

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Click on Ad to sign up!**

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

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



## Greenhouse Raffle

Prizes are:

Greenhouse (12'x7.5', 2 shelves, 2 outlets, light)  
Hunting Blind (Hexigon with 6 shooting windows)

Free delivery within 20 miles

2 Dairy Queen \$50 Gift Cards

**Need not be present to win. \$10 Donation**

**Drawing to be held April 15th**

**Contact any Robotics member for a ticket or call Jim Lane at 605/397-7013.**

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The snow got piled up in the middle of the street in downtown Groton. The snow storage areas are soft and hauling the snow off the street is not possible with the soft road conditions. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## 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.



Someone was creative and made this snow penguin in front of the laundromat. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## Community Events

- \* The Easter Egg Hunt planned for today has been postponed to April 20th.
- \* ACT Test at Groton Area High School today
- \* 4:00pm: Piano Recital today at Groton Area High School
- \* The Girls Golf Meet at Milbank scheduled for Monday is cancelled.
- \* Varsity track meets scheduled for Tuesday at Webster and Deuel are cancelled.
- \* Tuff Tigers Awards has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 18.

**Tuesday, April 16**

**7:00pm: Elementary Spring Concert at Groton Area High School**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2019**

**9:00am- 2:00pm: NSU Math Contest at Northern State University (66th Annual Northern State University Mathematics Contest)**

**Thursday, April 18, 2019**

**3:30pm: Track: 7th/8th Meet at Groton Area High School**

**Come and go Bridal shower for Emily Kern, bride to be of Nathan Skadsen,  
Sunday, April 28 2019 2-5 pm at  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church**



**hm 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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**Groton Area's**

# KG

# Roundup

**has been rescheduled to  
April 30th**

**All scheduled times will stay the same. Please contact Heidi Krueger at the elementary school to confirm this new date.**

**605/397-2317**

## 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



## **GROTON LION'S CLUB ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

### **POSTPONED TO**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019**

**10AM SHARP**

**(WEATHER PERMITTING)**

**GROTON CITY PARK**



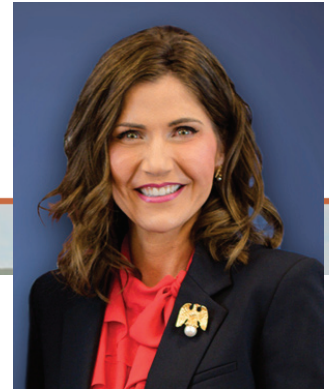
Your local Lion's Club members have filled and will be hiding nearly 1200 Easter eggs for the annual hunt.

Children from ages infant to 10 are welcome.

The Groton City Park will be divided into three age groups (under 4, 4-6, and 7-10) for the Egg Hunt. We ask that all Parents/Children meet at the Picnic Shelter to begin.



## SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR **KRISTI NOEM**



### **Explaining Emergency Declarations**

There's no doubt the storms this spring have been difficult for many of our communities. In March, a bomb cyclone left part of our state underwater and part of our state in dangerous blizzard conditions. April's Winter Storm Wesley sent another two feet of snow to many areas. The storms damaged our roads, bridges, and culverts while also impacting livestock, homes, and businesses.

On March 15, I issued a statewide emergency declaration because of the extreme impact of the storms. I understand this process can be confusing, so let me take this opportunity to explain it.

Emergency declarations open the door for the state to use special money from our Disaster Fund. The money can be used to reimburse state agencies for extraordinary resources they provided to counties. The emergency declaration also allows for the activation of the South Dakota National Guard if necessary.

We've needed these special resources. During the bomb cyclone, I deployed the National Guard to Pine Ridge to distribute clean water after floods washed out a tribal waterline. We deployed swift water rescue teams, utility tracked vehicles, water pumps, sandbags, inmate crews for sandbagging operations, and sandbagging machines throughout the state. Additionally, we provided technical assistance to counties dealing with the aftermath of the storms and activated the State Emergency Operations Center to help coordinate the state's response.

And while an emergency declaration opens funding avenues for the state, it also gives us the option to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration where we can ask for federal funds to aid recovery efforts.

This is a longer process that requires coordination from local, state, and federal leaders. Per FEMA's process, the state has 30 days after the end of an incident to submit a declaration request. Because of the moving water that accompanied the bomb cyclone, the incident is ongoing and has been extended. Flood waters are anticipated to crest in various locations in the weeks to come.

Once the incident concludes, county, tribal, and local government leaders will gather damage data, compile estimated damage costs, and submit a report to the state. The state then works with FEMA to validate the damage assessments. I will then evaluate the information to determine if a Presidential Disaster Declaration is warranted and should be requested. I look forward to seeing this process through in the coming weeks.

We have an obligation to help our counties, and we will. I will continue working with leaders on the local and federal levels to make sure we are using every available tool to help our communities recover from these storms.



## Police agencies in South Dakota struggle to recruit, retain officers

By: Bart Pfankuch

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization. Find more in-depth reporting at [www.sdnewswatch.org](http://www.sdnewswatch.org).

Law enforcement agencies across South Dakota and the nation are struggling to find enough qualified people to serve as police officers, potentially putting the safety of the public and existing on-duty officers at risk.

Recruitment challenges and difficulty in retaining officers have caused some departments to endure reduced officer counts at a time when populations are increasing. That can mean fewer officers on the road or less efficiency among officers who are forced to work long hours to pick up the slack.

The decline in applicants, experts say, is due to a combination of relatively low pay, high stress and danger on the job, increased training and certification requirements and general disinterest in policing among recent college and technical school graduates.

Retention challenges, particularly in small, rural departments in South Dakota, are being driven by a historically low overall unemployment rate, a lack of opportunities for career advancement, and long workdays and on-call periods that intrude on living a full life away from the job.

Hovering over the hiring challenges is a negative public discourse on social media, about policing, driven by fallout from highly publicized, videotaped incidents of police misconduct and resulting national protests.

Nationally, the number of full-time sworn officers on duty fell by 11 percent from 1997 to 2016 as a rate per 1,000 residents, according to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics. Urban departments are seeing the biggest decline in officer applications; the city of Seattle, for example, saw a 90 percent decline in applicants over the past decade.

South Dakota agencies face similar challenges. The Sioux Falls Police Department received 634 applications for open officer jobs in 2010, but only 373 applications during a 12-month period in 2018-19, a 41 percent decline.

Meanwhile, the number of officers in Sioux Falls has not kept up with the population. From 2010 to 2019, the number of officers on duty rose by 13.5 percent while the population rose by 21.4 percent.

"Everybody nationwide has challenges in that way, just because of the unique people you're looking for and because they're not out there in the numbers we would like," said Lt. Toby Benson, head of recruitment for the Sioux Falls Police Department. "What we're trying to do is find the right people because obviously law enforcement is a very specific skill set, and it's not right for everybody."

Officer pay has risen steadily in South Dakota over the past decade, with most agencies paying about \$40,000 to \$48,000 a year to start with full benefits. The statewide average salary for all jobs is about \$41,000, though not many career fields carry the dangers of police work.

Larger departments typically have enough officers to handle fluctuations in hiring without great risk. But smaller South Dakota agencies — including 34 sheriff's offices with four deputies or fewer and 19 cities with only one or two officers — are less able to maintain service levels when staffing falls short.

Recruitment efforts have been heightened in recent years to find more applicants overall but also more women and minorities interested in the field.

Administrators from departments both large and small emphasize, however, that police agencies are increasing training and certification standards and not lowering them in order to lure more applicants. They also stress that public safety remains paramount whether they are fully staffed or have open positions.

"Even with the number of individuals we're down right now, we're still able to provide an adequate level

of safety for the citizens of South Dakota and those traveling through our state," said Lt. Randi Erickson, director of training and professional standards for the South Dakota Highway Patrol.



**Eight new Sioux Falls Police Department officers took part in a swearing-in process led by Judge Susan Sabers in 2017.** Photo: Courtesy

of Sioux Falls Police Department

At times, that means only two or three officers are on patrol and responding to calls on the reservation of about 4,300 square miles and roughly 18,000 residents.

"If we have events coming up, we can prepare, but if it's just a shift and something is happening and the officer needs help, that's a huge safety factor," Brings Plenty said.

Officers in the small tribal agency, with its headquarters in Eagle Butte, are often on-call to respond while off duty, adding to stress and pressure on officers and making the job less desirable to new recruits.

"Our funding source has shrunk and our population has grown," Brings Plenty said. "Even though we have a smaller town, we take an enormous number of calls."

The instantaneous and expansive reach of social media can hurt a police agency's reputation and morale if someone is unhappy how an incident played out, Brings Plenty said.

"With social media, if somebody isn't happy, they're going to let the world know they're unhappy," he said.

The complaints, whether founded or unfounded, can tarnish an agency's reputation in the community and hurt recruitment, especially in a department seeking to build its force by hiring mostly local candidates.

The Cheyenne River force looks to its corrections staff, including workers at its detention facility, as a sort of farm club for future patrol officers. Leaders in the agency also reach out to children and youth at career days and other events to gain the trust of young people and hopefully spark an interest in a career in law enforcement, Brings Plenty said.

"Some of the youth that you meet out there, they're intrigued with law enforcement, the idea of it," he said. "The little ones, they want you to put on your lights and sirens. It shows them what we do, and they get to meet the officers on a more human level."

## Little leeway for small departments

If the number of officers on a police force falls too low, the safety of the public and the on-duty officers can be threatened, particularly in small departments that cover large swaths of geography.

Years ago, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in northwestern South Dakota had nearly two dozen certified law enforcement officers on its force. Now, due to funding reductions and difficulty in hiring qualified applicants, the force is down to about 10 officers, according to Capt. Joe Brings Plenty of the Cheyenne River tribal law enforcement agency.



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**They've built up something in their head and this is what it's like and what I want to do, but when they see the daily grind and experience what we do with the stresses and the long hours, it's not always what they thought.**

- Lt. Toby Benson, head of recruitment, Sioux Falls Police Department

## Small staffs juggle stressful situations

According to the 2018 crime report released recently by the state Attorney General's Office, staffing surveys show several South Dakota agencies have limited officer counts at any given time.

The cities of Avon, Beresford, Kadoka, Kimball, Lake Norden, Menno, Murdo, Platte, Scotland and Tripp have only one officer. Municipal forces with only two officers include Alcester, Clark, Eagle Butte, Jefferson, Faith, Freeman, Parkston, Philip and Tyndall, according to the report.

Finding qualified applicants to fill positions in remote rural areas is difficult and having a single opening on a small force can dramatically affect the safety of the community and the officers themselves.

Jeremy Wellnitz, chief of police in Clark, S.D., is one of two full-time officers in the city of about 1,050 people located 30 miles west of Watertown. Even with two officers and a pair of part-time officers who help out on weekends, providing 24-hour police service puts a great burden on Wellnitz and his full-time colleague.

On a recent day, Wellnitz took his first call at 3:51 a.m. and didn't return home until 4 p.m. During a phone call with a reporter, a trespassing complaint came in and Wellnitz got back in his patrol car and responded to the incident.

He said it is a challenge to find a qualified applicant willing to move to Clark for a \$40,000-a-year salaried position that requires 12 to 14 hours a day on patrol and also to be on call almost constantly when not on duty.

One major drawback of small forces is that it is nearly impossible for a full-time officer to go on vacation. "That's one major downfall in a small department," he said.

After leaving many hours of vacation time on the table in recent years, Wellnitz said the Clark City Council agreed to pay up to 40 hours of lost vacation time each year to its officers.

But the extra pay doesn't reduce stress the way a vacation could, Wellnitz said. "I'd rather take a vacation and spend some time away to refresh and regroup," he said.

The challenge of recruiting a qualified officer will soon become real for Wellnitz as he prepares for the departure of the other full-time officer who will be deployed for about a year with the Army Reserves.

In addition to the typical recruiting challenges, Willnitz faces the hurdle of finding a qualified candi-



**Police agencies across the state are finding it difficult to recruit and retain qualified employees to respond to incidents such as this one in Hughes County.** Photo: Courtesy of Pierre Capital Journal

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date willing to move there for only a 1-year stint.

If he can't hire someone, Wellnitz assumes he will be working more hours than ever during his colleague's deployment.

"I could try to hire somebody, but I could only have them for basically a year, and nobody wants to come out to Clark to work for just one year," Wellnitz said.

## Recruiting hard, seeking diversity

Benson, head of recruiting for Sioux Falls police, said the department aggressively recruits new officers throughout the year.

The department, which has 260 officers and is fully staffed at 269, has about 20 employees who visit colleges and technical schools about three times a month to meet with potential officer candidates in classes or at educational seminars. A few times a year the recruiters, who are full-time patrol or administrative officers, also attend job fairs to find candidates, mainly targeting Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. A main goal is to meet candidates in person to answer their questions but also to sell the idea of working in the agency and living in Sioux Falls.

Recent graduates or late-stage college or tech school students take a different approach to a job hunt than candidates in the past. These days, Benson said, officer candidates want information about the job but also the community where they will live and specifics about opportunities for career advancement or specialties such as detective work or handling dogs.

"The younger people now are looking at communities more than they did before...they're asking, 'What do you have to offer?'" Benson said. "They're looking for a place to live primarily and then they think about work."

Benson said the best officer candidates see policing as a calling or a mission to help others and keep communities safe, but that isn't always the case.

"There's been a mindset shift," said Benson, a native of Sioux Falls. "When I started 24 years ago, this was one of those dream jobs. It was what you wanted to do and all you thought about. But people now aren't as sure if it's what they want to do."

Retaining officers has also become a challenge for many departments and is one major cause of the overall officer shortage.

"They've built up something in their head and this is what it's like and what I want to do, but when they see the daily grind and experience what we do with the stresses and the long hours, it's not always what they thought," said Benson.

Erickson, the highway patrol lieutenant, said potential hires generally ask three questions: how much is the pay, what shifts will they work and where will they have to live. Most candidates want to live in populated areas with more services, he said.

Even with aggressive recruiting, the agency is unable to reach full staffing, Erickson said. According to the 2018 state crime report, the department at the time of its survey had 181 patrol officers. The fully budgeted patrol staff would be 193.

Brendyn Medina, spokesperson for the Rapid City Police Department, said the agency is generally able to hire enough people to compensate for retirements and the normal turnover of officers.

"We do a pretty good job on trying to stay on top of our number," Medina said. "But over the years, we've had to think a little more creatively to try in our recruitment efforts to garner interest in the law enforcement field."

Recent efforts include more aggressive attempts to attract officer candidates who reflect the diversity of the community, which mostly means trying to recruit women and Native Americans.

In mid-March, the department hosted a recruitment event called Strong{HER} focused on educating potential female candidates about police work and employment opportunities.

Along with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, the Rapid City Police Department also participates in the Akicita Mentorship Program that pairs working officers with Native American students in the criminal justice program at Western Dakota Tech.



**Despite challenges in recruiting, South Dakota police agencies continue to hire and train new recruits. In this photo from March, new Sioux Falls Police Department officers Carter Hand, Nery Garcia, and Vivek Shrestha are shown upon completion of their academy training in Pierre.** Photo: Courtesy of

Sioux Falls Police Department

The intent of Akacita — the Lakota word for “soldier” or “warrior” — is to heighten interest in law enforcement among Native Americans while building relationships between police agencies and Rapid City’s largest minority population.

The program has seen some early success, as have efforts to lure more women into policing, said Peter Ragnone, criminal justice program director at WDT.

Women made up about half of the fall 2018 class of new enrollees in criminal justice at the technical school, he said.

Ragnone, who spent about 25 years on the Rapid City police force, said that when he was hired as an officer in 1991 more than 100 people applied for about five openings, a ratio of 20 applicants for one job.

Now, he said, the agency and others in South Dakota typically see about only three applicants for each open officer position.

## Battling distrust of the profession

Ragnone said the typical turnover rate among the state’s roughly 1,700 law enforcement officers is about 10 percent per year. The high rate puts great pressure on departments statewide, especially those with larger forces, to fill those 170 positions just to keep up.

Enrollment in the WDT justice program has been steady, with about 50 new students in fall 2018, Ragnone said.

Still, those and others who seek to become certified in law enforcement at colleges and tech schools cannot meet the increasing demand caused by rising population and a growing population of officers reaching retirement age, Ragnone said.

“Our program numbers are good; larger than what we see in recent years, but the demand also has increased, and the demand is more than what our program alone could supply,” he said. “It is definitely what we would call an applicant’s market because of the opportunities.”

National experts and some police officials in South Dakota say interest in becoming an officer was dampened by the recent spate of high-profile incidents in which police officers have become embroiled in use-of-force and racial controversies or have been videotaped beating or killing unarmed citizens.

Ragnone said he discusses those events with his students who often see those incidents as caused by poor decision making on the part of an individual officer and not as a larger trend in policing.

“My students seem to think that these are individual decisions, and whether an officer is a hero or a heel is based on decisions that the officer made on their own,” Ragnone said.

However, the vilification of officers and distrust in some communities has likely lowered the interest in law enforcement as a career for some young people, said David McNeil, chief of the Aberdeen Police Department and president of the South Dakota Police Chiefs’ Association.

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"I can see that some people would have an apprehension about going into law environment because of those very publicized national incidents, those tragic situations that have occurred," McNeil said. "If people have a limited connection or frame of view or understanding of what police do, maybe they would be less inclined to explore this career, or parents might try to persuade their recent college graduate to look somewhere other than law enforcement."

When McNeil entered law enforcement 27 years ago, an open position as a patrol officer would attract up to 250 applications from people eager to be an officer.

"In recent years, we have had the jobs open until filled, so somebody can come in off the street and start the process," McNeil said.

McNeil and others say a quick solution to the officer shortage is unlikely, so they stress to front-line officer that every interaction with a citizen is a chance to form a lasting positive impression that could pay off through increased officer applications down the road.

"In general, we have to do a better job of showing our communities what their law enforcement agencies do for them" McNeil said. "What are our operations, our strategies and our philosophies to explain our mission and be better connected."

Many agencies are using social media to reach out to the public to show the positive sides of policing, McNeil said.

## ABOUT BART PFANKUCH



Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal. Bart has spent almost 30 years as a reporter and editor.



**Come Help  
us Celebrate  
Dick's  
80th Birthday**



**Spread the word!  
Groton American Legion  
Friday, April 19th, 3-7 p.m.  
Coffee and Cupcakes at 3 p.m.  
Beef / Fish Taco Bar at 5 p.m.**

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## Summary of the April 10-12, 2019 Blizzard and Heavy Snow

A low pressure system that developed in eastern Colorado during the afternoon of April 9th, 2019, produced heavy snowfall across the region on April 10-11th as it moved through the Central and Northern Plains.

The initial wave of snow moved into portions of central and eastern South Dakota during the early morning hours of April 10th. This snow fell at rates exceeding 1 inch an hour and produced anywhere from 3 to 12 inches of snow by the evening of April 10th. The heaviest snow occurred between US Highway 12 and 14, stretching from Eagle Butte, eastward through northern Faulk County and to the Watertown area.

The second wave of snow occurred as during the evening of April 10th through the early morning hours of April 12th, as the low moved from central Kansas to southwestern Minnesota. Once again, snowfall rates exceeded 1 inch an hour in many locations on April 11th. The heavy snow, combined with winds gusting between 40 and 50 mph, produced blizzard conditions across much of central and eastern South Dakota into the evening hours of April 11th. The poor weather conditions led to "No Travel Advised" across much of the eastern 2/3rds of South Dakota and closed Interstate 90 from Rapid City to Sioux Falls and Interstate 29 from Sioux Falls to Fargo, ND.

Storm total snowfall amounts exceeded a foot for numerous locations and some locations even eclipsed the two foot mark. Finally, thundersnow was reported across portions of eastern South Dakota, especially in the Watertown area.



## Snowfall Reports (in)

Clear Lake	26.3	3 Ese Watertown	25
3 Nnw Norbeck	25	5 W Mansfield	24.5
1 W Roscoe	24	1 Wnw Hayti	22.3
Orient	21	4 S Garden City	20
Wallace	20	Wilmot	19.5
3 S Clear Lake	18	Clear Lake	17
La Bolt	14.5	Murdo	14.3
3 E Watertown	12.5	3 W Sisseton	12.4

data valid as of Fri 12:28 pm - NWS Aberdeen

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## Today in Weather History

April 13, 1986: A significant spring storm quickly intensified bringing blizzard conditions to much of the Northern Plains Region. Up to 18 inches of snow was reported in North Dakota, and in South Dakota, winds gusting to 90 mph whipped the snow into drifts fifteen feet high. Livestock losses were in the millions of dollars, and for some areas, it was the worst blizzard ever.

April 13, 1995: Flooding, resulting from snowmelt from the two major snowstorms in April and saturated soils, caused extensive road damage and inundation. The flooding caused several road closings and numerous flooded basements in many counties. Also, many lakes were overfull in Day and Campbell Counties. Flooded farmland caused severe delays in small grain planting. Spink, Sully, McPherson, and Brown Counties were declared disasters.

April 13, 2010: Unyielding south winds developed over central and northeast South Dakota in the early afternoon and continued into the early evening hours. South winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to near 70 mph caused some structural and shingled damage across the area. A pickup on Interstate-90 lost a camper to the high winds. The high winds, combined with lowered humidity and dry fuels, helped fan several grassland fires across the region. The most substantial fire started from a downed power line in Campbell County near the town of Glenham. The fire grew to be five miles long by two miles wide and traveled eight miles before it was under control. Almost 6000 acres were burned with nearly 20 fire departments dispatched.

1999: A two-mile-wide area of wind-driven hail pounded residences and farm equipment for about a 5 mile stretch at least as far as State Highway 158 in west Texas near Midland/Odessa. Hail grew up to about golf ball size and winds peaked at approximately 80 mph. The wind-driven hail broke windows in houses and blasted paint off the wooden siding. The strong winds took roofs off several mobile homes and at least one single-family house. Utility crews stated that the winds downed a total of 27 poles. The American Red Cross determined that 324 units were affected with 18 mobile homes and four houses destroyed. About 50-60 families were at least temporarily displaced.

2006: An F2 tornado hit Iowa City, Iowa and trekked across other Southeast parts of the University of Iowa campus doing 15+ million dollars damage hurting 30 people and damaging or destroying 1051 buildings. The roof/steeple/ bricks fell from the St. Patrick's Church shortly after 75 parishioners had taken to the rectory basement next door.

1877 - The second coastal storm in just three days hit Virginia and the Carolinas. The first storm flattened the sand dunes at Hatteras, and widened the Oregon inlet three quarters of a mile. The second storm produced hurricane force winds along the coast of North Carolina causing more beach erosion and land transformation. (David Ludlum)

1955 - The town of Axis, AL, was deluged with 20.33 inches of rain in 24 hours establishing a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A major spring storm quickly intensified bringing blizzard conditions to much of the Northern Plains Region. Up to 18 inches of snow was reported in North Dakota, and in South Dakota, winds gusting to 90 mph whipped the snow into drifts fifteen feet high. Livestock losses were in the millions of dollars, and for some areas it was the worst blizzard ever. (Storm Data)






1987 - Thunderstorms in northern Texas produced wind gusts to 98 mph at the Killeen Airport causing a million dollars property damage. Two airplanes were totally destroyed by the high winds, and ten others were damaged. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

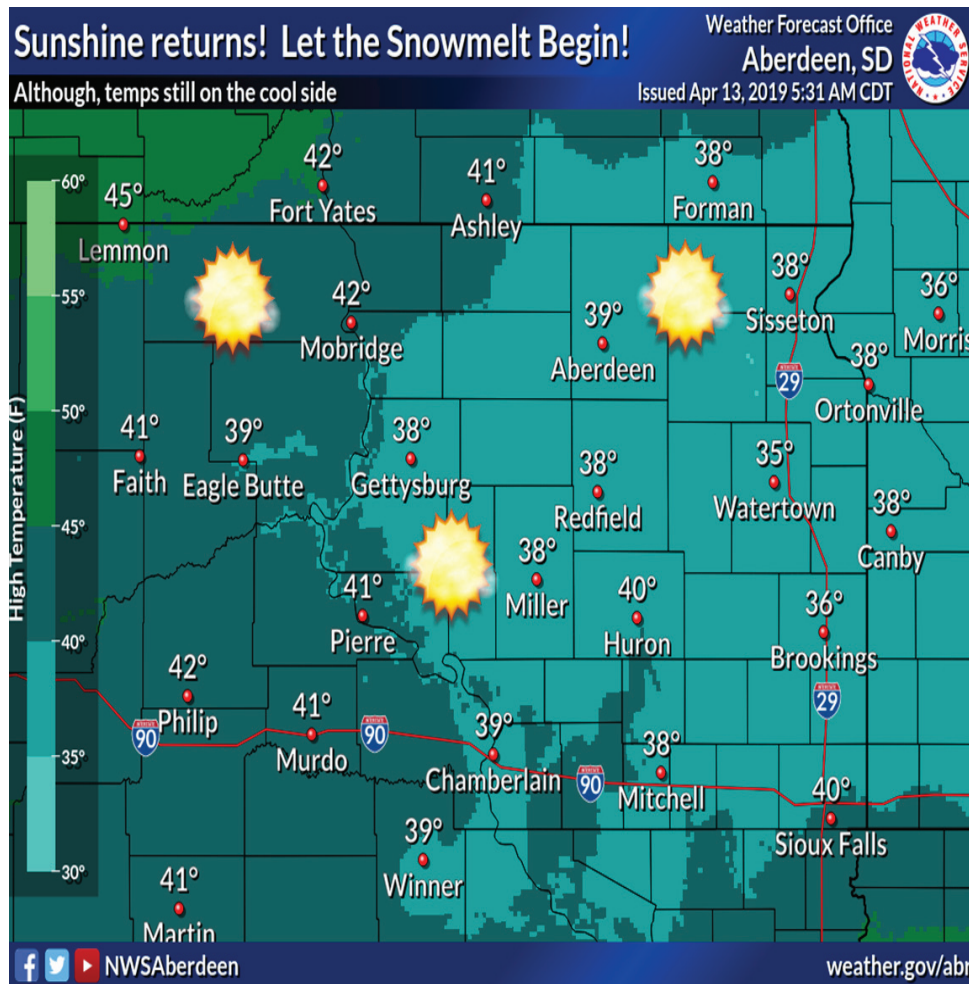
1988 - Low pressure off the Atlantic coast produced high winds across North Carolina, with gusts to 78 mph reported at Waves. The high winds combined with high tides to cause coastal flooding and erosion. About 275 feet of land was eroded from the northern tip of Pea Island. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms in central Florida produced golf ball size hail and a tornado near Lakeland FL. Fair and mild weather prevailed across most of the rest of the nation. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
				
Sunny	Mostly Clear then Patchy Fog	Areas Fog then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
<b>High: 38 °F</b>	<b>Low: 18 °F</b>	<b>High: 40 °F</b>	<b>Low: 27 °F</b>	<b>High: 49 °F</b>



Published on: 04/13/2019 at 6:42AM

Surface high pressure will drift across the region today, bringing mainly light winds and mostly sunny skies. Although temperatures will remain below normal, sunshine will return as highs rise into the upper 30s to lower 40s. Snow will start to slowly erode once again.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 33 °F at 5:46 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 25 °F at 3:16 AM**

**High Gust: 28 mph at 12:01 AM**

**Precip: Total Precip from the blizzard: 0.98**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 92° in 2003**

**Record Low: 9° in 2013**

**Average High: 56°F**

**Average Low: 31°F**

**Average Precip in April.: 0.57**

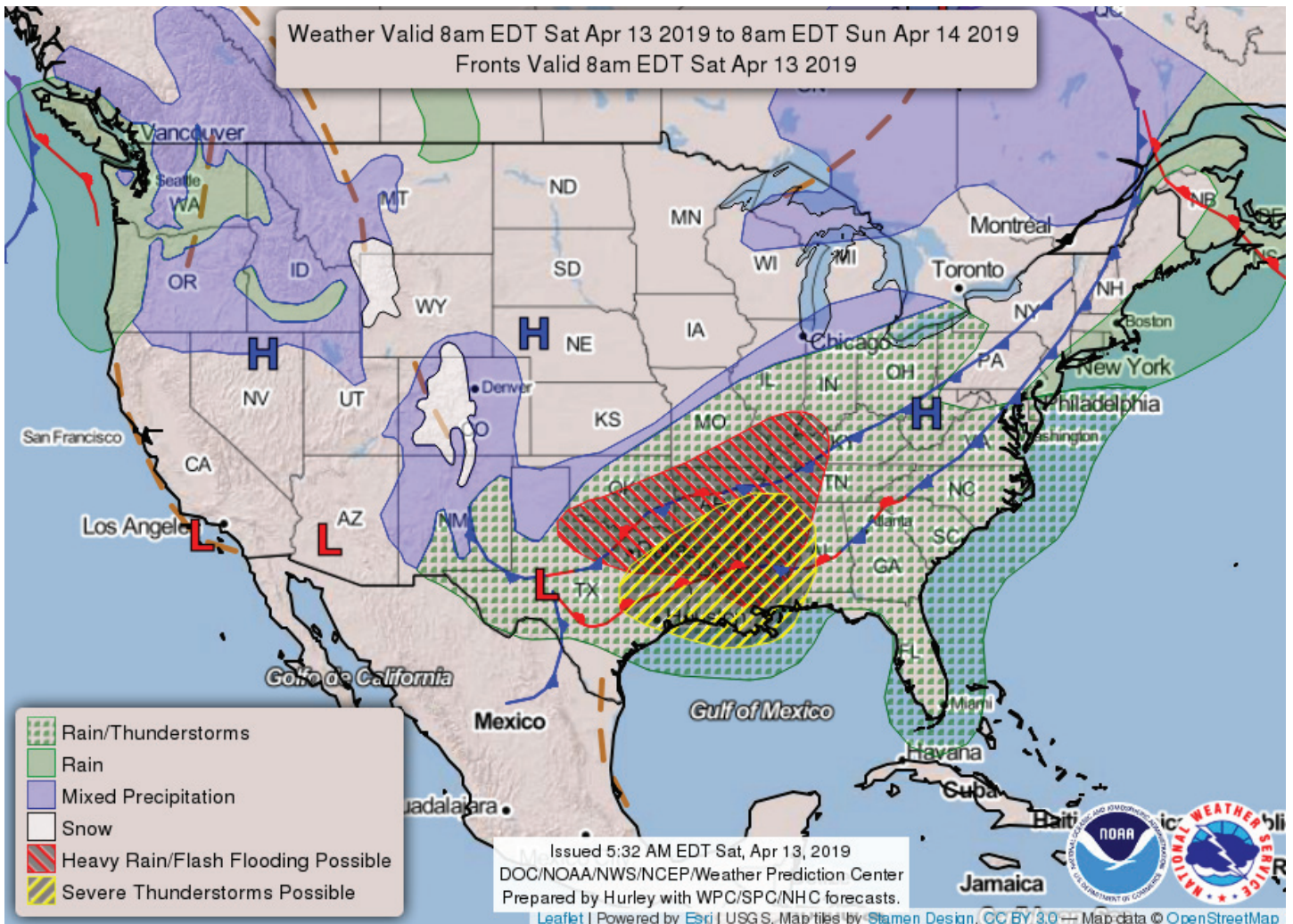
**Precip to date in April.: 1.07**

**Average Precip to date: 2.75**

**Precip Year to Date: 4.04**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:17 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:50 a.m.**





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## ONE FALSE TURN...

It was a new car with a new navigation system, and we were living near the top of a mountain. We were told that our home was well over 5,500 feet above sea level. To reach our front steps was a major driving project. The road twisted and turned and included several switchbacks - instant U turns. At times it seemed as though the turns were much tighter than a paper clip.

As we sat and struggled to program our nav system before beginning this journey, our hearts beat with excitement. It was a new experience, and we were anxious to learn if it worked. After many mistakes and several minutes, a voice came from the clouds and said: Proceed to the nearest major highway. It was frightening! What next, we thought.

As we started down the mountain, the little arrow that was intended to point us in the direction started to go around in circles. It was spinning as though it could not determine where we were to go. This was certainly not a confidence builder. But, we started down the mountain, twisting and turning, and when we arrived at the highway, that same voice said, Turn right and proceed 7.4 miles to Highway 16, and left on Highway 21. It was correct, and our faith grew.

Trust and confidence are the most critical factors when looking for directions - especially our directions for life. Solomon assured us that the integrity of the upright guides them. To live with Integrity means that we are obedient to all of the commands and directions in the Bible.

Consider Joseph: He was a man of great integrity, yet suffered greatly for being obedient. In the end, however, he was able to say: God meant it for good! Look at these results!

Prayer: Guide us and guard us, Lord, and give us courage to be obedient as we seek and follow Your way. Fill us with Your Spirit who will protect us from evil. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

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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

### South Dakota State University expands performance venue

By JEREMY FUGLEBERG Argus Leader

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A newly expanded performance complex at South Dakota State University in Brookings is setting the standard as an arts venue in the region, university and state arts leaders said.

The university recently completed a \$49 million expansion of the Performing Arts Center on its campus, boosting the size of the complex from 60,000 to 150,000 square feet, and is currently in the middle of its reopening celebration, the Argus Leader reported.

The expansion includes renovations of existing spaces and adds a recital hall and proscenium theater and is the home of the newly created School of Performing Arts, combining the university's music, dance and theater programs.

The university has come a long way since its dependence on the dated Doner Auditorium in Morrill Hall, said David Reynolds, director of the SDSU School of Performing Arts.

"To go from Doner Auditorium, which to be perfectly honest, had outlived its worth in the 1940s, to a state-of-the-art facility like we've built, is a game changer for our region," he said. "It truly is."

The newly expanded facility will become an "anchor performing arts destination in Eastern South Dakota," said Jim Speirs, executive director of Arts South Dakota.

The nonprofit arts advocacy organization regularly calculates the economic value of the arts in the state. In southeast South Dakota, audiences spend an average of \$30.35 per person in concert-related expenses and out-of-town attendees spend even more.

"The new PAC is bound to bring audiences from far and wide," Speirs said. "Investing in a new state-of-art performing arts center is a sound investment for the community of Brookings."

The Performing Arts Center's Larson Concert Hall has already built a reputation that's drawn top-shelf talent, Reynolds said.

"Now, with these other two venues, we're going to be able to invite even more varied guest artists to campus, shows, touring shows, those kinds of things," he said.

The reopening celebration features Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Postmodern Jukebox and a touring performance of Broadway's "Chicago, The Musical."

The new professional-caliber proscenium theater seats 850 and the recital hall seats 125. The Performing Arts Center's Larson Concert Hall seats 1,000. With no curtains or other features, it isn't designed for theater productions.

The proscenium theater adds a new, previously unavailable type of venue to the complex for productions from both students and touring groups, Reynolds said.

"Essentially, the Performing Arts Center puts Brookings 'on the map' in terms of top-rated touring ensembles," Speirs said.

The expanded Performing Arts Center is now home to technology, Reynolds said.

"We have an acoustical engineer who was part of this process, so every space where music can be made or studied or reproduced, or theatrical space, has been designed acoustically to make it as state of the art as any space that is being built in the United States right now," he said.

Another example of the facility's approach: The PAC now includes both new LED lighting, including some invented in the last year, as well as more traditional lighting — that typically found in local school districts.

"Public schools aren't going to have that kind of equipment, so we also have duplicates of the more traditional lighting, so students will have experience, depending on which direction they go," Reynolds said.

The school's programs were formerly spread across five buildings, including some not designed specifically for the arts. Putting the programs under the same roof will spark even more creativity, he said.

"So now we have all these creative people in the same building and they're talking to each other about how they can create new works with each other's support," he said.

Reynolds said there were some compromises made to keep the project on budget, but said a visitor working through the facility wouldn't notice what they were. His faculty and staff are pleased with the newly created spaces.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. A lot of people who are in my kind of work will go their entire career without being able to work on a project this significant," Reynolds said. "I'm so proud of all the staff and all the hard work and extra meetings and the compromise and the patience that went into seeing the project to fruition."

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

## South Dakota trio launches meat processing plant

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

FREEMAN, S.D. (AP) — From the Schmeckfest bratwurst to the South Dakota Chislic Festival, mouth-watering meat draws great crowds to the Freeman community.

Now, this Hutchinson County town of 1,300 residents has gained a business providing an outlet for both livestock producers and meat aficionados.

Prairie-to-Plate Enterprises Inc. will establish a butcher shop and meat processing facility along U.S. Highway 81, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

In addition, the building will house "The Chislic House," a restaurant specializing in chislic — cubes of fried meat, usually lamb, served on small skewers — and craft beers.

Will Ortman, Nate Preheim and Tim Kautz will operate as equal partners in the new venture, they told the Press & Dakotan. They recently acquired the former Katie's Malt Shoppe.

"Purchasing the building completes our set of cornerstone assets," Ortman said, "and will enable us to begin USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture)-inspected meat processing by late summer. Our aim is to serve local small to mid-size livestock producers by providing them access to processing capacity."

The partners plan to expand their business into a building constructed in the newly-annexed Freeman industrial park, Preheim said. The current building and future processing plant will be located on neighboring property.

"(The industrial park) is more or less directly across 81 to the east, and north just a few steps, within a stone's throw of the Chislic House," he said. "One of our strategic goals was to have a presence on both sides of (Highway 81)."

All of the operations will be initially housed under one roof, Preheim said.

"The meat-processing facility will in the back of the house and will act as a temporary facility until the main facility is ready to go live in fourth quarter of 2020," he said. "Our mobile slaughter unit will marry up to the Chislic House building with an overhead rail system."

While one part of the building will be used for meat processing, the other part will feature a favorite local snack for diners.

"The Chislic House guests will be able to enjoy local chislic and craft beer in the dining area," Preheim said.

The parent company will be the same for both enterprises.

"It will be the same entity; however our main butchery operation will simply be moved to the new facility," Preheim said. "We plan to keep some meat operations, mainly chislic, active at the Chislic House once we get moved to the new building. Also, we plan to have the Chislic House also function as a retail shop where customers can buy local grass fed meats."

The Prairie-to-Plate partners outlined their plans in a press release.

"The marketing plan will open doors for local and regional producers to see more value-chain dollars," they said. "The company is investing in professional branding and marketing to access regional markets."

The group will harvest animals on area farms with a mobile slaughter unit, according to the news release. Offal — the animals' entrails and internal organs — will be composted far from the city limits as part of the company's regenerative approach.

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Value-added butchery will take place at the processing facility. Prairie-to-Plate has also lined up an experienced head butcher, a marketing specialist and a retired USDA food safety inspector to facilitate USDA regulatory compliance.

Prairie-to-Plate is planning to build an expansion facility in Freeman's newly-annexed industrial park. Paperwork is underway to complete the purchase of the industrial-park site from the Freeman Community Development Corporation.

"The FCDC has been very supportive of our plans," Ortman said. "We see their decision as a strong validation of our approach."

The innovative approach has required a great deal of planning, Ortman said in the press release.

"The business is geared toward creating opportunity for livestock producers to access the consumer more directly," the partners said. "Additionally, the company will roll out an incentive program for local producers who wish to raise animals to be sold to the plant on-the-rail."

The company will sell directly through several marketing channels including retail, e-commerce, wholesale and through the Chislic House.

"The name Prairie-to-Plate symbolizes the vertical integration — from the prairie to the plate of customers — that will keep all dollars flowing to the local community," the partners said in the news release.

The announcement of the new businesses comes on the heels of outstanding recent visibility and public response to chislic.

The cubed meat — often served with garlic salt and saltine crackers, and enjoyed with a beer — has long been tied to the German-Russian settlers in Freeman and the surrounding region.

However, chislic — considered a South Dakota delicacy unknown to most people outside the state — has gained national attention in the past year.

The Meridian Cafe, located north of Yankton, was featured at the "Flavored Nation" food expo in Columbus, Ohio.

The popularity of the meat treat struck again last summer when the inaugural South Dakota Chislic Festival in Freeman debuted to a huge response.

Organizers were hoping 1,500-2,000 people would attend the festival. They became overwhelmed when more than 10,000 people arrived and food ran out quickly.

South Dakota Chislic Festival founder Josh Hofer said he and the event have no connection to the Prairie-to-Plate operation. However, he believes the arrival of the new business firmly entrenches the popularity and availability of chislic, in turn boosting the regional agricultural economy.

"We're really excited for what Prairie-to-Plate is going to bring to the table," he said. "For the South Dakota Chislic Festival, it represents the creation of another vibrant organization capitalizing on the Freeman area's strengths in food, heritage, the arts and agriculture."

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

01-24-25-40-70, Mega Ball: 4, Megaplier: 2

(one, twenty-four, twenty-five, forty, seventy; Mega Ball: four; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$140 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$101 million

## US agency reconsidering status of bistate sage grouse

By SCOTT SONNER Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is revising its plans to protect a type of imperiled game bird found only along the California-Nevada line after a federal judge struck down its earlier decision to rescind a proposal to list it as threatened.

The agency announced late Thursday it will reopen the public comment period and reconsider whether to protect the bistate sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act through June 11.

A judge ruled last May that the agency acted illegally in 2015 when it withdrew an earlier proposal to list the bistate grouse as a distinct, threatened segment of the larger population of the greater sage grouse.

The greater sage grouse is at the center of a dispute over Trump administration efforts to roll back protections adopted under President Barack Obama across 11 western states.

The U.S. Forest Service also is currently being sued over the bistate grouse by off-road enthusiasts in California and Nevada who say that agency's protection plans unnecessarily restrict motorized travel and could increase fire danger across rangeland habitat in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the Sierra's eastern front.

Scientists say both types of ground-dwelling, chicken-sized birds need multiple miles (kilometers) of undisturbed habitat around their traditional breeding grounds known as "leks" free from oil and gas drilling, livestock grazing, mining and other development. But they say the bistate grouse is more at risk than greater sage grouse with as few as 5,000 remaining across 7,000 square miles (18,130 sq. kilometers) of high-desert sagebrush.

The Fish and Wildlife Service announced Thursday it was reopening a 60-day comment period on the bistate grouse's status and plans to publish a final listing determination by Oct. 1.

In the meantime, the bird reverts to proposed listing status, which means other federal land managers must consult with Fish and Wildlife about any development or management plans that could encroach on its habitat, the agency said.

Pressed by conservationists in court, the Fish and Wildlife Service originally published a proposal in October 2013 to list the bistate grouse as a distinct population segment of the greater sage grouse that was threatened with extinction in California and Nevada.

But in April 2015, the agency withdrew that decision based on its conclusion threats to the bistate grouse were "no longer as significant as believed" and that "conservation plans were ameliorating threats" to the bird, the agency said in Thursday's notification.

Desert Survivors, the Center for Biological Diversity, WildEarth Guardians and Western Watershed Projects filed suit over that decision in March 2016 and U.S. District Chief Magistrate Judge Joseph Spero ruled May 2018 in San Francisco there were "no rational grounds for the service's conclusion."

Ileene Anderson, desert public lands director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said Friday the bistate sage grouse "are in deep trouble" and need urgent protection from the Endangered Species Act to survive.

"We're counting on the Trump administration do the right thing and shield these beautiful birds from extinction," she said. "The goal is to increase the number of birds throughout their range and that means protecting their habitat."

A lawyer for the plaintiffs in the Forest Service suit didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Spring snowstorm buries Midwest, tornadoes possible in South

By DAVE KOLPACK Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Strong winds and more snow hit the Midwest on Friday following a spring storm that buried several states in snow, while forecasters warned churches in the South to prepare for strong thunderstorms and potential weekend tornadoes.

The storm hovering over parts of Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota was the second "bomb cyclone" storm system to hit the region in a month. The blizzard was blamed for hundreds of vehicle crashes in Minnesota and left behind 25 inches of snow (63.5 centimeters) in northeast South Dakota.

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Authorities in central Minnesota said lightning struck a tree and a shed in the city of Isanti during a rare "thunder snow" storm, sending the building up in flames.

Flood warnings were issued Friday for the Red River along the Minnesota-North Dakota border, but the river wasn't expected to swell to levels seen during last month's severe Midwest flooding, said National Weather Service forecaster Greg Gust.

Forecasters warned that unseasonably low temperatures would remain through the weekend in the region following a low pressure system in the southwest U.S. that created two separate "chunks of energy," one in the Midwest and one in the South, Gust said.

"It is part of the same one-two punch that has accompanied the storms over the past few months," Gust said. "An upper cut followed by a hook."

Gusty wind, hail and potential tornadoes were forecast Saturday in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, eastern Texas and western Alabama. Similar weather was forecast Sunday in Georgia and the rest of Alabama, said Adam Baker, a weather service forecaster.

"Even a weak tornado that hits the right location can still be pretty devastating," Baker said.

The National Weather Service office in Birmingham, Alabama, warned churches to have someone monitor the weather during Sunday services amid heightened risk for damaging tornadoes.

The agency advised pastors to figure out the safest location for their congregations in case of severe weather, noting that large open rooms such as sanctuaries and auditoriums weren't safe.

A series of tornadoes on Palm Sunday in 1994 killed 40 people in Georgia and Alabama, and injured hundreds more. Half the deaths occurred when a tornado struck a rural Alabama church during services, causing the roof to collapse, according to a report about the damage by U.S. weather officials.

Associated Press writer Sudhuin Thanawala contributed to this report from Atlanta.

## South Dakota schools redesign classrooms to ease stress

By TANYA MANUS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City schools are tapping into the use of color, lighting and furniture to give students lower-stress environments. These redesign efforts support district's focus on trauma-informed practices.

"It really morphed into how can physical environments better meet the needs of students who experienced trauma," said Dave Swank, principal at Canyon Lake Elementary School.

When Open Heart United Methodist Church held a Christmas fundraiser to benefit its neighborhood schools, Robbinsdale Elementary was one of the recipients, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Principal Beth Keeney earmarked the funds for teachers. They can choose to either create a calming corner in their classroom or purchase flexible seating, which gives students options while learning. They might opt to sit on the floor at low tables, or choose large inflatable balls or even a standing desk, Keeney said.

"Kids are wiggly, and they need to move. These seating options let students choose what works best for them," she said. "In one classroom, kids start in an assigned spot and later in the day they are free to choose where they want to sit and where they want to work."

Calming corners or "chill out zones" are being developed in schools districtwide, offering students a chance to regain control of their emotions when they're upset.

Robbinsdale Elementary has a dedicated wellness room this school year, Keeney said.

"Some students have built-in breaks during the day to go do a couple of activities. We've recognized maybe that a student needs to take a 10 minute break. We're trying to be as proactive as we can with students that we know have trouble getting through the day," she said. "It's not a majority of the building population, but their behaviors can really ... take away from teaching time and education time."

Canyon Lake Elementary School added flexible furniture and "chill out zones."

"It's a bean bag chair that's not secluded but is set off. A student has a little bit more control (over) sensory input," Swank said.

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The school's classroom walls are painted blue — a color research indicates promotes calmness, focus and productivity. Blue light filters have been installed to mitigate the effects of the school buildings' fluorescent lighting that can trigger increased stress and anxiety, headaches and eye strain.

"We involved students in the redesign process. We asked them what they needed and what they wished the rooms looked like," Swank said.

Simplifying the appearance of classrooms by minimizing the amount of items hanging on the walls also can have a calming effect, Daniel said.

Rapid Valley Elementary teachers incorporate simple, child-friendly mindfulness activities that are proving beneficial for students and staff. Taking a few minutes to visualize a snowflake falling from the sky, or breathing deeply, or sending a good wish into the world are examples of easy mindfulness tasks that give everyone a chance to pause, focus and reduce their stress, Daniel said.

Next year, Rapid Valley's goal is to develop common vocabulary that all teachers will use to help students identify what they're feeling and manage their emotions, Daniel said.

She believes all the efforts to help students process and regulate their emotions, instead of simply reacting and creating chronic stress, directly contributes to their ability to learn.

"I'm a strong believer (that) we can't be successful at academics if we don't have a regulated little brain in the seat," Daniel said. "We sometimes underestimate how (unregulated) a brain a child can have."

In Rapid City, 16.4% of residents live in poverty, according to Data USA. That's a poverty rate higher than the national average of 14%. The Rapid City Area Schools District estimates 45% of students qualify for free or reduced lunches. Feeding and clothing kids frequently goes hand-in-hand with the district's other efforts to cope with students' trauma and stress.

"We want to make sure they're warm, they're well fed. We're taking away as many anxieties as possible. ... The cumulative effect is that the vast majority of our students (at Canyon Lake Elementary) are happy and feel safe when they're in school," Swank said. "Our counselors (assist) kids to have a plan in place to cope with things they may be facing while they're not under our roof."

Canyon Lake is one of the district's Title 1 schools, meaning a higher number of students come from low-income families and have a greater likelihood of experiencing one or more significant traumas, Swank said.

At Canyon Lake Elementary, Swank said every student can receive free breakfast and lunch during the school year. The school uses the Backpack Program to provide children in need with food on weekends, and last summer Canyon Lake was one of seven Rapid City schools where kids could eat free meals. With the help of the community, Canyon Lake keeps a stash of hats, gloves and coats available for children who lack winter clothing.

"If you aren't addressing (basic needs), no significant learning can take place," Swank said. "Some of our third, fourth and fifth graders are taking care of younger siblings (after school). ... If you've got a kid who's worried about who's going to be home, or if there's food for the weekend, those could be things taking up the limited amount of currency our kids have (for learning)."

Thanks to community support, there are some resources to aid middle school and high school students, too. For example, Rapid City High School partnered with Feeding South Dakota to provide a food pantry at school twice a month. It's open to any family that has a student in the Rapid City school district.

A free clothes closet for students, and another for the public, are open at Rapid City High School on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, at the same time the food pantry is open. During the holiday season, Rapid City Area Schools teamed up with local radio stations and First Interstate Bank to provide gift cards to homeless middle school and high school students.

Swank said anyone who wants to donate items to Canyon Lake or the school of their choice, should contact that school to find out how to help. Community support is essential so that schools can continue meeting students' needs.

"What you think education is or should be really expands by a huge magnitude," said Swank, who has worked in public education since 2000 and has been a principal for 10 years. "You are facilitating more than just the instructional side of things."



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

## Judge: End of April on death penalty question

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge has ruled the Pennington County State's Attorney's Office must disclose by the end the month whether it intends to seek the death penalty if two Rapid City men are convicted of their alleged roles in a murder.

Andre Martinez and Cole Waters, both 19, have pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, aiding and abetting first-degree murder, commission of a felony with a firearm and aiding and abetting first-degree robbery.

The Rapid City Journal reports Judge Robert Gusinsky this week granted a defense motion to require prosecutors to disclose their intent on the death penalty by April 30.

Prosecutors say Martinez and Waters hatched a plan to rob another teenager Feb. 26. Waters allegedly held a gun to the head of 17-year-old Emanuel Hinton, of Box Elder, and pulled the trigger.

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

## Ace Swedish coder held by Ecuador was defender of Assange

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and FRANK BAJAK Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — An ace Swedish programmer who was an early, ardent supporter of WikiLeaks has been arrested in Ecuador in an alleged plot to blackmail the country's president over his abandonment of Julian Assange.

But friends of Ola Bini say the soft-spoken encryption expert is being unfairly targeted for his activism on behalf of digital privacy.

Bini, 36, was arrested Thursday at the airport in the Ecuadorian capital of Quito as he prepared to board a flight to Japan. The arrest came just hours after Assange was evicted from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. Bini was carrying at least 30 electronic storage devices.

His lawyers said they have not been notified whether he's been charged. Authorities said the plot hatched with two unidentified Russian hackers living in Ecuador involved threatening to release compromising documents about President Lenin Moreno as he toughened his stance against the WikiLeaks founder.

"It's up to the justice system to determine if he committed a crime," Interior Minister Maria Paula Romo said Friday. "But we can't allow Ecuador to become a center for piracy and spying. That period in our history is over."

Romo said Bini had traveled at least 12 times to meet with Assange at the London embassy. She said he was also in Venezuela earlier this year around the same time as a close aide to Moreno's ex-mentor turned arch enemy, Rafael Correa. The former president granted Assange asylum in 2012 and has been leading a campaign cheered on by WikiLeaks to expose alleged corruption by Moreno that has included the release of damaging personal documents and photos, including several that showed him eating lobster in bed.

While the extent of Bini's relationship with Assange is unclear, the Swede has defended the WikiLeaks founder's free speech rights in an online blog he's kept over the years.

"Any official who has called for Assange to be treated as a terrorist or enemy combatant should be seriously considering stepping down from office," he wrote in December 2010.

In the same blog, Bini condemned Amazon for knocking WikiLeaks off its hosting services and credit card companies and PayPal for refusing to process payments to the secret-spilling site. He also described working on a January 2011 panel about WikiLeaks put on by his then-employer, global software firm Thoughtworks, and including Daniel Ellsberg of Pentagon Papers fame.

An expert on secure communications, Bini arrived in Quito in 2013 after being transferred from Chicago to the Ecuador office of Thoughtworks, which has guiding principles that stress social activism. Around the same time, he started to rethink his online habits and at one point gave up his Gmail account in favor

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of self-hosted email.

"I am not a huge fan of having all my electronic life hosted under the auspices of U.S. legislation, especially not in light of recent events," he wrote in a 2013 post.

Friends and loved ones describe Bini as a computer geek who felt most at ease solving complex programming problem for days at a time. At the time of his arrest, he was traveling to Japan, his former wife Malin Sandell told The Associated Press, for two weeks of jujitsu training — one of the few hobbies he indulged in outside of his all-consuming work as a code developer.

His Ecuadorian girlfriend said that she did not recall Bini ever expressing strong support for Assange despite the fact that the WikiLeaks founder has deep ties in Sweden and would have been an obvious topic of conversation in the small Ecuadorian programming circles.

"Ola is not a hacker, if by that you mean a criminal, but he is someone trying to understand how computers work and protect people's privacy," Sofia Ramos said in an interview from Brussels.

Ramos worked with Bini on a project at the Center for Digital Autonomy for creating a more secure instant-messaging encryption protocol. In its statement Friday, the center said Computerworld had ranked him in 2010 as Sweden's No. 6 developer.

The center is a small nonprofit incorporated in Ecuador and Spain dedicated to private, secure and anonymous communication. Its website says it has contributed to well-known projects including Enigmail and the Tor privacy browser.

In the hours before he went to the airport Thursday, Bini sent a tweet warning of a "witch hunt" by Ecuadorian authorities mopping up after Assange's forced departure from the embassy. Now his friends say that prophecy appears to have been true.

"I didn't realize that knowing somebody is a crime," said Vijay Prashad, who runs a Marxist publishing house in India and last saw Bini a few months ago in Sao Paulo, Brazil. "He's the last person who would ever be involved in an attempt to overthrow a government."

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Associated Press writers Raphael Satter in London and Gonzalo Solano in Quito, Ecuador, contributed to this report.

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Follow Goodman on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APjoshgoodman> . Follow Bajak at <https://twitter.com/fbajak>

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Follow AP's coverage of the arrest of WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange here: <https://www.apnews.com/WikiLeaks>

## Migrants break border gate, force their way into Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican authorities said a group of about 350 migrants broke the locks on a gate at the Guatemalan border Friday and forced their way into southern Mexico to join a larger group of migrants trying to make their way toward the United States.

The National Immigration Institute did not identify the nationalities of the migrants, but they are usually from Central America.

A similar confrontation occurred on the same border bridge between Mexico and Guatemala last year. The institute said the migrants were acting in a "hostile" and "aggressive" way, and accused them of also attacking local police in Metapa, a Mexican village that lies between the border and the nearby city of Tapachula.

The group of 350 pushed past police guarding the bridge and joined a larger group of about 2,000 migrants who are walking toward Tapachula in the latest caravan to enter Mexico.

Claudia Jaqueline Sandoval, 43, from El Progreso, Honduras, was walking toward Tapachula with her 6-year-old daughter. Another son and a daughter are already in the United States.

"I have been HIV positive for 16 years," said Sandoval, but her reason for going north was not just

medical treatment. "It has been two years since I heard from my son" in the United States, and money is scarce, she said.

There are already several groups of migrants in the southern border state of Chiapas who have expressed frustration at Mexico's policy of slowing or stopping the process of handing out humanitarian and exit visas at the border.

A group of several hundred Cuban, African and Central American migrants have been waiting at the immigration offices in Tapachula for documents that would allow them to travel to the U.S. border, where most plan to request asylum.

Some members of that group have scuffled with immigration authorities and broken windows at the offices in recent days, accusing officials of making them wait too long for papers.

And another group of an estimated 2,500 Central American and Cuban migrants have been stuck for at least a week further west in the Chiapas town of Mapastepec, also waiting for papers.

## UK lawmakers: Julian Assange should face justice in Sweden

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — More than 70 British legislators have urged the government to make sure WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange faces Swedish justice if prosecutors there reopen a rape allegation against him.

The lawmakers signed a letter late Friday urging Home Secretary Sajid Javid to "do everything you can to champion action that will ensure Julian Assange can be extradited to Sweden in the event Sweden makes an extradition request."

Sweden suspended its investigation of serious sexual misconduct two years ago because Assange was beyond their reach while he was living in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London with political asylum status.

He was arrested Thursday after Ecuador withdrew his asylum and is now in British custody facing an extradition request from the United States on charges of conspiring to break into a Pentagon computer.

He is in Belmarsh Prison in southeast London waiting to be sentenced for jumping bail in Britain, and plans to fight extradition to the U.S.

If Britain receives competing extradition requests, lawyers say the Home Secretary would have some leeway in deciding which takes priority. Considerations would usually include which request came first, and which alleged crime was more serious.

Most of the lawmakers who signed the letter are from the opposition Labour Party, whose leader, Jeremy Corbyn, wants Britain to refuse to send Assange to the U.S. After Assange's arrest, he praised Assange for exposing U.S. atrocities committed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Some Conservative Party members are also backing the move. Prominent lawmaker Alistair Burt, a former Foreign Office minister, said the "minimizing of the issues in relation to sexual assault are really quite disturbing."

He said the testimony of the women who have been involved makes it "essential" that Assange face justice to either be cleared or convicted.

Assange, 47, has denied the sexual misconduct allegations, which he claims are politically motivated.

When he took up residence inside the Ecuadorian Embassy in 2012, it was to avoid answering the sexual allegations against him in Sweden, which had sought his extradition for questioning. He also sought refuge because of fears he would ultimately be extradited to the U.S.

Swedish prosecutors opened an investigation into Assange after two women accused him of sexual offenses during a 2010 visit to Sweden.

Some of the sexual misconduct accusations are no longer viable because their time ran out. But Swedish prosecutors have said a rape case could be reactivated before the statute of limitations ends in August 2020.

After Assange's arrest, Swedish prosecutor Eva-Marie Persson was tapped to look into a request from a lawyer for one of the accusers to find out whether the case can be pursued.

Elisabeth Massi Fritz, the lawyer for the woman who reported being raped by Assange, told The As-

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sociated Press that she would "do everything" to have the Swedish case reopened so Assange can be extradited to Sweden and prosecuted.

The extradition process is not swift, and Assange could appeal several times if decisions go against him. It is expected that it would take a year or longer for him to be sent to the United States or possibly to Sweden even if he ultimately loses in court.

Associated Press writer Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark contributed.

## Booker to launch campaign tour from city where he was mayor

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

Democratic presidential hopeful Cory Booker will launch a national campaign tour Saturday with a major rally in the New Jersey city where he served as mayor, as he looks to break out of a crowded 2020 field of more than a dozen viable candidates.

The senator from New Jersey has made visiting early voting states a priority during his 10 weeks in the presidential race, but so far he remains in the middle of the pack with poll numbers in the single digits. Still, his campaign is projecting confidence that he doesn't have to surge early to succeed with a strategy that's built more on grassroots enthusiasm than national buzz.

"We're trying to win the election — we're not trying to win a news cycle," campaign manager Addisu Demissie told reporters this week, describing his approach as "organize and get hot at the end."

Of course, Booker and his advisers know that building a higher profile requires some bigger swings for attention that spotlight his talent for soaring oratory. Saturday's rally before a friendly crowd in Newark gives the campaign a chance "to keep Cory front and center with the voters, which is how you break out here," as Demissie put it. "You need to be visible."

Booker's campaign offered few details about what he will say at his rally beyond describing it as an opportunity to outline his case to be the Democratic nominee to take on President Donald Trump. Demissie described it as a "framing moment," adding that the former mayor will be "diving deeper into some of the themes" from his speech during the two-week national tour that it kickstarts. His first stops are in Iowa, Georgia and Nevada.

His initial campaign announcement in February emphasized the importance of "common purpose" in politics, a message he's since expanded on to trumpet his successful work on bipartisan measures, such as the criminal justice reform bill that Trump signed last year.

"There are some folks that want to criticize you for getting into the sausage-making, for making compromises and horse-trading, but when I walk around my neighborhood now, folk come out and tell me, 'Thank you for doing that bill,'" Booker told New York-based radio show "Ebro in the Morning" on Friday.

Booker, 49, raised more than \$5 million in the first quarter of the year, his campaign said, which is less than higher-polling candidates Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Rep. Beto O'Rourke reported raising in their first 24 hours in the race. That sum ranks Booker behind at least six contenders, including South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who raked in \$7 million.

But Booker, who ended 2018 with more than \$4 million in his Senate campaign coffers, doesn't need a lot of money to leverage his skill at winning over crowds.

Heather Bowie, a 46-year-old woman who saw Booker speak last weekend in New Hampshire, said what she likes about Booker has less to do with his policies than his attempt to build a sense of community.

"His whole thing about unity? I believe him," she said. "I believe him. He's building a community this way."

Symone Sanders, a Democratic strategist not affiliated with any 2020 campaign, predicted that Booker could even "afford to wait until the debate stage and have a breakout moment."

"If he doesn't have a national breakout moment tomorrow or on this tour, that doesn't mean he won't catch fire down the line," said Sanders, who serves as a senior adviser to the Democratic group Priorities USA. "I do think there are people who are resonating with his message. He's just not the person on national television every week."

Associated Press writer Hunter Woodall in New Hampshire contributed to this report.

## Tiger looms large, even on star-filled Masters leaderboard

By **DAVID BRANDT AP Sports Writer**

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The top of the Masters leaderboard is a crowded place after two rounds, with Francesco Molinari, Jason Day, Brooks Koepka, Adam Scott and Louis Oosthuizen in a five-way tie for the lead.

Then there's the man lurking one shot behind: four-time tournament winner Tiger Woods.

The 43-year-old Woods, who won his last Masters in 2005, turned back the clock with four birdies in his final 10 holes on Friday, thrilling the Augusta National crowds with a handful of big putts and some vintage fist pumps.

"I feel like I played my own way back into the tournament," Woods said. "I was just very patient today, felt very good to be out there doing what I was doing. This is now three straight majors that I've been in the mix and so it's good stuff."

Woods shot a 68 and has plenty of big-name company among the leaders, including 48-year-old Phil Mickelson, who didn't have his best round with a 73 on Friday, but is still just three shots off the lead.

"There's nothing better than having a chance going into the weekend at the Masters," Mickelson said. "And that's what I want to focus on and I know that I'm playing well enough."

Molinari is trying to win his second major in two years after winning the 2018 British Open. The Italian played a bogey-free round, finishing with a 67. Day also shot a 67.

All of the five leaders are major champions and three have been No. 1 in the world.

Woods is tied at 6-under for the tournament with Dustin Johnson, Xander Schauffele and Justin Harding, who is the only Masters newcomer in the group. Ian Poulter and Jon Rahm are at 5-under.

Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau started Friday with a one-shot lead. The 28-year-old Koepka, a three-time major winner, made birdie on No. 18 to salvage a 71 and stay tied for the lead. DeChambeau faded with a 75.

The list of contenders might be impressive, but nobody draws a crowd like Woods.

It's been 11 years since he won his last major and had five surgeries since then, including four on his back and the other to rebuild his left knee. It's hard to believe considering the way he was playing on Friday.

Now comes the weekend, and it certainly has the potential to be a classic Masters finish.

For more AP golf coverage: <https://apnews.com/apf-Golf> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Charging Assange reflects dramatic shift in US approach

By **ERIC TUCKER and BEN FOX Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The decision to seek the extradition of Julian Assange marked a dramatic new approach to the founder of WikiLeaks by the U.S. government, a shift that was signaled in the early days of the Trump administration.

President Barack Obama's Justice Department had extensive internal debates about whether to charge Assange amid concerns the case might not hold up in court and would be viewed as an attack on journalism by an administration already taking heat for leak prosecutions.

But senior Trump administration officials seemed to make clear early on that they held a different view, dialing up the rhetoric on the anti-secrecy organization shortly after it made damaging disclosures about the CIA's cyberespionage tools.

"WikiLeaks walks like a hostile intelligence service and talks like a hostile intelligence service," former CIA Director Mike Pompeo said in April 2017 in his first public speech as head of the agency.

"Assange and his ilk," Pompeo said, seek "personal self-aggrandizement through the destruction of

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Western values.”

A week after the CIA director’s speech, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the arrest of Assange was a priority, part of a broader Justice Department crackdown on leakers.

“We’ve already begun to step up our efforts, and whenever a case can be made, we will seek to put some people in jail,” he said.

Pompeo, now secretary of state, declined Friday to discuss the issue, citing the now-active legal pursuit of Assange following his removal a day earlier by British authorities from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.

The administration won’t say why they decided now to charge Assange with a single count of computer intrusion conspiracy that dates to 2010. Back then, WikiLeaks is alleged to have helped Chelsea Manning, then a U.S. Army intelligence analyst, crack a password that gave her higher-level access to classified computer networks.

Nor will they say whether the Obama administration had the same evidence that forms the basis of the indictment, or whether Assange will face additional counts if he is extradited to the United States.

But a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal and legal matters, traced the genesis of the indictment to what’s known as the “Vault 7 leak” in 2017, when WikiLeaks released thousands of pages of documents revealing details about CIA tools for breaking into targeted computers, cellphones and consumer electronics.

A former CIA software engineer was charged with violating the Espionage Act by providing the information to WikiLeaks and is to go on trial later this year in New York. And the leak was a tipping point in deciding to pursue Assange, the official said.

“Vault 7 was the nail in the coffin, so to speak,” the official said.

It ended years of ambivalence about what to do about Assange, who was hailed by many when WikiLeaks published hundreds of thousands of State Department cables and U.S. military documents, including many that revealed previously unknown facts about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the detainees held at the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Even today, Assange and WikiLeaks have supporters around the world, amid a debate over whether the dissemination of raw, unfiltered documents and data counts as journalism.

Daniel Ellsberg, the former military analyst behind the famed leak of the secret history of the Vietnam War known as the Pentagon Papers, called the charging of Assange an “ominous” effort to criminalize a necessary component of journalism.

“The charges are based on facts that were known throughout the Obama administration, which chose not to indict because of the obvious challenge to the First Amendment that would involve,” Ellsberg said in an Associated Press interview.

A former Justice Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions, said there was an extensive debate within the government over the feasibility of charging Assange with the publication of stolen, classified materials.

But prosecutors grew concerned that such a case would not hold up in court. Even though officials did not agree with Assange’s self-characterization as a journalist, the former official said, there was concern that it would be hard to justify charging him with actions that more conventional journalists take.

The former official said the department at the time was more amenable to bringing a case like the one ultimately brought — a narrower prosecution centered on a hacking conspiracy. It focuses on an entirely different violation that may obviate any First Amendment or press freedom concern.

“This is just charging a journalist with conspiracy to hack into computer systems, which is no different than breaking into a building or breaking into a classified safe,” said Mary McCord, a senior Justice Department national security official in the Obama administration. “And that’s not First Amendment protected activity.”

That is a widely held view in government, even among people generally sympathetic to the mission of the media.

“This was deliberate and malicious effort to cause harm to us, to U.S. national security interests, and I think it would be good if there is some accountability at last,” said David Pearce, who was U.S. ambas-

sador to Algeria in 2010 when WikiLeaks released hundreds of thousands of secret diplomatic cables. "So far there hasn't been any accountability for Mr. Assange."

Associated Press writers Susannah George, Matthew Lee and Ned Barker contributed to this report.

## Trump talks of releasing migrants in Dem cities

By JILL COLVIN and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he is strongly considering releasing "Illegal Immigrants" into Democratic strongholds to punish congressional foes for inaction on the border— just hours after White House and Homeland Security officials insisted the idea had been rejected as fast as it had been proposed.

"Due to the fact that Democrats are unwilling to change our very dangerous immigration laws, we are indeed, as reported, giving strong considerations to placing Illegal Immigrants in Sanctuary Cities only," Trump tweeted Friday. He added that, "The Radical Left always seems to have an Open Borders, Open Arms policy - so this should make them very happy!"

The reversal, which appeared to catch officials at the Department of Homeland Security off guard, came as critics were blasting Trump for the supposedly-rejected idea, accusing him of turning migrants into pawns to go after his political opponents. It comes as Trump has grown increasingly exasperated by a surge of Central American migrant families crossing the southern border and is looking for new ways to pressure congressional Democrats to change laws that he insists are making the problem worse.

Indeed, last week Trump urged his soon-to-be acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan to seal the southern border and told McAleenan he would pardon him if he were to find himself in trouble for blocking legal asylum-seekers, according to two people familiar with the conversation who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe a private exchange.

It was not clear whether the president was joking, and a Homeland Security spokesman said in a statement: "At no time has the president indicated, asked, directed or pressured the acting secretary to do anything illegal." The reported conversation came during the president's trip last week to Calexico, California, a day after he announced he was delaying his threat to close the border because Mexico appeared to be stepping up its enforcement efforts.

Before Trump's tweets on Friday, both the Department of Homeland Security and a White House official had insisted in nearly identical statements that the sanctuary-cities plan had been floated but then flatly rejected.

But not, apparently, by the president, who emphatically revived the idea.

Asked about it by reporters, he said he was "strongly looking at" releasing migrant families into those communities.

"They're always saying they have open arms. Let's see if they have open arms," he said.

There were no indications, however, that officials were taking any steps to move forward with the idea or considered the president's words anything more than bluster.

"Sanctuary cities" are places where local authorities do not cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials, denying information or resources that would help ICE round up for deportation people living in the country illegally.

They include New York City and San Francisco, home city of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who on Friday called the idea "unworthy of the presidency of the United States and disrespectful of the challenges that we face as a country, as a people, to address who we are — a nation of immigrants."

Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, who chairs the House Homeland Security committee, said it "serves as a reminder that the Trump administration's reckless immigration agenda is not about keeping the country safe, but about partisan politics and wantonly inflicting cruelty."

The idea of pressing immigration authorities to embrace the plan was discussed in November and then again in February as the Trump administration struggled with a surge of migrants at the border, according

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to three people who spoke on condition of anonymity to outline private conversations. Homeland Security and ICE lawyers quickly rejected the proposal, according to the people, on the grounds that it was complicated, too expensive and a misuse of funds, two of the people said.

The plan, which was first reported by The Washington Post, is one of a litany of ideas being tossed around by an increasingly anxious White House in recent months. Officials say they are running out of options, and have proposed and recycled numerous ideas that have never come to fruition. Trump in recent weeks, for instance, has discussed the idea of renewing his administration's controversial family separation policy — even as he's publicly declared he won't do that — and has threatened to completely seal the border despite opposition from many in his administration.

There have been at least two versions of the sanctuary city plan discussed: One to move people who have already been detained to places with Democratic opponents of the president, the other to transport migrants apprehended at the border directly to San Francisco, New York City, Chicago and other spots.

ICE arrests people in the U.S. illegally and also manages migrants who present themselves at border crossings and ask for asylum.

The surge of migrant families at the border has been taxing the system, and ICE says it no longer has the resourced to handle immigrants processed by the Border Patrol. As a result, more than 125,000 people have been released as they await court hearings — a practice Trump has derided as "catch and release."

With immigrant processing and holding centers overwhelmed, the administration has already been bus-ing people hundreds of miles inland and releasing them at Greyhound stations and churches in cities such as Albuquerque, San Antonio and Phoenix.

Transporting large groups of immigrants to distant cities would be even more expensive for an agency already strapped for cash. Flights chartered by ICE cost about \$7,785 per flight hour, according to the agency, and require multiple staffers, including an in-flight medical professional. The agency also uses commercial flights but requires that migrants to pay for those.

At the same time, many "sanctuary" communities would likely welcome the immigrants in question. Some of these cities have robust networks of nonprofit legal groups that could help them strengthen their legal cases to stay.

The Department of Health and Human Services said this week it had started scouting vacant properties that could be turned into facilities for holding migrant children in several cities, including Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Phoenix, and San Antonio.

Those facilities would be licensed by each state and likely take several months to be approved and opened, separating them from the rapidly expanding emergency shelter at Homestead, Florida, and the now-closed tent facility at Tornillo, Texas.

The Defense Department has also been reviewing a number of military bases to find a location that can house up to 5,000 unaccompanied migrant children as the U.S. braces for a surge of people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border this spring.

Under the Trump administration, ICE has significantly stepped up arrests, including of people who have no U.S. criminal records. In response, some cities have banished ICE from jails where agents could easily pick up immigration violators. Police in New York, Baltimore and Seattle rarely, if ever, disclose information about when suspected criminals in the U.S. illegally will be released from custody.

Democrats have said they will tackle immigration bills, possibly as soon as they return from their spring recess, and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has indicated an interest.

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Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Houston, Astrid Galvan in Phoenix and Lisa Mascaro and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.



## Sudan army removes leader, rejects al-Bashir extradition

By MAGGIE MICHAEL Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The Sudanese military on Friday swiftly replaced the country's transitional leader linked to the Darfur genocide after street rallies against him and said that it wouldn't hand over ousted President Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court, where he faces charges of crimes against humanity.

Thousands of jubilant protesters celebrated in the streets after Defense Minister Gen. Awad ibn Ouf, who was name de facto leader after overthrowing al-Bashir on Thursday, announced he was stepping down as transitional leader. He named a reputable army general as his successor.

Ibn Ouf said he would be replaced by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, general inspector of the armed forces, as head of the transitional council, which will rule the country for two years until elections.

"I am confident he will steer the ship to safe shores," he said of Burhan, adding he was stepping aside to "preserve unity" of the armed forces.

Burhan was one of the generals who reached out to protesters at the week-long encampment near the military headquarters, meeting with them face to face, and listening to their views.

Chants rang out across the sit-in where tens of thousands have been rallying in front of the military headquarters to protest the military takeover of power after al-Bashir's ouster. "Revolutionaries, we will continue our path," the protesters shouted as they danced and clapped.

Earlier Friday, another top general, Omar Zein Abedeen said that the 75-year-old al-Bashir would not be extradited to the International Criminal Court, based in The Hague, Netherlands, saying doing so would be "an ugly mark on Sudan."

"Even rebels carrying weapons, we don't extradite them," he told reporters at a news conference in Khartoum.

Zein Abedeen said Sudanese courts would hold al-Bashir "accountable," but did not specify what charges he could be prosecuted on. After his arrest, the military denounced him and his government for corruption, maladministration and "lack of justice."

The developments point to the sensitivity of the Darfur conflict for the military that arrested al-Bashir after four months of deadly street demonstration against his 30-year rule.

The protesters rejected ibn Ouf's leadership because he was head of military intelligence during the brutal campaign to suppress the Darfur insurgency in the 2000s. The United States has imposed sanctions on him since 2007, saying he armed and directed pro-government militias known as the Janjaweed, accused of widespread atrocities against civilians and rapes during the conflict.

The move also underscores the limits on the reach of the International Criminal Court. On Friday, ICC judges rejected a request by the court's prosecutor to open an investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity in Afghanistan and alleged crimes by U.S. forces there, in part because the U.S., Afghan government and Taliban are not expected to cooperate.

In the Darfur conflict, rebels among the territory's ethnic Central African community launched an insurgency in 2003, complaining of discrimination and oppression by the Arab-dominated Khartoum government. The government responded with a scorched earth assault of aerial bombings and unleashed the Janjaweed. Up to 300,000 people were killed and 2.7 million driven from their homes.

Along with al-Bashir, the ICC has indicted two other senior figures in his regime — Abdel-Rahim Muhammad Hussein, who was interior and defense minister during much of the conflict, and Ahmed Haroun, a senior security chief at the time who last month was named by al-Bashir to run the ruling National Congress Party.

Both were among those reported by the Sudanese media to have been arrested Thursday in a sweep by the military against al-Bashir's inner circle. Zein Abedeen confirmed the media reports Friday without specifying the two men.

An ICC spokesman declined to comment on al-Bashir's case. On Thursday, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch urged the Sudanese military to hand over the ousted leader. "Victims of the gravest crimes in Darfur should not have to wait any longer for justice," said Jehanne Henry, associate director

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at Human Rights Watch.

Meanwhile, Zein Abedeen sought to reassure protesters who, while celebrating al-Bashir's removal, oppose the military's seizure of power. After ousting the president, the military announced it would rule the country for two years through a transitional council. It also suspended the constitution, dissolved the government, declared a three-month state of emergency and imposed a night-time curfew.

Protest organizers have vowed not to end their street action until a civilian transitional council is formed, saying rule by military commanders who for years were al-Bashir loyalists is just an extension of his regime.

The curfew and state of emergency have raised fears the military could eventually disperse the sit-in by force. But at least initially, it appears to be trying to persuade protest organizers to end the campaign.

Speaking at a news conference aired live on state TV and flanked by other uniformed officers, Zein Abedeen insisted the army has no ambition to hold the reins of power for long.

"If within a month, Sudan became able to run itself without chaos, we are ready to leave even after a month. The maximum is two years," he said. He said the military would only appoint the defense and interior ministers in any transitional government and would not interfere.

"This was not a coup," but a "tool of change," he said. "We came ... to guide the country forward."

But protest organizers rejected the military's assurances, calling them "deception and farce."

The Sudanese Professionals Association, which has spearheaded the four months of demonstrations against al-Bashir, said the "coup leaders ... are not eligible to bring change," and repeated demands for the "immediate handover of power to a civilian transitional government."

At the sit-in, the mood was festive. Some protesters brought in mattresses, fans and even air conditioners, while others swept the streets to keep them clean, signaling they intend to stay long-term. As thousands of Muslim worshippers lined up in the street to hold prayers, Christians among the protesters held blankets over them to shade them from the sun in a show of solidarity.

There were also signs of cracks among al-Bashir's former loyalists. On Friday, the commander of Sudan's feared Rapid Support Force, a paramilitary force, expressed support for the protesters, saying the forces will not "accept any solutions rejected by the Sudanese people" and called for dialogue so Sudan would "avoid slipping into chaos."

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Associated Press writer Sarah el-Deeb in Beirut contributed to this report.

## Picture was clear, but black hole's name a little fuzzy

By **SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The newly pictured supermassive black hole is a beast with no name, at least not an official one. And what happens next could be cosmically confusing.

The team of astronomers who created the image of the black hole called it M87(asterisk). (The asterisk is silent.) A language professor has given it a name from a Hawaiian chant — Powehi — meaning "the adorned fathomless dark creation." And the international group in charge of handing out astronomical names? It has never named a black hole.

The black hole in question is about 53 million light years away in the center of a galaxy called Messier 87, or M87 for short. On Wednesday, scientists revealed a picture they took of it using eight radio telescopes, the first time humans had actually seen one of the dense celestial objects that suck up everything around them, even light.

The International Astronomical Union usually takes care of names, but only for stuff inside our solar system and stars outside it. It doesn't have a committee set up to handle other objects, like black holes, galaxies or nebulae.

The last time there was a similar situation, poor Pluto somehow got demoted to a dwarf planet, leading to public outcry, said Williams College astronomer Jay Pasachoff, a star-naming committee member.

Technically, our own galaxy — the Milky Way — has never been officially named by the IAU, said Rick Fienberg, an astronomer and press officer for the American Astronomical Society. He said, "that's just a

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term that came down through history.”

“Virtually every object in the sky has more than one designation,” Fienberg said. “The constellations have their official IAU sanctioned names but in other cultures, they have other names.”

## THE GIFT OF A NAME

When it comes to the black hole we saw this week, University of Hawaii-Hilo Hawaiian professor Larry Kimura stepped up even before the photo was unveiled.

Powehi (pronounced poh-veh-hee) is the black hole’s Hawaiian name, not its official name, explained Jessica Dempsey, who helped capture the black hole image as deputy director of the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope on Mauna Kea, Hawaii’s tallest mountain. Hawaii Gov. David Ige proclaimed April 10 as Powehi day, she said.

“This isn’t astronomers naming this,” she said. “This is coming from a cultural expert and language expert. This is him coming to the table and giving us a gift of this name. It’s a gift from Hawaiian culture and history, not the other way around.”

When asked about Kimura’s idea, IAU naming committee member Pasachoff said: “That’s the first I heard of it.”

Eric Mamajek, chairman of the IAU working group on star names, called it a “wonderful, thoughtful name.”

## THE PLUTO SITUATION

But Mamajek said his committee may not be the right one to grant the black hole a name. It only does stars.

“This is exactly the Pluto situation,” Pasachoff said.

In 2006, astronomers at the IAU were discussing naming a large object in our solar system that eventually got called Eris. It wasn’t considered a planet, so it wasn’t the job of the planet committee. But some experts pointed out that it was bigger than Pluto, which added some confusion.

The conference decided to reclassify planets, kicked Pluto out of the club of regular planets and made it join the newly established dwarf planets category with Eris, Pasachoff said.

## MORE NAMES COMING

The same day the photograph of the black hole was unveiled, the IAU asked the public to choose between three names for an object astronomers call 2007 OR10. It’s an icy planetesimal that circles the sun but gets 100 times further from our star than Earth does.

The three proposed names are Gonggong, a Chinese water god with red hair and a serpent tail; Holle, a European winter goddess of fertility; and Vili, a Nordic deity and brother of Odin.

The IAU is trying to bring in more languages and cultures into the naming game, Pasachoff and Fienberg said. And soon the IAU will ask the public to help name 100 planets outside our solar system.

As astronomers gaze further into the cosmos, Pasachoff said, “we will need more names.”

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AP writer Jennifer Kelleher contributed from Honolulu. Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears .

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## New ‘Star Wars’ film promises ‘The Rise of Skywalker’

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

“No one is ever really gone,” says the voice of Luke Skywalker in the first teaser trailer for “Star Wars: Episode IX,” which audiences finally learned will be called “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker” Friday at a fan event in Chicago.

The closely guarded film from director J.J. Abrams will put an end to the Skywalker saga that began over 40 years ago, but even as characters and actors have passed on, the footage shown at Star Wars Celebration suggests that as with all “Star Wars” films, death is just a technicality a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

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Mark Hamill's Skywalker may have died at the end of the most recent installment but his voice dominates the teaser trailer, telling someone, possibly Daisy Ridley's Rey, that, "this is your fight now." And audiences got a tantalizing tease from another figure from the past: Emperor Palpatine from the original and prequel trilogies, whose ominous laugh closes out the promotional spot.

Carrie Fisher's Leia Organa is back as well, despite the actress's untimely passing in Dec. 2016, thanks to unused footage from "The Force Awakens" which Abrams was able to craft into its own narrative for this new film.

"You can't just recast and you can't just have her disappear," Abrams said. "The idea of having a CG character wasn't even an option."

He's currently in the process of editing and adding visual effects to the film which will hit theaters on Dec. 20 and said that despite Fisher's death, "We're working with her every day."

"Princess Leia lives in this film in way that is mind-blowing to me," Abrams said.

Abrams was joined on stage at the event by Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy and actors and droids alike including Ridley, Oscar Isaac (Poe), John Boyega (Finn), Kelly Marie Tran (Rose), Joonas Suotamo (Chewbacca), newcomer Naomi Ackie, who plays a character named Jannah, Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) and even Billy Dee Williams, who reprises his role as Lando Calrissian in the new film after decades away.

"How did I find Lando again?" Williams said. "Lando never left me."

"Star Wars" superfan Stephen Colbert moderated the panel, doing his best to get the tight-lipped cast and creators to reveal anything about the film. Although no one cracked under pressure, Abrams did reveal some previously known details, like the fact that "The Rise of Skywalker" will pick up "some time" after the events of "The Last Jedi."

"This is an adventure that the group goes on together," he teased, although he wouldn't reveal whether or not that meant the group on stage or some other combination.

"This movie is about this new generation and what they've inherited, the light and the dark," Abrams added. "As they face this greatest evil, are they prepared?"

Besides Hamill, another person who wasn't in attendance was Kylo Ren actor Adam Driver. Ren is the son of Han Solo and Leia, making him and his mother the only known Skywalkers left.

When prodded about what will happen with the complex relationship between Kylo and Rey, Ridley demurred, "I guess the Kylo and Rey thing, we'll have to see."

She added: "I think I can confirm there are no more semi-naked Kylos." That's a reference to the scenes of a shirtless Driver in "The Last Jedi" that surprised fans.

Although fans are salivating for any morsel of information, the panelists stayed as vague as possible, and kept things light-hearted debating questions like "who's a better pilot: Poe or Han" and even taking a break so that the audience could sing an unprompted Happy Birthday to Ridley, who turned 27 on Wednesday.

Kennedy, quoting George Lucas, said however that "Episode IX" is indeed the third act of a three-act structure.

But, predictably, there are still more questions than answers when it comes to "The Rise of Skywalker," especially what will come after.

The Lucasfilm and Disney collaboration has proved to be a lucrative one since Disney purchased the company in 2012 for \$4 billion. Disney's first two "Star Wars" films, "The Force Awakens" and "The Last Jedi" and its spinoffs, "Rogue One" and "Solo," have already grossed more than \$4.8 billion at the worldwide box office.

As of now, there is a future for "Star Wars" on the big screen, but details are sparse and dates are non-existent. "The Last Jedi" director Rian Johnson is working on a new "Star Wars" trilogy and "Game of Thrones" showrunners D.B. Weiss and David Benioff are also at work on a "movie series."

Lucasfilm is expanding its small screen universe too beyond "The Clone Wars" with the Jon Favreau-directed series "The Mandalorian," which will be available on Disney's streaming service, DisneyPlus, when it launches on Nov. 12, and there will be a "Rogue One" spinoff series focused on Diego Luna's character Cassian Andor. With the company's acquisition of 21st Century Fox's entertainment properties, too, Lucas' original trilogy and prequels will also be available on the service.

But who's got time to think about the future when there are over two minutes of brand new footage from "The Rise of Skywalker" to dissect?

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/lldbahr](http://www.twitter.com/lldbahr)

## Child attack suspect had previous Mall of America arrests

By JEFF BAENEN Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A 5-year-old boy plummeted three floors Friday after being pushed or thrown from a balcony at the Mall of America, according to witnesses, and a 24-year-old man with a history of causing disturbances at the mall was in custody.

Bloomington Police Chief Jeffrey Potts said police don't think there is any relationship between the man and the family of the child, who suffered life-threatening injuries. He was being treated at a hospital, but no details on his condition were immediately available.

Witnesses told police that the child may have been pushed or thrown from the mall's third level to the first floor, Potts said. He said the suspect immediately took off running but was quickly found and arrested at the mall.

A witness said a woman screamed that her child was thrown from the balcony.

Brian Johnson told WCCO-TV the woman was screaming, "Everybody pray, everybody pray. Oh my God, my baby, someone threw him over the edge."

Police said Emmanuel Deshawn Aranda, of Minneapolis, was being held on suspicion of attempted homicide.

Aranda's criminal record includes two convictions in 2015 for obstruction of the legal process/interfering with a peace officer, as well as convictions for fifth-degree assault, trespassing and damage to property.

Court records show Aranda was arrested on July 4, 2015, after police said he matched the description of a man throwing things off the upper level of the Mall of America to the lower level. Police say Aranda refused to give his name and resisted arrest. Aranda also was accused of walking into a mall store and sweeping his hand across a display table, breaking glasses.

In October 2015, Aranda was accused of throwing glasses in Twin Cities Grill in the mall. The complaint says Aranda approached a woman who was waiting for the restaurant to open and asked her to buy him something. The woman refused, and Aranda allegedly threw a glass of water in her face and a glass of tea that struck her leg. Aranda was under a trespass notice at the time banning him from the mall until July 4, 2016.

It wasn't immediately clear if Aranda had an attorney.

Police don't have an idea about possible motive, Potts said.

"At this point we believe this is an isolated incident," the chief said. "We're actively trying to figure out why this occurred."

No details were immediately available about the child's condition.

The 4.2-million-square-foot Mall of America is in Bloomington, about 10 miles south of Minneapolis. The mall, which opened in 1992, has more than 520 stores and is visited by 40 million visitors annually, according to its website. Attractions include Nickelodeon Universe indoor amusement park and Sea Life Minnesota Aquarium.

It has occasionally been the scene of crimes or disruptive protests, and the mall's website touts extensive security training for its officers.

In 2015, the al-Shabab extremist group called for an attack on the Mall of America and other shopping centers in a video. Al-Shabab fighters attacked an upscale Kenyan mall in 2013 in a siege that left 67 people dead. In response, the Mall of America said it was tightening security, and that some of the extra precautions would be noticeable to guests and others would not be.

A Minneapolis man was sentenced to 15 years in prison last year for attacking two brothers at the Macy's department store at the mall. The man said he was inspired by the Islamic State when he stabbed the

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brothers in a dressing room area in November 2017.

A teenage brawl erupted at the mall the day after Christmas in 2011. The melee was caught on YouTube, but police concluded the brawl — the worst case of violence at the mall in more than 15 years — was not organized through social media as initially feared. Ten people were arrested for disorderly conduct, including four juveniles.

Associated Press writers Amy Forliti and Doug Glass contributed. News researcher Jennifer Farrar contributed to this report from New York.

## FCC to hold big 5G auction, spend \$20B for rural internet

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and TALI ARBEL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government will hold a massive auction later this year to bolster 5G service, the next generation of mobile networks. President Donald Trump showcased the announcement Friday, declaring that the race to stand up these faster, more powerful networks is a competition “America must win.”

“We cannot allow any other country to outcompete the United States in this powerful industry of the future,” Trump said at the White House. “We are leading by so much in so many different industries of that type, and we just can’t let that happen.”

Trump also announced a \$20 billion plan to expand broadband access to rural areas currently without it, a decadelong extension of an existing program.

5G will mean faster wireless speeds and has implications for technologies like self-driving cars and augmented reality. Trump said it will transform the way people work, learn, communicate and travel, making farms more productive, manufacturers more competitive and health care better and more accessible. But experts say it’s hard to know now how much life will actually change because of the much-hyped network upgrade.

It will take years to roll out, and the highest data speeds and capacities may not reach rural areas at all.

The rollout started last week in the U.S. and South Korea but will take years.

The Federal Communications Commission said Friday that it would hold the largest auction in U.S. history to boost wireless companies’ networks. The auction is set for Dec. 10, and will be the agency’s third for 5G, said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, who joined Trump for the announcement.

“We want Americans to be the first to benefit from this new digital revolution,” Pai said.

The U.S. is jockeying for position with China over 5G. It has effectively banned Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei from most U.S. networks due to concerns that it might enable Chinese government spying, which Huawei denies. The U.S. has pushed its allies to do the same, with mixed results. Huawei is the world’s largest maker of such equipment.

FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, criticized the agency’s approach to 5G Friday. She said the U.S. has not auctioned off “midband” spectrum that is better suited to serve rural areas because of how far it can carry signals, and that the Trump administration’s actions on 5G have “set us back.” She cited tariffs on telecom equipment that have raised costs and said the administration has been “alienating allies” on the 5G security issue.

The FCC also said Friday that it will be renewing an existing \$2 billion broadband subsidy program, for 10 years. It will provide about \$20.4 billion over a decade to providers, with the goal of connecting up to 4 million rural homes and small businesses to high-speed internet.

The agency spent \$34.5 billion on rural-broadband network subsidy programs from 2010 to 2017, according to the Government Accountability Office.

It’s more expensive for telecom companies to serve spread-out rural areas than cities and suburbs, so the government provides grants to encourage them to build internet networks in rural parts of the country. Some 24 million Americans lacked access to high-speed internet as of the end of 2016, by the FCC’s count.

Arbel reported from New York. Associated Press writer Kevin Freking in Washington contributed to this report.

## Shock at arrest of deputy's son in black church fires

By KEVIN MCGILL and MELINDA DESLATTÉ Associated Press

OPELOUSAS, La. (AP) — Authorities said he had no known criminal record. A friend described him as an introverted animal lover who showed no animosity toward any race, and a talented, if frustrated heavy metal guitar player and singer. A fellow musician called him “a really sweet guy.”

But Holden Matthews, the white, 21-year-old son of a Louisiana sheriff's deputy, was behind bars Thursday, accused of torching three century-old African American churches during a 10-day period in and around Opelousas. The city of 16,000 people was set on edge by blazes, which evoked memories of terrorist acts during the civil rights movement.

A fragment of a charred gasoline can, surveillance video that captured what appeared to be his parents' truck in key locations, debit card records and cellphone tracking techniques led authorities to arrest Matthews on Wednesday evening. But though the arrest affidavit showed how they linked Matthews to the crime, federal, state and local authorities who gathered for a Thursday news conference at the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office weren't ready to discuss motive.

Eric Rommal, the agent in charge of the New Orleans FBI office, said investigators were still looking into whether the fires were “bias motivated.”

Matthews, who is scheduled for a Monday morning bond hearing, had a defender in Nygyl Bryyn Blackwolf, listed as Nygyl Bryyn among Matthews' Facebook friends. Blackwolf identified himself as a south Louisiana native, musician, entrepreneur and owner of the independent record label Power Back Productions. In a telephone interview from Los Angeles on Thursday, he described Matthews as a talented, sometimes frustrated musician — upset in recent months after he was told he needed to improve the quality of his recordings — but not a racist or violent person.

“If he's making a statement, it's against religion and establishment only, not against race,” he said, later adding, “I don't think he did it, but if he did, it would not be because the churches are black.”

Blackwolf, 36, a native of Opelousas, said he met Matthews after moving out of state when Matthews, who played guitar and sang, answered an online ad while seeking a recording deal with Power Back Productions. They worked together and met face-to-face over the years. Matthews was at odds with his parents over his music aspirations, Blackwolf said, but never showed signs of violence or racism.

Matthews had shown interest in “black metal,” an extreme subgenre of heavy metal, state Fire Marshall Butch Browning said. The music has been linked, in some instances, to fires at Christian churches in Norway in the 1990s.

A Facebook page that appeared to belong to Matthews showed him with the words “black metal” spray-painted on a wall behind him. He also posted a comment on a movie's portrayal of black metal musician Varg Vikernes, a far-right figure convicted of manslaughter and arson at three churches.

Black metal lyrics often espouse Satanism and paganism, and a few bands feature neo-Nazi beliefs.

Blackwolf, however, insisted that the black metal genre is not characterized by racism. He acknowledged that some, but not all, involved in black-metal music may have expressed racism, but he said it's not typical of the genre.

“We've got friends of all races,” he said.

Josh Cook, 27, a musician from Hammond, Louisiana, said he heard about the church burnings before Matthews' arrest and had wondered if they could have been inspired by the church fires in Norway. He said there is an “elitist” element of the black metal music scene that is fascinated with those church burnings.

But he echoed Blackwolf's description of Matthews, saying the suspect was friends with a very diverse group of people and a “good dude” who never displayed signs of racism.

“He is actually a really sweet guy, which is why I was so surprised to hear what happened,” Cook said.

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"He was not a jerk. He was very tolerant. He was very loving and very encouraging."

Matthews' father, Roy Matthews, "broke down" when told his son was the suspect, said Sheriff Bobby Guidroz.

Guidroz said the father aided authorities by arranging for the son to leave the house and go to a place where he could be arrested without incident. He did not elaborate.

The younger Matthews was arrested on three counts of arson of a religious building. A conviction could bring up to 15 years in prison on each count, Browning said.

The fires set many people on edge in and around Opelousas, about 140 miles (225 kilometers) northwest of New Orleans.

Gov. John Bel Edwards said the fires were "especially painful" because they were a reminder "of a very dark past of intimidation and fear."

"This is a reflection of one depraved individual," he added. "It is not a reflection on the state of Louisiana."

An Associated Press reporter was turned away Thursday from what was believed to be the home the suspect shared with his parents.

Matthews' arrest came a little more than two weeks after the first blaze at the St. Mary Baptist Church on March 26 in Port Barre, a town just outside of Opelousas. Days later, the Greater Union Baptist Church and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Opelousas were burned. Each was more than 100 years old.

The churches were empty at the time, and no one was injured.

The Rev. Harry Richard, pastor of Greater Union Baptist Church, which was destroyed, said the arrest put him at ease and let him sleep at night.

"I felt relieved my congregation didn't have to worry anymore," said Richard, who was told of the arrest late Wednesday. "I was reassured that law enforcement was on our side, that things were finally coming to an end."

McGill reported from New Orleans and Opelousas. Associated Press writers Stacey Plaisance in Opelousas, and Michael Kunzelman in College Park, Maryland, contributed to this report.

## Test taker pleads guilty in college admissions bribery scam

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER *undefined*

BOSTON (AP) — A former Florida prep school administrator pleaded guilty Friday to taking college entrance exams for students in exchange for cash to help wealthy parents get their kids into elite universities.

Mark Riddell admitted to secretly taking the ACT and SAT in place of students, or correcting their answers, as part of a nationwide college admissions cheating scheme, which has ensnared celebrities, business executives and athletic coaches at sought-after schools such as Stanford and Yale.

Riddell, who has been cooperating with authorities since February in the hopes of getting a lesser sentence, pleaded guilty to fraud and money laundering conspiracy charges.

The 36-year-old, wearing a dark suit and glasses, looked straight ahead and showed no emotion as assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Rosen explained that prosecutors will seek a sentence at the low end of the guidelines, which call for 33 to 41 months in prison. Riddell's lawyer declined comment and Riddell left the courthouse without answering questions from reporters.

He said in a statement last month that he is "profoundly sorry" and takes full responsibility for his actions.

The Harvard graduate oversaw college entrance exam preparation at IMG Academy, a Bradenton school founded by renowned tennis coach Nick Bollettieri that bills itself as the world's largest sports academy. Riddell has since been fired.

Riddell was among 50 people charged last month in the scam, which embroiled elite universities across the country and laid bare the lengths to which status-seeking parents will go to secure their children a coveted spot. Others arrested include actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin along with Loughlin's fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli.

Authorities say the admissions consultant at the center of the scheme, Rick Singer, bribed test adminis-



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trators to allow Riddell to pretend to proctor the exams for students so he could cheat on the tests. Singer typically paid Riddell \$10,000 per test to rig the scores, prosecutors said.

Riddell made more than \$200,000 by cheating on over 25 exams, prosecutors said.

In one case, authorities say Riddell flew to Canada and used a fake ID to pose as the son of Vancouver business David Sidoo to take the SAT in his place.

Prosecutors say Singer told Riddell not to get too high of a score to prevent them from getting caught. Riddell also took a Canadian high school graduation exam for the student, authorities say.

Sidoo has pleaded not guilty to paying Singer to facilitate the cheating and has denied the allegations against him.

Prosecutors say Riddell also flew to Los Angeles in 2017 to rig the SAT score for Huffman's older daughter by secretly changing her answers.

Huffman, the 56-year-old Emmy-winner who starred in ABC's "Desperate Housewives," and 12 other parents have agreed to plead guilty. Huffman is scheduled to appear in Boston on May 21 to enter her plea.

U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling has said Riddell knew all the answers because he was "just a really smart guy."

In addition to the exam-rigging scheme, prosecutors say parents paid Singer tens of thousands of dollars to bribe coaches into pretending that their kids were athletic recruits to boost their chances of getting accepted.

Parents who are still fighting the allegations — including Loughlin, 54, who appeared in the 1980s and '90s sitcom "Full House" — were hit this week with a money laundering conspiracy charge on top of the mail fraud conspiracy charge they were already facing.

Loughlin and Giannulli are accused of paying \$500,000 in bribes to get their daughters admitted as recruits to the University of Southern California crew team, even though neither of them play the sport. They haven't publicly commented on the allegations.

Singer flipped on the parents and helped the FBI build the case against for a chance at a lenient sentence. He pleaded guilty last month to charges including racketeering conspiracy.

Follow Alanna Durkin Richer at <http://www.twitter.com/aedurkinricher>

## After 7 long years, Assange's capture happened quickly

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press

Huddled at a home in Ecuador's capital, President Lenin Moreno's aides anxiously awaited word in the middle of the night on an operation that would soon make headlines around the world: the arrest of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange inside the country's London embassy.

Over the course of nearly seven years, the Australian hacker had all but worn out his welcome at the embassy with antics that included late-night skateboarding, harassing the staff and smearing his feces on the walls, according to Ecuadorian officials.

Moreno had finally decided to kick Assange out after getting wind of a WikiLeaks plot to blackmail him by publishing compromising documents, according to a senior government official who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity. An incensed Moreno gave British authorities 36 hours to execute the raid Assange's critics had long been demanding.

Now, the president's aides looked nervously at their watches. Most of Ecuador, including Moreno himself, was asleep. As Moreno's 4 a.m. deadline approached, they heard nothing.

"We were waiting and waiting and thought, 'Wow, something's wrong,'" said the official. "Then we got the call."

Assange had been dragged without incident from the embassy to face hacking charges in the U.S.

"We've ended the asylum of this spoiled brat," Moreno crowed later in the day Thursday in a fiery speech.

The move to extract one of the world's most high-profile fugitives came about relatively quickly after years of what officials portrayed as obnoxious and ungracious behavior by their houseguest.

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Moreno, a 66-year-old who uses a wheelchair after being shot and paralyzed from the waist down in a 1998 robbery, is usually a jovial figure. But the still-under-investigation blackmail plot marked one more in a string of escalating personal attacks against him. Days before, Moreno had accused WikiLeaks of spreading damaging personal documents and photos, including several that showed him eating lobster in bed.

"The president is a very calm person," said the senior official, who was involved in the raid's coordination. "But when he gets angry he can be very determined."

Ecuador gave Assange asylum inside the embassy in 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden over sex-crime accusations. On a summer day, Assange moved into the compound near London's upscale Harrods department store for what most thought would be a short stay.

Instead, the cramped quarters, where a small office was converted into a bedroom, became a permanent address. Some regarded it as essentially a jail.

Former President Rafael Correa, whose government granted Assange refuge, had been a fierce supporter of the silver-haired computer expert. Correa saw him as a digital-age Robin Hood taking on big government and corporations.

But Assange got off to a bad start with Moreno after he won the presidency in 2017, angering the chief of state with comments on Twitter ridiculing a losing candidate who had threatened to expel him.

Over the years, one high-ranking official said, Assange's room at the embassy had become a "sovereign territory within a sovereign territory" that none of the staff at No. 3 Hans Crescent could enter. Embassy staff complained he smelled bad from going weeks without a shower. He also played loud music at all hours, walked around in his underwear and verbally abused the staff, officials said.

Feeding and sheltering him cost an estimated \$1 million a year, authorities said.

After making his decision Tuesday afternoon, Moreno ordered his top aides to coordinate with Britain's ambassador to Ecuador, Katherine Ward, to carry out a raid within 36 hours. While his British counterparts requested more time, Moreno insisted on executing Assange's expulsion swiftly. He didn't want word of the operation to leak or to rouse suspicions of U.S. involvement, the senior official said.

Before dawn Thursday, a group of five close aides to Moreno gathered at a Quito home to await word. The appointed hour came and went without any news.

Finally, shortly thereafter, Ecuador's ambassador to Britain, Jaime Marchan, called to say that Assange was in British custody. The aides quietly celebrated and then called to wake up the president.

According to the official, the operation went off without a hitch. The Ecuadorian ambassador asked Assange to come to his office, and Assange was read a government statement announcing his expulsion. Unarmed British police officers then hauled the bearded and shouting Assange out of the embassy.

At that point, WikiLeaks' editor-in-chief Kristinn Hrafnsson's cellphone rang. An aide to Assange who had witnessed the raid was calling to inform Hrafnsson.

"It's horrible news," Hrafnsson said later.

The only worry Ecuadorian officials had at the time of the raid was a vague threat by Assange several months earlier that he would activate a device that would cause major consequences to the embassy if they ever tried to expel him.

It was never clear if the device, described as a button, was real and capable of actual physical damage, or simply metaphorical. British intelligence was made aware of the threat and made sure Assange wasn't allowed to return to his room once the raid began.

In the U.S., the Justice Department promptly announced charges accusing Assange of conspiring with former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to hack into a Pentagon computer.

Assange's critics and authorities in Britain and the United States praised Moreno for a decision they said will ensure he is held accountable for both jumping bail in the sex-crime case and publishing a trove of confidential U.S. government documents.

Others, including Moreno's one-time ally, Correa, assailed him, saying that even though Assange may have violated the terms of his asylum and was a costly burden, "that's no excuse for throwing him to the lions."

Moreno stood firm.

"From now on we'll be more careful in giving asylum to people who are really worth it," he said. "And

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not miserable hackers whose only goal is to destabilize governments.”

Associated Press writer Gregory Katz in London contributed to this report.

## Buttigieg, once cordial to Pence, now critical amid campaign

By **BRIAN SLODYSKO** and **MICHELLE R. SMITH** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the campaign trail, Democratic presidential contender Pete Buttigieg blasts Vice President Mike Pence’s cultural and religious conservatism. But as the mayor of Indiana’s fourth largest city, his tone toward the state’s Republican former governor was more muted.

During the four years in which they overlapped in Indiana politics, Buttigieg, the South Bend mayor, had a cordial relationship with Pence. The two collaborated on economic development issues. Buttigieg presented Pence with a South Bend promotional T-shirt that said “I (heart) SB.” And at ceremonial events, Pence would lavish Buttigieg with praise.

The relationship between the two men has come under scrutiny as Buttigieg’s campaign becomes a surprise hit, raking in \$7 million during the first quarter. As he formally launches his White House campaign on Sunday, the gay mayor has emerged as a celebrated voice for LGBT equality and religious tolerance. And Buttigieg has hardened his rhetoric toward Pence, using President Donald Trump’s vice president as a foil representing an oppressive opposition.

At a recent LGBT event, Buttigieg spoke of the importance of his marriage to his husband, Chasten, and framed his sexuality in religious terms.

“If me being gay was a choice, it was a choice that was made far, far above my pay grade,” Buttigieg said. “And that’s the thing I wish the Mike Pences of the world would understand: that if you’ve got a problem with who I am, your problem is not with me. Your quarrel, sir, is with my creator.”

He has previously called Pence’s religious conservatism a “fanatical” ideology.

By Buttigieg’s own admission in his campaign memoir, his relationship with Pence is “complicated.” In an interview with CNBC that aired on Thursday, Pence said they had a “great working relationship” and criticized the mayor’s characterization of his religious beliefs.

“He knows better,” Pence said. “He knows me.”

The complex dynamic between Buttigieg and Pence reflects a connection born of political necessity between two men on the cusp of unlikely political and personal paths. And to some fellow Indiana Democrats, it was frustrating.

In a state with few influential Democrats, some hoped to tap into Buttigieg’s burgeoning political celebrity to help them rebut Pence and his policies, according to two party strategists who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive internal debate. But they found he was often reluctant to take on the then-governor directly or forcefully.

In early 2015, Pence was grappling with an HIV outbreak in southern Indiana and facing calls from political leaders, including some fellow Republicans, to respond by approving a needle exchange program. Buttigieg, who was months away from publicly coming out as gay, was largely absent from that debate.

Pence caused a national uproar that year by signing a “religious freedom” law criticized as anti-LGBT. Republicans including the mayor of Indianapolis demanded that the governor and the GOP legislature “fix this law” and “do so immediately.” Buttigieg criticized Statehouse politicians for the “most embarrassing incident” and tweeted he was “disappointed” Pence signed the bill.

But several weeks later, as the controversy raged, Buttigieg attended a Pence event in South Bend. The mayor told the South Bend Tribune, “I’m focused on how we can work together across city limits and across the aisle.”

“With respect to Pence’s worst blunder, his most difficult controversy, Mayor Pete was not leading the charge against him,” said Robert Dion, a political science professor at the University of Evansville in southern Indiana. “If you’re a Democratic mayor in a Republican state and you rely on friendly relations with the General Assembly, you don’t necessarily want to be lobbing bombs all the time. But that should not

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preclude someone from speaking out forcefully on a pressing civil rights issue.”

Buttigieg publicly came out as gay about three months after Pence signed the “religious freedom” law. In his book, Buttigieg acknowledged that he passed up the chance to urge Pence in person to veto the measure.

“I wish I could say I made a good effort to talk him out of it, but it was clear from the look in his eyes that he had made up his mind,” he wrote, referring to a meeting in which Pence told Buttigieg and other mayors he planned to sign the legislation.

As mayor, Buttigieg’s allies argue he had to maintain a cordial relationship with a governor who held sway over money sorely needed in South Bend.

“It doesn’t help your city if you have an adversarial relationship with the sitting governor, and Mayor Buttigieg recognized that,” said Greg Goodnight, the Democratic mayor of Kokomo, Indiana, who supports Buttigieg’s White House ambitions.

For example, one of Pence’s last major policy achievements as governor was a program that awarded funding to several regions for redevelopment, including \$42 million for the greater South Bend area . During a ceremonial 2016 groundbreaking at a long-shuttered Studebaker factory, Buttigieg and Pence stood side by side and shook hands after scooping dirt with their shovels.

“Where they agreed on issues, like economic development, the mayor worked with then-Gov. Pence for the good of his constituents and his city,” Buttigieg spokeswoman Lis Smith said. “Where they disagreed, the mayor stood up to him, like when Pence embarrassed the state of Indiana with anti-LGBTQ laws, or when he wanted to turn away refugees from the state, or when Pence’s policies hurt South Bend’s workers.”

Still, some wish Buttigieg would play it less safe, particularly now that he’s on a national stage. Tony Flora, president of the North Central Indiana AFL-CIO chapter, said the mayor says the right things but should expend more political capital.

“I would look to Pete Buttigieg to be a louder voice and be more forceful,” Flora said. “He came to our rallies, signed petitions and did make public remarks, but he could have been a bit more substantive instead of just making speeches — taking some action and being more supportive.”

Former Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who is a lesbian, said she sympathized with the complicated situation Buttigieg was in as mayor, especially when he dealt with Pence.

“The answer that I came to, and I’m assuming Pete did as well, is that first and foremost, you are the mayor,” said Parker, who is now the president and CEO of Victory Fund, a group that works to elect LGBT candidates. “You are not an activist. You are the mayor. And every time you speak, it has an impact on your city — for good or ill. And it’s something you have to navigate.”

Smith reported from Providence, Rhode Island.

## Leading finance officials acknowledge global slowdown

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER and PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Finance officials from the world’s major powers acknowledged Friday that the global economy is in a slowdown, but they forecast that growth will pick up by the second half of this year, thanks to interest-rate policies from the Federal Reserve and other central banks.

Officials of the Group of 20 major economies said at the conclusion of their talks that growth had slowed at the end of last year and the beginning of this year due to factors such as turbulent financial markets and heightened tension over trade and interest rates.

But with a switch led by the Federal Reserve to looser monetary policy this year, the stage has been set for a rebound in growth.

Officials, however, cautioned that risks remain, chiefly from trade disputes between the world’s two biggest economies, the United States and China.

“We must be mindful of an escalation of trade tensions,” said Finance Minister Taro Aso of Japan, which holds the chairmanship of the G-20 this year. He said that free trade had allowed Japan and Germany,

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countries devastated after World War II, to rebuild and become economic powers again.

"The free-trading system must be upheld," Aso said.

Aso said there was a broad agreement among financial officials that the current slowdown should be temporary as long as the Fed and other central banks carry through with their plans to provide support for growth.

The Fed, after raising interest rates four times last year, announced at their March meeting that they planned to hold rates steady in light of a slowdown in the United States. Fed officials cut their forecast for rate increases this year from two to none.

Aso said the other G-20 countries pledged to pursue policies to support growth in their own countries.

The G-20 discussions were held as part of the spring meetings of the 189-nation International Monetary Fund and its affiliated lending agency, the World Bank. Representing the U.S. at the talks, set to wrap up Saturday, were Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Fed Chairman Jerome Powell.

Factors blamed for the current slowdown include the Fed's rate increases, the huge sell-off in stock markets at the end of last year and problems in the German auto industry caused by Volkswagen and Daimler facing bottlenecks as they get cars certified for new emissions test that took effect Sept. 1.

Haruhiko Kuroda, head of the Bank of Japan, said G-20 officials saw the IMF's revised forecast as "highly likely" but that all the countries would need to do their part to boost growth.

The IMF cut its forecast for global growth from 3.6% last year to 3.3% in 2019, the slowest since the recession year of 2009. The IMF expects world trade to grow just 3.4% this year, down from 3.8% growth in 2018.

Changyong Rhee, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, noted that financial markets have been rallying on the prospect of an agreement that will end the trade standoff between the U.S. and China.

He said markets could drop if the two countries cannot reach a deal, though he also said an agreement could also create problems.

If the Chinese agree to take in more imports from the U.S., as widely expected, those purchases could come at the expense other countries that have been doing business with China. Rhee also expressed concern that China would give American companies "preferential access," undercutting other countries and leading to "broader worries" about the future of free trade.

Rhee also said a U.S.-China trade peace could prove "short-lived" if the two countries can't reach a long-term deal that requires Beijing to improve protection of intellectual-property and make other economic reforms.

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## From embassy to prison: Assange settles in for legal battle

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has exchanged a small room at the Ecuadorian Embassy in central London for a cell at Belmarsh Prison, a grim institution in the southeast part of the city where he nevertheless has certain advantages he didn't have when he was holed up, hiding from the law.

WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Kristinn Hrafnsson said Friday that the ailing Assange should finally be able to receive medical care and will be able to meet with his lawyers more easily than he could in the embassy, where a feud with Ecuadorian authorities had led to a ban on most guests.

The 47-year-old Assange has extreme shoulder pain and tooth pain, Hrafnsson said.

For nearly seven years, Assange lived in the embassy without taking a step outside for fear of being arrested and sent to the U.S. to be prosecuted.

On Thursday, British authorities dragged the Australian native from the embassy, and U.S. authorities announced charges against him of conspiring to break into a Pentagon computer, setting up what is expected to be an epic legal and political battle over whether to extradite him to the U.S.

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His arrest became possible after Ecuador revoked his political asylum, complaining that he was an obnoxious houseguest who didn't clean up after his cat and that WikiLeaks was plotting to blackmail the Latin American country's president.

At the prison, where he is being held while the extradition process plays out, "there are medical facilities there, access to dental care I would assume, and a garden to go out into," Hrafnsson said.

"But comparing one prison to another and giving a star rating is not really what's on my mind," he said. "What's on my mind is there's an innocent man in prison for doing his job as a journalist, and that's an outrage."

He said Assange is in relatively good mental condition considering the stress of recent days.

The political debate over whether to extradite Assange is already taking shape, with Britain's opposition Labour Party urging the government not to hand him over to the Americans. Party leader Jeremy Corbyn tweeted that the U.S. is prosecuting Assange because he exposed "evidence of atrocities in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Diane Abbott, Labour's spokeswoman for domestic affairs, told Parliament: "It is this whistle-blowing into illegal wars, mass murder, murder of civilians and corruption on a grand scale that has put Julian Assange in the cross hairs of the U.S. administration."

The politicization of the case reflects the clashing views of Assange as either a heroic whistleblower standing up to the mighty United States or a willing stooge who helped the Russians boost Donald Trump's presidential campaign by publishing hacked emails that embarrassed his rival, Hillary Clinton.

Assange's bid to fend off extradition could take years and involve several layers of appeal. He could also face a second extradition request if Sweden decides to pursue a rape case against him that was suspended in 2017, when he was in the embassy, beyond the reach of the law.

If found guilty of the U.S. charges, Assange could get five years in prison. His next court appearance is set for May 2 via a prison video link.

Extradition lawyer Ben Keith said the court will not assess the evidence against Assange to determine his guilt or innocence but will scrutinize whether the offense he is accused of in the U.S. would be a crime in Britain.

"The most likely outcome is that he will be extracted to the United States," he said.

If Assange loses in extradition court, he could appeal several times and ultimately try to have his case heard at the European Court of Human Rights — unless Britain has left the European Union by that time.

## As cashless stores grow, so does the backlash

By **ALEXANDRA OLSON** and **KEN SWEET** AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Hembert Figueroa just wanted a taco.

So he was surprised to learn the dollar bills in his pocket were no good at Dos Toros Taqueria in Manhattan, one of a small but growing number of establishments across the U.S. where customers can only pay by card or smartphone.

Cash-free stores are generating a backlash among some activists and liberal-leaning policymakers who say the practice discriminates against people like Figueroa, who either lack bank accounts or rely on cash for many transactions.

Figueroa, an ironworker, had to stand to the side, holding his taco, until a sympathetic cashier helped him find another customer willing to pay for his meal with a card in exchange for cash.

"I had money and I couldn't pay," he said.

The issue got some high-profile attention this week when retail giant Amazon bowed to pressure from activists and agreed to accept cash at more than 30 cashless stores, including its Amazon Go convenience stores, which have no cashiers, and its book shops. Amazon declined to say when the change would happen.

There is no federal law that requires stores to accept cash, so lawmakers are working on the issue at the state and city level.

Earlier this year, Philadelphia became the first city to ban cashless stores, despite efforts by Amazon to

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dissuade it. New Jersey passed a statewide ban soon after, and a similar ban is working its way through the New York City Council. Before this year there was only one jurisdiction that required businesses to accept cash: Massachusetts, which passed a law nearly 40 years ago.

"The potential societal cost of a cashless economy I think outweighs the potential benefits for businesses," said Ritchie Torres, a New York City councilman for the South Bronx who introduced the bill.

Policymakers argue that while cashless enterprises aren't widespread now, the practice could expand to more services, including some that cater to lower-income people.

Walmart-owned Sam's Club opened its first cashier-less store in Dallas last year, using technology that allows customers to scan and pay for items with their smartphones. Kroger has installed similar technology in about 400 stores nationwide.

Stadiums in Tampa Bay, Florida, and Atlanta have started to go cashless, or nearly cashless, and the Barclays Center, where the Brooklyn Nets play, is now effectively cashless as well.

Advocates for cashless bans worry technology is moving too fast for the 6.5% of American households — 8.4 million — who do not have a bank account, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Figueroa is among the much larger group considered "underbanked," meaning they have a primary bank account but regularly rely on alternative financial services like check cashers. More than 24 million U.S. households are underbanked, according to the FDIC.

The issue disproportionately affects African-American and Hispanic communities. About 17% of African-American and 14% of Hispanic households have no bank accounts, compared to just 3% of white households, according to the FDIC.

Figueroa, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, only opened a credit union account two years ago. It took another year to build up enough funds to use his debit card regularly.

He still occasionally relies on a check casher if he needs money quickly, and much of his income comes in cash from his weekend job as a busboy. He has no credit card and no apps on his phone and has only shopped online three times.

Business owners who go cashless say they are following the lead of the majority of customers who are abandoning cash payments. Retailers are under pressure to cater to customers with heightened expectations for fast and seamless service, driven by companies like Amazon, Uber and Grubhub.

Leo Kremer, co-owner of Dos Toros, said the volume of cash transactions at his stores fell from about 50% a decade ago to 15% last year. That made the cost and logistics of handling cash especially onerous. Before going cashless, Dos Toros locations were robbed twice.

Still, Kremer said the company would adjust if legally required to accept cash.

"There are no bad guys on this issue. Everyone is trying to do the right thing and make sure there are no unintended consequences," he said.

Critics say banning cash-free stores is an over-reaction.

There are no overall estimates on how many U.S. stores have gone cashless, but it remains a rarity. In New York City, the trend appears to be gaining traction mostly with "fast casual" dining establishments like Dos Toros. Far more common are stores that require a minimum purchase for non-cash payments.

"To call this a trend is a bit of an exaggeration," said J. Craig Shearman, a spokesman for the National Retail Federation in Washington. "It's not something the average customer would expect to see at every store at the mall any time soon."

In testimony to a New York City Council committee, Kremer argued that businesses that "consistently serve the unbanked and underbanked population aren't going to go cashless. It wouldn't make sense for them."

But financial experts who work with low-income people caution against making assumptions about the shopping preferences or buying power of those who rely on cash.

"I'm uncomfortable with the idea that certain people don't shop here so it's fine to exclude them," said Justine Zinkin, CEO of Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners, a financial counseling nonprofit affiliated with the credit union where Figueroa banks.

AP Retail Writer Joe Pisani contributed to this report from New York.

## **Girl not amused by 'SNL' joke about her disabled pet chicken**

UNDERHILL, Vt. (AP) — A Vermont girl isn't happy that her disabled pet chicken was joked about on "Saturday Night Live."

The chicken, named Granite Heart, is learning to walk with a custom wheelchair.

On a recent 'SNL' episode, the television show's "Weekend Update" co-host said she should "just eat the chicken."

Ten-year-old Alora Wood of Underhill, Vermont, tells NECN-TV that she knows the segment was meant to be a joke, but says what if it was a dog.

The chicken was born with a deformed foot.

The girl says: "Any creature, no matter how big, no matter how small, they deserve to have a perfect life."

The custom wheelchair came from a company in Amherst, New Hampshire, that makes pet wheelchairs.

## **How not to break the bank on streaming services**

**By MAE ANDERSON and SARAH SKIDMORE SELL AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — With more TV streaming services than ever before, from newcomers like Disney Plus to stalwarts like Netflix, consumers may feel the ideal viewing experience is finally at hand.

Americans have, on average, three streaming video subscription services, according to a recent study of digital media trends by Deloitte. While some have dropped cable and its average bill of around \$100 a month altogether, about 43% have both pay TV and streaming subscriptions.

Yet patching together a variety of services to get just what one wants isn't always seamless. Families and individuals can still find themselves with service that doesn't perfectly suit their viewing habits. And those monthly subscriptions can add up fast.

"It doesn't make sense to pay for a bunch of content you have no interest in watching," said Bruce McClary, vice president of marketing for the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. "Finding a service that lets you scale your channel lineup based on your interests can also help you avoid paying for things you don't need."

A little research on which services are best for you can help save big bucks.

### **FOR FAMILIES**

Disney is making the biggest play for family viewership. The owner of Disney Channel, the Star Wars franchise and most recently Fox's entertainment business is betting its mix of family-friendly franchises and beloved animated classics, along with original programming, will make the Disney Plus service irresistible to families, even if they already subscribe to other services. The service, launching Nov. 12, will cost \$7 a month initially.

For some kids, there may be no substitute for watching Disney's "Frozen" over and over again. But other services that families might already subscribe to have a lot of family-friendly programming too. Amazon Prime (\$119 per year or \$13 per month for Prime loyalty program membership; Prime Video alone costs \$9 a month), Hulu (\$6 to \$12 per month), and Netflix (\$9 to \$16 per month) all offer kids programming.

Another choice for parents: HBO Now (\$15 a month) is the home for the classic kids TV show "Sesame Street." And for spendthrifts, YouTube's free Kids channel offers an endless stream of kid-friendly fare, although quality varies widely.

### **FOR MOVIE BUFFS**

Movie fans will soon have to work a bit harder to find movies to stream. As Disney, Fox, Universal and Warner Brothers and others offer their own streaming services, they will all eventually pull their content from Netflix. But niche services are there to fill the void.

Classic movies can be difficult to find streaming. Movie fans suffered a loss when AT&T, which



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bought Time Warner last year, decided to discontinue FilmStruck, a streaming service that was a collaboration between Turner Classic Movies and the Criterion Collection. But a similar service called The Criterion Channel that offers 1,000 classic and contemporary films is stepping up to fill the void. It costs \$11 a month or \$99 for a year.

Other movie-centric streaming services include Fandor (\$6 per month or \$50 per year) or Mubi (\$11 per month). Both offer a curated selection of movies.

Those on a budget can try Kanopy, a streaming service that works with public libraries and universities to offer library card holders streaming movies for free.

## FOR SPORTS FANS

Sports fans do have streaming options, but they cost more since sports must be watched live. Basic live TV options are cheaper but may not include sports channels. Which service you choose depends on which sport or which team you want to watch.

There are a variety of live TV streaming services that offer a wide range of sports, but they've recently been raising their prices. Fubo TV offers more than 85 channels including ones that broadcast football, baseball, soccer and other sports. It costs \$45 for the first month, then \$55 a month after that. DirecTV Now costs \$50 a month for the cheapest tier. Sling TV costs \$25 to \$40 a month. Hulu raised the price for its live-TV service in February, by \$5, to \$45. Sony's PlayStation Vue costs \$45 to \$80 a month. Google's YouTube TV is increasing its monthly fee to \$50. It launched at \$35 and has raised prices as it added more channels. Most of the live TV services offer the major sports channels such as Fox Sports and NBC Sports Network, as well as games broadcast on network TV. But ESPN, for example, is on Hulu Live and YouTube TV but not Fubo TV, so fans of a specific team or sport should examine the channel listings for each service.

There's no budget offering for watching high profile sporting events. But Disney's ESPN Plus costs \$5 a month or \$50 for the year. It offers some live games, including some hockey, soccer and baseball games, as well as content about sports like ESPN's "30 for 30" documentary series. But you can't watch most major league sports games on the service.

## MIX AND MATCH

If you're a sports fan who also loves movies and has a family, you'll have to mix and match services while trying to stay within your budget. It is still possible to stay below the monthly cost of cable, says the NFCC's McClary.

"The acceptable threshold for spending is up to each household, but most 'live' and 'on demand' streaming services would be on the low end of the scale compared to traditional cable packages," he said. "One good measuring stick is to compare the monthly rate to your monthly content consumption patterns and what it would cost if you paid movie rental rates each time you watch a program."

## **Chevron vaults into new league on \$33B Anadarko acquisition**

**By MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer**

Chevron is buying Anadarko Petroleum for \$33 billion, energizing its oil and gas drilling capabilities in Texas and the Gulf of Mexico while vaulting itself into a new league.

The combined company will remain far behind Exxon Mobil Corp. and Royal Dutch Shell Plc. in market capitalization, but Chevron will jump from being the world's fourth biggest energy producer, to second, according to Wood Mackenzie.

"Chevron now joins the ranks of the UltraMajors - and the big three becomes the big four," wrote Roy Martin, senior analyst at Wood Mackenzie, referring to Exxon, Shell and BP.

The cash-and-stock deal announced Friday comes as U.S. crude prices have shot up 40% this year.

Chevron gets access to Anadarko's liquid natural gas operations in Mozambique and it would control a 75-mile-wide corridor across the Delaware Basin, a region bountiful with natural gas.

Oil prices have been on the rise as OPEC members cut production.

OPEC said this week that its output had been slashed by more than a half million barrels a day last

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month to just over 30 million barrels, a level not seen since early 2015.

That is largely being driven by the energy powerhouse Saudi Arabia, which last month removed another 324,000 barrels of oil per day from the market.

U.S. crude was selling for nearly \$65 per barrel Friday. But there are signals that global economic growth is slowing.

The acquisition of Anadarko could give Chevron a little more breathing room when crude prices do fall.

With savings the companies plan to book and rising cash flow, Chevron said Friday that it will bump up annual stock buybacks to \$5 billion, from \$4 billion a year, once the transaction is complete.

Chevron plans to divest \$15 billion to \$20 billion in assets between 2020 and 2022, with proceeds used to lower debt and to return additional cash to shareholders, the company said.

"This transaction builds strength on strength for Chevron," said Chairman and CEO Michael Wirth. "The combination of Anadarko's premier, high-quality assets with our advantaged portfolio strengthens our leading position in the Permian, builds on our deepwater Gulf of Mexico capabilities and will grow our LNG business."

Anadarko shareholders will receive 0.3869 shares of Chevron and \$16.25 in cash for each share they own, or \$65 per share. Chevron will issue about 200 million shares and pay approximately \$8 billion in cash. It will also assume about \$15 billion in debt.

Chevron Corp. will keep its headquarters in San Ramon, California. Anadarko Petroleum Corp. is based in The Woodlands, Texas.

The deal is expected to close in the second half of the year. It still needs approval from shareholders of Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and regulators.

Shares of Anadarko jumped 33% Friday, while Chevron's stock fell 5%.

## House Democrats cheer wins of 1st 100 days, ponder stumbles

By LISA MASCARO and PADMANANDA RAMA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly elected Rep. Sharice Davids is most proud of setting up a congressional office in part of her Kansas district she said hadn't seen one for years. For Georgia Rep. Lucy McBath, her biggest victory was passing the gun background checks legislation she advocated for after her son's shooting death. And for New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, her top achievement was the introduction of the landmark Green New Deal .

As the Democratic freshmen lawmakers round the first 100 days of their new majority in the House, they're taking stock of their accomplishments, noting the stumbles and marking their place as a front line of resistance to President Donald Trump.

"When I came here, I said the days of business as usual in the Congress are done, and I think that's what we've seen," said Rep. Lauren Underwood, D-Ill., a nurse and former Obama administration official, who took over a GOP-held seat in the Chicago suburbs.

The first 100 days is often a milestone for a new Congress — an automatic, if arbitrary, moment to assess the workings of the legislative branch. This year, it's even more noteworthy because of the historic nature of the freshmen class. It is two-thirds Democrat, with more women than men on that side of the aisle. It's also the most diverse ever , with many newbies swept into office in a blue wave that followed two years of Trump.

House Democrats set out an ambitious agenda with legislation on the kitchen table priorities that helped them win the majority — protecting the Affordable Care Act, imposing new ethics rules — while engaging in aggressive oversight of the Trump administration. Their investigations extend well beyond special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election as they dig into the president's business dealings and push for Trump's tax returns .

But with the spotlight comes high-profile setbacks. Democrats splintered over Ocasio-Cortez's climate change proposal and exposed party divisions over Israel's treatment of Palestinians. One new lawmaker, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, stunned some when, on Day One, she told supporters — using an expletive —

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that the new majority would impeach Trump.

Moreover, few of their bills will ever be signed into law. In fact, most are simply resolutions that are being panned by the Senate, where Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is providing backstop with his Republican majority to keep the measures from ever making it to Trump's desk.

McConnell said Pelosi's challenges resemble those Republicans have keeping their right flank in line. "I was almost tempted to call up my friend the speaker and say, 'Congratulations, you've got a Freedom Caucus on your hands,'" he told reporters Thursday, referring to the House's conservative group.

House Republicans gathered on the Capitol steps for their own 100-day event, ridiculing the new majority for catering to the liberal left and failing to keep their campaign promises.

"I have one question for the Democrats after their first 100 days: What have you accomplished?" Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said on Wednesday. "Name me one problem you have solved."

Another Republican, Minority Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana, warned that Democrats are veering toward socialism. As he did, a passer-by among the crowds of tourists outside the Capitol shouted, "I stand with Ilhan!" — a reference to outspoken freshman Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota.

Democrats know they face challenges ahead, not only in avoiding the internal divisions that stymied House Republicans when they were in power but also in delivering on their campaign promises.

"For me personally, the biggest frustration has been that we're working on a lot of different things. But if you're just looking at the media, the narrative is not showing that," said freshman Democratic Rep. Katie Hill of California. "It makes it seem like all we're focusing on is the president and responding to whatever tweet of the day or the investigation and so on, but we're actually working on the issues that we were elected to do."

Tlaib said the most surprising thing to her so far has been the "lack of urgency" among some in Congress. As few joined her push to impeach, she said she thinks "we're going to look back and say we wish we did more."

Freshman Rep. Tom Malinowski, a Democrat who will face a potentially tough re-election in New Jersey, says part of the majority's job is to at least show voters what's possible.

"There will be some things that stand no chance of enactment, and we knew that, but that's OK," Malinowski said. "Because one of our jobs is to give people hope that something better is possible if we do in 2020 what we did in 2018."

At House Democrats' retreat this week in Virginia, Ocasio-Cortez said their power lies in being able "to come in as a class."

Many of them say they know theirs is a historic moment, even amid the everyday challenges of being new on the job.

Underwood, who gathered the freshmen to make a video showcasing what they were most proud of, acknowledged the hurdles ahead.

"Moving forward, we will need to continue to work not just to pass bills in the House but do things that can gain broad support so that they can get enacted into law," she said.

"People in my community are looking for impactful change — they can feel a difference."

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Associated Press writer Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

## It's not too late to dive into 'Game of Thrones,' with help

By JOHN CARUCCI Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For seven seasons, you've ignored the lure of "Game of Thrones." The multiple awards didn't draw you in. Your friends debating plot twists each Sunday on social media didn't move you. The "Is Jon Snow really dead?" storyline wasn't enough; not even the "Hold the door!" memes sparked enough interest.

But now, here you are, with the final season days away from kicking off, finally ready to delve in. Since you don't have the time (or probably the stamina) to binge watch the past 67 episodes, here's what you

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need to know to follow along with a modicum of understanding when the eighth season gets underway on HBO on Sunday.

## THE FAMILIES:

"Game of Thrones" is a family affair, with several Great Houses that love, fight, plot and conspire for the Iron Throne, ultimate power in Westeros. (Some love a little more than normal — the twisted affair between siblings Jaime and Cersei Lannister, for example).

Three families at the heart of the story are:

## THE STARKS

The series began with Ned Stark, Warden of the North, at his home, Winterfell. He and his family — wife Catelyn; sons, Robb, Rickon and Bran; daughters Sansa and Arya; and oh yeah, the bastard, Jon Snow — are living relatively quietly until they receive a visit from Ned's old friend Robert Baratheon, now the king. Reluctantly, Ned agrees to become the hand of the king, kind of a ceremonial vice president position, and travels south with some of his family. Things don't go so well, he loses his head and the family is scattered.

Shamed by his origins, Jon Snow joins and soon becomes a leader of the Night's Watch. Think of them as a combination of border patrol agents and celibate monks who stand guard at the Wall, which runs across the north of Westeros and kept out the Wildlings, a fierce nation that doesn't recognize the kings and princes of Westeros. Eventually though, the Night's Watch and the Wildlings join forces against something far more terrifying: the Night King and his White Walkers, an army of the frozen undead, who when last seen have come crashing through the Wall.

By season eight, the other surviving Starks are: Sansa, who went from horrible engagement to horrendous marriages to, now, becoming the mistress of Winterfell; Arya, who survived on the run, picking up some deadly skills along the way; and a disabled Bran, a man with a mystical vision.

## THE LANNISTERS

The gold-obsessed family you love to hate. Twins Cersei and Jamie have been lovers since they were kids, becoming the not-so proud parents of Joffrey, who was briefly king, and two others, none of whom survived the show's run.

Cersei was married to the king, Robert Baratheon, and has remained in charge in the capital, King's Landing.

The youngest and wittiest Lannister sibling, Tyrion, a dwarf, is the black sheep of the family. Seems his sister still blames him for the death of their mother while giving birth to him. After killing his father and fleeing Kings Landing, Tyrion finds a second act as hand to a different queen, Daenerys of ...

## HOUSE TARGARYEN

The Targaryens ruled Westeros before Robert Baratheon, Ned Stark and others brought them down. Daenerys, the only surviving member of the family, more or less, was sold into marriage with Dothraki leader Khal Drogo (later killed). She receives an interesting wedding gift: three dragon eggs. Before they hatched, making her the "Mother of Dragons," the Dothraki queen learned she can stand close to the fire — correction, she can stand in the fire, without getting burned.

Daenerys decides to sail across the Narrow Sea and reclaim the Iron Throne held by her father, the mad king. He too had a penchant for fire, though it was more about burning people alive.

Her brother Rhaegar is also crucial to the story for allegedly kidnapping Ned Stark's sister, Lyanna, before he and his family were killed.

## TIME AND PLACE:

Martin has created a world that's make-believe but feels somewhat real. It's like a mashup of feudal England and Tolkien's Middle Earth with a healthy dose of sex, violence, conniving, power-grabbing, more sex, more violence and lots of full-frontal nudity.

Some other prominent places:

Dragonstone: Former home of House Targaryen, an island where the dragons of the past resided with the family.

Essos: A continent lying across the Narrow Sea from Westeros. It's where Daenerys was hiding in the beginning, and where the horse-loving Dothraki roam.

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Braavos: a free city in Essos, home to the Iron Bank — to which the Lannisters owe some gold. Also home to the Faceless — religious types and assassins who worship the Many-Faced God of death, and collect faces of the dead from all over the world. Arya came up through the ranks here.

Iron Islands: Home to a naval fleet of warriors led by House Greyjoy, whose son Theon was a ward of the Starks and has been through some rough times since then.

WHAT'S NEXT?

As the final season approaches, the three houses have pledged to unite their armies — along with the Wildlings— to fight their common enemy: the White Walkers. The zombie-like creatures have broken through the Wall and they now include one of Daenerys' dragons among their ranks.

## UK's anti-EU Brexit Party launches EU election campaign

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Pro-Brexit British politician Nigel Farage on Friday launched a campaign for an election that may never take place to an institution he routinely insults — the contest for U.K. seats in the European Parliament.

Britain was supposed to have left the European Union before the European elections, which take place in late May in every EU nation. But with Britain's Parliament still deadlocked over whether to approve the government's divorce deal with the bloc, EU leaders have postponed the Brexit deadline until Oct. 31.

British Prime Minister Theresa May says taking part in this year's European elections three years after the nation voted to leave the EU would be "unthinkable." She still hopes Britain can avoid the U.K.'s May 23 election by leaving the 28-nation bloc before then.

But with British lawmakers unwilling to endorse the divorce agreement that May forged with the EU, preparations have begun to fill the 73 U.K. spots in the 751-seat European legislature. Winning candidates from Britain will only get to serve as long as their country remains in the EU.

Britain's ruling Conservatives and the opposition Labour party are unenthusiastic about running in the European Parliament election, where they are likely to be punished by disgruntled voters.

But pro-Brexit and pro-EU parties are eager to run in a contest seen by many as a way to express their strongly divergent views on the EU.

Farage held the first campaign rally of his newly formed Brexit Party, calling delays to Britain's departure from the EU "a willful betrayal of the greatest democratic exercise in the history of this nation."

"The fightback begins here," said Farage, who formerly led the U.K. Independence Party and has sat in the European parliament since 1999.

Farage was instrumental in helping the Leave side win Britain's 2016 referendum on EU membership, but stepped down as UKIP leader after the referendum. UKIP has since shifted to the far right; its new leader hired anti-Muslim agitator and convicted fraudster Tommy Robinson as an adviser.

Farage said he did not want to be a part of a party that promoted "violence, criminal records and thuggery."

Other candidates for the Brexit Party include Annunziata Rees-Mogg, sister of pro-Brexit Conservative lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg.

"I joined the Conservative Party in 1984 and this is not a decision I have made lightly — to leave a party for which I have fought at every election since 1987, from Maggie Thatcher through to Theresa May," she said. "I know which one I'd rather have representing us now."

The pro-EU Independent Group, founded by British lawmakers who quit Labour and the Conservatives, has registered to become a political party so it can run in the EU election on a platform calling for a new referendum on Britain's EU membership.

After months of acrimonious, indecisive yet cliff-edged wrangling in Parliament over Brexit, U.K. lawmakers began a 10-day Easter break on Friday. May has urged them to "reflect" and use the break to "resolve to find a way through this impasse."

Talks continued Friday between senior lawmakers in May's Conservative-led government and the Labour

Party in hopes of striking a compromise Brexit deal that can win majority support in Parliament. Several rounds of negotiations over the past week have so far failed to reach a Brexit compromise.

Labour economy spokesman John McDonnell said the talks would continue and "we will see by the end of next week how far we have got."

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

## Exasperated Ecuador ends asylum for world's worst houseguest

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO, JOSHUA GOODMAN and GONZALO SOLANO** Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Did Western media and government hypocrisy bring about Julian Assange's arrest, or was it his bad manners?

The dramatic end to Julian Assange's asylum has sparked curiosity about his seven-year stay inside Ecuador's embassy in London that officials there say was marked by his late-night skateboarding, the physical harassment of his caretakers and even the smearing of his own fecal matter on the walls of the diplomatic mission.

It would've tested the patience of any host. But for tiny Ecuador, which prides itself on its hospitality and spent almost \$1 million a year protecting Assange, it was also seen as a national insult.

"We've ended the asylum of this spoiled brat," a visibly flustered President Lenin Moreno said Thursday in a fiery speech explaining his decision to withdraw protection of Assange and hand him over to British police. "From now on we'll be more careful in giving asylum to people who are really worth it, and not miserable hackers whose only goal is to destabilize governments."

Others, including former Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa, who granted Assange asylum in 2012, said that while Assange violated the terms of his asylum and was a burden on Ecuador "that's no excuse for throwing him to the lions."

Ecuador emerged as a safe haven for the WikiLeaks founder in 2012 as his legal options to evade extradition to Sweden over sex crime accusations dried up in the United Kingdom. On a June day, he moved into the country's embassy near the upscale Harrods department store for what most thought would be a short stay.

Instead, the cramped quarters, where a small office was converted into a bedroom, became a permanent address that some likened to a de facto jail.

As the asylum dragged on, his relations with his hosts soured and his behavior became more erratic. Embassy staff complained of him skateboarding at night, playing loud music and walking around in his underwear with no apparent concern for others in the tiny embassy.

One senior Ecuadorian official described his room as a "sovereign territory within a sovereign territory" that none of the staff at No. 3 Hans Crescent could enter. But the stench from going weeks without a shower, and dental problem born of poor hygiene, was a constant nuisance, according to the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he isn't authorized to discuss details of Assange's behavior.

Then there was the issue of Assange's poop, which authorities said he spread across embassy walls on at least one occasion in an act of open defiance showing how little he thought of his hosts.

"When you're given shelter, cared for and provided food, you don't denounce the owner of the house," Moreno said Thursday to applause.

Within months of taking office in 2017, Moreno's government scolded Assange again for meddling in international affairs by voicing his support for Catalan secessionists from the Ecuadorian Embassy.

Relations grew so prickly that last year Ecuador increased its restrictions on his Internet access and required him to clean up after his cat James. The rules said that if the feline wasn't properly fed and cleaned up after, it would be sent to the pound.

Assange tried challenging the restrictions in Ecuadorian court, to no avail.

More recently, as the feuding became more public, Ecuadorian officials say he started physically and verbally harassing his caretakers, accusing them of being U.S. spies looking to exchange information on

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WikiLeaks in exchange for debt relief for Ecuador.

Foreign Minister Jose Valencia said audio recording a few months ago captured a moment when Assange threatened Ambassador Jaime Merchan with pressing some sort of panic button that he said would bring devastating consequences for the embassy in the event of his arrest. Although it wasn't clear what he meant by the threat, authorities shared their concerns with British authorities and in carrying out the raid Thursday were careful to prevent Assange from returning to his room to execute any possible emergency plans.

The final straw for Moreno was WikiLeaks' decision to spread information about a purported offshore account controlled by the president's brother. Personal photographs of Moreno lying in bed, as well as images of close family members dancing, were also leaked, further incensing him.

Correa, however, criticized a "double standard" by Western media and governments who he said have been quick to condemn Assange for publishing sensitive information about U.S. national security interests.

"Although Julian Assange denounced war crimes, he's only the person supplying the information. It's The New York Times, the Guardian and El Pais publishing it. Why aren't those journalists and media owners thrown in jail?" he said in an interview in Brussels.

He said that if Assange had been a Chinese dissident exposing Russian secrets instead of facing arrest and extradition "he'd be receiving awards right now in the U.K. and U.S."

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Armario reported from Bogota, Colombia, and Goodman from Caracas, Venezuela. AP writer Mike Corder contributed to this report from Brussels.

Follow AP's coverage of the arrest of WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange here: <https://www.apnews.com/WikiLeaks>

## **Brexhaustion: Long, grinding Brexit is stressing people out**

**By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — Elly Wright can't sleep through the night.

The Dutch native, who has lived in Britain for 51 years, keeps thinking about the black boots of Nazi soldiers marching by her basement window as they brought Jews to a nearby camp in her homeland. The flashbacks have been triggered by Britain's heated debate over leaving the European Union, which has brought division, strife and fear of foreigners. The 77-year-old painter says it has shattered her sense of belonging.

"(Britain) is my home," Wright said quietly. "That is being taken away from me."

Wright isn't alone in her angst. The acrimony over Brexit, which has reached fever pitch as deadlines come and go while politicians squabble, is affecting the mental wellbeing of people from Belfast to Brighton.

Job uncertainty. Visa worries. Confrontational conversations between family members or friends with opposing views on Brexit. The fatigue and stress caused by three years of conflict has spawned new terms: Brexhaustion or Strexit.

"It's a civil war," said Cary Cooper, a professor of organizational psychology at Manchester Business School. "What the country is going through is not a war with Europe. It's not us against them. It's internal."

Just when some thought a conclusion could be drawn, Britain's departure was delayed by six months at an emergency EU summit this week. Whether in favor of exit or hoping to stay, the long argument just got longer, and, for many more stressful.

Some have taken note of the trend. Online meditation provider Headspace has added bespoke meditations to help people manage Brexit stress, addressing issues such as having difficult conversations and what to do when you feel overwhelmed. Mike Ward, a London-based therapist who specializes in treating anxiety, estimates that some 40% of his patients now bring up Brexit-related issues, while cognitive-behavioral clinical hypnotherapist Becca Teers says many of her clients struggle with their lack of control over how Brexit might affect them.

Researchers at the London School of Economics' Centre for Economic Performance, found that the

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"subjective well-being," or happiness, of Britons has declined since the 2016 referendum — regardless of a person's position on Brexit. The researchers believe this is because those in favor of remaining in the EU are upset with the outcome, and those who want to leave are unhappy with how politicians are handling the process.

The study was based on an analysis of the Eurobarometer surveys conducted every year that ask 1,000 people in each EU country about the economic outlook, their job prospects and issues ranging from terrorism to immigration and climate change.

Business consultant BritainThinks asked focus groups to name a song that encapsulated their emotions about Brexit. Their answer: the theme song from the classic horror movie "The Exorcist." And that question was asked before the EU stretched the deadline to Oct. 31, Halloween.

"People consistently tell us how worried (Brexit) makes them feel," said Tom Clarkson, research director at BritainThinks. "It's just pessimistic mood music in the background."

Brexit has been a major story in Britain since before the June 2016 referendum, as the country tries to unpick the legal and economic ties that have bound it to the EU for over 40 years. Things have ramped up since December as Parliament repeatedly rejected a withdrawal agreement negotiated by Prime Minister Theresa May, raising the prospect of a chaotic no-deal exit that could have devastating effects on the economy.

Television news broadcasts are dominated by Brexit, with pundits dissecting daily developments and politicians trading insults. Some people are glued to live parliamentary debates with a dedication normally reserved for soccer, but others have tuned out, unable to bear news of the latest incremental development that seems to resolve nothing. Meanwhile, issues like a surge in knife crime, homelessness and rising childhood poverty get scant coverage.

Wright, for example, is watching the debates in Parliament, trying to make sense of all the arcane procedures and motions, knowing that the decision has implications for her life.

"I try to curtail (my viewing), but I get sucked in," she said. "I want to understand."

Members of Parliament aren't immune to the stress. Lawmakers say they regularly receive death threats because of their positions on Brexit and some have publicly broken down in tears.

Andrew Percy, an MP from the governing Conservative Party, said recently that he had found a cupboard inside the House of Commons where he occasionally retreats for a few moments of calm between debates.

"It feels as if we are under siege," Labour Party lawmaker Chris Bryant told the Times. "I know three MPs who have partners who are dying. They daily have to make the decision of whether to go home to see them or hang out for a vote that may never happen."

Beyond Westminster, uncertainty is pervasive as companies try to prepare for the future without knowing what the economic rules will be.

Autoworkers are already getting bad news, as companies like Honda and Nissan curtail investment to focus on countries where there is less insecurity. Bankers, farmworkers, even doctors and nurses in the National Health Service are wondering what the future holds.

"Going on for three years, people look around them and see that people are losing jobs, companies planning to move staff. It's been three years of constant instability," said Cooper, an expert on workplace issues.

That frustration recently spilled into the streets, with hundreds of thousands marching on Parliament to demand that the government give the people a second vote on leaving the EU.

Less than a week later, after Parliament forced May to delay Britain's departure, Brexit supporters held a smaller but equally animated protest to decry politicians they said were ignoring the will of 17.4 million people who voted to leave.

In the middle of this morass sit people like Elena Remigi, who runs the In Limbo Project, a Facebook forum for EU citizens living in the U.K.

One recent post tries to explain what Brexit means for many expatriates by using imagery from Dante's medieval poem "Inferno," where "the straight path has been lost" in a dark forest.



"The dark forest truly represents our limbo: a place of uncertainty, sadness, confusion, fragility, anger and many other painful feelings," she wrote.

"The human cost is huge and it has been hugely underestimated," Remigi later told The Associated Press. "I find that as more time goes by the more stressed people are."

## S. Korean babies born Dec. 31 become 2-year-olds next day

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

DAEJEON, South Korea (AP) — Just two hours after Lee Dong Kil's daughter was born on New Year's Eve, the clock struck midnight, 2019 was ushered in, and the infant became 2-years-old. She wasn't alone, though it happened for her quicker than most: Every baby born in South Korea last year became 2 on Jan. 1.

According to one of the world's most unusual age-calculating systems, South Korean babies become 1 on the day of their birth and then get an additional year tacked on when the calendar hits Jan. 1. A lawmaker is working now to overturn the centuries-old tradition amid complaints that it's an anachronistic, time-wasting custom that drags down an otherwise ultramodern country.

For parents whose babies are born in December, it can be especially painful. One hour after his daughter's birth in the central city of Daejeon at 10 p.m. on Dec. 31 of last year, Lee posted the news on social media. His friends immediately showered him with congratulatory messages.

"An hour later, when the New Year began, they phoned me again to say congratulations for my baby becoming 2-years-old," said Lee, who is 32 internationally but 34 in South Korea. "I thought, 'Ah, right. She's now 2 years old, though it's been only two hours since she was born. What the heck!'"

The origins of this age reckoning system aren't clear. Being 1 upon birth may be linked to the time babies spend in their mothers' wombs or to an ancient Asian numerical system that didn't have the concept of zero.

Becoming a year older on Jan. 1? That's even harder to explain.

It could be that ancient Koreans cared a lot about the year in which they were born in the Chinese 60-year cycle, but, without regular calendars, didn't care much about the specific day they were born; so they mostly ignored the day of their birth and instead marked another year of age on the day of the Lunar New Year, according to senior curator Jung Yonhak at the National Folk Museum of Korea.

This may have then shifted to the solar New Year on Jan. 1 as the South began embracing the Western calendar. North Korea uses the Western age calculating system, but they have a twist: they follow their own calendar that's based on the birth of national founder and president-for-life Kim Il Sung.

The year of your birth is still incredibly important in South Korea, and lumps those linked children together for life.

Other Asian countries, including Japan and Vietnam, abandoned the Chinese-style age system amid an influx of Western culture. Officially, South Korea has used Western-style calculations since the early 1960s. But its citizens still embrace the old-fashioned system in their daily lives because the government has done little to get people to change over to the Western style.

Most South Koreans are simply accustomed to living with two ages.

People don't hold massive joint birthday parties on New Year's Day; they just celebrate their birthday on the days they were born. Young people consider themselves another year old on solar New Year's Day (Jan. 1) while older people often use the Lunar New Year's Day. Many family restaurants don't charge babies if they are 36-months-old or younger, so parents often calculate their babies' ages under the Western method when they're dining out.

Some South Koreans still worry that the practice makes their nation look odd on the international stage. Some feel confusion when meeting with foreigners. Associated Press journalists in Seoul must ask Koreans what year and month they were born to calculate their Western age for news stories.

There are also some who say the concept of "Korean age" encourages a fixation on age-based social standing in this seniority-based country. In South Korea, those born in the same year often treat each other as equals, while people must use honorific titles to address those born earlier, rather than directly

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using their names.

Ahn Chang-gun, from the southeastern city of Gimhae, said he felt "empty" when his first child became 2 on Jan. 1, 2013, about two weeks after his wife delivered him after eight years of marriage. "He was this precious baby that we finally had, but I felt that all of a sudden two years had just gone by and yet I hadn't done anything for my baby," said Ahn.

Parents whose babies are born in December often worry about their kids falling behind other children born earlier in the same year, though worries gradually disappear as their children age.

When Seo Hyo Sun from Buchon, just west of Seoul, was taken to the hospital to get a cesarean section on Dec. 29, she couldn't stop weeping because her baby's due date was supposed to be Jan. 7.

"Tears kept flowing. ... My doctor told me the baby wanted to come out today so let's just celebrate," said Seo, 31 in international age. "When I awoke from my anesthesia, I felt really grateful ... because my baby was born healthy. That was enough."

In January, lawmaker Hwang Ju-hong tabled a bill aimed at requiring the government to put international ages in official documents and encouraging general citizens to go with their international ages in everyday life. It's the first legislative attempt to abolish "Korean age."

"It is aimed at resolving confusion and inefficiency caused by the mixed use of age-counting systems," Hwang said in the proposed legislation.

Hwang's office said a parliamentary committee discussion and a public hearing on the issue are expected in coming months.

Surveys in recent years showed more South Koreans supported international age though it wasn't clear how seriously they wanted a change.

"If we use international age, things could get more complicated because it's a society that cares so much about which year you were born," said Lim KyoungJae, 46, head of the Seoul-based Miko Travel agency. "We should also definitely count the time of a baby being conceived and growing in its mother's womb."

Lim's employee Choi Min Kyung, who is 26 internationally and 28 in South Korea, disagreed.

"It's good to be two years younger ... (especially) when you meet men" on blind dates, Choi said with a laugh. "There is a big difference between 26 and 28."

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Associated Press journalist Chang Yong Jun contributed to this report.

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Follow Hyung-jin Kim at [www.twitter.com/hyungjin1972](http://www.twitter.com/hyungjin1972)

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, April 13, the 103rd day of 2019. There are 262 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 13, 1970, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst. (The astronauts managed to return safely.)

On this date:

In 1598, King Henry IV of France endorsed the Edict of Nantes, which granted rights to the Protestant Huguenots. (The edict was abrogated in 1685 by King Louis XIV, who declared France entirely Catholic again.)

In 1743, the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, was born in Shadwell in the Virginia Colony.

In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina fell to Confederate forces.

In 1917, American business tycoon James "Diamond Jim" Brady, known for his jewelry collection as well as his hearty appetite, died in Atlantic City, New Jersey at age 60.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. on the

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200th anniversary of the third American president's birth.

In 1958, Van Cliburn of the United States won the first International Tchaikovsky Competition for piano in Moscow; Russian Valery Klimov won the violin competition.

In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first black performer in a leading role to win an Academy Award for his performance in "Lilies of the Field."

In 1986, Pope John Paul II visited the Great Synagogue of Rome in the first recorded papal visit of its kind to a Jewish house of worship.

In 1992, the Great Chicago Flood took place as the city's century-old tunnel system and adjacent basements filled with water from the Chicago River. "The Bridges of Madison County," a romance novel by Robert James Waller, was published by Warner Books.

In 1997, Tiger Woods became the youngest person to win the Masters Tournament and the first player of partly African heritage to claim a major golf title.

In 1999, right-to-die advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian was sentenced in Pontiac, Michigan, to 10 to 25 years in prison for second-degree murder in the lethal injection of a Lou Gehrig's disease patient. (Kevorkian ended up serving eight years.)

In 2005, a defiant Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty to carrying out the deadly bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and three other attacks in back-to-back court appearances in Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta.

Ten years ago: The U.N. Security Council condemned North Korea's April 5 rocket launch. President Barack Obama allowed Americans to make unlimited transfers of money and visits to relatives in Cuba. Music producer Phil Spector was found guilty by a Los Angeles jury of second-degree murder in the shooting of actress Lana Clarkson (he was later sentenced to 19 years to life in prison). Former Detroit Tigers pitcher Mark "The Bird" Fidrych died in an accident on his Massachusetts farm; he was 54. Harry Kalas, whose "Outta here!" home run calls thrilled Philadelphia baseball fans, died after collapsing in the broadcast booth before the Phillies' 9-8 victory over the Nationals in Washington; he was 73.

Five years ago: The head of the United Nations' expert panel on climate change said the cost of keeping global warming in check was "relatively modest," but only if the world acted quickly to reverse the buildup of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. Three people were shot to death at two sites in suburban Kansas City; suspect Frazier Glenn Miller, a white supremacist, was allegedly targeting Jews (none of the victims was Jewish). Thirty-six people were killed when a bus slammed into a broken-down truck in Veracruz, Mexico. Bubba Watson won the Masters for the second time in three years.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced that the United States, France and Britain had carried out joint airstrikes in Syria meant to punish President Bashar Assad for his alleged use of chemical weapons. Trump issued a pardon to I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, suggesting that the former top aide to Vice President Dick Cheney had been "treated unfairly" by a special counsel. Responding to a stinging new memoir from former FBI Director James Comey, Trump laced into Comey, describing him as an "untruthful slime ball." As thousands of teachers rallied inside and outside the state Capitol, the Republican-dominated Kentucky state legislature overrode vetoes by GOP Gov. Matt Bevin on a spending plan that included new money for education.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., is 86. Actor Lyle Waggoner is 84. Actor Edward Fox is 82. Actor Paul Sorvino is 80. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lester Chambers is 79. Movie-TV composer Bill Conti is 77. Rock musician Jack Casady is 75. Actor Tony Dow is 74. Singer Al Green is 73. Actor Ron Perlman is 69. Actor William Sadler is 69. Singer Peabo Bryson is 68. Bandleader/rock musician Max Weinberg is 68. Bluegrass singer-musician Sam Bush is 67. Rock musician Jimmy Destri is 65. Comedian Gary Kroeger is 62. Actress Sandra Santiago is 62. Sen. Bob Casey Jr., D-Pa., is 59. Rock musician Joey Mazzola (Sponge) is 58. Chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov is 56. Actress Page Hannah is 55. Actress-comedian Caroline Rhea (RAY) is 55. Rock musician Lisa Umbarger is 54. Rock musician Marc Ford is 53. Reggae singer Capleton is 52. Actor Ricky Schroder is 49. Rock singer Aaron Lewis (Staind) is 47. Actor Bokeem Woodbine is 46. Singer Lou Bega is 44. Actor-producer Glenn Howerton is 43. Actor Kyle Howard is 41. Actress Kelli Giddish is 39. Actress Courtney Peldon is 38. Pop singer Nellie McKay (mih-KY')

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is 37. Rapper/singer Ty Dolla \$ign is 37. Baseball outfielder Hunter Pence is 36. Actress Allison Williams is 31. Actress Hannah Marks is 26.

Thought for Today: "Happiness is not the absence of problems but the ability to deal with them." — Charles Louis de Montesquieu, French philosopher (1689-1755).