

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Severe Weather Awareness Week April 22-26

PIERRE, S.D. – There is still snow on the ground, but South Dakota officials say the time is now to start preparing for this summer's eventual severe weather.

Next week, April 22-26, has been designated as Severe Weather Awareness Week in South Dakota. Tina Titze, director of the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management, says this is a good time to start thinking about what to do when severe thunderstorms or tornadoes impact the state.

"In just the last few weeks, we have seen the impact winter storms can have; spring and summer weather is no different," she says. "Severe weather will eventually occur, and everyone needs to be prepared."

The week is used by state and local officials to urge people to start making preparations. Titze says it is too late to prepare when the thunderstorm or tornado is already impacting your area.

"Now is the time when families should discuss what to do if severe weather happens," she says. "Where do you go if you are outside when a thunderstorm begins or what do you do if a tornado warning is issued? Those are important things to be ready for."

A statewide tornado drill will be held Wednesday, April 24. The test watch is scheduled for 10 a.m. CDT (9 a.m. MDT) with the warning issued at 10:15 a.m. CDT (9:15 a.m. MDT).

In most communities on Wednesday, severe weather sirens will be sounded. People are reminded that it is only a test unless otherwise announced.

For more information on how to be ready for severe weather, click onto [www.bready.sd.gov](http://www.bready.sd.gov).

The Office of Emergency Management is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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

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

## Community Good Friday Service

The Groton Community Good Friday service was held Friday evening at the United Methodist Church in Groton. Attendance was way up compared to last year's 12 that attended the service during noon hour with an estimated 50 attending from four different churches. An offering was gathered which will be used for the Groton Community Crisis Fund. Members from the United Methodist Church, Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church and Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont participated in the services.



**Rick Buhler portrayed Jesus and placed a crown of thorns on the cross at the end of the service.**



**Kim Weber pounds in a nail in the cross after she did her reading.**

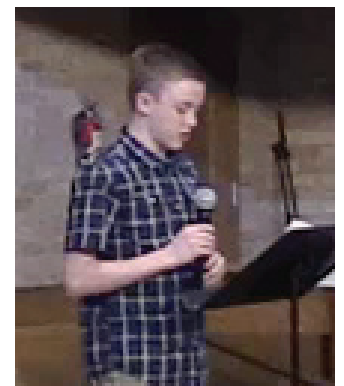
Photos lifted from the [GDIVLIVE.COM](http://GDIVLIVE.COM) video, which is archived at [397news.com](http://397news.com) where GDI subscribers will have access.



**Michelle Riedl did one of the readings.**



**The congregation came to the cross after the service and each person had the opportunity to pound a nail into the cross.**



**Lane Tietz did a reading.**

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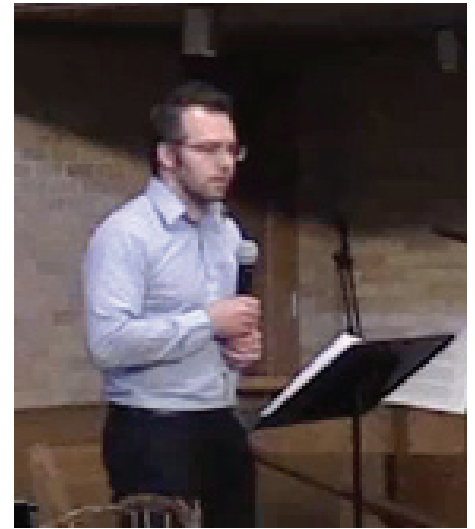
**Adam Franken (left) and Pastor Brandon Dunham provided special music.**



**Sierra Tunby and Krista Geiger (on piano) provided special music.**



**Pastor Brandon Dunham of the United Methodist Church gave the opening remarks.**



**Pastor Josh Jetto of the Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church gave the closing remarks.**

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## 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

7 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

7 p.m.: 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

## Saturday, May 4, 2019

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Groton City-wide Rummage Sale

Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls

## Sunday, May 5, 2019

5:00 p.m. Groton Softball, Baseball and T-Ball parent meeting at the Legion

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

*Upcoming*  
**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

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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!

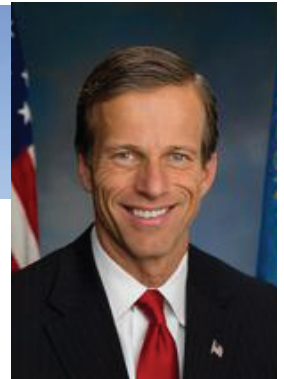
During the summer, you can work inside and get some experience for a CNA career in the future!

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

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Hanging Up on the Robocall Scourge

Believe it or not, there's a bill in Washington that's sponsored by a conservative Republican and a liberal Democrat; cosponsored by more than half of the Senate; supported by every single state attorney general in the nation, including South Dakota's; and embraced by all commissioners at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in addition to major industry associations and leading consumer groups. My Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act checks all of those boxes, and I'm glad to see momentum is continuing to build for this truly bipartisan, pro-consumer effort.

I first introduced the TRACED Act late last year on the heels of my effort to find a solution to end those annoying, illegal, and abusive robocalls that we're all sick of receiving. You've probably heard similar stories or experienced it firsthand, but the calls were getting so bad that some people told me they'd given up answering their phone altogether unless incoming calls were from a number that was already in their phone. Living in fear, anxiety, or annoyance every time the phone rings shouldn't be the new normal.

When I served as chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the FTC and FCC, I wanted to hear directly from someone who's behind one of these calling schemes, so I invited notorious mass robocaller Adrian Abramovich to testify before my committee. While he declined my invitation (it was pretty obvious why he didn't want to voluntarily attend), I issued a subpoena and forced him to appear. Such subpoenas are rare. In my four years serving as chairman, I issued only four of them, which shows just how serious of an issue this was to me.

I learned two important lessons from Mr. Abramovich: First, there are few issues, if any, that spark bipartisan fervor quite like the prospect of banning illegal robocalls; and second, current law and existing financial penalties are insufficient to tackle this problem in a real way. People like Mr. Abramovich simply calculated fines and penalties into the cost of doing business. That's when the TRACED Act was born.

While I'll admit that my TRACED Act wouldn't immediately stop every single illegal robocall, I can say that passing it would be one of the most significant steps toward thwarting these nuisance calls since the National Do Not Call registry was created more than 15 years ago. My bill would significantly increase the financial penalty for making these illegal calls, give carriers more tools and flexibility to prevent these calls from reaching your phone in the first place, and, most importantly, work toward creating a credible threat of criminal prosecution (serving behind bars) for the bad guys who are perpetrating these crimes.

I now serve as chairman of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, which is tasked with tackling this issue, and I recently held a hearing to discuss the TRACED Act and the broader issue of illegal robocalls. I hosted a panel of law enforcement professionals, telecommunications experts, and consumer advocates who all agree that now is the time to take action, and the TRACED Act would provide the teeth that law enforcement and regulators need to better address this problem.

The TRACED Act has a lot of support in Washington and around the country. It was unanimously approved earlier this year by the Commerce Committee, and it's now heading to the full Senate for consideration, where I'm hopeful it will also receive wide bipartisan support. Getting this bill to the president's desk would put us in a stronger, more effective position to manage this threat and protect the vulnerable populations these bad actors target. That's my goal, and I'm working to make it happen.



## **ATVs more common on SD roadways where risk of death is greater**

**By: Bart Pfankuch**

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

The number of all-terrain vehicles registered for road use in South Dakota has risen dramatically in recent years, even as a growing body of research shows that ATVs are more dangerous and deadly on roadways than in off-road areas.

ATVs certified as legal to drive on South Dakota roads more than doubled in the past decade, from 17,913 registered in 2009 to 38,377 registered in 2018. That 114 percent increase compares to a 17 percent increase in the overall number of cars, trucks and other vehicles registered during that time span, according to the state Department of Revenue.

A national study of fatal ATV crashes over a 25-year period by the journal Injury Prevention showed that more than 60 percent of deaths occurred during on-road use, even though ATVs are driven far more frequently in off-road settings.

A separate study by the journal Traffic Injury Prevention showed that over the past 20 years, ATV-related deaths increased at twice the rate on paved roadways compared to off-road surfaces.

Manufacturers of ATVs tell dealers and buyers that the machines are not designed for on-road use, and many contain warning tags recommending off-road use only. A major non-profit ATV industry group, the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, also opposes on-road use of ATVs.

Yet South Dakota laws treat ATVs much the same as motorcycles when it comes to licensing and riding legally.

ATVs are a general category of off-road vehicles that includes single-rider machines with handlebars and a straddle seat and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs), which are two-person, bucket-seat models also called side-by-sides. Larger, multi-passenger Recreational Off-road Vehicles (ROVs) are a recent entry into the market.

All are legal to ride on roads and highways in South Dakota except for interstates. The vehicles must be licensed by the state and have basic safety components such as a horn, rear-view mirror, headlights and brake lights before becoming road legal. South Dakota is one of 36 states that allow on-road ATV use in some form, and its laws are among the least restrictive in the nation.

Experts point to the basic design of ATVs, which are made to traverse trails or bumpy terrain and make tight turns around objects, as one reason they are more dangerous on paved or unpaved roads. Also, experts say small, low-pressure tires, a high center of gravity and speeds that can now reach up to 80 mph make ATVs prone to rollovers. ATVs also can collide with much larger, heavier cars and trucks when used on roads.

"It's a vehicle not designed for roadways," said Dr. Charles Jennissen, a pediatric emergency physician at the University of Iowa Hospital who studies ATV accidents. "You have basically a vehicle that when it is on the roadway, it is being misused. If you're traveling on a roadway, it's never going to be safe when used that way."

Recent research also shows ATV drivers tend to employ riskier behaviors when traveling on roadways, such as not wearing a helmet, being under the influence of alcohol, riding too fast for conditions or carrying passengers unsafely.

ATVs have become extremely popular, with sales tripling between 1995 and 2005; about 45,000 are now sold in the U.S. each year. Riders say they enjoy ATVs for the freedom of the open air, ability to traverse

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**A man and woman took their Utility Terrain Vehicle on a ride through a Summerset neighborhood and business park on a recent day. Recent studies show that ATVs and UTVs are designed specifically for off-road use and are less safe on paved and unpaved roads.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch

a variety of surfaces and to travel to places passenger vehicles cannot.

Like any mode of transportation, ATV use includes some inherent risk.

Since 1982, about 15,250 people have died in ATV-related accidents in the United States and more than 100,000 people have been injured (those figures do not include data on ROVs.)

South Dakota, the 46th most populous state, was 38th in ATV-related deaths from 1982-2013 with 86 fatalities, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Over the past five years, the state has seen 14 fatalities in ATV or UTV accidents, several of them on roadways, according to the state Department of Public Safety.

The incongruity between state law and manufacturer recommendations puts powersports dealers in a tough spot. Representatives of three South Dakota dealerships interviewed by News Watch had strong feelings on ATV use and safety, but all three declined to have their names or the names of their dealerships published.

One veteran South Dakota law enforcement officer said drivers should apply the same caution and common sense to ATV use that they would with any motor vehicle.

South Dakota Highway Patrol Capt. Jason Husby, who trains other officers on motor vehicle laws, said people who ride ATVs on the road must be aware of the limitations of the vehicles and the risks they face when riding.

"It's not as safe as a passenger car, and you don't get the maneuverability of a motorcycle," said Husby, who drives cars, motorcycles and ATVs. "But a lot of this really comes down to the fact that it's not what you drive, it's how you drive it."

## Freedom and accessibility

Scott Wittrock of Hartford loves to ride ATVs because they provide him and his sons the freedom to explore places that are inaccessible to cars or trucks.

Whether on organized group trail rides or while hunting in the Black Hills, driving ATVs is both fun and practical for Wittrock.

"For me, I like being able to get back in nature a little bit, and I love coming out in the Black Hills and getting to places other people can't get to," he said.

Wittrock serves as president of the South Dakota ATV/UTV Association, which monitors legislation related to ATVs and lobbies for trail construction and access statewide. Wittrock said his group supports legal on-road use of ATVs. He said users sometimes need to travel on a road to get from one trail to another, and that South Dakota residents east of the Missouri River may ride on roads because the region has almost no trails to legally ride upon. Farmers and ranchers also need to drive ATVs on roads for work, he said.

Wittrock said he and his two sons wear protective gear and helmets when riding (helmet use is required by law for minors on roadways but not during off-road use). Both of his sons have had ATV accidents, including one in which his son rolled his machine and was fortunate to avoid serious injury by wearing a helmet.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't shaken up," Wittrock said.

Wittrock said ATVs can be made safer for on-road use by installing tires appropriate for hard surfaces. Manufacturers have also steadily added safety mechanisms, including roll cages, body harnesses, dif-





**Scott Wittrock of Hartford, president of the South Dakota ATV/UTV Association, took this selfie while driving a Utility Terrain Vehicle as his son, Blaine, followed him on an ATV during the 2017 Soggy Bottom Rally that attracted enthusiasts to trails near Deerfield Lake in the Black Hills. Research shows that riding ATVs and UTVs off-road is safer than driving them on paved or unpaved roadways.**

Photo: Courtesy of Scott Wittrock

on paved roads.

"Although differences were observed between paved and unpaved roads, our results show that riding on either represented significantly greater dangers than riding off the road," the study concluded. "These data further support laws or ordinances greatly restricting ATV riding on all types of public roadways."

Children remain at high risk of ATV accidents resulting in injuries and death, according to a study published in August 2017 by the research journal *Pediatrics*. That review examined four years of ATV crash data involving children in Pennsylvania and concluded that youths under 18 were injured in ATV wrecks while driving, as a passenger and while being towed. The study of accidents from 2004 to 2014 showed a slight decrease in youth injuries in ATV accidents during that time frame, which was attributed to the Great Recession of 2008 that reduced disposable income and the ability of families to buy as many recreational vehicles.

The study data showed that helmet use reduced fatalities, that stricter state regulations on youth use of ATVs improved safety, and it supported other studies indicating that riding on paved or unpaved roads was more dangerous than riding off-road.

"It has been concluded that being a passenger or using an ATV on paved roads, especially among adolescents, increases the mortality rate," the study authors said. Additionally, "Helmet use was associated with a reduction in the number of deaths, whereas riding on a street or roadway was associated with more deaths."

A 2014 study published in the *Journal of Safety Research* examined fatal ATV wrecks from 2007-2011 that occurred solely on public roadways.

Of the 1,701 deaths examined, the vast majority of victims were the driver of the ATV and the accidents did not involve another vehicle. Nine in 10 of those who died were male, but females made up a majority of passengers who died. Accidents were more common in rural areas and high speed was a factor in nearly half the fatal wrecks.

ferentials that aid in turns and steering mechanisms that reduce rollovers.

Wittrock said he knows some people ride ATVs regularly on roadways, especially in smaller towns and rural areas, and he said most veteran riders are aware of the dangers and act accordingly.

"As people who have been in ATVing and offroading for a long time, we generally know there are risks associated with our hobbies and we're willing to take some of those risks," he said.

## Studies reveal on-road dangers

A growing body of scientific research supports the idea that ATV use on roadways – either paved or unpaved – is more dangerous than riding off-road.

A comprehensive study of ATV accident data published in 2016 showed that ATV use is especially dangerous on paved roadways. The study published in the science journal *Traffic Injury Prevention* reviewed ATV crash data from 1982 to 2012 and showed that deaths occurred at twice the rate on paved versus unpaved roads.

The study highlighted other dangers of using ATVs on paved roads, including that victims suffering injuries or death were more likely to be male adolescents, and that alcohol use was higher and helmet use lower in accidents

## ON-ROAD ATV REGISTRATIONS RISING FAST

Here is a look at the number of all-terrain vehicles registered for on-road use in South Dakota compared to registration of all on-road vehicles over the past decade.

| Year | ATVs registered | Total vehicles registered |
|------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 2009 | 17,913          | 1,184,344                 |
| 2012 | 24,213          | 1,248,890                 |
| 2015 | 30,375          | 1,336,814                 |
| 2018 | 38,377          | 1,387,196                 |

Source: South Dakota Department of Revenue

A position paper from the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, which represents ATV manufacturers and distributors, states that all-terrain vehicles of any type do not comply with the extensive safety standards and testing required by the U.S. Department of Transportation for other on-road vehicles. "If ATVs could be kept off of public roads ... a large percentage of ATV-related injuries and deaths would be prevented," the institute said.

South Dakota has seen a number of ATV-related fatalities during use on paved and unpaved roads in recent years.

In July 2012, a 12-year-old boy died after his ATV rolled on him while driving home from school on a gravel road near Claremont.

Prominent golfer and businessman Mark Amundson died after crashing an ATV on a private road in Sully County in August 2014. In November 2017, a 65-year-old recently retired state worker from Pierre died when he lost control of his ATV on a city street after being chased by a dog. That same month, 59-year-old Regional Health executive

Larry Veitz died after losing control of his ATV on a forest service road near Spearfish.

State Rep. Jim Schaefer and a woman both died when struck by a truck while riding in a UTV on a highway near Kennebec in May 2018. A month later, an 81-year-old man driving an ATV died after turning in front of a truck trying to pass him on state Highway 47 north of Gregory.

Officials with the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office are hoping that increased patrols this summer might prevent accidents like those or other dangerous behaviors among ATV users.

For the first time, the agency in the northern Black Hills will conduct concentrated patrols this summer specifically aimed at monitoring safety of ATV users, said Capt. Patrick Johnson.

"This is the first year because we've had such an influx of ATVs and UTVs," Johnson said. "We're going to try to be more active in and around the forest this year because we don't see an end to it."

Johnson said officers will work overtime shifts to monitor ATV use and try to protect riders and those around them. Officers will be on watch for intoxication or drug use as well as speeding, which Johnson said is the most dangerous behavior among on-road users.

"There's only so fast you can get going on some of these trails, but on our county roads and highways, the speeds are much higher," Johnson said. "When the speeds are higher, the chance of an accident is much higher."

## Designed for off-road use only

Jennissen, the pediatric doctor at the University of Iowa, first took an interest in ATV safety as a youth when a cousin and family friend were killed after turning their ATV in front of a truck on a highway in Minnesota.

Jennissen said he is not against ATVs in general, and in fact has ridden the machines most of his life and still owns a Polaris side-by-side. He regularly teaches ATV safety classes for youths and adults.

Yet Jennissen often sees the disastrous results of ATV crashes in the emergency room, and says many of those wrecks are from on-road use.

His personal experiences, knowledge of ATV manufacturer guidelines and review of recent data and scientific studies have left him adamantly opposed to laws that allow the use of ATVs on paved or unpaved roadways.

Jennissen said more states, counties and municipalities are opening public roads to ATV use due to pressure from ATV riders and organizations that may not realize the heightened dangers of on-road use.

"We don't always legislate for safety or with safety in mind," Jennissen said. "We've been trying to fight the trend of on-road use, trying to develop more and more data to show why this is a real problem, not a 'made up problem,' but it seems like it continues to gain more steam across the country."

Jennissen said he commonly sees injuries and sometimes fatalities that result from vehicle rollovers.

ATV rollovers that whip riders out of the vehicle or result in the machine lying atop riders can lead to limb amputations, crushed body cavities or suffocation if riders cannot lift the machine off themselves.

Several design elements that benefit off-road users make the ATVs far more dangerous when used on roadways, said Jennissen, reached at an FFA conference in Iowa where he was training youths on safe ATV use and injury prevention on farms.



**Scott Wittrock, president of the South Dakota ATV/UTV Association, navigates a remote section of West Virginia on his ATV during an organized ride there. Data show that trail riding is less deadly than driving the all-terrain vehicles on roadways.** Photo: Courtesy Scott Wittrock.

## EIGHT "GOLDEN RULES" OF ATV SAFETY

These are safety suggestions for ATV use provided by the Vehicle Safety Institute within the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, a non-profit trade organization.

1. Always wear a DOT-compliant helmet, goggles, long sleeves, long pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves.

2. Never ride on paved roads except to cross when done safely and permitted by law; ATVs are designed to be operated off-highway.

3. Never ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

4. Never carry a passenger on a single-rider ATV, and no more than one passenger on an ATV specifically designed for two people.

5. Ride an ATV that's right for your age.

6. Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.

7. Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.

8. Take a hands-on ATV RiderCourse and the free online E-Course.

For more information, visit [ATVsafety.org](http://ATVsafety.org) or call 1-800-887-2887.

A narrow track, high center of gravity

and significant clearance above the travel surface promote rollovers, Jennissen said. Another major factor in rollover wrecks is the knobby, low-pressure tires standard on ATVs that grip tightly on hard surfaces.

The higher top speeds and heavier weights of modern ATVs also heighten the potential for major injuries, he said.

"When they roll over, there's a lot more force generated from this bigger, faster machine," Jennissen said. "If it rolls over on you and no one is around, you can't get it off you and suffocation and death can result."

ATV riders sometimes have an overconfidence that comes from a sense of stability and safety that don't exist, especially on paved and unpaved roads, according to Bill Uhl, an expert who testifies in trials and who has trained military special forces officers on ATV use.

Uhl said ATV manufacturers warn against on-road use but don't tell consumers enough about the reasons why ATVs can be dangerous. For example, ATVs have handlebars or steering wheels that can turn the wheels at a sharper angle than cars and trucks, and many ATV users aren't aware of the rollover risks that result, Uhl said.

Uhl said small tires can be especially dangerous if tire pressure falls even slightly or when used on hard surfaces that grip more than off-road terrain.

Uhl also said some built-in safety features are not as effective as manufacturers claim.

"It's the illusion of stability, and in the UTVs, it's the il-

## ABOUT BART PFANKUCH



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

lusion of safety

with the roll cage and harness," Uhl said. "You think you're protected, and it's that illusion of protection that gets them into trouble because ultimately they're not protected."

Uhl also said ATVs are less safe than motorcycles because ATV drivers may be less aware of dangers and undertake riskier behaviors, such as not wearing a helmet or using alcohol, elements noted in several ATV accident studies.

"You're vulnerable on a motorcycle, absolutely, but you have a different caliber of person riding a motorcycle because they know they're not stable and they know they can be dangerous," Uhl said. "You get a different person who drives an ATV, often very unskilled people."

# NOW HIRING!

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## SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR **KRISTI NOEM**



### **100 Days of Progress**

On January 5, I put my hand on my dad's Bible and pledged to lead our state in a way that will make South Dakota a better place for the next generation.

It's been just over 100 days since then, and in that time, we've made some real progress. I signed 222 bills into law, met with hundreds of South Dakotans, and hit all four corners of the state to listen to peoples' priorities and share some of mine.

We finished the legislative session with a balanced budget. We're confronting challenges like our nursing home crisis by giving a 10 percent funding increase to providers and incentivizing new innovations in care. We're fighting our meth epidemic through education, enforcement, and treatment. We're highlighting foster care, expanding habitat, closing the broadband gap, and bringing the next generation bomber to Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The budget approved by the state legislature funded these priorities and provided additional funds to increase teacher salaries, increase the State Emergency Response budget, and continue support for the state workforce. And we did all that without raising taxes.

This progress couldn't have been done without a strong leadership team that is dedicated to serving people and strengthening South Dakota. My cabinet and staff will continue being laser-focused on the needs facing our state and the ways we can best prepare for the future.

Because there's still a lot to do. We have some big challenges ahead of us.

After the storms this spring, many people are experiencing livestock loss, flooded homes, and damaged infrastructure. The state has a major role to play in recovery efforts, and we're doing everything we can to make sure folks come back from this stronger than before.

Farmers and ranchers continue to struggle with low commodity prices and market uncertainty. I'm working to increase education and opportunities in production-boosting research, such as biotechnology and precision ag. We'll also continue looking for additional market opportunities and pushing leaders at the federal level to expand trade and keep ag strong.

What's more, we still have a long way to go to expand access to high-speed internet, recruit the next big industry to South Dakota, bolster our workforce, increase transparency in state government, better support our veterans, strengthen our tribes, and battle the meth epidemic.

I'm proud of the progress we've seen these first 100 days, and we're not stopping here. Serving as South Dakota's governor is an honor and a privilege that I will never take for granted, and I'll continue working to tackle the problems facing our state. Let's work together to make South Dakota stronger for the next generation.

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## Today in Weather History

April 20, 1966: Canadian high pressure brought frigid air to the Rockies and northern Plains. Record lows included: 3 below in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, two below in Cheyenne and Casper, Wyoming, two above in Rapid City, 11 above in Fargo, Williston, and Aberdeen, and 15 in Huron.

April 20, 2007: Severe thunderstorms moved through parts of central and northeast South Dakota during the afternoon and evening hours, producing large hail. The most significant hail measured 1.75 inches in diameter and fell 3 miles east of Westport, in Brown County.

1901 - A spring storm produced unusually heavy snow in northeast Ohio. Warren received 35.5 inches in thirty-six hours, and 28 inches fell at Green Hill. Akron OH established April records of 15.6 inches in 24 hours, and 26.6 inches for the month. Pittsburgh PA established April records of 12.7 inches in 24 hours, and 13.5 inches for the month. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1912: A tornado moved north-northeast from 5 miles southeast of Rush Center, KS across the east half of Bison, KS. Farms were wiped out near Rush Center. The loss at Bison was \$70,000 as half of the town, about 50 homes, were damaged or destroyed. There were 15 injuries in town. A dozen farms were nearly wiped out. Debris from the farmhouses was carried for 8 miles. A senior man who made light of the storm was killed with his granddaughter on a farm 2 miles southwest of Bison.

1920: Tornadoes in Mississippi and Alabama killed 219 persons. Six tornadoes of F4 intensity were reported. Aberdeen, Mississippi was hard hit by an F4 tornado that killed 22 people. This same tornado killed 20 in Marion County, Alabama. Nine people in one family died in Winston County, Alabama.

1952 - The tankers Esso Suez and Esso Greensboro crashed in a thick fog off the coast of Morgan City LA. Only five of the Greensboro's crew survived after the ship bursts into flame. (David Ludlum)

1984: A temperature of 106 degrees at Del Rio, Texas set a new record high for April.

1987 - Fifty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The high of 92 degrees at Memphis TN was a record for April, and the high of 94 at Little Rock AR equalled their April record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A storm in the western U.S. brought heavy rain to parts of California. Mount Wilson was soaked with 4.15 inches of rain in 24 hours. The heavy rain caused some flooding and mudslides in the Los Angeles area, and a chain reaction collision of vehicles along the Pomona Freeway which resulted in 26 injuries. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hot weather spread from the southwestern U.S. into the Great Plains Region. Twenty-three cities reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 104 degrees at Tucson AZ was an April record, and highs of 87 at Provo UT, 90 at Pueblo CO, and 85 at Salt Lake City UT, equalled April records. (The National Weather Summary)


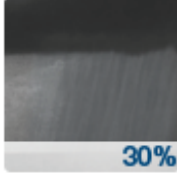
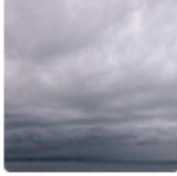


1990 - A fast moving Pacific storm produced heavy snow in the central mountains and the Upper Arkansas Valley of Colorado, with a foot of snow reported at Leadville. Thunderstorms in the south central U.S. produced wind gusts to 76 mph at Tulsa OK, and heavy rain which caused flooding of Cat Claw Creek in the Abilene TX area. Lightning struck the building housing a fish farm in Scott AR killing 10,000 pounds of fish. Many of the fish died from the heat of the fire. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004: A strong F3 tornado moved across the town of Utica, near LaSalle-Peru in north-central Illinois. This tornado destroyed several homes, a machinery building, and a tavern. The roof of the tavern collapsed, killing eight people inside; many of these people had come into town from nearby mobile homes, seeking sturdier shelter. The tornado dissipated on a steep bluff on the northeast side of the city. Another tornado developed shortly afterward, crossing I-80 near Ottawa. Several other tornadoes developed across north central and northeast Illinois, affecting areas around Joliet and Kankakee.

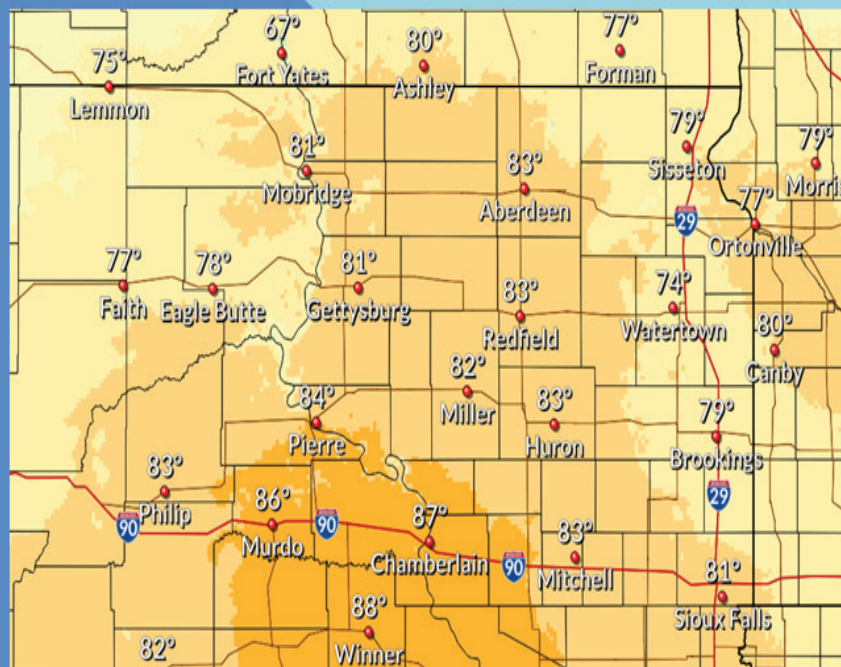
2006 - Up to five feet of snow falls in the Dakotas. I-94 and other highways were closed, power was out for thousands and caused at least four deaths.

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| Today   | Tonight   | Sunday  | Sunday Night   | Monday  |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Sunny   | Chance Showers and Breezy   | Cloudy  | Slight Chance Showers  | Partly Sunny  |
| High: 81 °F   | Low: 46 °F  | High: 57 °F   | Low: 40 °F   | High: 61 °F   |

## Peak Temperatures Today Cooler Sunday



National Weather Service  
**Aberdeen, SD**  
Updated: 4/20/2019 4:07 AM Central

Published on: 04/20/2019 at 5:10AM

Temperatures will peak in the upper 70s and low 80s today under sunny skies - but we'll see some showers move through tonight with cooler temperatures for Sunday.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 66 °F at 5:51 PM

Low Outside Temp: 32 °F at 6:52 AM

High Gust: 24 mph at 5:16 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 1980

Record Low: 10° in 2013, 1966

Average High: 60°F

Average Low: 34°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.98

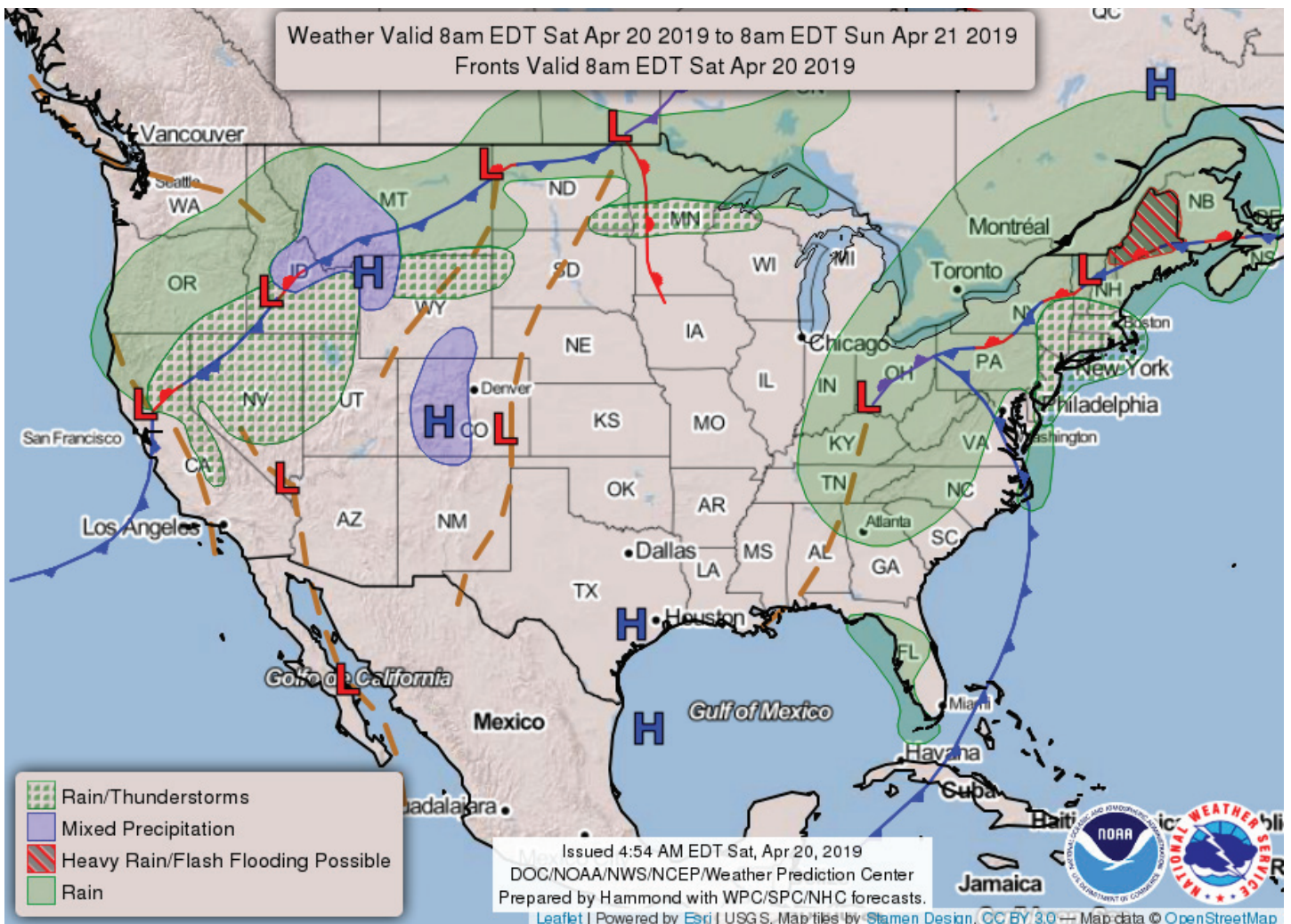
Precip to date in April.: 1.42

Average Precip to date: 3.16

Precip Year to Date: 4.46

Sunset Tonight: 8:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:38 a.m.





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## PROSPERITY PLUS

Sin is sin.

There's no way around it. Some ridicule those who fear it. Some try to hide it. Some look forward to doing it. Some suffer horrible consequences because of it. Some do their best to avoid it. Some can't get enough of it.

Some have ways of classifying sins. One sin, to some, may be worse than another sin. If you do it, it's a sin! But if I do it, well, it's a mistake or something that could not be avoided. Or, God was testing me, and it was more than even the best Christian could resist. It got me!

Many consider the rich, wealthy, or prosperous to be devious and dishonest, sinister and sinful, unable to be honest and helpful because they are successful. They cannot believe that what the rich have is a result of clean living, hard work, honoring God and serving others. However, this position cannot be supported by Scripture.

There is nothing wrong with being wealthy or rich or successful. What makes the difference? Those who trust in their riches will fail, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Many who have riches are also very righteous. They recognize that what they have comes from God, and in turn, honor Him from the abundance of His gifts and with hearts that are pure. What we have and do with what we have, proves our motives and what we love.

The Bible clearly states that the problems of the rich do not come from their riches, but from the way they relate to worldly wealth. Thank God for their wealth if they use it to honor and glorify Him. However, it's not what they do with God's blessings, but what I do with mine.

Prayer: Father, whatever I have are gifts that come to me from Your love and grace. What I do with them, and how I use them, proves how much I love You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 11:28 Those who trust in their riches will fail, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

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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

### Quest for food stamp data lands newspaper at Supreme Court

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the summer of 2010, reporters at South Dakota's Argus Leader newspaper decided to request data about the government's food assistance program, previously known as food stamps. They thought the information could lead to a series of stories and potentially help them identify fraud in the now \$65 billion-a-year program.

They sent a stream of what they thought were routine requests for information to Washington.

Government officials eventually sent back some information about the hundreds of thousands of stores nationwide where the food program's participants could use their benefits. But the government withheld information reporters saw as crucial: how much each store received annually from the program.

Trying to get that data has taken the paper more than eight years and landed it at the Supreme Court, which will hear the case Monday.

Argus Leader news director Cory Myers, who directs a staff of 18 at the Sioux Falls paper, says getting the information is about "knowing how our government is operating" and "knowing what government is doing with our tax money."

A supermarket trade association opposing the information's release argues that the information being sought is confidential. The Supreme Court's decision in the case could be narrow or could significantly impact the interpretation of a law that grants the public access to government records.

The Argus Leader is owned by USA Today publisher Gannett and is the largest newspaper in South Dakota. It wrote about the government's initial release of information. But Jonathan Ellis, one of the reporters behind the requests, said there's more to learn if the paper gets what it's seeking.

Ellis said he would like to write about the companies who profit the most from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, called SNAP. He would like to analyze how successful efforts to involve farmers' markets in the program have been. And he is still hoping to use the data to identify stores that seem like outliers, an indication of potential fraud.

Megan Luther, the other reporter behind the requests, said the paper has been fighting for the information for reasons beyond "there's a good story there." Luther, who now works for InvestigateTV, said it's "transparency 101" that "taxpayers have a right to know where their money is going."

The paper has gotten close to getting the data before.

After initially opposing the information's release, the federal government reversed course after the Argus Leader took it to court and won. But the Virginia-based Food Marketing Institute, a trade association representing grocery stores and supermarket chains, stepped in to continue the fight. The group lost an appeal, and the paper hoped it would soon get the data. Then the Supreme Court took the case.

The Food Marketing Institute, which declined interviews before Monday's arguments, has said in court papers that the public already has access to a lot of data about SNAP. But SNAP sales data by store is confidential "much the same way how much business grocers do in cash, credit, debit, checks or even gift cards is confidential," wrote Food Marketing Institute president and CEO Leslie G. Sarasin in a blog post last month.

To decide whether the information should be released, the Supreme Court will have to interpret the federal Freedom of Information Act.

It gives citizens, including reporters, access to federal agencies' records with certain exceptions. In the Argus Leader's case, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers SNAP, argued that disclosing the data the paper sought was barred by FOIA's "exemption 4." It tells the government to withhold "confidential" "commercial or financial information" obtained from third parties.

It will be up to the court to determine whether what the paper is seeking counts as "confidential."

The Trump administration is backing the grocery stores in arguing against the information's release.

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The Associated Press is among dozens of media organizations that have signed a legal brief supporting the Argus Leader.

Myers, the Argus Leader's news director, said that in the years it has taken for the paper's case to reach the Supreme Court, the paper has continued to do the kind of investigative reporting it was attempting to do in seeking the SNAP data.

In South Dakota, he said, "there are more stories and more malfeasance than one newsroom can root out, but we certainly try."

The case is 18-481 Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media.

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

## **\$6.6 million Sioux Falls property may soon be off the market**

**By SHELLY CONLON Sioux Falls Argus Leader**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — In the heart of Sioux Falls is a \$6.6 million property owned by the state that's been on and off the market for the last five years.

Part of the South Dakota School for the Deaf property is an underutilized football field and track now mostly used when it's mowed. The other part is an aging building that houses services meant to help hundreds of deaf and hard of hearing children each year, located in a prime location with a nearby bus route and resources for the homeless half a mile away.

But for the last year and a half, despite urgency from former Gov. Dennis Daugaard and at least one offer from a church willing to pay more than the property's appraised value, the South Dakota Board of Regents has failed to sign on the dotted line.

"Quite frankly, they don't have to sell it. They can sit on it," Brent Norgaard, Celebrate Community Church's chief operating officer, told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader. "It's housing several organizations. It's underutilized, but it's not killing them. It's not the end of the world if it doesn't, but at least from our perspective looking from the outside in, they weren't as motivated to sell it as we would've liked."

Now the regents may have plans to officially take the School for the Deaf off the market.

After years of trying to sell — and the board denying any progress has stalled out — the regents decided in February to only sell part of the property and remodel the rest, according to board meeting minutes. The decision follows two failed attempts from buyers, and at least one attempt to acquire a different property for SDSD.

It was a decision "best for all parties involved," according to meeting minutes. But the regents have been mostly mum about the difficulties behind selling the property, and the decision to walk away from the idea has left about the \$1.8 million underutilized football field on the table and at least two local church ministries left looking for other options to expand their services.

Planned renovations will better accommodate SDSD's outreach services and the additional tenants in the building, which now includes about 23,000 square feet for the state's Department of Health. The health department is expected to rent the building for at least 10 years, according to regents' meeting minutes. The department moved into the building within the last year.

The School for the Deaf has been under the regents' since the 1940s, Superintendent Marje Kaiser said. Kaiser's been at the school for nine years, and also serves as superintendent for the state's School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The school started to struggle about 12 years ago when it began seeing a decline in the number of students it served on campus and when the school's dorm closed the year prior, she said.

That's when the school became more focused on offering and expanding its outreach services, Kaiser said. Currently, the school's outreach services help more than 570 students each year statewide with 11 outreach consultants total, and that number is expected to increase, she said.

SDSD also offers a couple mobile audiologists who screens and tests about 17,000 children a year as a partner for public school districts.

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"We're really the kind of group of experts in the state," Kaiser said.

Until the board had decided to renovate the building, the future of where those services would be housed was in limbo, she said.

The School for the Deaf has been for sale since 2014, but it's been in a holding pattern since September 2017 when a state task force told regents not to sell the property unless someone was willing to pay more than it's appraised value of \$6.6 million.

Within the last year, the property has had at least two bids from two separate church ministries, almost acquired a new building for the school and was even suggested by a Sioux Falls School District board member in July as an idea for the reconstruction of a nearby 94-year-old middle school.

At the time, the regents' president Kevin Schieffer wasn't able to go into any details about any interest from buyers, and denied the sale of the building had stalled out.

"The more visibility the story gets, the more interest it generates," Schieffer said in July 2018. "So that's good news."

Norgaard, with Celebrate, sat down with the Argus Leader last week to shed light on why the congregation had to walk away from buying the property for \$6.9 million in December after almost a full year of negotiations.

The offer would've been \$300,000 more than the building's appraised value.

"Many years ago, we thought that would be a great location," Norgaard said. "We wanted to be in the heart of the city with our mission."

Celebrate Community Church had planned to buy the property to expand its congregation, and also its outreach services, Norgaard said.

Initially, the dream was to have a campus with multiple buildings; buildings that would have served as a place for students to learn and grow, a seminary school, an after-school program and even transitional housing for those in need, he said.

The property would've been ideal, but then the state started piecemealing parts of it to other buyers, he said. Yet, the main campus and football field were still available, and the church started asking about the property in January 2018, he said.

As talks continued, the church made two offers. The first was rejected by the regents because it didn't meet what it was appraised for, Norgaard said. The second came as close to signing on the dotted lines as possible with contingencies.

Ultimately, the offer fell through after the state refused to fix issues found during the inspection process. Church officials also realized they would still need to construct a large welcome center, sanctuary and parking lot, Norgaard said.

"It's an older building," Norgaard said. "We found some asbestos. The pool was broken and empty, there was a pump that needed to be replaced and there some structural things that were a problem."

The Board of Regents and the regents' realtor did not return multiple requests for comment about the inspections and property sale, and the Argus Leader has filed an open records request for more information about the alleged inspection issues.

Kaiser denied such issues with the building existed.

"These buildings have been incredibly well-maintained," Kaiser said. "The gym is an older building, but that's been extensively remodeled. There was an inspection for asbestos, but nothing that really needed to be abated and if there was, it was minor. That was within this last year."

At one point during the process, Norgaard said he walked through the campus and saw living and dead bats in the building.

Norgaard wouldn't release copies of the inspection reports made to the building, but said the church submitted a 12-point list of its most concerning issues to the regents.

"They came back and said they weren't going to make any changes," Norgaard said. "They said you have to buy it as is, the way it is, and you'll have to do your own improvements. Honestly, they were saying, 'We've stretched as far as we can go to make this a good deal for us.' But we had stretched as far as we

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could go to make it work for us.”

The church was going to invest not only in buying the property, but also planned to spend another \$7 million or \$8 million on property improvements, most of which would have been done through donations and fundraising, he said.

But church leaders knew they weren't going to be able to go more than what was already offered, he said. The property was too much of a risk, and the church had to draw the line somewhere, he said.

“We were disappointed, but we also know they're trying to maximize their property and the values of their properties,” he said. “We respected it, and they respected our views. It was a very cordial conversation. It wasn't adversarial or anything, we just couldn't get it done.”

Still, little details surround what's next for the property.

The regents have yet to decide on a budget for renovations, but board meeting minutes state the regents' are looking at using up to — but not more than — \$1.7 million of its reserve funding to finance the changes because of a cash flow issue.

If the renovations cost more than \$1.5 million, then the board will look at forming a building committee on the matter.

But that still leaves Celebrate Community Church and one other ministry with questions about what direction to go.

The Sioux Falls Ministry Center is currently in negotiations for a second time regarding School for the Deaf property, said Rich Merkouris, King of Glory Church's senior pastor.

Back in January, he had a strategy for wanting to move the nonprofits in the center onto the School for the Deaf site by buying the property to also expand services and better serve some of the city's most needy.

That included the possibility of the Boys and Girls Club of the Sioux Empire moving into the building as well, CEO Rebecca Wimmer said.

The center came close to getting approval. An agenda item from Jan. 25 — never voted on by regents — laid out a plan to sell the School for the Deaf building, and then the regents would move into the former TCF Bank Building.

However, the ministry center could not pull the necessary items together to make it happen and needed more time, Merkouris said.

“We are back in negotiations right now trying to pull all the different parties together,” Merkouris said. “We hope to know more by the end of this week.”

He wouldn't go into further detail because real estate negotiations are protected under state law.

It remains unclear how the Sioux Falls Ministry Center fit into the regents' new plans for the property, and Merkouris said the center had not signed anything yet.

Celebrate Community Church, on the other hand, will be trying to figure out how to do the same thing planned for the SDSA campus on a smaller scale, Norgaard said.

“We had a lot of people in favor of us doing this; the mayor for one,” Norgaard said. “We're going to still do that here. It might not be to the same extent, and we might have to do it in different ways, but our vision and purpose didn't change.”

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

## Pine Ridge celebrates the renovations of sole grocery store

By LARA COOPER AND ASHLEY ENERIZ Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — After having to drive about 45 minutes to buy groceries for the past few months, Donna Dubray was first in line for the recent grand opening of Pine Ridge's sole grocery store.

“I'm excited to see what's in there, how it's made, what it all consists of, prices,” the 58-year-old told the Rapid City Journal of Buche Foods.

A few spots behind her in line was five-year-old Moses and his grandmother, Melissa Zephier, who brought her hand-written shopping list. Zephier, 53, said she was looking for items that included eggs, yogurt,

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vegetables, snacks and birdseed.

Dubray and Zephier were two of the dozens of people who poured into Buche Foods, a family-owned company with grocery stores in Mission, Wagner and Gregory.

Last November, the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council voted to award the operating contract for the grocery store to Buche Foods, replacing a company that had run the Sioux Nation Shopping Center since it opened about 50 years ago.

"In my opinion the community has been without a fully stocked grocery store since the holidays in 2018" when Sioux Nation stopped re-stocking some food, said RF Buche, president of Buche Foods.

On Jan. 22, Buche Foods began busing people twice a day, Monday-Friday, to a grocery store in Martin, about 45 minutes from Pine Ridge. Sioux Nation officially closed in early February and Buche Foods was allowed to begin renovations March 12. Buche Auto Parts opened March 25 while the hardware and grocery stores recently opened.

While some residents took advantage of the shuttles to Martin during the store closure, others schlepped to another grocery store themselves. No grocery store in Pine Ridge meant spending more on gas bills said Dubray, who drove to Chadron, Neb., Rapid City, or "wherever you could get the best deals." Other shoppers said they made the trip to Gordon, Neb., about 40 minutes from Pine Ridge.

Buche said his team worked as quickly as it could to reopen the store. "What we've accomplished in 27 days is unheard of, and we've done it through blizzard, flooding."

"The whole building was gutted and everything was replaced," said Marla Underbaggage, a custodian who's worked at the Pine Ridge grocery store for more than a dozen years. It's a "complete makeover."

Underbaggage, 54, shook hands with each customer as they were let into the store at 11 a.m. and greeted by staff wearing bright red shirts with the Oglala Sioux Tribe flag as well as drummers and singers.

Inside, the customers found a store with new flooring, paint, refrigerators and decor. Areas are labeled in English and Lakota, such as the frozen food/wóyute tasáka section and the checkout/wakázuzu area.

"This is a community store and it just brings two cultures together," Buche said of the bilingual signage.

New products include organic produce, food for people with diabetic and gluten-free diets, TVs, gift cards, microwaves, lottery tickets, and T-shirts celebrating Lakota culture, people and schools.

The \$2 million worth of renovations was completed by the Buche Foods team, local contractors and a refrigeration company, Buche said. Most Sioux Nation employees were re-hired by Buche, given a 4% raise and allowed to carry over their years of service for insurance purposes.

Tina Bettelyoun, 51, said she ended up buying "more than I needed" at the store. "There's a bigger section, it's just really a nice store. It's like being in Chadron or Rapid City."

Bettelyoun and her 22-year old daughter, Talon, said the food prices are cheaper at Buche Foods, and there are new products such as pre-cut fruit.

Beau Big Crow, 36, walked out of the store carrying bags full of Wheaties boxes covered in photos of local basketball teams. The news that Buche Foods had the special cereal boxes "leaked out" on social media, said Big Crow, who's son, Beau Jr., plays on the Red Cloud team.

Big Crow said he hopes to return to buy the new organic and health foods.

"It's a big step from what it used to be," he said of Pine Ridge's new grocery store.

"I have always believed that this community deserves better," Buche said.

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

18-25-43-44-57, Mega Ball: 25, Megaplier: 4

(eighteen, twenty-five, forty-three, forty-four, fifty-seven; Mega Ball: twenty-five; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$175 million  
Powerball  
Estimated jackpot: \$136 million

## Pickup rollover in Walworth County kills 55-year-old man

AKASKA, S.D. (AP) — A 55-year-old man is dead after a one-vehicle crash in Walworth County.

The Highway Patrol says the man lost control of his pickup truck on a gravel road north of Akaska about 8 p.m. Thursday. The pickup went into the ditch, knocked over a road sign and rolled.

The driver was pronounced dead at the scene. He was alone in the vehicle. His name wasn't immediately released.

## 45-year sentence ordered in fatal Rapid City shooting

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been sentenced to 45 years in prison in a fatal shooting that authorities said was motivated by a petty dispute over women.

Twenty-two-year-old Maricelo Garcia was sentenced after pleading guilty to first-degree manslaughter in an agreement with prosecutors for killing 20-year-old Clinton Farlee at his Rapid City home in October 2017. Garcia was initially charged with first-degree murder.

The Rapid City Journal says that before Judge Jane Wipf Pfeifle handed down the sentence Thursday in state court in Rapid City, she told Garcia she was "so tired of sentencing young men who carry weapons" and use them inappropriately.

Farlee's family and friends filled the court room to capacity on Thursday. Some supporters wore matching light blue shirts with Farlee's photograph on the front.

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

## State defends South Dakota pipeline protest legislation

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON** Associated Press

South Dakota's governor and attorney general are asking a federal judge to throw out a lawsuit challenging a new law that aims to prevent disruptive demonstrations against the Keystone XL pipeline if it's built.

The law allows officials to pursue criminal or civil penalties from demonstrators who engage in "riot boosting," which is defined in part as encouraging violence during a riot. The American Civil Liberties Union and American Indian tribes say the law will stifle free speech, but the state disputes that argument.

"Defendants deny that any objectively reasonable fear of prosecution for protected speech would arise under (the law)," Deputy Attorney General Richard Williams said in a Tuesday filing.

He also said the state is immune from such lawsuits.

The legislation was muscled through the Legislature by Republican Gov. Kristi Noem and the GOP leaders in a matter of days earlier this year. The new law came in the wake of massive and prolonged protests in North Dakota against the Dakota Access oil pipeline in 2016 and 2017. There were 761 arrests in six months, and the policing effort cost the state \$38 million.

Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners also is seeking to recover millions of dollars in protest-related damages from Greenpeace, an effort the environmental group calls a "sham."

American Indian tribes and environmental groups have promised similar protests against Keystone XL, which TransCanada Corp. wants to build to move Canadian crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines carrying oil to Gulf Coast refineries. The \$8 billion project is tied up in the courts, as president Donald Trump tries to push it through but environmental groups resist.

The ACLU sued over the South Dakota law late last month on behalf of groups and people planning to protest the pipeline or encourage others to do so. The lawsuit argues the law is an overreach, vague and targets protected speech.

The law states that people who solicit or pay someone to break the law or be arrested would be sub-



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ject to paying three times the amount that would compensate for the detriment caused. Money collected would be used to pay for riot damage claims or could be transferred into a fund administered by the state Department of Public Safety.

Noem has said the law is meant to address problems caused by "out-of-state rioters funded by out-of-state interests," and that it arose from discussions with lawmakers, authorities, stakeholders and TransCanada.

Tribes have said they were not consulted. Williams, the deputy attorney general, said in his filing that "all citizens of the state, including tribes, tribal members, and environmental groups, were equally allowed to participate in the legislative process."

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

## 2018 farm numbers in the Dakotas drop from previous year

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Farms continue to disappear off the Dakotas landscape, especially smaller ones.

The federal Agriculture Department reports that total farm numbers in 2018 dropped by 300 in North Dakota and by 400 in South Dakota. North Dakota had 26,100 farms and South Dakota 29,600.

That mirrored the national trend. The number of U.S. farms dropped 12,800 from 2017, to slightly more than 2 million.

In the Dakotas, the biggest drop in farm numbers was among those with less than \$100,000 in annual sales.

While the number of total farms in the Dakotas decreased, the amount of land in farms and ranches was unchanged in both states.

## 3 teens overdose, 5 younger children left unattended

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say three teenage girls are hospitalized in a drug overdose case after one of the five younger children at the home called for help.

Authorities say the teens, ages 15, 18 and 19, were found unconscious at the home Wednesday night after a 12-year-old child placed the call for help. Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the oldest teen was babysitting the 12-year-old and four younger children.

Clemens did not know the conditions of the girls who are hospitalized or what type of drug they took. He says charges are likely once the investigation is complete.

## Trump sours on Mueller report after initial upbeat view

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is lashing out at current and former aides who cooperated with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, insisting the deeply unflattering picture they painted of him and the White House was "total bullshit."

In a series of angry tweets from Palm Beach, Florida, Trump laced into those who, under oath, had shared with Mueller their accounts of how Trump tried numerous times to squash or influence the investigation and portrayed the White House as infected by a culture of lies, deceit and deception.

"Statements are made about me by certain people in the Crazy Mueller Report, in itself written by 18 Angry Democrat Trump Haters, which are fabricated & totally untrue," Trump wrote Friday, adding that some were "total bullshit & only given to make the other person look good (or me to look bad)."

The attacks were a dramatic departure from the upbeat public face the White House had put on it just 24 hours earlier, when Trump celebrated the report's findings as full exoneration and his counselor Kellyanne Conway called it "the best day" for Trump's team since his election. While the president, according to people close to him, did feel vindicated by the report, he also felt betrayed by those who had painted him in an unflattering light — even though they were speaking under oath and had been directed by the White House to cooperate fully with Mueller's team.

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The reaction was not entirely surprising and had been something staffers feared in the days ahead of the report's release as they wondered how Mueller might portray their testimony and whether the report might damage their relationships with Trump.

While Mueller found no criminal evidence that Trump or his campaign aides colluded in Russian election meddling and did not recommend obstruction charges against the president, the 448-page report released Thursday nonetheless paints a damaging picture of the president, describing numerous cases where he discouraged witnesses from cooperating with prosecutors and prodded aides to mislead the public on his behalf to hamper the Russia probe he feared would cripple his presidency.

The accounts prompted Republican Sen. Mitt Romney, who has sometimes clashed with Trump, to release a statement saying he was "sickened at the extent and pervasiveness of dishonesty and misdirection by individuals in the highest office of the land, including the President."

"Reading the report is a sobering revelation of how far we have strayed from the aspirations and principles of the founders," he said.

The report concluded that one reason Trump managed to stay out of trouble was that his "efforts to influence the investigation were mostly unsuccessful ... largely because the persons who surrounded the President declined to carry out orders or accede to his requests."

That didn't spare those who defied Trump's wishes from his wrath.

Trump appeared to be especially angry with former White House counsel Don McGahn, who sat with Mueller for about 30 hours of interviews, and is referenced numerous times in the report.

In one particularly vivid passage, Mueller recounts how Trump called McGahn twice at home and directed him to set in motion Mueller's firing. McGahn recoiled, packed up his office and threatened to resign, fearing the move would trigger a potential crisis akin to the Saturday Night Massacre of firings during the Watergate era.

In another section, Mueller details how Trump questioned McGahn's note-taking, telling the White House counsel that, "Lawyers don't take notes" and that he'd "never had a lawyer who took notes."

"Watch out for people that take so-called "notes," when the notes never existed until needed," Trump said in one of his tweets Friday. Others whose contemporaneous notes were referenced in the report include former staff secretary Rob Porter and Reince Priebus, Trump's first chief of staff.

Trump ended his tweet with the word, "a..." suggesting more was coming. More than eight hours later, he finally completed his thought, calling the probe a "big, fat, waste of time, energy and money" and threatening investigators by saying, "It is now finally time to turn the tables and bring justice to some very sick and dangerous people who have committed very serious crimes, perhaps even Spying or Treason." There is no evidence of either.

Trump, who is in Florida for the Easter weekend, headed to his West Palm Beach golf club Friday after some early morning rain had cleared. There he played golf with conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh "and a couple friends," according to the White House.

He'll spend the rest of the weekend with family, friends and paying members of his private Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach.

As Trump hopped off the steps from Air Force One on Thursday evening, he was greeted by a throng of supporters, who clamored for autographs and selfies. He repeatedly told the crowd "thank you everybody" as they yelled encouragement.

Ari Fleischer, who served as White House press secretary to former President George W. Bush, said in an appearance on Fox News that he didn't understand why Trump decided to send his tweets lashing out at former aides.

"I think it's over," he said. "If I were the president, I would have basically declared victory with the Mueller report and everything that came out and move beyond it."

Still, he said he hoped the White House had learned some lessons.

"The president and his entire team needs to realize how close they came to being charged with obstruction," Fleischer said. "Asking your staff to lie and engaging in some of the activities that the Mueller report stated the president engaged in is too close to obstruction. And that's a lesson I hope everybody at the

White House takes with them going forward.”

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann in Washington and Kevin Freking in Palm Beach, Florida, contributed to this report.

For complete coverage of the Mueller report, go to <https://www.apnews.com/TrumpInvestigations>

## Trump’s legal team breathes a sigh, takes a victory lap

By **JONATHAN LEMIRE and ERIC TUCKER** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — First they cooperated. Then they stonewalled. Their television interviews were scattershot and ridiculed, their client mercurial and unreliable.

But President Donald Trump’s legal team, through a combination of bluster, legal precedent and shifting tactics, managed to protect their client from a potentially perilous in-person interview during special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation. His lawyers are taking a victory lap after a redacted version of Mueller’s findings revealed politically damaging conduct by the president but drew no conclusions of criminal behavior.

“Our strategy came to be that when we weren’t talking, we were losing,” Rudy Giuliani, one of Trump’s lawyers, told The Associated Press in a recent interview. Given that Mueller could not indict a sitting president, Giuliani said, the team kept its focus on Mueller’s “capacity to report, so we had to play in the media as well as legally.”

The aftershocks from the Mueller report released Thursday will help shape the next two years of Trump’s administration. But while the report may cause some Democrats to take a renewed look at impeachment despite long odds of success in Congress, the legal threat to Trump that seemed so dangerous upon Mueller’s appointment in May 2017 has waned.

At the outset, that appointment led Trump to predict “the end of my presidency.” The White House struggled to recruit top Washington attorneys, many of whom were reluctant to work for a temperamental, scandal-prone president who repeatedly claimed he would be his own best legal mind.

The initial strategy of the Trump legal team, including White House attorney Ty Cobb and personal defense lawyer John Dowd, was to be as cooperative as possible with Mueller’s prosecutors and ensure that investigators got access to the documents they requested and the witnesses they wanted to interview. The Trump lawyers hoped to bring about a quick conclusion to the investigation.

Believing he could exonerate himself, Trump initially expressed a willingness to sit for an interview with Mueller’s team. A date was set for that to take place at Camp David. But then the president’s lawyers moved away from the plan, in part by arguing that the special counsel already had gotten answers to his questions.

“It became the most transparent investigation in history,” Jay Sekulow, one of the president’s personal lawyers, said in an interview.

Still, there was internal tumult along the way, including the March 2018 departure of Dowd, a veteran and experienced criminal defense attorney, and the additions of Giuliani and the husband-wife team of Martin and Jane Raskin.

Even as the legal team professed cooperation with Mueller’s prosecutors, the lawyers expressed impatience, frustration and skepticism in a series of private letters that challenged the credibility of the government’s witnesses and the demands to interview the president.

In a November 2018 correspondence, one of a series of letters obtained by news outlets, the president’s legal team attacked the questions Mueller wanted to ask the president as “burdensome if submitted to a routine witness, let alone presented to the president of the United States, more than two years after the events at issue while he continued to navigate numerous, serious matters of state, national security and domestic emergency.”

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Those private complaints were dwarfed by louder public protests. Trump spent months engaging in daily, sometimes hourly, attacks on Mueller's team, declaring the investigation a "Witch Hunt" and questioning the integrity of the investigators.

Giuliani, in many ways more of a television spokesman than conventional lawyer, amplified those attacks. He went so far as to accuse the investigators of misconduct and to portray Mueller, who as a Marine officer had led a rifle platoon in Vietnam, as unpatriotic.

The former New York City mayor became a human smoke screen, making accusations and offering theories often meant to distract and obfuscate. He was a punch line on cable news channels, and his interviews were mocked as blunder-filled performances.

But there was a method to Giuliani's shtick, at least at times. More than once he let slip revelations that initially were perceived as gaffes but later were recognized as efforts to get out ahead of potentially damaging news stories. Two examples include payments to Stormy Daniels, a porn actress who claimed an affair with Trump, and a letter of intent to build a Trump Tower Moscow.

There were missteps, too.

The interviews granted by White House staffers filled the pages of the Mueller report with stories of West Wing chaos. At least one interaction caught Mueller's attention as a possible effort to discourage a witness from cooperating against the president.

Trump's lawyers communicated regularly with attorneys for other people under scrutiny in the investigation as part of a joint-defense agreement that enabled them to swap information. But the report reveals that after former national security adviser Michael Flynn withdrew from the agreement and began cooperating with the government, an unidentified Trump lawyer left a message with Flynn's attorneys reminding them that the president still had warm feelings for Flynn and asking for a "heads-up" if Flynn knew damaging information about the president.

While Giuliani, with an eye toward the members of Congress who might eventually decide the president's fate, focused on the public relations battle, the legal team also worked behind the scenes to argue that Mueller could not use a subpoena to compel Trump to give an in-person interview, which carried potentially grave risks for a president prone to making false statements.

"I think they were right to think that it would hurt him to speak to Mueller's team, and as it turns out, they were right to think that he could get away with refusing to speak with Mueller's team," said Stanford law school professor David Alan Sklansky.

Mueller's team, which spent about a year negotiating with Trump's lawyers over a potential interview, ultimately agreed to accept written answers on Russia-related questions but never spoke with the president in person.

Making the move to block an interview was "defense lawyering 101" because defense lawyers as a matter of course don't like to let clients in legal jeopardy speak to investigators, said Duke law professor Samuel Buell.

Mueller never acted to subpoena Trump. The special counsel did not conclude that Trump's campaign colluded with Russians. With an eye on following a Justice Department legal opinion that prohibits indicting a sitting president, Mueller did not rule on whether Trump obstructed justice. Attorney General William Barr and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein declared that Trump did not.

"We're very, very happy. I mean, it's a clear victory. I think any lawyer would say when you get a declination, you just won," Giuliani told Fox News after the report came out.

Buell said it hard to know how much credit belonged to Trump's lawyers.

"I think that's where the real lawyering in a situation like this goes on, is the client management piece," he said. "Trump doesn't like to be managed, clearly ... but the Mueller report won't tell you what went on with the president's private lawyers and the president."

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Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Tucker at <http://twitter.com/@etuckerAP>

For complete coverage of the Mueller report, go to <https://www.apnews.com/TrumpInvestigations>

## Yellow vest anger burns in France, fueled by Notre Dame fire

By ANGELA CHARLTON and MICHEL EULER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French yellow vest protesters set fires along a march route through Paris on Saturday to drive home their message to a government they see as out of touch with the problems of the poor: that rebuilding the fire-ravaged Notre Dame Cathedral isn't the only problem France needs to solve.

Like the high-visibility vests the protesters wear, the scattered small fires in Paris appeared to be a collective plea to the government to "look at me — I need help too!"

Police fired water cannon and sprayed tear gas to try to control radical elements on the margins of the largely peaceful march, one of several actions around Paris and other French cities.

The protesters were marking the 23rd straight weekend of yellow vest actions against economic inequality and President Emmanuel Macron's government, which they see as favoring the wealthy and big business at the expense of ordinary workers. Protesters see themselves as standing up for beleaguered French workers, students and retirees who have been battered by high unemployment, high taxes and shrinking purchasing power.

Associated Press reporters saw a car, motorbikes and barricades set ablaze around the Place de la Republique plaza in eastern Paris. The smell of tear gas fired by police mixed with the smoke, choking the air.

Paris firefighters — who struggled earlier this week to prevent the 12th-century Notre Dame from collapsing — quickly responded to extinguish the flames at Saturday's protest.

One masked protester dressed in black jumped on a Mercedes parked along the march route, smashing its front and back windshields.

Paris police headquarters said authorities detained 137 people by early afternoon and carried out spot checks on more than 14,000 people trying to enter the capital for Saturday's protests.

The tensions focused on a march of several thousand people that started at the Finance Ministry in eastern Paris to demand lower taxes on workers and retirees and higher taxes on the rich.

Another group of about 200 people tried to march to the president's Elysee Palace in central Paris, but riot police blocked them at the neo-classical Madeleine Church.

Yet another group tried to demonstrate yellow vest mourning over the Notre Dame blaze while also keeping up the pressure on Macron. They wanted to march to Notre Dame itself, but were banned by police, who set up a large security perimeter around the area.

One protester carried a huge wooden cross resembling those carried in Good Friday processions as he walked on a nearby Paris embankment.

Many protesters were deeply saddened by the fire at a national monument. But at the same time they are angry at the \$1 billion in donations for Notre Dame renovations that poured in from French tycoons while their own economic demands remain largely unmet and they struggle to make ends meet.

"I think what happened at Notre Dame is a great tragedy but humans should be more important than stones. And if humans had a little bit more money, they too could help finance the reconstruction work at Notre Dame. I find this disgusting," said protester Jose Fraile.

Some 60,000 police officers were mobilized for Saturday's protests across France. The movement is largely peaceful but extremists have attacked treasured monuments, shops and banks and clashed with police.

The heavy police presence meant subway stations and roads around Paris were closed Saturday, thwarting tourists trying to enjoy the French capital on a warm spring day.

"Paris is very difficult right now," said Paul Harlow, of Kansas City, Missouri, as he looked sadly at the damaged Notre Dame.

He and his wife Susan were in Paris only for a few days and didn't make it in time to see the cathedral. On Saturday, their efforts to visit museums were derailed by closed subways and barricaded roads.

"I don't think we'll be back," he said.

Other visitors showed solidarity with the yellow vest cause.

"I am not interested in joining them, but I can understand what they're angry about," said Antonio Costes, a retiree from the Paris suburb of Montreuil who came Saturday to see the damage to Notre Dame. "There is a lot of injustice."

Macron had been scheduled to lay out his responses to yellow vest concerns on Monday night — but canceled the speech because the Notre Dame fire broke out. He's now expected to do so next Thursday.

Some yellow vest critics accuse Macron of trying to exploit the fire for political gain. One protester carried a sign targeting Macron that read: "Pyromaniac - we are going to carbonize you."

Another huge sign read: "Victor Hugo thanks all the generous donors ready to save Notre Dame and proposes that they do the same thing with Les Miserables," referring to the famed author's novels about the cathedral and the struggles of France's poor.

Some prominent yellow vest figures who had stopped protesting said they were returning to the streets Saturday out of an even greater sense of being overlooked since the Notre Dame tragedy.

Anti-rich messages have flourished on social media in recent days as yellow vest protesters exhorted wealthy donors to be more generous with France's working class.

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Chris den Hond, Francisco Seco and Deborah Gouffran in Paris contributed to this report.

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

## **AP FACT CHECK: Trump team's distortions on Mueller report**

**By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special counsel Robert Mueller all but boldfaced this finding in his report on the Russia investigation: No exoneration for President Donald Trump on whether Trump criminally obstructed justice.

But Trump and his aides are stating that Mueller's report did exonerate. No words from the report will throw them off their mischaracterization of it.

A look at claims by Trump and his people on a variety of subjects from the week that produced the Mueller report, which cleared Trump of criminal conspiracy with Russia, traced multiple ways he tried to interfere in the Russia inquiry to his benefit and came to no conclusion on whether those acts broke the law.

### **RUSSIA INVESTIGATION**

**TRUMP:** "The end result of the greatest Witch Hunt in U.S. political history is No Collusion with Russia (and No Obstruction). Pretty Amazing! — tweet Saturday.

**VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:** "Today's release of the Special Counsel's report confirms what the President and I have said since day one: there was no collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia and there was no obstruction of justice." — statement Thursday.

**KELLYANNE CONWAY,** White House counselor: "What matters is what the Department of Justice and special counsel concluded here, which is no collusion, no obstruction, and complete exoneration, as the president says." — remarks Thursday to reporters.

**THE FACTS:** The special counsel's 400-plus-page report specifically does not exonerate Trump, leaving open the question of whether the president obstructed justice.

"If we had confidence after a thorough investigation of the facts that the President clearly did not commit obstruction of justice, we would so state," Mueller wrote. "Based on the facts and the applicable legal standards, however, we are unable to reach that judgment."

The report identifies 10 instances of possible obstruction by Trump and said he might have "had a motive" to impede the investigation because of what it could find on a variety of personal matters, such as his proposal to build a Trump Tower in Moscow.

"The evidence does indicate that a thorough FBI investigation would uncover facts about the campaign and the President personally that the President could have understood to be crimes or that would give

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rise to personal and political concerns," the report states.

In explaining its decision, Mueller's team said reaching a conclusion on whether Trump committed crimes would be inappropriate because of a Justice Department legal opinion indicating that a sitting president should not be prosecuted. It nevertheless left open at least the theoretical possibility that Trump could be charged after he leaves office, noting that its factual investigation was conducted "in order to preserve the evidence when memories were fresh and documentary material were available."

"Accordingly, while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," the report states.

SARAH SANDERS, White House press secretary, on her statements from 2017 that many people in the FBI wanted James Comey, the director, fired: "The sentiment is 100% accurate." — "CBS This Morning," Friday.

THE FACTS: Her answer on this subject was far different when she gave it under oath.

After Trump fired Comey, she told reporters on May 10, 2017, that "the rank and file of the FBI had lost confidence in their director" and "accordingly" the president removed him. When a reporter said most FBI agents supported Comey, Sanders said, "Look, we've heard from countless members of the FBI that say very different things."

But when Mueller's team interviewed her under oath, she backed off that story. According to the Mueller report, she said it was a "slip of the tongue" to say that countless FBI people wanted Comey out, that her statement about the rank and file losing confidence in him was offered "in the heat of the moment" and that, in the report's words, it "was not founded on anything."

Now she's back to suggesting that Comey was in fact unpopular in the FBI. "I said that it was in the heat of the moment, meaning it wasn't a scripted thing," she said Friday. "But the big takeaway here is that the sentiment is 100% accurate."

The Mueller report says there is "no evidence" that Trump heard complaints about Comey's leadership from FBI employees before firing him.

Mueller evaluated nearly a dozen episodes for possible obstruction of justice and said he could not conclusively determine that Trump had committed criminal obstruction. Among those episodes was his manner of firing Comey. Mueller found "substantial evidence" corroborating Comey's account of a dinner at which he said Trump pressed him for his loyalty.

Although Sanders attributed her remark about Comey's unpopularity to "heat of the moment," Trump has voiced the same sentiment. As recently as January, he tweeted: "The rank and file of the FBI are great people who are disgusted with what they are learning about Lyin' James Comey and the so-called 'leaders' of the FBI."

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM BARR, asked if Mueller intended for Congress, not the attorney general, to decide whether Trump obstructed justice: "Well, special counsel Mueller did not indicate that his purpose was to leave the decision to Congress. I hope that was not his view. ... I didn't talk to him directly about the fact that we were making the decision, but I am told that his reaction to that was that it was my prerogative as attorney general to make that decision."

THE FACTS: Mueller's report actually does indicate that Congress could make that determination.

The report states that no person is above the law, including the president, and that the Constitution "does not categorically and permanently immunize a President for obstructing justice."

In his four-page memo last month, Barr said while Mueller left open the question of whether Trump broke the law and obstructed the investigation, Barr was ultimately deciding as attorney general that the evidence developed by Mueller was "not sufficient" to establish, for the purposes of prosecution, that Trump obstructed justice.

But the special counsel's report specifies that Congress can also render a judgment on that question.

It says: "The conclusion that Congress may apply obstruction laws to the President's corrupt exercise of

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the powers of office accords with our constitutional system of checks and balances and the principle that no person is above the law.”

BARR: “These reports are not supposed to be made public.” — remarks Thursday at the Justice Department.

THE FACTS: The attorney general is not going out on a limb for public disclosure.

Justice Department regulations give Barr wide authority to release a special counsel’s report in situations it “would be in the public interest.” Barr had made clear during his Senate confirmation hearing in January that he believed in transparency with the report on Mueller’s investigation into Russian election interference during the 2016 campaign, “consistent with regulations and the law.”

BARR, saying it was “consistent with long-standing practice” for him to share a copy of the redacted report with the White House and president’s attorneys before its release: “Earlier this week, the president’s personal counsel requested and were given the opportunity to read a final version of the redacted report before it was publicly released. That request was consistent with the practice followed under the Ethics in Government Act, which permitted individuals named in a report prepared by an independent counsel the opportunity to read the report before publication.” — remarks Thursday.

THE FACTS: Barr’s decision, citing the Ethics in Government Act, is inconsistent with independent counsel Ken Starr’s handling of his report into whether President Bill Clinton obstructed and lied in Starr’s probe.

On Sept. 7, 1998, Clinton’s attorney David Kendall requested that Starr provide him an opportunity to review the report before it was sent to Congress. Starr quickly turned him down.

“As a matter of legal interpretation, I respectfully disagree with your analysis,” Starr wrote to Kendall two days later. Starr called Kendall “mistaken” regarding the rights of the president’s attorneys to “review a ‘report’ before it is transmitted to Congress.”

Starr’s report was governed by the ethics act cited by Barr as his justification for showing the report to the president’s team. It has since expired. Current regulations governing Mueller’s work don’t specify how confidential information should be shared with the White House.

Starr’s report led to the impeachment trial of Clinton in 1999.

## ECONOMY

TRUMP: “We cut your taxes. Biggest tax cut in history.”— remarks Monday in Burnsville, Minnesota.

THE FACTS: His tax cuts are nowhere close to the biggest in U.S. history.

It’s a \$1.5 trillion tax cut over 10 years. As a share of the total economy, a tax cut of that size ranks 12th, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. President Ronald Reagan’s 1981 cut is the biggest followed by the 1945 rollback of taxes that financed World War II.

Post-Reagan tax cuts also stand among the historically significant: President George W. Bush’s cuts in the early 2000s and President Barack Obama’s renewal of them a decade later.

TRUMP: “I believe it will be Crazy Bernie Sanders vs. Sleepy Joe Biden as the two finalists to run against maybe the best Economy in the history of our Country.” — tweet Tuesday.

TRUMP: “We may have the best economy we’ve ever had.” — remarks in Minnesota.

THE FACTS: The economy is healthy but not one of the best in history. Also, there are signs it is weakening after a spurt of growth last year.

The economy expanded at an annual rate of 2.9 percent last year, a solid pace. But it was just the fastest in four years. In the late 1990s, growth topped 4 percent for four straight years, a level it has not yet reached under Trump. And growth even reached 7.2 percent in 1984.

Independent economists widely expect slower growth this year as the effects of the Trump administration’s tax cuts fade, trade tensions and slower global growth hold back exports, and higher interest rates make it more expensive to borrow to buy cars and homes.



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Associated Press writers Josh Boak and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

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## Egypt votes on referendum extending el-Sissi's rule to 2030

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptians voted Saturday on constitutional amendments that would allow President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to stay in power until 2030 and broaden the military's role — changes blasted by critics as another major step toward authoritarian rule.

The referendum came amid an unprecedented crackdown on dissent in recent years. El-Sissi's government has arrested thousands of people, most of them Islamists but also prominent secular activists, and rolled back freedoms won in a 2011 pro-democracy uprising.

Polls opened at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT). Voting will stretch over a period of three days to allow maximum turnout.

Outside a polling center near the Giza Pyramids, around two dozen people, mostly elderly women, lined up waiting to cast their votes. Heavy police and army security was reported at polling stations throughout the capital city.

Haja Khadija, a 63-year-old housewife, said she came for the "security and stability" of the country. "We love el-Sissi. He did lots of things. He raised our pensions."

Casting his ballot on Saturday, Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly urged voters to turn out in high numbers. He said that voting will reflect "the atmosphere of stability and democracy that we are witnessing now."

State-run TV said el-Sissi voted in Cairo's Heliopolis district, near the presidential palace. El-Sissi, who has repeatedly said he won't stay in office any longer than the people want him to, hasn't commented on the amendments.

Opposition voices have largely been shut out amid the rush to hold the referendum. Pro-government media have led a campaign for weeks calling a "Yes" vote a patriotic duty.

Since early April, the Egyptian capital has been awash with large posters and banners encouraging people to vote in favor of the changes. Most of the posters were apparently funded by pro-government parties, businessmen and lawmakers.

Parliament, packed with el-Sissi supporters, overwhelmingly approved the amendments on Tuesday, with only 22 no votes and one abstention from 554 lawmakers in attendance. The national electoral commission announced the following day that voting would begin on Saturday.

The proposed changes are seen by critics as another step toward authoritarianism. The referendum comes eight years after a pro-democracy uprising ended autocrat Hosni Mubarak's three-decade rule, and nearly six years after el-Sissi led a popular military overthrow of the country's first freely elected but divisive Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi.

Two international advocacy groups — Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists — on Saturday urged the Egyptian government to withdraw the amendments.

"Egypt's autocracy is shifting into overdrive to re-establish the 'President-for-Life' model, beloved by dictators in the region and despised by their citizens," said Michael Page, deputy Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "But it's a model that recent experience in Egypt and neighboring countries has demonstrated is not built to last."

The Civil Democratic Movement, a coalition of liberal and left-leaning parties, urged people to participate in the referendum by voting "No."

The coalition said it used social media to spread its message, noting that it was banned from hanging banners in the streets to call on voters to reject the amendments.

The amendments extend a president's term in office from four to six years and allow for a maximum of two terms. But they also include an article specific to el-Sissi that extends his current second four-year

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term to six years and allows him to run for another six-year term in 2024 — potentially extending his rule until 2030.

Novelist Omar Knawy voted “No” in the referendum. He said he opposes most of the changes, especially those that would enable el-Sissi to stay in power beyond his current second four-year term. He also opposes articles that declare the military the “guardian and protector” of the Egyptian state, democracy and the constitution.

“The article related to the military gives it the right to interfere (in politics) at any time, and I am against such article,” he told The Associated Press.

El-Sissi was elected president in 2014, and re-elected last year after all potentially serious challengers were either jailed or pressured to exit the race.

The amendments also allow the president to appoint top judges and bypass judiciary oversight in vetting draft legislation, while also granting military courts wider jurisdiction in trying civilians.

In the last three years, over 15,000 civilians, including children, have been referred to military prosecution in Egypt, according to Human Rights Watch.

The amendments also introduce one or more vice presidents, revive the senate and enshrine a 25% quota for women in parliament’s lower, legislative chamber. All three had been dropped from Egypt’s constitution after the 2011 revolution.

## 2020 campaign trail runs through churches in South Carolina

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — By now, most Democratic presidential candidates have polished their stump speeches. But when they’re in South Carolina, they may need to add in a sermon.

In a large and diverse primary field, White House hopefuls are angling to develop relationships with black churches. That’s because success in South Carolina, home to the nation’s first Southern presidential primary, could come down to connecting with politically influential churchgoing African Americans.

“Candidates recognize that black churches are the places to be seen and heard,” said Bobby Donaldson, a professor of civil rights history at the University of South Carolina. “If you’re trying to find a captive and captivating audience, then the black church is the perfect place to get your message across.”

Some 2020 candidates are already working to build their relationships with this community. Sen. Kamala Harris of California will attend an Easter service on Sunday in Columbia at a church whose pastor is a lawmaker who recently endorsed her campaign. She swung through a fellowship hall in North Charleston earlier this year and visited churches last fall to rally voters ahead of the midterms.

Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Bernie Sanders of Vermont attended a Martin Luther King Jr. Day event at a historic black church in Columbia, and both have held campaign events in fellowship halls at black churches around the state. In the past week, Sanders held a town hall in a black church in Spartanburg with members of the state’s Legislative Black Caucus.

Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro, former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and former Texas congressman Beto O’Rourke have also visited black churches. And in one of her visits to three Charleston-area black congregations in February, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York gave a sermon of sorts, summoning a fiery cadence that spurred shouts of “Amen!” from the crowd of several hundred.

“I love the fact that your Bibles are under your seat,” she told congregants at Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist. “When you go on a plane and they say your life preserver is under your seat — OUR life preservers are under our seat!”

Gillibrand said she felt she had been well received, but some observers say such moments can be awkward.

“It seems very, for lack of a better term, inauthentic,” said Jalen Elrod, a black voter and first vice chairman of the Greenville County Democratic Party. “She’d be better served if she came and said, ‘Here’s what I’m about. Here’s what I’m trying to support.’”

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Still, the visits allow candidates to introduce themselves to voters. They can also potentially elevate their standing with voters if they secure an official endorsement from church leaders.

That may be part of Harris' calculus, with her announcement last month of an endorsement from Darrell Jackson. The longtime state senator is also pastor of Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, a Columbia congregation that's seen as among the most influential in the black community. That's where she'll attend Easter services on Sunday.

But Antjuan Seawright, a South Carolina political consultant and fifth-generation member of the African Methodist Episcopal church, notes that an endorsement from a pastor is no guarantee of securing his parishioners' support.

"Just because the pastor endorses doesn't mean the congregation follows," Seawright said. "The sheep don't always follow the shepherd because people have evolved, and they've become more independent in their thought."

While the pathway through the black church is a tricky one to navigate, it's hard to avoid. Jaime Harrison, who chaired the state party in the 2016 presidential cycle and is mulling a challenge to U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, said that as candidates get past their introductory visits to South Carolina, voters will be watching their moves carefully.

"You expect people to come and visit your church or come to the local NAACP and be the keynote speaker," said Harrison, also associate chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Regardless of their approach, Seawright urged white candidates to strive to make authentic connections and develop policy proposals that back up whatever overtures they're making as they visit the state's parishioners.

"People want authenticity, people want genuineness, and they want honesty," Seawright said.

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## Fake news? Mueller isn't buying it

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump and his team love to deride unfavorable stories as "fake news," but it's clear from Robert Mueller's report that the special counsel isn't buying it.

While there are a few exceptions, Mueller's investigation repeatedly supports news reporting that was done on the Russia probe over the last two years and details several instances where the president and his team sought to mislead the public.

"The media looks a lot stronger today than it did before the release of this report," Kyle Pope, editor of the Columbia Journalism Review, said Friday.

Trump's supporters believe that Mueller's determination that there was not enough evidence to show that the president or his team worked with the Russians to influence the 2016 election delegitimizes the attention given to the story.

Fox News Channel's Laura Ingraham message to the news media: "You owe us an apology."

But the news stories were, for the great part, accurate.

For instance, Mueller's report shows The New York Times and The Washington Post were correct when they reported in January 2018 that Trump ordered White House counsel Don McGahn to make sure Mueller was fired, and that McGahn decided to resign rather than carry that out. When the Times first reported the story, Trump described it as "fake news, folks, fake news."

The Mueller report also showed that Trump directed a series of aides to ask McGahn to publicly deny the story, and ultimately asked himself, too. McGahn refused, saying the story was accurate, the report found.

In a July 2017 story, the Times reported that the president personally wrote a statement in which he falsely said that an election year meeting between some Russians and his son, Donald Jr., was about the adoption of Russian children, rather than about obtaining potentially damaging information on Hillary Clinton's campaign. Trump's counsel repeatedly responded that the president had no role in writing the

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statement, yet months later testified under oath to investigators that Trump had dictated it.

Mueller's report also backed up the newspaper's stories, which the administration denied at the time, that Trump demanded loyalty from then-FBI Director James Comey at a private dinner, and that Trump had asked Comey to end an investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

"The Mueller report confirmed again and again that stories in The New York Times for the past two years were the opposite of 'fake news,'" said Elisabeth Bumiller, the paper's Washington bureau chief. "They were meticulously reported, carefully sourced and accurate stories that told readers what was really going on at the White House."

Washington Post columnist David Ignatius reported before Trump's inauguration that Flynn had talked to Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak about sanctions placed on Russia by the outgoing Obama administration. Mueller said that Trump put out word that he wanted Flynn to kill the story, and that Flynn ordered aide K.T. McFarland to deny it to the Post, "although she knew she was providing false information."

Others in the administration, including Vice President Mike Pence, also denied it. Flynn resigned when the truth became evident.

Trump repeatedly said during the 2016 campaign that he had no business dealings in Russia when, even as he uttered the words, his company was seeking to build a Trump Towers office building in Moscow. When Trump's lawyer, Michael Cohen, privately pointed out that the denial was untrue, the future president said "why mention it if it is not a deal?" the report said.

Mueller also determined that a statement by White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders that Comey had been unpopular with rank-and-file members of his agency "was not founded on anything." Sanders said on ABC Friday that her statement was "a slip of the tongue."

Mueller, however, did shoot down a BuzzFeed News report that Trump had directed Cohen to lie to Congress about the timing of the Moscow project. Mueller said that while it appeared Trump knew Cohen was lying to Congress, "the evidence available to us does not establish that the president directed or aided Cohen's false testimony."

BuzzFeed News editor-in-chief Ben Smith said the organization's sources, who were federal law enforcement officials, "interpreted the evidence Cohen presented as meaning that the president 'directed' Cohen to lie. We now know that Mueller did not."

Smith said BuzzFeed will continue to pursue the story through Freedom of Information requests and in court.

Mueller also contradicted a McClatchy news service story alleging that Cohen had traveled to Prague, in the Czech Republic, in summer 2016 to meet with Russians involved in the effort to influence the election. Mueller's report said that Cohen had not gone to Prague.

McClatchy attached an editor's note to its story reporting Mueller's conclusion but adding that his report "is silent on whether the investigators received evidence that Mr. Cohen's phone pinged in an area near Prague, as McClatchy reported."

CJR's Pope said so many of the stories surrounding Trump had been made foggy by denials and "fake news" claims over the past two years. He said he was surprised so much of Mueller's report backed up journalists, although it's too soon to tell whether the findings will influence two very divided political camps.

"I think it casts the coverage of him in a much different light," he said.

## Westbrook leads Thunder past Trail Blazers, 120-108

By CLIFF BRUNT AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook called his play in Game 2 "unacceptable."

It was more than acceptable in Game 3. He had 33 points and 11 assists and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 120-108 on Friday night to cut their series deficit to 2-1.

Thunder forward Paul George called Westbrook a man of his word.

"He led, we got behind him and he put us on his back," George said.

George scored 22 points, Jerami Grant had 18 and Dennis Schroder 17 for the Thunder. They will host

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Game 4 of the best-of-seven series on Sunday night.

Damian Lillard scored 32 points, but he had just three in the fourth quarter after scoring 25 in the third. He made 8 of 11 shots in the third quarter, but missed all four of his field goals in the fourth.

"Their defense pretty much stayed the same," Lillard said of Oklahoma City's fourth-quarter strategy. "They got a little more aggressive on the ball. Instead of just trying to stay in front of me, they were coming up a little higher."

C.J. McCollum had 21 points and Enes Kanter added 19 for the Trail Blazers.

Oklahoma City closed the second quarter on a 10-1 run to take a 49-39 lead. Lillard was held to four points on 2-for-6 shooting and the Trail Blazers shot 37.5% in the half.

George hit a 3-pointer, was fouled and made the free throw in the opening minutes of the second half to push Oklahoma City's lead to 55-43. Westbrook backed down Lillard, hit a bank shot and was fouled. Westbrook brought out his "rock the baby" celebration, then made the free throw to put Oklahoma City up by 15.

"I didn't even see him do it," Lillard said. "A lot of times, I'm waiting for the ball to be inbounded, so I'm not looking at what's going on the other way. So rock the baby on a jump shot? I mean, you can do that all day."

Whether Lillard was inspired or not, he scored 23 points the rest of the quarter to help cut Oklahoma City's lead to 86-82 at the end of the period. McCollum hit a 3-pointer to tie the game at 89 early in the fourth.

Oklahoma City regained control, then kept it. Westbrook hit a wild 26-foot 3-pointer over Lillard with 1:20 to go that put the Thunder up by 14, then he told Lillard all about it.

## TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Westbrook usually says "Next question" when Oklahoman columnist Berry Tramel asks him anything. During the pregame media session, Portland coach Terry Stotts went up to the podium with a smile, looked at Tramel and said, "Go ahead, Berry. I'll answer your question," drawing laughter from the reporters. Westbrook gave Tramel his typical response after the game. ... F Maurice Harkless was called for a technical in the final minute for throwing his headband.

Thunder: Derek Williamson of Midwest City, Oklahoma, had 24 seconds to make a half-court shot for \$20,000 from MidFirst Bank. He drained his last try. Later, Jesse Norman of Prague, Oklahoma, made one for another \$20,000. ... Grant hit a 3-pointer in the opening minute after missing his first eight in the series. ... Westbrook was called for a technical in the final minute.

## CONTROVERSIAL DUNK

George threw down a monster dunk right after time expired that didn't count.

Lillard wasn't impressed.

"Typically people say you shouldn't do stuff like that, but honestly, I really couldn't care less," he said. "The game had been decided. If that's something that they needed to do to make themselves feel more dominant or feel better, then so be it."

## REVERSING COURSE

The Thunder made 10 of 61 3-pointers in the first two games in Portland. They made 15 of 29 in Game 3. Grant made 4 of 5 3s and guard Terrance Ferguson made 3 of 4 attempts.

"They've been hitting shots all year," Westbrook said. "I'm going to make the right play. The guys on the floor made the right play and I'm going to continue to trust my teammates."

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## Parents who starved and shackled children sentenced to life

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — The eldest son and daughter of a couple who starved and shackled 12 of their children spoke publicly for the first time Friday, alternately condemning and forgiving their parents before a judge sentenced the pair to up to life in prison.

Since being freed from their prison-like home more than a year ago, the two adult children of David and Louise Turpin described how they had gained control of their lives and, despite receiving little education at home, were now enrolled in college and learning simple things, including how to ride a bike, swim and prepare a meal. They are still thin from years of malnutrition.

"I cannot describe in words what we went through growing up," said the oldest son, now 27. "Sometimes I still have nightmares of things that have happened, such as my siblings being chained up or getting beaten. But that is the past and this is now. I love my parents and have forgiven them for a lot of the things that they did to us."

The hearing put an end to a shocking case that had gone unnoticed until a 17-year-old girl escaped from the home in January 2018 and called 911. Investigators discovered a house of horrors hidden behind a veneer of suburban normalcy.

The children — ages 2 to 29 — had been chained to beds, forced to live in squalor, fed only once a day, allowed to shower only once a year and deprived of toys and games. They slept during the day and were active a few hours at night.

As her children spoke from a lectern, 50-year-old Louise Turpin sobbed and dabbed her eyes with tissues. "I'm sorry for everything I've done to hurt my children," she said. "I love my children so much."

Her husband, who was shaking and could not initially read from a written statement, let his lawyer speak for him until he regained his composure. He did not apologize for the abuse but wished his children well in with their educations and future careers and hoped they would visit him. He then began sobbing.

Jack Osborn, a lawyer representing the seven adult Turpin children, said they understand the consequences of their parents' actions and are working hard toward forgiving them. Some plan to talk with their parents eventually, but others want no contact with them for 10 years.

The one who called police was a hero for liberating her siblings, Osborn said.

"Maybe but for that we wouldn't be here today," he said.

The sentence of life with no chance of parole for 25 years was no surprise. It had been agreed to when the couple pleaded guilty in February to 14 counts each that included torture, cruelty and false imprisonment.

The courtroom fell hushed as the oldest daughter, now 30, entered wearing a blue cardigan over a white shirt, her dark hair in a ponytail. Her eyes were already red from crying when she began to speak in the voice of a little girl.

"My parents took my whole life from me, but now I'm taking my life back," she said, as her mother's lower lip quivered trying to hold back the tears. "Life may have been bad but it made me strong. I fought to become the person I am. I saw my dad change my mom. They almost changed me, but I realized what was happening. I immediately did what I could to not become like them."

There was no explanation from the parents or lawyers about why the abuse occurred, but a letter from one of the children read by an attorney hinted at a home life that veered from birthday celebrations and trips to Disneyland and Las Vegas to severe punishment and disarray.

"Through the years, things became more and more overwhelming, but they kept trusting in God," the girl wrote "I remember our mother sitting in her recliner and crying, saying she don't know what to do."

She said her parents did not know the children were malnourished because they thought the children inherited a gene from their mother, who was small.

From the outside, the home in a middle-class section of Perris, a small city about 60 miles (96 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles, appeared to be neatly kept, and neighbors rarely saw the kids outside, but nothing triggered suspicion.

But when deputies arrived, they were shocked to find a 22-year-old son chained to a bed and two girls who had just been set free from shackles. All but one of the 13 children were severely underweight and had not bathed for months. The house was filled with the stench of human waste.

The children said they were beaten, caged and shackled if they did not obey their parents. Investigators concluded that the couple's youngest child, a toddler, was the only one who was not abused.

David Turpin, 57, had been an engineer for Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. Louise Turpin was listed as a housewife in a 2011 bankruptcy filing.

The teenage daughter who escaped jumped from a window. After a lifetime in isolation, the 17-year-old did not know her address, the month of the year or what the word "medication" meant.

But she knew enough to punch 911 into a barely workable cellphone and began describing years of abuse to a police dispatcher.

Although the couple filed paperwork with the state to homeschool their children, learning was limited. The oldest daughter only completed third grade.

Referring to the restraints, the oldest daughter's statement said her mother "didn't want to use rope or chain but she was afraid her children were taking in too much sugar and caffeine."

Life got more difficult after her mother's parents died in 2016.

Her parents tried their best, "and they wanted to give us a good life," she said. "They believed everything they did was to protect us."

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Associated Press writers Amanda Lee Myers and Michael R. Blood in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Storms in South kill girl in Florida, bring tornado threat

By The Associated Press undefined

ATLANTA (AP) — A strong storm system barreling through the South killed an 8-year-old girl in Florida and threatened to bring tornadoes to large parts of the Carolinas and southern Virginia.

A tree fell onto a house Friday in Woodville, Florida, south of Tallahassee, killing the girl and injuring a 12-year-old boy, according to the Leon County Sheriff's Office. The office said in a statement that the girl died at a hospital while the boy suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Their names weren't immediately released.

The same storm system was blamed for the deaths a day earlier of three people in Mississippi and a woman in Alabama.

The threat on Friday shifted farther east, where tornado warnings covered parts of northeast Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia, where four suspected tornado touchdowns were reported Friday night. Twisters touched down in Reston, Fredericks Hall, Barham and Forksville. Homes and small structures were damaged, but no injuries were immediately reported.

The national Storm Prediction Center said 9.7 million people in the Carolinas and Virginia were at a moderate risk of severe weather. The region includes the Charlotte, North Carolina metro area.

Torrential downpours, large hail and a few tornadoes were among the hazards, the National Weather Service in Raleigh, North Carolina, warned.

Radar readings appeared to show a tornado formed in western Virginia's Franklin County, south of Roanoke, though damage on the ground still must be assessed, said National Weather Service Meteorologist Phil Hysell. In South Carolina, authorities urged motorists to avoid part of Interstate 26 — the main artery from Upstate through Columbia and all the way to Charleston — because downed trees had left the roadway scattered with debris.

In Georgia, the storm system knocked down trees, caused flooding and cut off power to tens of thousands of people.

A tree came down on an apartment complex in an Atlanta suburb, but only one person reported a minor injury and was treated at the scene, Gwinnett County fire spokesman Capt. Tommy Rutledge told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

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In Forsyth County northeast of Atlanta, three firefighters suffered minor injuries when their firetruck overturned during heavy rain and wind, Fire Department Division Chief Jason Shivers told the newspaper.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people cleaned up part of a central Mississippi town hit hard by a tornado on Thursday.

Volunteers and family members were swarming the north side of Morton, where the National Weather Service says a twister with winds as high as 132 mph (212 kph) hit a neighborhood. More than 20 homes were heavily damaged or destroyed. The town of 3,500 is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) east of Jackson.

"When it stopped, there was nothing left," Morton resident Sharon Currie told WAPT-TV. "I was going, 'Oh my God. My house is gone.'"

Forecasters confirmed that 14 tornadoes had touched down in Mississippi and damage from the storm system was reported in at least 24 of the state's 82 counties. Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant declared a state of emergency — the second one he has declared in less than a week due to tornadoes.

Authorities on Friday reported a third storm-related death in the state. Freddie Mobley, 63, died while helping cut a tree that had fallen on a house, Lincoln County Coroner Clay McMorris told the Daily Leader of Brookhaven. Mobley had made a few cuts on the tree and backed away when the trunk shifted before he could move, Deputy Coroner Ricky Alford said.

Two other people who were driving are being counted as storm-related deaths in Mississippi. A woman also died in Alabama when a tree fell on her mobile home Thursday.

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## Democrats subpoena Mueller report amid calls for impeachment

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, has issued a subpoena for special counsel Robert Mueller's full report as Democrats intensified their investigation of President Donald Trump, but leaders stopped short of liberal demands for impeachment proceedings.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has insisted on a methodical, step-by-step approach to the House's oversight of the Trump administration, and she refuses to consider impeachment without public support, including from Republicans, which seems unlikely. But in light of Mueller's findings, Democratic leaders are under mounting pressure from the party's rising stars, deep-pocketed donors and even a presidential contender to seize the moment as a jumping-off point for trying to remove Trump from office.

Speaking Friday in Belfast as Pelosi wrapped up a congressional visit to Ireland, she declined to signal action beyond Congress' role as a check and balance for the White House.

"Let me assure you that whatever the issue and challenge we face, the Congress of the United States will honor its oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States to protect our democracy," she told reporters. "We believe that the first article — Article 1, the legislative branch — has the responsibility of oversight of our democracy, and we will exercise that."

That approach isn't enough for some liberals who see in Trump's actions not just a president unfit for office but evidence of obstruction serious enough that Mueller said he could not declare Trump exonerated.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., is now signed on to an impeachment resolution from fellow Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, bringing new energy to the effort. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a presidential candidate, said Friday the House "should initiate impeachment proceedings against the president." And billionaire Tom Steyer, a leading advocate of impeachment, has grown impatient with the House's pace of investigations and wants televised hearings to focus Americans' attention on Trump.

"Let's get the show on the road," Steyer said in an interview Friday. "The Mueller report very clearly outlined obstruction by the president and basically said, I can't do anything about it, it's up to Congress to hold the president accountable."

Democrats, though, may see greater power in pursuing an investigative effort, leaving impeachment on the shelf as a break-glass option.

The Judiciary chairman, Nadler, D-N.Y., says he expects the Justice Department to comply with the committee's subpoena for the full report by May 1.

That's the same day Attorney General William Barr is to testify before a Senate committee and one day before Barr is to appear before Nadler's panel. Nadler also has summoned Mueller to testify by May 23.

"It now falls to Congress to determine the full scope of that alleged misconduct and to decide what steps

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we must take going forward," Nadler said.

A Justice Department spokeswoman, Kerri Kupac, called Nadler's move "premature and unnecessary."

Barr sent Congress a redacted version of the Mueller report, blacking out several types of material, including classified information, material pertaining to ongoing investigations and grand jury evidence.

Nadler said he was open to working with the department on accommodations, but he also said the committee "needs and is entitled to the full version of the report and the underlying evidence consistent with past practice."

But the committee's top Republican, Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, said the subpoena was "wildly overbroad" and that Trump already had declined to assert executive privilege over the Mueller report in a move of "unprecedented openness."

"This is politically convenient," Collins said, allowing the chairman "to grandstand and rail against the attorney general for not cooperating on an impossible timeline."

Mueller's report provides fresh evidence of Trump's interference in the Russia investigation and challenges lawmakers to respond.

For Congress, though, organizing an immediate response been complicated by the spring recess that left leadership in both parties away from Washington and rank-and-file lawmakers.

GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy has been on a delegation trip to South America, and GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, has been in Africa.

One Republican, Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah was one of the few who spoke out Friday, saying he was "sickened" by the report's findings of dishonesty at the highest levels of the administration, "including the president," and appalled that some Americans were working with Russians during the 2016 election.

Pelosi will convene House Democrats for a conference call Monday, after the holiday weekend when many lawmakers are celebrating Easter and Passover.

With Barr, Democrats expect a long battle ahead. The attorney general has come under intense scrutiny over his handling of the Mueller report and subsequent comments that have left him exposed to criticism he is acting in Trump's interest.

Late Friday Democrats rejected an offer from Barr for a limited number of congressional leaders to view some of the redacted materials in a confidential setting. They said it was inadequate.

It's unlikely that the full Mueller report or the special counsel's public testimony will untangle the dilemma that Democrats face. Mueller laid out multiple episodes in which Trump directed others to influence or curtail the Russia investigation after the special counsel's appointment in May 2017, and Trump made clear that he viewed the probe as a potential mortal blow — "the end of my presidency."

Democratic leaders are walking a delicate line on what to do with Mueller's findings.

The No. 2 Democrat, Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, drew criticism for refusing to consider impeachment, and quickly revised his comments to say "all options ought to remain on the table."

And Pelosi, in an interview last week, before the report's release, reiterated her "high bar" for impeachment. But she also didn't close the door on the option.

"The fact is the president has engaged in activities that are unethical, un-American. ... In every way he is unfit to be president of the United States. Does that make it — is that an impeachable offense? Well it depends on what we see in the report."

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Associated Press reporters Mary Clare Jalonick and Padmananda Rama in Washington, Jennifer Peltz in New York and Dylan Lovan in LaGrange, Kentucky, contributed to this report.

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For complete coverage of the Mueller report, go to <https://www.apnews.com/TrumpInvestigations>

## Rep: Adele, husband Simon Konecki have separated

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Adele and her husband Simon Konecki have separated.

The pop singer's representatives Benny Tarantini and Carl Fysh confirmed the news Friday in a statement to The Associated Press.

"Adele and her partner have separated," the emailed statement said. "They are committed to raising their son together lovingly. As always they ask for privacy. There will be no further comment."

Adele gave birth to their son, Angelo, in 2012.

The Grammy-winning British superstar has been private about her relationship, but confirmed she married Konecki when she won album of the year at the 2017 Grammys. In her acceptance speech, she said: "Grammys, I appreciate it. The Academy, I love you. My manager, my husband and my son — you're the only reason I do it."

Konecki co-founded Life Water, an eco-friendly brand of bottled water in the U.K. Funds from the company assists the charity that Konecki runs, Drop4Drop, which provides clean water to countries in need. A representative for Konecki could not be reached.

## Corporate America embraces 420 as pot legalization grows

By ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Marijuana users have for decades celebrated their love of the drug on April 20, but the once counter-culture celebration that was all about getting stoned now is so mainstream Corporate America is starting to embrace it.

No, Hallmark doesn't yet have a card to mark "420." But many other businesses inside and outside the multibillion-dollar cannabis industry are using April 20, or 4/20, to roll out marketing and social media messaging aimed at connecting with consumers driving the booming market.

On Saturday, Lyft is offering a \$4.20 credit on a single ride in Colorado and in select cities in the U.S. and Canada. Carl's Jr. is using a Denver restaurant to market a hamburger infused with CBD, a non-intoxicating molecule found in cannabis that many believe is beneficial to their health.

On 420 last year, Totino's, a maker of frozen pizza snacks, tweeted an image of a microwave and an oven with the message: "To be blunt, pizza rolls are better when baked."

"I think brands that associate themselves with cannabis kind of get that contact high. In other words, they're just considered to be cooler by association," said Kit Yarrow, consumer psychologist at Golden Gate University. "As pot becomes more legal, more discussed, more interesting to people, more widely used, then 420 becomes more mainstream as well."

Marijuana normalization has snowballed since 2012, when Colorado and Washington were the first states to legalize recreational use. Eight more followed, including California, Oregon and Michigan. Medical marijuana is legal in two-thirds of the states, with conservative-leaning Utah and Oklahoma among recent additions.

Meantime, the CBD market has exploded. CBD oil can be found in candies, coffee and other food, drinks and dietary supplements, along with perfume, lotions, creams and soap. Proponents say CBD helps with pain, anxiety and inflammation, though limited scientific research supports those claims.

U.S. retail sales of cannabis products jumped to \$10.5 billion last year, a threefold increase from 2017, according to data from Arcview Group, a cannabis investment and market research firm. The figures do not include retail sales of hemp-derived CBD products.

Ben & Jerry's was one of the earliest big brands to foster a connection with the marijuana culture through marketing. The Vermont-based ice cream company features Cherry Garcia and Phish Food, honoring late Grateful Dead member Jerry Garcia and the band Phish. Both bands are favorites of the marijuana-smoking crowd.

To mark 420 in recent years, Ben & Jerry's debuted taco and burrito inspired ice cream sandwiches. This year the company partnered with a San Francisco Bay Area cannabis retailer to give customers who place delivery orders on Friday and Saturday a free pint of Half Baked, a combination of cookie dough

and fudge brownie.

"We have a lot of fun, never being overt, but really playing into the moment of 420," said Jay Curley, the company's global head of integrated marketing.

Last year, Ben & Jerry's also turned more serious, asking consumers to call on lawmakers to expunge prior marijuana convictions and press for pardons or amnesty for anyone arrested for smoking pot. This year the company is using the holiday to call for criminal justice reform.

"We're actually using this as an opportunity not to tell a stoner joke like we have in the past, but to raise what we see as a much more serious issue around justice," Curley said.

Those in the marijuana marketplace also are ramping up advertising around 420. Much of the marketing about cannabis or related products takes the form of online ads, emails, text messages and social media. Shops typically offer discounts. Some host parties with food and entertainment. The larger 420 events can draw thousands of people.

Verano Holdings, whose businesses include cannabis shops, sponsors street festivals in Chicago and Tulsa, Oklahoma, where attendees can learn about marijuana products, listen to music and grab a bite. The company expects this Saturday's festival in Chicago, going on its third year, will draw more than 4,000 people. Last year, it drew 1,500, said Tim Tennant, Verano's chief marketing officer.

In San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, Hippie Hill will again be the site of a 420 celebration. Last year, more than 15,000 attended the event, which has transformed from a small informal gathering into a full-blown festival of corporate sponsors and commercial booths selling smoking devices, T-shirts and food.

Roger Volodarsky, whose Los Angeles-based Puffco makes portable vaporizers, has celebrated 420 since he was a teenager. Back then, he said, "420 was the day that you splurged on yourself and got high in interesting ways. It was the day that you made a gravity bong and coughed your brains out."

Volodarsky likes that some Main Street brands are getting into the industry and the holiday.

"What's important to me about these ad campaigns is they're speaking to people who aren't users and they're normalizing the space to people who aren't users," he said.

Even as popularity grows, some companies will stay away from 420 as a marketing tool, said Allen Ad- amson, co-founder of Metaforce, a marketing consulting company.

"If you're talking about a big brand that needs to appeal to everybody and is very risk-averse, then probably not," he said. "I don't think you'll see large financial institutions doing it."

Follow AP's marijuana coverage: <https://apnews.com/Marijuana>

## Polanski asks court to restore his film academy membership

By **ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Roman Polanski asked a judge Friday to restore his membership in the organization that bestows the Academy Awards nearly a year after he was expelled from it for sexual misconduct.

Lawyers for the 85-year-old fugitive director petitioned Los Angeles Superior Court to compel the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to make him a member in good standing again.

In May, the academy made the rare move of expelling Polanski and Bill Cosby, months after ending the membership of disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Polanski appealed the decision, and in January the academy rejected his appeal.

Friday's five-page filing states that by not giving Polanski sufficient notice of his expulsion, and not giving he or his lawyer to argue his case in person during the appeal, the academy "failed to comply with its own rules, policies and regulations."

The academy responded with a brief statement saying, "The procedures taken to expel Mr. Polanski were fair and reasonable. The Academy stands behind its decision as appropriate."

The filing also alleges that the expulsion violated a California law that requires corporations to give a fair hearing before removing a member, calling it a "prejudicial abuse of discretion."

Polanski's attorney Harland Braun said at the time that Polanski was "blindsided" by his removal, and

learned of it through media reports.

The filing says that the academy's decision is final and the director has no recourse for reconsideration outside of the courts.

Polanski, who won a best director Oscar for "The Pianist" in 2003, remains a fugitive after pleading guilty to unlawful sex with a minor in 1977 and fleeing the United States the following year. He has been living in Europe since.

He had been an academy member for nearly 50 years at the time of his expulsion, and his films had been nominated for 28 Oscars.

But he had long been one of the organization's more divisive members. At the 2003 ceremony, Polanski's win — his first — received a standing ovation. He was not in attendance. He'd previously been nominated for writing his adaptation of "Rosemary's Baby," and directing "Chinatown" and "Tess."

Polanski's ouster from the group means he can no longer vote for nominees and winners, but he and his films can still win Oscars.

After expelling Weinstein, the academy implemented revised standards of conduct for its over 8,400 members. The standards said the organization is no place for "people who abuse their status, power or influence in a manner that violates standards of decency."

The code allowed the academy's board to suspend or expel those who violate the code of conduct or who "compromise the integrity" of the academy.

There have been no reports of Weinstein or Cosby appealing their expulsions from the academy.

Before Weinstein, only one person is thought to have been expelled from the academy: Carmine Caridi, a character actor who had his membership revoked in 2004 for lending DVD screeners of films in contention for Oscars.

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AP Film Writer Jake Coyle contributed to this report from New York.

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

## Family detention space goes unused as Trump warns of crisis

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT** Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has warned that Central American families are staging an "invasion" at the U.S.-Mexico border. He has threatened to take migrants to Democratic strongholds to punish political opponents. And his administration regularly complains about having to "catch and release" migrants.

At the same time, his administration has stopped using one of three family detention centers to hold parents and children and left almost 2,000 beds unused at the other two. It says it does not have the resources to transport migrants to the centers.

Immigrant advocates accuse the administration of closing off family detention to further the perception of a crisis.

The Karnes County Residential Center in Texas used to hold up to 800 parents and children at a time, who would usually be detained before an initial screening to judge whether they qualified for asylum.

But ICE last month started to release families until they were all gone from Karnes. Advocates who work there say ICE is now restricting legal access to the roughly 400 adult women being detained there.

The population at the family detention center in nearby Dilley, Texas, was also reduced and remains at roughly a quarter of its 2,400-person capacity. A 96-person facility in Pennsylvania had only 18 immigrants this week.

Meanwhile, the numbers of parents and children crossing the U.S.-Mexico border have surged, leading immigration officials to declare the situation a crisis. More than 50,000 parents and children were apprehended by the Border Patrol in March, setting a monthly record.

The number of border crossings in one day sometimes exceeds ICE's total family detention space.

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More than 4,800 people crossed the border in a single day this week. Almost 1,000 were traveling in three large groups, the largest of which was 375 people, Kevin McAleenan, the acting secretary of homeland security, said Wednesday.

The Border Patrol has stopped referring many families to ICE and instead releases them directly to nonprofit groups or drops them off at bus stations.

In a statement, ICE said the surge left it "overwhelmed" and unable to transport families from the border to the Karnes and Dilley facilities, even if both detention centers had available beds. As of Wednesday, 427 women were in custody at Karnes.

"As such, ICE has determined that, at this time, Karnes will better meet operational needs by also serving partially as an adult detention facility," the agency said.

Immigrant advocates say they do not believe that ICE cannot transport people to the facilities. They say the government has reduced family detention space for political reasons — to show that Democrats' refusal to change laws to allow for longer family detention and more deportations has left officials with no choice but to catch and release.

"We believe that this is part of trying to justify a narrative," said Peter Schey, executive director of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law. "Trump's policies have swung from one extreme to the other. There's no consistency; there's no strategic planning."

The legal services group RAICES goes to Karnes daily to consult with detained immigrants about their asylum cases. The group says subtle policy changes at the facility have reduced legal access for detained women seeking asylum.

Since Monday, authorities at Karnes have prevented attorneys and volunteers from meeting with many large groups of migrants at once, which prevents them from quickly consulting with more people, according to Andrea Meza, RAICES' director of family detention services.

Karnes staff also stopped sending RAICES the names of detainees who put their names on sign-up sheets outside the visitation room, Meza said.

Meza said she received conflicting explanations from ICE for the changes, including that there were complaints by staff from the private contractor GEO Group, which operates Karnes.

ICE confirmed it had reduced group meetings at Karnes because "more residents are represented by private attorneys." The agency said it provided 12 hours of legal visitation at Karnes every day, more than its detention standards require.

If the changes remain in place, fewer people will be able to consult with a lawyer before asylum interviews, Meza said, and it will be harder for the group to follow up with potential asylum seekers.

"We don't know what's happening to people after their interviews," she said.

## Rural Nevada creating a virtual presidential campaign trail

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Democrat Kimi Cole is tired of excuses from presidential candidates who say it's too expensive and time-consuming to visit areas of rural Nevada like her town of Minden, population 3,400.

To get there from Washington, D.C., however, would likely mean at least a seven-hour, multi-stop flight to Reno, followed by an hour's drive. It's a unique challenge for Nevada, which sits much farther west than the other two early voting states.

To overcome the logistical challenges and ensure those living in rural communities play a key role in vetting candidates, Cole told The Associated Press that she and other Nevada Democrats are setting up a series of virtual visits with the presidential campaigns.

They hope to launch the first series of online video conferences with the 2020 contenders within a month. It could be a nationwide model as presidential candidates expand the traditional campaign map to seek support in places where Democrats have struggled, including rural America.

"You can drive 300 miles and 400 miles (480 to 640 kilometers) across the state and you may not get in front of very many people," said Cole, chairwoman of the Rural Nevada Democratic Caucus. "I understand

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all that, and I'm respectful of all that. But doggone it, we have modern technology."

Cole said she's working with other organizers to ensure their internet connections can handle the virtual visits. The cyber-campaigning could give presidential candidates a chance to reach thousands of scattered Nevada Democrats whose votes they need to court to gain an advantage in a crowded field.

"I know so many people, especially out in rural counties, that feel like they're not being heard, that they're not being represented," Cole said. "This is a step to meet in the middle."

The videoconferences allow rural residents to ask about issues like natural resources, water rights and gun rights that may not get as much attention in Las Vegas or Reno.

Judy Zabolocky, chairwoman of the Lyon County Democrats who lives in the small community of Dayton, said many Democrats in her county might have to drive an hour or more to Reno if they want to see a candidate.

"In the past years, if they're really, really hot on a particular candidate, they will make an attempt to go see them. But most of them don't," she said.

Nevada, which votes third in the U.S. on a Democratic presidential nominee, is already farther away than the other early nominating states.

In South Carolina, where most areas can be reached within a few hours' drive, candidates have made a point to visit rural areas. Iowa is much more spread out, but almost all the Democratic presidential candidates have made a point of hitting rural areas before its first-in-the-nation caucuses.

Cole said organizers are aiming to set up simultaneous video conferences in eight to 10 far-flung locations across Nevada. One after the other, Democratic presidential candidates would hop on a video conference and speak with a couple hundred people gathered in libraries or other community centers hundreds of miles apart.

At least six candidates have expressed interest in participating, including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, whose campaigns confirmed they have been in talks with Cole.

Andrew Yang, an entrepreneur seeking the presidential nomination, also has floated a novel technological approach to overcome limited time and resources. He told the Carroll Times Herald in Iowa last week that he's working to start campaigning virtually with a 3D hologram.

"Rural engagement via video conference strikes me as a great idea and something that candidates should do more of," said David Cohen, who served as Nevada director for Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2007 and 2008. "Primary candidates need the exposure and Nevadans need to kick the tires. But they've also got to get out there to meet folks in person."

Nevada Democrats allocate their delegates based on congressional districts, giving those living in sparsely populated areas a prominent voice.

In addition to facilitating the virtual visits, Cole is working to persuade campaigns to visit rural Nevada in person. Booker on Friday will become the first candidate to make that journey, stopping in Cole's town of Minden during a three-day swing through the state.

Cole said she hopes it will set a precedent for other 2020 Democratic candidates.

"We want to meet you, and we want to hear from you. Ignore us at your own risk," Cole said.

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Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe in Des Moines, Iowa and Meg Kinnard in Charleston, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

## How many cherries in frozen pie? FDA may soon drop rules

By CANDICE CHOI AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump may soon be able to claim a sweet victory for his deregulation push, with officials preparing to get rid of the decades-old rules for frozen cherry pies.

Emails show the Food and Drug Administration planned to start the process for revoking the standard for frozen cherry pies this week, followed by a similar revocation of the standard for French dressing. Plans to get rid of the obscure rules had been tucked into the Trump administration's deregulation agenda .

Standards for an array of foods including cottage cheese and canned peas were put in place decades ago partly to ensure a level of quality. They spell out how products with specific names can be made, including ingredients that are required or not allowed. The rules for frozen cherry pies say they must be 25% cherries by weight with no more than 15% of the cherries being blemished.

It's not always clear why some food terms have standards and others don't. The rules are seen as arcane by many and are a sore spot in the food industry, with companies saying they prevent innovation or prompt lawsuits. The FDA under Trump has said it plans to update the standards.

Lee Sanders of the American Bakers Association said she's hopeful the cherry pie standard will finally be revoked, but that it would not make a big difference for the industry.

"I feel confident our members are producing cherry pies with more than enough cherries," she said.

The FDA also plans to take another look at milk, which federal regulations define as coming from a cow. The dairy industry has called for a crackdown on soy, rice and almond drinks makers that use the term.

While any changes to the milk rule are likely to be contested, getting rid of the standard for frozen cherry pie is unlikely to be controversial.

The frozen cherry pie standard is an outlier because other fruit pies don't have similar rules. The same is true for French dressing: The Association for Dressings and Sauces, which once went after a vegan spread for violating the mayonnaise standard, notes other dressings are not subject to such standards.

Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, who stepped down this month, said in an October tweet that it was among the FDA's priorities to "de-regulate frozen cherry pie." He apparently wasn't entirely joking.

In a June email, the FDA noted plans to post a proposal to revoke the frozen cherry pie standard on April 18. It said the proposal to revoke the French dressing standard would be posted May 3.

In a statement this week, the FDA said the dates were for "long range internal planning purposes" and that the timing could shift. Updates to the standards will be publicly noted, the agency said.

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The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Fire-ravaged Notre Dame now stabilized, firefighters leave

By **NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY** and **SYLVIE CORBET** Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Architects and construction workers have stabilized the damaged structure of Notre Dame cathedral, four days after a fast-spreading fire ravaged the iconic Paris building, and firefighters were leaving the site Friday night, a fire service official said.

The promising development came as Notre Dame's parishioners celebrated Good Friday in a nearby church, praying for the damaged monument and celebrating its rescued relics such as the Crown of Thorns believed to have been worn by Jesus at his crucifixion.

"There is no more risk the edifice's walls could fall down," Lt. Col. Gabriel Plus, chief spokesman for the Paris fire service, told The Associated Press. Plus said firefighters have been able to cool down the walls and debris from the roof inside the cathedral, and there are no more "hot points" inside.

"It's a miracle that the cathedral is still standing, and that all the relics were saved," he said.

Investigators believe the fire was an accident and are studying multiple factors that could have contributed.

The cathedral's rector said a "computer glitch" may have played a role in the rapidly spreading blaze that devastated the 850-year-old architectural masterpiece.

Rector Patrick Chauvet did not elaborate on the exact nature of the glitch. "We may find out what happened in two or three months," he told local business leaders and construction workers.

Newspaper Le Parisien reported that a computer bug could have misdirected firefighters responding to the initial fire alarm. The unsourced report said investigators are also looking into whether the fire was linked to temporary elevators being used in a renovation that was underway at the time the cathedral caught fire.

The fire burned through the network of enormous centuries-old oak beams supporting the monument's



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vaulted stone ceiling, dangerously weakening the building. Chauvet said there were fire alarms throughout the building, which he described as "well protected."

Firefighter spokesman Plus said there could have been "a smoldering fire inside the frame" of the Notre Dame roof that was fueled by the wind.

Paris police investigators said they believe an electrical short-circuit most likely caused the fire. It's believed to be one of multiple leads being investigated.

"Is it linked to the renovation work? A human error? The investigation will say," Plus said.

He warned that "the central nave remains dangerous" but said the stones are drying out from the water sprayed from hoses during nine hours of firefighting efforts.

The last artworks were taken out of the cathedral Friday and taken to the Louvre for safekeeping pending renovation, he said.

Catholic worshippers carried out the Way of the Cross ritual near the cathedral to mark Good Friday, and the Crown of Thorns relic saved from the fire was presented to worshippers at the nearby Saint-Sulpice Church.

A public veneration of the crown is normally part of the ceremonies leading up to Easter at Notre Dame. But because of the fire, the crown was shown at a service Friday evening at Saint-Sulpice instead.

Judith Kagan, a conservation official at France's Culture Ministry, said Friday the artworks inside Notre Dame had suffered no major damage from the fire.

French President Emmanuel Macron met Friday with officials from the United Nations' cultural agency, UNESCO. UNESCO representatives have offered their technical expertise to help with the reconstruction.

Macron is moving quickly on the fire-ravaged monument's reconstruction, which is being viewed both as a push to make it part of his legacy and a way to move past the divisive yellow vest protests over social inequality in France.

Notre Dame's reconstruction is prompting widespread debate across France, with differing views over whether it should involve new technologies and designs.

Macron hasn't offered any specifics on his vision for the roof or whether the frame should be wood, metal or concrete, according to his cultural heritage envoy, Stephane Bern. He has named a general, Jean-Louis Georgelin, former chief of staff of the armed forces, to lead the reconstruction effort.

Over \$1 billion has already poured in from people from all walks of life around the world to restore Notre Dame.

According to an opinion poll by BVA institute published Friday — the first carried out since the fire — Macron has gained three points in popularity in the past month with an approval rating of 32%. That puts him back at the support level of September, before the yellow vest crisis, BVA said.

Although all French polls show that Macron's popularity has remain low since a tax increase on retirees last year, they suggest his party may be ahead in France's May 26 European Parliament election, with Marine Le Pen's far-right party, the National Rally, close behind.

Despite the destruction of Notre Dame dominating the news in France, a new round of nationwide yellow vest protests was planned for Saturday. Interior minister Christophe Castaner said 60,000 police officers were being mobilized and demonstrations near Notre Dame would be banned as he expects some protests to turn violent.

In a hopeful development Friday, 180,000 bees being kept in in hives on Notre Dame's lead roof were discovered alive.

"I am so relieved. I saw satellite photos that showed the three hives didn't burn. I thought they had gone with the cathedral," Nicolas Geant, the monument's beekeeper, told the AP.

Geant has looked after the bees since 2013, when they were installed as part of a city-wide initiative to boost declining bee numbers.

Geant said the carbon dioxide in the fire's heavy smoke put the bees into a sedated state instead of killing them, adding that when bees sense fire they "gorge themselves on honey" and protect their queen. European bees never abandon their hives, he said.

Associated Press writers Thomas Adamson and Samuel Petrequin contributed to this report.

## Panel to review approval of Boeing 737 Max flight controls

CHICAGO (AP) — A global team of experts next week will begin reviewing how the Boeing 737 Max's flight control system was approved by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

The FAA says experts from nine international civil aviation authorities have confirmed participation in a technical review promised by the agency.

Former National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Chris Hart will lead the group, which also will have experts from the FAA and NASA. They will look at the plane's automated system including the way it interacts with pilots. The group will meet Tuesday and is expected to finish in 90 days.

The Boeing jetliner has been grounded around the world since mid-March after two crashes killed 346 people. Investigators are focusing on anti-stall software that pushed the planes' noses down based on erroneous sensor readings.

In a statement Friday, the FAA said aviation authorities from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to help with the work, called a Joint Authorities Technical Review.

The group will evaluate the automated flight control design and determine whether it complies with regulations. It also will decide if changes need to be made in the FAA's approval process.

Chicago-based Boeing is working on a software fix to the planes' anti-stall system, known by its acronym, MCAS. In both an October crash off the coast of Indonesia and a March crash in Ethiopia, a faulty sensor reading triggered MCAS and pushed the plane's nose down, and pilots were unable to recover.

Pilots at U.S. airlines complained that they didn't even know about MCAS until after the October crash. They then received computer training that described the system and how to respond when something goes wrong with it.

On Wednesday, Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg said the company completed its last test flight of updated flight-control software. Muilenburg said test pilots flew 120 flights totaling 203 hours with the new software. The company is expected to conduct a crucial certification flight with an FAA test pilot on board soon, possibly next week.

"We are making steady progress toward certification" and returning the Max to service, Muilenburg said as he stood in front of a Max jet at Boeing Field in Seattle.

Muilenburg said he went on a test flight that day and saw the updated software "operating as designed across a range of flight conditions."

In the U.S., United Airlines has removed its 14 Max jets from the schedule until early July, while American, with 24, and Southwest, with 34, are not counting on the planes until August.

It could take longer before foreign airlines can use their Max jets. Regulators outside the U.S. once relied on the FAA's judgment in such matters but have indicated plans to conduct their own reviews this time.

Foreign countries may impose additional requirements, delaying the use of the Max by their carriers. For example, FAA experts concluded in a draft report that while pilots need training on the anti-stall system, they do not need additional time in flight simulators. Canada's transportation minister said this week, however, that he wants simulator training for Max pilots. Air Canada has 24 Max jets.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, April 20, the 110th day of 2019. There are 255 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 20, 1999, the Columbine High School massacre took place in Colorado as two students shot

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and killed 12 classmates and one teacher before taking their own lives.

On this date:

In 1898, the United States moved closer to war with Spain as President William McKinley signed a congressional resolution passed the day before recognizing Cuban independence and authorizing U.S. military intervention to achieve that goal.

In 1914, the Ludlow Massacre took place when the Colorado National Guard opened fire on a tent colony of striking miners; about 20 (accounts vary) strikers, women and children died.

In 1938, "Olympia," Leni Riefenstahl's documentary about the 1936 Berlin Olympic games, was first shown in Nazi Germany.

In 1948, United Auto Workers president Walter P. Reuther was shot and seriously wounded at his home in Detroit.

In 1971, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the use of busing to achieve racial desegregation in schools. National Public Radio made its on-air debut with live coverage of a U.S. Senate hearing on the Vietnam War.

In 1972, Apollo 16's lunar module, carrying astronauts John W. Young and Charles M. Duke Jr., landed on the moon.

In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Wooley v. Maynard*, ruled 6-3 that car owners could refuse to display state mottoes on license plates, such as New Hampshire's "Live Free or Die."

In 1986, following an absence of six decades, Russian-born pianist Vladimir Horowitz performed in the Soviet Union to a packed audience at the Grand Hall of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow.

In 1988, gunmen who had hijacked a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet were allowed safe passage out of Algeria under an agreement that freed the remaining 31 hostages and ended a 15-day siege in which two passengers were slain.

In 1992, the Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert for AIDS Awareness took place at London's Wembley Stadium. Comedian Benny Hill died in his Greater London flat at age 68.

In 2003, U.S. Army forces took control of Baghdad from the Marines in a changing of the guard that thinned the military presence in the capital.

In 2010, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform, leased by BP, killed 11 workers and caused a blow-out that began spewing an estimated 200 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico. (The well was finally capped nearly three months later.)

Ten years ago: In Geneva, the United Nations opened its first anti-racism conference in eight years; dozens of Western diplomats walked out as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahd) called Israel the "most cruel and repressive racist regime." (Nine countries, including the United States and Israel, were already boycotting the conference.) Medical student Philip Markoff was arrested in the death of Julissa Brisman, a masseuse he'd met through Craigslist and whose body was found in a Boston hotel. (Markoff, who also was accused of robbing two other women, took his own life while in jail in August 2010 as he awaited trial in Brisman's death.)

Five years ago: Pope Francis made an Easter Sunday plea for peace and dialogue in Ukraine and Syria, for an end to attacks against Christians in Nigeria and for more attention to the hungry and neediest close to home. Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, the boxer whose wrongful murder conviction in New Jersey became an international symbol of racial injustice, died in Toronto at age 76.

One year ago: U.S. health officials told consumers to throw away any store-bought romaine lettuce and warned restaurants not to serve it amid an E. coli outbreak that had sickened more than 50 people in several states. Wells Fargo agreed to pay \$1 billion to federal regulators to settle charges stemming from misconduct at its mortgage and auto lending businesses; it was the latest punishment levied against the banking giant for widespread customer abuses. The Democratic Party filed a lawsuit accusing the Donald Trump presidential campaign, Russia, WikiLeaks and Trump's son and son-in-law of conspiring to undercut Democrats in the 2016 election by stealing tens of thousands of emails and documents.

Today's Birthdays: Retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is 99. Actor Leslie Phillips is 95. Sen.

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Pat Roberts, R-Kan., is 83. Actor George Takei is 82. Singer Johnny Tillotson is 81. Actor Ryan O'Neal is 78. Bluegrass singer-musician Doyle Lawson (Quicksilver) is 75. Actress Judith O'Dea is 74. Rock musician Craig Frost (Grand Funk; Bob Seger's Silver Bullet Band) is 71. Actor Gregory Itzin (iht-zihn) is 71. Actress Jessica Lange is 70. Actress Veronica Cartwright is 70. Actor Clint Howard is 60. Actor Crispin Glover is 55. Actor Andy Serkis is 55. Olympic silver medal figure skater Rosalynn Sumners is 55. Actor William deVry is 51. Country singer Wade Hayes is 50. Actor Shemar Moore is 49. Actress Carmen Electra is 47. Reggae singer Stephen Marley is 47. Rock musician Marty Crandall is 44. Actor Joey Lawrence is 43. Country musician Clay Cook (Zac Brown Band) is 41. Actor Clayne Crawford is 41. Actor Tim Jo is 35. Actor Carlos Valdes (TV: "The Flash") is 30.

Thought for Today: "Life is made up of desires that seem big and vital one minute, and little and absurd the next. I guess we get what's best for us in the end." — Alice Caldwell Rice, American humorist (1870-1942).