2019 at 4:43PM

Look for another day of temperatures in the 60s to near 70 degrees on Monday. Winds will become gusty from the northwest by late morning and persist through the afternoon.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 66 °F at 5:16 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 44 °F at 5:57 AM**

**High Gust: 26 mph at 7:42 AM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 85° in 1945**

**Record Low: 6° in 1997**

**Average High: 53°F**

**Average Low: 29°F**

**Average Precip in April.: 0.32**

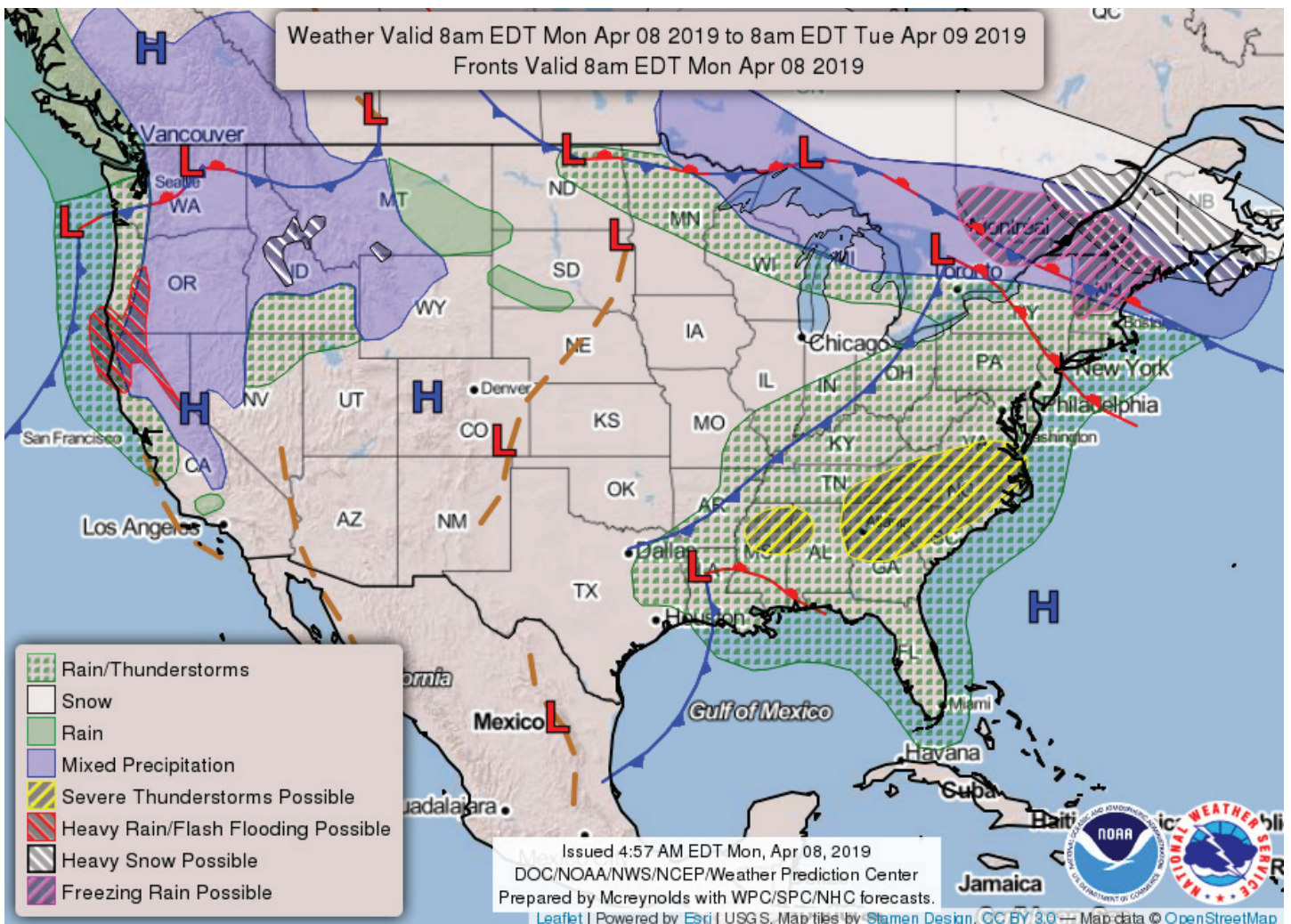
**Precip to date in April.: 0.87**

**Average Precip to date: 2.50**

**Precip Year to Date: 3.06**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:11 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:00 a.m.**





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## HEART HEALTH

If it works, dont fix it!

Most of the time our heart works well, and we rarely pause to think about it. Each day our hearts beat about 100,000 times. It sends 2,000 gallons of blood surging through the veins of our bodies, nourishing our organs and tissues. Although it is no bigger than our fist, it keeps blood flowing through 60,000 miles of vessels that wind through our muscles and flesh, and is held together by our porous skin. It is the controlling force of our lives. When it fails, life ends.

The heart, in the Bible, is recognized as the center of our emotions, rational and irrational thoughts, our wills and desires. In the Bible, the heart is the seat of the entire personality.

And, the heart, as described in the Bible, can be our most fundamental problem. What we store, keep or hide in our heart, is what we become and who we really are.

So, as long as we keep our mouths shut we can deceive others. But, unfortunately, that does not seem to be possible. In the blink of an eye or a moment in time, we let our guard down and our true self becomes exposed to the world. We are found out.

Solomon wrote that The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value. Jesus said, How can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

We hear amazing stories about surgeons who are skilled at heart transplants. But a heart transplant does not correct the problem of evil. Only Christ can correct that problem. So, He does not transplant hearts. He transforms hearts. When that happens, lives change.

Prayer: Lord, come into and rule our hearts so others will know that Your Son, our Savior, rules our lives. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value.

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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)

## News from the Associated Press

### Lowest number of lions killed in 10 years

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials say the mountain lion hunting season has ended with lowest number of animals taken in 10 years.

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks says 21 mountain lions were killed this season, which starts Dec. 26 and ends March 31. The agency had set the hunting limit at 60 male or 40 females.

The Rapid City Journal says this year's harvest number follows back-to-back seasons where fewer than 35 lions were taken and continues a downward trend since the 2012-2013 season when 56 lions were killed.

The largest lion shot this season was a 5-year-old male weighing 161 pounds in Lawrence County. The smallest was a 9-month-old cat weighing 74 pounds.

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

### Uganda police say kidnapped US woman and driver are freed

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA** Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Ugandan police said on Sunday they had rescued an American woman and her driver who had been kidnapped by gunmen in a national park.

The two "are in good health" and "in the safe hands" of security officials, police said in a Twitter update.

Although authorities provided no details about how the rescue operation was carried out, a government spokesman said on Twitter that the kidnappers had taken their victims to Congo, where the two were rescued by the security forces.

The kidnappers "have escaped and operations continue," Ofwono Opondo said.

Ugandan security teams had been hunting down gunmen who had demanded a \$500,000 ransom after kidnapping the American, Kim Endicott, and her Ugandan guide in a national park popular with tourists.

They were ambushed on April 2 in Queen Elizabeth National Park, a protected area near the porous border with Congo, according to Ugandan authorities.

President Donald Trump tweeted that the pair had been released and added, "God bless them and their families!"

It remains unclear if a ransom was paid in the case of Endicott, who is from Costa Mesa, California, where she has a small skin care shop.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had said at a Tuesday event for families of U.S. citizens held captive overseas that he understands some people want to do anything to get their loved ones back but paying ransom would just lead to more kidnappings.

In a Friday statement, the State Department said that the safety and security of U.S. citizens abroad is its highest priority.

"Whenever a U.S. citizen is taken captive abroad, we work tirelessly - in partnership with local authorities - to secure their release and get them home safely," the statement said.

Earlier Friday, an Arizona man who is related to Endicott said he wanted to see the U.S. send in Navy SEALs to locate and rescue her if that's what it took.

Phoenix resident Rich Endicott, a 62-year-old banker, said he hasn't spoken with his cousin since a family reunion several years ago.

He said Kim Endicott is in her late 50s and has a daughter and granddaughter.

A friend of Endicott's said that she is relieved by the news of Endicott's release.

"My stomach has been in knots," said Megan Barth, a friend, told the Orange County Register on Sunday. "I've been praying for her safety and her release daily.

"I am just so relieved for her and her family," said Barth, a political commentator and radio personality



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who was Endicott's skin care client for 10 years and became a friend. "I hope her captors did not physically harm her. I'm so thankful but still so worried about her, but she is such a strong woman and a beautiful soul she will come through this trauma."

## 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 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.

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"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."

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## 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.



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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.

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

## Emergency responders rescue boys from South Dakota mine

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — Emergency responders rescued two 12-year-old boys who entered a surface mine in western South Dakota.

The Lead Volunteer Fire Department says the boys walked into a steep area of the Open Cut mine near Lead on Saturday night and were unable to get out. The Open Cut is approximately 1,200 feet (365.76 meters) deep and half a mile (0.8 kilometers) wide. It's surrounded by a tall fence marked with "no trespassing" signs.

More than 50 emergency officials responded to the scene. Rescuers were hindered by wet weather, the rough terrain and darkness, but they were able to reach the boys about 3:30 a.m. Sunday and reunite them with their parents about half an hour later.

The boys were unharmed. One firefighter suffered an undisclosed minor injury.

## Aberdeen man gets 25 years in prison for sex crimes

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — An Aberdeen man has been sentenced to a combined 25 years in prison in cases last year involving solicitation of a minor and statutory rape of a teenager.

Forty-two-year-old Greg Hubert was charged in September with two counts of solicitation of a child younger than 16 stemming from incidents in March and April of 2018. He also was charged with sexual contact and statutory rape in connection with incidents in September and November.

The American News reports that authorities say the incidents involved different minors. One was a teenager Hubert met at an Aberdeen bowling alley.

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

## Authorities narrowing the search area in missing girl case

ROCKERVILLE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are narrowing the search area as they continue looking for a missing 9-year-old girl who ran away from a residential treatment facility near Rockerville two months ago.

Searchers on foot cleared four areas Saturday. They plan to bring in more K-9 units next weekend, weather permitting.

Serenity Dennard disappeared in frigid weather Feb. 3 when she ran away from Black Hill's Children's Home. Authorities say she was not dressed for the weather and that it's unlikely she survived if she was outside.

## Sioux Falls spending during Trump visit didn't violate law

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota attorney general's office says the city of Sioux Falls did not violate the law by providing police resources during a visit by President Donald Trump last fall.

Trump attended a private speaking event in September as a part of fundraising event for then-gubernatorial candidate Kristi Noem.

That prompted various Democrats, a city councilwoman and other residents to complain about the use of public dollars to protect the president for a visit for a private campaign event. One resident filed a formal complaint with the secretary of state alleging the city violated campaign finance laws.

The Argus Leader reports the attorney general's office concluded the city did nothing wrong. Deputy Attorney General Robert Mayer says the public money was expended to protect the president, not influence an election.

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



## Trump's choice to replace Nielsen focuses on southern border

By COLLEEN LONG and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen has resigned amid President Donald Trump's growing frustration and bitterness over the number of Central American families crossing the southern border.

Trump announced on Sunday in a tweet that U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan would be taking over as acting head of the department. McAleenan is a longtime border official who is well respected by many members of Congress and within the administration. The decision to name a top immigration officer to the post reflects Trump's priority for the sprawling department founded to combat terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I have determined that it is the right time for me to step aside," Nielsen wrote in her resignation letter. "I hope that the next secretary will have the support of Congress and the courts in fixing the laws which have impeded our ability to fully secure America's borders and which have contributed to discord in our nation's discourse."

Though Trump aides were eyeing a staff shake-up at the Department of Homeland Security and had already withdrawn the nomination for another key immigration post, the development Sunday was unexpected.

Still, it was unclear how McAleenan would immediately assume the role. The agency's undersecretary of management, Claire Grady, is technically next in line for the job.

Nielsen traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border on Friday with Trump to participate in a roundtable with border officers and local law enforcement. There she echoed Trump's comments on the situation at the border, though she ducked out of the room without explanation for some time while Trump spoke. As they toured a section of newly rebuilt barriers, Nielsen was at Trump's side, introducing him to local officials. She returned to Washington afterward on a Coast Guard Gulfstream, as Trump continued on a fundraising trip to California and Nevada.

Nielsen had grown increasingly frustrated by what she saw as a lack of support from other departments and increased meddling by Trump aides on difficult immigration issues, according to three people familiar with details of her resignation. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

She went into the White House on Sunday to meet with Trump not knowing whether she'd be fired or would resign. She ended up resigning, though she was not forced to do so, they said.

Nielsen, who says she is staying on until Wednesday, is the latest person felled in the Trump administration's unprecedented churn of top staff and Cabinet officials, brought about by the president's mercurial management style, insistence on blind loyalty and rash policy announcements.

Nielsen was also the highest profile female Cabinet member, and her exit leaves DHS along with the Pentagon and the White House staff itself without permanent heads. Patrick Shanahan has held the post of acting defense secretary since the former secretary, Jim Mattis, was pushed out in December over criticism of the president's Syria withdrawal plans. Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney has held his post since January, following John Kelly's resignation last year.

Nielsen's resignation letter lacked any sense of controversy — unlike those of others who have left. She thanked Trump and DHS staff for their hard work.

Her replacement, McAleenan, has helped shape many of the administration's policies to date and is considered highly competent by congressional leaders, the White House and Homeland Security officials. But it's unclear if he can have much more of an effect on the issues at the border. The Trump administration has bumped up against legal restrictions and court rulings that have hamstrung many of its major efforts to remake border security.

Rep. Joaquin Castro, chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, was critical of Nielsen, saying she spent her tenure "championing President Trump's cruel anti-immigrant agenda," and he called McAleenan's appointment "deeply disturbing."

"He cannot be trusted as Acting DHS Secretary based on his record of prioritizing Trump's harmful poli-

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cies that undermine national security and the economy, and hurt vulnerable families and children at the border," Castro, a Texas Democrat, said in a statement.

Tensions between the White House and Nielsen have persisted almost from the moment she became secretary, after her predecessor, Kelly, became the White House chief of staff in 2017. Nielsen was viewed as resistant to some of the harshest immigration measures supported by the president and his aides, particularly senior adviser Stephen Miller, both on matters around the border and others like protected status for some refugees.

Once Kelly left the White House, Nielsen's days appeared to be numbered. She had expected to be pushed out last November, but her exit never materialized. During the government shutdown over Trump's insistence for funding for a border wall, Nielsen's standing inside the White House even appeared to rise.

But in recent weeks, as a new wave of migration has taxed resources along the border and as Trump sought to regain control of the issue for his 2020 re-election campaign, tensions flared anew.

The final straw came when Trump gave Nielsen no heads-up or opportunity to discuss his decision to pull the nomination of acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Ron Vitiello — a move seen as part of a larger effort by Miller, an immigration hardliner, and his allies at the White House to clean house at the department and bring in more people who share their views, the people said.

Nielsen had wanted to discuss the move with Trump during their visit to the border Friday, but when there was no time, she asked for the meeting Sunday. She walked into it prepared to resign, depending on what she heard. The people described mounting frustrations on both sides, with Trump exasperated at the situation at the border and Nielsen frustrated by White House actions she felt were counterproductive.

Arrests along the southern border have skyrocketed recently. Border agents are on track to make 100,000 arrests and denials of entry at the southern border in March, more than half of which are families with children. A press conference to announce the most recent border numbers — scheduled to be held by McAleenan on Monday — was postponed.

Nielsen dutifully pushed Trump's immigration policies, including funding for his border wall, and defended the administration's practice of separating children from parents. She told a Senate committee that removing children from parents facing criminal charges happens "in the United States every day." But she was also instrumental in ending the policy.

Under Nielsen, migrants seeking asylum are waiting in Mexico as their cases progress. She also moved to abandon longstanding regulations that dictate how long children are allowed to be held in immigration detention and requested bed space from the U.S. military for some 12,000 people in an effort to detain all families who cross the border. Right now there is space for about 3,000 families, and facilities are at capacity.

Nielsen also advocated for strong cybersecurity defense and often said she believed the next major terror attack would occur online — not by planes or bombs. She was tasked with helping states secure elections following Russian interference during the 2018 election.

She led the federal agency since December 2017 and was this administration's third Homeland Security secretary. A protege of Kelly's, he brought her to the White House after Trump named him chief of staff. She earned a reputation as an enforcer working to corral the chaotic West Wing.

Nielsen, 45, previously served as a special assistant to President George W. Bush and worked for the Transportation Security Administration.

She rose through the Trump ranks quickly — joining the transition team after the election to help guide Kelly through the confirmation process. She quickly became a trusted aide to Kelly, and the two worked together to impose order on a dysfunctional White House that lacked clear lines of command.

House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said her tenure was "a disaster from the start." The policies she helped create "have been an abysmal failure and have helped create the humanitarian crisis at the border."

His Senate counterpart, Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said the government needed "steady, informed and effective leadership in the administration and in Congress to have any hope of fixing our out-of-control



border security and immigration problems.”

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

This story corrects the month in which border agents are on track to make 100,000 arrests and denials of entry to March, not this month.

## Keith Urban, Kacey Musgraves, Dan + Shay win at ACM Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

Grammy-winning duo Dan + Shay solidified themselves as the hottest group in country music with multiple wins at the Academy of Country Music Awards, where Keith Urban was named entertainer of the year and Kacey Musgraves won three honors.

Urban won the top prize Sunday with his ninth nomination for the award, besting Chris Stapleton, Luke Bryan, Kenny Chesney and Jason Aldean, who held the title the last three years.

“Baby girl, I love you so much,” Urban said, looking to his actress-wife, Nicole Kidman. “To the fans out there, you are amazing. You have no idea what you mean to me.”

Urban also won entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards in November — his first time winning the prize since 2005.

No women were nominated for the top ACM honor. Musgraves was the sole women up for album of the year.

She won twice when “Golden Hour” picked up top album — as an artist and co-producer of the project. She was also named female artist of the year.

Musgraves said the award “goes out to anyone woman, girl, or anybody really” who has been told “her perspective or style is too different.”

“Just stay at it. It’ll work out,” said Musgraves, who won four Grammys earlier this year, including album of the year and best country album.

Other categories didn’t feature many female nominees: Bebe Rexha was the only woman competing for song of the year with “Meant to Be,” while Maddie & Tae was the sole female act up for duo of the year.

But both honors, along with single of the year, went to Dan + Shay.

“I think somebody got the cards mixed up tonight,” Dan Smyers said onstage at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. “This is all incredible. We are all winners tonight.”

Smyers technically won five honors — picking up double wins in song of the year as artist and co-writer (shared with Jordan Reynolds and Nicolle Galyon) and single of the year as artist and co-producer (shared with Scott Hendricks). Shay Mooney, who won three awards for his role in the duo, didn’t write or produce the song.

Even Thomas Rhett jokingly dedicated his male artist of the year trophy to Dan + Shay.

“I am going to give this to Dan + Shay so they can go home with four,” Rhett said.

Rhett also gave a shout-out to his wife who sat in the audience: “You are smoking hot tonight.”

Rhett performed Sunday, while Dan + Shay hit the stage to sing “Keeping Score” alongside Kelly Clarkson, hitting impressive high notes. Chris Stapleton’s performance was also a highlight. The singer-songwriter, who often performs with his wife, Morgane Stapleton, sang onstage as she held her hand over her stomach (she is pregnant).

Emmy-nominated “This Is Us” actress Chrissy Metz made her live singing debut and gave an emotional performance onstage, teary-eyed at the song’s end. Metz sang “I’m Standing with You” from the upcoming film “Breakthrough,” which she stars in. She was joined onstage by Carrie Underwood, Lauren Alaina, Mickey Guyton and Maddie & Tae — the performers all wore blue dresses and sang in unison.

Ashley McBryde, who won new female artist of the year, also was memorable: Nearly in tears, she strummed her guitar and beautifully sang “Girl Goin’ Nowhere.” The 35-year-old was nominated for best

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country album at the Grammys and recently earned a Daytime Emmy nomination for her performance on "CBS This Morning Saturday." McBryde shined again onstage when she joined Eric Church to sing "The Snake."

Jason Aldean kicked off the awards show with a fun performance featuring the hit-making duo Florida Georgia Line. Aldean earned the Dick Clark Artist of the Decade Award.

"More than anything — thank you to the country music fans (and) country radio, you guys have changed my life forever," he said. "This is one of the proudest nights of my life."

Reba McEntire, who hosted the show for the 16th time, told several jokes. When she mentioned the collaborative performances of the night — Khalid and Kane Brown and Brandi Carlile and Dierks Bentley, among others — she said she would perform with rap star Cardi B.

She said they could sing her song "No U in Oklahoma," then said: "And that's okurr with me," earning laughs from the audience.

Online:

<https://www.acmcountry.com>

## **UK government, opposition cling to hope of Brexit compromise**

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

LONDON (AP) — Britain's government and opposition were clinging to hope Monday of finding a compromise Brexit deal, 48 hours before Prime Minister Theresa May must try to persuade European Union leaders to grant a delay to the U.K.'s departure from the bloc.

If the bloc refuses, Britain faces a sudden and chaotic departure on Friday, the Brexit deadline previously set by the EU.

May sought talks with the opposition Labour Party after Parliament three times voted down her divorce deal with the EU. Three days of negotiations last week failed to yield a breakthrough, with Labour saying the Conservative government had failed to offer concrete changes to its Brexit plan.

But May's Downing Street office said the talks had shown "willingness to compromise on both sides."

"We hope that there will be further formal discussion" with Labour later Monday, said May's spokeswoman, Alison Donnelly.

May has asked the EU to delay Brexit until June 30, to give Britain's divided politicians time to agree, approve and implement a withdrawal agreement. The bloc's leaders are due to meet in Brussels Wednesday to consider the request.

An extension requires unanimous approval from the 27 remaining national leaders, some of whom are fed up with Brexit uncertainty and reluctant to prolong it further.

Downing Street said May would hold face-to-face talks with the French and German leaders before the EU summit, to lay out her reasons for seeking a Brexit delay.

She plans to fly to Berlin Tuesday to meet Chancellor Angela Merkel, then on to Paris for talks with President Emmanuel Macron.

Macron has been particularly resistant to the idea of further delay to Brexit, saying the EU can't be held "hostage" to Britain's political crisis.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said May "is totally and utterly determined to deliver Brexit."

Hunt said of the other 27 EU leaders that "they want Brexit to be resolved as quickly as possible. So do we."

But it's unclear whether talks between the government and the left-of-center Labour Party will break the impasse that has left Britain uncertain how — or even whether — it will leave the EU.

Labour favors a softer Brexit than the government has proposed, including a close economic relationship with the bloc through a customs union.

Culture Secretary Jeremy Wright said Monday that both parties "must make sure we're all prepared to



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compromise.”

“There’s some urgency to it, but I do think it’s important for everyone to take their responsibilities seriously, whatever party they come from, and try and get to a point where we leave the EU, as people have said they wish to do, and to do it on the best possible terms,” he told the BBC. “I think that’s achievable.”

After U.K. lawmakers three times rejected May’s agreement with the bloc that was struck late last year, the EU gave Britain until April 12 to approve a withdrawal plan, change course and seek a further delay to Brexit, or crash out of the EU with no deal to cushion the shock.

Economists and business leaders warn that a no-deal Brexit would lead to huge disruptions in trade and travel, with tariffs and customs checks causing gridlock at British ports and possible shortages of goods.

Worries about a no-deal Brexit are especially acute in Ireland, the only EU member state to share a land border with the U.K. Any customs checks or other obstacles along the currently invisible frontier would hammer the Irish economy, and could undermine Northern Ireland’s peace process.

EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier was due in Dublin on Monday for talks with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar.

Any compromise between May’s government and Labour is sure to inflame divisions within each party over Brexit. Labour is formally committed to enacting the voters’ decision to leave the EU, but many of its lawmakers want a new referendum that could keep Britain in the bloc. They will be angry if the party actively helps bring about the U.K.’s departure.

May’s rapprochement with Labour infuriated pro-Brexit lawmakers in her Conservative Party, who say Britain must cut ties to the EU in order to forge an independent economic policy.

Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, a leading Brexiteer, said a customs union would “enslave” the U.K.

Johnson tweeted: “We should not agree to be non-voting members of the EU, under the surrender proposed by (Labour leader) Jeremy Corbyn — it cannot, must not and will not happen.”

Raf Casert in Brussels contributed to this story.

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

## **Bernie Sanders finds himself in a new role as front-runner**

**By JUANA SUMMERS and JULIE PACE Associated Press**

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) — Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is quieting critics who questioned whether he could recapture the energy of his upstart 2016 campaign, surpassing his rivals in early fundraising and establishing himself as an indisputable front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Less than two months into his second White House bid, no other declared candidate in the crowded Democratic field currently has amassed so many advantages: a \$28 million war chest, a loyal and enthusiastic voter base and a set of clearly defined policy objectives.

That puts Sanders on markedly different footing than during his first White House run, creating new challenges for a candidate whose supporters relish his role as an underdog and an outsider. He now carries the weight of high expectations and will face heightened scrutiny over everything from the cost and feasibility of his government-funded policy proposals to his tax returns, which he has not yet released. He initially blamed “mechanical issues” for the delay, and his campaign now says he wants to wait until after the April 15 tax filing deadline to fulfill his promise to release a decade worth of returns.

Sanders has largely embraced his new front-runner status. More than any other candidate, he draws explicit comparisons with President Donald Trump in his campaign remarks, previewing his approach to a general election faceoff with the incumbent Republican. Behind the scenes, Sanders is also building out a larger, more diverse campaign operation, responding to criticism that his 2016 organization skewed too heavily white and male. Campaign officials say the 2020 campaign staff — roughly 100 people and growing — is majority female and 40 percent people of color.

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Still, Sanders' message and style hasn't changed from 2016, when he stunned many Democrats by mounting a formidable challenge to Hillary Clinton and besting her in more than 20 primary contests.

After briefly acquiescing to his advisers' suggestions that he reveal more about his upbringing and personal history, Sanders has returned to his comfort zone: delivering lengthy campaign speeches chockablock with the same policy prescriptions he campaigned on during the 2016 campaign. In Davenport, Iowa, on Friday night, Sanders spent 63 minutes outlining his views on health care, criminal justice reform and economic inequality.

"With your help, we are going to complete what we started here," Sanders told the 1,200-person crowd, referring to his virtual tie with Clinton in the 2016 Iowa caucuses.

Sanders' approach underscores his belief that his success in 2016 was not a fluke or simply a function of being the next best alternative to Clinton. His advisers argue the populist economic message Sanders has espoused for years, often in obscurity, has now been embraced not only by a slew of his Democratic rivals, but also Trump.

"Donald Trump campaigned on economic terms as faux Bernie Sanders. It was taking his language and selling it to the American people," said Faiz Shakir, Sanders' campaign manager. "And now how do you defeat faux Bernie Sanders? You defeat him with real Bernie Sanders."

Sanders owes some of his fast start to the fact that he never really stopped running for president after the 2016 campaign. Our Revolution, the political group Sanders launched after the campaign, has collected information on voters and held events in early voting states since the last election. Sanders was also active in the 2018 midterms, throwing his support behind progressive Democratic candidates across the country, though many were defeated.

"He spent 2018 lifting up progressives all over the country," said Rebecca Katz, a progressive Democratic consultant. "Even though many of them did not win, it was appreciated, it was movement building and it was a different calculation than most politicians make."

Despite his strong launch, Sanders' current standing atop the Democratic field is not entirely enviable. Presidential primaries are long and turbulent, and past elections underscore how many early front-runners have been tossed aside before the first votes are cast. Former Vice President Joe Biden has signaled his expected presidential campaign would serve as a centrist check on Sanders' brand of progressive politics.

And though Sanders' \$18 million first-quarter fundraising haul far outpaced the rest of the Democratic field, some rival campaigns breathed a sigh of relief, having anticipated the Vermont senator would clear \$20 million or more.

"He did very well. He could have done better," said Mo Elleithee, who advised Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign and now runs the Georgetown University Institute of Politics and Public Service.

Sanders also still has to prove that he can overcome some of the same vulnerabilities that contributed to his defeat in 2016.

Chief among them will be bolstering his standing with black voters, one of the most important constituencies in Democratic politics. Black voters overwhelmingly sided with Clinton in 2016, halting Sanders' momentum when the contest moved into more diverse states. He lost the South Carolina primary by a staggering 48 points.

Some of Sanders' top advisers dismiss the notion that he'll face similar problems in 2020, noting that he has spent time building relationships with black leaders in South Carolina and other Southern states. He's also sharpened his campaign message on criminal justice issues and racial inequality.

"I understand that a lot of people took a lot of things out of the South Carolina results," Shakir said. "We are going to continue to court and address these issues directly, but we are operating with a great deal of confidence that this is going to be a particular demographic that supports Bernie Sanders at the end of the day."

Perhaps Sanders' biggest challenge is overcoming skepticism among voters who may be partial to his focus on economic inequality but fear that nominating a 77-year-old self-described democratic socialist would put Democrats in a weak position against Trump in the general election.



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"That's a thing that scares me about him," said Gwen Hobson, a 70-year-old Democratic voter, who attended Sanders' rally on Friday in Davenport.

Yet some of Sanders' longtime supporters say their enthusiasm for him is unshakable. In Davenport on Friday, several voters donned faded t-shirts from Sanders' 2016 campaign. Melita Tunnicliff, 57, wore a button she bought during that campaign with Sanders' photo and the phrase "Not For Sale."

Asked if she was open to other Democratic candidates this time around, Tunnicliff shook her head no. "I've been waiting for Bernie," she said.

Follow Juana Summers at <http://twitter.com/jmsummers> and Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

## Trump to pressure Iran by branding its Guard a terror group

BY MATTHEW LEE and SUSANNAH GEORGE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an unprecedented step to ramp up pressure on Tehran, the Trump administration is planning to designate Iran's Revolutionary Guard a "foreign terrorist organization." The move is expected to further isolate Iran and could have widespread implications for U.S. personnel and policy in the Middle East and elsewhere.

The Trump administration has escalated rhetoric against Iran for months, but this will mark the first such designation by any American administration of an entire foreign government entity. Portions of the Guard, notably its elite Quds Force, have been targeted previously by the United States.

Officials informed of the step said an announcement was expected as early as Monday.

Two U.S. officials and a congressional aide confirmed the planned move. They were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, seemed to anticipate the designation, saying in a tweet Sunday aimed at President Donald Trump that Trump "should know better than to be conned into another US disaster."

This would be just the latest move by the Trump administration to isolate Iran. Trump withdrew from the Obama administration's landmark nuclear deal with Iran in May 2018 and, in the months that followed, reimposed punishing sanctions including those targeting Iran's oil, shipping and banking sectors.

The Revolutionary Guard designation, planning for which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal, comes with sanctions, including freezes on assets the Guard may have in U.S. jurisdictions and a ban on Americans doing business with it or providing material support for its activities.

Although the Guard has broad control and influence over the Iranian economy, such penalties from the U.S. may have limited impact. The designation, however, could significantly complicate U.S. military and diplomatic work, notably in Iraq, where many Shiite militias and Iraqi political parties have close ties to the Guard. And in Lebanon, where the Guard has close ties to Hezbollah, which is part of the Lebanese government.

Without exclusions or waivers to the designation, U.S. troops and diplomats could be barred from contact with Iraqi or Lebanese authorities who interact with Guard officials or surrogates.

The Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies have raised concerns about the impact of the designation if the move does not allow contact with foreign officials who may have met with or communicated with Guard personnel. Those concerns have in part dissuaded previous administrations from taking the step, which has been considered for more than a decade.

It was not immediately clear whether the designation would include such carve-outs.

In addition to those complications, American commanders are concerned that the designation may prompt Iran to retaliate against U.S. forces in the region, and those commanders plan to warn U.S. troops remaining in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere of that possibility, according to a third U.S. official. This official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Aside from Iraq, where some 5,200 American troops are stationed, and Syria, where some U.S. 2,000 troops remain, the U.S. 5th Fleet, which operates in the Persian Gulf from its base in Bahrain, and the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, are potentially at risk.

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A similar warning is also expected from the State Department of possible Iranian retaliation against American interests, including embassies and consulates, and anti-American protests, the first two U.S. officials said. Similar alerts were issued at the start of the Iraq War in 2003 and more recently when the Trump administration announced it would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Despite the risks, Iran hard-liners on Capitol Hill, such as Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and elsewhere have long advocated for the designation. They say it will send an important message to Iran as well as deal it a further blow after Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed economic sanctions.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton have taken up the call and have in recent months spoken stridently about Iran and its "malign activities" in the region.

Pompeo has made clear in public comments that pressure on Tehran will only increase until it changes its behavior. Just last week, Pompeo's special representative for Iran, Brian Hook, accused Iran and its proxies of being responsible for the death of 608 U.S. troops in Iraq between 2003 and 2011. He cited newly declassified Defense Department information for the claim, which is expected to be used in the justification for the Guard designation.

"Secretary Pompeo will continue to use all the tools at our disposal to press the regime to change its destructive policies for the benefit of peace in the region and for the sake of its own people, who are the longest-suffering victims of this regime," Hook said, in an indication that new action is coming.

The department currently designates 60 groups, such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State and their various affiliates, Hezbollah and numerous militant Palestinian factions, as "foreign terrorist organizations." But none of them is a state-run military.

Once a designation is announced by the secretary of state in coordination with the Treasury secretary, Congress has seven days to review it. If there are no objections, it then will take effect.

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Associated Press reporter Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.

## **Nissan shareholders OK ouster of ex-chair Ghosn from board**

**By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — Nissan's shareholders ousted the automaker's former chairman Carlos Ghosn from its board on Monday, seeking to shut the door on an era capped by scandal.

More than 4,000 people gathered at a Tokyo hotel for a three-hour extraordinary shareholders' meeting and signaled their approval for dismissing Ghosn with applause. They also approved the appointment of French alliance partner Renault SA's Chairman Jean-Dominique Senard to replace Ghosn. Renault owns 43 percent of Nissan.

"I will dedicate my energy to enhance the future of Nissan," said Senard, who was introduced to the shareholders at the meeting's end. He promised to do his best to keep the automaker's performance on track.

Ghosn was first arrested in November for allegedly underreporting his compensation and for breach of trust. He was released on bail in early March and then re-arrested for a fourth time last week. The latest arrest involves new allegations that \$5 million from a Nissan Motor Co. subsidiary meant for an Oman dealership was diverted to a company effectively controlled by Ghosn.

Ghosn says he is innocent. He has suggested the accusations were made by some at Nissan hoping to remove him from power.

Nissan's Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa and other top managers bowed low in apology to shareholders.

"I deeply, deeply apologize for all the worries and troubles we have caused," Saikawa said. "This is an unprecedented and unbelievable misconduct by a top executive."

At the meeting, which was closed except to stockholders but livestreamed, angry shareholders demanded an explanation for how wrongdoing on an allegedly massive scale had gone unchecked for years.

One shareholder said Nissan's entire management should resign immediately. Saikawa said he felt his



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responsibility lay in fixing the shoddy corporate governance at Nissan first, and continuing to lead its operations. Another shareholder asked if Nissan was prepared for a damage lawsuit from shareholders since its stock price has plunged.

Nissan shareholder Ken Miyamoto said he was disappointed.

"It is really such a pity as he was a brilliant manager," Miyamoto said of Ghosn before heading into the meeting. "I guess he became complacent as people kept praising him too much."

Yokohama-based Nissan, which makes the Leaf electric car, March subcompact and Infiniti luxury models, was on the brink of bankruptcy when Renault sent Ghosn to turn it around two decades ago.

The alliance, which now includes smaller Japanese automaker Mitsubishi Motors Corp., rivals auto giants Volkswagen AG of Germany and Japanese rival Toyota Motor Corp. in global sales. But like other Japanese manufacturers it has been dogged by scandals over bogus inspections and other misconduct.

The allegations of breach of trust involved having Nissan shoulder investment losses that Ghosn says caused the company no losses. He says payments to a Saudi businessman that prosecutors are questioning were for legitimate services. He says the compensation he allegedly underreported was never decided on or paid.

During Monday's meeting, Saikawa, the CEO, outlined the findings of an internal investigation, such as 13 years' worth of consulting fee payments to Ghosn's sister. He told shareholders the company will stick by the alliance, fix its governance problems and make Ghosn's ouster "a turning point."

"We had allowed a system in which wrongdoing could be carried out without detection," he said.

The shareholders also gave a green light Monday to removing from the board a former executive director, Greg Kelly, who has been charged with collaborating with Ghosn in the alleged misconduct.

Ghosn's detention following his arrest on April 4 has been approved through April 14 but could be extended. The date of his trial has not been set.

His lawyers in Japan said they plan to show a videotape of Ghosn's comments on Tuesday and take questions afterward. The comments were recorded before his arrest.

Ghosn's wife Carole Ghosn, who was with her husband in Tokyo when he was arrested last week, appealed to French President Emmanuel Macron for help.

"I'm asking that we allow him the presumption of innocence like all French citizens, and France must do something," she told France's RTL radio.

Carole Ghosn, who left Japan for France on Friday, described his arrest as humiliating. Japanese investigators confiscated her Lebanese passport, but she said she used her American passport to leave the country.

"I'd never been so proud of him because he remained dignified. He held his head high and he was calm," she said.

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Sylvie Corbet in Paris contributed to this report.

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

On Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/yurikageyama/?hl=en>

## 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. NIELSEN OUT AS HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY

Trump names Kevin McAleenan, the well-respected U.S. Customs and Border Protection commissioner, to take over as acting head.

### 2. TRUMP TAKES UNPRECEDENTED STEP AGAINST IRAN

Washington is planning to designate Iran's Revolutionary Guard a "foreign terrorist organization," the first such designation by any White House of an entire foreign government entity.

### 3. 'FEELING THE BERN'

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Bernie Sanders surpasses his rivals in early fundraising and establishes himself as an indisputable front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

#### 4. NISSAN SHAREHOLDERS OUST GHOSN

The Japanese automaker's shareholders force out the former chairman, who faces allegations of financial misconduct.

#### 5. VACCINES BLOCKED AS DEADLY CHOLERA RAGED IN YEMEN

An AP investigation finds that the war-torn country's massive cholera epidemic was aggravated by official intransigence and potential corruption.

#### 6. INDIA'S SACRED COW A SYMBOL OF RISING NATIONALISM

Prime Minister Modi seeks to retain power by promoting a Hindu way of life instead of secular pluralism in the multicultural country.

#### 7. WHAT DEMOCRATS WILL 'NEVER' SEE

Trump's tax returns, says White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, as a new front opens in the confrontation between the administration and Congress.

#### 8. TELEMEDICINE TIED TO MORE ANTIBIOTICS FOR CHILDREN

Sick kids seen via telemedicine visits are far more likely to be prescribed antibiotics than those who went to a doctor's office or clinic, a new study suggests.

#### 9. WHO WON BIG AT ACMs

Grammy-winning duo Dan + Shay solidify themselves as the hottest group in country music with multiple wins at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

#### 10. TEXAS TECH-VIRGINIA MEET FOR BASKETBALL CROWN

The teams have reached the national championship game with tough defense, overlooked and underappreciated stars, and nail-biting tournament wins.

## As cholera raged in Yemen, warring factions blocked vaccines

By **MAGGIE MICHAEL** Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — In the summer of 2017, a plane chartered by the United Nations idled on the tarmac at an airport in the Horn of Africa as officials waited for final clearance to deliver half a million doses of cholera vaccine to Yemen. Amid the country's ruinous war, the disease was spiraling out of control, with thousands of new cases reported each day.

The green light for the plane to head to northern Yemen never came. The U.N. wasn't able to distribute cholera vaccines to Yemen until May 2018 and the outbreak ultimately produced more than 1 million suspected cholera cases — the worst cholera epidemic recorded in modern times and a calamity that medical researchers say may have been avoided if vaccines had been deployed sooner.

U.N. officials blamed the canceled flight on the difficulties in distributing vaccines during an armed conflict. But officials with knowledge of the episode told The Associated Press that the real reason was that the Houthi rebels who control northern Yemen refused to allow the vaccines to be delivered, after spending months demanding that the U.N. send ambulances and other medical equipment for their military forces as a condition for accepting the shipment.

The cancellation of the shipment was just one of the setbacks that aid agencies faced in battling the cholera epidemic, which has killed nearly 3,000 Yemenis.

Relief workers and government officials said they have seen repeated indications that insiders in both the Houthi government in the north and the U.S.-backed government in the south have skimmed off money and supplies for cholera vaccination and treatment and sold them on the black market. In some cases, treatment centers for people who had contracted cholera existed only on paper even though the U.N. had disbursed money to bankroll their operations, according to two aid officials familiar with the centers.

The AP's examination of the efforts to fight the disease in Yemen drew on confidential documents and interviews with 29 people, including aid officials previously based in the country and officials from health ministries run by both the Houthi rebels and the internationally recognized government in the south. Almost



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all of these individuals — including six relief and health officials who say the Houthis were responsible for cancellation of the 2017 vaccine shipment — spoke on condition of anonymity because of fear of retaliation.

“Both the Houthis and the government of Yemen were trying to politicize cholera,” an aid official told the AP.

“The Houthis are taking advantage of U.N. weakness,” the official said. “Corruption or aid diversion and all of this are because of the U.N.’s weak position.” Relief workers know that if the U.N. speaks out, the official said, “their visas will be denied and they would not be allowed back in the country.”

Cholera spread across Yemen in late 2016 and throughout much of 2017 and 2018. It ebbed late last year, but has again picked up in 2019. A new surge in the disease has produced roughly 150,000 reported cholera cases and nearly 300 deaths since the start of this year. The first cholera vaccine drives in Yemen didn’t start until May 2018 in the south and August 2018 in the north, aid and health officials told the AP.

Ali al-Walidi, the deputy health minister in southern Yemen, and Youssef al-Hadri, the spokesman of the Houthi-run Health Ministry in the north, both deny there were delays in getting cholera vaccines into Yemen at the start of the outbreak.

Al-Hadri said claims that the Houthis blocked the shipment of vaccines into Yemen are false.

“This is all baseless, and I challenge the agencies to say this officially,” he said.

Geert Cappelaere, the Middle East director for UNICEF, the U.N. children’s relief agency, declined to blame any particular group for halting the 2017 shipment.

“What is important is that the vaccines that needed to get in have ultimately gone in and have reached the people who needed to be vaccinated,” he said. “Has this been simple and easy? Absolutely not. Each shipment has been problematic to get in because of the long approval time” and because of “skepticism among the authorities on both sides” about the value of cholera vaccines.

## A RAVAGED LAND

More than half of Yemen’s hospitals and other health facilities have been damaged or destroyed since the war began in 2015, after Houthi forces overran much of the country and Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations, with backing from the United States, launched airstrikes and imposed blockades on rebel-held territory.

The conflict has killed more than 60,000 people and much of Yemen has been on the edge of famine. An AP investigation published in December revealed that factions on all sides of Yemen’s war have blocked food aid from going to groups suspected of disloyalty, diverted it to front-line combat units or sold it for profit on the black market.

More than 19 million of Yemen’s 29 million people don’t have access to adequate health care, and more than 17 million don’t have clean water, according to the U.N. Those are prime conditions for the spread of cholera, a disease caused by feces-tainted water and food. Cholera can kill swiftly if untreated, its victims drained by diarrhea, vomiting and fever.

The first significant cholera outbreak came in late 2016, leading to more than 25,000 suspected cases and killing at least 129. Soon after, in April 2017, the disease erupted again, this time spreading at an even more furious pace. Within two months, more than 185,000 suspected cases and 1,200 deaths were reported. One local aid worker in northern Yemen recalls house after house with dying children, their small bodies racked by severe diarrhea.

When U.N. officials tried to rush in oral vaccines to halt the spread, some Houthi officials claimed vaccines were ineffective. A few circulated messages on social media asserting that vaccines could be harmful to children. Four aid officials and a former Houthi health official said that some rebel leaders suggested that the vaccination plan was a plot by the U.S. and Israel to use Yemenis as guinea pigs.

A former senior official in the Houthi Health Ministry said the concerns over the vaccines’ safety were a pretext. Rebel leaders had a list of demands and tried to bargain with U.N. officials for money and equipment, he said.

During weeks of negotiations over the vaccine program, the rebels demanded that U.N. officials send X-

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ray machines and other items they could use to treat their wounded fighters on the front lines, according to the former health ministry official and three aid officials.

Al-Hadri, the spokesman for the Houthi-run Health Ministry, denied that Houthi authorities demanded medicine and medical equipment to be used in treating front-line soldiers. Cappelaere, UNICEF's Middle East chief, said he had no knowledge of aid officials bargaining with authorities in Yemen in the effort to import cholera vaccines.

## THE SHIPMENT

Finally, in July 2017, U.N. officials believed they had the go-ahead to bring in cholera vaccines. Half a million doses were loaded onto a plane in the tiny African republic of Djibouti.

At the last minute, hard-liners in the Houthi-controlled Health Ministry told the U.N. they would not allow the plane to land.

Publicly, the U.N. blamed the change of plans on security and logistical challenges involved in delivering immunizations across Yemen's conflict-torn landscape. A spokesman for the U.N.'s World Health Organization said at the time that delivering vaccines "has to make sense" in terms of the conditions on the ground, adding that the vaccine doses intended for Yemen would likely be re-routed to places that "might need them more urgently."

U.N. officials sent the shipment to South Sudan in central Africa, where the disease had recently erupted. The cholera outbreak in South Sudan left 436 dead but was declared over by early 2018, largely due to the introduction of vaccines during the outbreak's early stages.

The outbreak in Yemen went on unabated.

Hager Taher, a 27-year old mother of two, was one of hundreds who died from cholera in the months after the vaccine delivery into the country had been called off. Taher was in the last days of pregnancy, living in the village of al-Ghareb, an impoverished area in the Houthi-controlled northern province of Hajjah, when she began vomiting and showing cholera-like symptoms.

The only health center in the village of nearly 1,200 people was a building with two rooms and few beds. As the number of suspected cholera cases grew, local authorities used a school to receive patients, who had to lie on the floor in the empty classrooms.

Taher was sent to a hospital run by Doctors Without Borders in the city of Abs. She soon developed complications and was moved to another hospital nearby. It was there, in September 2017, that she died. Her child was born alive but died four days later.

"It's God's will," her husband, Mohammed Hassan, told the AP. "There's nothing to do."

Taher was one of 16 people reported to have died from cholera in her district in Hajjah. Hundreds more were infected.

"The district was gulped up by cholera," said Ibrahim al-Masrahi, a health worker in charge of gathering epidemic surveillance reports.

By the end of 2017, the number of reported cholera cases in Yemen had surged past 1 million, with more than 2,200 deaths. The spread of the disease waned for a time, but rebounded again in the spring and summer of 2018, adding another 370,000 reported cases and 500 more deaths.

U.N. officials continued struggling to find a way to get cholera vaccines into the country.

Houthi officials held a succession of meetings throughout much of 2017 and into 2018 to consider the science and policy questions relating to vaccines. In the spring of 2018, after science panels approved bringing cholera vaccines into rebel territory, Health Minister Mohammed Salem bin Hafez gave U.N. officials the go-ahead to bring in nearly 900,000 doses of cholera vaccine, according to documents obtained by the AP.

Then two of his deputies, both of them well-connected within the Houthi leadership, said the shipment couldn't proceed, asserting that there were still more bureaucratic hurdles before the vaccines' "safety and security" could be assured, according to the documents.

As a non-Houthi, bin Hafez didn't have the power to overrule the decisions of the two deputies who supposedly were working under him. He wrote a letter to the prime minister of the Houthi-controlled govern-



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ment, Abdel-Aziz bin Habtour, detailing how the delivery of vaccines had been once again been put off. "I am washing my hands of the consequences of these irresponsible actions," bin Hafez's letter said. He told the prime minister that he was "putting the matter between your hands" in the hope the government would "take the necessary measures to use aid in a proper way and create proper work conditions for international and local aid agencies."

A month later, bin Hafez left his post and fled Houthi territory.

Abdel-Aziz al-Daylami, one of the Health Ministry deputies that bin Hafez blamed for holding up the delivery of vaccines, denied that he had stopped the shipment.

"No, there was no rejection, but we had reservations," he told the AP. "We thought that the vaccines would be useless" if they were deployed without more efforts to ensure clean water and reliable sanitation systems.

"We worried that if the vaccine campaigns failed, people would turn against the use of vaccines and that would be disastrous," he said.

## ONLY ON PAPER

As Houthi authorities debated the use of vaccines in the north, the U.N. was also working to get cholera vaccines into the country via the government in the south.

But this plan was also marred by delays — and by questions about possible corruption.

After the U.N. was able to get a shipment of vaccines into the southern city of Aden in May 2018, the Health Ministry for the U.S.- and Saudi-backed government there put together teams to raise awareness and administer the vaccines.

But some of the vaccination teams existed only on paper and many workers on the teams never received the full stipends budgeted for them under the program, two aid officials told the AP. The two officials said authorities in the south prevented aid workers from visiting the districts where immunization campaigns were taking place, making it impossible for them to monitor what was happening on the ground and verify how aid money was being used.

In the wake the vaccination campaign in the south, the Houthis broke the logjam in the north. They agreed to allow cholera vaccines into some areas under their control. Immunization drives were launched in three rebel-held districts in August and September 2018.

A senior official who worked with the Houthi-run Health Ministry at the time noted the U.N. had agreed to some of the rebels' wish list of additional medical supplies and equipment, including the purchase of 45 ambulances for the ministry. The ambulances were then sent to the front lines for the military's use, the ex-official said.

Beyond vaccine drives, concerns emerged in both the north and south about whether patients who had already contracted the disease were getting medical treatment targeted for them.

Some centers set up to treat cholera victims weren't functional even though UNICEF and the WHO had provided funding to government authorities and nongovernmental groups to cover costs of setting them up and running them, according to two aid officials familiar with the centers.

One of those two aid officials said he was told there were nine cholera treatment centers in Aden. He could find only two. "The rest didn't exist," he said.

Another concern in north and south was whether relief organizations were getting accurate counts of the number of people sickened with cholera in various parts of the country. Two aid officials and a former official with the Houthi-controlled Health Ministry said authorities exaggerated the number of cholera cases to increase the amount of international aid money.

A December 2018 study of the Yemen outbreak by researchers at Johns Hopkins University found that some overreporting was likely due to health workers whose livelihoods depended on money paid by the U.N. Many of the workers hadn't received their government salaries in years and believed that the cholera centers where they worked would be closed and aid money stopped if they didn't report enough suspected cases.

Still, even with overreporting, the outbreak of cholera was "massive," Paul B. Spiegel, the lead author of

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the study and director of the university's Center for Humanitarian Health, told the AP.

Another study, published in December 2018 in the journal BMC Public Health, called the epidemic "the largest cholera outbreak in epidemiologically recorded history."

The report said the scale of Yemen's outbreak "most likely" could have been avoided or managed if enough cholera vaccines had been deployed earlier in the conflict. It added that even if a large shipment had come into the country early enough, getting the vaccine to those who needed it might not have been possible, given the "deeply chaotic situation" across war-torn Yemen.

More than 2.5 million doses of the cholera vaccine have been transported into Yemen by the U.N. since mid-2018. It's unclear how many of them have been administered to people in target populations. Two Houthi officials confirmed to the AP that nearly 1.2 million doses remain stored in warehouses in Sanaa, the rebels' capital. The Health Ministry there plans to distribute those doses soon in two northern districts, one of the officials said.

A senior aid official said the continuing cholera crisis remains a way for the Houthis rebels to cultivate global sympathy for their struggle against the U.S.-backed and Saudi-led coalition, whose bombing campaign has been blamed for helping to create the conditions that caused the outbreak.

"If you resolve cholera, what are the headlines?" he said. "They managed to control the narrative because it's easy to blame the coalition and not them and they always show up as victims."

Al-Hadri, the spokesman for the Houthi-controlled Health Ministry in Sanaa, called that nonsense. It is international aid officials, he said, who are raking in donations and benefiting from disease and suffering inside the Middle East's poorest country.

"They are profiting from the Yemen crisis and begging in the name of Yemen," he said. "They need the Yemeni crisis more than we need them."

The AP's reporting on the war in Yemen is supported by a grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

## White House says Democrats will never see Trump tax returns

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats will "never" see President Donald Trump's tax returns, said White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, as a new front opened in the confrontation between the administration and Congress.

Mulvaney accused Democrats of engaging in a "political stunt" and wanting "attention" after the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Richard Neal, asked the IRS to provide six years of Trump's personal tax returns and the returns for some of his businesses.

"That is not going to happen, and they know it," Mulvaney told "Fox News Sunday."

Asked whether he believes Democrats would ever view the president's returns, Mulvaney replied: "Oh, no, never. Nor should they."

Last week, Massachusetts Democrat Neal, one of only three congressional officials authorized to request tax returns, requested Trump's personal and business returns in a letter to IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig. He asked for returns covering 2013 through 2018. He also asked for the documents in seven days, setting an April 10 deadline.

An obscure 1924 statute includes no exceptions to Neal's authority to ask the Treasury Department for returns and says the department "shall furnish" them when requested. It does require that the review of an individual's return be conducted by members of Congress in "closed executive session" if the returns are provided without the taxpayer's consent.

Still, Mulvaney claimed the law provides for lawmakers to review individual tax returns but "political hit job is not one of those reasons." His comments echoed those made by Trump's lawyers, who argued the Democratic request "would set a dangerous precedent" if granted.

Trump broke with precedent when he chose not to release any tax returns as a presidential candidate.



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Mulvaney tried to cast the issue of the president's taxes as old news, saying it was "already litigated during the election" and the American people "elected him anyway."

Trump has said he won't release the information because he is under audit, something he reiterated again Friday while visiting the U.S-Mexico border.

"I'm under audit. When you're under audit you don't do it," Trump said.

IRS officials have said taxpayers under audit are free to release their returns. Trump claimed at a news conference following his election in November 2018 that the filings are too complex for people to understand.

William Consovoy, whose firm was retained by Trump to represent him on the matter, said in a letter Friday to the Department of Treasury's general counsel that the tax code zealously guards taxpayer privacy. He said requests for tax returns "must have a legitimate legislative purpose."

Neal has said he made the request to review the IRS policy of auditing the tax returns of all sitting presidents and vice presidents, saying, "little is known about the effectiveness of this program."

"On behalf of the American people, the Ways and Means Committee must determine if that policy is being followed, and if so, whether these audits are conducted fully and appropriately," Neal said when unveiling his request for Trump's returns.

Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, the GOP's 2012 presidential nominee who has been an occasional critic of Trump's, called Democrats' actions "moronic."

He told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he believes Trump should release his tax returns, but by demanding them, "I think the Democrats are just playing along his handbook."

## **Korean Air boss dies weeks after board removal over scandals**

**By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Korean Air's chairman, whose leadership included scandals such as his daughter's infamous incident of "nut rage," has died due to illness, the company said Monday.

Cho Yang-ho had been indicted on multiple charges, including embezzlement and tax evasion, and his death came two weeks after shareholders voted to remove the 70-year-old from the company's board over a series of scandals surrounding his family. Cho's death will likely force a court to dismiss his criminal case.

The company said in a statement that Cho died at a hospital in Los Angeles but did not specify his illness or provide other details. Cho had remained chairman, which is a non-board role, even after shareholders ousted him from the board. He had expressed his intent to continue participating in management.

A senior Korean Air executive said Cho had been receiving treatment for an unspecified lung illness since late last year and that his condition "worsened rapidly" following the shareholder vote, apparently because of shock and stress. The executive didn't want to be named, citing office rules.

Korean Air's corporate flag and the South Korean flag were flown half-staff at the country's headquarters in downtown Seoul.

Cho's eldest daughter, Cho Hyun-ah, who was formerly the head of the airline's cabin service, received worldwide notoriety in 2014 after she ordered a Korean Air passenger plane to return to a terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York because she was angry that the crew served her macadamia nuts in a bag instead of on a plate.

The incident, dubbed "nut rage," generated international headlines and severely tarnished the Cho family's image, while highlighting broader concerns about the sense of entitlement among the moneyed elite in South Korea.

Cho Hyun-ah was sentenced to one year in prison for violating aviation law but was released early when a higher-level court suspended the sentence.

The Cho family also faced intense criticism after company employees alleged they were subjected to mistreatment and tantrums.

Cho's wife was summoned last May by South Korean police to question her about allegations that she abused and assaulted employees. Lee Myung-hee was accused of physically or verbally abusing more

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than 10 former and current employees of Korean Air's parent company.

Cho's younger daughter, Cho Hyun-min, also was investigated by state prosecutors for potential assault for allegedly hurling a cup of water during a business meeting. No charges were filed.

Before his reputation was hit by scandals, Cho Yang-ho, who led Korean Air since 1992, had been credited for overseeing the company's growth into one of Asia's biggest airlines. Korean Air, which began in 1969 with eight planes, now operates 166 aircraft with international flights to 111 cities in 43 countries.

Cho was also the chairman of the Hanjin Group, a global transportation conglomerate of dozens of companies that includes the airline. He was also was the co-chairman of the Korea-U.S. Business Council and vice chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries.

He was involved in the bidding process and preparations for the 2018 Winter Olympics held in South Korea's ski resort town of Pyeongchang and headed the Olympic organizing committee for two years before stepping down in 2016.

Cho's resignation was initially described as voluntary, but he later said he left the committee under "unjust" pressure from the government of former conservative President Park Geun-hye. The committee had rejected an Olympic construction deal for a Swiss company that reportedly had a business partnership with Choi Soon-sil, a longtime friend and mentor of Park.

Park is now serving a lengthy prison term over multiple corruption charges.

South Korean prosecutors indicted Cho last October on multiple charges, including evading taxes and pocketing tens of millions of dollars through embezzlement and breach of trust. His trial had been expected to begin in the coming weeks.

Cho was previously convicted of tax evasion in 2000, facing charges with his father and brother. The Chos were charged with receiving millions in rebates when they purchased airplanes from Boeing and Airbus and evading taxes on the money. The tax probe came after the country's president criticized Korean Air's poor safety record.

The Cho family scandals have increased public criticism about South Korea's "chaebol," a privileged group of family-owned conglomerates that have been tied to corruption and exploitive behavior.

Korean Air shareholders' successful removal of Cho from the company's board was seen as a milestone in a country that has been long criticized for its lax enforcement of corporate-governance rules on large companies.

Analysts also saw the vote's outcome as a positive sign that Korean Air would finally be able to keep its "owner risk" under control after Cho's unchecked reign had damaged the company's value and reputation.

The stock price of Hanjin-KAL, the holding company of the Hanjin Group, rose by more than 20 percent on Monday. Shares of Korean Air and other Hanjin affiliates, including Jin Air, also rose modestly.

Current South Korean President Moon Jae-in has vowed to curb the excesses of the chaebol. However, bad economic news appears to have softened the government's approach to these companies, which dominate the country's economy and are crucial to Moon's plans for job creation.

Cho is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters and five grandchildren.

## Telemedicine tied to more antibiotics for kids, study finds

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sniffling, sore-throated kids seen via telemedicine visits were far more likely to be prescribed antibiotics than those who went to a doctor's office or clinic, according to a new study.

Many of those prescriptions disregarded medical guidelines, raising the risk they could cause side effects or contribute to the rise of antibiotic-resistant germs.

"I understand the desire for care that's more convenient and timely," said the study's lead author, Dr. Kristin Ray of the University of Pittsburgh. "But we want to make sure that we don't sacrifice quality or safety or effectiveness in the process."

The study was being published Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Ray and her colleagues looked at more than 340,000 insured children who had acute respiratory illness



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medical visits in 2015 and 2016.

Children received prescriptions for antibiotics more than half the time during telemedicine visits, compared with 42% at urgent care clinics and 31% at doctors' offices.

While overprescribing can help germs build resistance to antibiotics and mutate into untreatable superbugs, they also can add a needless cost to medical bills and even cause serious side effects, said Tim Landers, an Ohio State University expert on antibiotic-resistant infections.

"These are not harmless drugs," Landers said, who was not involved in the study.

The researchers also found that in looking at telemedicine doctors' decisions about whether to prescribe or not prescribe antibiotics, 4 out of 10 failed to meet medical guidelines on matching treatment to diagnosis. That mainly had to do with doctors prescribing bacteria-fighting drugs to treat viral illnesses, such as colds and flu, that are unaffected by antibiotics.

In comparison, 3 out of 10 urgent care clinic decisions were inappropriate, and about 2 out of 10 doctors' office decisions were.

The researchers also found telemedicine physicians appeared to be ignoring other guidelines. For example, doctors are supposed to take a throat swab and run a lab test before diagnosing strep throat. But that rarely happened in telemedicine visits, Ray said.

A large recent study on antibiotic prescribing patterns for adults found little difference between telemedicine and office visits. But there has been little study of the issue in children.

During telemedicine visits, patients interact with doctors and nurses through video or audio calls. They can be less expensive and easier than trying to get in at a pediatrician's office or hauling kids to an urgent care center.

Some doctors and hospital systems use the technology for consultations, but the study focused on direct-to-consumer telemedicine programs that someone can call up without talking to their regular doctor. Only about 1 percent of the sick kids in the study were seen through such visits.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, which publishes the journal, encourages parents not to use such direct-to-consumer programs. Academy officials say limited physical examinations and lack of access to patient records can harm care.

But telemedicine seems to be catching on, especially among employers who believe it can save money, said Jason Doctor, a University of Southern California health policy and economics researcher.

Doctor is examining ways to improve antibiotic prescribing at telehealth firms. It's an important issue, he said, because "telemedicine is going to grow. It's going to become a more routine part of people's medical care."

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## Things to know for the NCAA championship game

By JOHN MARSHALL AP Basketball Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA Tournament will take an ugly turn in its final or, depending on your perspective, be a masterpiece in defensive basketball.

The national title game Monday night pits Virginia (34-3), the standard-bearer in lockdown basketball, against the new kids on the defensive block, the Texas Tech Red Raiders (31-6).

The over/under for points is 118. The over/under on bruises may be higher.

"People have been all over how bad the Final Four is going to be, the final game, the low scoring, whatever," Sacramento State coach Brian Katz said. "I love it. It's great defense. Fun to watch. If you're the casual fan and you've got one hand in the popcorn and beer, you're waiting around looking for the big dunk or whatever, you're probably bored. If you're really into the game, you get it."

Here are a few things to know before watching what's expected to be one of the lowest-scoring games in title game history:

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## FIRST TIME CHAMPION

The NCAA Tournament will have its first first-time champion since coach Billy Donovan won it all with Florida in 2006.

Texas Tech reached the Elite Eight for the first time last season and Virginia lost its previous two trips to the Final Four, in 1981 and 1984.

The last time two teams who had never won a championship played in the title game was Michigan State against Indiana State in 1979. That's right, Magic Johnson vs. Larry Bird.

## VIRGINIA'S TIGHTROPE

Virginia had two close calls to reach its first title game.

The Cavaliers survived a scoring onslaught by Carsen Edwards (42 points) and forced overtime on Mamadi Diakite's short jumper to beat Purdue in double overtime in the Elite Eight.

Virginia had another nail biter in the Final Four, beating Auburn 63-62 on Kyle Guy's three free throws with 0.6 seconds left. Down 2 with 1.5 seconds left, the Cavaliers got the ball to Guy, who was fouled by Auburn's Samir Doughty on a 3-point attempt. He sank all three free throws to send the Cavaliers to the title game.

## OWENS' STATUS

Texas Tech outmuscled Michigan State 61-51 in its Final Four game Saturday night, but saw Tariq Owens roll his right ankle in the second half. The shot-blocking senior returned after taping his ankle up, but Red Raiders coach Chris Beard declined to give an update Sunday. Playing without Owens would be a huge loss for Texas Tech.

## CAVALIER TURNAROUND

Should Virginia win Monday night, it will likely go down as one of the biggest turnarounds in college basketball history.

A year ago, the Cavaliers became the first No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 16 when they were knocked off by Baltimore-Maryland County in the first round.

Virginia has used the historic loss as motivation all season and is on the cusp of erasing it with the biggest victory in program history.

## THE SCORERS

Virginia is led by the three-headed monster of Guy, De'Andre Hunter and Ty Jerome. Guy hit a late 3-pointer before the three massive free throws against Auburn. Jerome was the catalyst early against the Tigers and finished with 21 points. Hunter came alive after quiet first half, finishing with 15 points.

Texas Tech's trio of Jarrett Culver, Davide Moretti and Matt Mooney do the most offensive damage for the Red Raiders.

Mooney was money against Michigan State, hitting three straight 3-pointers to give the Red Raiders a 10-point cushion. Culver took over when the Spartans started paying more attention to him, scoring six straight points to stave off a Spartans charge.

Though quiet against Michigan State, Moretti can get hot in a hurry, as he did earlier in the bracket.

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

## Uganda police say kidnapped US woman and driver are freed

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA** Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Ugandan police said on Sunday they had rescued an American woman and her driver who had been kidnapped by gunmen in a national park.

The two "are in good health" and "in the safe hands" of security officials, police said in a Twitter update.

Although authorities provided no details about how the rescue operation was carried out, a government spokesman said on Twitter that the kidnappers had taken their victims to Congo, where the two were rescued by the security forces.

The kidnappers "have escaped and operations continue," Ofwono Opondo said.

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Ugandan security teams had been hunting down gunmen who had demanded a \$500,000 ransom after kidnapping the American, Kim Endicott, and her Ugandan guide in a national park popular with tourists.

They were ambushed on April 2 in Queen Elizabeth National Park, a protected area near the porous border with Congo, according to Ugandan authorities.

President Donald Trump tweeted that the pair had been released and added, "God bless them and their families!"

It remains unclear if a ransom was paid in the case of Endicott, who is from Costa Mesa, California, where she has a small skin care shop.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had said at a Tuesday event for families of U.S. citizens held captive overseas that he understands some people want to do anything to get their loved ones back but paying ransom would just lead to more kidnappings.

In a Friday statement, the State Department said that the safety and security of U.S. citizens abroad is its highest priority.

"Whenever a U.S. citizen is taken captive abroad, we work tirelessly - in partnership with local authorities - to secure their release and get them home safely," the statement said.

Earlier Friday, an Arizona man who is related to Endicott said he wanted to see the U.S. send in Navy SEALs to locate and rescue her if that's what it took.

Phoenix resident Rich Endicott, a 62-year-old banker, said he hasn't spoken with his cousin since a family reunion several years ago.

He said Kim Endicott is in her late 50s and has a daughter and granddaughter.

A friend of Endicott's said that she is relieved by the news of Endicott's release.

"My stomach has been in knots," said Megan Barth, a friend, told the Orange County Register on Sunday. "I've been praying for her safety and her release daily.

"I am just so relieved for her and her family," said Barth, a political commentator and radio personality who was Endicott's skin care client for 10 years and became a friend. "I hope her captors did not physically harm her. I'm so thankful but still so worried about her, but she is such a strong woman and a beautiful soul she will come through this trauma."

## Real or artificial? Tech titans declare AI ethics concerns

By **MATT O'BRIEN** and **RACHEL LERMAN** Associated Press

The biggest tech companies want you to know that they're taking special care to ensure that their use of artificial intelligence to sift through mountains of data, analyze faces or build virtual assistants doesn't spill over to the dark side.

But their efforts to assuage concerns that their machines may be used for nefarious ends have not been universally embraced. Some skeptics see it as mere window dressing by corporations more interested in profit than what's in society's best interests.

"Ethical AI" has become a new corporate buzz phrase, slapped on internal review committees, fancy job titles, research projects and philanthropic initiatives. The moves are meant to address concerns over racial and gender bias emerging in facial recognition and other AI systems, as well as address anxieties about job losses to the technology and its use by law enforcement and the military.

But how much substance lies behind the increasingly public ethics campaigns? And who gets to decide which technological pursuits do no harm?

Google was hit with both questions when it formed a new board of outside advisers in late March to help guide how it uses AI in products. But instead of winning over potential critics, it sparked internal rancor. A little more than a week later, Google bowed to pressure from the backlash and dissolved the council.

The outside board fell apart in stages. One of the board's eight inaugural members quit within days and another quickly became the target of protests from Google employees who said her conservative views don't align with the company's professed values.

As thousands of employees called for the removal of Heritage Foundation President Kay Coles James,



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Google disbanded the board last week.

"It's become clear that in the current environment, (the council) can't function as we wanted," the company said in a statement.

That environment is one of increasing concern that the corporate AI ethics campaigns lack teeth.

"I think (Google's decision) reflects a broader public understanding that ethics involves more than just creating an ethics board without an institutional framework to provide for accountability," AI researcher Ben Wagner said.

Google's original initiative fell into a tech industry trend that Wagner calls "ethics-washing," which he describes as a superficial effort that's mostly a show for the public or lawmakers.

"It's basically an attempt to pretend like you're doing ethical things and using ethics as a tool to reach an end, like avoiding regulation," said Wagner, an assistant professor at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. "It's a new form of self-regulation without calling it that by name."

Big companies have made an increasingly visible effort to discuss their AI efforts in recent years.

Microsoft, which often tries to position itself as an industry leader on ethics and privacy issues, published its principles around developing AI, released a short book that discussed the societal implications of the technology and has called for some government regulation of AI technologies.

The company's president even met with Pope Francis earlier this year to discuss industry ethics. Amazon recently announced it is helping fund federal research into "algorithmic fairness," and Salesforce employs an "architect" for ethical AI practice, as well as a "chief ethical and human use" officer. It's hard to find a brand-name tech firm without similar initiatives.

It's a good thing that companies are studying the issue and seeking perspectives on industry ethics, said Oren Etzioni, CEO of the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, a research organization. But ultimately, he said, a company's CEO is tasked with deciding what suggestions on AI ethics to incorporate in business decisions.

"I think overall it's a positive step rather than a fig leaf," he said. "That said, the proof is in successful implementation. I think the jury is still out on that."

The impact artificial intelligence can have on society has never been more clear, Etzioni said, and companies are reacting to studies about the power of recommendation algorithms and gender bias in AI.

But as Google's attempt shows, discussing the issues in the public eye also invites public scrutiny.

Google employees have had more success than other tech workers at demanding change at their company. The internet search behemoth dropped a contract with the Pentagon after employees pushed back on the ethical implications of using the company's AI technology to analyze drone video.

And after more than 2,400 Google employees signed a petition calling for James to be taken off the board, Google scrapped the board altogether. Employees said James has made past comments that were anti-trans and anti-immigrant and should not be on an ethics panel. The Heritage Foundation did not respond to a request for comment.

Google had also faced dissent from its chosen councilmembers. Alessandro Acquisti, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, announcing on Twitter he was declining the invitation. He wrote that he is devoted to grappling fairness and inclusion in AI but this was not the "the right forum for me to engage in this important work." He declined to comment further.

One expert who had committed to staying on the council is Joanna Bryson, associate professor in computing at the University of Bath. A self-described liberal, she said before the dissolution that it makes sense to have political diversity on the panel, and she didn't agree with those who think it's just for show.

"I just don't think Google is that stupid," Bryson said. "I don't think they're there just to have a poster on a wall."

She said, however, that companies like Google and Microsoft do have a real concern about liability — meaning they want to make sure they show themselves, and the public, that they've tried their best to build products the right way before releasing them.

"It's not just the right thing to do, it's the thing they need to do," she said. Bryson said she was hopeful Google actually wanted to brainstorm hard problems and should find another way to do so after the

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council dissolved.

It's unclear what Google will do next. The company said its "going back to the drawing board" and would find other ways of getting outside opinions.

Wagner said now would be the time for Google to set up ethics principles that include commitments they must stick to, external oversight and other checkpoints to hold them accountable.

Even if companies keep setting up external boards to oversee AI responsibility, government regulation will still be needed, said Liz O'Sullivan, a tech worker who left AI company Clarifai over the company's work in the Pentagon's Project Maven — the same project that Google dropped after its employees protested.

O'Sullivan is wary of boards that can make suggestions that companies are under no legal obligation to stick to.

"Every company of that size that states they're interested in having some sort of oversight that has no ability or authority to restrict or restrain company behavior seems like they're doing it for the press of it all," she said.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, April 8, the 98th day of 2019. There are 267 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 8, 1994, Kurt Cobain, singer and guitarist for the grunge band Nirvana, was found dead in Seattle from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound; he was 27.

On this date:

In 1864, the United States Senate passed, 38-6, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. (The House of Representatives passed it in January 1865; the amendment was ratified and adopted in December 1865.)

In 1911, an explosion at the Banner Coal Mine in Littleton, Alabama, claimed the lives of 128 men, most of them convicts loaned out from prisons.

In 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for popular election of U.S. senators (as opposed to appointment by state legislatures), was ratified. President Woodrow Wilson became the first chief executive since John Adams to address Congress in person as he asked lawmakers to enact tariff reform.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman seized the American steel industry to avert a nationwide strike. (The Supreme Court later ruled that Truman had overstepped his authority, opening the way for a seven-week strike by steelworkers.)

In 1961, a suspected bomb exploded aboard the passenger liner MV Dara in the Persian Gulf, causing it to sink; 238 of the 819 people aboard were killed.

In 1963, "Lawrence of Arabia" won the Oscar for best picture at the Academy Awards; Gregory Peck won best actor for "To Kill a Mockingbird" while Anne Bancroft received best actress honors for "The Miracle Worker."

In 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

In 1988, TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart resigned from the Assemblies of God after he was defrocked for rejecting an order from the church's national leaders to stop preaching for a year amid reports he had consorted with a prostitute.

In 1990, Ryan White, the teenage AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance had gained national attention, died in Indianapolis at age 18.

In 1993, singer Marian Anderson died in Portland, Oregon, at age 96.

In 2003, kidnapper-rapist John Jamelske, who had imprisoned five women and girls, one after another, as sex slaves inside a makeshift dungeon in his DeWitt, New York, home, was arrested. (Jamelske, who pleaded guilty to five counts of first-degree kidnapping, is serving an 18 years-to-life sentence in a max-

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imum-security prison.)

In 2013, President Barack Obama warned Congress not to use delaying tactics against tighter gun regulations and told families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims during a visit to Hartford, Connecticut, that he was "determined as ever" to honor their children with tougher laws. Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 87, died in London. Actress and former Disney "Mouseketeer" Annette Funicello, 70, died in Bakersfield, California.

Ten years ago: Somali pirates hijacked the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama; although the crew was able to retake the cargo ship, the captain, Richard Phillips, was taken captive by the raiders and held aboard a lifeboat. (Phillips was rescued four days later by Navy SEAL snipers who shot three of the pirates dead.) A Russian spacecraft carrying a crew of three, including U.S. billionaire space tourist Charles Simonyi, landed safely in Kazakhstan. David "Pop" Winans Sr., patriarch of the award-winning Winans gospel music family, died in Nashville, Tennessee, at age 74.

Five years ago: The U.S. said it would keep its current force of 450 land-based nuclear missiles but remove 50 from their launch silos as part of a plan to bring the U.S. into compliance with a 2011 US-Russia arms control treaty. Breanna Stewart scored 21 points and Stefanie Dolson added 17 points and 16 rebounds to help UConn beat Notre Dame 79-58, giving the Huskies a record ninth women's national championship.

One year ago: Patrick Reed won the Masters golf tournament for his first victory in a major, turning back late challenges from Rickie Fowler and Jordan Spieth. Chuck McCann, a zany comic who hosted a children's TV show in the 1960s before branching out as a character actor in films and on TV, died of congestive heart failure at a Los Angeles hospital; he was 83.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Shecky Greene is 93. Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh is 82. Basketball Hall of Famer John Havlicek is 79. "Mouseketeer" Darlene Gillespie is 78. Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 78. Songwriter-producer Leon Huff is 77. Actor Stuart Pankin is 73. Rock musician Steve Howe is 72. Former House Republican Leader Tom DeLay is 72. Movie director John Madden is 70. Rock musician Mel Schacher (Grand Funk Railroad) is 68. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., is 64. Actor John Schneider is 59. "Survivor" winner Richard Hatch is 58. Rock musician Izzy Stradlin is 57. Singer Julian Lennon is 56. Actor Dean Norris is 56. Rock singer-musician Donita Sparks is 56. Rapper Biz Markie is 55. Actress Robin Wright is 53. Actress Patricia Arquette is 51. Actor JR Bourne is 49. Rock singer Craig Honeycutt (Everything) is 49. Rock musician Darren Jessee is 48. Actress Emma Caulfield is 46. Actress Katee Sackhoff is 39. Actor Taylor Kitsch is 38. Rock singer-musician Ezra Koenig (Vampire Weekend) is 35. Actor Taran Noah Smith is 35. Actress Kirsten Storms is 35. Rock musician Jamie Sierota is 26. Actress Sadie Calvano is 22.

Thought for Today: "Computers are useless. They can only give you answers." — Pablo Picasso, Spanish artist (born 1881, died this date in 1973).