

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Death Notice: Lawrence Dolney

Lawrence Dolney, 76, of Andover passed away April 17, 2019 at Sun Dial Manor, Bristol. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Coming Up on GDILIVE.COM

## Community Good Friday Service

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

**Special Music**



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

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



## 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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## Thursday, April 18, 2019

**Cancelled:** Track: 7th/8th Meet at Groton Area High School

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

## Friday, April 19, 2019

3 p.m.-7 p.m.: Dick Kolker's 80th Birthday celebration at the Legion

No School - Good Friday

7 p.m.: Community Good Friday service at the United Methodist Church

## Saturday, April 20

10 a.m.: Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park

## Monday, April 22

No School - Easter Vacation

## Tuesday, April 23

**Cancelled:** Track meet in Groton

7 p.m.: City Council meeting at the Groton Community Center

8 p.m.: School Board meeting at the multipurpose room.

2:15 p.m.: Tour of Kindness program at Groton Area Elementary. Justine Kougal began the Tour of Kindness last year when her daughter turned 2, she was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, the same as Auggie in the movie Wonder. She is traveling around the Midwest to schools throughout the region to spread the word of kindness and making the choice to Be The Difference and Choose Kind to kids and adults alike. The public is invited to attend.

## Thursday, April 25, 2019

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Redfield Golf Course

3:30pm: Track: 7th/8th Meet @ Milbank High School

## Friday, April 26, 2019

1:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Sisseton High School

## Saturday, April 27, 2019

Prom at Groton Area High School

## Sunday, April 28, 2019

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Bridal Shower for Emily Kern at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

5:30 p.m.: Princesses Prom Grand March at the GHS Gym

## Monday, April 29, 2019

2:00pm: Track: 7th/8th Meet @ Redfield Jr-Sr High School

## Tuesday, April 30, 2019

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

1:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Milbank High School

DI Pork Loin Meal, 5-7 p.m., HS Gym.

7:00pm: Middle School Spring Concert

## Wednesday, May 1, 2019

7 p.m.: Carnival of Silver Skates annual meeting at the warming house.

## Thursday, May 2, 2019

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Lee Park Golf Course

DI Pork Loin Meal, 5-7 p.m., HS Gym.

7:00pm: High School Spring Concert and Awards Night

## Friday, May 3, 2019

Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls

4:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Sisseton High School

7:00pm: FFA Banquet Groton Area High School

Upcoming  
**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

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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.**



## Stations of the Cross

The youth of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church put on the annual Stations of the Cross presentation Wednesday evening. The cast is pictured above.

In back, left to right, are Korbin Blackmun, Isaac Smith, Jordan Bjerke, Lucas Simon, Jackson Cogley as Jesus, Tristan Traphagen, Trey Gengerke, Evan Nehls and Wyatt Locke (director).

In the middle row, left to right, are Garrett Schroeder, Ashley Fliehs, Caycee Schneider, Grace Wambach, Alexa Herr, Nicole Marzahn and Alexis Simon (director).

In front, left to right, are AnneMarie Smith, Alexis Hanten, Megan Fliehs, Kelsie Frost, and advisors Carol and Steve Smith. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## 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.

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## Groton Area Third Quarter Honor Roll

### Seniors

4.0 GPA: Taylor Holm, Kaitlyn Kassube, Kylie Kassube, AnneMarie Smith, Emily Thompson, Jillian Barton, Cassandra Townsend, Kaitlyn Anderson, Alexis Simon, Samantha Geffre, Samantha Menzia

3.99-3.50: Ashley Garduno, Miranda Hanson, Alexa Hickenbotham, Micah Poor, Devan Howard, Tylan Glover, Jennie Doeden, Payton Maine

3.49-3.00: Brandon Gackle, Portia Kettering, Jeremy Johnson, Wyatt Locke, Shannon Wiedrick, Shyla Larson, Korbin Blackmun, Emily Blocker, Josie LaMee

### Juniors

4.0 GPA: Kaycie Hawkins, Kaylin Kucker, KaSandra Pappas, Nicole Marzahn

3.99-3.50: Jaime Ruiz de Medina Maroto, Indigo Rogers, Kayla Jensen, Payton Colestock, Tadya Glover, Benjamin Higgins, Madeline Schuelke

3.49-3.00: Kya Jandel, Caitlynn Barse, Rylee Rosenau

### Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Samantha Pappas, Alexis Hanten, Hailey Monson, Isaac Smith, Erin Unzen

3.99-3.50: Sage Mortenson, Grace Wambach, Alexa Herr, Tanae Lipp, Steven Paulson, Jasmine Gengerke, Alyssa Fordham, Grace Wiedrick, Regan Leicht, Paloma Fernandez Gonzalez, Tessa Erdmann, Brooklyn Gilbert, Dragr Monson, Braden Freeman

3.49-3.00: Kannon Coats, Trey Gengerke, Alex Morris, Eh Tha You Say

### Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Madeline Fliehs, Allyssa Locke, Stella Meier

3.99-3.50: Travis Townsend, Trista Keith, Seth Johnson, Madisen Bjerke, Jordan Bjerke, Pierce Kettering, Kansas Kroll

3.49-3.00: Landon Kokales, Alexander Dutchuk, Jace Kroll, Julianna Kosel, Lane Krueger, Kennedy Anderson, Rease Jandel

### Eighth Grade

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Jackson Dinger, Elliana Weismantel, Caleb Hanten, Jacob Lewandowski, Kaleb Antonsen, Ethan Clark, Cadance Tullis, Carter Barse, Aspen Johnson, Cole Bisbee, Brenna Carda, Isaac Higgins, Brooke Gengerke

3.49-3.00: Sierra Ehresmann, Shallyn Foertsch, Cade Larson, Andrew Marzahn, Cole Simon, Tate Larson, Gracie Traphagen, Jacelynn Gleason, Shaylee Peterson, Porter Johnson, Jackson Bahr, KayLynn Overacker, Marlee Tollifson, Hollie Frost

### Seventh Grade

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Emily Clark, Claire Heinrich, Hannah Monson, Holden Sippel, Jaycie Lier, Emma Schinkel, Lydia Meier, Dillon Abeln, Ashlyn Sperry, Anna Fjeldheim, Lexi Osterman, Kyleigh Englund, Sara Menzia, Bradin Althoff

3.49-3.00: Abigail Jensen, Anna Bisbee, Cadence Feist, Faith Fliehs, Camryn Kurtz, Karsyn Jangula, Colby Dunker, Lane Tietz, Shea Jandel, Sydney Leicht

### Sixth Grade

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Gretchen Dinger, Axel Warrington, Payton Mitchell, Elizabeth Fliehs, Blake Dennert

3.49-3.00: Alexis Geffre, Ashlyn Feser, Blake Pauli, Rebecca Poor, Jeslyn Kosel, Turner Thompson

## NSU School of Education's Schwan to be a part of Japan Studies Institute Fellowship

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The Northern State University School of Education's Dr. Anna Schwan of Groton has been awarded an American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Japan Studies Institute Fellowship.

Schwan, assistant professor of education, will attend a two-week intensive institute in San Diego, Calif., this summer, which will be focused on the study of modern Japan. Schwan was chosen as one of thirteen individuals across the United States to be awarded the fellowship. Nearly all of her costs to attend the event are covered by the fellowship.

The Japan Studies Institute (JSI) offers college and university faculty members without prior experience in Japanese studies to learn from scholars, business leaders, artists and journalists about Japan, both past and present. The institute encourages participants to develop strategies for incorporating Japanese studies into courses on their campuses. The institute involves two weeks of intensive seminars, lectures, readings, films and cultural activities related to Japanese history, culture, literature, government, business, language and education.



**Dr. Anna Schwan**

Previous programs have included topics as diverse as wartime and occupation Japan, social relations and the changing role of women in Japan, Japanese foreign policy and regional relations, classical music, ikebana, calligraphy, introductory Japanese, Japanese film in the classroom, and philosophical and religious traditions in Japan. Classes are held Monday through Friday, from morning until late afternoon. The formal program is complemented by a number of off-campus and evening activities. Institute faculty will include scholars, representatives from the local Japanese community, artists, journalists and government officials.

"I am incredibly proud to have been selected for a fellowship to attend the Japan Studies Institute. The core of who I am as an educator is to foster a love for lifelong learning in my future teachers, and I am so excited to be given this opportunity to learn more about the Japanese culture," said Schwan. "Education is so much more than what can be read in books; it's the experiences, the people and the stories that breathe life into our classrooms. I consider this adventure in cultural appreciation a gift that I will lovingly share with my students at NSU who will, in turn, share it with their own someday."

## Five Eco-Friendly Benefits Of Community Gardens

by Emily Hummel

Looking for an activity to help the environment while you reap the benefits of a healthy lifestyle? Try getting your hands dirty in a community garden. Connecting with nature can lower your stress level and lift your mood. Digging in the dirt gives your muscles a workout while your plants nourish the planet.

Community gardens are growing (no pun intended) across the country. The shared green spaces are ideal for anyone who doesn't have room to grow at home, and they're a great way to develop new skills. No experience with plants? No problem! You'll be surrounded by experienced gardeners with tips to share. Look for community gardens in schools, universities, churches, housing complexes, and parks.



Credit: Wasatch Community Gardens

Neighborhood gardens improve access to affordable, nutritious food. It's easy to adopt healthier habits when nourishing options are available. Dining on food grown close to home is one of several eco-friendly benefits of community gardens.

### **Reduce your "food miles"**

Locally-grown produce cuts down on "food miles" — the distance from the farm to your table. Does that pepper have a passport? If your chili pepper came from Chile, it racked up costs to the environment and your grocery bill. Fuel prices and transportation costs ultimately affect the prices you pay in the store.

When food travels on a plane, train, or truck requiring fossil fuel, it uses more energy and increases pollution. Dining from your garden costs you less, saves energy, and helps us all breathe a little easier.

### **You can keep pests at bay the natural way**

Growing your own herbs, fruits, and vegetables puts you in control of the chemicals going into your soil and your food. You don't have to limit yourself to organic gardening to realize the benefits of a more natural approach. Strawberries top the list of produce with the highest pesticide residue. Avoiding weed killer, and pesticide ensures your strawberries taste more like ... strawberries.

Gardening with fewer toxic chemicals adds fewer pollutants to the environment and, ultimately, our water supply. You'll grow healthier plants in healthier soil while limiting pollution. Pesticides can kill beneficial insects, such as bees and butterflies, that play an essential role in our food cycle.

### **You protect the pollinators that drive our food supply**

Community gardens with colorful plants attract bees and butterflies. These little pollinators play a vital role in our food supply. As they feast on nectar from flowering plants, they transfer the pollen and seeds that allow plants to reproduce.

It's estimated that nearly one-third of global crops depend on cross-pollination. Honey bees in the U.S. are credited with more than \$1.2 billion in agricultural productivity. Without bees and butterflies to aid nature's production process, many crops would die off. Adding local, native plants to your community garden helps pollinators protect our future food sources.

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## **Plants improve our air quality**

You may recall from science class that plants take in carbon dioxide — a greenhouse gas associated with global warming — and release oxygen. Participating in a community garden reduces your carbon footprint by giving oxygen back to the environment. Gardens also absorb rainwater to reduce the amount of runoff carrying pollutants into rivers and lakes.

## **Growing green minds**

Gardening is also a rewarding family activity. Kids see the results of cooperation, hard work, and patience when they finally taste the fruits of their labor. Neighborhood gardens foster a sense of community and stewardship of the land. Along with healthier fruits and veggies, you'll also be growing the next generation of eco-friendly eaters.

Emily Hummel is a freelance writer and journalist in Austin, Texas. Her garden is full of fresh herbs, peaches, and pollinators.

## **California Moves to Require Pastors, Priests to Become Government Informants**

Sacramento, CA—The Pacific Justice Institute—Center for Public Policy (PJI-CPP) is raising the alarm about a bill in the California Legislature that would require clergy to report some confessions to the government.

Senate Bill 360 by Sen. Jerry Hill (D – San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties) has been put forward as a response to clergy sex abuse scandals of the past several years. However, critics note it would do little to address the causes of such abuse while sweeping away centuries of legal protections. For the first time it would classify members of the clergy—without exception—as mandated reporters, triggering criminal prosecution if they do not immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect.

In a detailed opposition letter submitted to the Legislature, the PJI-CPP pointed out a number of other problems with the Bill. The letter, from PJI-CPP attorney Kevin Snider, explained the inviolate nature of penitent communications in many religious traditions. As one example, priests in the Roman Catholic Church can expect to be excommunicated if they reveal confessions as would be required by the Bill. Many other Protestant denominations and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have adopted similar stances.

Snider also pointed out that current definitions of “emotional abuse” are so broad that a pastor or youth pastor would be required to tell the government if parents seeking counsel are suspected of so much as failing to provide “warmth,” “attention,” or “normal living experiences” for their children or teens. California already has 46 categories of mandatory reporters, stretching far beyond typical positions such as school staff and coaches to dog catchers and computer technicians.

Snider noted, “Tragically, the children most at risk of experiencing sexual abuse are those already under California’s supervision as foster children. Instead of addressing its own abject failure to protect those directly under its care, the State is rolling back longstanding legal privileges in a way that could actually make the problem worse.”

A petition drive is being launched at PJI.org, urging church leaders and congregants to speak up now before California forces clergy to become government informants against their parishioners.

Brad Dacus, president of Pacific Justice Institute, commented, “This legislation is not just misguided, it is blatantly unconstitutional. Imagine the outcry if the Legislature tried to do away with attorney-client privilege. The clergy-penitent privilege stands on the same footing and is an essential component of restorative justice.”

SB 360 was approved earlier this month by the Senate Public Safety Committee on a 5-0 vote. It is scheduled to be heard next by the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 22.

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## Today in Weather History

April 18, 1995: Eight inches to two feet of snow fell in central South Dakota in a two day period from the 17th to the 18th. Many businesses, schools, and roads closed on the 18th. Hundreds of power poles were downed due to the heavy snow and high winds in Faulk, Hughes, Sully, Hyde, Hand, Lyman, and Buffalo Counties leaving thousands of people without power. Some significant calf losses also occurred (around 10 to 20 percent in some areas), especially in Hand County. Snowfall amounts included 24.0 inches at Vivian, Ree Heights, and in the Murdo area; 23.0 inches at Kennebec, 18.0 inches at Highmore, 16.0 inches at Blunt, 15.0 inches at Miller and Faulkton, and 8.0 inches at Gettysburg.

1880 - More than two dozen tornadoes were reported from Kansas and Arkansas to Wisconsin and Michigan. More than 100 persons were killed, including 65 persons at Marshfield MO. (David Ludlum)

1906: At 5:12 AM, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hits San Francisco. A devastating fire soon broke out in the city and lasted for several days. About 3,000 people died, and over 80 percent of San Francisco was destroyed.

1944 - California experienced its worst hailstorm of record. Damage mounted to two million dollars as two consecutive storms devastated the Sacramento Valley destroying the fruit crop. (The Weather Channel)

1957 - A dust devil near Dracut MA lifted a small child three feet into the air, and rolled two other children on the ground. Fortunately none of the three were hurt. The dust devil was accompanied by a loud whistling sound as it moved westward. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - Rapid City, SD, received a record 22 inches of snow in 24 hours. (17th-18th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thirty-one cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including International Falls MN with a reading of 88 degrees, and Bismarck ND with a high of 92 degrees. A sharp cold front produced high winds in the western U.S. Winds in Utah gusted to 99 mph at the Park City Angle Station, and capsized a boat on Utah Lake drowning four persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

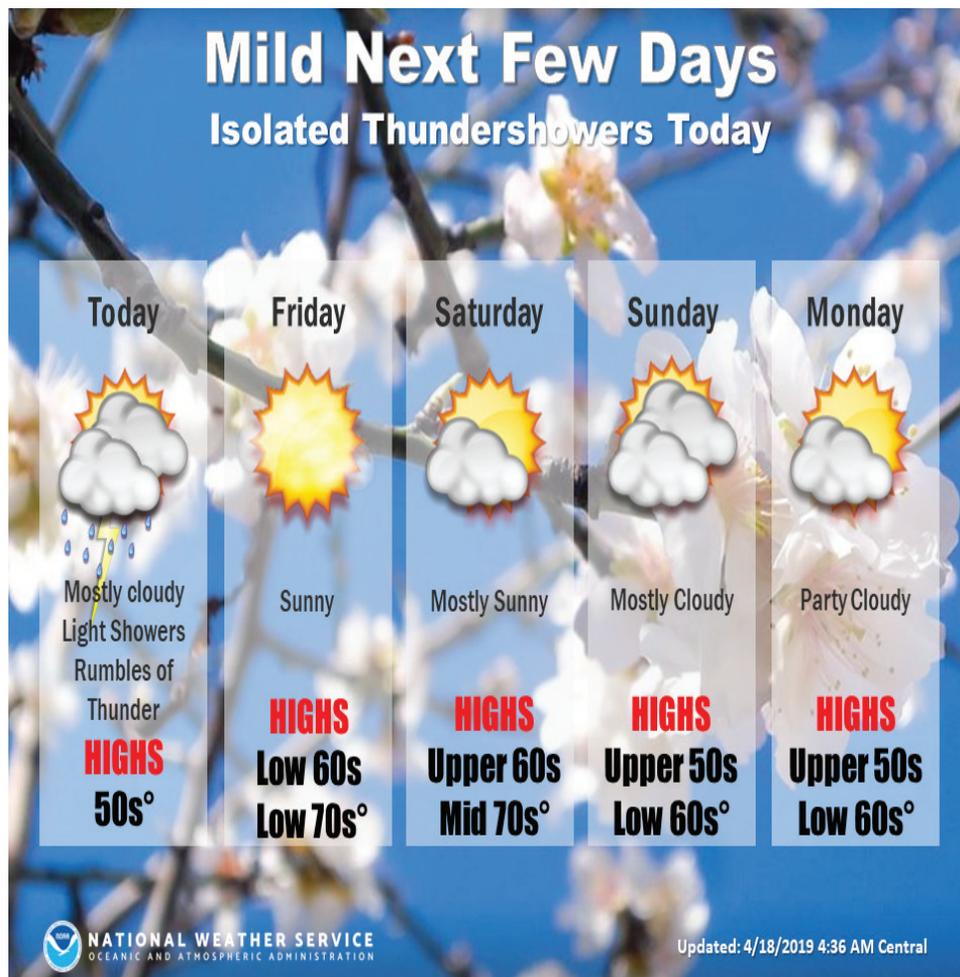
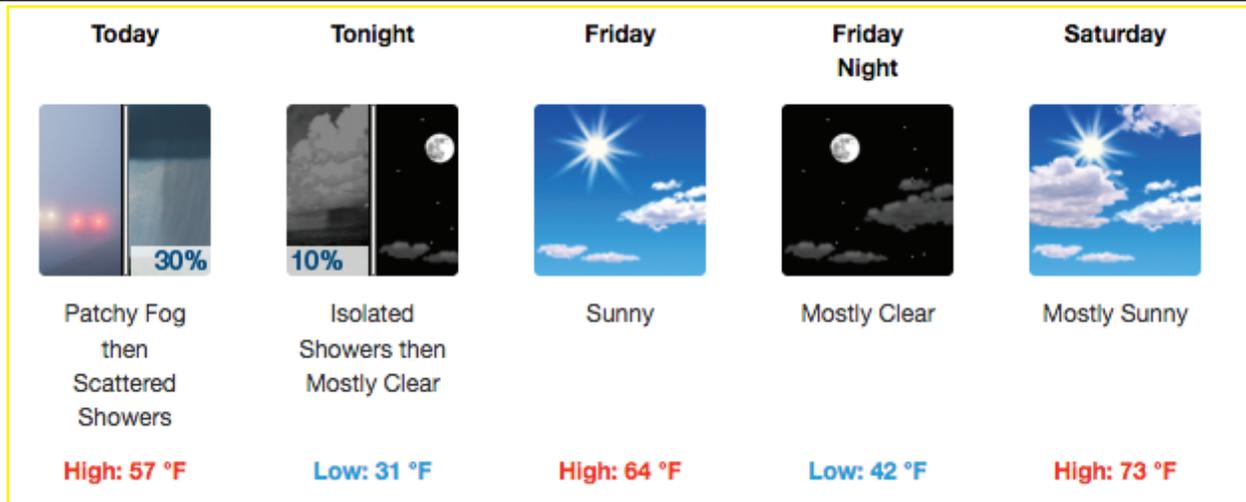
1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in the southeastern U.S. A strong (F-2) tornado severely damaged seventeen mobile homes near Bainbridge GA injuring three persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. A thunderstorm in Pecos County of southwest Texas produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Imperial. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Heavy snow blanketed the west central valleys and southwest mountains of Colorado with up to 18 inches of snow. Nine cities from the Mid Mississippi Valley to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region reported record low temperatures for the date, including Fort Wayne IND with a reading of 23 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Published on: 04/18/2019 at 6:11AM

Looks mostly dry aside from isolated thundershowers today - with seasonal temperatures going into the weekend and next week.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 49 °F at 12:52 AM**

**Low Outside Temp: 42 °F at 9:30 AM**

**High Gust: 25 mph at 7:21 AM**

**Precip: 0.42**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 89° in 1985**

**Record Low: 13° in 1953**

**Average High: 59°F**

**Average Low: 33°F**

**Average Precip in April.: 0.86**

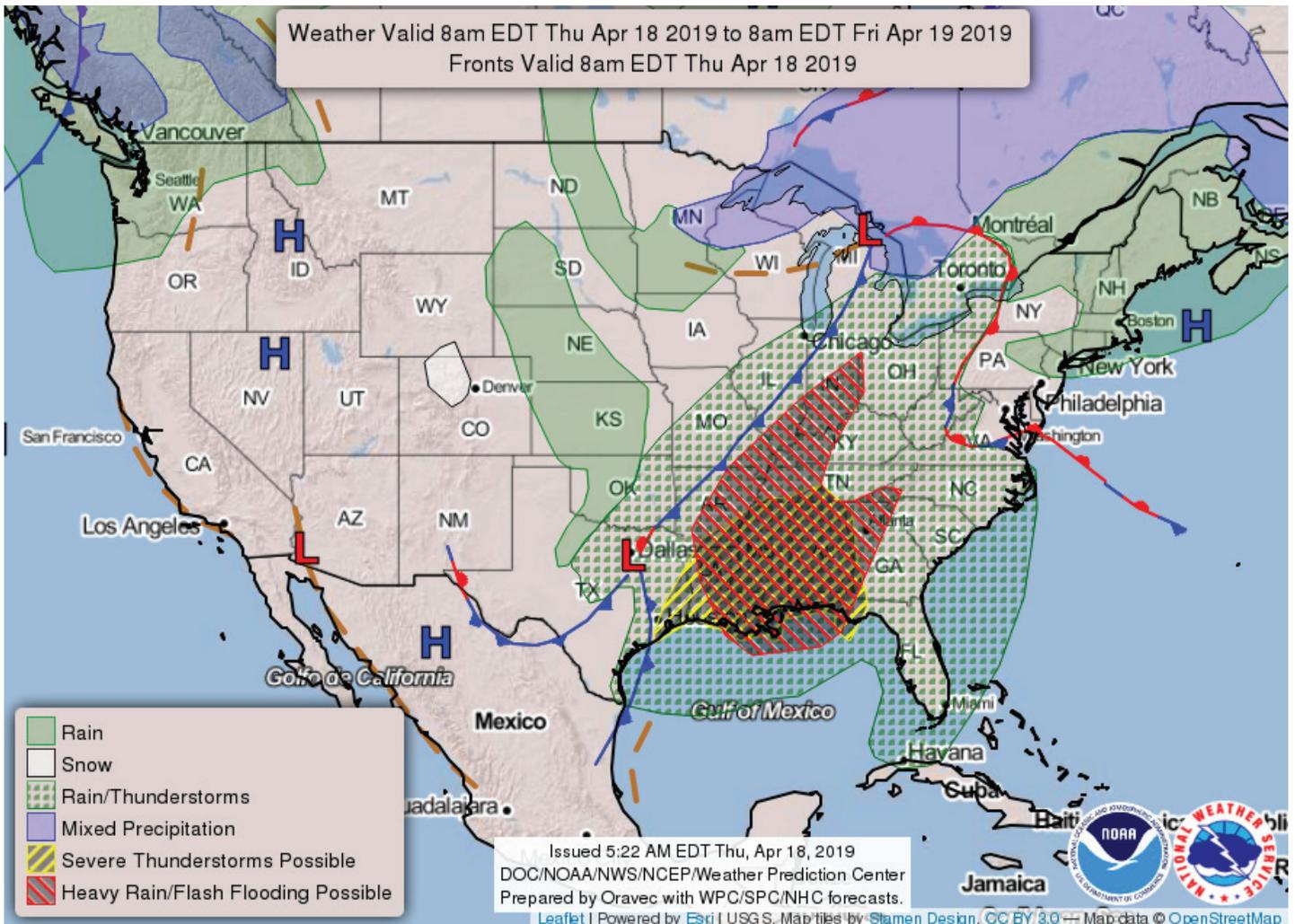
**Precip to date in April.: 1.42**

**Average Precip to date: 3.04**

**Precip Year to Date: 4.46**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:24 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:42 a.m.**



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## ITS ALL UP TO GOD

Gods gonna get you for that!

There was little doubt in Sallys mind about Gods justice. Any time anyone said anything she didnt want to hear, out would come her famous threat. With red hair, pointed finger and a strong voice, she would continue, You just wait and see. Maybe not before you fall asleep. But, Id keep one eye open while I slept tonight if I were you! I know Hes coming after you for that! What you said was wrong.

Everyone on campus loved Sally. Her enthusiasm for life, her happy smile, the twinkle in her eye. Every time she uttered those words, the receiver could not help but look around for a speeding truck or bolt of lightning. Or both. She was very convincing.

However, justice belongs to God, not Sally. He is righteous. He is fair. He has no favorites. He looks at things differently than we do. Scripture reassures us that He does all things well. He will not allow others to destroy His beloved children. His Son died for them.

The righteous person is rescued from trouble, said Solomon, and it falls on the wicked instead. He knew from personal experience that when the righteous are the objects of schemes to hurt them, God will intervene at the appropriate time. Our God will never allow any injustice to go by without becoming personally involved. Even though we do not know what His justice will bring or when it will come, all of life is in His hands. He will right each wrong.

Isaiah summed it up this way: For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to trust in Your justice. We are human, and naturally resentful and spiteful. You, however, are loving and fair and will do what is right. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 11:8 The righteous person is rescued from trouble, said Solomon, and it falls on the wicked instead.

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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

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

01-02-16-25-26

(one, two, sixteen, twenty-five, twenty-six)

Estimated jackpot: \$273,000

Lotto America

02-17-24-34-51, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 5

(two, seventeen, twenty-four, thirty-four, fifty-one; Star Ball: four; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$18.4 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$175 million

Powerball

01-15-17-46-66, Powerball: 15, Power Play: 3

(one, fifteen, seventeen, forty-six, sixty-six; Powerball: fifteen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$118 million

### Army Corps takes heat in wake of Missouri River flooding

By JOSH FUNK Associated Press

GLENWOOD, Iowa (AP) — The federal agency that manages dams along the Missouri River received stern criticism from several U.S. senators Wednesday during a hearing held in Iowa to examine the massive spring flooding this year that caused more than \$3 billion in damage in the Midwest.

The flooding and actions taken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has been bitterly criticized in the wake of the flooding, are the focus of the U.S. Senate hearing. Critics have demanded that the agency make flood control its top priority, though Congress would have to act to change the Corps' priorities.

Iowa Republican Sen. Joni Ernst said flooding shouldn't be such a regular occurrence along the Missouri River, saying: "The trend of flood and rebuild, flood and rebuild must end." Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand added that the Corps should be more aggressive in preventing flood damage and consider the effects of climate change.

"They are too slow, too bureaucratic and they don't have enough money," said Gillibrand, who is running for president and was in Iowa touring flood damage. She took part in the hearing because she serves on the committee that oversees the Corps.

The sentiments may be appealing in Midwestern states that have endured flooding along rivers that the Corps is charged with managing, but they may not be as popular with supporters of other approved uses of the river, such as protecting endangered species and navigation.

The Corps' John Remus said the agency works to balance all the uses of the river and maximize the benefit to several when possible. But flood control is the main concern anytime flooding is imminent along the Missouri River.

"The number one priority of the Corps in its operations is life and public safety," Remus said.

The Corps has also said that much of the water that caused the Midwest flooding in March came from rain and melting snow that flowed into the Missouri River downstream of all the dams it controls. At the same time massive amounts of water was filling the reservoirs and some had to be released.

Farmer Leo Ettleman said the Corps should have made significant changes to its operating manual after the historic 2011 floods, but neither the Corps nor Congress took action. Ettlemen said the kind of flooding

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the area saw this spring will continue unless changes are made.

"In the past eight years, Congress has done little or nothing except to offer prayers and thoughts, which are appreciated, but won't fix the problem," said Ettleman, who farms near Percival, Iowa, and joined a lawsuit against the Corps after the 2011 flood.

Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst farms near the Missouri River. He said the lessons from this year's flooding should lead to changes about where levees are built and how the river is managed.

"When flood recovery is complete, we will have failed if every structure is the same as it was and if the management of the river has not changed," Hurst said. "To do the same things and expect better results is the triumph of hope over experience."

Mike Peluso, a longtime professional fisherman who runs an outdoors and guide service in North Dakota, said he doesn't want to see management of the river "swayed one way or the other" for political reasons.

"They are more populated down south, I get that," he said. "But it's the same river regardless of whether or not you've got a million people or 100,000 people. It needs to be managed from the top down."

He added, "I have a hard time believing with all the technology and brainpower we have we can't find a balance there" between flood protection and other interests like recreation.

Greg Power, fisheries division chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, said he believes the Corps does "a pretty good job" of managing the Missouri River system.

"Flood control is still a high priority within the Corps, I know that," Power said. "Some of these water years are pretty incredible themselves and I would hate to be a Corps person, to be honest."

Rep. Sam Graves, whose district includes the northwestern Missouri area ravaged by flooding in March, introduced a bill this month that would remove fish and wildlife as an authorized management priority on the Missouri River and make flood control the highest priority. The bill would require revision of the Missouri River Master Manual within 90 days of enactment.

"Time and again, we continue to see fish and birds take precedence over people and property when it comes to managing the Missouri River," Graves, a Republican, said in a statement. "This latest round of flooding has devastated communities up and down the river. We already know that the management practices are contributing to it."

Area politicians have said repeatedly since the flood that flood control should be the Corps' top priority.

Robert Criss, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis who has been studying flooding for more than two decades, said there may be a more important factor than how the Corps' priorities are ranked.

The Missouri River has been made narrower over the years, Criss said, and the Corps has worked to maintain a defined channel for barge traffic even though few barges ever cross the river near Iowa and Nebraska.



**Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., right, directs a question to Maj. Gen. Scott Spellmon, deputy commanding general, civil and emergency operations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, center, as Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, left, listens, during a field hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, in Glenwood, Iowa, Wednesday, April 17, 2019. The hearing was called to investigate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Management of the 2019 Missouri River Basin Flooding.** (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

"We're having this problem because we messed with the rivers too much," Criss said.

Associated Press writers Jim Salter in St. Louis and Dave Kolpack in Fargo, North Dakota, contributed to this report.

## Indonesia's Widodo declares victory in presidential election

By NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian President Joko Widodo said Thursday he was won re-election after receiving an estimated 54% of the vote, backtracking on an earlier vow to wait for official results after his challenger made improbable claims of victory.

Widodo, after meeting with parties in his coalition, told reporters that the leaders of Malaysia, Singapore, Turkey and numerous other nations have congratulated him on securing a second term.

The vote estimate is based on so-called quick counts of a sample of polling stations by a dozen reputable survey organizations. Widodo said that 100% of sample polling stations have now been counted or close to that. The quick counts have been accurate in previous elections.

"We all know that the QC (quick count) calculation is a scientific calculation method. From the country's experiences of past elections the accuracy is 99.9%, almost the same as real count results," Widodo said.

Widodo's rival, former Gen. Prabowo Subianto, has claimed he won 62% of the vote in Wednesday's election based on his campaign's own counts, repeating a similar claim when he lost to Widodo in 2014.

The Election Commission is required to release official results by May 22.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, is an outpost of democracy in a South-east Asian neighborhood of authoritarian governments and is forecast to be among the world's biggest economies by 2030. A second term for Widodo, the first Indonesian president from outside the Jakarta elite, could further cement the country's two decades of democratization.

Subianto, a strident nationalist, ran a fear-based campaign, highlighting what he sees as Indonesia's weakness and the risk of exploitation by foreign powers or disintegration.

Widodo said he had sent a representative to talk to Subianto and his camp.

"This afternoon I have sent an envoy to meet Prabowo to set a meeting, and if people see our meeting, we will be able to show how the elections have ended smoothly, safely and peacefully," he said.

The country's security minister and its military and police chiefs said earlier Thursday that they will crack down on any attempts to disrupt public order while official results from presidential and legislative elections are tabulated.



**Indonesian President Joko Widodo, left, and his running mate Ma'ruf Amin wave to journalists after a press conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Widodo is on track to win a second term, preliminary election results showed Wednesday, in apparent victory for moderation over the ultra-nationalistic rhetoric of his rival Prabowo Subianto.** (AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim)

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Security minister Wiranto, who uses a single name, told a news conference with the chiefs of police and all military branches that security forces will "act decisively" against any threats to order and security.

He said the voter turnout of 80.5% gives the winner of the presidential election "high legitimacy."

National police chief Tito Karnavian said the Election Commission and courts are the appropriate institutions for resolving complaints about the election.

Subianto's hard-line Muslim supporters plan mass prayers in central Jakarta on Friday but it was unclear if the event will be allowed to go ahead.

"I appeal to everybody not to mobilize, both mobilization to celebrate victory or mobilization about dissatisfaction," Karnavian said.

The election was a huge logistical exercise with 193 million people eligible to vote, more than 800,000 polling stations and 17 million people involved in ensuring the polls ran smoothly. Helicopters, boats and horses were used to get ballots to remote and inaccessible corners of the archipelago.

Voting ran smoothly, apart from a few districts where logistical problems caused delays, and was peaceful, a remarkable achievement for a country steeped in political violence.

Widodo's campaign highlighted his progress in poverty reduction and improving Indonesia's inadequate infrastructure with new ports, toll roads, airports and mass rapid transit. The latter became a reality last month in chronically congested Jakarta with the opening of a subway.

## **NKorea says it tested new weapon, wants Pompeo out of talks**

**By FOSTER KLUG and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said Thursday that it had test-fired a new type of "tactical guided weapon," its first such test in nearly half a year, and demanded that Washington remove Secretary of State Mike Pompeo from nuclear negotiations.

The test, which didn't appear to be of a banned mid- or long-range ballistic missile that could scuttle negotiations, allows Pyongyang to show its people it is pushing ahead with weapons development while also reassuring domestic military officials worried that diplomacy with Washington signals weakness.

Separately, Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry accused Pompeo of playing down the significance of comments by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who said last week that Washington has until the end of the year to offer mutually acceptable terms for an agreement to salvage the high-stakes nuclear diplomacy. Both the demand for Pompeo's removal from the talks and the weapon test point to Pyongyang's displeasure with the deadlocked negotiations.

In a statement issued under the name of Kwon Jong Gun, director general of the American Affairs Department at Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry, North Korea accused Pompeo of "talking nonsense" and misrepresenting Kim's comments.

During a speech at Texas A&M on Monday, Pompeo said Kim promised to denuclearize during his first summit with President Donald Trump and that U.S. officials were working with the North Koreans to "chart a path forward so we can get there."

"He (Kim) said he wanted it done by the end of the year," Pompeo said. "I'd love to see that done sooner."

The North Korean statement said Pompeo was "misrepresenting the meaning of our requirement" for the negotiations to be finalized by the year's end, and referred to his "talented skill of fabricating stories." It said Pompeo's continued participation in the negotiations would ensure that the talks become "entangled" and called for a different counterpart who is "more careful and mature in communicating with us."

In a speech at his rubber-stamp parliament last week, Kim said he is open to a third summit with Trump, but only if the United States changes its stance on sanctions enforcement and pressure by the end of the year.

Kim observed the unspecified weapon being fired Wednesday by the Academy of Defense Science, the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency said. Kim was reported to have said "the development of the weapon system serves as an event of very weighty significance in increasing the combat power of the People's Army."

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The Associated Press could not independently verify North Korea's claim, and it wasn't immediately clear what had been tested. A major ballistic missile test would jeopardize the diplomatic talks meant to provide the North with concessions in return for disarmament. A South Korean analyst said that details in the North's media report indicate it could have been a new type of cruise missile. Another possible clue: one of the lower level officials mentioned in the North's report on the test — Pak Jong Chon — is known as an artillery official.

Some in Seoul worry that the North will turn back to actions seen as provocative by outsiders as a way to force Washington to drop its hard-line negotiating stance and grant the North's demand for a removal of crushing international sanctions. A string of increasingly powerful weapons tests in 2017 and Trump's response of "fire and fury" had many fearing war before the North shifted to diplomacy.

Media reports have suggested Kim may visit Vladivostok, Russia, next week for a summit with President Vladimir Putin. Japan's Fuji Television Network on Wednesday showed Kim's de facto chief of staff, Kim Chang Son, visiting an area near Vladivostok's train station.

Trump said last month that he "would be very disappointed if I saw testing." There have been fresh reports of new activity at a North Korean missile research center and long-range rocket site where Pyongyang is believed to build missiles targeting the U.S. mainland. North Korean media said Wednesday that Kim guided a flight drill of combat pilots from an air force and anti-aircraft unit tasked with defending Pyongyang from an attack.

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst from Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said North Korea's descriptions of the test show the weapon is possibly a newly developed cruise missile. The North's report said the "tactical guided weapon" successfully tested in a "peculiar mode of guiding flight" and demonstrated the ability to deliver a "powerful warhead."

The analyst said the test could also be intended as a message to the North Korean people and military of a commitment to maintaining a strong level of defense even as it continues talks with Washington over nukes.

Melissa Hanham, a non-proliferation expert and director of the Datayo Project at the One Earth Future Foundation, said the North Korean weapon could be anything from an anti-tank weapon to a cruise missile.

The North said Thursday that Kim Jong Un mounted an observation post to learn about and guide the test-fire of the weapon.

This is the first known time Kim has observed the testing of a newly developed weapon system since



**FILE - In this April 10, 2019, file photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends the 4th Plenary Meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang. North Korea has test-fired a "new-type tactical guided weapon," its state media announced Thursday, April 18, 2019, a move that could be an attempt to register the country's displeasure with currently deadlocked nuclear talks with the United States without causing those coveted negotiations to collapse.** (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP, File)

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last November, when North Korean media said he watched the successful test of an unspecified "newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon." Some observers have been expecting North Korea to orchestrate "low-level provocations," like artillery or short-range missile tests, to register its anger over the way nuclear negotiations were going.

North Korean officials accompanying Kim at the test included Ri Pyong Chol and Kim Jong Sik, two senior officials from the North's Munitions Industry Department who have been sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department for their activities related to the country's ballistic missile program. Ri is believed to be a key official involved in North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile development, while Kim Jong Sik has been linked to the country's efforts to build solid-fuel missiles. The Pyongyang-based Munitions Industry Department is sanctioned both by the United States and the U.N. Security Council.

"Even if this is not a 'missile' test the way we strictly define it, these people and MID are all sanctioned entities for a reason," Hanham said.

The White House said it was aware of the report and had no comment. The Pentagon also said it was aware but had no information to provide at this point. South Korea's presidential office said it has no immediate comment. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it is analyzing the test but did not specifically say what the weapon appeared to be.

After the animosity of 2017, last year saw a stunning turn to diplomacy, culminating in the first-ever summit between Washington and Pyongyang in Singapore, and then the Hanoi talks this year. North Korea has suspended nuclear and long-range rocket tests, and the North and South Korean leaders have met three times. But there are growing worries that the progress could be killed by mismatched demands between Washington and Pyongyang over sanctions relief and disarmament.

Associated Press writers Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

## After 2 years of waiting, Americans will see Mueller report

By CHAD DAY, ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After nearly two years of waiting, America will get some answers straight from Robert Mueller— but not before President Donald Trump's attorney general has his say.

The Justice Department on Thursday is expected to release a redacted version of the special counsel's report on Russian election interference and the Trump campaign, opening up months, if not years, of fights over what the document means in a deeply divided country.

Even the planned release of the nearly 400-page report quickly spiraled into a political battle Wednesday over whether Attorney General William Barr is attempting to shield the president who appointed him and spin the report's findings before the American people can read it and come to their own judgments.

Barr will hold a 9:30 a.m. news conference to present his interpretation of the report's findings, before providing redacted copies to Congress and the public. The news conference, first announced by Trump during a radio interview, provoked immediate criticism from congressional Democrats.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Barr had "thrown out his credibility & the DOJ's independence with his single-minded effort to protect" Trump. And Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said, "The process is poisoned before the report is even released."

"Barr shouldn't be spinning the report at all, but it's doubly outrageous he's doing it before America is given a chance to read it," Schumer said.

Hours before Barr's press conference, Pelosi and Schumer issued a joint statement calling for Mueller to appear before Congress "as soon as possible."

They said Barr's "partisan handling" of the report has "resulted in a crisis of confidence in his independence and impartiality."

A Justice Department official confirmed Barr's plan to speak and answer questions about his "process" before the report's public release. He will be accompanied by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein,

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who oversaw the investigation after Mueller's appointment in May 2017. Mueller and other members of his team will not attend, special counsel spokesman Peter Carr said.

After the news conference, the report will be delivered to Congress on CDs between 11 a.m. and noon and then be posted on the special counsel's website, said the official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Barr formulated the report's roll-out and briefed the White House on his plans, according to a White House official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. The White House declined to comment on an ABC News report that it had been briefed on the contents of Mueller's report beyond what Barr has made public.

At a later date, the Justice Department also plans to provide a "limited number" of members of Congress and their staff access to a copy of the Mueller report with fewer redactions than the public version, according to a court filing Wednesday.

The report is expected to reveal what Mueller uncovered about ties between the Trump campaign and Russia that fell short of criminal conduct. It will also lay out the special counsel's conclusions about formative episodes in Trump's presidency, including his firing of FBI Director James Comey and his efforts to undermine the Russia investigation publicly and privately.

The report is not expected to place the president in legal jeopardy, as Barr made his own decision that Trump shouldn't be prosecuted for obstruction. But it is likely to contain unflattering details about the president's efforts to control the Russia investigation that will cloud his ability to credibly claim total exoneration. And it may paint the Trump campaign as eager to exploit Russian aid and emails stolen from Democrats and Hillary Clinton's campaign even if no Americans crossed the line into criminal activity.

The report's release will be a test of Barr's credibility as the public and Congress judge whether he is using his post to protect Trump.

Barr will also face scrutiny over how much of the report he blacks out and whether Mueller's document lines up with a letter the attorney general released last month. The letter said Mueller didn't find a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and the Russian government but he found evidence on "both sides" of the question of whether the president obstructed justice.

Barr has said he is withholding grand jury and classified information as well as portions relating to ongoing investigation and the privacy or reputation of uncharged "peripheral" people. But how liberally he interprets those categories is yet to be seen.

Democrats have vowed to fight in court for the disclosure of the additional information from the report and say they have subpoenas ready to go if it is heavily redacted.

House Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said Wednesday he will "probably find it useful" to call



**Attorney General William Barr leaves his home in McLean, Va., on Wednesday morning, April 17, 2019. Special counsel Robert Mueller's redacted report on Russian interference in the 2016 election is expected to be released publicly on Thursday and has said he is redacting four types of information from the report. Congressional Democrats are demanding to see the whole document and its evidence.**

(AP Photo/Sait Serkan Gurbuz)

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Mueller and members of his team to testify after reading the version of the report Barr releases.

Nadler also criticized the attorney general for trying to “bake in the narrative” of the report to the benefit of the White House.

Late Wednesday, Nadler joined the chairs of four other House committees in calling for Barr to cancel his news conference. But Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, defended Barr and accused Democrats of “trying to spin the report.”

Collins said Barr has done “nothing unilaterally,” saying he had worked with Rosenstein and Mueller’s team “step by step.”

Mueller is known to have investigated multiple efforts by the president over the last two years to influence the Russia probe or shape public perception of it.

In addition to Comey’s firing, Mueller scrutinized the president’s request of Comey to end an investigation into Trump’s first national security adviser; his relentless badgering of former Attorney General Jeff Sessions over his recusal from the Russia investigation; and his role in drafting an incomplete explanation about a meeting his oldest son took at Trump Tower with a Kremlin-connected lawyer.

Overall, Mueller brought charges against 34 people — including six Trump aides and advisers — and revealed a sophisticated, wide-ranging Russian effort to influence the 2016 presidential election. Twenty-five of those charged were Russians accused either in the hacking of Democratic email accounts or of a hidden but powerful social media effort to spread disinformation online.

Five former Trump aides or advisers pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate in Mueller’s investigation, among them Trump’s campaign chairman, national security adviser and personal lawyer.

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Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Lisa Mascaro and Zeke Miller in Washington and Jonathan Lemire and Jennifer Peltz in New York contributed to this report.

## India’s millions of young voters can swing national election

By RISHABH R. JAIN Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Young Indians could play a crucial role in the ongoing general election in the world’s largest democracy.

With nearly two-thirds of India’s population below 35, and more than 15 million first-time voters aged 18 and 19, young men and women have the power to swing the national vote in any direction.

Ambitious, aspirational and impatient for change, young voters — at least in India’s capital — are less focused on issues such as caste and religion than older generations, according to interviews with The Associated Press.

They are interested, instead, on landing jobs after college, living in cleaner cities with breathable air, increasing women’s safety and competing with the world’s biggest economies.

Current Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to be the favorite, riding a wave of Hindu nationalism that peaked after India’s air force attacked an alleged militant base in Pakistan to avenge a suicide attack on an Indian security convoy that killed more than 40 soldiers in disputed Kashmir.

His main opponent, Congress party’s Rahul Gandhi, hopes to revive the glory of India’s grand old party that ruled the country for more than 50 years, since independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Here are some of the views of young voters in New Delhi:

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Mayank Thakur, 18, engineering student

“Unemployment is very high in India currently. India has a lot of engineers who haven’t been able to develop their skills because there aren’t enough jobs for them in India.”

“Narendra Modi has provided a lot of facilities for the poor people of this country. In my home state of Uttar Pradesh, villages that were rarely lit now have electricity. Where food used to be cooked on firewood, he has given gas cylinders.”

“India is now a very secure nation in the last five years. When Pakistan attacked us, Narendra Modi gave

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them a jaw-breaking reply.”

Vardha Kharbanda, 20, psychology student:

“I am looking out for an issue that no government is actually talking about, that is pollution. I have been in Delhi for my entire life and my lungs are gone without ever smoking. So I might just die of lung cancer without touching a cigarette even once. Nobody is talking about pollution.”

“No left and no right can actually run a secular and democratic nation that is multilingual and multicultural in nature. It cannot be done with a single ideology.”

Arjun Parcha, 32, hospital supplies assistant:

“Nowadays, whoever comes into power is busy serving their own interests. Who is looking out for us? Nobody. They are only looking at filling their own pockets. What has happened? Every day we hear about fighting. One party blames the other for corruption, the other blames them back for corruption. There is no solution.”

Jitesh Nagpal, 20, university student

“For me the biggest issue is job opportunities. Whichever party creates more jobs for the new industries will get my vote because I will have to start looking for jobs very soon.”

“I don’t care much about parties, but there is just one clear candidate for victory and that is Narendra Modi. I don’t think we have a better option to lead the country.”

“I haven’t seen any other strong candidate. I don’t trust Rahul Gandhi yet. Maybe my views about him will change in the future, but not right now.”

Rajanvir Singh Luthra, 23, YouTube vlogger

“Whichever government comes to power, the first thing they should do is to look after the poor because the rate of poverty is very high in India. No doubt, we now have digital India, we have everything online, but do something for the poor people also.”

“India is still not on top. We don’t have basic facilities. If you go to a government hospital, you have to stand in long lines. You can only go in after waiting and filling forms. A lot of our police officers and other officers are corrupt. There is a lot of corruption in India.”

Monika Dalal, 20, psychology student

“Women’s safety is the major issue for me. People are talking a lot about it and there are slogans like



**In this Tuesday, April 16, 2019, photo, engineering student Mayank Thakur, 18, stands for a photograph in New Delhi, India. With nearly half the electorate under 35 and more than 15 million first time voters, India’s young can swing the national vote in the world’s largest democracy in any direction. “Unemployment is very high in India currently. India has a lot of engineers who haven’t been able to develop their skills because there aren’t enough jobs for them in India,” Mayank told the Associated Press. (AP**

Photo/Manish Swarup)

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'Save girl child, educate girl child,' being launched, but I don't think these concepts are applied to the roots with practicality. I have been to the villages and seen how girls are treated. They are not even educated and if they do go to school, they are forced to marry right after completing grade 12."

"Modi has done a lot definitely to help us establish ourselves globally and even in the U.N. By him visiting different countries we are getting recognition there. And they are coming up with some impressive projects to start in India, which has happened because of Modi. So, I think we have really progressed."

Kavita Srivastava, 18, studying banking and financial services

"The biggest issue in Delhi is girls' safety, which is still not 100%."

"Girls should feel safe leaving their homes and going out at whatever time of the night."

"I don't think Rahul Gandhi is the best option. I too am in support of Narendra Modi. I think he has the potential to take India to those heights."

Ashutosh Kumar Singh, 24, charity worker:

"The issues that should be important aren't even being discussed. We don't see or hear about them. The issue should be education and increasing the level of education. Employment should be an issue. And they are working toward that, but it is not considered an important issue. Currently, the state of politics is so lowly in India that people are just busy in pointing fingers and avoiding key issues."

Mohammad Anjar, 18, engineering student

"At present only Narendra Modi is fit to run this country because they have done a tremendous amount of work in the last five years. The Modi government is taking the country forward. At least, that is what I hear."

"Everyone should cast their votes. We all sit at home and say 'This government is not working, that government is not working.' Get out of your homes and vote as it is an invaluable weapon."

Associated Press videojournalist Shonal Ganguly contributed to this report.

## Earth, meet Polo: Ralph Lauren unveils plastic bottle shirt

By LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Earth, meet Polo.

Polo Ralph Lauren on Thursday launched a version of its iconic polo shirt made entirely of recycled plastic bottles and dyed through a process that uses zero water.

David Lauren, the youngest son of the company's founder and its chief innovation officer, told The Associated Press ahead of the announcement that the new shirt is part of a broader strategy of fresh environmental goals throughout the manufacturing process.

"Every day we're learning about what's happened with global warming and what's happening all around the world, and our employees and our customers are really feeling that it's time to step up and make a difference," Lauren said.

The Polo isn't the first of its kind. Smaller brands around the world are using repurposed and recycled materials. In announcing Earth Polo, Ralph Lauren committed to removing at least 170 million bottles from landfills and oceans by 2025. The shirts are manufactured in Taiwan, where the bottles are collected. Each uses an average 12 bottles.

The shirts are produced in partnership with First Mile, an organization that collects the bottles turned into yarn and, ultimately, fabric. The new fibers will also be used for existing performance wear already made of polyfibers, which are popular for their ability to wick away moisture.

The Earth Polo went on sale Thursday, ahead of Monday's Earth Day, at RalphLauren.com and retail stores around the world. It comes in styles for men and women in green, white, navy and light blue. The shirts are not more expensive than other Polos.

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Ralph Lauren has taken on environmental initiatives over the years, but it's putting into place a more significant strategy aimed at changing both its corporate culture and how it thinks about the clothes it produces. The effort includes a new supply chain and sustainability officer, Halide Alagoz, who said more details will be released in June.

"At the moment we're refreshing our approach and framework around sustainability," she said.

Among the company's other goals: the use of 100% sustainably sourced cotton by 2025 and 100% recyclable or sustainably sourced packaging materials by the same year.

Other fashion powerhouses are also getting more aggressive on the environment.

Late last year, Burberry and H&M were among fashion stakeholders to sign on to the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action, launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP24, in Poland. The charter contains a vision to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Ralph Lauren is not a signatory but is exploring the call to action.

As for Earth Polo, a huge threat facing oceans today involves trillions of tiny plastic and chemical-covered non-plastic microfibers that flow from washing machines through drain water, placing smaller fish and other sea life, such as anemones, at risk. Alagoz said Ralph Lauren is working with experts who say the impact of turning a plastic bottle into recycled microfiber is "much less than that bottle ending up in the ocean."

The broader question of biodegradability of such fibers remains unresolved. For Polo Earth, the story is about recycling and reusing, Lauren said.

"There's so much out in the world that is not good for the environment. Whatever materials we can turn into threads, we'll start looking at other opportunities," he said. "Right now, we're trying to make sure that what we produce is as good for the environment as possible, or at least helps clean up another problem. Are we creating a new problem? I think we're creating solutions, or at least trying to find solutions."



**This combination of photos released by Ralph Lauren shows Polo shirts made from recycled plastic bottles. Each shirt is made from an average of 12 bottles collected in Taiwan, where the Polos are made, in partnership with an organization called First Mile. The shirts will be available Thursday for men and women at [RalphLauren.com](http://RalphLauren.com) and in stores around the globe.** (Ralph Lauren via AP)

## Champion Patriots open vs. Steelers; 5 international games

By BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL's 100th season will begin with its most classic rivalry and feature the Super Bowl champion Patriots hosting Pittsburgh in the first Sunday night game.

As previously announced, NFL 100 will kick off with Green Bay at Chicago for the 199th meeting of a series that began in 1921. That Sept. 5 game in the Thursday night slot usually reserved for hosting by the NFL champ forced New England to open three nights later.

The Patriots have a home schedule loaded with top attractions, including Kansas City on Dec. 8 in an AFC title game rematch, and Dallas on Nov. 24.

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Monday night's doubleheader on ESPN will feature Houston at New Orleans and Denver at Oakland.

"We know every year there seems to be a last-to-first story," said new Broncos coach Vic Fangio, the Bears' defensive coordinator last season. "We were that in Chicago last year. I suppose a lot of teams counted us as a win last year. Every season is a new season and the order they choose for us to play them in, we'll play them in."

Week 2 includes an intriguing Monday night matchup of Cleveland at the New York Jets. The very first Monday nighter was a Browns win over Joe Namath and the defending champion Jets in 1970. This one will feature the return to the Meadowlands for now-Browns receiver Odell Beckham Jr., and two young, potential star quarterbacks in Cleveland's Baker Mayfield and New York's Sam Darnold.

National broadcasts rarely have included the downtrodden Browns, but they're a popular choice this year: Cleveland will have four prime-time games, also facing the Rams, San Francisco and archrival Pittsburgh.

Every team will have at least one national TV appearance. New England, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Green Bay, Seattle and the Rams get the maximum prime-time games, five.

The traditional Thanksgiving Day games will have Detroit at home to Chicago, then Buffalo at Dallas. The night game to close the holiday schedule will be New Orleans at Atlanta in another long-time rivalry.

The NFC champion Los Angeles Rams will host Cincinnati in London for one of five international games on the 2019 schedule. The Rams and Bengals will face off at Wembley Stadium on Oct. 27.

Earlier in October, the league will play two games at Tottenham Hotspur's new stadium in London. The Raiders will host the Bears on Oct. 6, and the Buccaneers will be the home team against the Panthers on Oct. 13.

Wembley will be the site of the fourth London match, with Houston facing host Jacksonville on Nov. 3.

The league returns to Mexico, after last season's Chiefs-Rams game was moved to Los Angeles because of poor field conditions at Azteca Stadium. On Monday night Nov. 18, the Chiefs will play LA's other team, the Chargers.

In Week 16, the NFL has left 10 teams in semi-limbo. Three games are scheduled for NFL Network on Saturday, Dec. 21, and will be chosen among these five: Detroit at Denver; Oakland at the LA Chargers; Buffalo at New England; the Rams at San Francisco 49ers; and Houston at Tampa Bay. The non-Saturday games will be played Sunday.

The season ends Dec. 29, when Chicago finishes at Minnesota for the fourth successive year. All finales are divisional games for the 11th straight season.

"This is an exciting time," said Giants coach Pat Shurmur, whose team opens at Dallas. "This week, we



**FILE - In this Feb. 20, 2019, file photo, the new Tottenham Hotspur stadium in north London is viewed. The NFC champion Los Angeles Rams will host Cincinnati in London for one of five international games on the 2019 schedule. The Rams and Bengals will face off at Wembley Stadium on Oct. 27. Earlier in October, the league will play two games at Tottenham Hotspur's new stadium in London. The Raiders will host the Bears on Oct. 6, and the Buccaneers will be the home team against the Panthers on Oct. 13.** (AP Photo/

Matt Dunham, File)

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started the offseason program. And now we can see when we're going to play. We knew who our opponents would be and where we are going to play, but there's an excitement that builds once the schedule comes out."

Among the oddities, in one stretch the Raiders will go seven weeks before playing a game in Oakland. They entertain the Chiefs on Sept. 15, then have road games at Minnesota and Indianapolis, host Chicago in London, are off Oct. 13, then go to Green Bay and Houston. They return to Oakland on Nov. 3.

Miami opens with four 2018 playoff opponents: home for Baltimore and New England, at Dallas, home for the Chargers. Then the Dolphins have a bye.

One team, Philadelphia has three straight home games and three consecutive road games. No other team has three away matches in a row, though the Rams will be away from LA for a visit to Atlanta on Oct. 20, that "home" contest in London the next week, then a bye and a trip to Pittsburgh.

Also with three straight home games will be Green Bay, Atlanta, Arizona, San Francisco, Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Houston.

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AP Pro Football Writer Dennis Waszak Jr. contributed.

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## **Analysis: Kim, returning to military optics, turns up heat**

**By ERIC TALMADGE Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is cautiously turning up the heat after his unsuccessful summit with President Trump in Hanoi two months ago.

Returning to military optics for the first time in five months, Kim on Tuesday paid a surprise visit to an Air Force base to inspect fighter combat readiness and followed that up the next day by supervising the test of what the North's official media described ominously but ambiguously — and without any photos or video — as a new type of "tactical guided weapon."

The military-related posturing comes after Kim expressed deep disappointment earlier this month with what the North claims was an inflexible, "gangster-like" demands by the U.S. in Hanoi.

It also comes amid reports that Kim may hold his first summit with Putin next week in Vladivostok, in the Russian Far East.

Putin has been something of an outsider over the past year as Kim has held multiple summits with the leaders of China, the United States and South Korea. But he could provide important political cover or economic aid for Pyongyang — and a potential headache for Trump — if he chooses to play a bigger role.

Though Kim claims he still has a good personal relationship with the U.S. president, he and senior North Korean officials have shown increasing frustration with Trump's top advisers, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton.

"The Hanoi summit gives us a lesson that whenever Pompeo pokes his nose in, the talks go wrong without any results even from the point close to success," Kwon Jong Gun, director general of the American desk at the North's Foreign Ministry, was quoted as saying on Thursday. "I wish our dialogue counterpart would be not Pompeo but (some) other person who is more careful and mature in communicating with us."

In an address to the Supreme People's Assembly, the North's version of parliament, Kim gave the U.S. until the end of the year to come up with a more mutually acceptable negotiation strategy.

For Pyongyang, that would mean lifting the sanctions it has imposed against the North over its development of nuclear weapons and missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

Kim indicated, however, that he would in the meantime maintain his self-imposed moratorium on nuclear tests and long-range missile launches and he appears to be standing by that vow.

U.S. military officials said they did not detect any significant missile launches on Wednesday and the North's description of the "newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon" suggested it might have instead been an anti-tank guided missile or other short-range system.

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If so, it was likely intended to be a response to recent military drills by U.S. and South Korea.

Just before the reports of the weapon test, a North-run propaganda website said the drills fuel "the mood for a fight and risks of war."

Washington and Seoul have re-named and scaled back their joint maneuvers since early last year, when the South hosted the Winter Olympics. They have continued that policy since Kim's first summit with Trump, in June last year, but the North claims even the smaller versions run counter to the spirit of dialogue.

Since Hanoi, Kim and senior North Korean officials have also been openly critical of South Korea and efforts by President Moon Jae-in to play the role of middleman, saying he has adhered too closely to his American allies and dragged his feet on inter-Korean projects that would provide the North with crucial investment to build its sagging infrastructure.

Moon has expressed an eagerness to engage with the North on such projects, but Washington wants it to stick to sanctions.

North and South Korean leaders have met three times and Moon has said he is ready to meet again at any time. Trump has also suggested he wants a third summit. But there are growing worries that the progress could be killed by mismatched demands between Washington and Pyongyang over sanctions relief and disarmament.

Washington says it won't allow the North's desired sanctions relief until the nation commits to verifiably relinquishing his nuclear facilities, weapons and missiles. Kim has shown no signs that he's willing to give away an arsenal he may see as his strongest guarantee of survival.



**In this Tuesday, April 16, 2019, photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects fighter combat readiness of Unit 1017 of the Air and Anti-aircraft Force of the Korean People's Army, in an unknown location in North Korea. Kim is cautiously turning up the heat after his unsuccessful summit with U.S. President Trump in Hanoi two months ago. Returning to military optics for the first time in five months, Kim paid a surprise visit to the Air Force base and followed that up the next day by supervising the test of what the North's official media described ominously - but ambiguously, and without any photos or video - as a new type of "tactical guided weapon." Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: "KCNA" which is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP)**

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

## 'We don't get over it': Pain of mass shootings stretches on

By TERRY SPENCER, KELLI KENNEDY and COLLEEN SLEVIN Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — Alex Rozenblat can still hear the cries of a wounded boy calling for help as she hid from the gunfire that killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last year.

Talking to therapists at the school in Parkland, Florida, didn't help. Each session had a different counselor, and she found herself rehashing traumas she had already expressed. She would rather turn to her friends, who understand what she went through.

"There is slight pressure to get better as quickly as you can, and since it's been a year, everyone thinks that you are better," the 16-year-old said.

The mental health resources after a school shooting range from therapy dogs and grief counselors at school to support groups, art therapy and in-home counseling. But there is no blueprint for dealing with the trauma because each tragedy, survivor and community is different. Many survivors don't get counseling right away — sometimes waiting years — making it difficult to understand the full impact.

The struggle is getting them to seek help in the first place. In the two decades since the Columbine High School massacre, a network of survivors has emerged, reaching out to the newest victims to offer support that many say they prefer to traditional therapy.

As the anguish festers, the danger grows, illustrated by the recent suicides of two Marjory Stoneman Douglas survivors and a father whose young child died in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut.

"It changes the community," said psychologist Robin Gurwitch, a trauma specialist at Duke University Medical Center.

Grief, troubling memories and emotions can bubble up any time for survivors and even community members who didn't see the bullets fly, she said. They can hit on anniversaries of the tragedy, birthdays of victims, graduations and new mass shootings, Gurwitch said. The trauma can even rush back with a song, favorite meal, video game or fire alarms.

"There's never a time limit. We don't get 'over it.' We hope we learn to get through it and cope," Gurwitch said.

Survivors of the Columbine attack, which killed 12 Colorado students and a teacher on April 20, 1999, started The Rebels Project, which is part of a loose nationwide network of survivors of mass attacks.

The groups reach out after each shooting. They held a packed meeting for survivors and parents in Parkland this month, describing how they have learned to cope over the years through therapy, exercise and hobbies and assuring the Florida community that their pain is normal.



**FILE - In this March 23, 2019, file photo, origami cranes, a symbol of peace, hang in the Columbine High School library in Littleton, Colo., near where several survivors and family members of the victims gathered to speak about the upcoming 20th anniversary of the April 20, 1999, shooting. In the two decades since the Columbine High School massacre, therapists still struggle with how to help people cope.** (AP Photo/Thomas Peipert, File)

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"We are one family," said meeting organizer Mike Dempsey, a survivor of 9/11 and the 2017 Las Vegas mass shooting. "What helped me after 9/11 was that Oklahoma City bombing survivors drove all the way up to New York to help us. They weren't mental health professionals, but they were able to offer comfort and outreach and just to let us know: 'We've been through this.'"

Rozenblat refuses to talk about the Parkland shooting. If she feels anxious during the school day, she holes up in a TV production classroom because there are no windows for a gunman to shoot through.

Her mother worries. Alex had been an honors student but now struggles with schoolwork, is constantly angry and has a new group of friends, said her mother, Lissette Rozenblat.

She schedules therapy appointments, but Alex often makes excuses to postpone or cancel. The family bought a therapy dog and is trying to get Alex into art therapy.

"The common theme among parents ... almost all of our kids don't want to talk about the incident," Lissette Rozenblat said.

Some students who were not physically wounded minimize their trauma and don't seek help because they try to convince themselves they were lucky, said Columbine survivor Heather Martin, who co-founded The Rebel Project.

"You can't measure trauma in that way," Martin said. Still, she said people need to seek help when they feel ready, not when others think they should.

Victims often receive compensation for longer-term care, but many in recovering communities, especially those may have seen horror but avoided injury, say there's still not enough help to go around.

Stoneman Douglas math teacher Kimberly Krawczyk said no typical school counselor — no matter how well-intentioned or trained — can fully help students or staff who survived a mass shooting.

"These kids have seen as much as soldiers who have been in battle. They survived gunfire. They walked over bodies. They had classmates who were right next to them who got shot," Krawczyk said.

Teachers also are dealing with their own trauma and insecurities, she said.

"We don't all have our marbles back in our bags yet, but we are in charge of those children. That gravity is a lot of responsibility, and for some teachers, it is too emotionally overwhelming," Krawczyk said.

Managing long-term mental health effects poses unique challenges in each town touched by tragedy, but experts agree that isolation is a red flag and keeping victims connected to family, friends and community is critical.

Dr. April Foreman, a psychologist on the board of the American Association of Suicidology, called treating mass shootings "a profound lifetime health care issue" but stressed that a majority of those who have suicidal thoughts recover.

Marjory Stoneman sophomore Julia Brighton said she's attempted suicide four times in the year since she watched the gunman shoot through the window of her English class, killing three friends. Despite an outpouring of community support and a bevy of mental health services, Brighton said she still felt ashamed to seek help.

After months of therapy, she said she realized "there's nothing to be afraid of because it made me a better person in the long run."

Slevin reported from Denver. Associated Press Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner in Chicago contributed to this report.

## Mass graves from Franco era become Spanish election issue

By RENATA BRITO AND JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

PATERNA, Spain (AP) — When archaeologists in Spain unearthed layers of human bones from a mass grave last year, the remains of one body emerged draped in a shirt that had the letters "MG" embroidered on it in red.

The initials spoke volumes to Daniel Galán.

They sparked hope he would be able to provide a proper burial for his grandfather, Miguel Galán, a

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village mayor who disappeared eight decades ago along with tens of thousands of others summarily executed by the forces of Gen. Francisco Franco during and after the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War.

Galán is among a small number of descendants promised provincial government funds for DNA tests to confirm that their ancestors were tossed into a mass grave at Paterna Cemetery in Valencia. But with Spain's national election later this month exposing an ideological divide that has echoes of the clash of left and right during the civil war, some Spaniards worry they may lose the chance to recover their dead.

The far-right Vox party, which recently exploded onto Spain's political scene, wants to scrap efforts to exhume and identify Franco's victims. Its ambition counters the pledge by the ruling Socialists to remove Franco's remains from a huge, publicly maintained mausoleum near Madrid so they no longer attract nationalists celebrating the dictator as a hero.

"Depending on who wins, logically there would be a change. If the right wins, well, all this will just stop or worse," Galán, 61, said while visiting Paterna Cemetery to repair the grainy black-and-white photo of his grandfather, which had fallen off the headstone.

For other Spaniards, digging up bodies just stirs up a painful past unnecessarily and runs counter to the desire for reconciliation that made it possible for Spain to have a bloodless transition from dictatorship to democracy after Franco's death in 1975. They also fear that the exhumations could lead to a shaming of those who had relatives on the side of Franco's right-wing forces.

"I think that that period of history was settled," Elena Escribano, a 60-year-old housewife, said at a Vox rally. "Not knowing where a relative is is hard, but there are victims on both sides. We must pray for them but we must look to the future."

Activists and relatives pushed for the excavations after the then-Socialist government passed the 2007 Law of Historical Memory, which allowed exhumations of mass graves and condemned atrocities committed during Franco's regime. But the law did not guarantee funding, and the conservative Popular Party that governed between 2011 and 2018 included none in the national budget.

The result is a piecemeal and sometimes cumbersome process.

At Paterna, the precarious funding scheme and a backlog of work meant the remains of 244 people — Galán's grandfather possibly among them — ended up being stored in a ceramics museum.

Rosa Pérez, a local lawmaker who championed funding for families to exhume mass graves at Paterna Cemetery and other sites in the province of Valencia, has promised that money will be there to carry out forensic and DNA tests on the bones stored in the museum regardless of who wins the April 28 national election.

But Pérez is putting on hold any spending for new exhumations until after regional and local elections



**In this Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018 photo, a victim's skull is examined during the classification process by anthropologists following the exhumation of a mass grave found in 2018 at the cemetery of Paterna, near Valencia, Spain. DNA tests will be conducted in the hope of confirming the identities of those who disappeared eight decades ago, believed to have been executed by the forces of Gen. Francisco Franco during and after the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War.**(AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)

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this month and next to see if her United Left party remains in power locally. So far, archaeologists have removed the remains of 450 of the 2,237 bodies thought to be in the mass graves at the Paterna Cemetery.

"This shouldn't be how this is being handled," Pérez said. "We have been in need of a national plan for a long time."

Experts have estimated for the Spanish government that 740 mass graves and 9,000 bodies have been exhumed nationally since 2000. That leaves an estimated 114,000 bodies still hidden in 2,500 mass graves, they added.

The Socialist government of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez wanted to include 15 million euros (\$20 million) in the national budget that failed to pass this year to continue identifying victims of Franco's regime. It has also mentioned establishing a "truth commission" to investigate the crimes of his dictatorship, and is studying a plan to have 25,000 bodies exhumed in five years.

But Sánchez faces strong competition in the April 28 national election, at which the far-right Vox is widely anticipated to win its first seats in the Spanish Parliament.

Vox has already successfully pushed the Popular Party to commit to rolling back regional laws that allow the exhumations of mass graves in Spain's south in order to support their formation of a government for Andalusia earlier this year.

Now, Vox could prove influential in the creation of possible coalition government at the national level after the election.

Popular Party president and opposition leader, Pablo Casado, who in 2015 called those who want to recover the mass grave bodies "old fogeys," wants a new "Law of Concord" that would subsume the Law of Historical Memory.

The leader of Vox, Santiago Abascal, criticized the exhumations when he kicked off his campaign.

"How are we going to condemn our grandparents?" Abascal asked supporters. "For us, we only have one doctrine for the recent historical memory. And that is liberty: liberty for you to respect your grandparents."

Outside the walls of the Paterna Cemetery, a walk through scrubland leads to a wall in which bullet holes from the Francoist firing squads that executed people like Miguel Galán still are visible.

Galán insists he does not want to drag Spain back into its bloody past.

"The difference is between them lying in mass graves like rotting dogs and being able to take them and give them dignified burial," Galán said. "For those who say we are only reopening old wounds, that is not true, because these wounds have been open for 80 years."

## Colorado schools reopen as FBI examines teen suspect's past

By COLLEEN SLEVIN and KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — The death of a Florida teenager who authorities say was obsessed with the Columbine school shooting and may have planned to carry out her own attack in Colorado did not end an investigation into the 18-year-old, authorities said as they examine whether the young woman acted alone and Denver-area schools prepared to reopen their doors.

The body of Sol Pais was discovered in the mountains outside Denver with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound on Wednesday after investigators got a tip from the driver who took her there, the FBI said.

Dozens of schools that closed as a precaution during the daylong manhunt planned to reopen Thursday with heightened security measures. Events planned to mark the anniversary of the 1999 Columbine attack will go on as scheduled throughout the week, including a ceremony near the school on Saturday.

Two teenagers attacked Columbine on April 20, 1999, killing 12 classmates and a teacher before taking their own lives. They have inspired cult-like admirers, some of whom committed other mass shootings over the decades. A growing "no notoriety" movement has urged news organizations to avoid naming the perpetrators of mass shootings to deprive them of the notoriety they seek.

The details of Pais' travel from Florida to Colorado began to trickle out Wednesday along with some classmates' confusion at her involvement. The student at Miami Beach High School dressed in black and

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kept mostly to herself, said Adam Charni, a senior at the school.

Charni said he was "baffled" to learn she was the person authorities in Colorado were searching for. Another classmate, 17-year-old Drew Burnstine, described Pais as quiet and smart.

But the Miami Beach high school student made troubling remarks to others about her "infatuation" with the 1999 assault at Columbine High and this weekend's anniversary, said Dean Phillips, FBI agent in charge in Denver. He did not elaborate on what she said.

Investigators will seek to learn more from Pais' social media and her other online presence, largely to ensure that she had no "accessories" or "accomplices," Phillips said. He confirmed that the material being scrutinized includes a blog containing hand-written journal entries that occasionally feature sketches of guns or people holding large firearms.

In Pais' hometown, Surfside Police Chief Julio Yero asked that the family be given "privacy and a little time to grieve." Pais' parents had reported her missing on Monday night, police said.

"This family contributed greatly to this investigation from the very onset. They provided valuable information that led us to Colorado and a lot of things that assisted in preventing maybe more loss of life," Yero said.

Pais purchased three one-way tickets to Denver on three consecutive days, then flew in on Monday night and went directly to a gun store, where she bought a shotgun, authorities said. Authorities said she did not threaten a specific school. But Columbine and more than 20 other schools outside Denver reacted by locking their doors for nearly three hours Tuesday afternoon, and some canceled evening activities or moved them inside.

"We're used to threats, frankly, at Columbine," John McDonald, security chief for Jefferson County school system, said when the manhunt was over. "This one felt different. It was different. It certainly had our attention."

McDonald described her trip as a "pilgrimage" to Columbine, though Pais is not believed to have been on the campus.

The threats and response added an emotional burden for many with ties to the Columbine community ahead of this weekend's anniversary .

Frank DeAngelis, Columbine's principal at the time of the shooting, said he was on campus Tuesday when the threat prompted officials to lock the high school's doors. He immediately went to check on several staff members who continue working there 20 years after the attack.

"The support was so great," he said. "Everybody came together."

Denver-area parents faced the difficult job of explaining to their children why they had the day off school without scaring them.

"This is definitely a challenge in their generation, and watching my kids learn how to navigate this is really



**A lone bicycle stands in the rack outside East High School, Wednesday, April 17, 2019, in Denver. Denver-area public schools closed Wednesday as the FBI hunted for an armed young Florida woman who was allegedly "infatuated" with Columbine and threatened violence just days ahead of the 20th anniversary of the attack. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)**

hard. It is really heartbreaking," said Suzanne Kerns of suburban Arvada, whose children are 8 and 15.

Kerns said she was angry about how easy it was for someone reported missing to come from out of state and buy a gun.

Jefferson County Sheriff Jeff Shrader said the sale of the shotgun apparently followed the state's legal process. Out-of-state residents who are at least 18 can buy shotguns in Colorado. Customers must provide fingerprints and pass a criminal background check.

Pais' body was found off a trail not far from the base of Mount Evans, a recreation area about 60 miles (97 kilometers) southwest of Denver, authorities said. She used the weapon she bought, Phillips said.

Associated Press writers Ellis Rua in Miami Beach, Florida, and James Anderson and Thomas Peipert in Denver contributed to this report.

## France to hold daylong tribute to Notre Dame firefighters

By ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France is paying a daylong tribute Thursday to the Paris firefighters who saved the internationally revered Notre Dame Cathedral from collapse and rescued its treasures from encroaching flames.

French President Emmanuel Macron will host the firefighters for a special gathering to share "words of thanks," according to his office. Top government ministers will also take part in the event at the presidential palace in Paris.

Later, Paris City Hall will hold a ceremony in the firefighters' honor, with a Bach violin concert, two giant banners strung from the monumental city headquarters and readings from Victor Hugo's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

More than 400 firefighters took part in the nine-hour battle to save the 12th-century Notre Dame on Monday evening. Its spire collapsed and roof was destroyed, but its iconic towers, rose windows, famed organ and precious artworks were saved.

Remarkably, no one was killed in the fire, which occurred during a Mass, after firefighters and church officials speedily evacuated those inside.

Among the firefighters being honored Thursday is Paris fire brigade chaplain Jean-Marc Fournier, who helped salvage the crown of thorns believed to have been worn by Jesus at his crucifixion.

Another is Myriam Chudzinski, among the first firefighters to reach the roof as the blaze raged. Loaded with gear, they climbed hundreds of steps up the narrow spiral staircase to the top of one of the two towers. She had trained at the cathedral for just this moment.

"We knew that the roof was burning, but we didn't really know the intensity," she told reporters. "It



**A fire fighter makes his way on a balcony of Notre Dame cathedral Wednesday, April 17, 2019 in Paris. French President Emmanuel Macron ratcheted up the pressure by setting a five-year deadline to restore the 12th-century landmark.** (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

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was from upstairs that you understood that it was really dramatic. It was very hot and we had to retreat, retreat. It was spreading quickly.”

She heard a roar, but her focus was on saving the tower. She learned later that it was the sound of the spire collapsing.

Investigators so far believe the fire was accidental, and are questioning both cathedral staff and workers who were carrying out renovations to the cathedral before the fire broke out.

Some 40 people have been questioned and some are being questioned again Thursday, according to the Paris prosecutor’s office.

Fire officials warn that the massive cathedral still remains fragile, and are removing some statues above the rose windows to keep them from falling.

The building would have burned to the ground in a “chain-reaction collapse” had firefighters not moved as rapidly as they did to battle the blaze racing through the building, said José Vaz de Matos, a fire expert with France’s Culture Ministry.

An initial fire alert was sounded at 6:20 p.m., as a Mass was underway in the cathedral, but no fire was found. A second alarm went off at 6:43 p.m., and the blaze was discovered on the roof.

Macron wants to rebuild the cathedral within five years — in time for the 2024 Summer Olympics that Paris is hosting — but experts have questioned whether that’s realistic, given the vast scale of the work to be done. One said the Notre Dame rebuilding project would easily take 15 years. Nearly \$1 billion has been pledged for the cathedral’s restoration.

The bells of cathedrals across France rang in a moving tribute Wednesday to Notre Dame and the fire-fighters.

Read and watch all AP coverage of the Notre Dame fire at <https://apnews.com/NotreDameCathedral>

## As police wait to arrest him, ex-Peru president kills self

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO and CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Former President Alan Garcia mortally wounded himself with a gunshot to his head Wednesday as officers waited to arrest him in a big graft probe that has put Peru’s most prominent politicians behind bars and provoked a reckoning over corruption.

Authorities broke through a door at Garcia’s mansion in a leafy, upscale neighborhood of the Peruvian capital after hearing gunfire. The 69-year-old former head of state was rushed to a hospital, where a team of doctors performed emergency surgery but could not save him.

“The president, upset over this situation, knowing his absolute innocence ... had this terrible accident,” said his lawyer, Erasmo Reyna.

It was a shocking end for a man who twice governed Peru — once in the 1980s and then again more than two decades later. In more recent years, he became ensnared in Latin America’s biggest corruption scandal, a sweeping investigation of politicians’ dealings with the giant Brazilian construction company Odebrecht.

No country outside Brazil has gone as far as Peru in prosecuting politicians tied to Odebrecht, which admitted in a 2016 plea agreement in the U.S. that it paid nearly \$800 million throughout Latin America in exchange for lucrative public works contracts.

Peruvian politicians have described the investigation as a political witch hunt. Prosecutors and anti-corruption advocates insist the arrests show the South American nation is finally holding leaders accountable.

Several leaders called on Peruvians to set aside politics as the nation mourns Garcia, a populist firebrand whose second presidency helped usher in a commodities-led investment boom.

“It doesn’t matter your political hue, Peru is in mourning,” politician Gilbert Violeta wrote on Twitter. “This is a tragedy for our country.”

Condolences poured in from throughout Latin America as leaders recalled a man who at his peak was called the John F. Kennedy of Latin America.

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"With virtues and imperfections, he realized great changes that allowed Peru's economy to become one of the fastest-growing in Latin America and in the world," former Mexican President Felipe Calderon said.

Garcia was born into a middle-class family in the capital, the child of a politician father whose party became Garcia's own. He went on to a career marked by epic triumphs and devastating setbacks, a rollercoaster of a political life fueled by his charisma and capacity for reinvention.

Ultimately, though, the former president was an increasingly isolated figure. As investigators closed in, he argued that he was the victim of false testimony about taking bribes from Odebrecht during the construction of Lima's metro. He had not been formally charged.

In December, Garcia sought asylum in Uruguay's embassy, staying there for a little more than two weeks before his request was denied. Uruguayan President Tabaré Vázquez said there was no evidence to support Garcia's contention he was being political targeted.

He vowed to cooperate with any investigation and defended himself up to the day before his death.

"I am not mentioned in any document and in any evidence," he wrote Tuesday on Twitter. "They're left to SPECULATE or invent intermediaries. I never sold out and it's proven."

When authorities arrived Wednesday at Garcia's home, they met him on the staircase to the second floor. He asked for a moment to call his attorney, entered another room and closed the door behind him. Moments later, gunfire rang out. Police found him seated, bleeding profusely, Interior Minister Carlos Moran said.

Supporters who had gathered outside the hospital wept as word of his death spread. Some held each other in embrace. Others cried out. A line of officers in helmets and riot shields stood guard, keeping them at a distance.

His sudden death was sure to provoke reflection both over one of the most storied careers in Peruvian politics and the nation's battle against corruption.

Tall and handsome, Garcia was first swept into office on a wave of optimism in 1985 as Latin America's youngest president at age 36. He was hailed as "the president of hope."

Fed by state spending, wage increases and price controls, Garcia's policies initially created an artificial economic boom. But the state coffers were soon drained, credit dried up and investors fled. Labor strikes demanding wage increases in line with soaring inflation crippled production.

As Peru's economy collapsed, Maoist Shining Path guerrillas surged.

At one point, Garcia was so depressed by his plunging popularity that he did not appear in public for more than a month and reportedly offered the presidency to his blind 88-year-old vice president, Luis Alberto Sanchez.

Garcia backed the candidacy of an independent political unknown, Alberto Fujimori, in the second-round runoff of the 1990 presidential elections to prevent a win by novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, a conservative rival.



**People embrace by the coffin of former President Alan Garcia during his wake at his party's headquarters in Lima, Peru, Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Garcia shot himself in the head and died Wednesday as officers waited to arrest him in a massive graft probe that has put the country's most prominent politicians behind bars and provoked a reckoning over corruption.** (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

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Two years after leaving office, Garcia fled the country as Fujimori's new government pursued corruption charges against him.

He was accused, among other things, of taking kickbacks for a Lima electric railway contract and of depositing Peru's reserves in the notorious Bank of Credit and Commerce International, or BCCI, which was later shut down worldwide amid fraud allegations.

On the night of April 5, 1992, Fujimori dissolved Congress, suspended the Peruvian Constitution and sent troops to the home of Garcia, who had been warned of a plot to kill him.

"That was perhaps the first time I felt physical fear in my life, because I understood it was true there would be an attack and that we would die," Garcia later recalled in an interview with The Associated Press.

"I had two pistols with nine rounds each," he said, "and I shot all 18 bullets into the air as they were preparing to knock down the garage wall with a small tank and were coming over the walls."

The soldiers briefly retreated, Garcia said, and he fled by climbing over a neighbor's wall using a ladder. He was later smuggled out of the neighborhood in the trunk of a car and eventually made it to the Colombian Embassy, which granted him safe passage from Peru.

During his exile, he split time between Colombia, which gave him asylum, and Paris, where his wife and four children lived.

Garcia was reviled by most Peruvians, who initially tolerated, even lauded, Fujimori's iron-fisted rule, grateful to him for taming the rebel insurgencies and cleaning up an economic disaster.

But in 2000, Fujimori's autocratic government crumbled amid mushrooming corruption scandals, creating an opening for Garcia's political comeback. The charges were eventually dropped for lack of evidence.

Garcia returned to his homeland in 2001 to seek re-election, casting himself as an elder statesman who had outgrown leftist ideas. He lost narrowly in a second round of voting to U.S.-trained economist Alejandro Toledo. Then he set his sights on the 2006 election.

He was widely viewed as the lesser of two evils when he defeated radical nationalist Ollanta Humala in a runoff. But he was determined to regain the trust of Peruvians, telling them, "I am more mature, and I would be an idiot if I were to commit the same mistakes."

His popularity rose as he implemented austerity measures in a nation beset by poverty. He slashed his own salary by more than half and issued decrees forcing lawmakers to reduce their pay by nearly 40 percent.

He also gained praise by launching programs to bring potable water to poor shantytowns and pledged to build roads, schools and health clinics in rural areas.

On Wednesday night, his body was taken to a memorial service at his party's headquarters, known as the "House of the People," a blue colonial-style building where Garcia once celebrated his presidential victories.

Several men carried his wooden casket through a thick crowd of supporters chanting, "Alan! Alan!"

"He's still with the people!" they cried out.

## Ex-Virginia Gov. McAuliffe won't run for president in 2020

By ALAN SUDERMAN and BILL BARROW Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe won't run for president in 2020, meaning establishment, centrist Democrats will have one less option in a nominating free-for-all that so far has highlighted the party's leftward shift.

McAuliffe said Wednesday night that instead of joining a crowded Democratic field vying to challenge President Donald Trump, he will concentrate his efforts on helping Democrats win this year in Virginia — with the possibility that he runs for governor or president in the future.

"Where can you help people the most and change people's lives?" McAuliffe said on CNN, arguing that he could "beat Trump like a rented mule" but doesn't "want anyone in Virginia to think I've abandoned them."

"I'm staying home to do what I need to do to help Virginians," he added.

McAuliffe's decision comes as former Vice President Joe Biden considers whether to enter the 2020 Democratic field. McAuliffe is widely viewed as part of the party's mainstream, occupying much of the

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same political space as Biden.

McAuliffe said "most" of the current Democratic candidates could defeat Trump, though Biden was the only potential contender he called out by name. "I love Joe Biden," he said.

The former governor's decision also follows a series of scandals that weakened Democrats in Virginia during a key election year, when partisan control of the state legislature is up for grabs.

Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring both admitted in February to having worn blackface as young men, while Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax has been accused by two women of sexual assault, which he denies. Some top Democratic state lawmakers have urged McAuliffe to focus on raising money for Democrats this year and then run for governor in 2021. Virginia bars governors from serving consecutive terms, but McAuliffe could run again after serving from 2014-18.

He demurred on CNN when pressed about whether he'd run for governor in 2021, saying he's committed to Virginia Democrats first and foremost to help this year and in federal elections next year.

One state lawmaker, Democratic Sen. Dick Saslaw, said that he's been urging McAuliffe to run for governor. "He didn't rule it out," Saslaw told The Associated Press before McAuliffe's CNN appearance.

McAuliffe, once best known as a top Democratic money man and close friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton's, reinvented his image during a largely successful four-year term as governor that saw him tirelessly market the state, make major transportation deals and restore more voting rights than any other governor in the country.

In a presidential race, McAuliffe's record as a business-friendly centrist — he proposed a corporate tax cut and backed a massive new natural gas pipeline that environmentalists detest — would have been a liability with more progressive primary voters.

Yet McAuliffe had made clear to friends and associates that he believed he'd make a good candidate and an excellent president. He's been open about his belief that Democrats should not stray too far to the left, particularly on health care and other economic issues. He sees himself as a politician in line with the party's positions on social issues while representing a mainstream liberalism that could appeal to more moderate voters.

According to aides, McAuliffe had spent the last several weeks meeting with policy advisers talking about how to make concrete economic and health care proposals that could appeal across the political spectrum but that would stop short of Sanders' pitch for single-payer health insurance. Among those he met with was Chris Jennings, a top health care policy adviser in President Barack Obama's White House when the Affordable Care Act was passed and implemented.

Part of McAuliffe's pitch to powerbrokers in early voting states was his ability to make Democratic inroads in Virginia, which has become reliably Democratic in recent elections. In the 2017 elections, the last year of McAuliffe's four-year tenure as governor, 15 House of Delegates seats shifted from Republican to Democratic control, reducing the GOP's majority to two seats.



**FILE - In this Monday, Aug. 21, 2017, file photo, then-Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe delivers his annual budget projection at the Capitol in Richmond, Va. Former Virginia Gov. McAuliffe won't run for president in 2020, according to two people familiar with calls he made Wednesday, April 17, 2019, to allies.** (AP Photo/Steve Helber, File)

"I took a red state and made it blue," the former Democratic National Committee chairman said last month during a swing through South Carolina. "We had the biggest pickups in 140 years under my four years as governor, and if we did it there, we can do it here in South Carolina."

McAuliffe stepped into the national spotlight as governor as a leading voice on certain social issues, winning kudos for undoing a vestige of the state's Jim Crow era and restoring voting and other civil rights to felons who have completed their sentences. McAuliffe's blunt criticism of the white nationalists who sparked a deadly rally in Charlottesville last summer also drew a sharp contrast with Trump's shaky response.

Trump gave \$25,000 to McAuliffe's 2009 gubernatorial bid, and the two were once acquaintances. But McAuliffe has been unsparing in his criticism of the president in the last year or so, telling a national television audience he'd knock Trump to the floor if the president ever tried to intimidate him.

Another factor in McAuliffe's decision is the dissipating shadow of the Clintons in Democratic presidential politics. McAuliffe has been friends with the couple for more than 30 years and served as DNC chairman during part of Bill Clinton's tenure. McAuliffe has been unapologetic about his ties with the Clintons and his years as a party money man for them and other candidates, saying he has always worked within the existing campaign finance rules to elect Democrats up and down the ballot, even as he acknowledges that big money — particularly from corporations and super PACs — has become anathema to many in the Democratic base.

Barrow reported from Atlanta.

## APNewsBreak: Ivanka Trump says she passed on World Bank job

By CATHERINE LUCEY Associated Press

ABIDJIAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — White House senior adviser Ivanka Trump says her father asked her if she was interested in the job of World Bank chief but she passed on it.

In an Associated Press interview, President Donald Trump's daughter said Wednesday she was happy with her current role in the administration. She was traveling in Africa to promote a global women's initiative.

Ivanka Trump said her father raised the job as "a question" and she told him she was "happy with the work" she's doing.

The president recently told The Atlantic: "I even thought of Ivanka for the World Bank. . She would've been great at that because she's very good with numbers."

Ivanka Trump worked on the selection process for the new head of the 189-nation World Bank, David Malpass. She said he'll do an "incredible job."

Asked if her father had approached her about other top jobs, Ivanka Trump said she'd "keep that between" them. She said she doesn't see a run for office in her future.



**White House senior adviser Ivanka Trump speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, Wednesday April 17, 2019, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, where Trump is promoting a White House global economic program for women.**

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

## Asian stocks sink after Wall Street declines

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks fell Thursday after Wall Street declined despite encouraging Chinese economic data.

Benchmarks in Shanghai, Tokyo, Seoul and Hong Kong all retreated. Sydney was little-changed.

U.S. stocks fell despite data showing growth in China's gross domestic product held steady in the latest quarter in the face of a tariff war with Washington and consumer spending accelerated.

"The surprisingly robust China GDP data failed to ignite a rally on Wall Street as U.S. investors turn focus to domestic concerns," said Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management in a report. He said investors are "increasingly cautious" about possibly misreading economic signals.

Wall Street's slide was led by health care stocks. Investors fear the potential impact on profits from reform ideas being discussed in Washington and on the presidential campaign trail.

Qualcomm led gains in the technology sector. Intel climbed after pulling out of the smartphone modem market. T-Mobile and Sprint slumped on reports the Justice Department is questioning their proposed merger.

In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index declined 0.4% to 3,250.03 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 0.4% to 22,177.75. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.5% to 29,972.74 and Seoul's Kospi retreated 0.9% to 2,225.77.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 2 points to 6,259.50. Benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia rose.

On Wall Street, the benchmark S&P 500 fell 0.2% to 2,900.45 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost less than 0.1% to 26,449.54. The Nasdaq composite slid 0.1% to 7,996.08.

American investors are poring over company results this week, focusing on profit and revenue outlooks. Analysts expect the first quarter results for S&P 500 companies overall to be the weakest in nearly three years.

**US-CHINA TRADE:** The Wall Street Journal reported U.S. and Chinese negotiators are planning two more rounds of meetings aimed at ending a tariff war over Beijing's technology ambitions. The newspaper, citing unidentified sources, said the two sides are aiming for a signing ceremony in late May or early June. The two sides have raised tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods, rattling global financial markets. Washington and other trading partners say Beijing's plans for state-led creation of Chinese competitors in robotics and other technologies violate its market-opening commitments.

**US ECONOMY:** The Federal Reserve says the economy was expanding at a moderate pace in March and early April, despite uncertainty caused by trade tensions and Midwest flooding. The Fed's "beige book" on economic conditions said weakness remained, especially in sluggish consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of economic activity. The report will form the basis for discussion when central bank officials



**Currency traders watch monitors at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, April 18, 2019. Asian stocks fell Thursday after Wall Street declined despite encouraging Chinese economic data.** (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

meet April 30-May 1 to discuss interest rates.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 8 cents to \$63.68 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 29 cents on Wednesday to close at \$63.76. Brent crude, used to price international oils, sank 19 cents to \$71.43 per barrel in London. It declined 10 cents the previous session to \$71.62.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 111.94 yen from Wednesday's 112.05 yen. The euro edged down to \$1.1295 from \$1.1299.

## Electric scooters have zipped by docked bikes in popularity

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Love them or hate them, electric scooters are everywhere — zipping along city streets and littered on sidewalks, to the dismay of pedestrians and drivers who must share the road.

And now they have overtaken station-based bicycles as the most popular form of shared transportation outside transit and cars in the U.S.

According to a new report released Wednesday by the National Association of City Transportation Officials, riders took 38.5 million trips on shared electric scooters in 2018, eclipsing the 36.5 million trips on shared, docked bicycles.

Riders also took trips on 3 million dockless pedal bikes, which can be picked up and dropped off anywhere, and 6.5 million dockless electric bikes in 2018, but the report notes those numbers are declining.

One reason for electric scooters' fast growth: companies are jockeying for strategic position in the so-called micromobility revolution, where consumers are embracing shared scooters and bikes for short trips and exploring alternatives to car ownership buoyed by the ubiquity of smartphones.

Riders took 84 million trips on micromobility services in 2018, more than double the number from the year before, according to the report. Electric scooters helped drive that trend, with more than 85,000 of them available for public use in the U.S. compared with 57,000 station-based bikes.

To be sure, scooter companies face challenges from every direction, including vandalism, theft, rider injuries, intense competition and aggressive regulations in cities across the country.

Yet the industry persists and venture capitalists, ride-hailing companies and traditional auto manufacturers have poured millions of dollars into the fledgling business.

The original bike-share systems in the U.S. developed after cities invited them in, said Kate Fillin-Yeh, director of strategy for the National Association for City Transportation Officials.

"In the last year-and-a-half, it's a very different animal," she said. "The companies are in some cases trying to beat each other to the market."

Bird, a Santa Monica-based scooter company launched in late 2017, raised \$418 million and rang up more than 10 million rides in its first year. Lime, which offers shared bikes and scooters, clocked more than 12 million rides and \$467 million in investment in its first 15 months.

Car manufacturers and ride-hailing companies are taking notice, and some have made their own plays in the space with larger ambitions than scooters alone.

Uber bought Jump Bikes, an electric bike and scooter company that operates in about two dozen cities, and last year it invested \$30 million in Lime, which is in more than 100 cities worldwide.

Ford, which bought scooter company Spin in November, said deploying electric scooters will help the company eventually roll out autonomous vehicles by building critical relationships with U.S. cities as they work together to craft regulations and build out infrastructure.

"In this next revolution of micromobility, the cities are taking a more active stance in how they're going to participate," Sunny Madra, vice president of Ford's mobility businesses, told The Associated Press late last year. "By doing this now in advance of autonomous programs and other forms of mobility that will come up, this is a great way for us to make sure that we're a part of the transformation of mobility."

If it seems like electric scooters popped up overnight, that's because they did. Several companies distributed them throughout cities without permission or permits, reminding local officials of when ride-hailing

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companies such as Uber launched in their markets years ago without warning.

But cities learned from that experience and have been more aggressive about regulating scooters. San Francisco, for instance, kicked out Bird, Lime and Spin and instituted a competition for permits, ultimately awarding them to relative underdogs Scoot and Skip and capping the number of scooters they could deploy. New York City does not allow shared electric scooters, although legislation has been introduced to change the rule.

As a condition for operating there, many cities are requiring scooter companies to share their troves of location data, which show where the scooters are and the routes they take. That can be valuable to plan bike routes and docking stations or to understand traffic patterns.

It also raises questions about user privacy. The location data provided to cities is not linked to names, emails or other directly identifiable information, but "if you take enough GPS data points and begin attaching other data sets, it can be used to identify specific individuals," said Regina Clewlow, CEO of Populus, a company that helps cities securely access data for policy and planning while protecting privacy.

Another consequence of electric scooters is head injuries. Dr. Vishal Bansal, director of trauma surgery at Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego, noticed many riders were getting on scooters at night intoxicated, without wearing a helmet, taking "30, 40 years of what we've learned about injury prevention and has just thrown it out the window," he said.

"If your head hits concrete at 20 miles an hour, you are not going to get up," said Christopher Ziebell, emergency room medical director at Dell Seton Medical Center in Austin. "These have little tiny wheels on them, so it doesn't take much for a rider to go flying off."

Some industry watchers wonder how long the electric scooter phenomenon will last. Veteran auto analyst Maryann Keller calls the billion-dollar valuations that have been reported for some scooter companies nonsensical. Scooters are a capital-intensive business, and there are few ways to differentiate from competitors' models, making it hard for companies to stand out, she said.

"These little fads come and go," Keller said.

For those wishing for the scooter fad to go, they might have to wait a little longer.



**In this Dec. 4, 2018, photo a couple rides scooters near the White House in Washington. Electric scooters are overtaking station-based bicycles as the most popular form of shared transportation outside transit and cars. (AP**

Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Follow Cathy Bussewitz on Twitter: @cbussewitz

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## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, April 18, the 108th day of 2019. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 18, 1983, 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

On this date:

In 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Massachusetts, warning colonists that British Regular troops were approaching.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

In 1923, the first game was played at the original Yankee Stadium in New York; the Yankees defeated the Boston Red Sox 4-1.

In 1934, the first laundromat (called a "washateria") opened in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1938, Superman, AKA "The Man of Steel," made his debut as the first issue of Action Comics (bearing a cover date of June) went on sale for 10 cents a copy. (In 2014, a nearly flawless original copy was sold on eBay for \$3.2 million.)

In 1943, Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet, was shot down and killed by U.S. fighters while approaching Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

In 1945, famed American war correspondent Ernie Pyle, 44, was killed by Japanese gunfire on the Pacific island of Ie Shima (ee-EH' shee-MAH'), off Okinawa.

In 1956, American actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier (ren-YAY') of Monaco in a civil ceremony. (A church wedding took place the next day.)

In 1978, the Senate approved the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

In 1988, an Israeli court convicted John Demjanjuk (dem-YAHN'-yuk), a retired auto worker from Cleveland, of committing war crimes at the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. (However, Israel's Supreme Court later overturned Demjanjuk's conviction.)

In 1995, quarterback Joe Montana retired from professional football. The Houston Post closed after more than a century.

In 2013, the FBI released surveillance camera images of two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and asked for the public's help in identifying them, hours after President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama attended an interfaith service at a Roman Catholic cathedral.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama offered a spirit of cooperation to America's hemispheric neighbors at the Summit of the Americas in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. The White House said Obama was "deeply disappointed" at news Iran had convicted American journalist Roxana Saberi of spying for the United States and sentenced her to eight years in prison. (Saberi was released on appeal the following month.)

Five years ago: An avalanche swept down a climbing route on Mount Everest, killing 16 Sherpa guides in the deadliest disaster on the world's highest peak.

One year ago: Cuba's government selected 57-year-old First Vice President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez as the sole candidate to succeed President Raul Castro, a move that would install someone from outside the Castro family in the country's highest office for the first time in nearly six decades; the 86-year-old Castro would remain head of the Communist Party. Amid a blackout that affected much of the rest of Puerto Rico, generators helped keep the lights on at a stadium in San Juan for the second of two games between the Cleveland Indians and the Minnesota Twins. Bruno Sammartino, who had once been one of the longest-reigning champions in professional wrestling, died at the age of 82.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clive Revill is 89. Actor James Drury is 85. Actor Robert Hooks is 82. Actress Hayley Mills is 73. Actor James Woods is 72. Actress-director Dorothy Lyman is 72. Actress Cindy Pickett is

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72. Country musician Walt Richmond (The Tractors) is 72. Country musician Jim Scholten (Sawyer Brown) is 67. Actor Rick Moranis is 66. Actress Melody Thomas Scott is 63. Actor Eric Roberts is 63. Actor John James is 63. Rock musician Les Pattinson (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 61. Author-journalist Susan Faludi is 60. Actress Jane Leeves is 58. Ventriloquist-comedian Jeff Dunham is 57. Talk show host Conan O'Brien is 56. Bluegrass singer-musician Terry Eldredge is 56. Actor Eric McCormack is 56. Actress Maria Bello is 52. Actress Mary Birdsong is 51. Actor David Hewlett is 51. Rock musician Greg Eklund (The Oolahs) is 49. Actress Lisa Locicero is 49. Actress Tamara Braun is 48. TV chef Ludovic Lefebvre is 48. Actor Fedro Starr is 48. Actor David Tennant is 48. Country musician Marvin Evatt (EH'-veht) is 45. Rock musician Mark Tremonti is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Trina (Trina and Tamara) is 45. Actress Melissa Joan Hart is 43. Actor Sean Maguire is 43. Actor Kevin Rankin is 43. Actor Bryce Johnson is 42. Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 40. Detroit Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera is 36. Actress America Ferrera is 35. Actor Tom Hughes is 34. Actress Ellen Woglom (TV: "Marvel's Inhumans") is 32. Actress Vanessa Kirby is 31. Actress Alia Shawkat is 30. Actress Britt Robertson is 29. Actress Chloe Bennet is 27. Rock singer Nathan Sykes (The Wanted) is 26. Actor Moises Arias is 25.

Thought for Today: "War makes strange giant creatures out of us little routine men who inhabit the earth." — Ernie Pyle (1900-1945).