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Coming Up on GDILIVE.COM

High School Spring Concert

Thursday, May 2
7 p.m.

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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The sixth grade band students of the quarter were Alex Warrington for the second quarter, Gretchen Dinger for the first quarter (she was also chosen as the first sixth grader for middle school all-state band), Kaden Kampa for the third quarter and Kellen Antonsen for the fourth quarter. The awards were presented at the middle school spring concert held Tuesday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The junior high band students of the quarter were Cole Bisbee for the first quarter, Jacob Lewandowski for the second quarter, Ellie Weismantel for the third quarter and Emily Clark for the fourth quarter. The awards were presented at the middle school spring concert held Tuesday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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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

Upcoming
**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

Silver Skates Annual Meeting

Does your child enjoy ice skating?

Do you like to see community traditions continue?

Do you have creative or organizational talents waiting to be shared with others?

Please join us for the Carnival of Silver Skates annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the warming house.

GFP Asks Public to Leave Animals Alone

PIERRE, S.D. - South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is reminding people that it is important to leave wild animals alone.

"Sometimes people think baby animals have been lost or abandoned, when actually they haven't," says Thea Miller Ryan, director of The Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. "Mothers often leave their young for several hours before coming back for them."

Each year GFP receives numerous phone calls from people who find baby animals, and while people think they are being helpful, picking up the creatures can actually be harmful.

"We don't want to give you the bad news, but baby animals picked up by humans don't end up well," reminds Ryan. "Tell your kids, your neighbor kids and your friends – If you care, leave them there."

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Consumption Advisories for South Dakota Rivers and Lakes

Fish from South Dakota lakes and rivers are tested for metals, pesticides, and PCB's as a collaborative effort of the South Dakota Departments of Game, Fish & Parks, Environment & Natural Resources, and Health. Please note the table below for species and sizes of fish to avoid from South Dakota bodies of water. The red triangles indicate bodies of water with consumption advisories and green fish indicate a body of water where fish tested low in mercury and other contaminants.

CURRENT MERCURY FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

County	Lake	Fish Species
Brookings/Kingsbury	Twin Lakes	Walleye - 18" & larger Northern Pike - 19" & larger
Brown	Elm Lake	Walleye - 25" & larger
Butte	Newell Lake	Walleye - 18" & larger Northern Pike - over 18"
Clark	Reid Lake	Walleye - over 23"
	Swan Lake	Walleye - over 21"
Codington	Long Lake	Walleye - over 17"
Corson	Pudwell Dam	Walleye -18" & larger Black Crappie - over 12"
Day	Bitter Lake	Walleye - all sizes Northern Pike - 30" & larger
	Hazeldon Lake	Walleye -21" & larger
	Lake Minnewasta	Walleye -18" & larger
	Lardy Lake	Walleye -25" & larger
	Lynn Lake	Walleye -18" & larger
	Middle Lynn Lake	Walleye -18" & larger
	Opitz	Northern Pike - over 26"
Dewey	Lake Isabel	Northern Pike - 25" & larger Largemouth Bass - 17" & larger
Kingsbury/Brookings	Twin Lakes	Walleye - 18" & larger Northern Pike - 19" & larger
Marshall	South Buffalo Lake	Walleye - 24" & larger
McCook/Minnehaha	North Island Lake	Walleye - 18" & larger Smallmouth Bass - 18" & larger
Minnehaha	Twin Lakes	Walleye - all sizes
Pennington	New Wall Lake	Black and White Crappies - over 13" Largemouth bass - over 16"
Perkins	Coal Springs Reservoir	Northern Pike - over 25"
Potter	Lake Hurley	Largemouth Bass - 18" & larger
Tripp	Lake Roosevelt	Largemouth Bass -18" & larger Northern Pike - over 24"

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To apply visit www.uslbn.com/careers or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

The Life of Duane E. Neumann



If you recognize my picture, you already know me. If you don't, let me introduce myself. My name is Duane Erich Neumann. There will be a service for me held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton, South Dakota, at 11 AM on Friday, May 3. There will also be visitation at the Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel on Thursday, May 2, beginning at 5 PM with a prayer service at 7:00.

I was born on January 11, 1928. My parents, Arthur and Edwina, named me "Duane" because they liked the name... "Erich" after my father's brother who came to South Dakota with him from their family home in Michigan while they were young men...and the "Neumann" designates my German heritage. It means "New Man."

My last name seems predictive of my life as I was taught the Biblical narrative of Jesus from an early age. As the story goes, Jesus was God, who came to earth and died on a Roman cross to pay the penalty of all my crimes against God. When I believed that Jesus died for MY sin, I was changed, by

the grace of God, into that "New Man" my name foreshadowed. As the scriptures say, "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation." The rest of my life had trials and tribulations, disappointments and failures, but the Creator God has held my hand through 91 years of life on this earth, and given me the greatest joy a man can have, knowing Jesus as my Savior and my Lord.

You may have run into me while I went to school in Groton, South Dakota, while I was stationed in Japan after World War II, or during the time I worked in the post office in Groton for 37 years.

My greatest earthly pleasure was having Dodie Hoops agree to be my wife and having her as my helper in life for 70 years. Dodie will tell you that we never had an argument during our marriage, and she is being honest. I told my wife that I loved her every day...except for a few times when I was away fishing... and I am being honest too. What an amazing blessing she has been to me.

God gave us children who proved to be more of a mixed blessing. Marsha, our first-born, married Drew Johnson and provided us with six grandchildren, Dodie Dru, Marnie, Chase, Abbie, Cade and Cramer. Mark married Laurie Aasness and had three children, Jacob, Jeffrey, and Emily. Brett married Lori Regier and added Jayme and Joshua to our list of grandchildren. God, in His sometimes hard-to-understand wisdom, has taken two of our children to be with Him, one son shortly before birth and Brett at the age of 48.

We presently have 14 great-grandchildren, some whose names I had difficulty remembering, and all of whom are being raised to know and love the Lord Jesus.

On April 27, 2019, I left behind my weak and frail earthly container and went to take up permanent residence with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. I am not able to communicate to you what it is like here in heaven. Perhaps that is because the Bible tells us that "Eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Hope you will be able to join me in my new home...I wish you were here!

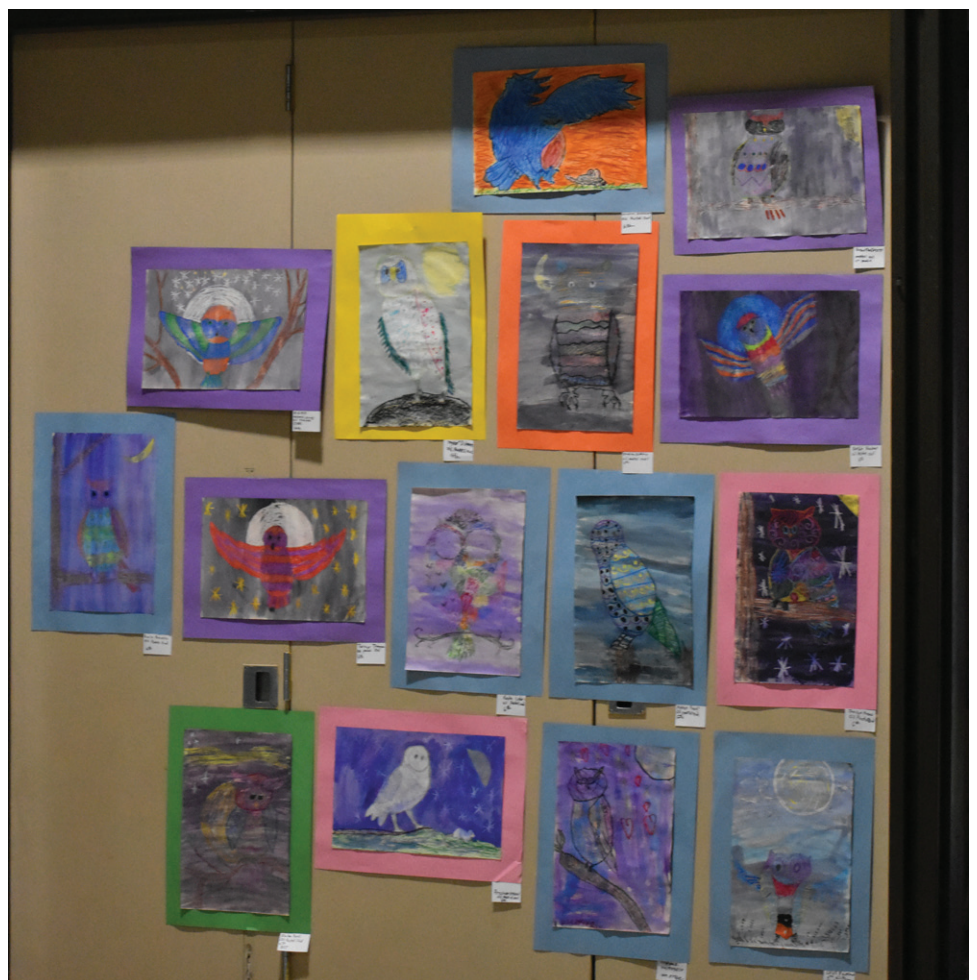
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Spring Middle School Concert

Many of the art drawings were on display at the middle school spring concert. (Photos by Alexa Hickenbotham)



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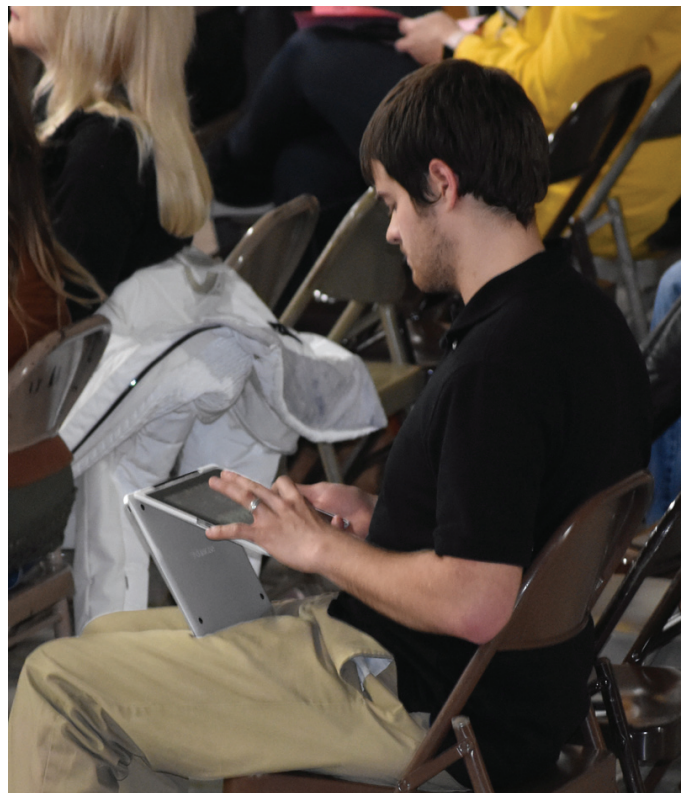
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The junior high choir sang, "Dream On," "Anyway" and "A Million Dreams." (Photo by Alexa Hickenbotham)



Rebecca Poor and Jaeger Kampa each had a solo part in the sixth grade band presentation of, "Reaching for the Stars." (Photo by Alexa Hickenbotham)



Austin Fordham sat in the back and operated the sound system from a mobile pad. (Photo by Alexa Hickenbotham)

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The sixth grade choir sang, "Dream Big" and "Reaching for the Stars." Playing the guitar is student intern Brandon Barrett. (Photo by Alexa Hickenbotham)



The sixth grade band performed, "Arabian Dreams," "I Dreamed a Dream" and "Firework." (Photo by Alexa Hickenbotham)



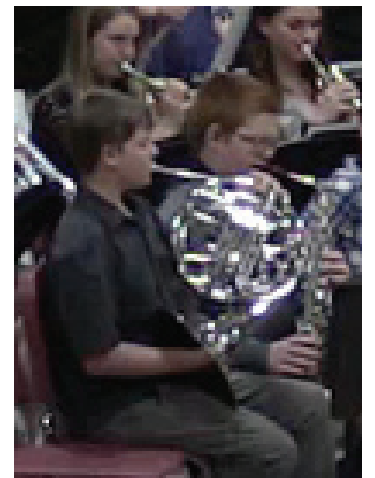
The junior high band performed, "Safety" (March), "Rites of Tamburo," "Zombie Dreams" and "Don't Stop Believin'." (Photo by Alexa Hickenbotham)

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Ashley Garduno, a GHS senior student intern, directed the last junior high band performance. Her grandpa, Dwayne Rehfeld (pictured above) stood in the corner to record a video of her. (Photos by Alexa Hickenbotham)



Camryn Kurtz, Cadance Tullis and Ashtyn Bahr each had a solo part during the junior high choir performances and Jackson Dinger had a French Horn solo during the junior high band performance. (Photos lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

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Today in Weather History

May 1, 1959: Aberdeen recorded a high temperature of 102, which is the earliest date that Aberdeen reached 100 degrees.

May 1, 1967: One of the latest blizzards on records for South Dakota ended on this day. Snowfall amounts in the west were 5 to 12 inches with a 16-inch report in Lemmon and 30 inches in the northern Black Hills. Winds of 40 to 50 mph caused blowing snow which occasionally reduced visibility to near zero and snow drifts of 4 to 5 feet. Other snowfall amounts include 5 inches in Murdo and 6 miles SE of McIntosh; and 4 inches in Timber Lake.

May 1, 1997: Torrential rains of 1.5 to 2.5 inches with a separate 4.5-inch report fell over central South Dakota and caused flooding to several creeks, streams, low-lying areas, and roads. This early May rain only aggravated the areas flooded in March and April. Lyman County experienced the most significant flooding where 4.5 inches of rain fell, north of Vivian. Part of a golf course was flooded, and some personal property was flooded along with the KOA campground near Kennebec. Some rainfall amounts include 2.5 inches 7 miles NW of Presho and 2.01 inches near Stephan.

1857: The Washington Evening Star publishes the first US national weather summary using observations from volunteers to the Smithsonian Institution's cooperative network.

1933: An estimated F4 tornado struck Minden, Louisiana, killing 28 people and injuring 400 others. 500 homes were damaged or destroyed with \$1.3 million in damage.

1999: Record, low temperatures for the date, were broken in the Deep South. Mobile, Alabama dropped to 46 degrees. Miami fell to 58; Miami Beach bottomed out at 61, and Vero Beach dropped to 47 degrees, all new records. Other stations in Florida also set record cold maximums for the date, including 61 at Jacksonville and Daytona Beach with 66 degrees.

2003: A record-setting 516 tornadoes occurred during May 2003. In particular, during the period May 4-10, 2003, an unprecedented number of tornadoes, 393 total, affected the central and the southern United States. The tornadoes resulted in 39 deaths across four states. Six of these tornadoes were classified as violent (F4) on the Fujita Tornado Intensity Scale.

1854 - The Connecticut River reached a level of nearly twenty-nine feet at Hartford (the highest level of record up until that time). The record height was reached in the midst of a great New England flood which followed sixty-six hours of steady rain. (David Ludlum)

1935 - Snow, ice and sleet brought winter back to parts of southeast Minnesota. Minneapolis received three inches of snow to tie their May record which was established in 1892. (1st-2nd) (The Weather Channel)

1954 - The temperature at Polebridge MT dipped to 5 degrees below zero to establish a state record for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and heavy rain in Texas. Baseball size hail pounded Dublin, and 3.75 inches of rain soaked Brady. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


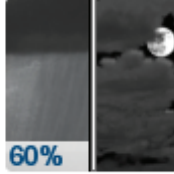



1988 - Strong southerly winds ahead of a cold front crossing the Rocky Mountain Region gusted to 90 mph at Lamar CO. High winds created blinding dust storms in eastern Colorado, closing roads around Limon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the southeastern U.S. Rainfall totals of 1.84 inches at Charlotte NC and 2.86 inches at Atlanta GA were records for the date. Strong thunderstorm winds uprooted trees in Twiggs County GA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from northern Alabama to North Carolina. There were sixty-three reports of large hail or damaging winds, with hail four inches in diameter reported near Cartersville GA. Ten cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 90s. Jacksonville FL reported a record high of 96 degrees. Late night thunderstorms over central Texas produced up to ten inches of rain in southern Kimble County and northern Edwards County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
				
50% → 90%	60%		20%	20%
Chance Showers and Patchy Fog then Showers	Showers Likely then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 45 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 57 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 66 °F

Today


Morning Fog.
Rain, especially in the afternoon.



Highs: 40s

Tonight


Rain ending in this evening.



Lows: 30s

Thursday

Becoming Mostly Sunny.



Highs: 50s


CLOUDY with RAIN

Warmer Weather Returning!
A brief warm-up to near normal temperatures will arrive for Friday, and linger into Monday.

weather.gov/abr

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Graphic Created
5/1/2019 4:15 AM



Expect morning fog, particularly over eastern South Dakota. Rain will overspread the area and become more steady this afternoon. Rain will slowly come to an end this evening. Dry high pressure will settle overhead for Thursday, as temperatures rise into the 50s. A brief warm-up to near normal temperatures will arrive Friday into Monday.

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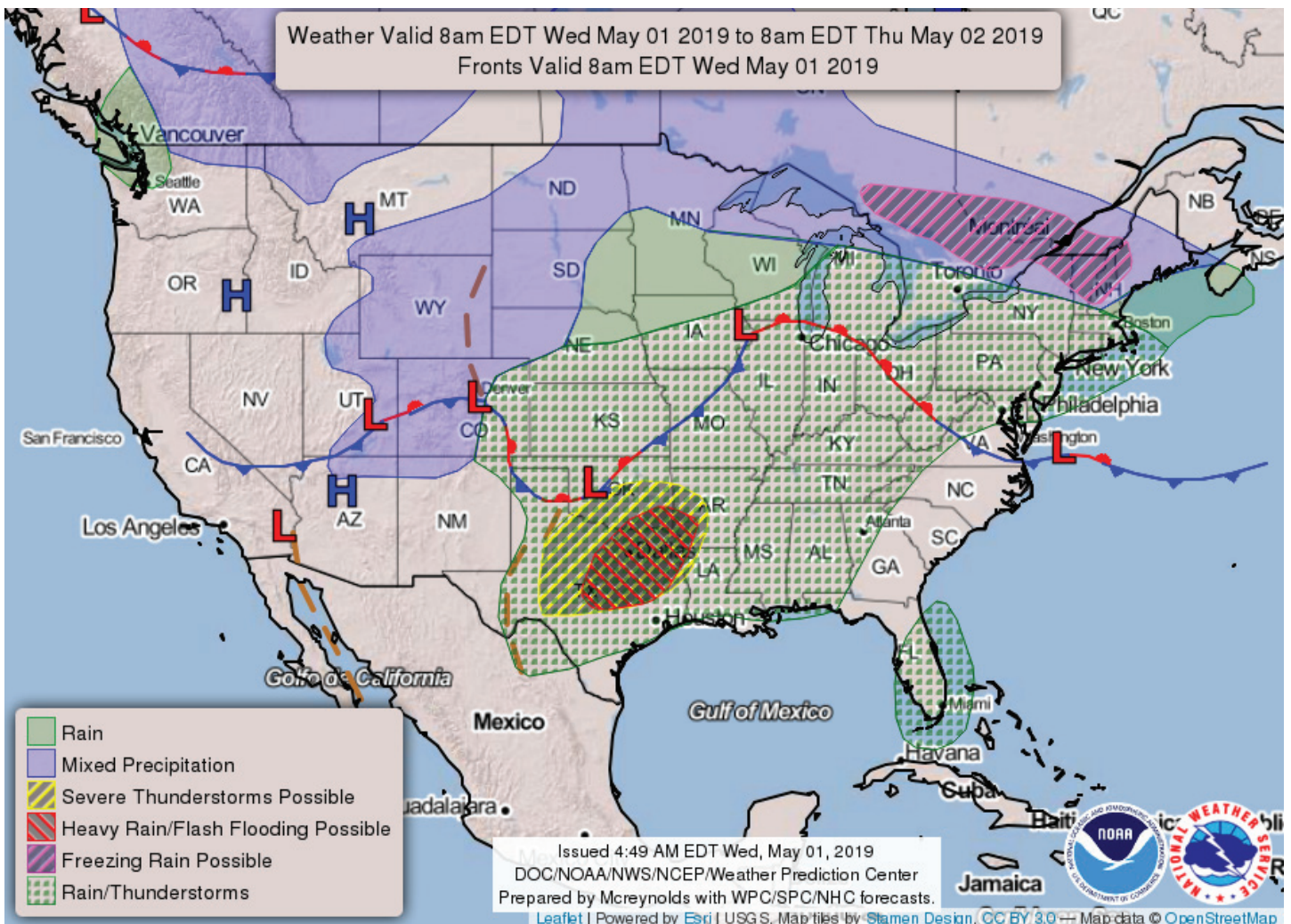
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 41 °F at 3:17 PM
Low Outside Temp: 36 °F at 6:46 AM
High Gust: 18 mph at 2:08 PM
Precip: 0.15

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1959
Record Low: 19° in 1961
Average High: 64°F
Average Low: 38°F
Average Precip in April.: 1.85
Precip to date in April.: 1.65
Average Precip to date: 4.03
Precip Year to Date: 4.69
Sunset Tonight: 8:40 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:21 a.m.



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NATURAL OR NORMAL OR NEITHER

There are certain words that seem to ignite our emotions. When we hear them, we react without thinking, take positions that are rigid and resolute, deep-seated feelings surface causing fear and frustration, and may or may not cause problems. These words are usually attached to memories from our past but impact our actions and attitudes the moment we hear them.

A good example would be the words love and discipline. On one occasion, Solomon used these two words in one verse: To learn, you must love discipline. The word love in this verse means to hold dear or to desire actively. So, if we want to learn Gods wisdom, we must give it a priority in our life and pursue it actively, believing that it will become a positive influence and assure us of Gods blessings.

Discipline in this verse means to instruct, or to willingly be taught the truths of Gods Word. And, for some this may be a problem. Often Gods instructions His wisdom are contrary to our selfish interests and ambitions. When it comes to learning and following Gods instructions, we choose not to hold them dear to our hearts and have a desire to actively pursue them. We look for moments of happiness and the immediate gratification of pleasures that quickly pass and leave painful memories.

In the final analysis, its neither natural nor normal to desire instruction that goes against our sinful nature. But, it is essential if we want the peace of God in our hearts and His presence in our lives and if we want the truths of His wisdom to guard us and guide us throughout life.

PRAYER: Help us, Lord, to be willing to open our hearts and accept Your truths. We know that they are the way to eternal life and the assurance of Your peace and protection. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 12:1 To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction.

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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 **AP** Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

24-37-41-61-70, Mega Ball: 20, Megaplier: 3

(twenty-four, thirty-seven, forty-one, sixty-one, seventy; Mega Ball: twenty; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$229 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$181 million

John Singleton's work resonated to diverse audiences

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Much has been made about how John Singleton brought the issues gripping black youth in South Central Los Angeles to mainstream audiences with his 1991 classic "Boyz N the Hood."

But the themes of that film, and his others about African Americans in Southern California, also resonated with other young people of color, from Native Americans living on isolated reservations to Latino communities in Texas and New Mexico.

The 51-year-old Singleton died Monday following a stroke earlier this month.

"'Boyz N the Hood' was my first exposure to the inner city black experience," said Ruth Hopkins, a Native American attorney and writer who lives in South Dakota. "I was surprised how much I could relate to the issues of poverty, racism and police violence."

The Oscar-nominated movie, starring Cuba Gooding Jr., Ice Cube, Morris Chestnut and Nia Long, among others, was an unflinching look at life growing up in the gritty neighborhood of South Central Los Angeles, loosely based on Singleton's own experiences growing up the area. The movie was a coming-of-age tale about Tre, a young black teen with college aspirations, complicated by the effects of poverty, gun violence, and drugs that effected his 'hood — an experience that was also being had in real life in countless minority communities across the United States, particularly at a time when the crack epidemic was in full tilt.

"He showed the authenticity of the black experience. It was honest," said DeShuna Moore Spencer, CEO



FILE - In this July 29, 2008, file photo, Ice Cube, left, and director John Singleton, laugh during the ESPN panel for the documentary series "30 for 30" at the Television Critics Association summer press tour in Pasadena, Calif. Singleton, who died Monday, April, 29, 2019, brought issues of gang violence, the crack epidemic and police brutality gripping South Central Los Angeles in the early 1990s and influenced a generation of people of color. (AP Photo/Matt Sayles, File)

of kweli TV , a streaming service for black independent filmmakers. "The truth is sometimes positive. The truth is sometimes gritty."

Former president Barack Obama on Tuesday praised Singleton and the opportunities he created for others. "His seminal work, *Boyz n the Hood*, remains one of the most searing, loving portrayals of the challenges facing inner-city youth," Obama tweeted. "He opened doors for filmmakers of color to tell powerful stories that have been too often ignored."

Daniel Hernandez, editor of the Southern California news site LATaco.com , said "*Boyz n the Hood*" and Singleton's later movies, like "*Poetic Justice*" starring Tupac Shakur and Janet Jackson, appealed to young Mexican Americans in Southern California in the early 1990s because they echoed their experiences, unlike TV fare at the time like the upper-middle class *Huxtables* depicted in "*The Cosby Show*."

"Those images we saw in '*The Cosby Show*' were aspirational," Hernandez said. "The characters I saw in '*Boyz N the Hood*' were the people we saw in our own communities. Yes, they were black but Mexican Americans identified with them and what they were experiencing."

In football locker rooms in Houston, some players recovered after practicing to the song "Just Me and You" like Ricky in "*Boyz n the Hood*." There were young Native Americans on reservations who mimicked Janet Jackson's character Justice, reading poetry while sporting dark baseball caps.

Hopkins recalls a scene in "*Boyz N The Hood*" where the character Furious Styles, Tre's father (played Laurence Fishburne), preaches about creating black-owned business and developing self-respect amid a racist society.

After the movie, Hopkins began reading Malcolm X. When Singleton's 1995 "*Higher Learning*" came out, a film about racial and sexual tension on a college campus, Hopkins began thinking about college herself.

At the time, the film was criticized for exaggerating college racial tensions and for suggesting that white supremacists would attend a racial diverse university. In 2019, with white supremacists speaking on campus regularly, such themes don't seem so farfetched now.

"It was forward-thinking," Hernandez said. "He was forward thinking because he was real."

Kyle students get cultural lesson on hike up Black Elk Peak

By ARIELLE ZIONTS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — After scarfing down sandwiches and grabbing free hiking sticks at the trailhead, students began hiking up — some at a runner's pace — Black Elk Peak, the highest point in South Dakota.

"It's pretty cool and fun to go on, and tiring," Isabella Two Crow, a seventh-grader at the Lakota Waldorf School in Kyle, told the Rapid City Journal.

Two Crow was part of a group of more than 20 students, five staff members and three dogs who made the trek to welcome back the Wakinyan Oyate, or thunder beings, by smudging sage and leaving food and prayer ties at the 7,244-foot-tall summit.

"Every time the thunders roll for the first time we always come up here," Two Crow said.

For generations, Lakota people have



In this April 25, 2019 photo, girls from the Lakota Waldorf School in Kyle, S.D., hike up Black Elk Peak. (Arielle Zionts/Rapid City Journal via AP)

hiked up Black Elk Peak to honor the thunder beings, which disappear in the winter and return in the spring, said teacher Celestine Stadnick.

"It's a way of paying respect and welcoming them for the renewal of life, for another year," said Santee Witt, who teaches Lakota cultural studies at the school. The coming of the thunder beings is when "everything starts anew again," when animals have babies and when nature is reborn.

The Lakota Waldorf School, the only Native American and tuition-free Waldorf School in the country, opened in 1993 as a kindergarten through second-grade school. The private, nonprofit school expanded to sixth grade in 2017 and has continued to grow since.

Waldorf Schools believe in going beyond "head learning" by teaching children not just by thinking, but through emotions and activity, said school administrator Isabel Stadnick.

"Learning doesn't happen through the mind. Learning happens through feeling what you're learning about and what you're doing with it," Celestine said.

"What's the point of reading if you can't really go out there and do it yourself?" Two Crow asked.

The second annual field trip to Black Elk Peak perfectly combines the school's values of hands-on learning and the importance of teaching Lakota culture. The students first learned about the thunder beings in class, then created prayer ties (tobacco wrapped in cloth) and finished by hiking up the peak to make the offerings.

"Cultural identity is one of the big themes that Native children have to gain. It's really important for their mental health and their future," Celestine said. "Our culture is really starting to become stronger."

Celestine said the field trip also helps the students understand that "everybody is a part of a big circle," that all people, spirits, animals and the earth are related.

"They have to experience intimacy with nature," to feel responsible for taking care of it, she said.

On their way up the mountain, students discovered ponds, pointed to the spires that surround the summit, picked up sparkly rocks and stepped on a squishy part of the trail that made mud ooze out of the earth, all without the prompting of the staff members.

Teegin Livermont, a third-grader, seemed to take an appreciation for the environment with her.

The hike is a "little hard," she said, but worth it since "nature is beautiful."

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

Minnesota, Oklahoma to play Nov. 9 in Sioux Falls, SD

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Minnesota will play Oklahoma in a neutral-site game this season at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The Gophers made the announcement Tuesday of the Nov. 9 nonconference matchup, which will be the 25th NCAA Division I men's basketball game at the Pentagon since the 3,250-seat arena opened in 2013. Minnesota played Oklahoma State there in 2015 and Vanderbilt there in 2016.

The Gophers and Sooners have played eight times in history, each winning four. Their last meeting was in 2004 at the Great Alaska Shootout, a 67-54 victory by Oklahoma. Both teams lost in the second round of the 2019 NCAA Tournament.

More AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Prosecutors won't seek death penalty in Rapid City homicide

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors say they will not seek the death penalty for two young men accused of killing a 17-year-old in Rapid City in February.

Instead, 19-year-old Cole Waters and 19-year-old Andre Martinez would be sent to life in prison without possibility of parole if they're found guilty of aiding and abetting the first-degree murder of Emmanuel Hinton.

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Attorneys for Waters and Martinez made the announcement during a Tuesday hearing in state court. Pennington County State's Attorney Mark Vargo told the Rapid City Journal South Dakota's death penalty can only be used in first-degree murder cases in "very specific situations" where aggravating factors outweigh any mitigating ones.

Waters and Martinez, both from Rapid City, are accused of fatally shooting Hinton, from Box Elder, during a Feb. 26 drug deal in Rapid City.

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

South Dakota students win \$10K for fuel-efficient invention

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A pair of students at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology has won two awards totaling \$10,000 in prize money for an invention they claim may improve vehicle fuel efficiency by up to 10%.

Sophomores Mark Rotert and John Parker Chandler IV won a combined \$5,000 Friday after pitching their vortex generator, TwisTech, in the governor's Giant Vision competition, the Rapid City Journal reported. They also won another \$5,000 prize from the college earlier this month for the invention to reduce drag on vehicles.

The students used a 3D printer to manufacture prototypes of the pocket-sized device. They first developed the idea for TwisTech during a national student race car design competition, Formula SAE.

They've since tested it on their personal cars, and used simulation software to test a digital model, they said.

The pair said that the invention yielded a 10% improvement in fuel consumption on sedan-style cars and a 7% improvement on semi-trucks.

Vortex generator devices are most commonly used to reduce drag on airplanes.

"We're now looking at ways to get it into a wind tunnel and get some real world, professional data," Chandler said.

Rotert added that they plan to spend the summer trying to further validate the invention's design.

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

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, April 27

Supreme Court case highlights fight for transparency

Some things are worth fighting for. For a newspaper with a watchdog mentality baked into its DNA, government transparency is at the top of that list.

Part of the Argus Leader's mission is to fight for public accountability — a role we take seriously. We have fought and won legal battles at local, state and national levels, including a win at the South Dakota Supreme Court against the city of Sioux Falls over confidential settlements with private contractors. That case helped spark legislation that changed state law toward more openness in government dealings.

Our journalists' stubborn refusal to stand down when the public's right to know is compromised was highlighted this week in the chambers of the highest court in the land.

At issue in the Argus Leader case heard at the U.S. Supreme Court: public access to store-level data of participation in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps.

We've fought for eight years to uncover those figures. But why does it matter? Why did we seek this information in the first place?

In 2011, Argus Leader reporters were probing issues of potential food stamp fraud while also examining

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rural communities' access to affordable and nutritious food. Under the Freedom of Information Act, we requested the annual amounts the federal government paid to retailers that participate in SNAP from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the program.

The USDA told us no.

The department claimed that the data we asked for was not public due to exemptions in the law for trade secrets and confidentiality. Because government payments to businesses are typically public record, and because the SNAP program is the United States' largest food safety net program — exceeding \$70 billion a year at its peak — we sued the federal government to get what we believe to be public information.

The case stretched on over years of back-and-forth litigation. When we won at the U.S. District Court level in 2016, the USDA decided not to appeal. The release of the SNAP information was imminent.

Then a private trade group for retailers, Food and Marketing Institute, picked up the case. FMI appealed to the Eighth Circuit Court. The Argus Leader's argument won the day in a unanimous vote.

Again, the release of the data seemed sure. Even when FMI filed their appeal to the Supreme Court, it seemed unlikely our case would be chosen as one of the only 80 or so they select from a list of nearly 8,000 each year.

And yet, they did choose our case. Eight years and two months after the Argus Leader's original FOIA request, our argument on behalf of the public's right to know how its government spends their money reached the pinnacle of the United States judicial system.

This time, we had backup in the form of support briefs from business interests as well as other advocacy and media organizations. Support came from across the entire political spectrum, from the American Civil Liberties Union to New Hampshire Right to Life.

That's because a ruling for FMI would mean a drastic narrowing of information that is currently available to the public. While the actual arguments got blurred with debate on what constitutes "confidentiality," what we see in this case is clear as day.

Nearly \$70 billion of our tax money goes to fund the SNAP program each year. Our government uses that money to reimburse businesses and corporations that participate in that program. Rare glimpses other watchdog organizations have gotten into the SNAP program have revealed multiple cases of fraud.

We see this publicly funded process as clearly in need of sunlight. We're hopeful that the nation's top justices see it the same way.

Regardless of the outcome, though, it was worth the fight. While this was certainly our most high-profile battle in the pursuit of government accountability, it wasn't the first.

Nor will it be the last.

Aberdeen American News, April 27

City wise to stay ahead of emerald ash borer infestation

Aberdeen is preparing for an attack.

The soldier? The tiny emerald ash borer beetle. The battlefield? The city's ash trees.

In March, City Forester Aaron Kiesz said the bug is "the most destructive forest insect to ever invade America."

And while the Asian beetle hasn't been spotted within city limits yet, it has been found in Sioux Falls. That means it's only a matter of time until we see it in the Hub City.

Once that happens, Kiesz believes the city is likely to be totally infested within two to three years. Then, he said, ash trees will be falling at an almost constant rate.

And that's a lot of trees: 4,800 boulevard trees, 15,000 private residence trees and 750 park trees. That's a staggering 40 percent of the city's trees.

Before that starts, Kiesz and his team have a plan. And we think that plan is a good one, even though it's unfortunate it has to be implemented.

Essentially, they plan to take out 5 percent of the city's ash trees every year. That's about 280 trees a year. And when the beetle shows up, that number will be increased to 10 percent annually.

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Then, the forestry division will look at replacing the ash trees with a different species.

In fact, the planting of additional trees has already begun.

True to its name — or perhaps because of it — the emerald ash borer only affects ash trees. Kiesz said the insect will lay its eggs in the tree's bark. Once the eggs hatch, the larvae bore into the tree, disrupting the flow of water and nutrients. Basically, it starves the tree to death. And once the beetle infects the tree, there's no known treatment.

When the emerald ash borer arrives, those trees will have to come down. No questions asked.

There isn't any way the city can leave infected trees standing — dead trees are a risk to people and property since they're more inclined to fall over or drop large branches.

If many trees are affected at once, it's hard to even imagine the cost of taking them all down at the same time.

By starting the thinning process now, the city will spread the cost of removing those trees over of several years, rather than being forced to digest the expense all at once.

And property owners won't feel so overwhelmed by removing the affected trees, either. Imagine the backlog of calls from all around Aberdeen. We can envision the wait being excruciating.

Not only does the city's plan ease the financial burden as much as possible, it ensures that we'll have canopies of trees in the future, though it will take time for them to mature.

Trees are scenic, provide shade for our hammocks and houses, serve as homes to birds, help the environment and so much more. So having a plan to replace the ash trees we lose is smart on many levels.

There is already a city ordinance in place that restricts the use of wood from the ash trees. Recently, the forestry department added an amendment with the goal of slowing the spread of the emerald ash borer by limiting the wood that comes to town that might be infested.

That means that it will be unlawful to store, dispose of or transport ash wood within city limits, and the wood must be deposited at designated collection sites outside city limits. Some think the ordinance is a good idea, while others wonder if people could use the ash wood while the beetle is dormant during a "non-flight" period from Sept. 1 to May 1.

But monitoring the use of the wood could create an enforcement headache for the city. And in this instance, we think it's smarter to be safe than sorry.

You can help by keeping an eye out for the emerald ash borer — an infestation leaves D-shaped holes in trees. Here's hoping you don't find them anytime soon.

In a perfect world, no trees would need to be cut down. They're beautiful and beneficial. They spruce up yards and parks and add dimension to our flat landscape. But there's a danger looming, and the city is wise to address it now, even if the emerald ash borer doesn't make its way to town for another decade.

If it's sooner than that, at least we're doing our best to be prepared.

Madison Daily Leader, Madison, April 29

Palisades expansion is a great project

The state of South Dakota is working toward an expansion of Palisades State Park near Garretson. A public meeting was held earlier this month, and the state Game, Fish & Parks Department is still accepting public input.

The department would like to double the 157-acre park, add 70 campsites to the existing 34 sites and build a four-mile recreation trail. The park already hosts 90,000 visitors a year.

State parks are a tremendous asset in South Dakota, and those of us in Lake County know it as well as anyone. Lake Herman State Park is one of the best parks in the whole system, and Walker's Point Recreation Area on Lake Madison is another jewel.

Both areas have received tremendous investment by the state over the years and are beautifully maintained. On traditional camping weekends in the summer, they are filled with campers and other visitors.

South Dakota has an extraordinary number of state parks and recreation areas. A quick count on the Game, Fish & Parks website shows 63 locations with an amazing number of amenities.

Many South Dakotans take advantage of the parks, not only for camping but also for many other activities. Some parks employ naturalists who hold programs free of charge in the summer. Many others host volunteers who perform countless tasks to improve visitor experiences.

Even though the Palisades is an hour drive from Madison, we're sure residents of our area enjoy it already, and more will do so after the expansion. We're glad to see the project taking place, and we appreciate the GF&P's willingness to listen to the public in its planning stages.

2 plead not guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two Sioux Falls men have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to distribute cocaine.

U.S. Attorney Ron Parsons announced Monday a federal grand jury indicted 34-year-old Byron Perez and 32-year-old Juan Garcia earlier this month. The indictment says the two distributed 500 grams or more of cocaine. A conviction carries a maximum 40 years in prison and a \$5 million fine.

The Argus Leader says both men are in federal custody ahead of their June 18 trial.

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

Big worry for college scandal suspects: Their co-defendants

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors said all along that they expect more people to be charged in the sweeping college admissions scandal. Their secret weapon? The cooperation of parents and coaches who have already agreed to plead guilty, observers say.

"You can rest assured that there is going to be a new wave of indictments," said former federal prosecutor Bradley Simon. "They wouldn't need so many cooperators for existing cases. What seems to me is that these individuals who are cooperating are helping the government to make new cases."

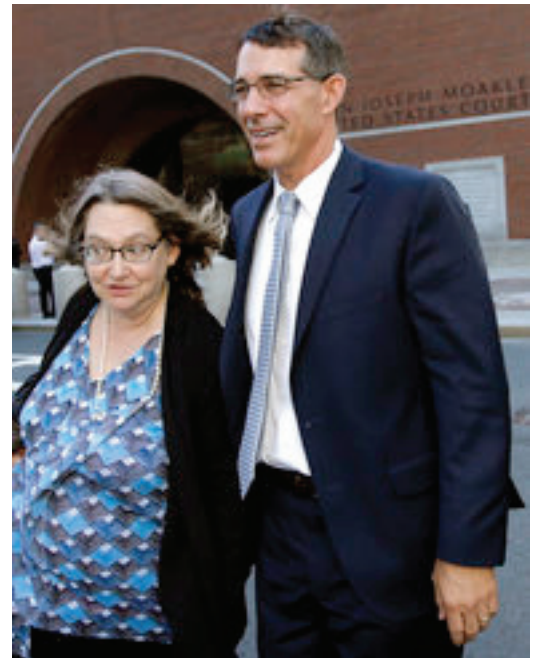
The parents and coaches' cooperation could also spell doom for others who are digging in their heels and still fighting the charges, including actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli. They are among 19 parents disputing the allegations.

Among those known to be working with authorities is Laura Janke, the former University of Southern California assistant women's soccer coach who was paid by consultant Rick Singer to create fake athletic profiles to make the children of "Full House" star Loughlin and a slew of other parents look like star athletes, officials say.

She could spill information about other USC figures charged in the case, including another soccer coach and athletic department official. She could also bolster the testimony of Singer, who will likely be painted by defense attorneys as a liar trying to take down the parents in order to save himself.

"If I were one of those parents, I would be very nervous about (Janke)," said Simon, now a white-collar criminal defense lawyer at Phillips Nizer LLP, of New York.

Janke agreed in 2017 to create a profile portraying Loughlin's and Giannulli's younger daughter, YouTube star Olivia Jade Giannulli, as a competitive rower, authorities say. The teenager was admitted to USC as a crew recruit even though



Michael Center, right, former men's tennis coach at the University of Texas at Austin, departs federal court with an unidentified woman, Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in Boston, after he pled guilty to charges in a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

she didn't play the sport, authorities say.

Loughlin and Giannulli, who have pleaded not guilty to paying \$500,000 in bribes to get their daughters into USC, haven't publicly commented on the allegations. Janke's lawyer declined to comment Tuesday.

The only parents cooperating so far are a married couple scheduled to plead guilty Wednesday to paying \$600,000 in shares of stock to get their daughters into USC and the University of California Los Angeles. Bruce Isackson, a real estate developer in California, and his wife, Davina, have said they take full responsibility for their "bad judgment."

The couple could tell investigators about other school officials or coaches who might have been in on the scheme, experts say. Their testimony could also make it more difficult for parents to argue they didn't know what Singer was doing with their money or were duped by him.

"The key issue in this case is absolutely what their intent was," said Laurie Levenson, a professor at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. "Did they know they were crossing a line and paying bribes? The more people who say, 'Yes, we all knew,' the better it is for the prosecution," said Levenson, who used to work as a federal prosecutor.

Attorneys for the Isacksons declined to comment.

Since dozens of wealthy parents and coaches at elite universities were arrested in March, four defendants have signed cooperation agreements with prosecutors. Singer, along with a former Yale University coach and a man who cheated on entrance exams for students, had already been secretly working with investigators before the charges were announced.

What exactly cooperators have offered investigators remains unclear. They have all promised to testify for prosecutors, if asked, in hopes of getting a shorter prison sentence.

John Cunha Jr., a lawyer for former University of Texas at Austin men's tennis coach Michael Center, declined to comment on the coach's cooperation agreement after he pleaded guilty last week to accepting \$100,000 to help a student get into the school.

Fourteen parents, including actress Felicity Huffman, have agreed to plead guilty. Huffman, the Emmy-winning star of "Desperate Housewives," is scheduled to appear in Boston federal court May 13 to admit to charges she paid \$15,000 to have someone rig her daughter's SAT score.

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

Barr questioning comes amid report of Mueller frustration

By ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr will face lawmakers' questions for the first time since releasing special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia report and amid new revelations Mueller expressed frustration to Barr about how the report's findings were being portrayed.

The Senate hearing promises to be a dramatic showdown as Barr defends his actions before Democrats who accuse him of spinning the investigation's findings in President Donald Trump's favor.

Barr's appearance Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to highlight the partisan schism around Mueller's report and the Justice Department's handling of it. It will give the attorney general his most extensive opportunity to explain the department's actions, including a press conference held before the report's release, and for him to repair a reputation bruised by allegations that he's the Republican president's protector.

A major focus of the hearing is likely to be the Tuesday night revelation that Mueller told Barr, in a letter to the Justice Department and in a phone call, that he was frustrated with how the conclusions of his investigation were being portrayed.

Barr also is invited to appear Thursday before the Democratic-led House Judiciary panel, but the Justice Department said he would not testify if the committee insisted on having its lawyers question the attorney general.

Barr's appearance Wednesday will be before a Republican-led committee chaired by a close ally of the

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president, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who is expected to focus on concerns that the early days of the FBI's Russia investigation were tainted by law enforcement bias against Trump.

Democrats are likely to press Barr on statements and actions in the last six weeks that have unnerved them. The tense relations are notable given how Barr breezed through his confirmation process, picking up support from a few Democrats and offering reassuring words about the Justice Department's independence and the importance of protecting the special counsel's investigation.

The first hint of discontent surfaced last month when Barr issued a four-page statement that summarized what he said were the main conclusions of the Mueller report. In the letter, Barr revealed that he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein had cleared Trump of obstruction of justice after Mueller and his team found evidence on both sides of the question but didn't reach a conclusion.

Barr is likely to defend himself by noting how he released the report on his own even though he didn't have to under the special counsel regulations, and that doing so fulfilled a pledge he made at to be as transparent as the law allowed. Barr may say that he wanted to move quickly to give the public a summary of Mueller's main findings as the Justice Department spent weeks redacting more sensitive information from the report.

After the letter's release, Barr raised eyebrows anew when he told a congressional committee that he believed the Trump campaign had been spied on, a common talking point of the president and his supporters. A person familiar with Barr's thinking has said Barr, a former CIA employee, did not mean spying in a necessarily inappropriate way and was simply referring to intelligence collection activities.

He also equivocated on a question of whether Mueller's investigation was a witch hunt, saying someone who feels wrongly accused would reasonably view an investigation that way. That was a stark turnabout from his confirmation hearing, when he said he didn't believe Mueller would ever be on a witch hunt.

Then came Barr's April 18 press conference to announce the release of the Mueller report later that morning.

He repeated about a half dozen times that Mueller's investigation had found no evidence of collusion between the campaign and Russia, though the special counsel took pains to note in his report that "collusion" was not a legal term and also pointed out the multiple contacts between the campaign and Russia.

In remarks that resembled some of Trump's own claims, he praised the White House for giving Mueller's team "unfettered access" to documents and witnesses. He suggested the president had the right to be upset by the investigation, given his "sincere belief that the investigation was undermining his presidency, propelled by his political opponents, and fueled by illegal leaks."

It remained unclear Tuesday whether Barr would appear before the House committee. That panel's Democratic chairman, Rep, Jerrold Nadler of New York, said witnesses could too easily filibuster when



FILE - In this April 18, 2019, file photo, Attorney General William Barr speaks about the release of a redacted version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report during a news conference at the Department of Justice in Washington.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

questioned by lawmakers restricted by five-minute time limits. Having lawyers do the questioning enables the committee "to dig down on an issue and pursue an issue."

"And it's not up to anybody from the executive branch to tell the legislative branch how to conduct our business," Nadler said.

The committee will vote on allowing staff to question Barr at a separate meeting Wednesday, at the same time Barr takes questions from the Senate.

The top Republican on the House Judiciary panel, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, sharply criticized the plan. Nadler "has taken a voluntary hearing and turned it into a sideshow," Collins said.

The Justice Department's stance appears consistent with the Trump administration's broader strategy of "undermining Congress as an institution," said Elliot Williams, who previously served as deputy assistant attorney general in the department's legislative affairs office in the Obama administration.

He said that if he were still advising an attorney general, he would resist the idea of staff questioning a Cabinet official. "It's a rational response to not want them questioning the attorney general," Williams said.

That said, Williams added, "It's an incredibly common practice in the House of Representatives and was a practice long before President Trump or William Barr took their offices and will be a practice long after they're gone."

Vigil planned after 2 killed, 4 wounded in campus shooting

By TOM FOREMAN Jr. and SARAH BLAKE MORGAN Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A shooting that killed two and wounded four at a North Carolina university left students scrambling for shelter and prompted fresh calls for ways to keep campuses safe.

A vigil was planned for Wednesday on the campus of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, where the shooting on Tuesday upended the last day of class. The governor vowed a hard look at what happened in order to prevent future shootings.

"A student should not have to fear for his or her life when they are on our campuses," Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, told reporters. "Parents should not have to worry about their students when they send them off to school. And I know that this violence has to stop. ... In the coming days we will take a hard look at all of this to see what we need to do going forward."

Campus Police Chief Jeff Baker said authorities received a call in the late afternoon that a suspect armed with a pistol had shot several students. Officers assembling nearby for a concert rushed to the classroom building and arrested the gunman in the room where the shooting took place.

"Our officers' actions definitely saved lives," Baker said at a news conference.

Two people were killed, and three remained in critical condition late Tuesday. Baker said a fourth person's injuries were less serious. Students were among the victims, but officials would not say how many.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department identified the suspect as Trystan Andrew Terrell, 22. He's



UNC Charlotte Chancellor Philip DuBois receives a hug after a news conference regarding a deadly shooting on the campus earlier in the day, Tuesday, April 30, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C. (David T. Foster III/The Charlotte Observer via AP)

in custody, charged with two counts of murder, four counts of attempted murder, possessing and firing a weapon on educational property, and assault with a deadly weapon.

Monifa Drayton, an adjunct professor, was walking onto campus when she heard the shots. She said she directed students fleeing the scene to take cover inside a parking deck.

"I heard one final gunshot and I saw all the children running toward me," she said. "We started to get all the children pulled into the second floor of the parking deck and the rationale was if we're in the parking deck and there's a shooter and we don't know where he is, he won't have a clear shot."

She added: "My thought was, I've lived my life, I've had a really good life, so, these students deserve the same. And so, whatever I could do to help any child to safety, that's what I was going to do."

The shooting prompted a lockdown caused panic across campus.

"Just loud bangs. A couple loud bangs and then we just saw everyone run out of the building, like nervous, like a scared run like they were looking behind," said Antonio Rodriguez, 24, who was visiting campus for his friend's art show.

The suspect's grandfather Paul Rold of Arlington, Texas, said that Terrell and his father moved to Charlotte from the Dallas area about two years ago after his mother died. Terrell taught himself French and Portuguese with the help of a language learning program his grandfather bought him and was attending UNC-Charlotte, Rold said. But Terrell never showed any interest in guns or other weapons and the news he may have been involved in a mass shooting was stunning, said Rold, who had not heard about the Charlotte attack before being contacted by an Associated Press reporter.

"You're describing someone foreign to me," Rold said in a telephone interview Tuesday night. "This is not in his DNA."

Shortly after UNC Charlotte issued a campus lockdown, aerial shots from local television news outlets showed police officers running toward a building, while another view showed students running on a campus sidewalk.

The university has more than 26,500 students and 3,000 faculty and staff. The campus is northeast of the city center and is surrounded by residential areas.

Spenser Gray, a junior, said she was watching another student's presentation in a nearby campus building when the alert about the shooting popped up on everyone's computer screens.

She said she panicked: "We had no idea where he was ... so we were just expecting them at any moment coming into the classroom."

Susan Harden, an UNCC professor and Mecklenburg County Commissioner, was at home when she heard of the shooting. She went to a staging area, she said, to provide support.

Harden said she has taught inside the Kennedy building, where the shootings occurred.

"It breaks my heart. We're torn up about what's happened," Harden said. "Students should be able to learn in peace and in safety and professors ought to be able to do their jobs in safety."

Associated Press writers Martha Waggoner and Emery Dalesio in Raleigh contributed to this report.

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. SENATE PANEL TO GRILL BARR

A dramatic showdown is expected as the attorney general will defend his actions before Democrats who accuse him of spinning the Mueller report findings in Trump's favor.

2. WHAT CONCERNED TRUMP ABOUT RUSSIA PROBE

As the special counsel's investigation threatened to shadow his presidency, he became increasingly concerned he would be seen as a cheater and a fraud.

3. VENEZUELA AWAITS MORE PROTESTS AFTER DAY OF TURMOIL

The opposition is hoping that Venezuelans angered by images of armored vehicles plowing into pro-

testers and fed up with their nation's dire humanitarian crisis will fill streets across the nation.

4. 'A STUDENT SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FEAR FOR HIS OR HER LIFE'

A shooting that killed two and wounded four at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte prompts fresh calls for ways to keep campuses safe.

5. IT'S MAY DAY

Thousands of trade union members and activists march through Asia's capitals demanding better working conditions and expanded labor rights.

6. CASTER SEMENYA LOSES APPEAL AGAINST TRACK'S TESTOSTERONE RULES

The South African Olympic champion loses her appeal against rules designed to decrease naturally high testosterone levels in some female runners.

7. HOW HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL IS PRESERVING MEMORIES

Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial's "Gathering the Fragments" program has collected some 250,000 items from survivors and their families to be stored for posterity and displayed online.

8. FED EXPECTED TO KEEP RATES STEADY

The central bank is all but sure to keep interest rates on hold — and for the foreseeable future — even as Trump wants rates cut.

9. SPELLING BEE DITCHES UNPOPULAR TIEBREAKER TEST

The Scripps National Spelling Bee gets rid of the written test that spellers took to determine a champion in the event of a tie.

10. WARRIORS GO UP 2-0 AGAINST ROCKETS

Kevin Durant scores 29 points and establishes an early defensive tone against James Harden, leading Golden State past Houston 115-109.



People gather across from the campus of UNC Charlotte after a fatal shooting at the school, Tuesday, April 30, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C. (AP Photo/Jason E. Miczek)

Trump depicted in Mueller report feared being tabbed a fraud

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fear was persistent.

As the Russia investigation heated up and threatened to shadow Donald Trump's presidency, he became increasingly concerned. But the portrait painted by special counsel Robert Mueller is not of a president who believed he or anyone on his campaign colluded with Russians to interfere in the 2016 election.

Instead, the Trump of the Mueller report is gripped by fear that Americans would question the very legitimacy of his presidency. Would Trump, the man who put his name on skyscrapers and his imprint on television, be perceived as a cheater and a fraud?

To Trump, his victory over Hillary Clinton was both historic and overwhelming, though he won millions of votes less than did the Democratic candidate.

If people thought he'd won with the help of Russia, that glorious victory might be tainted.

EDITOR'S NOTE - Another in a series of stories focusing on events detailed in the report of special counsel Robert Mueller, drawing from the document's trove.

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Just a month after Election Day, on Dec. 10, 2016, reports surfaced that U.S. intelligence officials had concluded Russia interfered in the election and tried to boost Trump's presidential bid.

The next day, Trump went on Fox News and called the assessment "ridiculous" and "just another excuse." The intelligence community actually had "no idea if it's Russia or China or somebody," he argued.

"It could be somebody sitting in a bed some place," the Republican president-elect added.

The president's public narrative quickly shifted. He blamed Democrats and accused his political opponents of putting the story out because they "suffered one of the greatest defeats in the history of politics."

But the intelligence community's assessment that Russia had interfered in the 2016 election to sow discord among American voters and to help get Trump elected was his "Achilles' heel," one of his closest aides, Hope Hicks, would tell investigators.

In the months that followed, Trump reacted strenuously to investigations into links between the Russians and his campaign and transition teams.

Michael Flynn, who served on the transition team and would go on to be national security adviser, spoke with Sergey Kislyak, Russia's ambassador to the U.S. Flynn asked that Russia not retaliate against the United States because of sanctions announced by the Obama administration; the ambassador later told Flynn that Russia would hold back.

In the weeks that followed, Trump paid careful attention to what he saw as negative stories about Flynn. He grew increasingly angry when a story broke pointing out that Flynn had discussed sanctions with Kislyak.

By mid-February, Flynn was forced to resign.

A day later, as Trump was set to meet with FBI Director James Comey, the president had lunch with his confidant and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. He told Christie he believed the Russia investigation would end because of Flynn's departure.

"Flynn met with the Russians. That was the problem. I fired Flynn. It's over," Trump said.

That couldn't have been further from the truth.

The fear — and Trump's anger — continued for months as the Russia investigation ensnared some of his closest confidants. Over and over, he would tell advisers that he thought the public narrative about Russian election interference was created to undermine his win. It was a personal attack, he insisted.

On May 9, 2017, Trump fired Comey. Trump would later admit in an interview that he had considered "this Russia thing" when he decided to fire Comey.

Days later, Trump held an Oval Office meeting with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, White House lawyer Don McGahn and Sessions' chief of staff Jody Hunt to interview candidates to be the next FBI director.



FILE - In this April 18, 2019, file photo, President Donald Trump, center, surrounded by members of the Secret Service, walks across the tarmac to begin to greet supporters during his arrival at Palm Beach International Airport, in West Palm Beach, Fla. As the Russia investigation threatened to shadow Donald Trump's presidency, he became increasingly concerned he would be seen as a cheater and a fraud (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

Sessions walked out of the room to take a call from his deputy attorney general, Rod Rosenstein. When he returned, he informed Trump that Rosenstein had appointed a special counsel to investigate possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Trump feared that his presidency, still in its infancy, could be over. And he was furious his aides hadn't protected him.

The president slumped back in his chair.

"Oh my God. This is terrible. This is the end of my Presidency. I'm f---ed. This is the worst thing that ever happened to me," he said.

For months, as the Russia investigation grew and more people in Trump's inner circle appeared to be under intense scrutiny from federal investigators, Trump became completely preoccupied with press coverage of the probe. The message was persistent: It raises questions about the legitimacy of the election.

At rallies and on Twitter, Trump decried what he said was a politically motivated "witch hunt."

In the end, the redacted version of Mueller's report cleared the Trump campaign of colluding with Russian efforts to influence the election.

Trump crowed that the report found "No Collusion." But he ignored Mueller's finding that Russian meddling was very real and was intended to support Trump's campaign.

Did Russia's efforts lead to Trump's victory? Mueller doesn't venture an opinion, much as he does not decide whether Trump committed obstruction of justice.

But how could Trump have obstructed justice if there was no collusion to hide?

The lack of an underlying crime doesn't really matter, Mueller argued. Trump still had a motivation to obstruct the investigation — the fear that people would question the legitimacy of his election.

Mueller frustrated with Barr over portrayal of findings

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special counsel Robert Mueller expressed frustration to Attorney General William Barr last month about how the findings of his Russia investigation were being portrayed, saying he worried that a letter summarizing the main conclusions of the probe lacked the necessary context and was creating public confusion about his team's work, a Justice Department official said Tuesday night.

Mueller communicated his agitation in a letter to the Justice Department just days after Barr issued a four-page document that summarized the special counsel's conclusions about whether President Donald Trump's campaign had conspired with Russia and whether the president had tried to illegally obstruct the probe. Mueller and Barr then had a phone call on which the same concerns were addressed. The official was not authorized to discuss Mueller's letter by name.

The letter lays bare simmering tensions between the Justice Department and the special counsel about



FILE - In this March 24, 2019, file photo, special counsel Robert Mueller departs St. John's Episcopal Church, across from the White House in Washington. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

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whether Barr's summary adequately conveyed the gravity of Mueller's findings, particularly on the key question of obstruction. The revelation is likely to sharpen attacks by Democrats who accuse Barr of unduly protecting the Republican president and of spinning Mueller's conclusions in Trump's favor. And it will almost certainly be a focus of Wednesday's Senate Judiciary Committee hearing at which the attorney general will defend his handling of Mueller's report.

"After the Attorney General received Special Counsel Mueller's letter, he called him to discuss it," Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said in a statement.

"In a cordial and professional conversation, the Special Counsel emphasized that nothing in the Attorney General's March 24 letter was inaccurate or misleading. But, he expressed frustration over the lack of context and the resulting media coverage regarding the Special Counsel's obstruction analysis," she added.

Barr's letter, released just two days after the Justice Department received the special counsel's report, said Mueller had not reached a conclusion on whether the president had obstructed justice despite presenting evidence on both sides of the question. Justice Department officials were surprised Mueller had not made a determination, prompting Barr and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein to step in and decide on their own that the evidence was insufficient to support an obstruction charge.

Though Barr's letter did say that Mueller's team had not exonerated Trump on obstruction nor concluded that he had committed a crime, it did not detail the specific evidence Mueller's team accumulated or describe Mueller's legal analysis as he examined nearly a dozen episodes of potential obstruction, including the firing of former FBI Director James Comey.

Barr has sought to downplay any disagreements with the special counsel and has brushed aside allegations that he mischaracterized Mueller's findings.

Barr said Mueller answered "no" when he asked him whether he would have recommended indicting Trump but for a Justice Department legal opinion that says a sitting president cannot be criminally prosecuted. Mueller's report, however, makes clear that his thought process was shaped in part by that legal opinion and that he believed it would be unfair to publicly accuse the president of a crime if he could not be prosecuted and have a trial to defend himself.

The attorney general also did not acknowledge any sort of potential disagreement with Mueller at a recent Justice Department appropriations hearing, telling a Democratic congressman, "I don't know whether Bob Mueller supported my conclusion."

As Mueller shared his frustrations with Barr on the phone call, the men discussed whether additional context from the report could be released, Kupec said. But Justice Department officials said they decided it made more sense to release the bottom line findings of Mueller's report rather than include the detailed legal analysis behind them. They also decided against releasing summaries that Mueller's team had prepared. Barr has said such summaries run the risk of being either over-inclusive or under-inclusive.

The letter is likely to be a central focus at Wednesday's Senate Judiciary Committee hearing with Barr. According to prepared testimony released Tuesday night, Barr will tell the committee that Mueller's investigation concluded without any interference and that he never overruled the Justice Department on any proposed action.

The appearance is Barr's first on Capitol Hill since he released a redacted version of Mueller's report on April 18 and comes amid deepening Democratic skepticism about his impartiality. Those concerns were fueled in part by Barr's statements at a press conference announcing the release of the Mueller report, at which he repeated multiple times that Mueller's investigation had not found any collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia — even though the report notes that collusion is not a legal term.

The Washington Post was first to report the contents of the letter. The newspaper said Mueller complained that Barr's summary "did not fully capture the context, nature and substance of this office's work and conclusions."

"There is now public confusion about critical aspects of the results of our investigation," according to Mueller's letter. "This threatens to undermine a central purpose for which the Department appointed the Special Counsel: to assure full public confidence in the outcome of the investigations."

The Justice Department confirmed the authenticity of that language.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, which has been negotiating with Barr over a Thursday appearance, demanded that the Justice Department produce the letter by Wednesday morning.

"The Attorney General has expressed some reluctance to appear before the House Judiciary Committee this Thursday," Nadler, D-N.Y., said in a statement. "These reports make it that much more important for him to appear and answer our questions."

Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., said: "This is exactly why I said Mr. Barr should never have been confirmed in the first place. At this point he has lost all credibility, and the only way to clear this up is for Mr. Mueller to testify publicly."

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., went further in his criticism, saying Barr lied to him in testimony about Mueller's report and should resign. In that hearing, Barr replied to Van Hollen that he didn't know if Mueller agreed with his conclusions about the report, including that there wasn't enough evidence in the report to support a charge of obstruction of justice.

In light of the Mueller letter, Van Hollen said Barr "totally misled me, the Congress, and the public. He must resign."

Israel preserves Holocaust survivors' memorabilia for future

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

RAMAT GAN, Israel (AP) — Under a fluorescent light, an archivist from Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial snaps photos and scans into her mobile database the last remnant that a pair of elderly siblings have of their long-lost father — a 1943 postcard Samuel Akerman tossed in desperation out of the deportation train hurtling him toward his demise in the Majdanek death camp.

"It's what we have left from him," said Rachel Zeiger, his now 91-year-old daughter. "But this is not for the family. It is for the next generations."

With the world's community of aging Holocaust survivors rapidly shrinking, and their live testimonies soon to be a thing of the past, efforts such as these have become the forefront of preparing for a world without them.

Through its "Gathering the Fragments" program, Yad Vashem has collected some 250,000 items from survivors and their families in recent years to be stored for posterity and displayed online in hopes of preserving the memory of the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis, even after the last of the survivors has passed away.



In this Tuesday, April 23, 2019 photo, Israeli Holocaust survivors Rachel Zeiger 91, center, and her brother Moshe Akerman 84, left, speak with Orit Noiman, head of Yad Vashem's collection and registration center, at their home at the city of Ramat Gan, Israel. With the world's community of aging Holocaust survivors rapidly shrinking, and their live testimonies soon to be a thing of the past, Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial is preparing for a world without them. (AP Photo/Tsafrir Abayov)

Copious video testimonies have been filmed and even holograms have been produced to try to recreate

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the powerful impact of a survivor's recollection, which has been the staple of Holocaust commemoration for decades. This year, an Instagram account was created based on the real-life journal of a teenage Jewish victim to make her story more accessible to a younger generation.

With the passing of time, any physical links to the Holocaust and its victims have become valuable means of remembrance and evidence against the growing tide of denial and minimization of the genocide around the world.

As Israel starts marking its annual Holocaust Remembrance Day at sundown Wednesday, Yad Vashem will be laying the cornerstone of its new campus for the Shoah Heritage Collections Center — the future permanent home for its 210 million documents, 500,000 photographs, 131,000 survivor testimonies, 32,400 artifacts and 11,500 works of art related to the Holocaust. On Thursday, it will offer the public a rare behind-the-scenes look of its preservation work, with tours of its collection, archive and digitizing labs.

"The German Nazis were determined not only to annihilate the Jewish people, but also to obliterate their identity, memory, culture and heritage," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "By preserving these precious items ... and revealing them to the public they will act as the voice of the victims and the survivors and serve as an everlasting memory."

Samuel Akerman's jarring letter to his family will soon join the collected assortment.

"My heart is bitter. I unfortunately have to inform you that I, together with 950 other people, am headed toward an unknown destination," he scribbled in shaky handwriting to his two children on Feb. 27, 1943, from inside the packed transport. "I may not be able to write you again ... pray to God that we will joyfully see each other again. Don't give up hope and I am sure God will help us."

Akerman, a diamond merchant who dreamed of moving to pre-state Israel, was never heard from again.

A bystander likely found the discarded postcard on the ground and mailed it to Zeiger and her younger brother, Moshe, in occupied France, where they had fled from their home in Belgium after the Nazis invaded. After the father was deported, the rest — mother, grandmother and the two children — survived by assuming false, Christian identities.

Zeiger recalls several close encounters when their cover was nearly lost. Once, the Gestapo arrived in the early morning hours to seize a Jewish family hiding in the ground floor of their building. When the Nazis knocked on their third-floor door, a teenage Zeiger presented their fake papers in her fluent French to convince them they had nothing to look for there.

"I've never felt that way in my life," she recalled from her quaint house in Ramat Gan, just outside Tel Aviv. "I had to vomit after they left. My whole body clenched."

After the war, they returned to Antwerp to find their home ravaged. They waited there several years, in the faint hope that their father would somehow return, before giving up and moving to Israel.

The postcard remained stashed away as a vestige of their painful past for more than 75 years, until Moshe Akerman heard of the Yad Vashem campaign seeking personal effects of aging survivors.

"My kids are glad I did it so that this testimony will exist, because otherwise you don't talk about it," said Akerman, 84. "It's a small testimony to what happened, another drop in this sea of testimony. It doesn't uncover anything new. The facts are known. What happened happened, and this is another small proof of it."

Besides rounding up Jews and shipping them to death camps, the Nazis and their collaborators confiscated their possessions and stole their valuables, leaving little behind. Those who survived often had just a small item or two they managed to keep. Many have clung to the sentimental objects ever since.

But with the next generation often showing little interest in maintaining the items, and their means of properly preserving them limited, Yad Vashem launched "Gathering the Fragments" in 2011 to collect as many artifacts as possible before the survivors — and their stories — were gone forever. Rather than exhibit them in its flagship museum, Yad Vashem stores most of the items in a specialized facility and uploads replicas online for a far wider global reach.

"These items complement other material we have and help us complete the puzzle of the victims' stories," explained Orit Noiman, head of Yad Vashem's collection and registration center. "The personal item becomes part of the collective national memory. With the clock ticking and the survivors leaving us, this

is what we can make accessible to the public.”

Follow Heller at www.twitter.com/aronhellerap

On 1st day as Japan's emperor, Naruhito vows to pursue peace By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Emperor Naruhito inherited the sacred sword and jewel that signaled his succession and pledged in his first public address Wednesday to follow his father's example by devoting himself to peace and sharing the people's joys and sorrows.

Naruhito, the first modern emperor to have studied abroad and the first born after Japan's defeat in World War II, formally succeeded to the Chrysanthemum Throne at midnight after his father Akihito abdicated Tuesday.

“When I think about the important responsibility I have assumed, I am filled with a sense of solemnity,” Naruhito said in his address.

While noting his father's devotion to praying for peace, Naruhito said he'll “reflect deeply” on the path trodden by Akihito and past emperors. He promised to abide by the constitution that stripped emperors of political power, and to fulfill his responsibility as a national symbol while “always turning my thoughts to the people and standing with them.”

“I sincerely pray for the happiness of the people and the further development of the nation as well as the peace of the world,” he said.

Naruhito is considered a new breed of royal, his outlook forged by the tradition-defying choices of his parents. Emperor Emeritus Akihito devoted his three-decade career to making amends for a war fought in his father's name while bringing the aloof monarchy closer to the people. Naruhito's mother, Michiko, was born a commoner and was Catholic educated. Together, they reached out to the people, especially those who faced disability, discrimination and natural disasters.

Naruhito was presented with the Imperial sword and jewel, each in a box and wrapped in cloth, at a morning ceremony that marked his first official duty.

His wife and daughter, Empress Masako and 17-year-old Princess Aiko, were barred from the ceremony, which only adult male royals — his brother, now Crown Prince Fumihito, and his uncle Prince Hitachi — were allowed to witness. Their guests included a female Cabinet minister, however, as the Imperial House Law has no provision on the gender of commoners in attendance.

The banning of female royals at the ceremony underscored the uncertain future of a paternalistic imperial family that now has just two heirs.

Nevertheless, Japan festively celebrated an imperial succession prompted by retirement rather than death. Many people stood outside the palace Tuesday to reminisce about Akihito's era; others joined mid-



Japan's new Emperor Naruhito, accompanied by new Empress Masako, makes his first address during a ritual after succeeding his father Akihito at Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino are seen at left. (Japan Pool via AP)

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night events when the transition occurred, and more came to celebrate the beginning of Naruhito's reign.

Dozens of couples lined up at government offices to submit marriage documents to mark the first day of Naruhito's era, known as Reiwa, or "beautiful harmony."

Natsumi Nishimura, a 27-year-old saleswoman, and Keigo Mori, a 32-year-old government worker, were at a Tokyo office on Wednesday, saying they decided to tie the knot at the start of a new era to mark their new life together.

"Opportunities like this don't come by often so we thought it would be a day we won't forget," Nishimura said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe congratulated Naruhito on his ascension, pledging to create a "bright future" during the new era that is peaceful and full of hope.

Naruhito also received congratulations from abroad. President Donald Trump's message said America and Japan will renew the bonds of friendship in the new era. Xi was quoted by state media as saying China and Japan should work together to promote peace and development and bilateral ties.

From a car window on his way to and from the palace, Naruhito smiled and waved at people cheering on the sidewalk. He and his family will continue living at the crown prince's Togu Palace until they switch places with his parents after refurbishments.

Naruhito, 59, is the nation's 126th emperor, according to a palace count that historians say likely included mythical figures until around the 5th century.

The emperor under Japan's Constitution is a symbol without political power. Wartime militarist governments worshipped the emperor as a living god until Naruhito's grandfather renounced that status after Japan's 1945 war defeat.

Akihito during his three-decade reign embraced an identity as peacemaker and often made reconciliatory missions and carefully scripted expressions of regret on the war. His immersion in that role leaves Naruhito largely free of the burden of the wartime legacy, allowing him to carve his own path.

Palace watchers say he might focus on global issues, including disaster prevention, water conservation and climate change, which could appeal to younger Japanese, while also emulating his father's focus on peace.

That's what many Japanese hope Naruhito will pursue.

"I hope the new emperor will be like the Heisei Emperor (Akihito), who cherishes peace," said Takayori Kobayakawa, a 71-year-old retiree who came from Shizuoka, central Japan. "I have high hopes for him."

Naruhito also faces uncertainties in the imperial household. Crown Prince Fumihito, 53, and Fumihito's 12-year-old son, Prince Hisahito, can currently succeed him. The Imperial House Law confines the succession to male heirs, leaving Naruhito's daughter out of the running.

Naruhito's wife Empress Masako is a Harvard-educated former diplomat who may prove an adept partner in his overseas travels and activities. But much will depend on her health, since she has been recovering from what the palace describes as stress-induced depression for about 15 years. He recently said he hopes Masako might slowly expand her role.

Masako has largely limited her public appearances since late 2003, after giving birth to their only daughter, Princess Aiko, and facing pressure to produce a son. Naruhito criticized palace officials in 2004, though subtly, for denying Masako's personality and career and pushing her into a corner.

"People saw a human side of a man defending his wife and I think people admired him a great deal for that," said Jeff Kingston, Asian studies director at Temple University's Japan Campus. Naruhito has also demonstrated that he is an independent thinker and cosmopolitan. "I think that we are going to see an interesting emperor, and I have high hopes for him."

AP journalists Kaori Hitomi, Haruka Nuga and Richard Colombo contributed to this report.

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

For some, black Minneapolis officer's conviction no surprise

By AMY FORLITI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — After three weeks of testimony, a jury needed little more than a day to convict a black Minneapolis police officer of murder in the fatal shooting of an unarmed white woman who had called 911 to report a possible crime, delivering a guilty verdict that immediately sparked questions about whether race played a role.

Mohamed Noor was also convicted Tuesday of manslaughter in the July 2017 death of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, a 40-year-old dual citizen of the U.S. and Australia whose death bewildered and angered people in both countries.

Noor, 33, testified that he and his partner heard a loud bang on their squad car that startled them, and that he fired "to stop the threat" after he saw a woman appear at his partner's window raising her arm. Prosecutors questioned whether the bang happened and attacked Noor for not seeing a weapon or Damond's hands before he fired.

It's rare for police officers to be convicted after asserting they fired in a life-or-death situation, but some Minnesota community members said they saw it coming for Noor because he is Somali American.

"Officer Noor was going to jail no matter what because he's a black man who shot a white woman in the state of Minnesota," said John Thompson, an activist and friend of Philando Castile, a black man who was killed in 2016 by a Latino suburban police officer who was acquitted.

Alana Ramadan, an African American and Muslim who held a sign calling for the resignation of Hennepin County's head prosecutor, said the African American people she's spoken with knew Noor would be convicted.

"It's almost like there's no hope," she said.

Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman dismissed the idea that race played a role in the case.

"That simply is not true," he said. "Race has never been a factor in any of my decisions and never will be. ... We look at each case based on the facts and the evidence and the law that's in front of us. And I will stand by what we have done."

When asked how Noor's case was different, Freeman, who has chosen not to charge some white officers in the past, said: "The evidence showed that the officer acted unreasonably."

Noor, a two-year veteran who testified that he shifted to policing from a career in business because he "always wanted to serve," was acquitted of the most serious charge of intentional second-degree murder.

He faces up to 15 years on the third-degree murder conviction and nearly five years on the manslaughter conviction, although judges aren't bound by state sentencing guidelines and can impose much lower



Former Minneapolis police officer Mohamed Noor walks through the skyway with his attorney Thomas Plunkett, right, on the way to court for the verdict Tuesday, April 30, 2019, in Minneapolis, Minn. The Minneapolis police officer was convicted of murder in the fatal shooting of an unarmed woman who approached his squad car minutes after calling 911 to report a possible rape behind her home. (David Joles/Star Tribune via AP)

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sentences.

Noor was handcuffed and taken into custody immediately despite his attorney's request that he be free on bond pending sentencing June 7. He showed no visible emotion and did not look back at his family, but his wife was crying.

Damond's father, John Rusczyk, said the jury's decision reflected respect for the rule of law and the sanctity of life.

"Justine was killed by a police officer, an agent of the state," he said. "We believe he was properly charged with a crime."

Rusczyk also bitterly criticized police, saying the family believes "the conviction was reached despite the active resistance of a number of Minneapolis police officers, including the head of the union, and either active resistance or gross incompetence" by state investigators early on.

Noor's attorneys weren't immediately available for comment.

Minnesota's third-degree murder charge means causing the death of another through a dangerous act "without regard for human life but without intent to cause" death. Second-degree manslaughter is defined as creating unreasonable risk of causing death or great bodily harm to another through culpable negligence.

Noor and his partner were rolling down the alley behind Damond's home and checking out the 911 call just before the shooting. Both men testified about a loud noise on the squad car.

But while Noor described a decision to fire based on what he felt was a threat, Harrity testified that he hadn't finished analyzing the situation before his partner fired. When prosecutor Amy Sweasy asked Harrity whether that meant it would have been premature for him to fire, he agreed.

The death of Damond, a life coach who was engaged to be married a month after the shooting, sparked outrage in both the U.S. and Australia. It also cost Minneapolis' police chief her job and contributed to the electoral defeat of the city's mayor a few months later.

Neither officer had a body camera running when Damond was shot. Both switched on their cameras in time to capture the aftermath, which included their attempts to save Damond with CPR. But Noor's bullet hit her in a key abdominal artery, and a medical examiner testified she lost so much blood so quickly that even faster medical care might not have saved her.

Prosecutors sought to raise questions about the way police and state investigators handled the aftermath. They played excerpts from body cameras worn by responding officers that revealed many officers turning them on and off at will; one officer could be heard on his camera at one point telling Noor to "keep your mouth shut until you have to say anything to anybody." They also highlighted the lack of forensic evidence proving Damond touched the squad car.

But the case still came down to jurors' assessment of whether Noor was justified in shooting, and they had only the officers' testimony for a picture of the key moments. During his closing argument Monday, defense attorney Thomas Plunkett told jurors all that mattered was the "precise moment" in which Noor fired his gun and that they needed to consider whether Noor acted as a reasonable officer would act in the same circumstances. Sweasy argued the shooting was not justified.

The jury included 10 men and two women. Six of the jurors, including the two women, are people of color.

Noor is among the many Somali immigrants who settled in Minnesota after coming to America due to civil war in his home country. His hiring was celebrated by city leaders eager to diversify the police force in a city rich in immigrants.

After he was charged, he was fired.

Associated Press writer Jeff Baenen contributed to this report.

Follow Amy Forliti on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/amyforliti>

Check out the AP's complete coverage of Mohamed Noor's trial.

Physicians seeking Walter Jones seat advance to GOP runoff

By GARY D. ROBERTSON Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Two physicians advanced Tuesday to a Republican runoff in the special election to succeed the late U.S. Rep. Walter Jones Jr. The last candidate standing from the 17-member GOP field ultimately will take on a former North Carolina mayor who won the Democratic primary.

State Rep. Greg Murphy of Greenville and Joan Perry of Kinston were the top two vote-getters in the very crowded Republican primary for the 3rd Congressional District seat that Jones held for 24 years before his death in February at age 76 .

Murphy, a urologic surgeon who joined the legislature in 2015, finished first but failed to climb above the 30% of the vote required to avoid a July 9 runoff. The second-place Perry, a pediatrician and former member of the state university system's governing board, will formally request a runoff as the law requires she do, campaign manager Blake Belch said Tuesday night.

The runoff winner will take on ex-Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas, who won a six-candidate primary by receiving 50% of the votes cast. Richard "Otter" Bew, a retired Marine colonel who had served as a legislative aide to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, finished second.

The general election, now set for Sept. 10, also will feature Libertarian and Constitution party nominees. That election winner will succeed Jones, who was considered a conservative maverick by some and a GOP backslider by others.

A relentless advocate for campaign finance reform and controlling the national debt, Jones angered some Republicans by becoming a strong critic of the Iraq War after earlier fervently supporting the 2003 invasion. This never kept him from losing in his district, where voters also overwhelmingly backed Donald Trump for president in 2016.

Twenty-six candidates in all filed to run in the eastern North Carolina district covering all or parts of 17 counties from the Virginia line and the Outer Banks to Camp Lejeune and Greenville. Murphy and Perry were among the top campaign fundraisers in the GOP field.

The 3rd District race is one of two unusual North Carolina congressional races this year. The 9th District is having a do-over primary in May and general election as early as September, after last year's race was marred by allegations of absentee ballot tampering.

Despite Trump carrying the 3rd District by 24 percentage points in November 2016, local Democrats are hopeful their nominee can win a special election with the right matchup or narrative.

Finishing third in the GOP primary was state Rep. Phil Shepard of Jacksonville, followed by another state



FILE - In this Oct. 25, 2017, file photo, U.S. Rep. Walter Jones Jr., R-N.C. poses for a portrait in his office on Capitol Hill, in Washington. Two physicians, State Rep. Greg Murphy of Greenville and Joan Perry of Kinston, advanced Tuesday, April 30, 2019, to a Republican runoff in the special election to succeed the late Rep. Jones. The last candidate standing from the 17-member GOP field ultimately will take on a former North Carolina mayor who won the Democratic primary. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

House member, Rep. Michael Speciale of New Bern, according to unofficial results. Phil Law, who lost to Jones in the 2016 and 2018 primaries, followed in fifth.

Current New Bern Mayor Dana Outlaw finished third in the Democratic primary.

Preliminary overall turnout was less than 15% of the 3rd District's registered voters who were qualified to cast ballots in the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian primaries early or on Tuesday, according to the State Board of Elections.

2 dead, 4 injured in North Carolina campus shooting

By TOM FOREMAN Jr. and SARAH BLAKE MORGAN Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A man armed with a pistol opened fire on students at a North Carolina university during the last day of classes Tuesday, killing two people and wounding four, police said. Officers who had gathered ahead of a campus concert raced over and disarmed the suspect.

The shooting prompted a lockdown at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and caused widespread panic across campus as students scrambled to take shelter.

"Just loud bangs. A couple loud bangs and then we just saw everyone run out of the building, like nervous, like a scared run like they were looking behind," said Antonio Rodriguez, 24, who was visiting campus for his friend's art show.

Campus Police Chief Jeff Baker said authorities received a call in the late afternoon that a suspect armed with a pistol had shot several students. He said officers assembling nearby for a concert rushed to the classroom building and arrested the gunman in the room where the shooting took place.

"Our officers' actions definitely saved lives," Baker said at a news conference.

He said two people were killed, and three remained in critical condition late Tuesday. He said a fourth person's injuries were less serious. Students were among the victims, but officials would not say how many.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department identified the suspect as Trystan Andrew Terrell, 22. They said he's in custody with charges pending.

Monifa Drayton, an adjunct professor, was walking onto campus when she heard the shots. She said she directed students fleeing the scene to take cover inside a parking deck.

"I heard one final gunshot and I saw all the children running toward me," she said. "We started to get all the children pulled into the second floor of the parking deck and the rationale was if we're in the parking deck and there's a shooter and we don't know where he is, he won't have a clear shot."

She added: "My thought was, I've lived my life, I've had a really good life, so, these students deserve the same. And so, whatever I could do to help any child to safety, that's what I was going to do."



A University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus police officer carries a tactical shield after a shooting Tuesday afternoon, April 30, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C. The shooting on the campus left at least a few people dead and several wounded Tuesday, prompting a lockdown and chaotic scene in the state's largest city. (John Simmons/The Charlotte Observer

via AP)

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The suspect's grandfather Paul Rold of Arlington, Texas, said that Terrell and his father moved to Charlotte from the Dallas area about two years ago after his mother died. Terrell taught himself French and Portuguese with the help of a language learning program his grandfather bought him and was attending UNC-Charlotte, Rold said. But Terrell never showed any interest in guns or other weapons and the news he may have been involved in a mass shooting was stunning, said Rold, who had not heard about the Charlotte attack before being contacted by an Associated Press reporter.

"You're describing someone foreign to me," Rold said in a telephone interview Tuesday night. "This is not in his DNA."

Shortly after UNC Charlotte issued a campus lockdown, aerial shots from local television news outlets showed police officers running toward a building, while another view showed students running on a campus sidewalk.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department later said that the campus had been secured and that officers were going through buildings to let people who were hiding know that it was safe to come out.

The university has more than 26,500 students and 3,000 faculty and staff. The campus is northeast of the city center and is surrounded by residential areas.

Spenser Gray, a junior, said she was watching another student's presentation in a nearby campus building when the alert about the shooting popped up on everyone's computer screens.

She said she panicked: "We had no idea where he was ... so we were just expecting them at any moment coming into the classroom."

Susan Harden, an UNCC professor and Mecklenburg County Commissioner, was at home when she heard of the shooting. She went to a staging area, she said, to provide support.

Harden said she has taught inside the Kennedy building, where the shootings occurred.

"It breaks my heart. We're torn up about what's happened," Harden said. "Students should be able to learn in peace and in safety and professors ought to be able to do their jobs in safety."

Gov. Roy Cooper said at a briefing late Tuesday that a "hard look" was needed into how the shooting happened and how to keep guns off campus and out of schools.

"A student should not have to fear for his or her life when they are on our campuses," the Democrat said. "Parents should not have to worry about their students when they send them off to school. And I know that this violence has to stop. ... In the coming days we will take a hard look at all of this to see what we need to do going forward."

Associated Press writers Martha Waggoner and Emery Dalesio in Raleigh contributed to this report.

This story has been amended to correct the spelling of Monifa Drayton's first name.

Fed seen as sure to leave rates alone despite Trump pressure

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is all but sure to keep interest rates on hold Wednesday — and for the foreseeable future — even as President Donald Trump keeps up his attacks on the Fed for not cutting rates.

The Fed will likely reiterate a message that has reassured consumers and investors since the start of the year: No rate hikes are likely anytime soon. The Fed's low-rate policy is keeping borrowing costs down, helping boost stock prices and supporting an economy that's growing steadily. And with inflation remaining tame, the Fed is seen as able to stay on the sidelines at least through this year.

Yet Trump insists the economy can do better, and to that end he is demanding what almost no mainstream economist would favor: Cutting rates further.

On Tuesday, Trump tweeted that the U.S. economy has "the potential to go up like a rocket" if the Fed would only slash rates and resume the emergency bond buying programs it unveiled after the Great Recession to ease long-term loan rates to stimulate spending and growth.

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"Yes, we are doing very well at 3.2% GDP (growth in the first quarter), but with our wonderfully low inflation, we could be setting major records," Trump tweeted on the first day of the Fed's two-day policy meeting.

The central bank will disclose its policy decisions in a statement and in a news conference by Chairman Jerome Powell. Economists overwhelmingly expect no major change in its rate policy. The Fed raised rates four times last year but has indicated that it foresees no hikes at all this year.

"The Fed is in a sweet spot right now, with moderate growth and low inflation," said Brian Bethune, an economics professor at Tufts University in Boston. "If growth were any stronger or inflation higher, the Fed would have no choice but to raise interest rates.

The brighter outlook marks a sharp rebound from the final months of 2018, when fears about a possible global recession and of further Fed rate increases had darkened the economic picture. Stock prices tumbled in the final quarter of the year, especially after the Fed in December not only raised rates for the fourth time in 2018 but signaled that it was likely to keep tightening credit this year.

Yet beginning in January, the Fed engineered an abrupt reversal, suggesting that it was finished raising rates for now and might even act this year to support rather than restrain the economy. In characterizing its stance, the Fed's new watchword became "patient." And investors have responded by delivering a major stock market rally.

The market gains have also been fed by improved growth prospects in China and some other major economies and by the view that a trade war between the world's two biggest economies, the United States and China, is moving closer to a resolution.

On Friday, the government reported that the U.S. economy grew at a surprisingly strong 3.2% annual rate in the January-March quarter. It was the best performance for a first quarter in four years, and it far surpassed initial forecasts that annual growth could be as weak as 1% at the start of the year.

If economic prospects were to brighten further, could Fed officials rethink their plans to suspend further rate hikes and perhaps resume tightening credit?

Possibly. But investors don't seem to think so. According to data tracked by the CME Group, investors foresee zero probability that the Fed will raise rates anytime this year. And in fact, their bets indicate a roughly 66% likelihood that the Fed will cut rates before year's end.

One factor in that dovish view is that the economy might not be quite as robust as the latest economic figures suggest. The first quarter's healthy 3.2% annual growth rate was pumped up by some temporary factors — from a surge in restocking of companies' inventories to a narrowing of the U.S. trade deficit — that are expected to reverse themselves. If so, this would diminish the pace of growth and likely hold down inflation.

Indeed, for all of 2019, growth is expected to total around 2.2%, down from last year's 2.7% gain, as the effects of the 2017 tax cuts and billions of dollars in increased government spending fade.



FILE- In this Feb. 27, 2019, file photo Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell gestures while speaking before the House Committee on Financial Services hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. On Wednesday, May 1, the Federal Reserve releases its latest monetary policy statement after a two-day meeting. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

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At the same time, the Fed is still struggling to achieve one of its mandates: To produce inflation of roughly 2%. On Monday, the government reported that the Fed's preferred inflation gauge rose just 1.5% in March from 12 months earlier. Many analysts say they think the Fed won't resume raising rates until inflation hits or exceeds its 2% target.

Too-low inflation is seen as an obstacle because it tends to depress consumer spending, the economy's main fuel, as people delay purchases in anticipation of flat or even lower prices. It also raises the inflation-adjusted cost of a loan.

Asia markets mostly closed, Sydney up after new S&P 500 high

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Financial markets were mostly closed in Asia on Wednesday for holidays after Wall Street capped a wobbly trading session with meager gains.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 rose 0.8% on Wednesday after ANZ reported a 2% increase in its profit, kicking off the earnings season for the country's Big Four banks. New Zealand's benchmark fell 0.6%.

There was no word of specific progress in trade talks between the U.S. and China that were underway in Beijing. With most global markets closed, investors are focusing on a meeting of the U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday.

On Wall Street, a late spurt of buying helped the S&P 500 claim an all-time high for the third straight trading session after hovering below its previous high for most of the day.

Household goods makers, health care stocks, utilities and other sectors helped lift the market, narrowly offsetting a steep decline in communications companies.

Google's parent company, Alphabet, led the slide after the search giant reported a slowdown in revenue growth. Retailers and hospitality industry companies also fell.

The market's latest gyrations came as investors weighed the latest batch of corporate earnings reports. "This is a market that's trying to find its way after advancing nearly 18% through last night on a year-to-date basis," said Lindsey Bell, investment strategist at CFRA. "While the numbers have been good, there still remains a cautious tone in the market."

The S&P 500 rose 0.1%, to 2,945.83, while Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.1% to 26,592.91.

The Nasdaq, which is heavily weighted with technology companies, fell 0.8% to 8,095.39. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks dropped 0.4% to 1,591.21.

Major indexes in Europe finished mostly higher.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10 year Treasury fell to 2.50% from 2.53% late Monday.

The U.S. stock market has been riding high this year after mounting a big comeback from a steep slump at the end of 2018. Investors have been feeling more optimistic this year as fears of a global economic recession eased and negotiations between the U.S. and China over their costly trade war appear to be making progress.

The Federal Reserve has done the most to allay the market's jitters this year by signaling that it may not raise interest rates at all in 2019 after seven increases the previous two years.

Traders will get to hear from the Fed again on Wednesday, when the central bank's policymakers issue another update on interest rate policy and their view on the U.S. economy.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gave up 58 cents to \$63.33 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It rose 0.6% to settle at \$63.91 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 47 cents to \$71.59 per barrel. It added 1.1% to close at \$72.80 per barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.49 Japanese yen from 111.42 yen late Tuesday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1219 from \$1.1215.

AP Business writers Alex Veiga and Damian J. Troise contributed to this report.

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Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, May 1, the 121st day of 2019. There are 244 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 1, 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was created as a treaty merging England and Scotland took effect.

On this date:

In 1786, Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro" premiered in Vienna.

In 1931, New York's 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated. Singer Kate Smith made her debut on CBS Radio on her 24th birthday.

In 1941, the Orson Welles motion picture "Citizen Kane" premiered in New York.

In 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler took his own life, Admiral Karl Doenitz effectively became sole leader of the Third Reich with the suicide of Hitler's propaganda minister, Josef Goebbels.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane over Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1964, the computer programming language BASIC (Beginner's All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) was created by Dartmouth College professors John G. Kemeny and Thomas E. Kurtz.

In 1967, Elvis Presley married Priscilla Beaulieu at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas. (They divorced in 1973.) Anastasio Somoza Debayle became president of Nicaragua.

In 1971, the intercity passenger rail service Amtrak went into operation.

In 1975, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Brewers broke baseball's all-time RBI record previously held by Babe Ruth during a game against the Detroit Tigers (Milwaukee won, 17-3).

In 1982, the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, was opened by President Ronald Reagan.

In 1992, on the third day of the Los Angeles riots, a visibly shaken Rodney King appeared in public to appeal for calm, pleading, "Can we all get along?"

In 2011, President Barack Obama announced the death of Osama bin Laden during a U.S. commando operation (because of the time difference, it was early May 2 in Pakistan, where the al-Qaida leader met his end).

Ten years ago: Supreme Court Justice David Souter announced his retirement effective at the end of the court's term in late June. (President Barack Obama chose federal judge Sonia Sotomayor to succeed him.) Singer-actor-impressionist Danny Gans, one of Las Vegas' most popular entertainers, died at age 52.

Five years ago: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel called a 50-percent jump in reports by members of the military of sexual assaults the previous year a "clear threat" to both male and female service members' lives and well-being, and said he'd ordered Pentagon officials to increase efforts to get male victims to report abuse.

One year ago: Entering the State Department headquarters for the first time as America's top diplomat, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo vowed to reinvigorate American diplomacy and help the United States get "back our swagger." Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein lashed out at Republican allies of President Donald Trump who had drafted articles of impeachment against Rosenstein, saying the Justice Department would not give in to threats.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Judy Collins is 80. Actor Stephen Macht is 77. Singer Rita Coolidge is 74. Pop singer Nick Fortuna (The Buckingham) is 73. Actor-director Douglas Barr is 70. Actor Dann Florek is 68. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 65. Actor Byron Stewart is 63. Hall of Fame jockey Steve Cauthen is 59. Actress Maia Morgenstern is 57. Actor Scott Coffey is 55. Country singer Wayne Hancock is 54. Actor Charlie Schlatter is 53. Country singer Tim McGraw is 52. Rock musician Johnny Colt is 51. Rock musician D'Arcy is 51. Movie director Wes Anderson is 50. Actress Julie Benz is 47. Actor Bailey Chase is 47. Country singer Cory Morrow is 47. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Tina Campbell (Mary Mary) is 45. Actor Darius McCrary is 43. Actor Jamie Dornan is 37. Actress Kerry Bishe is 35. Actress Lizzy Greene is 16.

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Thought for Today: "Any man who has the brains to think and the nerve to act for the benefit of the people of the country is considered a radical by those who are content with stagnation and willing to endure disaster." — William Randolph Hearst, American newspaper publisher (1863-1951).