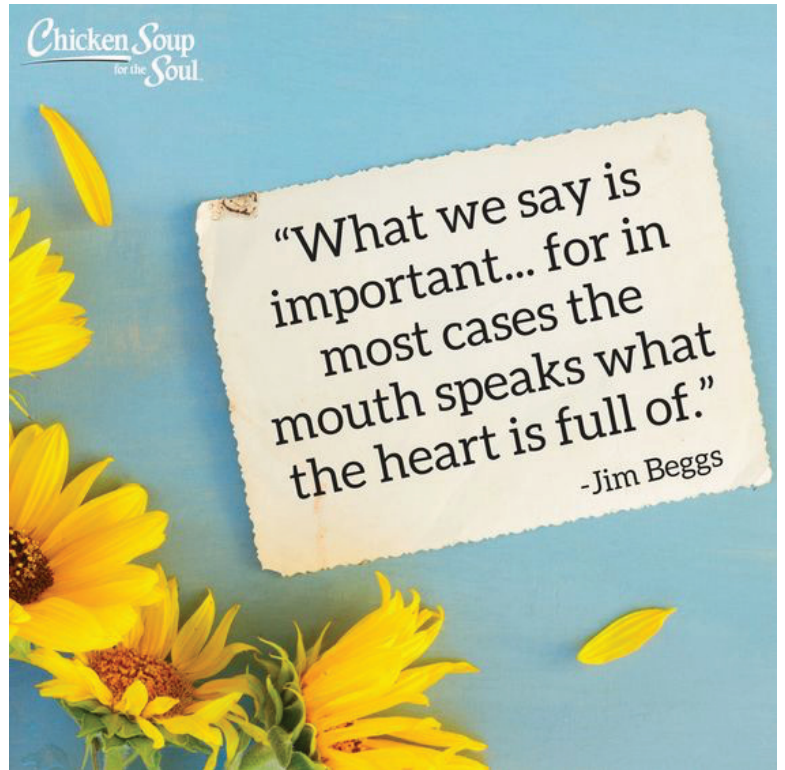


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- 2- Dick Kolker's 80th Birthday Party
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 3- Keith joins Harr Motors
- 3- Community Events
- 3- Kern Bridal Shower
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- 4- KG Roundup Reschedule
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## **OPEN:** Re-cycling Trailer in Groton

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

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**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.**

## **NOW HIRING!**

### **Truss Pros**

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

**Looking for assemblers - both shifts**

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

#### **BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

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

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

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## Monday, April 15

The Girls Golf Meet at Milbank scheduled for Monday is cancelled.

## Tuesday, April 16

City Council moved to Tuesday, April 23  
DI Pork Loin Meal, 5-7 p.m., HS Gym.  
7:00pm: Elementary Spring Concert at Groton Area High School

Varsity track meets scheduled for Tuesday at Webster and Deuel are cancelled.

3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Elementary PAC Cookie Dough Pickup

## 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

6:30 p.m.: Tuff Tigers Wrestling Awards at Groton Area Elementary Commons Area

**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**

*Upcoming*  
**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**



**hm HARR  
Motors**

**4255 6th**

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

# Groton Daily Independent

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**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

## Community Good Friday Service

Friday, April 19, 2019  
7 p.m.  
United Methodist Church  
906 N 1st St., Groton



### Special Music

Each person coming will be given a nail which they can pound into a cross at the end of the service.

#### **Service Leaders:**

Pastor Brandon Dunham, United Methodist Church of Groton and Conde

Pastor Josh Jetto, Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church

Paul Kosel, Heaven Bound Ministries, Pierpont/Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden

There will be other participants as well who will be doing readings.



*At the end of the service, when each person has pounded in their nail, they may either remain in the sanctuary or leave in silence in order to continue contemplating the sacrifice of Jesus.*

**There will be an offering received for the  
Groton Family Crisis Fund.**



## SEAS Living Stations of the Cross

The Living Stations of the Cross will be held Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m., at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. The directors are Alexis Simon and Wyatt Locke. The members of the SEAS Youth put on an impressive performance. There will be refreshments after the event. The event will be carried live on GDILIVE.COM.

## Community Good Friday Service

The Community Good Friday Service will be held at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, Groton. There will be an offering received for the Groton Family Crisis Fund.

Each person coming to the service will be given a nail which they will pound into a cross at the end of the service. Pastor Brandon Dunham from the United Methodist Church of Groton and Conde, Pastor Josh Jetto from the Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church, and Paul Kosel from Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont/Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church of rural Eden, will be leading the service. There will be other participants as well who will be doing readings and special music will be provided. At the end of the service, when each person has pounded in their nail, they may either remain in the sanctuary or leave in silence in order to continue contemplating the sacrifice of Jesus.



**The Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church and Emmanuel Lutheran Church both held Easter Cantatas in Groton yesterday. Pictured above is the group from the C&MA Church.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

We are less than two weeks away from the NFL draft. The first round will air on Thursday, April 25 at 7pm (CT), rounds two and three will be on Friday, April 26 at 6pm, and the final four rounds will start Saturday, April 27 at 11am. If you have been reading my column for a while, you know I love the NFL draft. So today, we investigate the offense to see where the Vikings still need help, and which players might be available when the Vikings pick. Before we get into that, however, let's go over some Vikings related news and notes.

Last week, the Vikings handed out a much-needed contract extension to wide receiver Adam Thielen. The Minnesota native and two-time Pro Bowler has never missed a game during this career, and he finished 2018 with 113 catches for 1,373 yards and nine touchdowns. He is now under contract through the 2024 season, and his pay now reflects his contributions to the team.

The Vikings also signed Sean Mannion to be the backup QB. The 27-year old quarterback was drafted by the Rams in the third round back in 2015.

Ok, on to the draft!

The biggest holes on the Vikings' roster are on offense. So as much as Mike Zimmer loves to draft defensive players, he will have to take a backseat this year. Let's take a look at the offensive positions the Vikings will be targeting on draft weekend.

The biggest need for the Vikings' offense is offensive line, and they will certainly use one of their top two picks at the position. The biggest area of need within the offensive line is at guard, but the Vikings have talked about possibly sliding LT Riley Reiff inside to guard, giving them the flexibility to draft either position.

If the Vikings stay put with the 18th pick, there will be several offensive linemen available to them. Most mock drafts have both Jawaan Taylor (Offensive Tackle, Florida) and Jonah Williams (OT, Alabama) drafted before the Vikings are on the clock, but if either one is available at 18, the team should sprint to the podium. In the likely event that both are gone, some other options that could come in and improve the offensive line are Dalton Risner (OT, Kansas State), Cody Ford (OT, Oklahoma), Andre Dillard (OT, Washington State), or Garrett Bradbury (Guard/ Center, NC State).

Personally, I like Dalton Risner. The offensive tackle has only given up one sack his entire college career. He is perhaps the best pass blocking offensive lineman in the draft and could come in and immediately be the starting left tackle.

Besides offensive line, the Vikings could be looking to draft a tight end if they decide that Kyle Rudolph has hit his ceiling and want an upgrade. There are two very good tight ends in this draft and, ironically enough, they are both from Iowa. Noah Fant is a huge mismatch as a receiving threat – listed at 6'4", 249 pounds, he led all tight ends with a 4.5 second 40-yard dash at the combine. T.J. Hockenson is a little slower than Fant (4.7 second 40-yard dash), but he is a better blocker and more of an all-around tight end. Both players will likely be drafted in the first round, so if the top offensive linemen are off the board, don't be surprised to hear the Vikings draft one of those two.

Later in the draft, the Vikings could look to draft a backup quarterback or running back. Some late round quarterbacks to keep an eye on are Tyree Jackson (QB, Buffalo), Will Grier (QB, West Virginia) or Easton Stick (QB, NDSU). If the Vikings draft a running back in the later rounds, I would love them to target Bryce Love from Stanford. Love was one of the best RBs in college football, but an injury took him off the radar of some teams. If he can regain his speed, he could be a true homerun threat.

Check back next week when we cover the defense. And as always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

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## Today in Weather History

April 15, 1896: A tornado, possibly an F3, moved northeast from Burkmere, which is 10 miles west of Faulkton. About half dozen farms were torn apart. Two children were killed, and the rest of the family critically injured as a home was leveled. 6 miles northwest of Faulkton, near Millard.

April 15, 2011: A strong upper-level low-pressure area brought widespread heavy snowfall to central and parts of northeast South Dakota. This early spring storm brought 6 to 14 inches of heavy snow to the area. The heavy wet snow caused a lot of travel problems along with a few accidents. Locations with a foot or more of snowfall included 12 inches 12 SSW Harrold, 23 N Highmore, and Orient; 13 inches 14 NNE Isabel and Eureka with 14 inches at Eagle Butte.

1927: The Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927 continued to rage. Tremendous rains all over the Mississippi River Valley during the preceding autumn and winter sent floodwaters raging southward over a wide area. On this date, the government levee at Dorena, MO collapsed. The surge of floodwater continued pushing downriver toward the Mississippi Delta, bursting more dams as it went. Also on this day, New Orleans saw 15 inches of rain in 18 hours. More than 4 feet of water covered parts of the city.

1998: An F3 tornado hits downtown Nashville causing extensive damage but no loss of life. An additional 62 tornadoes touched down in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee. These tornadoes caused 12 fatalities and approximately 120 injuries.

2000: What a difference a day made (with the help of a strong cold front). Yesterday's 86 degrees in Goodland, Kansas, tied the record high for the date. Today's high of 29 degrees was also a date record high, but a record low high. It was a new record by 3 degrees.

1921 - Two mile high Silver Lake, CO, received 76 inches of snow in 24 hours, the heaviest 24 hour total of record for North America. The storm left a total of 87 inches in twenty-seven and a half hours. (David Ludlum)

1927 - New Orleans LA was drenched with 14.01 inches of rain, which established a 24 hour rainfall record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1949 - A hailstone five inches by five and a half inches in size, and weighing four pounds, was measured at Troy NY. (The Weather Channel)

1958 - A tornado 300 yards in width skipped along a five mile path near Frostproof FL. A 2500 gallon water tank was found one mile from its original position (it is not known how much water was in the tank at the time). (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the Southern Atlantic Coast Region. A tornado killed one person and injured seven others near Mount Dora FL. Drifts of hail up to two feet deep were reported in Davidson and Rowan counties in North Carolina. Myrtle Beach SC was deluged with seven inches of rain in three hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Death Valley, CA, was soaked with 1.53 inches of rain in 24 hours. Snow fell in the mountains of southern California. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)




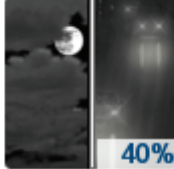

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms soaked the eastern U.S. with heavy rain, pushing the rainfall total for the month at Cape Hatteras NC past their previous April record of 7.10 inches. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced severe weather from west central Texas to west central Arkansas during the late afternoon and evening. Thunderstorms spawned a tornado which caused more than half a million dollars damage at Fort Stockton TX, produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Dennison TX, produced baseball size hail at Silo OK and near Capps Corner TX, and drenched southeastern Oklahoma with up to 4 inches of rain in two hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



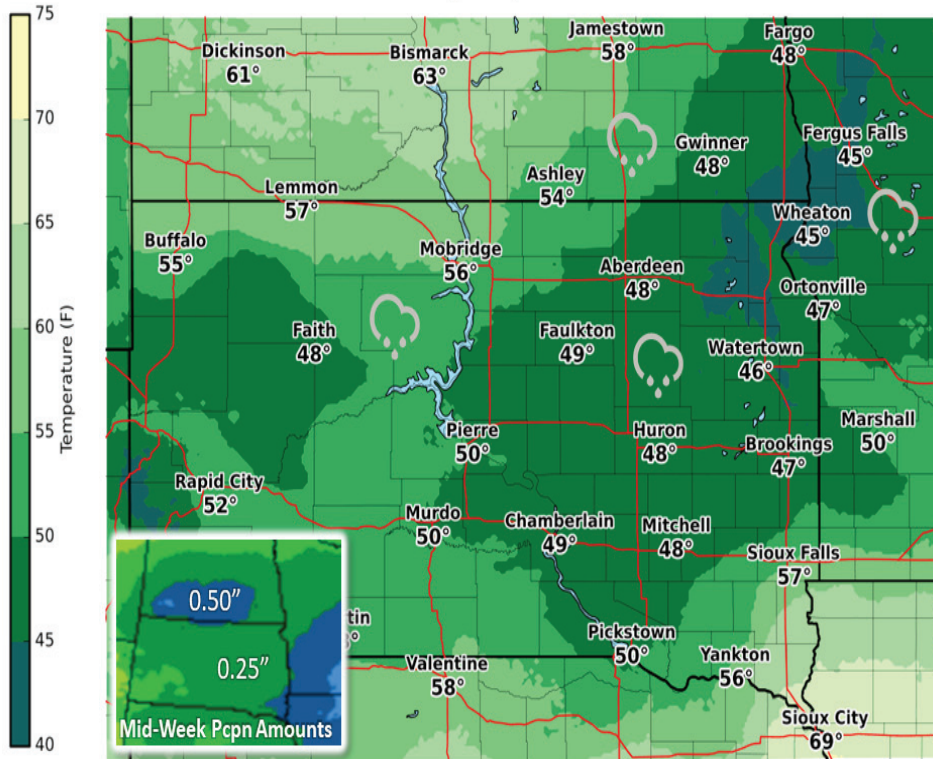
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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
 20%			 40%	 60%
Slight Chance Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Rain	Rain Likely and Breezy
High: 48 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 56 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 49 °F

## Today's Afternoon Highs

Valid: April 15, 2019



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen SD  
04/15/2019 02:50 AM CDT

Follow Us:     
weather.gov/Aberdeen

Published on: 04/15/2019 at 4:27AM

Isolated light showers are expected across the region today, along with cool temperatures. More wide-spread precipitation is expected mid-week.

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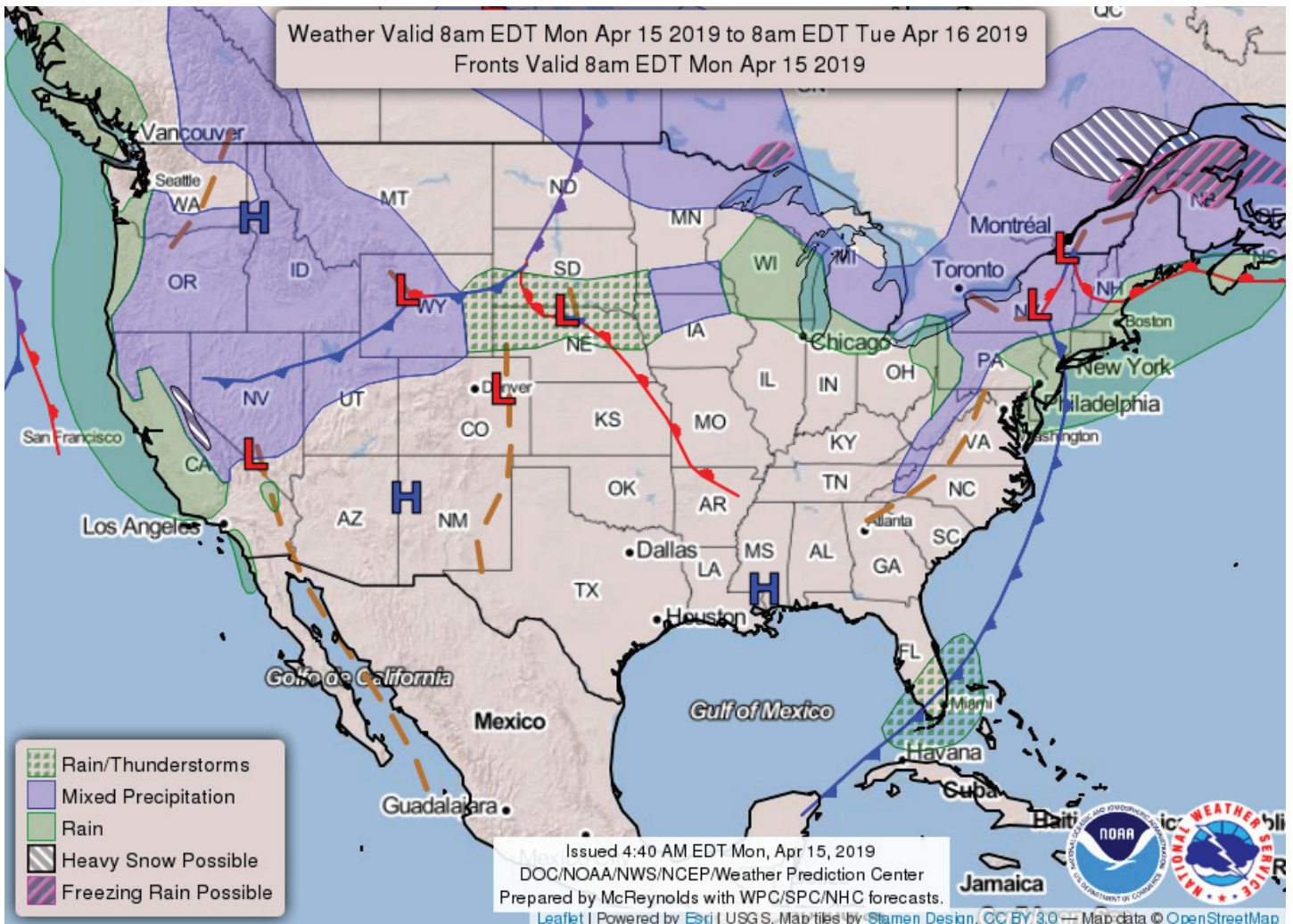
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 40 °F at 3:37 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 22 °F at 6:05 AM**  
**High Gust: 18 mph at 9:51 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 91° in 1926**  
**Record Low: 8° in 2014**  
**Average High: 57°F**  
**Average Low: 32°F**  
**Average Precip in April.: 0.69**  
**Precip to date in April.: 1.07**  
**Average Precip to date: 2.87**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.04**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:20 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:47a.m.**



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## LEVEL PATHWAYS

Recently, I received two fall catalogs from sporting goods companies. Both featured items that anyone who loves the outdoors would be pleased to own. Both had a focus on hiking and the wilderness. The clothes were so attractive that they appeared glamorous enough to wear to a wedding reception.

But the shoes were in a class by themselves. They all had a rugged appearance with built-in safety features: steel shanks for stability, soles with rock-biting teeth to provide non-skid traction, comfortable inserts to prevent fatigue, and strong laces that would last for years.

Every picture that featured the shoes in action had a person walking up a steep incline with rocks, shrubs, and stones that made the journey difficult. Some of the models had a stick in their hand to provide balance or to protect them from snakes or other animals. All appeared ready for anything with canteens of water and first aid kits. Whatever came their way would be subdued! They were prepared to conquer anything at any time. They were ready for their journey into and through the wilderness.

But no matter how wisely they prepared for their journey through the wilderness, it did not prepare them for the journey through life. The journey through life is not about shoes or clothing: it is about walking in Gods righteousness. The only safe-passage is with Christ. The righteousness of the blameless makes their path straight, but the wicked are brought down by their deeds.

God will grant us a safe passage through life. But we must follow His path if we want it.

Prayer: Lord, may we stay close to You as we journey through life, knowing that we will be safe and secure if we follow Your paths. Give us courage to do so. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 11:5 The righteousness of the blameless makes their path straight, but the wicked are brought down by their deeds.



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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 snowbank challenge raises money for schools**

By CHARLIE HILDEBRAND Aberdeen American News

BOWDLE, S.D. (AP) — There are many issues that arise when schools decide to form a sports co-op. One that's easy to forget is the cost of uniforms.

With Bowdle, Eureka and Edmunds Central joining to create the North Central Thunder, money was needed to be raised to pay for uniforms. Tara Beitelspacher, the owner of the Bowdle newspaper, The Pride of the Prairie, had a clever way to help raise the money.

"It was about three schools coming together to fund the uniforms," Bowdle superintendent Hector Serna said. "It was to get people to help donate."

Beitelspacher posted her idea on the Facebook page of the Pride Publications. People were asked to climb a snowbank, have someone take their picture and then donate \$100 to the school of their choice, the Aberdeen American News reported.

"Just like the polar bear challenge or other challenges you see on social media," Serna said. "You go on top of the snowbank and challenge other community members to do it."

The snowbank challenge was created. It's worked, too.

It started March 19. Within one week, Bowdle had raised \$10,000 to pay for roughly 100 uniforms. A little over two weeks later, Bowdle has raised even more money.

"Right now we've raised over \$15,000 in the Bowdle district," Serna said.

Serna isn't sure how much Eureka or Edmunds Central have raised.

"Right now we're trying to figure how many uniforms we have total for a three-school cooperative," Serna said. "Each community is doing its own."

Since Beitelspacher's initial post on the Pride's Facebook page, over 80 pictures of people taking the challenge are shown on the same page. Many people from across the country donated to all three schools.

According to the same Facebook page, Edmunds Central had raised enough money to pay for 38 uniforms as of March 27. There was no information about Eureka on the Facebook page.

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

### **South Dakota woman killed in fall from Arkansas cliff**

JASPER, Ark. (AP) — Authorities say a 20-year-old South Dakota woman has died after falling off a cliff in northwestern Arkansas.

Newton County Sheriff Glenn Wheeler says Andrea Norton was fatally injured on Saturday when she accidentally fell from a rock formation near Jasper, about 101 miles northwest of Little Rock.

Wheeler says Norton was with a group of college students from Sioux City, Iowa, and was reportedly re-positioning herself for a photo when she fell about 100 feet off the Hawksbill Crag, a popular hiking destination within the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest.

Wheeler says the crag is widely considered one of Arkansas' most-photographed hiking areas, and several people have died in falls there in recent years. Also known as Whitaker Point, the rocky outcrop gets its name because it resembles a hawk's bill.

### **Mount Marty athletic director to be head men's hoops coach**

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Mount Marty College athletic director Chris Kassin is taking on a second duty — head men's basketball coach.

Kassin says there was a great pool of applicants to replace Cody Schilling, who left last month for family reasons. But he tells the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan that he ultimately decided he was best for

the job because of his familiarity with the players and understanding of the program.

Kassin is a Huron native. He's a former long-time assistant coach at the University of South Dakota who took over as Mount Marty's athletic director in 2017.

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

## 2 state prison inmates in Yankton placed on escape status

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Two state prison inmates at the Yankton Community Work Center have been placed on escape status.

State corrections officials say Travis Mann and Matthew Weddell failed to report to their community service job site in Yankton on Saturday.

The 36-year-old Mann is serving sentences from Brookings County for drug possession and from Minnehaha County for forgery.

The 38-year-old Weddell is serving sentences from Stanley County for grand theft and failure to appear.

## Most storm-related power outages fixed in Upper Midwest

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Most of the tens of thousands of people who lost electricity during a severe snow storm in the Upper Midwest have their power back on.

The second "bomb cyclone" storm in less than a month knocked out power to more than 100,000 people in Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. PowerOutage.us reports that only about 3,600 are still waiting to have their electricity restored.

Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy had 100,000 customers without power during the storm. The utility reports that fewer than 1,000 are still without electricity, and they should be back online soon.

Xcel says snow, rain, ice, and strong winds snapped more than 650 power poles and downed hundreds of power lines in the region.

## Mainstream retailers embrace marijuana's less taboo cousin

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mainstream retailers are leaping into the world of products like skin creams and oils that tout such benefits as reducing anxiety and helping you sleep.

The key ingredient? CBD, or cannabidiol, a compound derived from hemp and marijuana that doesn't cause a high.

Retailers are taking advantage of the booming industry even as its legal status and health benefits remain murky. And the flood of products is only testing how federal regulators can police it.

Retail sales of CBD consumer products in 2018 were estimated to reach as much as \$2 billion, according to Cowen & Co. By 2025, that figure could hit \$16 billion in retail sales, the investment firm predicts.

CBD has been cropping up in everything from dog treats to bath balms in the past few months. Domestic diva Martha Stewart is working with Canada's Canopy Growth Corp. to develop new CBD products. And the nation's largest mall owner Simon Property Group has hooked up with a cannabis goods maker to open roughly 100 kiosks at its U.S. malls by mid-summer.

Authentic Fitness is planning to sell CBD foot creams, oils and soaps under the Nine West brand starting this fall. And CVS Health is beginning to sell CBD-infused creams, sprays, lotions and salves at more than 800 stores in seven states; drug store rivals Walgreens and Rite Aid are now following suit.

Even high-end retailers are getting in on the action, charging anywhere from \$12 to \$150 an ounce. Barneys New York has opened a shop in Beverly Hills, California, that sells CBD-infused creams along with hand blown glass bongos and other accessories, while Neiman Marcus is now offering an array of CBD-infused beauty products from balms, lotions soaps and masks in five of its stores.

"There's definitely a huge opportunity for expansion," said Matthew Mazzucca, creative director at Bar-

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neys New York.

He acknowledged, however, the legal hurdles are still hard to navigate and companies should take it slow. Indeed, some are doing just that. Walmart says it doesn't have plans to carry CBD-infused products at this time and Target, which in 2017 sold hemp extract products on its website but then quickly yanked them, said it's monitoring the situation.

Meanwhile, online behemoth Amazon is staying clear of the stuff. Spokeswoman Cecilia Fan says the company prohibits the sale of products that contain CBD and will remove them from its site if it sees them.

CBD's ubiquity persists despite very little evidence for all the health claims the industry touts. If you believe in the hype, CBD treats pain, reduces anxiety and helps you sleep and keeps you focused. But most claims are based on studies in rats, mice or in test tubes. Human research has been done but on small numbers of people.

Only drugs that have been reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as safe and effective can make claims that they treat or prevent diseases or medical conditions. Many CBD producers try to get around that by using vague language about general health and well-being.

That seems to be good enough for at least some shoppers eager to calm their nerves.

"We are a more anxious society and people are looking for cures," said Kit Yarrow, a consumer psychologist and professor at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. "There's a growing distrust in business and pharma and so people are wanting to find cures that seem more real and wholesome."

Amy Nichols, a former food scientist from Indianapolis, reflects that distrust. Nichols, 46, who's been battling symptoms from autoimmune illness, has been using CBD oils by a brand called Recept that she sticks under her tongue.

"For me, this is a more natural solution to treating symptoms that I am having instead of taking pain killers," said Nichols, who now works as a sales representative for Recept. "I have more energy. I get more done. I am in less pain. I am more active."

CBD is operating within a patchwork of regulations that vary by cities and states. In New York City, regulators are prohibiting outlets to sell CBD-infused food and beverages, threatening them with fines. Other states like Ohio and California are taking similar action. Maine's governor, on the other hand, signed an emergency bill in late March allowing CBD in food products after state inspectors warned stores to pull them from shelves earlier in the year.

The farm bill, passed late last year, gave states and the U.S. Department of Agriculture authority to regulate industrial hemp, a type of cannabis that is high in CBD. That opened the door to hemp-derived CBD products.

But the farm bill gave the FDA authority over the food supply and the agency recently warned that it's illegal to add CBD or THC — the compound that gives marijuana its high — to human or animal food and beverages and transport it over state lines. Dietary supplements using CBD are also illegal.

Bigger players like CVS and Walgreens are sticking with skin creams and lotions where the FDA hasn't specifically expressed concern. Others are "rolling the dice" and selling CBD-infused drinks and supplements anyway in hopes of a profit, said Whitt Steineker, a Birmingham, Alabama, attorney who advises the hemp industry.

"They have determined the reward is worth the risk," Steineker said.

With rules and guidance still being written, the landscape is highly uncertain but Steineker expects that to improve.

"Now that hemp is legal, I think the USDA and state departments of agriculture are interested in seeing what type of crop it will be and what its applications are," he said. "They'll move with the speed governments often move with ... (but) by the 2020 growing season, people will have a better understanding how to operate within the law."

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AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

## AP Exclusive: UN whistleblower targeted in misconduct probe

By MARIA CHENG and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — A year after claims of sexual assault and harassment rocked the U.N. agency that fights HIV, UNAIDS looked like it might be on the mend. The top deputy facing the allegations had departed, the leader who presided over the troubled institution announced plans to bow out early and managers vowed to correct the “toxic” atmosphere identified in a scathing probe.

But the upheaval is not over.

Confidential documents obtained by The Associated Press show UNAIDS is grappling with previously unreported allegations of financial and sexual misconduct involving Martina Brostrom, who went public last March with claims that one of the organization’s top officials assaulted her in 2015.

As part of a preliminary internal inquiry, investigators for the World Health Organization, which oversees UNAIDS, wrote that they had found “evidence” that Brostrom and her former supervisor may have taken part in “fraudulent practices and misuse of travel funds,” the documents show.

The inquiry was put on hold in late 2016 after Brostrom asked for whistleblower protection under U.N. regulations in a formal complaint to UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe alleging that Dr. Luiz Loures, one of Sidibe’s deputies, forcibly kissed her and tried to drag her out of a Bangkok hotel elevator. In a statement that did not identify Brostrom by name, UNAIDS said the investigation was suspended “to safeguard the integrity of a potentially related sexual harassment case.”

Edward Flaherty, a lawyer for Brostrom, said she had no knowledge of any such inquiry.

“She is unaware, and has not been advised, of any such investigation and denies any assertion of impropriety,” Flaherty said.

The ongoing turmoil is a damaging distraction for an agency at the center of multibillion-dollar, taxpayer-funded U.N. efforts to end the global AIDS epidemic by 2030. Among its crucial jobs, UNAIDS collects data, helps shape national AIDS policies and delivers life-saving medicines to treat a virus that affects more than 37 million people worldwide and still kills more than 900,000 people a year.

The allegations of sexual assault and managerial mismanagement in the aftermath of the complaints lodged by Brostrom, who is Swedish, prompted Sweden to announce last year it would suspend its funding to the agency. The Scandinavian country is UNAIDS’ No. 2 donor, providing more than \$30 million in 2017.

Brostrom’s complaint against Loures prompted two inquiries — a U.N. investigation that concluded there was insufficient evidence to support her claims and an independent assessment of the agency’s management that found a culture of impunity and “defective leadership.” Amid the resulting criticism, Sidibe announced he would step down in June, six months before the end of his term. Loures, who denied the charges, left after his contract expired last March.

Brostrom, who some credited with sparking a #MeToo movement at the U.N., told Sidibe in November 2016 that her work environment became increasingly fraught immediately after the alleged assault by Loures. Brostrom was working as a technical adviser in UNAIDS’ Office of Special Initiatives when the problems with Loures began.

“LL started to explicitly block my work, excluded me from participation in key meetings in areas in which I was leading and blocked my requests for duty travel,” she wrote in an email that was provided to the AP. She said she became “the victim of a malicious and anonymous defamation campaign in early 2016” and that Loures reprimanded her and reassigned her to an unfavorable post.

According to internal documents reviewed by the AP, the U.N. ethics office and other senior UNAIDS officials received a series of anonymous emails in early 2016 alleging misconduct by Brostrom’s former supervisor, prompting the preliminary internal review that ultimately grew to include an examination of Brostrom’s own conduct.

During the investigation of her allegations against Loures, Brostrom told officials that immediately after the alleged attack, she called her mother, a friend and her then-supervisor to tell them what had happened. Brostrom’s mother told WHO investigators that her daughter “was very upset and she was crying and she didn’t think that such a thing could happen to her.”



When Brostrom went public with her story, two other women described similar encounters with Loures. "I have always said that the allegations made against me are false," Loures told the AP in an email Saturday. Loures said Brostrom's accusations against him were only made after he took steps to investigate the misconduct of her former supervisor. "I found (they) had not taken permission for travel on several occasions and had cheated the system."

Brostrom and her former male supervisor are both currently on leave from UNAIDS for undisclosed reasons. The WHO investigation into the pair remains preliminary, and they still could be cleared of any misconduct.

In the preliminary report obtained by the AP, which described discussions with both Brostrom and the supervisor regarding potential misconduct, officials noted that they reviewed an array of documents, including more than 1,900 emails.

In one confidential memo provided to the AP, WHO investigators said they found evidence that Brostrom and her ex-boss "may have engaged in unprofessional conduct," including the misuse of funds. The two were reproached for "abusing U.N. privileges by requesting special U.N. rates when booking hotels for the purpose of having sexual encounters." The preliminary review found one instance where Brostrom and her colleague apparently instructed hotel management "to forge an invoice" to claim their personal costs were business-related, the memo said.

WHO investigators also wrote that they found evidence suggesting the pair routinely used their work email accounts "to exchange messages with explicit sexual language, profanity and nudity."

WHO's initial investigation concluded "such conduct may have exposed UNAIDS to high reputational risk" and referred the matter to UNAIDS to determine "the best course of action."

The July 2018 memo was marked "confidential" and sent from WHO's Office of Internal Oversight Services to Gunilla Carlsson, deputy executive director at UNAIDS.

The sexual assault and harassment case against Loures has been reopened and is now in the hands of the U.N. Office of Internal Oversight Services following criticism of how it was handled by UNAIDS and WHO.

The investigation into potential misconduct by Brostrom and her former supervisor will resume "as soon as appropriate," UNAIDS spokeswoman Sophie Barton-Knott said in an email.

The lingering inquiries mean UNAIDS' new leader will undoubtedly inherit still-unfinished business that casts a shadow over donor support.

Sweden's foreign ministry said it was not planning to restore funding to UNAIDS imminently.

"For Sweden to regain confidence in UNAIDS and provide our core support, UNAIDS must make the necessary change to modify its organizational culture and improve its handling of harassment, including sexual harassment," spokeswoman Diana Qudhaib said in an email.

The U.S. is UNAIDS' biggest donor, supplying the agency with more than \$82 million in 2017.

Cheng reported from London.

## Removal of fuel in pool at Fukushima's melted reactor begins

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The operator of the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant began removing fuel Monday from a cooling pool at one of three reactors that melted down in the 2011 disaster, a milestone in what will be a decades-long process to decommission the facility.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said workers started removing the first of 566 used and unused fuel units stored in the pool at Unit 3. The fuel units in the pool located high up in reactor buildings are intact despite the disaster, but the pools are not enclosed, so removing the units to safer ground is crucial to avoid disaster in case of another major earthquake similar to the one that caused the 2011 tsunami.

TEPCO says the removal at Unit 3 will take two years, followed by the two other reactors, where about 1,000 fuel units remain in the storage pools.

Removing fuel units from the cooling pools comes ahead of the real challenge of removing melted fuel

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from inside the reactors, but details of how that might be done are still largely unknown. Removing the fuel in the cooling pools was delayed more than four years by mishaps, high radiation and radioactive debris from an explosion that occurred at the time of the reactor meltdowns, underscoring the difficulties that remain.

Workers are remotely operating a crane built underneath a jelly roll-shaped roof cover to raise the fuel from a storage rack in the pool and place it into a protective cask. The whole process occurs underwater to prevent radiation leaks. Each cask will be filled with seven fuel units, then lifted from the pool and lowered to a truck that will transport the cask to a safer cooling pool elsewhere at the plant.

The work is carried out remotely from a control room about 500 meters (yards) away because of still-high radiation levels inside the reactor building that houses the pool.

"I believe everything is going well so far," plant chief Tomohiko Isogai told Japanese public broadcaster NHK. "We will watch the progress at the site as we put safety first. Our goal is not to rush the process but to carefully proceed with the decommissioning work."

About an hour after the work began Monday, the first fuel unit was safely stored inside the cask, TEPCO spokesman Takahiro Kimoto said. Monday's operation was to end after a fourth unit is placed inside the cask, he said. No major damage was found on the fuel unit Monday, but plant officials will closely examine if there are any pinholes or other irregularities, Kimoto said.

The removal, however, raises a storage capacity concern at the plant because the common pool, where fuel from the Unit 3 pool heads to, already has 6,000 fuel units and is almost full. Kimoto said TEPCO has made room at the common pool for the incoming fuel by moving years-old and sufficiently cooled fuel into dry casks for safer, long-term storage, though further details are being worked out.

In 2014, TEPCO safely removed all 1,535 fuel units from the storage pool at a fourth reactor that was idle and had no fuel inside its core when the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami occurred.

Robotic probes have photographed and detected traces of damaged nuclear fuel in the three reactors that had meltdowns, but the exact location and other details of the melted fuel are largely unknown. Removing fuel from the cooling pools will help free up space for the subsequent removal of the melted fuel, though details on how to gain access to it have yet to be decided.

Experts say the melted fuel in the three reactors amounts to more than 800 tons, an enormous amount that is more than six times that of the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, where one reactor had a partial core melt.

In February, a remote-controlled robot with tongs removed pebbles of nuclear debris from the Unit 2 reactor but was unable to remove larger chunks, indicating a robot would need to be developed that can break the chunks into smaller pieces. Toshiba Corp.'s energy systems unit, which developed the robot, said the findings were key to determining the proper equipment and technologies needed to remove the melted fuel, the most challenging part of the decommissioning.

TEPCO and government officials plan to determine methods for removing the melted fuel from each of the three damaged reactors later this year so they can begin the process in 2021.

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. 'IT HAS TO STOP'

Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota says she's faced increased death threats since Trump spread around a video that purports to show her being dismissive of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

### 2. ORGANIZED LABOR NOT THRILLED WITH 2020 HOPEFULS

Unions say candidates have debated the Senate filibuster, the size of the Supreme Court and breaking up technology companies but not enough about issues that matter to working people.

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## 3. RED CROSS, NEW ZEALAND HOPE FOR INFO ON NURSE HELD IN SYRIA

Louisa Akavi, 62, has been held captive by the Islamic State group in Syria for almost six years, information long kept secret for fear her life might be at risk.

## 4. IT'S TAX DAY IN THE US

Trump will tout his tax cuts on a visit to Minnesota, an erstwhile Democratic stronghold he hopes to flip in 2020 after nearly winning it in 2016.

## 5. WOODS' PURSUIT OF NICKLAUS' RECORD BACK ON

Tiger Woods won the Masters by one stroke, his fifth green jacket and first major title in 11 years. Woods is now three major championships behind Nicklaus' hallowed mark of 18.

## 6. FUKUSHIMA REACHES LONG-AWAITED MILESTONE

Nuclear fuel units for the first time are being removed from cooling pools at one of the three Fukushima reactors that had meltdowns during Japan's earthquake-tsunami disaster of 2011.

## 7. WHAT IRAQ IS SEEKING TO RECLAIM

Baghdad aims for a leadership role in the Arab world after emerging from ruinous war with the Islamic State group.

## 8. DEADLY STORM STRIKE SOUTH

Powerful storms sweep across the South after unleashing suspected tornadoes and flooding that killed at least eight people, injured dozens and flattened much of a Texas town.

## 9. CBD GOES MAINSTREAM

Retailers are taking advantage of the booming industry for cannabidiol, a compound derived from hemp and marijuana that doesn't cause a high, even as its legal status and health benefits remain murky.

## 10. MIA FARROW PURSUES ANTI-HUNGER WORK IN SOUTH SUDAN

The actress and envoy for the International Rescue Committee is promoting a global initiative to change the way humanitarian organizations approach malnutrition.

## Trump using Tax Day visit to Minnesota to tout 2017 tax cuts

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — President Donald Trump will use Tax Day on Monday to visit Minnesota, an erstwhile Democratic stronghold he hopes to flip in 2020 after nearly winning it in 2016. Questions remain, however, about just how much he's politically benefiting from his signature legislative accomplishment.

Minnesota, which gave the country Democratic Vice Presidents Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale, hasn't given its 10 electoral votes to a Republican since Richard Nixon in 1972. Trump came within 1.5 percentage points of carrying the state in 2016 thanks to his strength among rural voters.

The state's Democrats saw a huge overall resurgence during the anti-Trump backlash of 2018, notably in traditionally Republican suburbs of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Giving the president hope is the memory that his popularity outside the Twin Cities area helped the GOP flip two Democratic U.S. House seats last year.

"I'm glad he's coming to Minnesota," said state Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, the top Republican in state government. "I think he realizes Minnesota's in play."

Ahead of Trump's visit, Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, talked up the 2017 tax law during a teleconference with reporters Friday. He said it's working exactly as its proponents predicted and that it quickly made the U.S. an attractive place to do business again, leading to increased hiring and higher wage growth. He also said the tax cuts continue to provide "sustained, long-term nourishment for our economy."

Trump planned to visit a truck and equipment company in the suburb of Burnsville on Monday for a roundtable discussion on the tax cuts and the economy.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Democratic presidential candidate, on Sunday criticized Trump's tax cuts, saying they added trillions of dollars to the nation's debt and disproportionately helped the wealthy.

"That tax bill was a major missed opportunity," she said. "That tax bill should have been a bill that would have not only brought some taxes down for working people but also could have funded a major

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infrastructure investment.”

So far Trump doesn't appear to be getting a lot of credit for the tax changes. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll last week showed that the vast majority of Americans don't think they even got a tax cut. Just 17% of those polled believed their taxes went down.

More evidence came from a report by tax preparer H&R Block on Thursday that said Americans are undergoing a “confusing tax experience” this season. While its customers' overall tax liability fell 24.9% in the first year under the new tax law, refunds were roughly flat at just 1.4%. While the average filer is better off, it said, they're not seeing it in their refunds, “which many people think of as their ‘bottom line.’”

Federal data also shows a negligible increase in refunds. According to the IRS, as of March 29 the average refund nationally was \$2,893, which is just \$20 more than at the same point last tax season.

Further muddling the picture is that the federal deduction for state and local taxes was capped at \$10,000, which matters in high-tax states such as Minnesota, California and New York, among others. Minnesota Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk said that might be why Trump is visiting.

“It was a pretty bad bill for Minnesota,” said Bakk, a Democrat who is considered one of the Legislature's leading tax experts. “He's coming on the last day you can file — he's coming here to try and put a smiley face on a real pig that Minnesota got handed.”

This has been a frustrating filing season for many Minnesota taxpayers and preparers. The GOP-controlled 2018 Legislature and Democratic former Gov. Mark Dayton were unable to agree on how to sync the state's code with the federal changes. That wasn't Trump's fault, but the extra paperwork and hassles in understanding the diverging rules are likely further obscuring the benefits of the federal changes for Minnesota taxpayers.

Trump plans to talk trade during his visit, but that's another tricky issue for him in Minnesota. His tariffs on imported steel are popular among blue-collar workers in the state's north, where the iron mining industry has seen a resurgence thanks to increased demand from domestic steelmakers. His mentions of steel tariffs drew loud cheers at a raucous campaign rally last year in Duluth, which is in northern Minnesota.

But Trump's trade war with China has depressed already low prices for some of southern Minnesota's most important farm exports — soybeans and pork. Trump has had strong support in Minnesota's farm country, but continued low prices amid uncertainty about whether farmers can plant in time due to the wet spring will put that to the test.

## Unions urge Democrats to focus on kitchen table economics

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Ardently liberal, pro-labor and anti-corporate cash, the field of Democrats running for president may look like a union activist's dream. But some key labor leaders are starting to worry about the topics dominating the 2020 conversation.

The candidates are spending too much time talking about esoteric issues like the Senate filibuster and the composition of the Supreme Court and not enough time speaking the language of workers, several union officials said. Those ideas may excite progressive activists, they said, but they risk alienating working-class voters.

“They've got to pay attention to kitchen table economics,” said Ted Pappageorge, president of the Las Vegas Culinary Union that represents 60,000 hotel and casino workers. “We don't quite see that.”

Terry McGowan, president of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139, in Wisconsin, said many of the issues driving the 2020 primary so far are distractions.

“The people that are into politics, the people who like sideshows, they're into that,” he said, citing the debates over reparations for slavery and immigration as examples. “The masses just want to feed their families.”

The unease may be an early warning sign for Democrats, who watched as many white, working-class voters, including many union members in key Rust Belt states, chose Trump three years ago. Democrats are hoping to win back some of those voters next year, a challenge that is made harder, some argue, by



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labor's struggle to build its membership and influence its rank and file. Democrats' early messages may not help, some said.

"You see where some of the party's being driven. It's no secret," said Rusty McAllister, executive secretary of the Nevada AFL-CIO.

McAllister pointed to "Medicare for all" — the health care proposal of choice for several candidates — as an example of Democrats' not seizing on labor's top priorities. Many unions already organized and fought for private health insurance for their members. "That's not something that I think that labor is as much focused on as some of the progressives are," McAllister said.

Such concerns — which stretched from the progressive-minded organizing halls of Nevada to the Rust Belt precincts — were typically focused on the conversation, not the candidates. The early 2020 primary has included detours into debates over the Senate filibuster, the composition of the Supreme Court and breaking up technology companies.

Ken Broadbent, business manager of the Pittsburgh-based Steamfitters Local 449, worried that Democrats are too focused on environmental plans like the Green New Deal, a blueprint for shifting the U.S. economy away from fossil fuels, and will neglect the importance of swing state Pennsylvania's rich natural gas deposits in creating jobs.

"Jobs is where we've got to keep things focused," Broadbent said.

To be sure, many unionists are excited about the presidential field. Contenders include liberal stalwarts like Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, whose campaign became the first in U.S. history with a unionized workforce, and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who joined striking Stop & Shop workers on a picket line in New Hampshire on Friday. California Sen. Kamala Harris hired a top Service Employees International Union executive for her campaign and made her first proposal one to raise teacher's pay.

Former Vice President Joe Biden made clear that he plans to appeal to union workers, if he gets in the race. "You are coming back," he told the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers last week. "We need you back."

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, said the competition in the crowded field has amplified workers voices and issues.

She noted that prominent presidential candidates quickly supported Los Angeles public school teachers when they struck in January. Warren, Sanders, Harris and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker have all proposed various taxes on higher-earning families, a departure from most past Democratic hopefuls who have treaded carefully on the issue.

"It feels different than at other times," Weingarten said. "There is far more attention and focus on working people's economic needs."

Major endorsements are likely several months away, especially because the labor movement is treading carefully after complaints that its leadership was too quick to back Hillary Clinton in the 2016 primary over Sanders.

For labor, much is at stake. Despite Republican gains, particularly with trade union members, labor remains an essential part of the Democrats' coalition. Unions spent \$169 million in 2018 on federal elections, largely on Democrats' behalf, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Democrats won union workers by a strong 59%-39% margin in 2018, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

But other big donors and — small, online ones, too — increasingly compete with labor's organizing muscle as key to Democratic victories. Activists on a broad array of issues, from gay rights to criminal justice, compete with unions for candidates' attention. And the labor movement itself is split on its priorities, with some pushing for a focus on trade while other who represent more diverse workforces want to zoom in on immigration.

All this comes as Republicans have pushed several state laws weakening organized labor. And, last year, the Supreme Court ruled that government workers can't be forced to contribute to the unions that represent them in collective bargaining, dealing a blow to public service union's pocketbooks.

As candidates court unions for endorsements, labor leaders say they are listening for a comeback plan.

Any proposal aimed at workers "must include ensuring the opportunity to join a union, no matter where you work, since that's the best way to raise wages, improve working conditions, create family-sustaining jobs and begin to fix our rigged economy and democracy," said SEIU president Mary Kay Henry.

At a National Association of Building Trades Unions in Washington on Wednesday, several Democratic contenders talked about outlawing so-called "right to work" laws that prevent unions from automatically deducting dues from members, said the group's president, Sean McGarvey. But, he added, he heard "very little about the actual structural changes to the National Labor Relations Act, or things they could put in place to give people a real free choice to join a union."

## Omar says more death threats coming since Trump pushed video

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Ilhan Omar says she's faced increased death threats since President Donald Trump spread around a video that purports to show her being dismissive of the 2001 terrorist attacks. "This is endangering lives," she said, accusing Trump of fomenting right-wing extremism. "It has to stop."

Her statement late Sunday followed an announcement by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that she has taken steps to ensure the safety of the Minnesota Democrat and the speaker's call for Trump to take down the video.

Soon after Pelosi's statement, the video disappeared as a pinned tweet at the top of Trump's Twitter feed, but it was not deleted.

Pelosi was among Democrats who had criticized Trump over the tweet, with some accusing him of trying to incite violence against the Muslim lawmaker. An upstate New York man recently was charged with making death threats against her.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders defended Trump earlier Sunday, saying the president has a duty to highlight Omar's history of making comments that others deem anti-Semitic or otherwise offensive and that he wished no "ill will" upon the first-term lawmaker.

But Omar said that since Trump retweeted the video Friday night, she's received many threats on her life that referred or replied to the posted video.

"Violent crimes and other acts of hate by right-wing extremists and white nationalists are on the rise in this country and around the world," she said. "We can no longer ignore that they are being encouraged by the occupant of the highest office in the land." She said: "We are all Americans."

Earlier, Pelosi issued a statement while traveling in London saying she had spoken with congressional authorities "to ensure that Capitol Police are conducting a security assessment to safeguard Congresswoman Omar, her family and her staff."

Pelosi said officials will continue to monitor and assess threats against Omar and called on Trump to discourage such behavior.

"The President's words weigh a ton, and his hateful and inflammatory rhetoric creates real danger," Pelosi said. "President Trump must take down his disrespectful and dangerous video."

The video in Trump's tweet included a snippet from a recent speech Omar gave to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, in which she described the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center as "some people did something," along with news footage of the hijacked airplanes hitting the Twin Towers. Trump captioned his tweet with: "WE WILL NEVER FORGET!"

Critics accuse Omar of being flippant in describing the perpetrators of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. She later sought to defend herself by tweeting a quote from President George W. Bush, in which the Republican president referred to the attackers as "people" just days after 9/11.

Neither Trump's tweet nor the video included Omar's full quote or the context of her comments, which were about Muslims feeling that their civil liberties had eroded after the attacks. The tweet was posted atop Trump's Twitter feed for much of Sunday, with more than 9 million views. It remained lower in the feed after Pelosi requested that the video be pulled.

Sanders questioned why Democrats weren't following Trump's example and calling out Omar, too.

Democrats who criticized the president over the tweet defended Omar, with some noting their past disagreements with her.

"Certainly the president is wishing no ill will and certainly not violence towards anyone, but the president is absolutely and should be calling out the congresswoman for her — not only one time — but history of anti-Semitic comments," Sanders said. "The bigger question is why aren't Democrats doing the same thing? It's absolutely abhorrent the comments that she continues to make and has made and they look the other way."

Omar repeatedly has pushed fellow Democrats into uncomfortable territory with comments about Israel and the strength of the Jewish state's influence in Washington. She apologized for suggesting that lawmakers support Israel for pay and said she isn't criticizing Jews. But she refused to take back a tweet in which she suggested American supporters of Israel "pledge allegiance" to a foreign country.

Rep. Jerry Nadler, a New York Democrat who represents Manhattan's financial district, which was targeted on 9/11, said he had no issues with Omar's characterization of the attack.

"I have had some problems with some of her other remarks, but not — but not with that one," he said.

Sanders commented on "Fox News Sunday" and ABC's "This Week." Nadler appeared on CNN's "State of the Union."

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervillap>

## After IS war, Iraq seeks to reclaim status in Arab world

By ZEINA KARAM and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — After decades of conflict, Iraq is seeking to reclaim a leadership role and status in the Arab world with a centrist policy and a determination among the country's top leaders to maintain good relations with both Iran and the United States.

A flurry of recent diplomatic activity and high-profile visits to the Iraqi capital, including this month's re-opening of a Saudi Consulate in Baghdad — for the first time in nearly 30 years — points to a new era of openness as the nation sheds its war image and re-engages with the world.

"Iraq is coming back to the neighborhood," President Barham Salih told The Associated Press in a nearly hour-long interview last month. The veteran politician laid out a vision centered on an "Iraq First" policy, saying his country can no longer afford to be caught in regional disputes.

"For almost four decades Iraq was the domain in which everybody pursued their agenda at the expense of the Iraqi people. It's time we say we need a new political order ... in which Iraq must be an important pillar," Salih said.

Iraq has emerged from a ruinous three-year war against the Islamic State group and faces the mammoth task of reconciling, rebuilding and returning tens of thousands of displaced to their homes. And while the extremists' territorial "caliphate" has been defeated in Iraq and Syria, the militants have now shifted to an insurgency campaign of targeted assassinations, car bombings, and suicide attacks.

The issue of Iran-backed Shiite militias who fought IS alongside Iraqi security forces poses a challenge to the government's central authority, and the country's oil-based economy is suffering from wide-scale corruption.

"Iraq's path to reclaiming a leadership role in the Arab world will depend on how successful its leaders are in tackling security and economic challenges at home," Randa Slim, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Middle East Institute wrote recently.

Amid rapidly escalating tensions between the U.S. and Iran, Iraq also needs to maintain a delicate balance with the two as Baghdad has strong ties with both countries.

The dynamics are complex. The Shiite-majority country lies on the fault line between Shiite Iran and the mostly Sunni Arab world, led by powerhouse Saudi Arabia, and has long been a theater in which Saudi-Iran rivalry for regional supremacy played out. Relations have been particularly frosty with Riyadh, which broke relations with Baghdad following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and never really warmed

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much as Iraq was increasingly pulled into Iran's orbit in later years.

Iraq needs much help and investment to rebuild its cities — something it can only get from oil- and gas-rich Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia. But it can also ill afford to alienate Iran, which holds enormous political and military sway in Iraq through powerful militias and pro-Iran politicians.

"We have 1,400 kilometers of borders with Iran, we simply cannot ignore that reality," Salih said, adding that it's in Iraq's national interest to nurture good relations with Iran, with which Iraq fought an eight-year war in the '80s. He said Iraq, however, was also keen on good relations with Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other regional countries.

Mindful of the need to counter Iran's growing influence in the region in the post-IS order, Saudi officials have sought closer ties with Iraq, and last week sent a high-level delegation to Baghdad where the kingdom's consulate was inaugurated.

The Saudi delegation's visit followed a trip to Baghdad last month by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani during which the two sides signed several agreements designed to boost bilateral relations.

It's a stark contrast from past years when Baghdad was shunned and isolated, first because of international sanctions after Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of neighboring Kuwait, and later, after the U.S.-led invasion that toppled him, when Iraq sank into cycles of sectarian bloodletting.

Amid the violence, international dignitaries avoided visits to the Iraqi capital, and when they did, made them brief and unannounced for security considerations.

In 2007, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon famously ducked behind the podium during a live press conference with the prime minister at the time, Nouri al-Maliki, as a rocket slammed outside the building.

Now, Iraqi leaders say their country is not part of any regional conflict.

Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi in his first foreign trip last month traveled to Cairo to meet with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. They were joined by Jordanian King Abdullah II for a tripartite summit on measures to strengthen economic cooperation. On Tuesday, Abdul-Mahdi announced he will soon be visiting Saudi Arabia to sign several agreements.

Some are even suggesting that Iraq could play a mediating role between regional foes.

Lebanon's parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, on a visit to Baghdad earlier this month, said Iraq is a unique position to play an important regional role "in the reconciliation between the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Watheq al-Hashemi, an Iraqi political analyst, said it's an opportunity for Iraq to again become an important regional player.

But for that to happen, Iraqi politicians "need to put country before sect and act as statesmen," something he says they've had trouble doing for a long time.

## Red Cross, New Zealand hope for info on nurse held in Syria

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand's foreign minister confirmed Monday that a New Zealand nurse has been held captive by the Islamic State group in Syria for almost six years, information long kept secret for fear her life might be at risk.

The status of nurse and midwife Louisa Akavi, now 62, is unknown, but her employer, the International Committee of the Red Cross, says it has received recent eyewitness reports suggesting she might be alive.

The New York Times on Sunday became the first media organization to name Akavi, ending a more than 5 ½-year news blackout imposed by New Zealand's government and the Red Cross with the cooperation of international media.

The collapse of the Islamic State group has raised hopes that Akavi and the two Syrian drivers kidnapped with her might now be discovered.

In a statement, the ICRC said that as recently as December, Akavi may have been seen by at least two people at a clinic in Sousa, one of the Islamic State group's last outposts. There were also reported sightings in 2016 and 2017, Red Cross officials said.

"We continue to work together (with the Red Cross) to locate and recover her," New Zealand Foreign



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Minister Winston Peters said. "This has been a uniquely complex and difficult case. "Louisa went to Syria with the ICRC to deliver humanitarian relief to people suffering as a result of a brutal civil war and ISIS occupation."

"Where a New Zealander is held by a terrorist organization, the government takes all appropriate action to recover them. That is exactly what we have done here," Peters said.

Peters said New Zealand had sent a small multi-agency team, including special forces, to Iraq to gather information on Akavi.

"This has involved members of the New Zealand Defense Force, drawn from the Special Operations Force, and personnel have visited Syria from time to time as required," he said. "This noncombat team was specifically focused on locating Louisa and identifying opportunities to recover her."

Akavi was taken captive in 2013 in the city of Idlib in northwest Syria. It is believed she was offered for ransom and may have been used as a human shield. New Zealand's government believed at one point that she may have died. But there are hopes her medical skills might have caused her captors to spare her.

Akavi's family said they miss her and are proud of the work to which she's dedicated her life.

"We think about her every day and hope she feels that and finds strength in that," said a video statement issued by family spokesman Tuaine Robati. "We know she is thinking of us and that she will be worried about us too."

New Zealand's government is reported to have opposed the ICRC's decision to allow The New York Times to report Akavi's name and nationality.

At a news conference Monday, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern refused to answer questions about Akavi but indicated she was disappointed the ICRC had gone public before her fate had been learned.

"You'll forgive me, I hope, for not commenting on that case," Ardern said. "It remains the government's view that it would be preferable if the case was not in the public domain."

Dominik Stillhart, director of operations for the ICRC, said the organization had decided to permit publication in the hope it would elicit new information on her whereabouts.

"We have not spoken publicly before today because from the moment Louisa and the others were kidnapped, every decision we made was to maximize the chances of winning their freedom," Stillhart said in a statement. "With Islamic State group having lost the last of its territory, we felt it was now time to speak out."

He said the collapse of the Islamic State group in Syria may mean new opportunities to learn more about Akavi's situation and the ICRC also feared it risked losing track of her in the aftermath of IS's collapse.

Akavi is of Cook Islands descent and lives in Otaki, a small town north of Wellington. She is the longest-held captive in the history of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Stillhart called her "a true and compassionate humanitarian."

He said strenuous efforts had been made to secure her release. Negotiations in 2013 and 2014 were not successful. In 2014, she was among a group of hostages moved by IS only hours before a raid by U.S. special forces that aimed to free them.

"We call on anyone with information to please come forward," Stillhart said. "If our colleagues are still being held, we call for their immediate and unconditional release."

Stillhart later defended the ICRC's decision to publicize Akavi's case after years of silence.

"Every decision was to maximize the chance of Louisa's freedom ... and every decision was coordinated with the New Zealand government," Stillhart said at a news conference in Geneva. "That included the difficult decision to go public. We think with new information from the public, we can redirect the investigation for Louisa."

## APNewsBreak: Trump building up a campaign cash advantage

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's reelection campaign is set to report that it raised more than \$30 million in the first quarter of 2019, edging out his top two Democratic rivals combined, according

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to figures it provided to The Associated Press.

The haul brings the campaign's cash on hand to \$40.8 million, an unprecedented war chest for an incumbent president this early in a campaign.

The Trump campaign said nearly 99% of its donations were of \$200 or less, with an average donation of \$34.26.

Trump's fundraising ability was matched by the Republican National Committee, which brought in \$45.8 million in the first quarter — its best non-election year total. Combined, the pro-Trump effort is reporting \$82 million in the bank, with \$40.8 million belonging to the campaign alone.

Trump formally launched his reelection effort just hours after taking office in 2017, earlier than any incumbent has in prior years. By contrast, former President Barack Obama launched his 2012 effort in April 2011 and had under \$2 million on hand at this point in the campaign.

Obama went on to raise more than \$720 million for his reelection. Trump's reelection effort has set a \$1 billion target for 2020.

Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale said in a statement that Trump "is in a vastly stronger position at this point than any previous incumbent president running for re-election, and only continues to build momentum."

Trump's fundraising with the RNC is divided between two entities: Trump Victory, the joint account used for high-dollar gifts, and the Trump Make America Great Again Committee, the low-dollar digital fundraising operation known internally as "T-Magic." The campaign is set to launch a traditional "bundling" program — which it lacked in 2016 — in the coming weeks. Bundlers are mid-tier donors who bring in contributions from their associates.

Together, the Trump entities have raised a combined \$165.5 million since 2017.

Trump is benefiting from the advantages of incumbency, like universal name recognition and his unrivaled position atop the Republican Party.

Among Democrats, dollars are divided across a candidate field of well more than a dozen, while the Democratic National Committee remains in debt and has suffered from being dramatically outraised by the RNC in recent months.

Bernie Sanders topped the Democratic field in the first quarter, raising slightly more than \$18 million, followed by Kamala Harris with \$12 million and Beto O'Rourke with \$9.4 million. Trump is reporting a haul of \$30.3 million.

Republicans have trailed Democrats in online fundraising ever since the medium was invented roughly two decades ago. But Trump has closed the gap, driving small-dollar donors who make recurring donations to the GOP like the party has never seen before. According to RNC chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, Trump's campaign has already had eight seven-figure fundraising days this year, and has taken in money from more than 1 million new online donors since Trump's inauguration — including 100,000 this year.

The Republican committee said it is planning on spending \$30 million on maintaining and growing Trump's email list alone, recently expanded its headquarters space to an annex in Virginia and will soon invest in developing an app.

In 2015, Trump swore off outside money, declaring in his opening speech: "I'm using my own money. I'm not using the lobbyists'. I'm not using donors'. I don't care. I'm really rich."

He quickly reversed course on high-dollar donations after he won the GOP nomination, bowing to the financial pressures of running a general election campaign, and he'd already raised millions online through the sale of merchandise like his signature red Make America Great Again hats.

Trump gave or loaned \$66 million to his 2016 campaign, but has yet to spend any of his own cash for his reelection effort. Aides don't expect that to change.

## Tiger a major champion again, and race to Nicklaus back on

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — No comeback by Tiger Woods was ever going to be complete without a major.

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Now the question becomes how many more he can win.

So much appeal of that red shirt beneath a green jacket involved looking back at all Woods had to overcome to reach that moment — a Masters champion once again — that so many thought would never happen.

The fourth surgery to rebuild his left knee. The private affairs that became public, shattering his image. The balky back that required four more surgeries, the last one out of desperation because he could barely walk, much less play golf. And a new generation of stars he inspired who were younger, stronger and capable.

That's why Woods celebrated his 15th major like never before — fist pumps without a club in his hand, because he couldn't help himself walking off the 18th green.

"Overwhelming," he said with a voice still hoarse from all that screaming.

He went 28 majors over 11 years without winning, and no sooner did he stretch his arms into that familiar green jacket — "Ah, it fits," he said in Butler Cabin — was he asked about the 18 majors Jack Nicklaus won to set the gold standard in golf.

"I don't know if he's worried or not," Woods said. "I'm sure he's home just chilling and watching."

Whether the record is in play, Nicklaus can expect plenty of questions. For years, he could rarely get through any conversation without someone asking him whether he thought Woods could top his mark.

"I thought for a long time that he was going to win again," Nicklaus said Sunday night on Golf Channel. "The next two majors are at Bethpage, where he has won, and at Pebble Beach, where he has won. So, he has got me shaking in my boots, guys."

The last part was delivered in jest.

The first part was factual.

Woods winning his fifth Masters was not entirely out of the blue. He capped the year of his great comeback last year by winning the Tour Championship in typical Tiger fashion, by building a lead on a tough, fast course at East Lake and not giving anyone much of a chance to catch him. He also briefly led Sunday in the British Open, and was one shot behind on the back nine at the PGA Championship.

"The win at East Lake was a big confidence booster for me because I had come close last year a couple times," Woods said. "Still have to get it across the finish line, and I didn't quite do it."

So, imagine the effect of winning the Masters, especially the way this one played out. Six players had at least a share of the lead at one point on the back nine — four of them major champions — and there was a five-way tie for the lead when the final group was in the 15th fairway.

It was anyone's game until Francesco Molinari, who earlier hit 8-iron in Rae's Creek on the 12th hole for double bogey, hit a wedge off a tree limb and into the water on the par-5 15th that led to double bogey.

And then it became Woods' game — a two-putt birdie to take the lead, an 8-iron that rolled down the slope next to the hole for a signature moment at this Masters.

"Well, I can win majors now," Woods said with a laugh.

The PGA Championship is a month away at Bethpage Black, where Woods was dominant as ever in going wire-to-wire in the 2002 U.S. Open, and was right there with a chance in the 2009 U.S. Open except for a putter that refused to cooperate.

And then it's the U.S. Open in June at Pebble Beach. If the Masters is the most memorable of his 15 majors, Pebble Beach remains his greatest performance. Woods won there in 2000 by a record 15 shots, even with a triple bogey in the third round. Ten years later, he tied for fourth at the U.S. Open at Pebble, three shots behind.

The courses are familiar. Woods is familiar with winning majors.

But it's not that simple.

Woods was 24 when he won the U.S. Open at Pebble, and 26 when we won at Bethpage Black. Now he's 43.

As dynamic as this Masters was for Woods, it was hard work and he needed help — from Molinari on the 12th and 15th holes, from a couple of good bounces out of the trees. That's not unusual. Every major

champion needs a break or two.

Getting to 18 is only easier because Woods is one major closer, a conversation caddie Joe LaCava said they have shared.

"We're on 14 and I said, 'Let's get to 15.' You can't be on 14 and thinking about 18," LaCava said. "But now we can start talking about 16. So we're getting closer."

Nicklaus can only watch and admire, which he has done all along. And part of him is cheering.

"I don't ever pull against anybody," Nicklaus said. "Nobody wants their record to be broken. But I certainly wouldn't want Tiger to be hurt and not to be able to do it. Of course, he is now pretty healthy and playing well. I wish him well, I always wish the guys well and I want them to pay their best."

That's what Nicklaus saw at Augusta National.

And that's probably what everyone will expect from Woods the rest of the year.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump camp suggests AG found illegal spying

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With release of the special counsel's fuller report looming, President Donald Trump and his campaign are twisting the words of his attorney general and the facts of the Russia investigation.

His 2020 campaign is telling supporters in fundraising pitches that Attorney General William Barr had revealed illegal spying against Trump during the 2016 presidential race. But it's not true. While Barr told lawmakers that he believed spying took place, he never concluded it was illegal and made clear several times he was not suggesting a crime had occurred.

Meanwhile, Trump kept up his refrain that special counsel Robert Mueller had totally exonerated him despite Mueller's exact quotes in Barr's summary that he did not. A redacted version of Mueller's full report is expected in the coming days.

The misstatements were among a number of factual faux pas and flips in rhetoric this past week.

With his government seeking to prosecute WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, Trump seemed to draw a blank on a hacking organization he praised to the rafters during the 2016 campaign because of the discomfort it caused his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

And speaking before Monday's tax filing deadline, Trump seemed to change the grounds upon which he is refusing to release his taxes: It's not because he can't, but because he doesn't want to.

A look at the claims:

### RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

TRUMP CAMPAIGN: "Just this week, Attorney General William Barr said what the President has thought all along, he believes 'unlawful spying did occur' against Donald J. Trump's presidential campaign." — fundraising email sent Saturday to Trump supporters.

TRUMP CAMPAIGN: "AG Barr believes the Obama Admin illegally spied on Pres Trump." — text sent Friday to Trump supporters.

THE FACTS: The email puts words in Barr's mouth and seeks to raise money in doing so.

Barr never said there was illegal spying.

During a Senate hearing Wednesday, the attorney general actually made clear he had no specific evidence to cite that any surveillance was illegal or improper.

"I think spying did occur," Barr told lawmakers. "But the question is whether it was adequately predicated and I'm not suggesting it wasn't adequately predicated, but I need to explore that."

He later added: "I am not saying that improper surveillance occurred. I am saying that I am concerned about it and looking into it."

TRUMP: "I've been totally exonerated. No collusion. No obstruction." — remarks Wednesday at the White House.

TRUMP: "I'm not concerned about anything, because frankly there was no collusion and there was no obstruction." — remarks Thursday with South Korea's president.



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THE FACTS: Barr's four-page summary of Mueller's nearly 400-page report did not "totally" exonerate Trump. Mueller specifically states in the report, as quoted by Barr: "While this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him."

The summary of principal conclusions by Barr, released in late March, notes Mueller did not "draw a conclusion — one way or the other — as to whether the examined conduct constituted obstruction," but rather set out evidence for both sides, leaving the question unanswered of whether Trump obstructed justice. Barr said ultimately he decided as attorney general that the evidence developed by Mueller was "not sufficient" to establish, for the purposes of prosecution, that Trump committed obstruction.

In Senate testimony Wednesday, Barr acknowledged that Mueller did not ask him to draw a conclusion on the obstruction question, nor did he know whether Mueller agreed with him. Barr said he would be able to explain more fully after releasing a public version of Mueller's report.

## WIKILEAKS

TRUMP, asked if he still "loves" WikiLeaks: "I know nothing about WikiLeaks. It's not my thing." — remarks Thursday with South Korea's president.

THE FACTS: WikiLeaks was very much Trump's thing in the final weeks of the 2016 campaign, when candidate Trump showered praise on the anti-secrecy organization night after night.

On the same October day that the "Access Hollywood" tape emerged, revealing that Trump had bragged in 2005 about groping women, WikiLeaks began releasing damaging emails from Clinton's campaign manager, John Podesta. Trump and his allies seized on the dumps and weaponized them.

"WikiLeaks, I love WikiLeaks," Trump said in Pennsylvania.

"This WikiLeaks is like a treasure trove," Trump said in Michigan.

"Boy, I love reading WikiLeaks," Trump said in Ohio.

All told, Trump extolled WikiLeaks more than 100 times, and a poster of Assange hung backstage at the Republican's debate war room. At no point from a rally stage did Trump express any misgivings about how WikiLeaks obtained the emails from the Clinton campaign or about the accusations of stealing sensitive U.S. government information, which led to the charges against Assange on Thursday. The U.S. is seeking Assange's extradition from Britain.

Asked Sunday about Trump's claim he knew nothing about Wikileaks, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told Fox News the president "was making a joke during the campaign and was talking about the specifics of the case at that moment."

## TAX RETURNS

TRUMP: "As you know, I got elected last time with this same issue. ... I would love to give them, but I'm not going to do it while I'm under audit." — remarks Wednesday to reporters at the White House.

THE FACTS: Nothing's preventing Trump from releasing his tax returns.

Being under audit is no legal bar to anyone releasing his or her returns.

Asked repeatedly at a House hearing Tuesday whether any regulation prohibited a taxpayer from disclosing returns when under audit, IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig responded "no."

Trump declined to provide his tax information as a candidate in 2016 and as president, something party nominees have traditionally done in the name of the transparency. By withholding his tax returns, Trump has not followed the standard followed by presidents since Richard Nixon started the practice in 1969. During the campaign, Trump said he wanted to release his returns but because he was under a routine audit, "I can't."

After the November midterm elections, Trump claimed at a news conference that the filings are too complex for people to understand.

## JOB APPROVAL

TRUMP, tweeting a Fox Business Network graphic showing his "soaring approval" at 55% overall: "Great news! #MAGA" — tweet Thursday.

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**THE FACTS:** The graphic on the Georgetown University poll was incorrect: The poll found 55% had an “unfavorable” rating of Trump, not his job approval, from a different poll question. Fox Business issued an on-air correction but Trump’s tweet remains.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**TRUMP:** “We withdrew the United States from the one-sided Paris climate accord, where you don’t do any more drilling for oil and gas. That was going to cost us a lot of money. No more oil and gas with the Paris accord. That’s good for Paris, but that’s not good for us. Right?” — remarks Wednesday at a ceremony for the signing of executive orders meant to accelerate pipeline construction.

**THE FACTS:** Wrong. The Paris accord does not ban any form of energy development. It does not impose emission caps on signatory countries. The accord is a set of voluntary targets determined by individual nations.

## IMMIGRATION

**TRUMP:** “Mexico must apprehend all illegals and not let them make the long march up to the United States, or we will have no other choice than to Close the Border and/or institute Tariffs. Our Country is FULL!” — tweet April 7.

**THE FACTS:** Despite the overwhelmed southern border, there’s plenty of room in the United States. Dozens of countries have greater population density. It’s only full in terms of the people Trump doesn’t want.

His claim of a U.S. with no vacancies for more immigrants is at odds with his own statement two months ago that encouraged “the largest” influx of legal immigrants ever. It also belies a U.S. reality of aging baby boomers and falling birth rates, which make immigrants increasingly important to sustain a level of population growth for the U.S. economy to keep expanding.

The nation’s population growth is at its lowest since 1937, with the 18-and-under population declining both nationally and in 29 states, according to William H. Frey of the Brookings Institution. Economists say that restricting immigration would probably weaken economic growth. A shrinking labor force could also harm the health and stability of safety net programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

Trump himself seemed to acknowledge the realities during his State of the Union address in February, declaring, “I want people to come into our country, in the largest numbers ever, but they have to come in legally.” He’s now describing a U.S. bursting at the seams, unable to take any immigrants, including those seeking legal asylum.

Immigrants as a whole make up a greater percentage of the total U.S. population than they did back in 1970, having grown from less than 5 percent of the population to more than 13 percent now. In 2030, it’s projected that immigrants will become the primary driver for U.S. population growth, overtaking U.S. births.

**TRUMP** on separating migrant children from their parents when caught crossing into the U.S. illegally: “I’m the one that stopped it. President Obama had child separation.” — remarks to reporters Tuesday.

**THE FACTS:** No, he’s the one who started it on a broad scale. He instituted a “zero tolerance” policy aimed at criminally prosecuting all adults caught crossing into the U.S. illegally. That meant detention for adults and the removal of their children while their parents were in custody. During the Obama administration and the early Trump administration, such family separations were the exception. They became the rule under his policy. He suspended the practice in June because of a public uproar.

**TRUMP** on the family separations: “President Obama had the law. We changed the law, and I think the press should accurately report it but of course they won’t.” — remarks to reporters Tuesday.

**THE FACTS:** This is false. Trump did not achieve any change in the law.

Trump’s zero-tolerance policy was of his own making. His administration is operating under the same immigration laws as Obama’s.

During the Obama administration and before Trump’s zero-tolerance policy was introduced, migrant families caught illegally entering the U.S. were usually referred for civil deportation proceedings, not requiring

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separation, unless they were known to have a criminal record. Then and now, immigration officials may take a child from a parent in certain cases, such as serious criminal charges against a parent, concerns over the health and welfare of a child or medical concerns.

## ENERGY and ENVIRONMENT

TRUMP: "We have the cleanest air and water, they say, in the world. We are the best."— remarks Wednesday at the signing of orders on pipelines.

THE FACTS: Not true about air.

U.S. drinking water is among the best by one leading measure.

Trump's own Environmental Protection Agency data show that in 2017, among 35 major U.S. cities, there were 729 cases of "unhealthy days for ozone and fine particle pollution." That's up 22 percent from 2014 and the worst year since 2012. Findings for 2018 are incomplete.

The State of Global Air 2019 report by the Health Effects Institute rated the U.S. as having the eighth cleanest air for particle pollution — which kills 85,000 Americans each year — behind Canada, Scandinavian countries and others.

The U.S. ranks poorly on smog pollution, which kills 24,000 Americans per year. On a scale from the cleanest to the dirtiest, the U.S. is at 123 out of 195 countries measured.

On water, Yale University's global Environmental Performance Index finds 10 countries tied for the cleanest drinking water, the U.S. among them. On environmental quality overall, the U.S. was 27th, behind a variety of European countries, Canada, Japan, Australia and more. Switzerland was No. 1.

TRUMP: "With the help of the incredible workers in this room, the United States is now the No. 1 producer of oil and natural gas anywhere in the world, anywhere on the planet. Not even close. Made a lot of progress in the last two and a half years, haven't we? Huh? Took down a lot of barriers." — signing ceremony.

THE FACTS: As he's done many times before, Trump is crediting himself with things that happened under Obama.

Here's what the government's U.S. Energy Information Administration says: "The United States has been the world's top producer of natural gas since 2009, when U.S. natural gas production surpassed that of Russia, and the world's top producer of petroleum hydrocarbons since 2013, when U.S. production exceeded Saudi Arabia's."

As for crude oil specifically, the information agency says the U.S. became the world's top crude oil producer last year. That is largely attributed to the shale oil boom that began during the Obama administration, which has sent production from the Permian Basin in the southwest surging.

TRUMP: "Under this administration, we have ended the war on American energy like never before." — signing ceremony.

THE FACTS: It wasn't much of a war. U.S. petroleum and natural gas production has increased by nearly 60% since 2008, according to the Energy Information Administration, achieving pre-eminence during the Obama administration. That said, the Trump administration is more closely aligned with fossil fuel interests as it works to restrain environmental obstacles and the power of states to stand in the way of pipelines and other energy development.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Jonathan Lemire, Mary Clare Jalonick, Ellen Knickmeyer and Seth Borenstein in Washington and Nomaan Merchant in Houston contributed to this report.

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## Strong storms in US South kill at least 8 and injure dozens

By The Associated Press undefined

Powerful storms swept across the South on Sunday after unleashing suspected tornadoes and flooding that killed at least eight people, injured dozens and flattened much of a Texas town. Three children were among the dead.

Nearly 90,000 customers were without electricity in Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Georgia as of midday Sunday, according to [www.poweroutage.us](http://www.poweroutage.us) as the severe weather left a trail of destruction.

Two children were killed on a back road in East Texas when a pine tree fell onto the car in which they were riding in a severe thunderstorm Saturday near Pollok, about 150 miles (241 kilometers) southeast of Dallas.

The tree "flattened the car like a pancake," said Capt. Alton Lenderman of the Angelina County Sheriff's Office. The children, ages 8 and 3, were dead at the scene, while both parents, who were in the front seat, escaped injury, he said.

At least one person was killed and about two dozen others were injured after a suspected tornado struck the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in East Texas during a Native American cultural event in Alto, about 130 miles (209 kilometers) southeast of Dallas. Cherokee County Judge Chris Davis said the fatality that was reported was of a woman who died of her critical injuries.

In neighboring Houston County, the sheriff's office said one person was killed in Weches, 6 miles southwest of Caddo Mound.

There was widespread damage in Alto, a town of about 1,200, and the school district canceled classes until its buildings can be deemed safe.

A tornado flattened much of the south side of Franklin, Texas, overturning mobile homes and damaging other residences, said Robertson County Sheriff Gerald Yezak. Franklin is about 125 miles (200 kilometers) south of Dallas.

The weather service said preliminary information showed an EF-3 tornado touched down with winds of 140 mph (225.3 kph).

It destroyed 55 homes, a church, four businesses, a duplex, and part of the local housing authority building, authorities said. Two people were hospitalized for injuries that were not thought to be life-threatening, while others were treated at the scene, Yezak said. Some people had to be extricated from damaged dwellings.

Heavy rains and storms raked Mississippi into the night Saturday as the storms moved east.

Roy Ratliff, 95, died after a tree crashed onto his trailer in northeastern Mississippi, Monroe County Road Manager Sonny Clay said at a news conference, adding that a tornado had struck. Nineteen residents were taken to hospitals, including two in critical condition. A tornado was reported in the area 140 miles (225 kilometers) southeast of Memphis, Tennessee, at the time.

In Hamilton, Mississippi, 72-year-old Robert Scott said he had been sleeping in his recliner late Saturday when he was awakened and found himself in his yard after a tornado ripped most of his home off its foundation.

His 71-year-old wife, Linda, was in a different part of the house and also survived, he said. They found each other while crawling through the remnants of the house they have lived in since 1972.

"We're living, and God has blessed us," Scott, a retired manager for a grocery store meat department, said Sunday as neighbors helped him salvage his belongings.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Moore said a possible twister touched down in the Vicksburg, Mississippi, area. No injuries were reported, but officials reported damage to several businesses and vehicles.

The storm is expected to continue moving toward the Northeast where its impact has already been devastating.

The Times Gazette reported several homes and businesses were damaged after an apparent tornado struck Shelby, Ohio, Sunday about 4 p.m.



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Shelby is about 90 miles (144.83 kilometers) northeast of Cleveland.

The Richland County Emergency Management Agency reported about a half-dozen homes were damaged and at least six people were taken to a hospital to be treated for storm-related injuries.

The National Weather Service has issued tornado watch warnings for parts of Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

But the majority of damaged remained in the Southern part of the U.S.

The storm damaged a roof of a hotel in New Albany, Mississippi, and Mississippi State University's 21,000 students huddled in basements and hallways as a tornado neared the campus in Starkville.

University spokesman Sid Salter said some debris, possibly carried by the tornado, was found on campus, but no injuries were reported and no buildings were damaged. Trees were toppled and minor damage was reported in residential areas east of the campus.

The large storm system also caused flash floods in Louisiana, where two deaths were reported.

Authorities said 13-year-old Sebastian Omar Martinez drowned in a drainage canal after flash flooding struck Bawcomville, near Monroe, said Deputy Glenn Springfield of the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Department. Separately, one person died when a car was submerged in floodwaters in Calhoun, also near Monroe.

As the storm moved into Alabama, a possible tornado knocked out power and damaged mobile homes in Troy, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Montgomery.

Near the Birmingham suburb of Hueytown, a county employee died after being struck by a vehicle while he was helping clear away trees about 2:15 a.m. Sunday, said Capt. David Agee of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The man, whose name was not immediately released, died after being taken to a hospital.

The forecast of severe weather forced officials at the Masters in Augusta, Georgia, to start the final round of the tournament early on Sunday in order to finish in midafternoon before it began raining.

## Omar cites more death threats against her since Trump tweet

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Ilhan Omar says she's faced increased death threats since President Donald Trump spread around a video that purports to show her being dismissive of the 2001 terrorist attacks. "This is endangering lives," she said, accusing Trump of fomenting right-wing extremism. "It has to stop."

Her statement late Sunday followed an announcement by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that she has taken steps to ensure the safety of the Minnesota Democrat and the speaker's call for Trump to take down the video.

Soon after Pelosi's statement, the video disappeared as a pinned tweet at the top of Trump's Twitter feed, but it was not deleted.

Pelosi was among Democrats who had criticized Trump over the tweet, with some accusing him of trying to incite violence against the Muslim lawmaker. An upstate New York man recently was charged with making death threats against her.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders defended Trump earlier Sunday, saying the president has a duty to highlight Omar's history of making comments that others deem anti-Semitic or otherwise offensive and that he wished no "ill will" upon the first-term lawmaker.

But Omar said that since Trump retweeted the video Friday night, she's received many threats on her life that referred or replied to the posted video.

"Violent crimes and other acts of hate by right-wing extremists and white nationalists are on the rise in this country and around the world," she said. "We can no longer ignore that they are being encouraged by the occupant of the highest office in the land." She said: "We are all Americans."

Earlier, Pelosi issued a statement while traveling in London saying she had spoken with congressional authorities "to ensure that Capitol Police are conducting a security assessment to safeguard Congresswoman Omar, her family and her staff."

Pelosi said officials will continue to monitor and assess threats against Omar, and called on Trump to discourage such behavior.

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"The President's words weigh a ton, and his hateful and inflammatory rhetoric creates real danger," Pelosi said. "President Trump must take down his disrespectful and dangerous video."

The video in Trump's tweet included a snippet from a recent speech Omar gave to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, in which she described the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center as "some people did something," along with news footage of the hijacked airplanes hitting the Twin Towers. Trump captioned his tweet with: "WE WILL NEVER FORGET!"

Critics accuse Omar of being flippant in describing the perpetrators of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. She later sought to defend herself by tweeting a quote from President George W. Bush, in which the Republican president referred to the attackers as "people" just days after 9/11.

Neither Trump's tweet nor the video included Omar's full quote or the context of her comments, which were about Muslims feeling that their civil liberties had eroded after the attacks. The tweet was posted atop Trump's Twitter feed for much of Sunday, with more than 9 million views. It remained lower in the feed after Pelosi requested that the video be pulled.

Sanders questioned why Democrats weren't following Trump's example and calling out Omar, too. Democrats who criticized the president over the tweet defended Omar, with some noting their past disagreements with her.

"Certainly the president is wishing no ill will and certainly not violence towards anyone, but the president is absolutely and should be calling out the congresswoman for her — not only one time — but history of anti-Semitic comments," Sanders said. "The bigger question is why aren't Democrats doing the same thing? It's absolutely abhorrent the comments that she continues to make and has made and they look the other way."

Omar repeatedly has pushed fellow Democrats into uncomfortable territory with comments about Israel and the strength of the Jewish state's influence in Washington. She apologized for suggesting that lawmakers support Israel for pay and said she isn't criticizing Jews. But she refused to take back a tweet in which she suggested American supporters of Israel "pledge allegiance" to a foreign country.

Rep. Jerry Nadler, a New York Democrat who represents Manhattan's financial district, which was targeted on 9/11, said he had no issues with Omar's characterization of the attack.

"I have had some problems with some of her other remarks, but not — but not with that one," he said.

Sanders commented on "Fox News Sunday" and ABC's "This Week." Nadler appeared on CNN's "State of the Union."

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## White House: Migrants to sanctuary cities not a top choice

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump wants to explore a twice-rejected proposal to send migrants to "sanctuary cities," but that is not the preferred solution to fix the straining immigration system, the White House said Sunday.

Press secretary Sarah Sanders said it was one of many options, though she hoped Congress would work with the president on a comprehensive immigration overhaul.

The Trump administration is dealing with an ever-increasing number of Central American migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, an influx that has pushed the immigration system to the breaking point.

Laws make it hard to quickly return Central Americans, and many of them spend years in the U.S. waiting for their immigration cases to play out. Others claim asylum and wait just as long, living and working in the U.S. as they wait.

"Sanctuary cities" are mostly left-leaning places such as New York City and San Francisco where laws prohibit local police and correction officers from working with immigration officials to help arrest and deport people living here illegally.

Trump seized on reports last week of the proposal that sought to send migrants already detained to

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Democratic locations or transport migrants that have just crossed the U.S.-Mexico border to sanctuary cities. Sanders said the idea would be to spread out the number of migrants so the strain would not be on "one or two border communities."

"The president likes the idea and Democrats have said they want these individuals into their communities so let's see if it works and everybody gets a win out of it," Sanders said. "Again, this is not the ideal situation."

Trump tweeted on Saturday evening that the U.S. had the "absolute legal right to have apprehended illegal immigrants transferred to Sanctuary Cities."

But the plan had already been eschewed twice.

People with knowledge of the discussions say it was first brought to the Department of Homeland Security from White House staff in November, and was again discussed in February but was put down after DHS officials reviewed it and found it was too costly, a misuse of funds and would be too timely. The people were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

It actually could make it more difficult for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to arrest people facing deportation because sanctuary cities do not work with ICE.

The Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University announced last week that an analysis found that immigrants in sanctuary cities are 20% less likely to be arrested out in the community than in cities without such policies.

Democrats criticized the White House proposal as a political stunt that used humans as pawns and would not work.

"Look, you can't threaten somebody with something they're not afraid of," said Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington state, a candidate for president. "And we are not afraid of diversity in the state of Washington. We relish it. It is the basis of our economic and cultural success. We're built as a state of immigrants."

The chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., questioned the legality of the proposal.

"This is again his manufactured chaos that he's created over the last two years on the border," Thompson said of Trump, adding Democrats were more than willing to sit down and talk about immigration legislation.

But Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., said sanctuary cities showed contempt for the law, though he didn't know whether there were any legal concerns with transporting migrants to the locales.

"I mean, maybe he's just saying this to make everybody crazy," he said of Trump.

Sanders appears on ABC's "This Week" and "Fox News Sunday." Scott was on CNN's "State of the Union" and Inslee was on NBC's "Meet the Press." Thompson appeared on ABC.

## Tiger Woods makes Masters his 15th and most improbable major

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods blazing to victory in his Sunday red at the Masters, a scene once so familiar, was never more stunning.

It was only two years ago at Augusta National that Woods needed a nerve block just to hobble upstairs to the Champions Dinner, unsure he would ever play another round of golf. He had a fourth back surgery with hopes of simply playing with his two children, not chasing Jack Nicklaus in history.

And now it's all pieced back together — his life, his back, even golf.

A fallen hero, a crippled star, Woods is a Masters champion again.

He won his fifth green jacket, his 15th major, but never with this much raw emotion. The most ferocious fist pump was when he walked off the 18th green, scooped up 10-year-old son Charlie, and embraced his mother and his 11-year-old daughter Sam.

"For them to see what it's like to have their dad win a major championship, I hope that's something they will never forget," Woods said.

Who can ever forget this day?

"It's hard to really feel bad about how I played because I just witnessed history," said Xander Schauffele,

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one of three players who finished second. "It was really cool coming down the stretch, all the historic holes, Tiger making the roars. I feel like I got full Masters experience."

The comeback goes beyond the two-shot deficit he erased before a delirious audience that watched memories turn into reality.

It had been 14 years since he last won the Masters — no one had ever gone that long between green jackets. He had gone nearly 11 years since his last major, the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines on a shattered left leg.

This was bigger.

Woods never missed a shot that mattered over the final seven holes, taking the lead with a 5-iron to the fat of the green on the par-5 15th for a two-putt birdie, delivering the knockout with an 8-iron that rode down the ridge by the cup and settled 2 feet away for birdie on the par-3 16th.

He tapped in for bogey and a 2-under 70, and the celebration was on.

"WOOOOOOO!!!" Woods screamed as he headed for the scoring room with chants of "Tiger! Tiger! Tiger!" He had never hugged more people, everyone in his camp who stood by him through a public divorce, an embarrassing mug shot from his DUI arrest when he took a bad mix of painkillers and the four back surgeries, the most recent to fuse his lower spine

"I had serious doubts after what transpired a couple of years ago," Woods said. "I could barely walk. I couldn't sit. Couldn't lay down. I really couldn't do much of anything. ... To have the opportunity to come back like this, it's probably one of the biggest wins I've ever had for sure because of it."

President Donald Trump, who has played with Woods at his Florida course, had two tweets of congratulations. Fenway Park posted the news on the scoreboard.

A comeback for the ages?

It rates among the best because Woods has meant so much to so many in a sport he ruled for so long. Whether he can dominate it again is still to be determined. Woods needed some help to win this Masters. Six players had a share of the lead at some point on the back nine, and there was a five-way tie at the top when the final group was still on the 15th fairway.

"You couldn't have had more drama than we all had out there. And now I know why I'm balding," Woods said. "This stuff is hard."

It didn't look that way when he was younger, healthier and the most popular sporting figure in the world.

Woods lost his impeccable image to a sex scandal, one of the swiftest and most shocking downfalls in sports. He lost his health to back problems. He went two years without even playing a major.

Now the comeback is truly complete. And the race is on.

"A big 'well done' from me to Tiger," Nicklaus tweeted. "I am so happy for him and for the game of golf. This is just fantastic!!!"

Woods now is three short of the gold standard — 18 majors — set by Nicklaus.

"I think 18 is a whole lot closer than people think," Brooks Koepka said.

Joe LaCava, the caddie who stayed with Woods even when he didn't play for the better part of two years, said they have talked about the record.

"We're on 14 and I said, 'Let's get to 15.' You can't be on 14 and thinking about 18," LaCava said. "But now we can start talking about 16. So we're getting closer."

It was the first time Woods won a major when trailing going into the final round. Francesco Molinari, the 54-hole leader, was still up two shots heading into the heart of Amen Corner.

And that's when all hell broke loose.

Molinari's tee shot on the par-3 12th never had a chance, hitting the bank and tumbling into Rae's Creek for double bogey. Until then, Molinari had never trailed in a round that began early in threesomes to finish ahead of storms.

And then it seemed as though practically everyone had a chance, until Woods delivered the key shots at the big moment, just like the old days.

Schauffele failed to birdie the par-5 15th and scrambled for pars the rest of the way for a 68. Dustin Johnson made three straight birdies late in the round, but he got going too late and had to settle for a 68



and a return to No. 1 in the world.

Woods goes to No. 6, his first time inside the top 10 since the 2014 PGA Championship.

Koepka, one of four players from the final two groups who hit into the water on No. 12, rallied with an eagle on the 13th, narrowly missed another eagle on the 15th and was the last player with a chance. His birdie putt on the 18th from just outside 10 feet missed, and he had to settle for a 70.

"You want to play against the best to ever play," Koepka said. "You want to go toe-to-toe with them. I can leave saying I gave it my all. He's just good, man."

Woods finished at 13-under 275 and became, at 43, the oldest Masters champion since Nicklaus won his sixth green jacket at 46 in 1986. That has stood as Augusta's defining moment for years.

This one is sure to at least rival it.

"This is definitely, probably one of the greatest comebacks I think anybody's ever seen," Koepka said.

Koepka and Molinari had both faced Tigermania in the majors and held their own, Molinari at Carnoustie to win the British Open, Koepka last summer at Bellerive to win the PGA Championship. Molinari went 49 straight holes without a bogey, a streak that ended on the seventh hole. It was the double bogeys that cost him, and the Italian was gracious as ever in defeat.

"I think I made a few new fans today with those double bogeys," he said.

Rain fell briefly, but it stayed away long enough for Woods to be presented his green jacket on the practice green, just like old times.

He looked like a new man, making new memories.

"Now I'm able to play golf again, and do it at an elite level again, which is something I'm just very blessed to be able to have that opportunity again," Woods said.

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

## 'Mayor Pete' joins 2020 Dem race as face of new generation

By SARA BURNETT Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Pete Buttigieg, the little-known Indiana mayor who has risen to prominence in the early stages of the 2020 Democratic presidential race, made his official campaign entrance Sunday by claiming the mantle of a youthful generation ready to reshape the country.

"I recognize the audacity of doing this as a Midwestern millennial mayor," he said to cheers of "Pete, Pete, Pete" from an audience assembled in a former Studebaker auto plant. "More than a little bold, at age 37, to seek the highest office in the land." In the hours after his announcement, more than \$1 million in donations poured in, said Lis Smith, speaking for the campaign.

The South Bend mayor, a Rhodes scholar and Afghanistan War veteran who has been essentially campaigning since January, has joined a dozen-plus rivals vying to take on President Donald Trump.

"The forces of change in our country today are tectonic," he said. "Forces that help to explain what made this current presidency even possible. That's why, this time, it's not just about winning an election — it's about winning an era."

Buttigieg will return this week to Iowa and New Hampshire, which hold the nation's first nominating contests, to campaign as a full-fledged candidate now being taken more seriously.

Over the past few months, Buttigieg has appeared frequently on national TV news and talk shows and developed a strong social media following with his message that the country needs "a new generation of leadership."

Buttigieg's poll numbers have climbed. Some polls put him behind only Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who sought the party's nomination in 2016, and former Vice President Joe Biden, who has not yet said he's running.

Buttigieg's campaign has raised more than \$7 million in the first three months of this year, a total eclipsed by Sanders' leading \$18 million but more than Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Cory Booker of New Jersey.

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"Right now, it's pretty fun," Buttigieg told The Associated Press last month while visiting South Carolina, where he was met by larger-than-expected crowds.

His challenge is finding a way to sustain the momentum over the long term and avoiding becoming a "flavor-of-the-month" candidate. Scrutiny of his leadership in South Bend has increased, as has his criticism of Vice President Mike Pence, who was Indiana's governor when Buttigieg was in his first term as mayor.

Buttigieg would be the first openly gay nominee of a major presidential party; he married his husband, Chasten, last year. He would be the first mayor to go directly to the White House. And he would be the youngest person to become president, turning 39 the day before the next inauguration, on Jan. 20, 2021. Theodore Roosevelt was 42 when he took office, while John F. Kennedy was 43 and Bill Clinton 46.

The campaign kickoff speech echoed themes that have resonated with voters during Buttigieg's exploratory phase.

He talks often about how political decisions shape people's lives, including his own — from serving as a lieutenant in the Navy Reserve in 2014, to being able to marry his husband and to not having to worry about how to pay for his father's hospital bills after his father's death this year.

Buttigieg also says the best way for Democrats to defeat Trump may be to nominate a mayor experienced in helping to revive a Midwestern city once described as "dying," rather than a politician who has spent years "marinating" in Washington.

He has criticized Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," saying the way to move the country forward is not to look backward or cling to an old way of life.

"There's a myth being sold to industrial and rural communities: the myth that we can stop the clock and turn it back," he said. "It comes from people who think the only way to reach communities like ours is through resentment and nostalgia, selling an impossible promise of returning to a bygone era that was never as great as advertised to begin with."

South Bend, which neighbors the University of Notre Dame, was hit hard by the decline of manufacturing, dating to the 1963 closing of the Studebaker auto plant that costs thousands of residents their jobs.

The hulking, dilapidated factory loomed over the city for much of the past 60 years as what Buttigieg called a daily reminder of South Bend's city's past. Partially remodeled, it's now a mixed-use technology center outside downtown — and the setting for Buttigieg's announcement.

The South Bend fire marshal's office said the rally drew over 4,500 inside and 1,500 outside. A steady stream of raindrops fell on speakers on the stage through the leaky roof.

"I like that he's young," said Tom Lacy, a 62-year-old retiree who came from Peoria, Illinois, for the event with his wife, Candy, on their 35th wedding anniversary. "He's so relatable. He doesn't seem like a politician to me." Lacy said: "The contrast between him and our current president is unbelievable."

Nausher Ahmad Sial, a 68-year-old developer from South Bend, said "we need to try new blood."

Sial, who came to the U.S. from Pakistan 35 years ago, said he has worked with Buttigieg on development projects in the city and described the mayor as a "very honest, very fair guy."

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This story has been corrected to reflect that Tom Lacy is 62, not 52.

## **NRA has history of promoting gun rights outside US**

**By LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press**

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The recent revelation that National Rifle Association representatives had met with Australian politicians to discuss talking points after a mass shooting generated outrage from various politicians.

The reality is that the NRA has been exerting its influence on gun debates outside the U.S. for a number of years, exporting its firebrand rhetoric and belief that more guns will lead to less crime.

The lobbying group has sought sway at the United Nations to make it easier to sell American guns overseas and has on more than one occasion guided gun-rights groups in Brazil, Canada, Australia and elsewhere. It advised gun activists in Russia, entanglements that in recent years made the NRA vulnerable

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to allegations it allowed alleged Russian operatives to use the organization to influence American politics.

While American gun rights are enshrined in the U.S. Constitution — something that doesn't translate to most countries around the world — the group's track record of aggressively shaping the debate has nevertheless turned it into the go-to group for other gun-rights activists outside the U.S.

There are several reasons why the NRA doesn't confine itself to the U.S.

For one, it's helpful to American gun makers if other countries make it easier for citizens to buy and possess firearms, opening up new markets. And when other countries ease restrictions, it helps bolster one of the NRA's most prominent messages.

"They can make the argument, you know, 'Look, other nations don't like stricter gun laws either,' because one of the debate points that has hurt the NRA is that pretty much every other democratic nation has stricter gun laws than us and lower gun ownership," said Robert J. Spitzer, chairman of political science at the State University of New York at Cortland and a longtime watcher of the NRA.

A documentary aired last month by Al Jazeera reported officials with Australia's far-right One Nation party met with two NRA representatives and other gun-rights advocates seeking money to undermine Australian gun laws. During the meeting, captured on video by an undercover journalist posing as a gun lobbyist, they ask the NRA officials for advice on how to respond after a mass shooting. They're told to start with silence and then if it persists, to go on the offensive.

The NRA said it met with the Australians but did not provide any of the requested money sought at the meeting.

The NRA has a long overseas track record.

Perhaps its biggest success has been in Brazil, where the NRA worked with activists to help reject a referendum in 2005 that would have banned the sale of firearms and ammunition to civilians.

Working with gun-rights activists in that country, the NRA helped shape the debate. A turning point, some observers have said, was a television ad that flashed scenes from key moments in history: Tiananmen Square, the fall of the Berlin Wall, Nelson Mandela's release from prison. The ad emphasized gun rights as a fundamental right to freedom and liberty.

Brazil has a low rate of gun ownership — an estimated 2 million among its more than 200 million residents — and gun control was backed by the Roman Catholic Church and other powerful forces in the country. One poll a month before the referendum put support for it at a stunning 73 percent. It was rejected handily.

Brazil suffers from high crime rates, especially in the poor areas around big cities, and what resonated were the NRA messages that are familiar to Americans: Owning a gun is a fundamental right of freedom, and if good guys have their guns taken away, only criminals will still have them.

Canada's own gun-rights movement has been closely tied to the NRA since the 1990s. In the decades since, NRA leaders have traveled to the country to warn that gun restrictions would interfere with a citizen's right to bear arms, though that country does not consider it a constitutional right.

When Canada first sought to restrict gun access in the 1990s, the NRA threatened a boycott by American hunters spending tourism dollars in the country.

The NRA also has worked closely to advise such groups as the Canadian Shooting Sports Association on how to lobby against that country's registry of gun owners. It took more than a decade but Canada's gun registry was ultimately repealed in 2012.

Gun-control advocates weren't surprised to hear the NRA's advice heard in the Al-Jazeera video on how to respond to mass shootings.

"It's the two-step playbook: It's one, silence, and two, if the pressure gets too hot, to deflect by arguing that we shouldn't politicize a shooting by talking about policies that could prevent these shootings from happening in the future," said Peter Ambler, executive director of the gun-control group named after former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who was seriously injured after being shot during a constituent meeting in 2011.

Gun-rights supporters viewed it differently.

"While it came across on the Al Jazeera clips as manipulative, it's Defense 101 and I don't think it's un-

reasonable at all," said Jeff Knox, an NRA member and director of the Firearms Coalition, adding: "It is such a difficult situation because you're damned if you do and damned if you don't. When some horrific act is perpetrated by some deviant, if you immediately come out and say something in defense or support of the right to arms, then you're heartless and you're politicizing this tragic event. But at the same time, the other side does not hesitate to jump out."

This story has been corrected to show the population of Brazil is more than 200 million, not 59 million.

## **Social Democrats, populists top Finland vote ahead of EU's**

**By JARI TANNER and DOROTHEE THIESING Associated Press**

HELSINKI (AP) — Results from Finland's parliamentary election illustrated the struggle by Europe's traditional political parties to retain supporters, with the center-left Social Democratic Party winning the most votes and followed closely by a populist party that wants to temper national efforts to curb climate change.

The 17.7% of the vote the Social Democrats received gives it 40 of the 200 seats in Finland's new parliament, one more than the 39 the euroskeptic, anti-immigration Finns Party secured with its 17.5% support.

"I have to make a honest confession: I hoped still for a better result," Social Democratic Party leader Antti Rinne, a former finance minister and union leader, told supporters in central Helsinki. "Let us, my friends, take the Finnish society toward sustainable climate, social and economic policies."

Sunday's election had been watched for signs of how a bloc of euroskeptic populists might do in next month's European Parliament elections. The Finns Party is part of an alliance that hopes to become the strongest faction in the European Union legislature and to radically transform EU policies on migration, families and the environment.

Finns Party chairman Jussi Halla-aho, who received the most votes by far of any candidate for the Eduskunta legislature, said he was surprised by his party's strong performance.

"I certainly could never have expected a result like this," an elated Halla-aho said. Honestly speaking, none of us expected this kind of result."

Voters chose between 2,500 candidates from 19 political parties and movements. Preliminary returns showed the conservative National Coalition Party in third place with 37 seats and outgoing Prime Minister Juha Sipilä's Center Party claiming 31 places in the legislature.

The Center Party lost more support than any other party compared to Finland's last election in 2015, apparently punished by voters for failing while in government to push through an ambitious health care and social care reform plan.

Finnish Institute of International Affairs program director Mika Aaltola said voters putting their support behind comparative political upstarts produced "a historic result" in Finland that reflects disenchantment with mainstream politics across Europe.

"Support for the three traditional established parties has been down for years. The political center is weakening, which is an overall European phenomenon," Aaltola wrote on Twitter.

After an election, the party that attracts the most votes typically tries to a new government with other parties as partners. A Cabinet made up of ministers from different political parties is a long-time tradition in Finland.

Most political observers said the election's outcome means if Rinne is named prime minister-designate, he likely would try to form a broad-based majority government with the National Coalition party or a combination of the Center Party and smaller parties such as the Greens.

Rinne said after casting his ballot that all coalition options remained on the table if his party won the most votes but that Finland's government needed to have "the same value base."

The election followed a campaign in which concerns about climate change even overshadowed the issue of how to reform the nation's generous welfare model.

Finland, a European Union member of 5.5 million people, has one-third of its territory above the Arctic Circle. Most political parties support government actions to curb global warming.



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Pre-election debates over what and how much the Nordic country should do revealed disagreement among voters. The Finns Party railed against public sacrifices in the name of fighting climate change. It put less focus on immigration than anti-migrant, euroskeptic counterparts elsewhere in Europe have done in recent years.

"For everybody, it's about the climate. It's kind of a climate election. Everybody's feeling some kind of a depression about it," voter Sofia Frantsi, 27, an interior architect from Helsinki, said Sunday.

Rural voters and other residents who feel that the climate change plans of other leading parties require too much sacrifice have been part of the momentum of the populist Finns Party.

"We want a more moderate and sensible climate policy that does not chase industries away from Finland to countries like China," Halla-aho said Sunday at a Helsinki polling station.

Immigration remains a key policy issue, Halla-aho said.

Greenpeace Finland called Sunday's vote the "climate election," saying that "never before has climate and the limits of planet Earth been discussed with such seriousness in Finland."

The environmental group cited a recent nationwide poll in which 70% of respondents said tackling climate change and reducing carbon footprints should be key priorities of the new government.

Finland is boosting its production of nuclear energy by launching a new nuclear power plant next year. Finnish lawmakers last month voted to phase out burning coal as an energy source to end it by 2029.

Other proposals include increasing the number of electric vehicles on Finland's roads and reducing meat consumption through taxes or serving more vegetarian food as part of publicly funded meals in places like schools and the military.

The Social Democratic Party, which has traditionally attracted working-class voters, favors raising taxes and increasing spending to overhaul the social and health care system, which is under strain with one of the most rapidly aging populations worldwide.

The Social Democrats also back the pro-European Union policies of Finland, which uses the shared euro currency but is not a NATO member. Finland shares a 1,340-kilometer (830-mile) border with Russia.

Negotiations to form the next government "will be very difficult, that's very clear, before they can create a government," said Jukka Vakkila, a 57-year-old doctor from Helsinki. "But I think that they will find some kind of consensus ... Finland could be a good example for other countries in this way."

Olli Kangas contributed from Helsinki. Vanessa Gera contributed from Warsaw.

## For many 'Thrones' fans, season 8 is just the first ending

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Devoted "Game of Thrones" fans who've watched and re-watched all 73 episodes of the HBO series, and read and reread all 4,000 pages of the books by George R.R. Martin, will at long last get the ending they've craved with the series' eighth and final season that starts Sunday.

But will it be the "real" ending?

The plotlines of the show have long since shot past what's in Martin's books, whose own finale may be many years away. While the endings will likely be similar, Martin, the master of this universe, could take a very different path to get there, making the coming end of the HBO show with its showdown between the humans of Westeros and the invading White Walkers possibly just a preview.

For some it all just means twice the fun.

"It doesn't bother me. I don't think they need to be one and the same," said Adonis Voulgaris, a fan of both formats who lives in San Francisco. "For me, it just means more content I get to immerse myself in."

The show premiered in 2011, the same year Martin's fifth book in his "A Song of Fire and Ice" series was released. Fans have been waiting, and waiting, and waiting, for the sixth, "The Winds of Winter," ever since, and many wonder whether the 70-year-old author will live long enough to finish all seven planned books in the series.

"George is not a fast writer," said book-and-show devotee Andrew Stachler, 44, of South Pasadena,

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California. "So if you were following along, I think it was pretty evident early on that the show was going to get ahead of the books."

That did indeed happen, and by season six warrior and king-in-the-making Jon Snow had been resurrected and went back to trying to save the world, while he still lies stabbed to death in a mutiny in the books.

Martin, an executive producer on the TV series who has written episodes but is sitting this season out while he works on the book, gave HBO showrunners David Benioff and D.B. Weiss an outline of where his long-planned plot goes, including the fates of characters like Snow, Daenerys Targaryen and Arya Stark.

Armed with that roadmap, Benioff, Weiss and other writers have been telling the tale without books to back them. Fans are divided about the results, and how true they are to Martin.

"It doesn't seem any less planned out to me," Stachler said. "It's absolutely a continuation of his vision. I always felt like the show cleaned up the narrative in tighter, better-paced ways anyway."

Other readers feel the showrunners' vision and style have taken over.

"I think you've seen that in the last couple of seasons where you don't have the book as guide, you just go from one big event to another to another, without that feeling of the backstory," said Gabriela Perez, 44, of Mexico City. "It's sort of like drinking a Diet Coke, it has all the flavor and all that, but you can tell the difference."

Voulgaris, 27, said "last season was absolutely on fast-forward. The rate at which people would travel from one place to another was incredible. But that makes it fun to watch, it makes it accessible to any viewer."

But the quibbles seem to go out the window when it comes to the giddy anticipation that comes with the six episodes, most running well over an hour, that make up the final season.

"Oh, I'm still super excited," Perez said. "I want to know what this version of the ending is."

And wanting to be a part of a massive shared event may dwarf any thoughts that this is less than final. Some 12.1 million viewers tuned in to the season seven finale, with 4 million more streaming it the same night and many millions more in the following days. The May 19 series finale is sure to draw a bigger audience, and a social media maelstrom.

"I do think this last season is going to be the largest cultural moment we've had in a long time for any kind of branded property," Stachler said. "I don't know what to compare it to. I don't know when we'll see something this big again."

And with no book to spoil it, readers and non-readers alike get to be, and expect to be, surprised.

"Everybody has an idea," Voulgaris aid. "It literally could go in any direction."

Martin's world probably has a future on TV. He and Jane Goldman have scripted a pilot, set in Westeros thousands of years before the timeline of "Game of Thrones," that is in production for HBO. The cable channel has other possible spinoff scripts in the works, too.

Martin has released sample chapters of "The Winds of Winter" to sate hungry fans, and in them characters are in very different places than where the show put them, suggesting the endings might diverge too.

And the author is subversive enough that he may change his mind about the ending once the show is done.

"I wouldn't be surprised if he went down a totally different path, just because he's bored," Perez said. "For the type of writer he is I can see him doing it, thinking, 'You know what? that's been done. I'll do something else.'"

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton at: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton> .

## Ivanka Trump promotes women's empowerment in Ethiopia

By CATHERINE LUCEY Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Far from the din of Washington, Ivanka Trump toured businesses run by women in Ethiopia on Sunday while promoting a White House global economic program for women.

President Donald Trump's daughter and senior adviser visited a coffee shop and textile company in Addis Ababa. It was her first stop in Africa on a four-day trip to Ethiopia and Ivory Coast on behalf of a White

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House project intended to boost 50 million women in developing countries by 2025.

Aiming to offer assistance and learn about the struggles of women in business, she took part in a traditional coffee ceremony, visited with weavers and announced new financial support for businesses.

"Investing in women is smart development policy and it's smart business," Trump said, sitting in Dumerso Coffee, a dimly lighted space with a woven ceiling, tile floor and colorful paintings. Alongside were women who work in the industry. "It's also in our security interest, because women, when we're empowered, foster peace and stability," she said.

This is Ivanka Trump's first visit to Africa since the president launched the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative. It's a program she hopes will outlast an administration better known for "America First" isolationism.

She has drawn praise for taking on this project and for making the trip. But thousands of miles from Washington, she is sure to be shadowed by her father's efforts to cut international aid, as well as his past disparaging comments about Africa.

Ivanka Trump arrived in Ethiopia early Sunday, flying commercial.

She first visited the coffee shop and then went to the textile and craft manufacturer Muya, where she was greeted by dancers and chatted with women seated at colorful looms. She took a seat at one herself. She also noted that she was in the country with Africa's second-highest population.

"Ethiopia's success is Africa's success," she said. "We learned today that the quality of the coffee is second to none. You shared with me that Ethiopian cotton rivals cotton anywhere in the world. And then of course the skills and the craftsmanship of the Ethiopian people. We hope more people realize their full potential."

Ivanka Trump was accompanied by Mark Green, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, and David Bohigian, the acting president of the Overseas Private Investment Corp., which provides loans, loan guarantees and political risk insurance, funding projects that stretch across continents and industries. OPIC, working with Ivanka Trump, last year announced a project geared at women.

At the coffee shop they announced a loan, issued by a local women-focused bank and backed by USAID, for a coffee business owned by women. At Muya, they announced additional OPIC financing.

Later in the trip, she plans to meet with Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. In Ivory Coast, she will visit a cocoa farm and participate in a meeting on economic opportunities for women in West Africa. That gathering is part of the World Bank's Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, a program that Ivanka Trump pushed the bank to introduce.

She will be joined in Ivory Coast by a U.S. congressional delegation that will include U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a close ally of the White House.

Reaction to the visit reflected the contradictions of Ivanka Trump's role.

Activist Marakie Tesfaye, who founded a group in Ethiopia for women, welcomed the attention. "I think she's coming genuinely to empower women and it's good that she's coming because she will push forward our agenda," she said.

Ethiopian journalist Sisay Woubshet was more skeptical, citing Donald Trump's past comments. "I don't think people will have a good feeling about his daughter's visit this time around to promote her global initiative towards women."

For Ivanka Trump, those challenges come with the territory.

She has spent two years promoting a family-friendly agenda in an administration focused on hard-line immigration tactics and protectionist trade policies.

To questions about international aid spending, she has said the administration strives to be generous in a "fiscally responsible way," and has argued that investing in her project, which builds on previous White House efforts, is a way to promote security in developing countries.

The new global women's initiative involves the U.S. State Department, the U.S. National Security Council and other American agencies. It aims to assist women in developing countries with job training, financial support and legal or regulatory reforms.

Money for the effort will come through USAID, which initially set up a \$50 million fund using dollars al-

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ready budgeted. The president's 2020 budget proposal requests an additional \$100 million for the initiative, which will also be supported by programs across the government as well as private investment.

Experts praised the government-wide approach, which will incorporate new and existing programs, though some stressed that it was early in the process. The investment comes as the president is proposing cuts to foreign aid, and as the administration is expanding a ban on U.S. aid to groups that promote or provide abortions.

"The part of the proposal which is around looking at laws — that is a good thing to focus on," said Charles Kenny, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, referencing the initiative's support for changing laws, regulations and customs that create barriers preventing women from fully participating in the workforce.

But he said the abortion-related ban could have a negative economic impact. "I think one of the most powerful tools for women's economic empowerment is the ability to choose when and how many children they have," Kenny said.

Daniel Runde of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said Ivanka Trump was strategically building on the work of past administrations. He called her an effective "goodwill ambassador" for the issues and a smart emissary to send to Africa.

Hillary Clinton, as U.S. secretary of state, "provided high-level attention to these issues," said Runde, who previously worked for USAID and is an informal adviser to the administration on development policy. "Ivanka Trump is playing a similar role to the role that Secretary Clinton played."

Associated Press writers Elias Meseret in Addis Ababa, and Alexis Adele in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

### Today in History

Today is Monday, April 15, the 105th day of 2019. There are 260 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 15, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln died nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington; Andrew Johnson became the nation's 17th president.

### On this date:

In 1452, artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci was born in or near the Tuscan town of Vinci.

In 1912, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic foundered in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland more than 2 1/2 hours after hitting an iceberg; 1,514 people died, while less than half as many survived.

In 1943, the Ayn Rand novel "The Fountainhead" was first published by Bobbs-Merrill Co.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died on April 12, was buried at the Roosevelt family home in Hyde Park, New York.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson, baseball's first black major league player, made his official debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day at Ebbets Field. (The Dodgers defeated the Boston Braves, 5-3.)

In 1959, Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrived in Washington to begin a goodwill tour of the United States. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles resigned for health reasons (he was succeeded by Christian A. Herter).

In 1974, members of the Symbionese Liberation Army held up a branch of the Hibernia Bank in San Francisco; a member of the group was SLA kidnap victim Patricia Hearst, who by this time was going by the name "Tania" (Hearst later said she'd been forced to participate).

In 1985, South Africa said it would repeal laws prohibiting sex and marriage between whites and non-whites.

In 1986, the United States launched an air raid against Libya in response to the bombing of a discotheque in Berlin on April 5; Libya said 37 people, mostly civilians, were killed.



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In 1989, 96 people died in a crush of soccer fans at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, England. Students in Beijing launched a series of pro-democracy protests; the demonstrations culminated in a government crackdown at Tiananmen Square.

In 1998, Pol Pot, the notorious leader of the Khmer Rouge, died at age 72, evading prosecution for the deaths of two million Cambodians.

In 2013, two bombs made from pressure cookers exploded at the Boston Marathon finish line, killing two women and an 8-year-old boy and injuring more than 260. Suspected bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev (TAM'-ehr-luhn tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) died in a shootout with police; his brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), was tried, convicted and sentenced to death.

Ten years ago: Whipped up by conservative commentators and bloggers, tens of thousands of protesters staged "tea parties" around the country to tap into the collective angst stirred up by a bad economy, government spending and bailouts. A U.S. Army master sergeant was convicted of murder at a court-martial in Vilseck, Germany in the 2007 killings of four bound and blindfolded Iraqis. (John Hatley initially received life in prison, but had his sentence later reduced to 40 years.) Pirates released the Greek-owned cargo ship Titan that had been hijacked off the Somali coast on March 19.

Five years ago: Boko Haram terrorists kidnapped some 276 girls from a school in northeastern Nigeria. Survivors, first responders and relatives of those killed in the Boston Marathon bombing marked the first anniversary of the attack with tributes that combined sorrow over the loss of innocent victims with pride over the city's resilience.

One year ago: A seven-hour battle over territory and money broke out among inmates armed with home-made knives at the Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina, leaving seven inmates dead and 22 injured in the worst U.S. prison riot in a quarter-century. At the Academy of Country Music Awards, held in Las Vegas six months after the deadly shooting at a country music festival there, Jason Aldean paid tribute to the 58 people killed; he spoke after he was named entertainer of the year for the third consecutive time. (Aldean had been performing at the Las Vegas festival when the shooting began.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Claudia Cardinale is 81. Author and politician Jeffrey Archer is 79. Rock singer-guitarist Dave Edmunds is 76. Actor Michael Tucci is 73. Actress Lois Chiles is 72. Writer-producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason is 72. Actress Amy Wright is 69. Columnist Heloise is 68. Actor Sam McMurray is 67. Actress-screenwriter Emma Thompson is 60. Bluegrass musician Jeff Parker is 58. Singer Samantha Fox is 53. Olympic gold, silver and bronze medal swimmer Dara Torres is 52. Rock musician Ed O'Brien (Radiohead) is 51. Actor Flex Alexander is 49. Actor Danny Pino is 45. Actor Douglas Spain is 45. Country singer-songwriter Chris Stapleton is 41. Actor Luke Evans is 40. Rock musician Patrick Carney (The Black Keys) is 39. Rock musician Zach Carothers (Portugal. The Man) is 38. Actor-writer Seth Rogen is 37. Actress Alice Braga is 36. Americana singer-songwriter Margo Price is 36. Rock musician De'Mar Hamilton (Plain White T's) is 35. Actress Samira Wiley is 32. Actress Leonie Elliott is 31. Actress Emma Watson is 29. Actress Maisie Williams is 22.

Thought for Today: "We do not know what we want and yet we are responsible for what we are — that is the fact." — Jean-Paul Sartre, French philosopher (born 1905, died this date in 1980).