

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton United Methodist Women

Salad & Dessert Buffet

Wednesday, May 1st

from 11 am - 1 pm

Please join us for lunch or make your own to-go!

Men & Women \$8 - Children 6 and under free

at the Groton United Methodist Church

Proceeds to UMW Missions

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine



Dear EarthTalk: Do all the Democratic contenders for President in 2020 agree on the need to battle climate change?

Which ones have demonstrated the most leadership on environmental issues?

-- Joe Bradley, Minneapolis, MN

With 18 Democrats already declared as running for president in 2020 (Pete Buttigieg, Eric Swalwell, Tim Ryan, Kristen Gillibrand, Beto O'Rourke, John Hickenlooper, Jay Inslee, Bernie Sanders, Amy Klobuchar, Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, Kamala Harris, Julian Castro, Tulsi Gabbard, John Delaney, Wayne Messam, Marianne Williamson and Andrew Yang), and several more likely to officially join the fray, there is no shortage of ideas on ways to beat Donald Trump. Besides their common desire to unseat Trump, all of these White House hopefuls agree on the need to address climate change before it's too late.

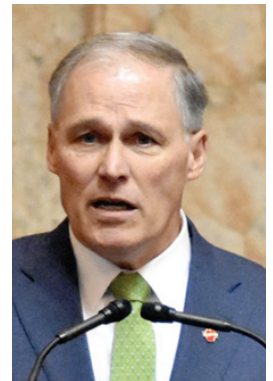
A recent New York Times survey of the field found that each candidate favors bringing back Obama-era regulations designed to curb power plant and automotive emissions and curtail coal leasing on federal lands. Likewise, all 18 say the U.S. should recommit to the Paris climate agreement despite Trump's efforts to pull out. But less than half (Castro, Gabbard, Gillibrand, Hickenlooper, Inslee, O'Rourke, Sanders, Warren and Williamson) are for even stronger new regulations to push us further faster on transitioning to a green economy.

Meanwhile, the non-profit 350 Action recently published the results of its 2020 Climate Test, a scorecard rating each candidate's climate cred based on whether they support the Green New Deal or similar legislation, have taken actions to keep fossil fuels in the ground, and have pledged to refuse campaign financing from petrochemical interests. Gillibrand, Inslee, Sanders, Swalwell, Warren and Williamson scored 3/3 on the test, while Booker, Buttigieg, Gabbard and Yang each scored 2/3. (Delaney and Hickenlooper failed all three tests, despite acknowledging that climate change is a serious issue.)

Perhaps the candidate with the most climate skin in the game is Washington governor Jay Inslee, who has declared solving the climate crisis the primary focus of his White House bid. His 2007 book *Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Economy* laid out a plan for solving the climate crisis via a rapid transition to renewable energy sources with massive investments in clean energy jobs that would benefit Americans from all walks of life—much like the Green New Deal proposal released earlier this year by New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Harris, Booker, Gillibrand, Sanders and Warren each served as co-sponsors for the Green New Deal's introduction in the Senate.

Warren, a longtime sympathizer with environmental causes, recently released her plan to boost renewable energy production and protect public lands if she becomes president. The crux of her proposal calls for banning the extraction of fossil fuels on public lands (and off-shore in domestic waters) and replacing it with renewable energy production so as to meet 10 percent of the nation's overall electricity supply.

If any of the Democrats can take control of the White House in 2020, environmental advocates will no doubt breathe a sigh of relief.



Washington State's governor Jay Inslee, one of the first Democrats to declare his candidacy for the White House in 2020, aims to make climate change a central issue in the 2020 election.

Credit: Office of the Governor, Washington, FlickrCC

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To read more, check out <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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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

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: United Methodist Women May Salad & Dessert Buffet at the UMC.

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

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
April 23, 2019 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Ted Dickey and Ken Hier – Drinking water facilities funding application financial analysis summary – Plans for water tower project and discuss the necessary surcharge
2. Resolution 2019-2 Approval for DENR Drinking Water Loan
3. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
4. Minutes
5. Bills
6. March Financial Statement
7. List of employees attending training sessions
8. Malt Beverage License Renewals:
Ken's Food Fair
MJs Sinclair
Dolgen Midwest LLC (Dollar General)
Olde Bank N Cafe
9. Ordinance #726 Solid waste rates
10. Surplus 1998 Eljin Pelican SE Street Sweeper
11. Wells Fargo Business Credit Card
12. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
13. Hire summer employees
14. Adjournment

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Today in Weather History

April 22, 1968: A late season snow storm affected most of South Dakota, with the heaviest snowfall measuring 18 inches at Eagle Butte. Also, localized icing damaged utility lines, and 40 mph winds caused localized blizzard conditions. Some calf losses were reported.

April 22, 1992: With a fresh blanket of snow from a recent snowstorm helping to keep the air cool the high temperature at Sioux Falls only reached 31 degrees. This cold temperature is the latest below freezing high temperature on record in Sioux Falls.

April 22, 2001: Heavy snow of 7 to 15 inches fell across much of central and northeast South Dakota from early on the 22nd to early on the 23rd. Some freezing rain also brought heavy icing in Buffalo, Eastern Lyman, and far southern Roberts counties resulting in some downed trees and branches along with some downed power lines. This late season snowstorm caused many travel problems along with some accidents. There were many vehicles in the ditch along Interstate-29 in Roberts County. Many schools and events were either canceled or delayed on the 22nd and 23rd. The heavy snow also caused problems with ranchers and their livestock with some calves lost in the storm. Around 9:30 am on the 23rd in Kennebec, the heavy snow resulted in the roof of the 40 by 64-foot feed and seed warehouse to collapse. Late season record snowfalls were set at Aberdeen and Pierre. Some snowfall amounts included 7 inches at Timber Lake and Leola, 8 inches at Eagle Butte, Mobridge and Aberdeen, 9 inches at Kennebec and Pollock, 10 inches at Gettysburg, Selby, Redfield, and Webster, and 11 inches at Onida, Mission Ridge, Hosmer, and Columbia. Locations with snowfall amounts of a foot or more included, 12 inches at Britton, Ree Heights, Highmore, Blunt, Seneca, and Pierre, 13 inches at Murdo, Presho, Miller, and Wilmot, 14 inches at Roy Lake and southwest of Harrold, and 15 inches at Saint Lawrence.

1883: A tornado outbreak from Louisiana to Kansas claimed the lives of at least 127 people and injured over 800 others. One of the tornadoes destroyed the town of Beauregard, Mississippi.

1978: Lightning sometimes strikes tents. In this case, a tent containing some sleeping Girl Scouts was hit by lightning as they were camping at DeGray Lake in Arkansas. Two of the Girl Scouts suffered minor burns.

1980 - A record April heat wave sent the mercury up to the 100 degree mark in Iowa. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the southeastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 96 degrees at Pensacola FL established a record for the month of April. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Heavy snow fell over northern Nebraska, with 15 inches reported at Mullen. Heavy snow also blanketed the mountains of northern Arizona, with 16 inches reported at Munds Park. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

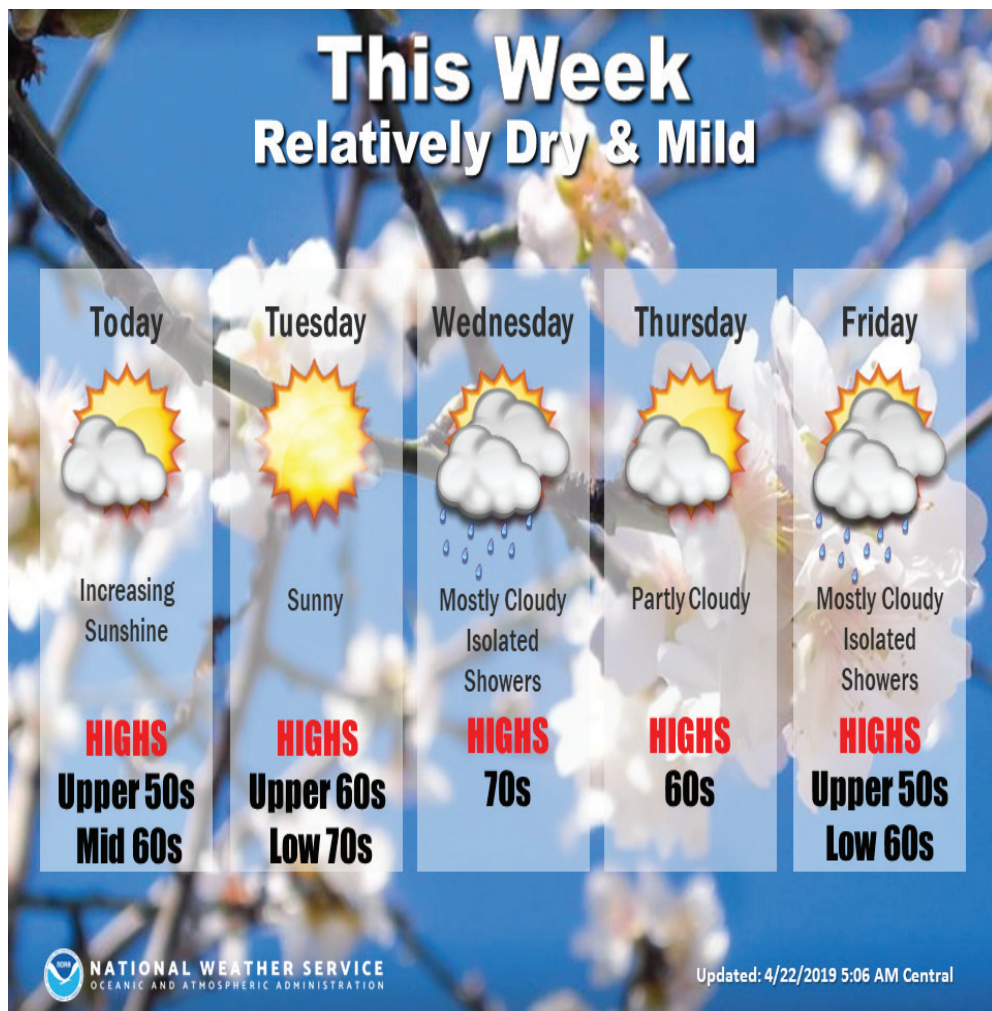
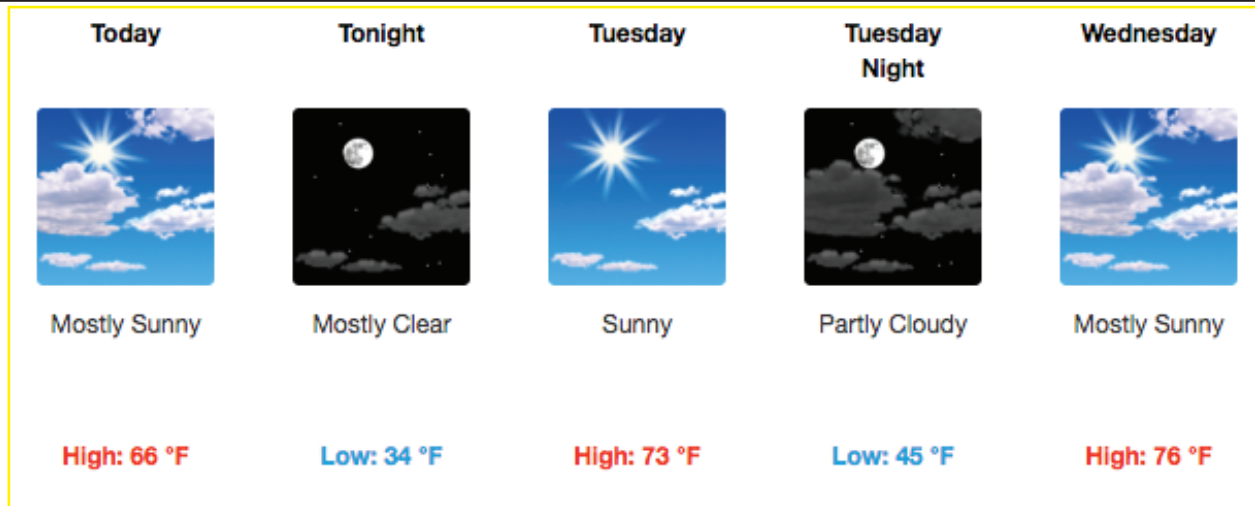
1989 - Twenty-seven cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 96 degrees at Omaha was an April record, and the high of 100 degrees at Lubbock TX equalled their record for April. Hill City KS and Liberal KS tied for honors as the hot spot in the nation with afternoon highs of 103 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Southern and Central High Plains to north-west Florida during the afternoon and evening. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 67 mph at Gillette WY, hail two inches in diameter west of Roswell NM, and deluged Cheyenne OK with 8.68 inches of rain leaving some parts of the town under five feet of water. Temperatures reached the low 90s in the north central U.S. Chamberlain SD and Pickstown SD tied Presidio TX for honors as the hot spot in the nation with afternoon highs of 94 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2011 - Lambert International Airport in St. Louis experiences extensive damage as it is hit by a group of tornados, blowing out windows in the main terminal and tearing the roof off Concourse C. Five people were taken to the hospital with minor injuries from shattered glass and flying debris.

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Published on: 04/22/2019 at 6:08AM

Looks like a mostly dry week with above average temperatures

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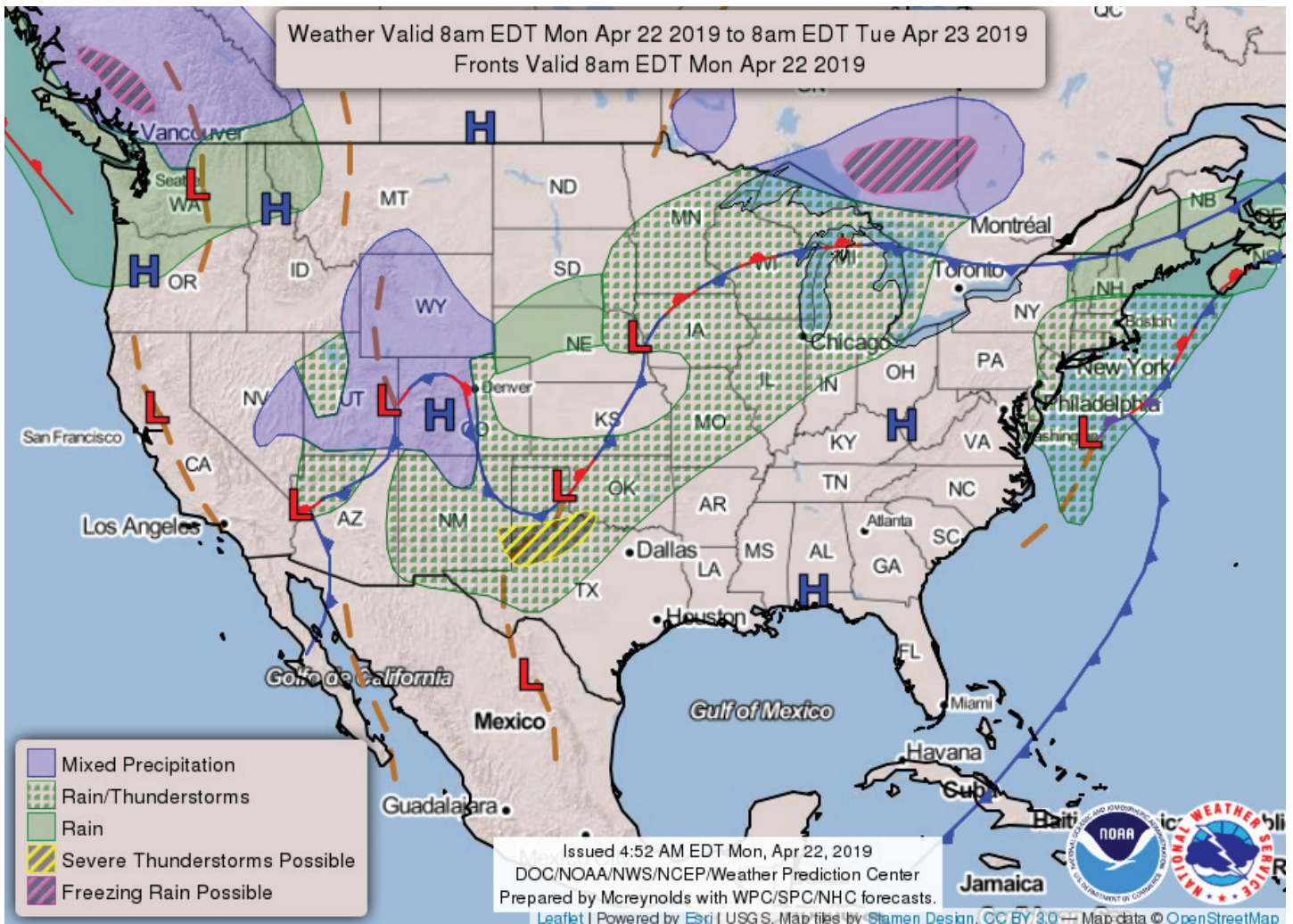
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 63 °F at 2:40 PM
Low Outside Temp: 51 °F at 6:52 AM
High Gust: 36 mph at 4:51 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1990, 1908
Record Low: 15° in 2015
Average High: 61°F
Average Low: 34°F
Average Precip in April.: 1.11
Precip to date in April.: 1.42
Average Precip to date: 3.29
Precip Year to Date: 4.46
Sunset Tonight: 8:29 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:35 a.m.



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KNOWLEDGE AND DISCIPLINE

It was obvious to Solomon.

People who want wisdom are willing to pay the price to get it - because they love it. There is even a willingness, by some, to be disciplined, if necessary, to obtain wisdom.

People who hate correction or discipline, on the other hand, are considered stupid.

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid, wrote Solomon. There is a price to be paid for everything: even knowledge. In this verse, the author uses two interesting words to describe the attitude of one who wants knowledge or one who is content to be stupid - love and hate. Here, however, they are not connected to an emotional state. They focus on the priorities of an individual. If a person wants knowledge, it must be a lifelong priority. If a person wants to be stupid, the only requirement is to refuse to learn or be corrected.

Knowledge and wisdom have very similar meanings in the Bible. In fact, they are almost synonymous, life-giving, life-sustaining, life-enhancing, and require one thing in common: the person who wants them, must at all costs, embrace discipline. To get one, wisdom, we must endure the other, discipline. In other words if I want to be wise, I must accept discipline.

Interestingly, the word stupid is found five times in the Old Testament. It is used to portray a dense, dumb animal as well as a man who is unkind and runs roughshod over people.

To refuse discipline, then, lowers the status of a person. To accept discipline opens the door to successful living.

Prayer: How blest we are, Father, for the opportunities You give us to achieve great things. Help us to persevere. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.

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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

Landmark 1895 Spearfish home undergoing numerous makeovers

By **KAIJA SWISHER** *Black Hills Pioneer*

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Built by the first mayor of Spearfish, George Favorite, in 1895, the modern farmhouse is getting a facelift inside and out.

"We purchased the house in 2014," owner Melissa Haught told the *Black Hills Pioneer*. "I had been in the home 10 years prior and had fallen in love with its charm, the tall ceilings, and the pocket doors."

Haught said that when doing research about the two-story Victorian-style home, it was considered contemporary for its time. The house has four bedrooms, two bathrooms, 10-foot ceilings, fireplaces, hardwood floors, pocket doors, a claw-foot tub, and more. The first floor includes a kitchen, dining room, den, living room, and bathroom, with the bedrooms and second bathroom upstairs. There is also a front porch, patio, and carriage house on the property.

"Our intention is to get the home on the National (Register of Historic Places)," she said, describing that she has all of the research and paperwork completed and just needs to submit it. "I have most often heard the house referred to as the 'Fidler House,' as Ray and Nadine Fidler, of Fidler Funeral Home, lived in the house for several decades. Many people my age remember playing on the big merry-go-round that used to be in the backyard."

The Haught family began renovating the house as soon as they moved in, and Haught said that the projects already completed include the upstairs bathroom, a complete kitchen renovation that included removing a wall between the dining room and kitchen, replacing the windows, and removing a ceiling in the foyer that had been put in decades earlier.

"It is a process that takes time and money, but we love the charm of an old house," she said. "It takes patience; when you are doing most of the work yourself it is a project that is ongoing but rewarding to see your work. There is nothing quite like living in an old house with so much history and charm."

Haught added that the challenges are the time and money invested — but for her, the joys outweigh the challenges.

"I love the feel and nostalgia of living in a house that so many generations of people have called home and created history in," she said. "I love the small little quirky imperfections in an old home."

Watching the look and feel of the home transform with each project completed has been what Haught has enjoyed most so far.

"It feels like home to our family," she said. "It is cozy, and it is ours. I love that we share this connection with a house that so many others have felt as well."

Future projects on the docket include building a garage this summer, Haught said, and there is one more bathroom to renovate.

"At some point, we will renovate the carriage house in the back of the house," she said, adding that one of the things she enjoys most is knowing that there's always another project waiting. "I am always dreaming and sketching and thinking about what's next."

For others who are interested in restoration projects, Haught advised that whatever they think their budget needs to be, make it bigger.

"Take your time and do it the right way, not necessarily the easy way," she said. "Most of all, do the research to learn about the history of your house. For me it was almost like a little adventurous treasure hunt, finding the past owners and then scouring newspapers and books to discover who they were and their connection to the house, visiting with historians and longtime residents to learn what they knew. Since the home was not on any historic registry, there was not information out there already."

Haught said that she's heard from many people who tell the family that they love that the house is being restored.

"I've heard so many positive comments and childhood stories from people in the community who know

the house or people who lived in it," she said.

Haught also voiced her appreciation for the Spearfish Historic Preservation for supporting the efforts in the community to restore the old homes that are here. The Haughts' home was one of two of the first houses to receive a \$500 matching-funds reimbursement grants for paint materials and/or labor for an exterior painting project in the commission's first year of awarding the grant in 2018. Since then, Haught has joined the commission.

"It is wonderful to see people like the Haughts purchase an older home, and give it the attention it needs," Greg Dias, chair of the Spearfish Historic Preservation Commission, said. "Granted, in some cases old homes might require quite a bit of work if they've been neglected or need updating when it comes to wiring, or bringing things up to code. But, an older home is worth the effort. Chris and Melissa had the vision to look past initial appearances and see the home as it could be once they had made improvements. Typically, older homes, especially if they have survived their first century, are very well built of old growth lumber and worth the investment."

He described that keeping these older homes in good condition is great for the community.

"They're part of our legacy and significantly contribute to the character of our town," Dias said. "Amongst the many great things Spearfish has going for it, such as a vibrant downtown, a great university, and a vast array of business services, so does it have a variety of old and historic structures that give it a special flavor that draws people in. We're grateful to people like the Haughts for doing their part to preserve that character both now and for generations to follow."

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

Lawmaker seeks to restore South Dakota's Flaming Fountain

By **SETH TUPPER** Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Efforts are under way to restore flame to South Dakota's Flaming Fountain, an attraction that began life as a glorified natural-gas flare.

The fountain is just east of the Capitol building in Pierre, on the shore of Capitol Lake between memorials dedicated to South Dakota veterans who served in Korea, Vietnam and World War II.

Visitors who view the fountain are actually looking at the top of an uncapped, 1,300-foot-deep, free-flowing artesian well (the word "artesian" denotes that the well's underground water source, known as an aquifer, is under positive pressure and therefore needs no pump).

Natural gas that comes up with the water formerly sustained an awe-inspiring flame. But since at least 2008, the "eternal" flame has been flickering out with regularity, possibly due to a declining flow of gas, the Rapid City Journal reported.

After years of debate and chagrin about the flame-less fountain, the Legislature and Gov. Kristi Noem approved a bill this past winter to address the problem. The bill authorizes up to \$200,000 in private fundraising for a study into the fountain's lack of sustained flame, its diminished water flow and the risk of a potential sinkhole around the fountain.

Rep. Tim Rounds, R-Pierre, sponsored the legislation in hopes of restoring the Flaming Fountain's role as a fiery complement to the war memorials.

"To me it's hallowed ground," Rounds said. "People come to Pierre and they want to see the monuments. It's part of who we are in South Dakota. We honor our veterans."

But the Flaming Fountain didn't start out as a tribute to veterans or anyone else.

The well itself was drilled in 1909-1910, while the Capitol was under construction. The drilling was conducted by Norbeck & Nicholson, the Redfield-based firm of Peter Norbeck, who was then a legislator and went on to become a governor and U.S. senator.

The 92-degree water from the well was used to fill man-made Capitol Lake and is still used for that purpose. The natural gas from the well was used to light and heat the Capitol, while excess gas was sold to the city of Pierre.

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Eventually, the old lighting and heating systems in the Capitol were replaced by new versions, but a few offices in and around the Capitol kept using natural gas from the artesian well for various purposes.

On May 17, 1958, gas leaking from the old system caused an explosion in a small concrete building near the Capitol, where health officials housed animals for use in lab tests. The building's roof was lifted by the explosion, and two state employees — one of whom may have lit a cigarette that ignited the blast — were "severely singed," according to newspaper accounts.

The old gas lines were subsequently capped. But the artesian well continued to spew potentially hazardous natural gas, so the water and gas were diverted underground until rusting valves thwarted that solution.

In the 1960s, Ken Williams, who was the state superintendent of buildings and grounds, came up with a new idea to handle the gas. He simply set it ablaze as it emerged from the well, thereby safely burning off the gas and creating the Flaming Fountain.

"But even this failed to provide an immediate solution," said a 1967 story published in several South Dakota newspapers. "It was easy to light the fire, but keeping it burning was something else. Water from the well did not flow smoothly. As it surged out in an irregular pattern, it extinguished the flame."

Williams and his crew then fashioned a baffle out of scrap iron and installed it in the well to regulate the flow.

"The fire was lit and since that time has never died," said the 1967 story.

In the 1970s, the state received a donation to build a Vietnam veterans memorial, kicking off a decades-long process of fundraising and memorial-building that produced the modern configuration of memorials around the fountain.

By at least 2008, people began to notice that the Flaming Fountain was no longer flaming. Complaints to state officials produced little to no action until this past winter's legislation.

Rounds now hopes to organize a fundraiser and raise enough money to put out a request for proposals by this summer to study the declining gas and water flow, plus some apparent sagging around the fountain.

Meanwhile, the state engineer, Stacy Langdeau, a graduate of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City, asked if anyone at Mines wanted to investigate the non-flaming fountain. Her invitation led a team from Mines to install a methane sensor at the fountain in March (natural gas is composed primarily of methane).

Dan Soeder, director of the Energy Resources Initiative at Mines, said preliminary readings from the sensor indicate an inconsistent flow of natural gas from the well.

"I think it's just been flowing for so long that the gas is not a continuous phase anymore," Soeder said.

The sensor was built for lab use and was originally purchased by Soeder's former employer, the U.S. Department of Energy. The department intended to customize the sensor for use around natural gas wells, to detect gas leaking into the air.

The sensor was not being used, so the department agreed to give it to Soeder for use at Mines. He needed a place to test the device and realized the Flaming Fountain would be ideal.

A laser in the sensor is tuned to a light frequency that is blocked by methane; therefore, the amount of dimming of the laser tells the sensor how much methane is in the air.

Soeder said the gas emitting from the fountain is potentially dangerous.

"The concentrations are generally below the lower flammability limit, which is why the flame is out," Soeder said. "However, this is variable, and if someone attempts to re-light it with their trusty Zippo during a higher flow episode, they could experience a bit more of a flame than they bargained for."

Soeder hopes to conduct more testing at the fountain. His initial ideas to restore the flame include drilling a new, horizontal borehole from the existing well to intercept more natural gas.

For Rounds and the many veterans and other constituents who've spoken to him about the fountain, a solution is long overdue.

"They call it the eternal flame," Rounds said, "and we need to keep it that way."

South Dakota man faces life sentence on sexual abuse charges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been indicted by a federal grand jury for aggravated sexual abuse and abusive sexual contact.

Roland Hawk Sr., of Fort Thompson, faces life in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He has pleaded not guilty. Court documents show that the 50-year-old Hawk engaged in and attempted to engage in a sexual act with an individual by use of force and intended to “abuse, humiliate and degrade” the victim. Hawk has been released on bond. A trial date has not been set.

Ex-governor’s farm could be Sioux Falls’ next commercial hub

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Developers want to turn the Sioux Falls family farm of a former South Dakota governor into the next bustling commercial district as the city expands eastward.

Ryan Tysdal, the great nephew of former Gov. Joe Foss, now owns the farmland in east Sioux Falls that’s poised to become a major city development. He grew up on the property where Foss, a World War II veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, was known to fly planes over the state’s vast prairie, the Argus Leader reported.

Now a commercial broker for Van Buskirk Companies, Tysdal believes the development is uniquely positioned to become a prime location for grocery stores and big national chains looking to add a location in the city.

The development, named Foss Fields, sits near the addition of the new Interstate 90 and Veterans Parkway interchange.

City and state officials have worked for the last couple of years to extend the parkway closer to the interstate, which, once connected, would open the door to commuters and out-of-town shoppers. The project is scheduled to finish August 2020.

Sioux Falls has also invested tens of millions of dollars to extend sewer lines east, which could also drive growth to the area as developers run out of space in the southern part of the city.

“All of that fuels the east-side growth and that’s where the developers are moving,” Tysdal said. “It will be a hotbed of activity for years to come.”

The Foss Fields development was initially planned as a simple retail corridor along the highway. But now developers including Joel Ingle with C-Lemme said the road and sewer investments expand the land’s potential into “more of a regional commercial business park concept.”

Ingle said roughly 40 acres (17 hectares) of Foss Fields will be set aside for single-family homes. The project has a combined 320 acres (130 hectares) for development, he said.

Tysdal believes the development needs investment from a major retailer to take off.

It’s unknown when the project will break ground, but Tysdal said it’s only a matter of time.

“The next 20 years of growth in Sioux Falls is primarily to the east side of town,” Tysdal said. “It’s important that the retail, the commercial sector keeps up with that.”

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

Tesla gears up for fully self-driving cars amid skepticism

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE and TOM KRISHER AP Business Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Tesla CEO Elon Musk appears poised to transform the company’s electric cars into driverless vehicles in a risky bid to realize a bold vision that he has been floating for years.

The technology required to make that quantum leap is scheduled to be shown off to Tesla investors Monday at the company’s Palo Alto, California, headquarters.

Musk, known for his swagger as well as his smarts, is so certain that Tesla will win the race toward full autonomy that he indicated in an interview earlier this month that his company’s cars should be able to navigate congested highways and city streets without a human behind the wheel by no later than next year.

"I could be wrong, but it appears to be the case that Tesla is vastly ahead of everyone," Musk told Lex Fridman, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology research scientist specializing in autonomous vehicles.

But experts say they're skeptical whether Tesla's technology has advanced anywhere close to the point where its cars will be capable of being driven solely by a robot, without a human in position to take control if something goes awry.

"It's all hype," said Steven E. Shladover, a retired research engineer at the University of California, Berkeley who has been involved in efforts to create autonomous driving for 45 years. "The technology does not exist to do what he is claiming. He doesn't have it and neither does anybody else."

More than 60 companies in the U.S. alone are developing autonomous vehicles. Some are aiming to have their fully autonomous cars begin carrying passengers in small geographic areas as early as this year. Many experts don't believe they'll be in widespread use for a decade or more.

Musk's description of Tesla's controls as "Full Self-Driving" has alarmed some observers who think it will give owners a false sense of security and create potentially lethal situations in conditions that the autonomous cars can't handle. They also say they're waiting for Musk to define self-driving and show just under what conditions and places the vehicles can travel without human intervention, including specific data showing that they would be safer than human drivers and whether the system's safety has been reviewed by outside groups or government agencies.

Meanwhile, Musk continues to use both his Twitter account and Tesla's website to pump up a new computer now in production for full self-driving vehicles. Once the self-driving software is ready, those with new computers will get an update via the internet, Musk has said. Currently the self-driving computer costs \$5,000, but the price rises to \$7,000 if it's installed after delivery.

Tesla vehicles equipped for full autonomy will rely on eight cameras that cover 360 degrees, front-facing radar and short-range ultrasonic sensors. It's not known how many will have the full self-driving technology. There are about 400,000 Teslas on the road worldwide.

That's different from the self-driving systems being built by nearly every other company in the industry, including Google spinoff Waymo, General Motors' Cruise Automation, and Ford-affiliated Argo AI. They all use cameras and radar covering 360 degrees, and also have light beam sensors called Lidar to the mix as a third redundant sensor, as well as detailed three-dimensional mapping.

"Vehicles that don't have Lidar, that don't have advanced radar, that haven't captured a 3-D map are not self-driving vehicles," Ken Washington, Ford's chief technical officer, said during a recent interview with Recode. "They are great consumer vehicles with really good driver-assist technology."

Even Lidar doesn't guarantee 100 percent safety. Waymo last year backed off of a pledge to run a ro-



FILE- This Oct. 3, 2018, file photo shows a Tesla emblem at the Auto show in Paris. Tesla CEO Elon Musk appears poised to transform the company's electric cars into driverless vehicles in a risky bid to realize a bold vision that he has been floating for years. The technology required to make that quantum leap is scheduled to be shown off to Tesla investors Monday, April 22, 2019, at the company's Palo Alto, Calif., headquarters. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena, File)

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botaxi service in Phoenix without human backup drivers for safety reasons. And an Uber autonomous test vehicle with Lidar as well as a human backup driver ran down and killed a pedestrian last year in Tempe, Arizona, the first known death involving self-driving technology.

Amnon Shashua, CEO of Israeli autonomous vehicle computing company Mobileye, says cars with 360-degree cameras and front facing radar could drive autonomously, but they would not be as safe as human drivers. Careful humans can drive 10 million hours without a mistake leading to a fatal crash, but cars without full redundant sensors cannot, he said.

Phil Koopman, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, said Musk needs to show his cars can handle all situations if he wants to claim they can drive themselves. For instance, he wonders if Tesla has a plan for a big truck splashing gallons of grimy water onto a car in a snowstorm, obstructing the cameras.

"The rabbit hole goes pretty deep if you want to make that (full self-driving) argument," he said.

Tesla already has been offering a system called "Autopilot" that can control cars on a limited basis with constant monitoring by a human driver. On its website, it says the Autopilot system steers your car in its lane and accelerates and brakes automatically for other vehicles and pedestrians in its lane. But questions already have been raised about Autopilot's reliability after its involvement in three fatal crashes.

In one, neither the driver nor a Tesla Model S operating on the company's Autopilot driver-assist system spotted a tractor-trailer crossing in front of it on a Florida, highway in 2016. The car drove under the trailer shearing off the roof and killing the driver.

In a 2017 report, the National Transportation Safety Board wrote that driver inattention and design limitations of Autopilot played major roles in the fatality, and it found that the Model S cameras and radar weren't capable of detecting a vehicle turning into its path. Rather, the systems are designed to detect vehicles they are following to prevent rear-end collisions.

The agency also is still investigating the two other lethal crashes, one last month in Delray Beach, Florida, eerily similar to the 2016 Florida crash, and another involving a Tesla SUV that was operating on Autopilot when it hit a highway lane-dividing barrier in Silicon Valley.

Tesla maintains that its current systems are only for assistance, and that drivers must pay attention and be ready to intervene.

With "Full Self-Driving Capability," Tesla touts that you get automatic driving from the highway on ramp to the off ramp including interchanges and changing lanes automatically to overtake slower cars. Later this year, the cars will be able to recognize and respond to traffic lights and stop signs and drive automatically on city streets, the website says.

Those feats are something that Tesla will likely have to prove to regulators in California — its largest U.S. market so far — before its fully autonomous cars are allowed on the roads there. But most other states don't have the same requirements as California. And experts say there's no federal law requiring preapproval for fully autonomous driving, as long as a vehicle meets federal safety standards, which Teslas do.

"Unfortunately, it may be necessary for several people to die before regulators step in," Shladover said.

Krisher reported from Detroit.

Buttigieg scrambles to turn 2020 buzz into momentum

By STEVE PEOPLES and HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — There are no policy positions on his website. He has virtually no paid presence in the states that matter most. And his campaign manager is a high school friend with no experience in presidential politics.

Welcome to the campaign of Pete Buttigieg, the 37-year-old Indiana mayor who has suddenly become one of the hottest names in the Democrats' presidential primary season. Yet there is an increasing urgency, inside and outside of the campaign, that his moment may pass if he doesn't take swift action to build a national organization capable of harnessing the energy he'll need to sustain his surge in the nine months

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or so before the first votes are cast.

"I get more inquiries on how to reach him or his campaign than anyone else," New Hampshire Democratic Party Chairman Ray Buckley said, adding that he's aware of just one part-time Buttigieg staffer in the state to help coordinate the requests.

"This is what it's like when you're having your moment," Buckley said. "Whether he can capitalize — that's his challenge."

Indeed, it's far from certain that Buttigieg, a gay former military officer, will continue to stand out in a contest that features political heavyweights like Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former Vice President Joe Biden, who is expected to launch his candidacy later this week. Aware of the daunting road ahead, Buttigieg's team is plowing forward with an ambitious push to expand his operation, attract new campaign cash and pound the airwaves with virtually every media opportunity available.

In an interview, Buttigieg conceded that his supporters across the country have essentially had to "organize themselves" so far.

"We need to make sure we have the organizational strengths to sustain this wave of support that we've been getting for the last almost month and a half now," he said. "It's created some challenges to rise this far this fast, but I would put those in the category of a good problem to have."

Federal filings suggest the campaign had little more than a dozen paid staffers at the end of last month. Buttigieg's paid presence now exceeds 30, according to campaign manager Mike Schmuhl, who said it'll be closer to 50 by the end of the month.

Most of the team is based in South Bend, Indiana, while a handful of staffers work from shared "We Work" office space in Chicago and a few others are based in Iowa and New Hampshire. Buttigieg plans to expand his presence in Iowa and New Hampshire and hire paid staff in South Carolina, Nevada and California in the coming weeks.

Still, don't expect the Democratic mayor to create a giant campaign apparatus in line with Warren, Sanders or even New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker. Buttigieg has the money to build a large organization after raising more than \$7 million last quarter, but the core of the near-term campaign strategy hinges on an aggressive fundraising schedule and a say-yes-to-almost-everything media strategy — whether media outlets focused on politics, entertainment or sports — backed by strong debate performances.

Schmuhl said the campaign doesn't have national political consultants on the payroll and it's unclear if it ever will.

"We want to build a campaign that's a little disruptive, kind of entrepreneurial. Right now, it feels like a startup," said Schmuhl, who first met Buttigieg in high school and later ran former Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly's 2010 congressional campaign before reconnecting with Buttigieg.

There are clearly organizational challenges as the campaign ramps up, Schmuhl continued, but there is also "tremendous opportunity."



In this April 19, 2019, photo, Democratic presidential candidate South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg answers questions from employees during a campaign stop at a dairy company in Londonderry, N.H. Buttigieg's presidential campaign has attention and money. Now he has to convert that into a sustainable operation that can keep him in the race well into next year. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

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"We're in the game," he said.

As was the case in former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke's early campaign appearances, the lack of formal organization has allowed for a certain level of authenticity on the campaign trail as Buttigieg introduces himself to voters. It's also created challenges.

He's drawing big crowds in Iowa and New Hampshire, but there were few, if any, campaign staff on hand to take down information from enthusiastic supporters who want to be part of the campaign. While Buckley said he's aware of only one part-time staffer in the state, a Buttigieg spokesman said the aide was full-time.

And voters eager to learn more about the mayor's policy positions have been left wanting. Buttigieg has called for ending the Electoral College and expanding the Supreme Court. But in sharp contrast to some of his higher-profile competitors, he has yet to hire a policy director or release any written policies.

New Hampshire Democrat Lauren O'Sullivan, a 35-year-old who attended a house party for Buttigieg over the weekend, said she was initially unsure about the Midwestern mayor after going on his website. She felt she "didn't know where he stood on any positions."

She was somewhat reassured after he talked about specific policies at the Saturday house party.

"It was good to see that there is some platform," O'Sullivan said.

For now, Buttigieg's team wants to get him in front of as many people as possible.

That'll include travel to meet voters in the early states on the presidential primary calendar, but after a week on the road in Iowa and New Hampshire, he'll spend the coming days focused on raising as much money as possible.

This week he'll launch a California fundraising swing featuring 11 stops across three days. Hollywood has taken an early liking to Buttigieg. Actors including Ryan Reynolds have already written small checks. Others in the entertainment industry are expected to attend events on the California tour, although the campaign declined to name them.

It's critically important for Buttigieg to focus on fundraising while he's surging, said Democratic strategist Symone Sanders, who predicted that Buttigieg's moment is unlikely to last.

"Three weeks ago it was Beto. Now it's Mayor Pete. Three weeks from now it'll be somebody else," she said. "It's important to have a viable campaign to capitalize on this moment."

Buttigieg acknowledged his organizational challenges on the campaign trail in recent days.

"Every time I fool myself into thinking I'm a household name, I get a humbling reminder somewhere that not everybody is following the blow by blow," he said at the New Hampshire house party. He asked voters to join his effort, which he said is now "racing to build an organization to catch up with ourselves."

Afterward, as some in the crowd eagerly lined up for pictures with the young mayor, 65-year-old retired doctor Wayne Goldner stood in the kitchen and praised Buttigieg's performance.

The mayor's getting "very popular," he said, and rightfully so.

"He's going to get too big for house parties," Goldner said. "I think in New Hampshire he's big enough for the bigger venues already."

Associated Press writer Alexandra Jaffe in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Schmuhl ran Donnelly's 2010 congressional campaign, not his first campaign.

US won't renew sanctions waivers for importing Iranian oil

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is poised Monday to tell five nations, including allies Japan, South Korea and Turkey, that they will no longer be exempt from U.S. sanctions if they continue to import oil from Iran.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo plans to announce that the administration will not renew sanctions waiv-

ers for the five countries when they expire on May 2, three U.S. officials said. The others are China and India.

It was not immediately clear if any of the five would be given additional time to wind down their purchases or if they would be subject to U.S. sanctions on May 3 if they do not immediately halt imports of Iranian oil.

The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of Pompeo's announcement.

The decision not to extend the waivers, which was first reported by The Washington Post, was finalized on Friday by President Donald Trump, according to the officials. They said it is intended to further ramp up pressure on Iran by strangling the revenue it gets from oil exports.

The administration granted eight oil sanctions waivers when it re-imposed sanctions on Iran after Trump pulled the U.S. out of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal. They were granted in part to give those countries more time to find alternate energy sources but also to prevent a shock to global oil markets from the sudden removal of Iranian crude.

U.S. officials now say they do not expect any significant reduction in the supply of oil given production increases by other countries, including the U.S. itself and Saudi Arabia.

Since November, three of the eight — Italy, Greece and Taiwan — have stopped importing oil from Iran. The other five, however, have not, and have lobbied for their waivers to be extended.

NATO ally Turkey has made perhaps the most public case for an extension, with senior officials telling their U.S. counterparts that Iranian oil is critical to meeting their country's energy needs. They have also made the case that as a neighbor of Iran, Turkey cannot be expected to completely close its economy to Iranian goods.



FILE - In this April 8, 2019, file photo, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks at a news conference to announce the Trump administration's plan to designate Iran's Revolutionary Guard a "foreign terrorist organization," at the U.S. State Department in Washington. The Trump administration is poised to tell five nations, including allies Japan, South Korea and Turkey, that they will no longer be exempt from U.S. sanctions if they continue to import oil from Iran. U.S. officials say Pompeo plans to announce on Monday, April 22, that the administration will not renew sanctions waivers for the five countries when they expire on May 2.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. LOCAL GROUP SUSPECTED IN SRI LANKA BOMBINGS ON EASTER

The coordinated bombings that ripped through churches and luxury hotels, killing more than 200 people, were carried out by seven suicide bombers from a domestic militant group.

2. WITNESS DESCRIBES 'PANIC MODE' FOLLOWING BOMBINGS

People were being evacuated, others were being dragged. Blood and ambulances were everywhere,

says Bhanuka Harischandra, a tech company founder who saw the aftermath of the Sri Lanka attacks.

3. 'NOTHING WRONG WITH TAKING INFORMATION FROM RUSSIANS'

That's what President's Trump's attorney, Rudy Giuliani, says as House Democrats vow to step up investigations into campaign misconduct and possible crimes of obstruction detailed in special counsel Robert Mueller's report.

4. WHERE TRUMP SOUGHT HELP AS MUELLER PROBE BEGAN

In 2017, the president asked senior intelligence officials to publicly counter news stories alleging that Trump's campaign had ties to Russia.

5. WHO REACHES TENTATIVE CONTRACT DEAL

Stop & Shop supermarket workers and company officials say they've put together a contract agreement to end a strike that began April 11.

6. COMEDIAN WINS UKRAINE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

TV sitcom star Volodymyr Zelenskiy cruised to a landslide victory over incumbent President Petro Poroshenko in a crushing rebuke to the incumbent's five years in office.

7. CEDAR THE GERMAN SHEPHERD REUNITED WITH OWNERS

The dog, stolen nearly two years earlier, was found abandoned in Colorado. A microchip led to its human family.

8. EUROPEAN LANDMARKS IN NEED OF TLC

The devastating Notre Dame fire is a warning bell that all of Europe needs to hear since thousands of monuments and palaces across the continent are in need of renovations.

9. ONLY PASSENGERS ON BOARD

Tesla to show off technology required to make turn its electric cars into driverless vehicles.

10. HARRY AND MEGHAN'S FIRST BABY

Meghan's due date is fast approaching, so here are some key answers to your questions about the soon-to-be latest addition to the world's most famous royal family



A Sri Lankan woman enquires about her relative holding her photographs outside hospital morgue, a day after the serial blasts in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, April 22, 2019. A government crime investigator says the coordinated Easter bombings that ripped through Sri Lankan churches and luxury hotels were carried out by seven suicide bombers which killed and injured hundreds of people, was Sri Lanka's deadliest violence since a devastating civil war in the South Asian island nation ended a decade ago. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

Official: Sri Lanka failed to heed warnings of attacks

By **BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI** and **KRISHAN FRANCIS** Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lankan officials failed to heed warnings from intelligence agencies about the threat of an attack by a domestic radical Muslim group that officials blame for Easter Sunday bombings which killed more than 200 people, the country's health minister said Monday.

The coordinated bombings that ripped through churches and luxury hotels were carried out by seven suicide bombers from a militant group named National Thowfeek Jamaath, Health Minister Rajitha Senarathne said.

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International intelligence agencies warned of the attacks several times starting April 4, Senaratne said. On April 9, the defense ministry wrote to the police chief with intelligence that included the group's name, he said. On April 11, police wrote to the heads of security of the judiciary and diplomatic security division, Senaratne said.

It was not immediately clear what action, if any, was taken in response. Authorities said little was known about the group except that its name had appeared in intelligence reports.

Shortly after Senaratne spoke to reporters, a van parked near one of the bombed churches, St. Anthony's Shrine in Colombo, exploded, sending pedestrians fleeing in panic. While inspecting it, police found three bombs they attempted to defuse but that instead detonated. No injuries were reported.

Also on Monday, police found 87 detonators near Colombo's main bus depot, officials said. They declined to comment on whether they were linked to Sunday's attacks.

Because of political dysfunction within the government, Seranratne said, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and his Cabinet were kept in the dark about the intelligence until after the attacks.

President Maithrela Sirisena, who was out of the country at the time of the attacks, ousted Wickremesinghe in late October and dissolved the Cabinet. The Supreme Court eventually reversed his actions, but the prime minister has not been allowed into meetings of the Security Council since October.

All of the bombers were Sri Lankan citizens, but authorities suspect foreign links, Senaratne said.

Earlier, Ariyananda Weligama, a government forensic crime investigator, said an analysis of the attackers' body parts made clear that they were suicide bombers. He said most of the attacks were carried out by individual bombers, with two at Colombo's Shangri-La Hotel.

The bombings, Sri Lanka's deadliest violence since a devastating civil war that ended a decade ago, killed at least 290 people with more than 500 wounded, police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said.

Two other government ministers also alluded to intelligence failures. Telecommunications Minister Harin Fernando tweeted: "Some intelligence officers were aware of this incidence. Therefore there was a delay in action. Serious action needs to be taken as to why this warning was ignored." He said his father had heard of a possible attack as well and had warned him not to enter popular churches.

Mano Ganeshan, the minister for national integration, said his ministry's security officers had been warned by their division about the possibility that two suicide bombers would target politicians.

Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, the archbishop of Colombo, said the attacks could have been thwarted.

"We placed our hands on our heads when we came to know that these deaths could have been avoided. Why this was not prevented?" he said.

Earlier, Defense Minister Ruwan Wijewardena described the blasts as a terrorist attack by religious extrem-



Lalitha, center, weeps over the coffin with the remains of 12-year old niece, Sneha Savindi, who was a victim of Easter Sunday bombing at St. Sebastian Church, after it returned home in Negombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, April 22, 2019. Easter Sunday bombings of churches, luxury hotels and other sites was Sri Lanka's deadliest violence since a devastating civil war in the South Asian island nation ended a decade ago. (AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe)

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ists, and police said 13 suspects had been arrested, though there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

In the civil war, the Tamil Tigers, a powerful rebel army known for its use of suicide bombers, was crushed by the government in 2009, and had little history of targeting Christians. While anti-Muslim bigotry has swept the island in recent years, fed by Buddhist nationalists, the island also has no history of violent Muslim militants. The country's small Christian community has seen only scattered incidents of harassment in recent years.

The explosions — mostly in or around Colombo, the capital — collapsed ceilings and blew out windows, killing worshippers and hotel guests in one scene after another of smoke, soot, blood, broken glass, screams and wailing alarms.

A morgue worker in the town of Negombo, outside Colombo, where St. Sebastian's Church was targeted, said many bodies were hard to identify because of the extent of the injuries. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Nilantha Lakmal, a 41-year-old businessman in Negombo, went with his family to St. Sebastian's for Easter Mass. He said they all escaped the blast unscathed, but he remains haunted by images of bodies being taken from the sanctuary and tossed into a truck.

At the Shangri-La Hotel, a witness said "people were being dragged out" after the blast.

"There was blood everywhere," said Bhanuka Harischandra, a 24-year-old from Colombo and founder of a tech marketing company. He was heading to the hotel for a meeting when it was bombed. "People didn't know what was going on. It was panic mode," he said.

Most of those killed were Sri Lankans. But the three bombed hotels and one of the churches, St. Anthony's Shrine, are frequented by foreign tourists, and the ministry of tourism said 39 foreigners from a variety of countries were killed.

The U.S. said "several" Americans were among the dead, while Britain, India, China, Japan and Portugal said they, too, lost citizens.

The streets were largely deserted Monday afternoon, with most shops closed and a heavy deployment of soldiers and police. Stunned clergy and onlookers gathered at St. Anthony's Shrine, looking past the soldiers to the stricken church.

The Sri Lankan government initially lifted a curfew that had been imposed during the night but reinstated it Monday afternoon. Most social media remained blocked Monday after officials said they needed to curtail the spread of false information and ease tension in the country of about 21 million people.

Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said he feared the massacre could trigger instability, and vowed to "vest all necessary powers with the defense forces" to take action against those responsible.

The scale of the bloodshed recalled the worst days of the civil war, when the Tamil Tigers, from the ethnic Tamil minority, sought independence from the Sinhalese-dominated country. The Sinhalese are largely Buddhist. The Tamils are Hindu, Muslim and Christian.

Sri Lanka, off the southern tip of India, is about 70% Buddhist. In recent years, tensions have been running high between hard-line Buddhist monks and Muslims.

Two Muslim groups in Sri Lanka condemned the church attacks, as did countries around the world, and Pope Francis expressed condolences at the end of his traditional Easter Sunday blessing in Rome.

Six nearly simultaneous blasts took place in the morning at the shrine and the Cinnamon Grand, Shangri-La and Kingsbury hotels in Colombo, as well as at two churches outside Colombo.

A few hours later, two more blasts occurred just outside Colombo, one at a guesthouse where two people were killed, the other near an overpass, Atapattu said.

Also, three police officers were killed during a search at a suspected safe house on the outskirts of Colombo when its occupants apparently detonated explosives to prevent arrest, authorities said.

Authorities said a large bomb had been found and defused late Sunday on an access road to the international airport.

Air Force Group Captain Gihan Seneviratne said Monday that authorities found a pipe bomb filled with 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of explosives. It was large enough to have caused damage in a 400-meter

(400-yard) radius, he said.

Harischandra, who witnessed the attack at the Shangri-La Hotel, said there was "a lot of tension" after the bombings, but added, "We've been through these kinds of situations before."

He said Sri Lankans are "an amazing bunch" and noted that his social media feed was flooded with photos of people standing in long lines to give blood.

Associated Press journalists Gemunu Amarasinghe in Negombo, Sri Lanka, Rishabh Jain in Colombo and Sheila Norman-Culp in London contributed to this report.

Sri Lanka blocks social media after Easter Sunday bombings

By MATT O'BRIEN and STEPHEN WRIGHT Associated Press

Sri Lankan authorities flicked the off switch on most social media after Easter Sunday attacks on churches and hotels killed hundreds of people, a dramatic reaction that reflects distrust in the capability of American internet companies to control harmful content.

The block on social media including Facebook and its WhatsApp and Instagram services was announced by the government's official news portal, which cited the spread of "false news reports" online. The NetBlocks observatory said it detected an intentional blackout of the popular platforms as well as YouTube, Snapchat and Viber. Twitter appeared unaffected.

Officials likely feared that the spread of inflammatory content could provoke more bloodshed in Sri Lanka, a Buddhist-majority island nation that has large Hindu, Muslim and Christian minorities and a long history of ethnic and sectarian conflict. At least 290 people were killed in the bombings.

Ivan Sigal, head of the internet and journalism advocacy organization Global Voices, said the country's rapid action was a "telling moment."

"A few years ago we'd be using these platforms to help each other and coordinating assistance. Now we view them as a threat," he wrote on Twitter.

"If I were Facebook and WhatsApp I'd take a moment to ask myself where I'd gone wrong," he said. "Cannot think of a clearer signal for lack of platform trust."

It wasn't the first time Sri Lanka has blocked social media. The government imposed a weeklong ban in March 2018 because of concerns that WhatsApp and other platforms were being used to fan anti-Muslim violence in the country's central region.

Facebook is increasingly in the crosshairs of regulators, rights groups and the public as it tries to balance



Sri Lankan army soldiers secure the area around St. Sebastian's Church damaged in blast in Negombo, north of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sunday, April 21, 2019. More than hundred were killed and hundreds more hospitalized with injuries from eight blasts that rocked churches and hotels in and just outside of Sri Lanka's capital on Easter Sunday, officials said, the worst violence to hit the South Asian country since its civil war ended a decade ago. (AP Photo/Chamila

Karunaratne)

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what CEO Mark Zuckerberg has called "giving people a voice" and demands for censorship of hate speech and other harmful content posted on Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

It faced intense criticism after the right-wing extremist who attacked two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, last month, killing 50 people, live-streamed the massacre on Facebook. The U.N. in a report last year blamed the social media company for the spread of hate speech in Myanmar that dehumanized Rohingya Muslims and contributed to persecution that caused hundreds of thousands to flee the country.

In the past, blocking social media would have been seen as "outrageous censorship," Sigal said, highlighting the shift in attitude to social media sites. "Now we think of it as essential duty of care, to protect ourselves from threat."

Sri Lanka's government said the shutdown would extend until it concludes its investigation into the bomb blasts that rocked churches, luxury hotels and other sites.

NetBlocks, however, said post-attack blackouts can be ineffective.

"What we've seen is that when social media is shut down, it creates a vacuum of information that's readily exploited by other parties," said Alp Toker, executive director of the London-based group. "It can add to the sense of fear and can cause panic."

"That's going to be a problem for people trying to communicate with friends and family," Toker said.

Some internet users are circumventing the social media blocks by using a virtual private network, which masks the location of a computer, Toker said.

An analysis by Sri Lankan researcher and author Yudhanjaya Wijeratne of thousands of Facebook posts made during last year's ban found that many Sri Lankans simply found ways around it.

Wijeratne has recommended narrower and more "technically challenging" approaches to curbing hate speech, such as better detection and strengthening local laws.

Facebook said it was aware of the Sri Lankan government's statement.

"People rely on our services to communicate with their loved ones and we are committed to maintaining our services and helping the community and the country during this tragic time," the company said.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump, AG spread untruths on Mueller report

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is still distorting the truth about the Russia investigation, claiming exoneration from a special counsel's report that he is also assailing as hopelessly biased.

Confronted with unflattering details in the report about his monthslong effort to undermine federal investigators, Trump over the weekend blasted special counsel Robert Mueller's appointment as "highly conflicted." In fact, the Justice Department's ethics experts cleared Mueller to run the two-year investigation and Trump's own aides previously dismissed the president's complaints as "ridiculous" and unfounded.

Trump is also claiming full vindication by the report. But while clearing Trump of criminal conspiracy, Mueller all but boldfaced this other finding in the 400-plus page report: No exoneration for Trump on obstruction of justice.

The statements were among many misrepresentations spread over the past week by the president's team, including Attorney General William Barr, who declared Trump innocent and suggested, inaccurately, that Congress had no role in deciding the matter.

A review:

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

TRUMP: "The Mueller Report ... was written as nastily as possible by 13 (18) Angry Democrats who were true Trump Haters, including highly conflicted Bob Mueller himself." — tweet Saturday.

THE FACTS: Trump repeats a baseless charge that Mueller is a "highly conflicted" prosecutor, something that Trump's own aides have debunked.

Trump has previously tweeted and complained to aides that Mueller would not be objective, saying Mueller had interviewed for the FBI director position shortly before being named as special counsel and that Mueller had disputed some fees relating to his membership at a Trump golf course.

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But the president's aides, including then-White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, then-White House counsel Don McGahn and Reince Priebus, the chief of staff at the time, rejected those complaints as not representing "true conflicts," according to the special counsel's report. Bannon also called the claims "ridiculous." Bannon indicated that while the White House had invited Mueller to speak to the president about the FBI and thought about asking him to become director, Mueller did not come in looking for a job.

Mueller, a longtime Republican, was cleared by the Justice Department to lead the Russia investigation. The department said in May 2017 that its ethics experts "determined that Mr. Mueller's participation in the matters assigned to him is appropriate." The issue had come up because of his former position at the WilmerHale law firm, which represented some key players in the probe.

Mueller was appointed as special counsel by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, a Trump appointee.

TRUMP: "The Mueller Report should not have been authorized in the first place." — tweet Saturday.

THE FACTS: Trump is entitled to that opinion. The grounds he has given, though, are at odds with some facts.

He claimed as recently as last month that the probe was hatched by Democrats after losing the 2016 election. As evidence, Trump often points to a dossier of anti-Trump research financed by the Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's campaign. The research that was ultimately compiled into the dossier was initially financed by anti-Trump conservatives, and later by the Democrats.

But the Mueller report makes clear that the FBI's investigation actually began months before it received the dossier.

The report notes the investigation was initiated after the FBI received information related to Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos, not the dossier. Last year, the Republican-controlled House Intelligence Committee made the same finding.

In late July 2016, days after WikiLeaks released thousands of internal Democratic National Committee documents that proved embarrassing to Clinton, the FBI became aware of a meeting two months prior between Papadopoulos and a representative of a foreign government, according to Mueller's report. Papadopoulos claimed the Trump campaign had received "indications" from Moscow that it could assist the campaign by anonymously releasing political dirt on Clinton.

"Within a week of the (WikiLeaks) release, a foreign government informed the FBI about its May 2016 interaction with Papadopoulos," the report stated. "On July 31, 2016, based on the foreign government reporting, the FBI opened an investigation into potential coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the Trump Campaign."



President Donald Trump, right, with first lady Melania Trump, center, and daughter Tiffany Trump, left, arrive for Easter services at Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, Sunday, April 21, 2019, in Palm Beach, Fla. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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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 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 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

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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 by obstructing 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 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: "I have never been happier or more content because your Country is doing so well, with an Economy that is the talk of the World and may be stronger than it has ever been before." — tweet Sunday.

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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 on April 15 in Burnsville, 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.

TRUMP: "We cut your taxes. Biggest tax cut in history." — Minnesota remarks.

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.

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

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Panicked at first, Sri Lankans anxious over what's to come

By SARAH DiLORENZO Associated Press

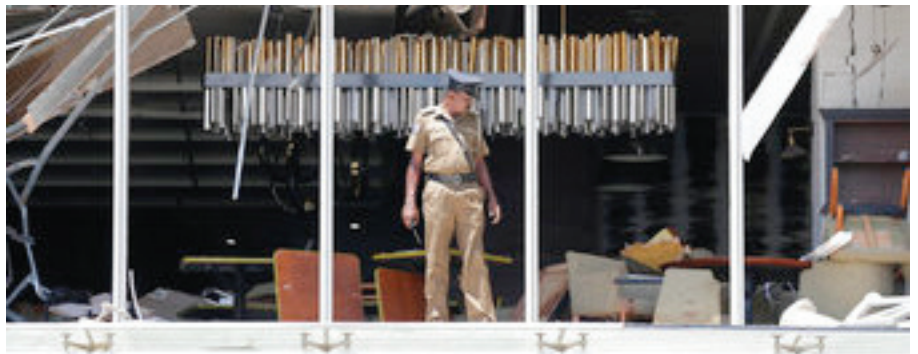
Bhanuka Harischandra was running a little late for his meeting Sunday.

As a car carrying him pulled into the back entrance of the luxury Shangri-La Hotel in Sri Lanka's capital of Colombo, he realized something was wrong.

People were telling him not to come in, it wasn't safe. Still, the car pulled around to the front of the hotel and Harischandra saw the aftermath of a bombing. People were being evacuated, others were being dragged. Blood and ambulances were everywhere.

"It was panic mode," Harischandra, a 24-year-old founder of a tech marketing company, said by telephone later in the day. "I didn't process it for a while."

He decided to go to the Cinnamon Grand Hotel, where he thought it would be safe. But just after he was dropped at the luxury hotel and about



A Sri Lankan Police officer inspects a blast spot at the Shangri-la hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sunday, April 21, 2019. More than hundred people were killed and hundreds more hospitalized from injuries in near simultaneous blasts that rocked three churches and three luxury hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, a security official told The Associated Press, in the biggest violence in the South Asian country since its civil war ended a decade ago. (AP Photo/Eranga

Jayawardena)

to enter the building, he heard another bomb go off.

Now he was being evacuated. Soot and ash fell on his white sweat shirt.

His car had left, so he hailed a motorized rickshaw and went to meet friends at a coffee shop. They contacted other friends, trying to make sure everyone they knew was safe.

It was too soon to think about what it might mean.

Over the course of the day, a series of bombs exploded, including at churches and luxury hotels, killing more than 200 people. The Easter Sunday violence was the deadliest the South Asian island country has seen since a bloody civil war ended a decade ago.

Many Sri Lankans remember well the terror of the 26-year war. But not Harischandra, who was just a teenager when it officially ended. Toward the end, the conflict was not in Colombo. Growing up, he was mostly aware of his parents' anxiety about safety, not of actual fighting.

Now their anxiety is back.

"For them, it's a bit of a different situation," he said. "They're afraid this might start racial violence."

On Sunday night, he was with his family, observing a curfew. He said there was "a lot of tension" in the air, but he was also hoping that the worst might be over: It had been a few hours since the last blast.

Harischandra was heartened by the fact that his social media feed was flooded with photos of the lines of people waiting to give blood. Lines so long "you can't see the end."

Giuliani: Nothing wrong with Trump camp taking Russian help

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani insisted Sunday there was "nothing wrong" with the president's 2016 campaign taking information from the Russians, as House Democrats pledged stepped-up investigations into campaign misconduct and possible crimes of obstruction detailed in special counsel Robert Mueller's report.

Giuliani called the Trump campaign's effort to get political help from representatives of the Russian government possibly ill-advised but not illegal.

"There's nothing wrong with taking information from Russians," Giuliani said, referring to a June 2016 Trump Tower meeting involving Trump's son Donald Jr., son-in-law Jared Kushner and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and a lawyer linked to Russia. The Trump campaign was seeking harmful information on Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

The Sunday news shows offered the latest back and forth following the long-anticipated release on Thursday of Mueller's 448-page redacted report on his two-year investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Mueller found no evidence of a conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign and made no decision on obstruction of justice.

Giuliani rebutted Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, who said in a statement on Twitter Friday he was "sickened" by the findings in Mueller's report that cited details on how the Trump campaign welcomed political dirt



U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., chair of the House Judiciary Committee, speaks during a news conference, Thursday, April 18, 2019, in New York. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

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from Russia.

Giuliani said Romney should "stop the bull," saying that accepting negative information about a political opponent is common. "I would have advised, just out of excess of caution, don't do it," he said. Nevertheless, "there's no crime."

Pressed about whether there is something wrong about using information stolen by foreign adversaries, Giuliani said, "It depends on the stolen material."

Trump, who spent the holiday weekend at his private Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, asserted in tweets Sunday that he had been fully cleared by Mueller's report and that Democrats' continued efforts to investigate him will prove politically costly.

"Despite No Collusion, No Obstruction, The Radical Left Democrats do not want to go on to Legislate for the good of the people, but only to Investigate and waste time. This is costing our Country greatly, and will cost the Dems big time in 2020!" he tweeted.

Mueller explicitly did not exonerate Trump in the report on the question of obstruction, citing in part Justice Department guidelines that a sitting president shouldn't be indicted.

Not ruling out impeachment, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, who chairs the House committee that would hold impeachment hearings, said he remained puzzled why Mueller did not bring charges of criminal conspiracy against those in the Trump Tower meeting.

"All you have to prove for conspiracy is that they entered into a meeting of the minds to do something wrong and had one overt act. They entered into a meeting of the minds to attend a meeting to get stolen material on Hillary (Clinton). They went to the meeting. That's conspiracy right there," said Nadler, D-N.Y.

Nadler said it was now up to Congress to investigate after the special counsel said it did not establish enough evidence to bring charges of criminal conspiracy, yet detailed 10 allegations of Trump's attempts to obstruct the Russia investigation that left open whether Trump broke the law.

Asked whether the offenses are impeachable, Nadler told NBC, "If proven, some of this would be impeachable, yes." He said Democrats' current focus is to "go where the evidence leads us."

Nadler has subpoenaed the Justice Department for the full, unredacted report and said Sunday he was adding former White House counsel Don McGahn to the list of people he would call to testify before his committee, along with Mueller and Attorney General William Barr. According to the special counsel's report, McGahn was among the Trump aides who effectively halted Trump's efforts to influence the Russia investigation, rebuffing his demand to set Mueller's firing in motion.

Nadler has said he expects the Justice Department to comply with the subpoena for the full report by May 1, the same day Barr is to testify before a Senate committee and one day before Barr is to appear before Nadler's panel. Nadler summoned Mueller to testify by May 23.

Democratic leaders are under mounting pressure from the party's rising stars and some 2020 presidential contenders, including Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Julian Castro, a former Housing and Urban Development secretary, to start impeachment proceedings.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is pushing for a step-by-step approach to the House's oversight of Trump and has refused to consider impeachment without public support, including Republicans. Pelosi is convening House Democrats on Monday to assess next steps.

Sen. Mike Lee, a member of the Judiciary Committee, said it would be a "mistake" for Democrats to pursue further investigations that could lead to impeachment proceedings, arguing that the American public won't stand for it after Mueller failed to conclude that crimes had been committed.

"It's time to move on," said Lee, R-Utah.

Giuliani said Trump's legal team was weighing whether it would release a detailed written rebuttal to the Mueller report.

"It may become necessary, whether they go ahead with the hearings or not, whether other issues are raised by different people — there's probably a point at which we'll use it. Right now we think the public debate is playing out about as well as it can," he said.

In the redacted report, Mueller said he considered bringing charges over the Trump Tower meeting but

ultimately did not obtain admissible evidence that the campaign officials involved knew the actions were illegal. The meeting had raised questions about whether Trump Jr. and others violated the federal ban on foreign contributions to American political campaigns.

"On the facts here, the government would unlikely be able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the June 9 meeting participants had general knowledge that their conduct was unlawful," the report stated. "The investigation has not developed evidence that the participants in the meeting were familiar with the foreign-contribution ban or the application of federal law to the relevant factual context."

Giuliani spoke on CNN's "State of the Union," "Fox News Sunday" and NBC's "Meet the Press." Nadler also appeared on NBC. Lee was on CBS' "Face the Nation."

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

Easter Sunday bomb blasts kill more than 200 in Sri Lanka

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI and KRISHAN FRANCIS Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Nine bombings of churches, luxury hotels and other sites on Easter Sunday killed more than 200 people and wounded hundreds more in Sri Lanka's deadliest violence since a devastating civil war in the South Asian island nation ended a decade ago.

Defense Minister Ruwan Wijewardena described the blasts as a terrorist attack by religious extremists, and police said 13 suspects were arrested, though there was no immediate claim of responsibility. Wijewardena said most of the bombings were believed to have been suicide attacks.

The explosions — mostly in or around Colombo, the capital — collapsed ceilings and blew out windows, killing worshippers and hotel guests in one scene after another of smoke, soot, blood, broken glass, screams and wailing alarms. Victims were carried out of blood-spattered pews.

"People were being dragged out," said Bhanuka Harischandra, of Colombo, a 24-year-old founder of a tech marketing company who was going to the Shangri-La Hotel for a meeting when it was bombed. "People didn't know what was going on. It was panic mode."

He added: "There was blood everywhere."

Most of those killed were Sri Lankans. But the three bombed hotels and one of the churches, St. Anthony's Shrine, are frequented by foreign tourists, and Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry said the bodies of at least 27 foreigners from a variety of countries were recovered.

The U.S. said "several" Americans were among the dead, while Britain, China, Japan and Portugal said they, too, lost citizens.

The Sri Lankan government imposed a nationwide curfew from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and blocked most social



Dead bodies of victims lie inside St. Sebastian's Church damaged in blast in Negombo, north of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sunday, April 21, 2019. More than two hundred people were killed and hundreds more injured in eight blasts that rocked churches and hotels in and just outside Sri Lanka's capital on Easter Sunday. (AP Photo/Chamila Karunaratne)

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media including Facebook and YouTube, saying it needed to curtail the spread of false information and ease tension in the country of about 21 million people.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he feared the massacre could trigger instability in Sri Lanka, and he vowed to "vest all necessary powers with the defense forces" to take action against those responsible.

The Archbishop of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, called on Sri Lanka's government to "mercilessly" punish those responsible "because only animals can behave like that."

Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said at least 207 people were killed and 450 wounded. He said police found a safe house and a van used by the attackers.

The scale of the bloodshed recalled the worst days of Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war, in which the Tamil Tigers, a rebel group from the ethnic Tamil minority, sought independence from the Buddhist-majority country. The Tamils are Hindu, Muslim and Christian.

Sri Lanka, situated off the southern tip of India, is about 70 percent Buddhist. Scattered incidents of anti-Christian harassment have occurred in recent years, but nothing on the scale of what happened Sunday.

There is also no history of violent Muslim militants in Sri Lanka. However, tensions have been running high more recently between hard-line Buddhist monks and Muslims.

Two Muslim groups in Sri Lanka condemned the church attacks, as did countries around the world, and Pope Francis expressed condolences at the end of his traditional Easter Sunday blessing in Rome.

"I want to express my loving closeness to the Christian community, targeted while they were gathered in prayer, and all the victims of such cruel violence," Francis said.

Six nearly simultaneous blasts took place in the morning at the shrine and the Cinnamon Grand, Shangri-La and Kingsbury hotels in Colombo, as well as at two churches outside Colombo, according to a Sri Lankan military spokesman, Brig. Sumith Atapattu.

A few hours later, two more blasts occurred just outside Colombo, one of them at a guesthouse, where two people were killed, the other near an overpass, Atapattu said.

Also, three police officers were killed during a search at a suspected safe house on the outskirts of Colombo when its occupants apparently detonated explosives to prevent arrest, authorities said.

The Shangri-La's second-floor restaurant was gutted, with the ceiling and windows blown out. Loose wires hung down and tables were overturned in the blackened space. From outside the police cordon, three bodies could be seen covered in white sheets.

Foreign tourists hurriedly used their cellphones to text family and loved ones that they were OK. Visitors from around the world come to Sri Lanka to see elephants, tea plantations, ancient Buddhist monuments and other sights.

"I had a sense that the country was turning the corner, and in particular those in the tourism industry were hopeful for the future," said tourist Peter Kelson, a technology manager from Sydney. "Apart from the tragedy of the immediate victims of the bombings, I worry that these terrible events will set the country back significantly."

Locals who work in Sri Lanka's vital tourism industry were shocked and upset by the bloodshed.

"After so many years, we've started again," said Gamini Francis, 56, a long-time hotel worker. "A lot of people are going to lose their jobs. 100% sure. It's tragic. Crazy people killing innocent people."

Sri Lankan forces defeated the Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009, ending a civil war that took over 100,000 lives, with both sides accused of grave human rights violations.

Harischandra, who witnessed the attack at the Shangri-La Hotel, said there was "a lot of tension" after the bombings, but added: "We've been through these kinds of situations before."

He said Sri Lankans are "an amazing bunch" and noted that his social media feed was flooded with photos of people standing in long lines to give blood.

Associated Press writers Sheila Norman-Culp and Gregory Katz in London; Sarah DiLorenzo in New York; Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow; Nicole Winfield at the Vatican; Adam Schreck in Bangkok; and Emily Schmall in New Delhi contributed to this report.

Comedian headed for landslide victory in Ukraine

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A comedian whose only political experience consists of playing a president on TV cruised toward a landslide victory in Ukraine's presidential election Sunday in what was seen as a reaction against the country's entrenched corruption and low standard of living.

Results from 52% of polling stations' tallies showed sitcom star Volodymyr Zelenskiy receiving 73% of the vote and President Petro Poroshenko about 25% — a crushing rebuke to Poroshenko's five years in office.

Even before results started trickling in, Poroshenko accepted defeat based on exit polls, saying: "I am leaving office, but I want to firmly underline that I am not leaving politics."

Zelenskiy, for his part, promised wide changes at the top echelons of government and said his No. 1 task would be securing the release of about 170 Ukrainian military members taken prisoner in the east or in Russia.

Ukraine has been plagued by rampant graft, a sickly economy and a grinding, five-year war with Russian-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country that has killed over 13,000 people.

After his apparent election, Zelenskiy said he would engage Russia to try to end the conflict. He also said, without giving details, that "we will make a very powerful information war" in order to stop the fighting.

He also suggested, in a remark that could grate on Russia, that his victory could be a model for other former Soviet states that want to move forward from ossified politics: "To all the countries of the former Soviet Union — look at us, everything is possible."

Although the early results were a small fraction of the vote, the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine congratulated Zelenskiy, as did NATO secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg.

Zelenskiy, 41, became famous nationwide for his comic portrayal in a Ukrainian TV series of a high school teacher who becomes president after a video rant against corruption goes viral. In a case of life imitating television, Zelenskiy denounced graft as a real candidate.

Although Zelenskiy was criticized for a vague campaign platform and never holding public office, voters appeared to cast aside those concerns in favor of a thorough sweep of Ukraine's political leadership.

"I have grown up under the old politicians and only have seen empty promises, lies and corruption," said Lyudmila Potrebko, a 22-year-old computer programmer who voted for Zelenskiy. "It's time to change that."

Poroshenko was a billionaire candy magnate and former foreign minister before he took office in 2014 after huge street protests drove his Russia-friendly predecessor to flee the country. Although he instituted some reforms, critics said he had not done nearly enough to curb corruption.

Poroshenko positioned himself as a president who could stand up to Russia and said Zelenskiy would



Ukrainian comedian and presidential candidate Volodymyr Zelenskiy speaks to the media and his supporters at his headquarters after the second round of presidential elections in Kiev, Ukraine, Sunday, April 21, 2019. A comedian whose only political experience consists of playing a president on TV appeared poised to reprise the role in real life when an exit poll showed him winning Ukraine's presidential runoff Sunday in a landslide. (AP Photo/Sergei Grits)

be easy prey for Moscow.

Although the Kremlin despises Poroshenko, Zelenskiy's apparent victory was greeted noncommittally in Russia.

"We do not yet associate hopes with the winner," Konstantin Kosachev, head of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of the Russian Parliament, was quoted as saying by state news agency Tass.

Millions of people living in the rebel-controlled east and in Russia-annexed Crimea were unable to vote. Russia seized Crimea in 2014, and fighting in the east erupted that same year.

Poroshenko campaigned on the same promise he made when he was elected in 2014: to lead the nation of 42 million into the European Union and NATO. Zelenskiy pledged likewise to keep Ukraine on a Westward course but said the country should only join NATO if voters give their approval in a referendum.

Poroshenko's five years in office saw the creation of a new Ukrainian Orthodox Church independent of Moscow's church, a schism he championed. Also, Ukraine reached a visa-free deal with the EU that led to the exodus of millions of skilled workers for better living conditions elsewhere in Europe.

"Poroshenko has done a lot of good things for the country — creating its own church, getting the visa-free deal and taking Ukraine away from the empire," said 44-year-old businessman Volodymyr Andreichenko, who voted for him.

But Poroshenko's message fell flat with many voters struggling to survive on meager wages and pay soaring utility bills.

"We have grown poor under Poroshenko and have to save to buy food and clothing," said 55-year-old sales clerk Irina Fakhova. "We have had enough of them getting mired in corruption and filling their pockets and treating us as fools."

Zelenskiy's image has been shadowed by his admission that he had commercial interests in Russia through a holding company, and by his business ties to self-exiled Ukrainian billionaire businessman Ihor Kolomoyskyi. Kolomoyskyi owns the TV station that aired the actor's sitcom, "Servant of the People," and his other comedy shows.

Trump called on spy chiefs for help as Mueller probe began

By **DEB RIECHMANN** and **SUSANNAH GEORGE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two months before special counsel Robert Mueller was appointed in the spring of 2017, President Donald Trump picked up the phone and called the head of the largest U.S. intelligence agency. Trump told Mike Rogers, director of the National Security Agency, that news stories alleging that Trump's 2016 White House campaign had ties to Russia were false and the president asked whether Rogers could do anything to counter them.

Rogers and his deputy Richard Ledgett, who was present for the call, were taken aback.

Afterward, Ledgett wrote a memo about the conversation and Trump's request. He and Rogers signed it and stashed it in a safe. Ledgett said it was the "most unusual thing he had



Special Counsel Robert Mueller departs Easter services at St. John's Episcopal Church, Sunday, April 21, 2019, in Washington. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

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experienced in 40 years of government service.”

Trump’s outreach to Rogers, who retired last year, and other top intelligence officials stands in sharp contrast to his public, combative stance toward his intelligence agencies. At the time of the call, Trump was just some 60 days into his presidency, but he already had managed to alienate large parts of the intelligence apparatus with comments denigrating the profession.

Since then, Trump only has dug in. He said at a news conference in Helsinki after his 2017 summit with Russian leader Vladimir Putin that he gave weight to Putin’s denial that Russia meddled in the 2016 election, despite the firm conclusion of U.S. intelligence agencies that it had. “I don’t see any reason why it would be” Russia, Trump said. And earlier this year, Trump called national security assessments “naive,” tweeting “perhaps intelligence should go back to school.”

Yet in moments of concern as Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election got underway, Trump turned to his spy chiefs for help.

The phone call to Rogers on March 26, 2017, came only weeks after then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions had angered Trump by stepping aside from the investigation. James Comey, the FBI director who would be fired that May, had just told Congress that the FBI was not only investigating Russian meddling in the election, but also possible links or coordination between Moscow and the Trump campaign.

The call to Rogers and others like it were uncovered by Mueller as he investigated possible obstruction. In his 448-page report released Thursday, Mueller concluded that while Trump attempted to seize control of the Russia investigation and bring it to a halt, the president was ultimately thwarted by those around him.

The special counsel said the evidence did not establish that Trump asked or directed intelligence officials to “stop or interfere with the FBI’s Russia investigation.” The requests to those officials, Mueller said, “were not interpreted by the officials who received them as directives to improperly interfere with the investigation.”

During the call to Rogers, the president “expressed frustration with the Russia investigation, saying that it made relations with the Russians difficult,” according to the report.

Trump said news stories linking him with Russia were not true and he asked Rogers “if he could do anything to refute the stories.” Even though Rogers signed the memo about the conversation and put it in a safe, he told investigators he did not think Trump was giving him an order.

Trump made a number of similar requests of other top intelligence officials.

On March 22, 2017, Trump asked then-CIA Director Mike Pompeo and National Intelligence Director Dan Coats to stay behind after a meeting at the White House to ask if the men could “say publicly that no link existed between him and Russia,” the report said.

In two other instances, the president began meetings to discuss sensitive intelligence matters by stating he hoped a media statement could be issued saying there was no collusion with Russia.

After Trump repeatedly brought up the Russia investigation with his national intelligence director, “Coats said he finally told the President that Coats’s job was to provide intelligence and not get involved in investigations,” the report said.

Pompeo recalled that Trump regularly urged officials to get the word out that he had not done anything wrong related to Russia. But Pompeo, now secretary of state, said he had no recollection of being asked to stay behind after the March 22 meeting, according to the report.

Coats told Mueller’s investigators that Trump never asked him to speak with Comey about the FBI investigation. But other employees within Coats’ office had different recollections of how Coats described the meeting immediately after it occurred.

According to the report, senior staffer Michael Dempsey “said that Coats described the president’s comments as falling ‘somewhere between musing about hating the investigation’ and wanting Coats to ‘do something to stop it.’ Dempsey said Coats made it clear that he would not get involved with an ongoing FBI investigation.”

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

President attends Easter service following slew of tweets

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press



President Donald Trump with first lady Melania Trump, walk behind the Rev. James R. Harlan, right, as they arrive for Easter services at Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, Sunday, April 21, 2019, in Palm Beach, Fla.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Easter morning offered condolences to the people of Sri Lanka, continued his attacks on special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation and attended service at the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea near his Florida estate.

The president tweeted happy Easter to his many followers earlier in the morning, adding "I have never been happier or more content because your Country is doing so well."

But Trump followed with several others in which he sought to frame the report as his vindication, though he was clearly bothered by its details. Soon after tweeting about his happiness, he was tweeting again, calling the report "nothing but a total 'hit job.'"

The president also tweeted about the terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, saying "we stand ready to help!" Explosions at churches and hotels in that nation killed more than 200 people. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks; Sri

Lanka's defense minister described the bombings as a terrorist attack by religious extremists.

The president attended service at the Episcopalian church with first lady Melania Trump and daughter Tiffany. It's the same church where he and the first lady were married in 2005.

"Happy Easter everybody, have a great day," Trump said upon his arrival at the church. "A lot of great things are happening for our country."

The Rev. James Harlan encouraged the congregation to continue learning in life and in their faith: "Let's make sure we're not being old dogs, unable or unwilling to learn and see something new."

Prior to the service, Trump tweeted several times about the Mueller report, which was released with redactions the day Trump traveled to Florida for his annual Easter trip here. He golfed with conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh during his stay and time and again returned to tweeting about the report. The tweets were a mixture of declarations of vindication along with attacks on critics, including Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah.

Romney had said he's "sickened" by the level of dishonesty the special counsel found in President Donald Trump's administration.

Trump also tweeted Sunday that "Radical Left Democrats" only want to investigate, asserting "This is costing our Country greatly, and will cost the Dems big time in 2020!"

The White House said Trump was having brunch with the family before returning to Washington on Sunday afternoon.

Pope denounces 'cruel violence' of Sri Lanka Easter attack

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis denounced the “cruel violence” of the Easter Sunday slaughter of Christians and foreigners in Sri Lanka as he celebrated the most joyful moment on the Christian liturgical calendar by lamenting the bloodshed and political violence afflicting many parts of the world.

Francis skipped his homily during Easter Mass but delivered his traditional “Urbi et Orbi” (To the city and the world) speech highlighting conflicts in the Mideast, Africa and the Americas and demanding that political leaders put aside their differences and work for peace.

“May the one who gives us his peace end the roar of arms, both in areas of conflict and in our cities, and inspire the leaders of nations to work for an end to the arms race and the troubling spread of weaponry, especially in the economically more advanced countries,” Francis said from the loggia of St. Peter’s Basilica overlooking the flower-decked square below.

In a special appeal at the end, Francis lamented the “grave attacks” on Sri Lankan hotels and churches, which occurred just as the Christian faithful were celebrating Easter Mass that marks the resurrection of Christ following his crucifixion.

“I want to express my loving closeness to the Christian community, targeted while they were gathered in prayer, and all the victims of such cruel violence,” Francis told a crowd of around 70,000 people in St. Peter’s Square. “I entrust to the Lord all those who were tragically killed and pray for the injured and all those who are suffering as a result of this dramatic event.”

More than 200 people were killed and hundreds wounded following near-simultaneous blasts at three Sri Lankan churches and three hotels frequented by foreigners.

In his Easter roundup of global conflicts, Francis warned that the world was increasingly becoming resigned to the ongoing battle in Syria. He called for a “renewed commitment for a political solution” that would respond to Syrians’ need for freedom, peace and justice and allow for millions of refugees to return home.

He lamented how children in Yemen are “exhausted by hunger and war,” while in North Africa, Libyans are enduring a fresh round of fighting between rival forces battling for control of Tripoli, the capital

“I urge the parties involved to choose dialogue over force and to avoid reopening wounds left by a decade of conflicts and political instability,” he said of Libyan leaders.

Francis said he hoped the political and religious leaders of South Sudan would open a “new page in the history of the country” and work for reconciliation. Francis hosted South Sudan’s president and opposition leader for a remarkable retreat at the Vatican earlier this month, during which the pope bowed down and kissed their feet, begging them to work for peace.

And history’s first Latin American pope also offered prayers for Venezuelans and Nicaraguans experiencing political and economic hardship and “all those who lack the minimal conditions for leading a dignified and secure life due to a crisis that endures and worsens.”



Pope Francis celebrates Easter Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican, Sunday, April 21, 2019. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

The Vatican said popes sometimes either deliver an off-the-cuff homily on Easter Sunday or skip it altogether, given the lengthy speech and blessing that follows.

Easter completed an exhausting schedule of Holy Week events for the 82-year-old Francis. He went to a prison outside Rome to wash the feet of inmates on Holy Thursday, presided over the Way of the Cross procession at Rome's Colosseum on Good Friday, and celebrated the Easter Vigil late Saturday night in St. Peter's Basilica.

Paris Easter Mass honors firefighters who saved Notre Dame

By ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The archbishop of Paris and Catholics from around France and the world honored the firefighters who saved Notre Dame Cathedral, praying Sunday at a special Easter Mass for a swift reconstruction of the beloved monument.

Some streets around the medieval cathedral also reopened six days after the blaze, allowing tourists to get a closer look and local restaurants to reopen, after firefighters declared the last hot points extinguished. Notre Dame itself is expected to remain closed for years.

The blaze that engulfed the cathedral on Monday night forced parish members and visitors who hoped to worship at Notre Dame on Easter to find other places to attend services. The Paris diocese invited them to join Sunday's Mass at the grandiose Saint-Eustache Church on the Right Bank of the Seine River.

The firefighters, who struggled for nine hours to contain flames that consumed Notre Dame's roof and collapsed its spire, held a place of honor at the Saint-Eustache.

Police officers and a soldier guarded the 13th century church. Visitors stood in a long line to have their bags checked before they could enter.

Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit handed firefighters at the Easter Mass a book of scriptures that was rescued from Notre Dame.

"Your men were able to save many things in the cathedral. But you also saved an item that is precious for us," Aupetit said. "It still is a bit dirty, full of ashes and likely a bit damaged by the fire. You saved it, and I wanted to give it to you. It's a very humble way to thank you." said.

He notably thanked fire service chaplain Jean-Marc Fournier, who recovered from the fire a chalice containing consecrated hosts that for Catholics are the body of Christ.

Speaking of Jesus' resurrection, Aupetit told the congregation, "We, too, brothers and sisters, we will rise again, just like our cathedral will rise again."

The French archbishop also shared thoughts for "our Sri Lanka brothers who were massacred" in Easter attacks on churches and hotels that killed more than 200 people and injured hundreds more.



Workers, top, fix a net to cover one of the iconic stained glass windows of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Sunday, April 21, 2019. The fire that engulfed Notre Dame during Holy Week forced worshippers to find other places to attend Easter services, and the Paris diocese invited them to join Sunday's Mass at the grandiose Saint-Eustache Church on the Right Bank of the Seine River. (AP Photo/Francisco

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Notre Dame's parishioners were joined by Catholics and others from around France and beyond. An Associated Press reporter heard at least six languages being spoken in the crowd.

"Everyone is affected by what happened to Notre Dame," Parisian Michel Ripoche said. "Easter is a holiday we celebrate every year, all our lives. Clearly what happened at Notre Dame added to the importance" of today's service.

Peggy Godley, who was visited the French capital from Chicago with her husband and two daughters, "wanted to see what it was like to celebrate a Mass in Paris."

"We didn't get to see Notre Dame. We were hoping to be there, but it's too late," she said.

Construction workers strung netting across one of the cathedral's prized rose windows Sunday, apparently to protect the centuries-old stained glass.

Notre Dame isn't expected to reopen to the public for five or six years, according to its rector, although the French president is pushing for a quick reconstruction. Investigators think the fire was an accident, possibly linked to renovation work.

Notre Dame Rector Patrick Chauvet told The Associated Press on Good Friday he had "plenty of hope, because I believe that from this suffering there will be a renaissance."

French Culture Minister Franck Riester said Sunday that most of the spots at Notre Dame that were considered vulnerable to more damage or collapse have been stabilized, including support structures above the rose windows. He told France-2 television "there remain some sensitive points in the vaulted ceiling."

Milos Krivokapic and Deborah Gouffran contributed to this report.

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

Waikiki flood concerns spur push for Hawaii shore protection

By CALEB JONES Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii's iconic Waikiki Beach could soon be underwater as rising sea levels caused by climate change overtake its white sand beaches and bustling city streets.

Predicting Honolulu will start experiencing frequent flooding within the next 15 to 20 years, state lawmakers are trying to pass legislation that would spend millions for a coastline protection program aimed at defending the city from regular tidal inundations.

The highest tides of recent years have sent seawater flowing across Waikiki Beach and onto roads and sidewalks lining its main thoroughfare, and interactive maps of the Hawaiian Islands show that many parts of the state are expected to be hit by extensive flooding, coastal erosion and loss of infrastructure in coming decades.

That's an alarming scenario for a state where beach tourism is the primary driver of the economy, leading some lawmakers to insist that planning for rising tides should start now.

"The latest data on sea level rise is quite scary and it's accelerating faster than we ever thought possible," said state Rep. Chris Lee, a Democrat and lead author of a bill calling for the creation and implementation of the shoreline protection plan. The project would focus on urban Honolulu but act as a pilot program for other coastal communities around the state.

While Hawaii is rarely subjected to direct hurricane hits, Lee's bill says warmer oceans will increase that risk by creating "more hurricanes of increasing intensity" — and estimates the impact of a major hurricane making landfall at \$40 billion.

"The loss of coastal property and infrastructure, increased cost for storm damage and insurance, and loss of life are inevitable if nothing is done, which will add a significant burden to local taxpayers, the state's economy, and way of life," says Lee's bill, which is similar to action taken by New York City after a storm surge from Superstorm Sandy led to \$19 billion in damage in 2012.

The Hawaii measure proposes sinking \$4 million into the program's development over the next two years. The bill also seeks more research into a carbon tax that might raise funds and lower the state's

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dependence on fossil fuels.

Lee said urban areas such as Waikiki are often "built in such a way that it forms a protective barrier against the kind of storm events that are inevitable."

But in more rural areas, he said, new construction could be restricted close to shore "to preserve dune systems and build in a lot of natural solutions that are much more cost effective and provide a much more resilient result than simply building out concrete infrastructure or anything of the sort."

In a state dominated by Democrats that is regularly at the vanguard of U.S. efforts to address climate issues, Lee said the legislation proved popular. A version of the bill has passed both chambers of Hawaii's Legislature. House and Senate leaders will convene in the coming weeks to discuss final changes before sending the bill to Gov. David Ige, a Democrat. His office has declined comment on whether he will sign it.

The bill is moving forward two years after a state-mandated sea level rise adaptation report was made public to act as a guideline for future legislative action and planning.

Research included in the report suggests Hawaii will see a 3-foot (0.9 meters) rise in ocean levels by the end of this century. It predicts that more than 6,000 of the state's buildings and 20,000 people across all of Hawaii's islands will experience chronic flooding. Dozens of miles of roadways, utility infrastructure and beaches will be washed away, the report said. The state's ports and low-laying airports are also highly vulnerable.

The report was updated in September to include newly published research warning that previous estimates of inundation areas in Hawaii were underestimated by 35% to 54%.

University of Hawaii researcher Tiffany Anderson, who led the study, said traditional sea level forecasts use what is known as the "bathtub model" to measure where water will rise and flood land. But she was surprised by the dramatic increase revealed when she factored in more variables such as beach erosion and wave energy fluctuations, which are not used in traditional climate change flooding predictions.

"We've long suspected processes like shoreline erosion, waves overtopping and inundation would be additional factors for Hawaii," Anderson said. "We found out it covers a lot more land ... I wasn't expecting such a large increase due to these other two processes."

State Rep. Nicole Lowen, a bill backer and Democrat, said people hoping to build near the coast should already be wary.

"It would make sense already to say, 'If we know this is a sea level rise inundation area, then why would we permit a new structure,'" said Lowen, who was the lead author of separate legislation that would have changed construction permitting standards across the state.

That measure died when it was referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee and not scheduled



In this Aug. 23, 2018 file photo, people stand near flood waters from Hurricane Lane in Hilo, Hawaii. Some of Hawaii's most iconic beaches could soon be underwater as rising sea levels caused by global warming overtake its white sand beaches and bustling city streets. That's alarming for a state where beach tourism is the primary economic driver. (Hollyn Johnson/Hawaii Tribune-Herald via AP, File)

for a hearing.

"I think sea level rise and climate change impacts globally are going to have a huge disruptive effect on economies," Lowen said. "And having an economy that's so heavily based on tourism and so easily impacted by something like the cost of oil rising, for example, it's not resilient."

Accuracy at core of Supreme Court case over census question

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Elena Kagan's father was 3 years old when the census taker came to the family's apartment on Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn, New York, on April 10, 1930.

Robert Kagan was initially wrongly listed as an "alien," though he was a native-born New Yorker. The entry about his citizenship status appears to have been crossed out on the census form.

Vast changes in America and technology have dramatically altered the way the census is conducted. But the accuracy of the once-a-decade population count is at the heart of the Supreme Court case over the Trump administration's effort to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

The justices are hearing arguments in the case on Tuesday, with a decision due by late June that will allow for printing forms in time for the count in April 2020.

The fight over the census question is the latest over immigration-related issues between Democratic-led states and advocates for immigrants, on one

side, and the administration, on the other. The Supreme Court last year upheld President Donald Trump's ban on visitors to the U.S. from several mostly Muslim countries. The court also has temporarily blocked administration plans to make it harder for people to claim asylum and is considering an administration appeal that would allow Trump to end protections for immigrants who were brought to this country as children.

The citizenship question has not been asked on the census form sent to every American household since 1950, and the administration's desire to add it is now rife with political implications and partisan division.

Federal judges in California, Maryland and New York have blocked the administration from going forward with a citizenship question after crediting the analysis of Census Bureau experts who found that a question would damage the overall accuracy of the census and cause millions of Hispanics and immigrants to go uncounted. That in turn would cost several states seats in the U.S. House and billions of dollars in federal dollars that are determined by census results.

The three judges have rejected the administration's arguments that asking about citizenship won't harm accuracy and that the information is needed to help enforce provisions of the federal Voting Rights Act.

The Census Bureau's consistent view since the 1960 census has been that asking everyone about citi-



FILE - In this Jan. 24, 2019, file photo, the Supreme Court is seen at sunset in Washington. Vast changes in America and technology have dramatically altered how the census is conducted. But the accuracy of the once-a-decade population count is at the heart of the Supreme Court case over the Trump administration's effort to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census. The justices hear arguments in the case Tuesday, April 23. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

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zanship "would produce a less accurate population count," five former agency directors who served in Democratic and Republic administrations wrote in a Supreme Court brief .

No population count is perfect, and census designers strive to create a questionnaire that is clear and easy to answer.

In older censuses, a government worker known as an enumerator would visit households and record information. In modern times, people fill in their own forms on paper or electronically.

But the potential for errant answers is ever-present, said Debbie Soren, the treasurer of the Illinois chapter of the Jewish Genealogical Society.

"Sometimes people didn't always want to be forthcoming, including in their ages, for whatever reason. Sometimes there might be a language barrier. Or the person reporting the information might not be the best one to report it," Soren said.

It seems likely that the census taker himself was responsible for the confusion in Robert Kagan's citizenship status. Dozens of families who lived near the Kagans have similar crossed-out entries in the citizenship column.

While Kagan's father was born in the United States, her grandfather, Irving Kagan, was a Russian immigrant who had submitted his paperwork to become an American citizen, the 1930 census shows. By 1940, Irving Kagan was a citizen. The old census forms, through 1940, can be searched on ancestry.com. The 1950 census will become public in 2022.

If past census reports leave a wide berth for error, they still hold a wealth of information, said Sharon DeBartolo Carmack of Salt Lake City, the author of "You Can Write Your Family History."

Before 1960, the census often asked where people were born and, if abroad, whether they were U.S. citizens. "It's wonderful to us as researchers, even though we don't like the politics, don't like the motivation," Carmack said.

Kagan is among seven of the nine justices whose ancestors told census takers they were immigrants who had become American citizens. They came from England, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Russia, like so many others seeking a better life.

The fathers of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Samuel Alito were immigrants from Russia and Italy, respectively.

In the 1910 census, Patrick Kavanaugh, the great-grandfather of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, was living in New Haven, Connecticut, an iron worker who had become a citizen after leaving Ireland in the 1870s.

By 1900, the English-born great-grandmother of Chief Justice John Roberts and the German-born great-grandfather of Justice Stephen Breyer also were U.S. citizens.

Two of Justice Neil Gorsuch's great-great grandfathers, Alex Tiehen and Hugh O'Grady, lived in Nebraska, according to the 1900 census. Tiehen came from Germany in 1845 and O'Grady emigrated from Ireland two years later. By the turn of the last century, both reported they were U.S. citizens.

There are two justices with very different paths to American citizenship. Justice Clarence Thomas is the descendant of slaves and Justice Sonia Sotomayor's Puerto Rican ancestors became American citizens under a 1917 federal law. Spain ceded the territory to the United States after the Spanish-American War.

The case is Department of Commerce v. New York, 18-966 .

Harris' campaign focuses on black colleges for support

By JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press

ORANGEBURG, S.C. (AP) — California Sen. Kamala Harris has described her experience as a student at a historically black college as "one of the most important aspects" of her life. Now, her Democratic presidential campaign is using that experience to connect with voters.

Not only is she one of only two black candidates in a field that's expected to grow to more than 20 candidates, she's also the only candidate who attended a historically black college or university, commonly called an HBCU. And she's the first major-party candidate to have graduated from an HBCU — Washington's Howard University — since Jesse Jackson ran for president in the 1980s.

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To be sure, she is not the only candidate focusing on such institutions.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke have campaigned at historically black colleges. So has the other black candidate in the 2020 race, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker.

At a CNN town hall last month in Orangeburg, home to two of South Carolina's HBCUs, Booker noted that his parents and grandparents were educated at historically black institutions and that "the majority of black doctors, black lawyers, black generals are produced by HBCUs."

But Harris's campaign has visited more historically black colleges than any candidate, and she is burnishing her personal ties to this community, and not just to current students.

"Presidential candidates are recognizing HBCUs as a political and cultural center for the broader black community," said Aimee Allison, the founder of the political network She The People, which plans a candidate forum Wednesday at Texas Southern University, a historically black college.

Allison said that holding events at these schools is an "essential part of a long-term strategy to build trust and relationships" with black voters.

Harris's focus on historically black colleges could be particularly important in South Carolina, home to eight HBCUs. Black voters are vital to success for Democratic primary candidates anxious to win the South's first primary.

In Orangeburg, Harris's town hall Saturday night was moderated by Bakari Sellers, a former South Carolina state representative who recently endorsed her campaign.

Turning to a group of South Carolina State students seated on bleachers, Harris talked briefly about the value of attending a historically black institution.

"At an HBCU, everything you are told is that you can be whatever you want to be, and there will be no barriers to that success," she said. "And you are told as a young black student that you do not need to make choices and fit into anyone's narrow definition of what it means to be a young black person in America."

Harris added later that historically black colleges "teach us that there will always be a community that will support us, whatever we will decide to do,"

Including, perhaps, running for president.

Joann Berry, a 66-year-old who worked at South Carolina State for more than two decades, said that historically black colleges don't just give diplomas, "they're more like family." She said that the fact that Harris had attended an HBCU could give her an advantage with connecting here.

While Berry has yet to decide who to support in South Carolina's primary, she said Harris is among the candidates she's considering.

"I'm proud of her. I have faith in her just like I had faith in Barack Obama," said Berry. "A lot of people said he couldn't do it — and he won."



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., speaks at the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority South Central Regional Conference in New Orleans, Friday, April 19, 2019. Harris is tapping into a network of historically black colleges and universities to mobilize her supporters

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

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Harris' campaign has made a number of overt appeals, in South Carolina and elsewhere, to the network of HBCUs.

One of Harris's early congressional backers, California Rep. Barbara Lee, held events at Benedict College in Columbia on her behalf.

Harris also waded into the local issue of Denmark Technical College, which primarily serves residents of rural Allendale, Bamberg and Barnwell counties, and has been battling declining enrollment.

Her first significant policy rollout, aimed at increasing teacher pay nationwide, specifically calls for the federal government to support programs dedicated to teacher recruitment, training and professional development, particularly at HBCUs.

Harris's first news conference as a presidential candidate was held at her alma mater, with the leaders of the Howard University Student Association on hand. She recalled that she had run her first political campaign as freshman class representative.

"This is where it all began," she said.

On Twitter, her campaign even took note of Beyonce's "Homecoming," which was released this past week and paid homage to the musical legacy of historically black colleges. Harris said "Homecoming" "exemplifies and rightly celebrates the spirit and legacy of HBCUs."

"She brought our culture and tradition to the world stage and as a proud Howard graduate, I can't wait to watch," Harris wrote.

Other times, the exchanges come unprompted.

On an earlier trip to South Carolina, Harris was addressing a gathering of more than a dozen female leaders in Columbia when 83-year-old Marjorie Hammock arrived. Hammock, wearing a crew-neck Howard University sweat shirt, slowly made her way through a throng of reporters and onlookers.

When Harris noticed her, she immediately called to her.

"Hey, Bison, I know you," Harris said, referencing Howard's mascot, as the women laughed.

"We both went to Howard," said Harris, 54, and joked, "I was there before her."

Hammock, who attended Howard in the 1950s, said later that Harris's campaign "gives me also hope for this country" and that seeing a Howard graduate run for president "reinforces the fact that the legacy continues."

Happy birthday: Queen Elizabeth II turns 93 on Easter Sunday

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II is celebrating her 93rd birthday, which this year coincides with Easter Sunday.

The queen is marking Easter by attending a service with other senior royals at St. George's Chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle, west of London.

She was joined by Prince William and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Harry, whose wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, is expecting their first child in the coming weeks and did not attend.

Harry and Meghan did post a birthday greeting for the queen on their Instagram page: "Happy Birthday Your Majesty, Ma'am, Granny. Wishing you the most wonderful day! Harry & Meghan."

The queen's birthday is marked this year by an unusual sunny spell that has sent flowers bloom-



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II waves to the public as she leaves after attending the Easter Matins Service at St. George's Chapel, at Windsor Castle in England Sunday, April 21, 2019. (AP Photo/

Kirsty Wigglesworth, pool)

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ing on the extensive castle grounds.

Sunday is the first of two birthday celebrations each year for the queen. She marks her official birthday in June with the Trooping the Color parade.

The two-birthday tradition dates back more than 250 years, when it was instituted by King George II. Elizabeth is the longest-reigning monarch in British history. She still maintains an active schedule, although she does not travel as often as she used to.

Her 97-year-old husband, Prince Philip, has retired from public duties and did not attend the service.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, April 22, the 112th day of 2019. There are 253 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 22, 2000, in a dramatic pre-dawn raid, armed immigration agents seized Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban boy at the center of a custody dispute, from his relatives' home in Miami; Elian was reunited with his father at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington.

On this date:

In 1864, Congress authorized the use of the phrase "In God We Trust" on U.S. coins.

In 1898, with the United States and Spain on the verge of war, the U.S. Navy began blockading Cuban ports. Congress authorized creation of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, also known as the "Rough Riders."

In 1915, the first full-scale use of deadly chemicals in warfare took place as German forces unleashed chlorine gas against Allied troops at the start of the Second Battle of Ypres (EE'-preh) in Belgium during World War I; thousands of soldiers are believed to have died.

In 1952, an atomic test in Nevada became the first nuclear explosion shown on live network television as a 31-kiloton bomb was dropped from a B-50 Superfortress.

In 1954, the publicly televised sessions of the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings began.

In 1970, millions of Americans concerned about the environment observed the first "Earth Day."

In 1993, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was dedicated in Washington, D.C. to honor victims of Nazi extermination.

In 1994, Richard M. Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, died at a New York hospital four days after suffering a stroke; he was 81.

In 2004, Army Ranger Pat Tillman, who'd traded in a multi-million-dollar NFL contract to serve in Afghanistan, was killed by friendly fire; he was 27.

In 2005, Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee) pleaded guilty in a federal courtroom outside Washington, D.C. to conspiring with the Sept. 11 hijackers to kill Americans. (Moussaoui is serving a life prison sentence.)

In 2008, Hillary Rodham Clinton won the Pennsylvania Democratic primary, defeating Barack Obama and keeping her presidential hopes alive.

In 2013, a seriously wounded Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) was charged in his hospital room with bombing the Boston Marathon in a plot with his older brother, Tamerlan (TAM'-ehr-luhn), who died after a fierce gunbattle with police. Richie Havens, 72, the folk singer and guitarist who was the first performer at the 1969 Woodstock festival, died in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama marked Earth Day with a pitch for his energy plan, calling for a "new era of energy exploration in America" during a visit to Newton, Iowa. The FDA said 17-year-old girls could get "morning after" birth control without a prescription. Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls won the NBA's rookie of the year award. British-born movie director Ken Annakin ("Swiss Family Robinson") died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 94. Oscar-winning British cinematographer Jack Cardiff ("Black Narcissus") died in Ely, Cambridgeshire, England, at age 94.

Five years ago: In a blow to affirmative action, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld, 6-2, a voter-approved

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change to the Michigan Constitution forbidding the state's public colleges to take race into account in admissions. Vice President Joe Biden told Ukrainian political leaders the United States stood with them against "humiliating threats" and encouraged them to root out corruption as they rebuilt their government. Albert Pujols became the first major leaguer to hit his 499th and 500th homers in the same game, driving in five runs to help the Los Angeles Angels beat the Washington Nationals 7-2.

One year ago: A nearly naked gunman carrying an assault rifle stormed a Waffle House restaurant in Nashville, Tennessee, shooting four people to death before a customer rushed him and wrestled the weapon away; after a manhunt lasting more than 24 hours, Travis Reinking was arrested on charges including four counts of criminal homicide. (After being ordered to receive treatment for schizophrenia, Reinking was deemed fit for trial; he has pleaded not guilty.) An Islamic State suicide bomber attacked a voter registration center in the Afghan capital, killing 60 people and wounding 130 others.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Estelle Harris is 91. Actor Jack Nicholson is 82. Singer Mel Carter is 80. Author Janet Evanovich is 76. Country singer Cleve Francis is 74. Movie director John Waters is 73. Singer Peter Frampton is 69. Rock singer-musician Paul Carrack (Mike and the Mechanics; Squeeze) is 68. Actor Joseph Bottoms is 65. Actor Ryan Stiles is 60. Baseball manager Terry Francona is 60. Comedian Byron Allen is 58. Actor Chris Makepeace is 55. Rock musician Fletcher Dragge (DRAH'-guh) is 53. Actor Jeffrey Dean Morgan is 53. Actress Sheryl Lee is 52. Actress-talk show host Sherri Shepherd is 52. Country singer-musician Heath Wright (Ricochet) is 52. Country singer Kellie Coffey is 48. Actor Eric Mabius is 48. Actor Ingo Rademacher (RAH'-deh-mah-ker) is 48. Rock musician Shavo Odadjian (System of a Down) is 45. Rock singer-musician Daniel Johns (Silverchair) is 40. Actor Malcolm Barrett is 39. Actress Cassidy Freeman is 37. Actress Michelle Ryan is 35. Actress Amber Heard is 33. Singer-songwriter BC Jean (Alexander Jean) is 32. Drummer Tripp Howell (LANCO) is 30. Rapper/singer Machine Gun Kelly is 29.

Thought for Today: "What's vice today may be virtue, tomorrow." — Henry Fielding, English novelist (born this date in 1707, died in 1754).