

Groton Daily Independent

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ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR WANTED

We are looking for someone with a creative mind and a passion for the elderly. If that is you, here is a great opportunity for YOU!

➤ Interview and assess all residents prior to the initial Care Plan Conference; document this information in the medical record, develop an individual recreation plan based on the assessment and participate in Interdisciplinary Care Plan meetings

➤ Update assessments and plans as needed and required by state or federal regulations

➤ Develop monthly recreation program calendars that reflect and meet the needs of facility residents

➤ Communicate facility programs to residents, staff, family and volunteers

➤ Manage facility Volunteer Program

➤ Maintain departmental documentation that reflects services provided and resident progress towards goals

➤ In coordination with social services facilitate the residents in the organization and continued development of a Resident's Council

➤ Make job assignments and set priorities

➤ Serve as member of QAA committee

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sunday, May 5, 2019

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

Monday, May 6, 2019

Cancelled: Groton Girls Varsity Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course. (Aberdeen Roncalli, Milbank, Mobridge-Pollock Schools, Redfield-Doland, Sisseton)

Redfield-Doland to host Girls Varsity Golf Meet in place of the one in Groton.

4:00pm: Junior High Track Meet at Aberdeen Roncalli

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

2:00pm: Varsity Track Meet @ Britton-Hecla High School

7:00pm: City Council Meeting at the Groton Community Center

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April 2019 Summary: Cool and Wet

April 2019 featured generally slightly below average temperatures on a whole. Two main waves of above average temperatures were observed, one in early April and another in mid to late April. The 20th had high temperatures in the mid 80s to low 90s. Otherwise, conditions were on the chilly side with numerous daytime highs of 10-15 or more degrees below average. Sisseton set a daily record for a low temperature of 14 degrees on the 14th.

Generally above average precipitation was recorded this month, and much above average snowfall. Watertown had its 10th wettest April on record. Sisseton, Wheaton and Watertown had their 2nd snowiest April on record, 5th in Pierre, 6th in Kennebec, 9th in Mobridge and 10th in Aberdeen. This was due exclusively to a winter storm of historic proportions, which affected the area from the 10th through the 12th.

A low pressure system that developed in eastern Colorado during the afternoon of April 9th, 2019, produced heavy snowfall across the region on April 10-11th as it moved through the Central and Northern Plains.

The initial wave of snow moved into portions of central and eastern South Dakota during the early morning hours of April 10th. This snow fell at rates exceeding 1 inch an hour and produced anywhere from 3 to 12 inches of snow by the evening of April 10th. The heaviest snow occurred between US Highway 12 and 14, stretching from Eagle Butte, eastward through northern Faulk County and to the Watertown area.

The second wave of snow occurred as during the evening of April 10th through the early morning hours of April 12th, as the low moved from central Kansas to southwestern Minnesota. Once again, snowfall rates exceeded 1 inch an hour in many locations on April 11th. The heavy snow, combined with winds gusting between 40 and 50 mph, produced blizzard conditions across much of central and eastern South Dakota into the evening hours of April 11th. The poor weather conditions led to "No Travel Advised" across much of the eastern 2/3rds of South Dakota and closed Interstate 90 from Rapid City to Sioux Falls and Interstate 29 from Sioux Falls to Fargo, ND.

Storm total snowfall amounts exceeded a foot for numerous locations and some locations even eclipsed the two foot mark.

Finally, thundersnow was reported across portions of central and eastern South Dakota, and west central Minnesota especially in the Watertown area. Thunderstorms also produced pea-sized hail across portions of east central South Dakota on the 11th. As a result of more moisture on top of already saturated soils and swollen streams and lakes, flooding continued to plague the area. As of April 30th, a couple river gauges on the James River remain at Major Flood Stage.

Highest Snowfall Totals April 10-12, 2019

Wallace	30.8"	Wilmot	19.5"
Clark	28.9"	Reliance 4ENE	19.0"
Highmore 19NNW	27.5"	Sisseton AP	18.6"
Clear Lake 1SSW	27.0"	Sisseton 3W	18.5"
Clear Lake	26.3"	Hayes 6E	18.5"
Hoven	25.5"	Browns Valley 6N	18.1"
Henry	25.0"	Sisseton 10ENE	18.1"
Watertown AP	25.0"	Mobridge	18.0"
Ipswich	25.0"	Ortonville 1N	18.0"
Roscoe	24.8"	Milbank	18.0"
Mansfield 5W	24.5"	Waubay 2NW	18.0"
Redfield	24.0"	Kennebec	17.7"
Castlewood	23.3"	Gary 6SW	17.7"
Hayti 1W	22.3"	Artichoke 2ESE	17.6"
LaBolt	22.2"	Webster	17.5"
Cresbard 2NE	22.0"	Faulkton 1NW	16.5"
Lake Norden	22.0"	Lake City 2SW	16.5"
Orient	21.0"	Pierre AP	16.1"
Watertown	20.0"	Aberdeen AP	13.6"
Garden City 4S	20.0"	Fort Pierre	12.3"
Corona 7ENE	20.0"	Mobridge AP	10.6"



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 4/15/2019 10:57 PM Central



Working to Improve South Dakota's Small Businesses

South Dakota's small businesses play a critical role in strengthening our communities. They provide good-paying jobs, pay local property taxes and reinvest into the future of our state. When our small businesses succeed, our economy soars. The Senate recently passed a resolution designating the week of May 5-11, 2019, as "National Small Business Week." This is a time to celebrate the entrepreneurs who start their own businesses and acknowledge the impact small business owners have on communities across the country.

South Dakota provides a welcome environment for small businesses to thrive. We have low taxes and limited red tape to cut through. According to the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), South Dakota is the second most business-friendly state in the country. With no corporate or individual state income tax, business owners can keep more of the money they earn. We also have a number of different resources for business owners to grow professionally, including GOED, the Small Business Administration and local business groups in communities across the state that provide a network for entrepreneurs to connect with their peers and learn the best ways to grow their businesses.

In the Senate, we've been successful in advancing policies and initiatives that support a sustained and healthy economy. This includes the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which resulted in tax cuts for nearly all Americans this year. It helped businesses by cutting the corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent, taking the U.S. from one of the highest to one of the lowest corporate tax rates in the world. Tax reform helped small businesses by creating the first-ever 20 percent deduction for pass-through business income. It also repealed Obamacare's individual mandate which unfairly taxed families making less than \$50,000 per year, doubled the standard deduction and doubled the child tax credit to \$2,000. South Dakota families benefited from tax reform, and we're going to continue to promote policies that will make sure they can keep more of their hard-earned money.

We also had success in getting a major financial reform package signed into law last year. As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, rolling back Dodd-Frank regulations and making sure local financial institutions are able to provide their customers with access to credit is a priority. The bipartisan Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act, which included a number of my provisions, rolled back costly, onerous regulations on small businesses, farms and ranches so they can focus on working for their customers instead of spending their valuable time, energy and resources cutting through red tape. I included a provision in the package that would make it easier for small-to-medium sized financial institutions to raise capital and grow, so they are better able to provide necessary capital to business owners in their communities.

In South Dakota, 99 percent of all businesses are small businesses. We're fortunate to be home to 85,000 small businesses that employ more than 200,000 South Dakotans. They play an important role in our state's economic success. One of the major challenges facing small businesses is excessive overreach by the federal government. Unnecessary rules and regulations stifle businesses from reaching their full potential and mire them in paperwork and extra costs.

The past two years have allowed us to make significant progress in rolling back federal overreach and allowing our economy to thrive and grow. I'll continue working to bring South Dakota common sense to Washington to make sure the federal government isn't interfering in the ability for entrepreneurs to be successful.

I encourage South Dakotans to visit a small business in their community during this year's National Small Business Week as a way to say thanks for making our state a great place to call home.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR **KRISTI NOEM**



Travel Matters

In some states, visitors are rushed, tourists are looked down upon, and out-of-staters are simply ignored. In South Dakota, we do things differently. We pride ourselves on making new friends, and it shows. I often hear how amazed travelers are at the kindness they feel while visiting our state, a place where a handshake and a smile are second nature.

Each May, we designate a week to celebrate the important role tourism plays in South Dakota. The theme of this year's Travel and Tourism Week is "Travel Matters." Its name speaks for itself, and its message is one I've believed for a long time. As many of you know, for years, my family and I ran a hunting lodge and a restaurant. I have so many good memories of leading hunts, eating breakfast with guests, and showing folks the joy of the outdoors.

Today as governor, I don't have the chance to lead hunts as often as I once did (or as often as I would like!), but I do get to celebrate tourism with people across the globe. It's amazing to see the excitement of folks as they realize the opportunities and adventures that await them in South Dakota.

Tourism is a foundational part of our state's culture, and it's also the second largest driver for our economy. In 2018, our tourism industry supported 54,723 jobs. If you do the math, that means about one in every 10 South Dakotans is employed by the tourism industry. These are real jobs that make it possible for people to feed their families, buy their kids basketball shoes, or tuck away money for a new home. In recent years, these jobs have seen even heavier traffic – a good sign for business. In 2018, 14.1 million tourists came to check out our state and contributed \$2.66 billion to our economy, an increase of 2.5 percent from the previous year.

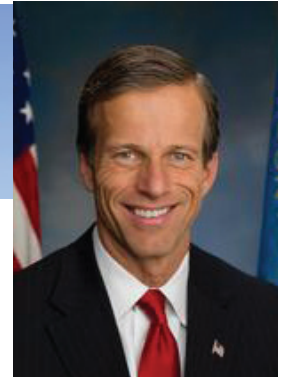
While the first iconic places and events people might think of are Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse, or the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, it's not just the Black Hills that attract visitors and benefit our economy. Across the state—from Lemmon to Aberdeen and Mitchell to Sioux Falls—visitors continue to make memories at area fairs, local attractions, and delicious restaurants. They all make for an amazing South Dakota visit. That's why we've enjoyed an increase in tourism interest and revenue for many years.

I hope you understand that these aren't just numbers. As one of only a few states with no state income tax, tourism is a large contributor to keeping taxes low and maintaining self-sufficiency. Last year, tourism activity generated \$298 million in state and local taxes, accounting for 11 percent of our sales tax collections. Maybe most impressively, each household in South Dakota would pay \$865 more in taxes were it not for the contributions of tourism.

These figures point to one thing: travel matters in South Dakota.

With the summer months almost here, I hope you'll take some time to recognize the importance of tourism. Plan an in-state vacation, go visit one of your favorite South Dakota spots, or just hop in the car and go exploring. There's always something new to discover in South Dakota, and you can always count on a handshake and a smile to be waiting when you arrive.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Congress Must Act to Strengthen Consumer Data Privacy

There's little doubt that technological advancements have, in many ways, made life easier and more efficient for the American people. We have better and safer modes of transportation, faster ways to communicate and purchase items for ourselves and our families, and more effective tools to monitor and deliver health care. While there are plenty of advantages to these advancements, Americans are finding out that it's not always risk-free. Access to the latest cutting-edge technology sometimes means trading or sharing personal data, and there are growing concerns over how that data is being used, stored, and even sold.

Let me say at the outset, Americans deserve to have confidence that their information is being used appropriately and with their knowledge or consent, but it's undeniable that we're living in an era where people are sharing more information than ever before. I believe it's now up to Congress to find the right balance of protecting consumer privacy in today's ever-changing world, which must be a top priority, without passing onerous requirements that hinder innovation.

Think about it for a moment. You wake up in the morning and reach for your phone. You respond to a few text messages and open Facebook to catch up on your newsfeed and post a picture from your kid's baseball game. Your feet hit the floor, and you tell your Amazon Echo or Google Home device to turn on the lights, adjust the thermostat, and play music. You leave the house, tweet about your upcoming weekend trip, and stop for a quick cup of coffee. You tap and pay with your Apple Watch before connecting to the coffee shop's free WiFi to email your doctor's office about an upcoming appointment.

While there's nothing abnormal about what I just described, simply going through your daily routine can expose multiple layers of your personal data and privacy to legitimate companies, unknown third parties, or even hackers – all without you thinking twice about it. That is why there are serious and urgent concerns about data privacy, and consumers are right to demand action.

As I've said before, the question is no longer whether we need a federal law to protect consumers' privacy. The question now is what shape that law should take, which is why I favor passing bipartisan legislation that sets a single national data privacy standard so companies and consumers don't have to navigate 50 different sets of rules, a scenario that would be costly and overly burdensome.

I'm no stranger to the topic of data privacy. In 2017 and 2018, as then-chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, I convened hearings after the massive Equifax data breach and after the political intelligence firm Cambridge Analytica accessed the personal data of millions of unsuspecting Facebook users. The committee discussed the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, which has already taken effect, and California's new privacy-related law that is set to take effect less than one year from now. And, in respective hearings with industry leaders and consumer advocacy groups, we directly evaluated what privacy legislation might actually look like.

Having been a leader in this effort for some time now, I have a good sense of where the momentum is heading, which is why I welcomed an invitation from the current chairman of the Commerce Committee to join a bipartisan working group that is tasked with putting pen to paper on privacy legislation. I'm optimistic that we're moving in the right direction, and, if it continues, I'm confident Congress could be in a position to consider a bill as soon as this year.

This isn't the first time Congress has tackled new and emerging privacy concerns. Congress passed the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, the Health Insurance Portability Act, and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which modernized how financial institutions use consumer data. As technology and info-sharing continue to evolve, so too must our privacy laws. That's why I'm hopeful we can enact legislation to further strengthen today's privacy protections so consumers can have greater peace of mind over something as inherently personal as control over their own data.

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CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



Honoring Ben Reifel

When Professor Sean Flynn, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, released his book *Without Reservation: Benjamin Reifel & American Indian Acculturation*, I was quick to snag a copy. I was fascinated by the story of the first Congressman of Lakota Sioux descent, Ben Reifel.

Throughout Ben Reifel's career at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and for a decade in Congress, he worked tirelessly to further economic opportunity for American Indians. He celebrated education, hard work and self-determination.

Reifel was a strong proponent of the Indian Civil Rights Act and fought to ensure tribes received proper compensation for native land transfers. He was a leader in Congress on Indian Affairs and I am proud a South Dakotan carried that mantle for so many years.

My weeks in D.C. primarily consist of discussions, hearings, and meetings about national issues. I represent South Dakota but vote on issues that impact all Americans every single day. My few short months in office have been rewarding but every day I go to work with the goal in mind that I am here to represent and honor my home state.

One unique way members can honor folks back home is by naming federal buildings after influential figures from their own state. Congress has been naming post offices after extraordinary individuals since 1967 – it's something both parties can agree on without much debate or red tape.

When it came time for me to name a post office in South Dakota, I could think of no one better than Mr. Reifel. That is why I filed a bill asking for Ben Reifel's name to be added to the Rosebud Post Office.

He believed in the American Dream and held close his native heritage. His story and impact on South Dakota and tribes across the nation is one that should not go untold. It is my hope young American Indian boys and girls will see that name and realize great American leaders can come from anywhere, including the sacred ground they call home.

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**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX
25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

**TUESDAY
MAY 7, 2019**

8:45 a.m. - 8:55 a.m. – Larry Stiklestad, Discuss Liens
8:55 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. – Discuss Landfill Lease Name Change
9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m. – Rich Blaedorn – Discuss Property Taxes
9:05 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. – Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent – Right of Way for Northern Electric & Department Update

- Approve General Meeting Minutes from April 30, 2019
- Claims
- HR Report
- Authorize advertising Noxious Weeds & Declared Pest Notice
- Alternatives to detention support subgrant application
- Quit Claim Deed
- Abatement
- Malt Beverage License Renewals
- Claim Assignments

Any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion

Municipal Electric Utilities look forward to Summer Study

BROOKINGS, S.D. - A group of legislators was recently named to a committee to study and evaluate the legal right of a municipality to serve electricity in areas annexed into the municipality.

The interim committee comes as the result of a bill introduced by the state's rural electric cooperatives during the 2019 legislative session that would have repealed this legal right. Cities with municipal electric systems have traditionally had the ability to annex service territory as their city boundaries expand.

According to Russell Halgerson, electric department manager at Brookings Municipal Utilities and president of the South Dakota Municipal Electric Association, annexations have been voluntary and at the request of the landowner or developer in order to be fully integrated with the city and take advantage of all city services.

"Municipal utilities are actively planning and investing resources in economic development, which leads to growth just outside city limits," Halgerson added. "When a city grows outside their original boundaries, the local municipal utility should be able to provide all city services to the growing area, including electricity."

Part of the committee's focus will be to study the impact on economic development in the state. South Dakota's 35 municipal electric systems hope the committee looks at past annexations to understand why most developers and businesses prefer to receive services from the local municipal utility.

If a territory freeze were implemented, any new business locating within the city's growing boundaries would be forced to take power from the cooperative. However, the city would be responsible for extending roads, providing sewer, water, wastewater and other essential services to that business.

"Without electric revenue to supplement these services, all other rates for municipal services would increase, including property taxes," said Halgerson.

When a municipal electric utility serves in an area that was formerly served by a cooperative, they are required to reimburse the cooperative for any infrastructure costs, plus a percentage of revenue over a period of several years. Municipals provide reimbursement even if the territory was previously bare ground.

"Municipal systems have had the ability to annex for over 100 years, yet have done so on a limited basis. Statewide, municipal electrics still serve a third of the electric load that cooperatives serve," said Halgerson.

The municipal electric utilities look forward to participating in the study taking place this summer.

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Today in Weather History

May 5, 1964: A two-state, F3 tornado moved northeast from 4 miles WNW of Herreid to the south of Streeter, North Dakota, a distance of about 55 miles. Blacktop was ripped for 400 yards on Highway 10, five miles north of Herreid, South Dakota. Two barns were destroyed northeast of Hague, North Dakota, with a dozen cattle killed on one farm. The F3 damage occurred at one farm about midway between Wishek and Hogue. Other barns were destroyed south of Burnstad.

May 5, 1986: A tight pressure gradient produced winds over 60 mph in west central Minnesota. City officials in Browns Valley estimated a quarter of the city suffered damage. The roof of a grandstand was blown off and landed a quarter of a block away. Seventy-five homes and six businesses sustained roof damage. In nearby Dumont, Minnesota, the wind ripped a large grain bin off its foundation and tore open the top of another.

May 5, 2007: A north to south frontal boundary, powerful low-level winds, and abundant gulf moisture resulted in training thunderstorms across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. The training thunderstorms produced torrential rains from 3 to over 10 inches resulting in widespread flash flooding across Brown, Buffalo, Hand, Spink, Clark, Day, Marshall, and Roberts Counties. The counties of Brown, Buffalo, Clark, Day, Marshall, and Spink were declared disaster areas by President Bush. The Governor also declared a state of emergency for the flooded counties with Senator John Thune and Representative Stephanie Herseth surveying the flood damage. Eight damage assessment teams from local, state, and FEMA came to Brown and other counties.

Dozens of cities were affected by the flooding with several hundred homes, businesses, and countless roads affected and damaged or destroyed by the flooding. Aberdeen received the most extensive damage, especially the north side of Aberdeen. Seventy-five percent of the homes in Aberdeen received some water in their basements. Basement water levels ranged from a few inches to very deep water all the way up to the first floor of homes. Many homes had the basement walls collapse. The overwhelming load on the drainage systems caused sewage to back up into many homes across the region. Also, many vehicles stalled on the roads with many others damaged by the flooding. Power outages also occurred across the area. Many families were displaced from their homes with many living in emergency shelters. Countless homes were condemned across the region with many considered unlivable. Thousands of acres of crops were also flooded and damaged with many seeds, and large quantities of fertilizer washed away.

Rainfall amounts from this historic event included 3.65 inches in Miller, 3.82 inches in Britton, 4 inches in Eden, 4.47 inches in Andover, 4.90 inches in Webster, 5.68 inches west of Britton, 5.7 inches in Garden City, and 5.82 inches in Conde. Locations with 6 or more inches of rain included, 6 inches in Langford, 6.33 inches in Gann Valley, 6.72 inches in Clark, 7.41 inches in Ashton, 7.49 inches in Stratford, 7.55 inches near Mellette, 7.97 inches in Aberdeen, 8.02 inches in Redfield, 8.73 inches in Columbia, and 8.74 inches in Groton. The 8.74 inches of rainfall in Groton set a new 24-hour state rainfall record. Adding in the rainfall for the previous day, Aberdeen received a total of 9.00 inches; Columbia received a total of 10.19 inches; Groton received an astonishing two-day total rainfall of 10.74 inches.






1933: An estimated F4 tornado cut a 35-mile path from near Brent into Shelby County, Alabama. The town of Helena, AL was especially hard hit, as 14 people died. The tornado roared through Helena at 2:30 am.

1987: Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the western U.S. A dozen cities in California reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 93 degrees at San Francisco, 98 degrees at San Jose, 100 degrees at Sacramento, and 101 degrees at Redding were the warmest on record for so early in the season. The high of 94 degrees at Medford, Oregon was also the warmest on record for so early in the season.

1995: A supercell thunderstorms brought torrential rains and large hail up to four inches in diameter to Fort Worth, Texas. This storm also struck a local outdoor festival known as the Fort Worth Mayfest. At the time the storm was the costliest hailstorm in the history of the US, causing more than \$2 billion in damage.

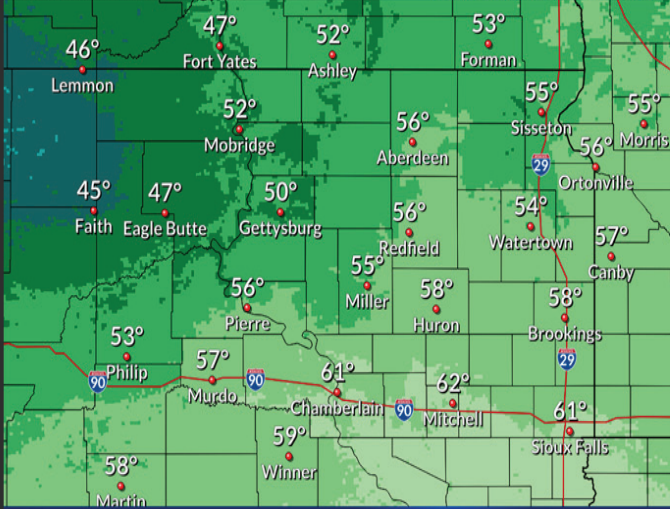
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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
20%		40%	30%	20%
Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Showers	Chance Showers then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers
High: 56 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 57 °F


Cooler Temperatures Today

Scattered Showers through the day




Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued May 05, 2019 4:29 AM CDT

weather.gov/abr






National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
5/5/2019 5:00 AM



Mostly Cloudy Skies with Scattered Showers Today

High Temperatures ~15°F Below Average

3 Day Forecast

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		
48-55°	50-58°	45-52°

Published on: 05/05/2019 at 6:08AM

Mostly cloudy skies and cooler temperatures will round out the latter half of the weekend today. Scattered showers can also be expected to move through from time to time. This wet and cool pattern will persist through midweek with on and off rain chances and temps will be below normal for early May.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 70 °F at 2:13 PM

Low Outside Temp: 38 °F at 6:07 AM

High Gust: 21 mph at 6:54 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 2000

Record Low: 24° in 1968

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in May.: 0.41

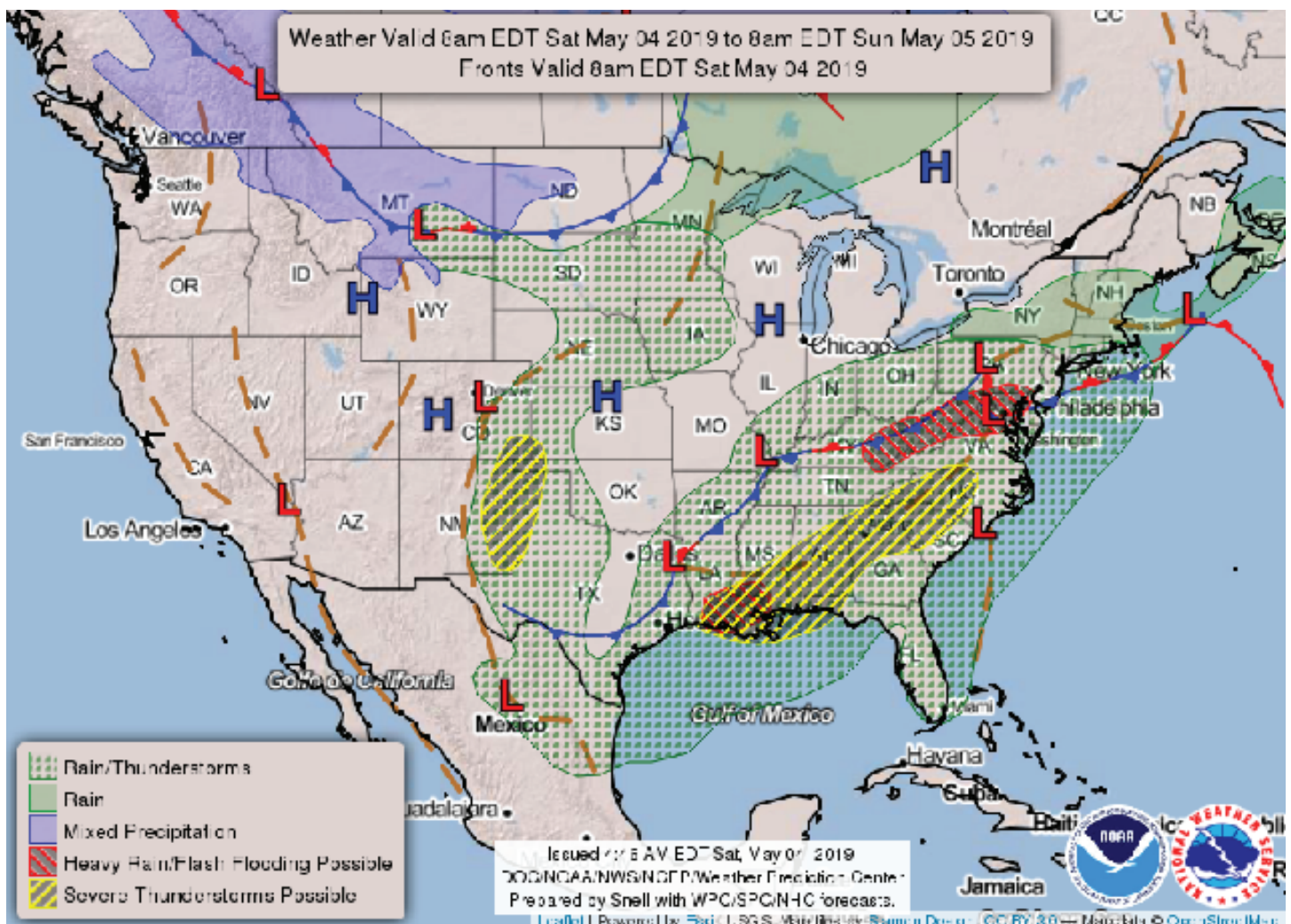
Precip to date in May.: 0.28

Average Precip to date: 4.44

Precip Year to Date: 4.97

Sunset Tonight: 8:45 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:15 a.m.



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WICKEDNESS VS RIGHTEOUSNESS

Solomon makes no apology for the wicked and their lifestyle. In fact, his choice of words leaves no doubt about what they do and how to recognize them.

For example: A man cannot be established through wickedness; the advice of the wicked is deceitfulness; the words of the wicked lie in wait for blood; wicked men are overthrown and are no more; men with warped minds are despised. And, in the end: The Lord condemns a crafty man!

However, the righteous: cannot be uprooted; the plans of the righteous are just; the speech of the righteous rescues them; the house of the righteous stands forever; the house of the righteous stands firm. And ultimately: A good man finds favor with the Lord.

It is most interesting to note that the wicked have a completely different approach to life than the righteous. They have a single focus. Whatever they do begins with the question: How will what I am doing benefit me? This opens the door to being deceitful and dishonest, being cunning and waiting for the right moment to take advantage of the weak, uninformed, less educated, those looking for someone they can trust to help them, the vulnerable.

When we look at the righteous, we see the exact opposite: what they do is steadfast, open, will stand the test of time and Gods scrutiny, and they want to be just and fair as God is just and fair. Whatever they do, ultimately, will be right and just in the eyes of God and man.

The final reward? Gods blessings or condemnation. What are you living for?

Prayer: Lord, how we live and how we get what we have reflects our attitude toward and our relationship with You. May what we do always honor You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 12:7 The wicked die and disappear, but the family of the godly stands firm.

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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 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)

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News from the  Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

15-16-21-25-26

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

Estimated jackpot: \$340,000

Lotto America

05-06-17-19-48, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 2

(five, six, seventeen, nineteen, forty-eight; Star Ball: ten; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$19.26 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$273 million

Powerball

06-16-23-30-61, Powerball: 2, Power Play: 2

(six, sixteen, twenty-three, thirty, sixty-one; Powerball: two; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$199 million

Man reflects on being part of 1st gay prom couple in 1979

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man who was one half of the first gay couple to attend a high school prom says he didn't expect to become entrenched in LGBTQ rights history and that he looks back on the event in South Dakota 40 years later as "just a moment."

Grady Quinn was 20 when he attended the Lincoln High School prom in Sioux Falls with 17-year-old Randy Rohl.

The May 23, 1979, event drew news media from across the country, and it's still commemorated in Sioux Falls today. But Rohl told the Associated Press at the time that he didn't think they were "more worthy of special attention" than any other couple.

Quinn echoes the same sentiment now, the Argus Leader reported.

He said he's glad the prom happened, but he didn't think at the time that they might be making a historical stand for LGBTQ rights. Quinn said "it was just us being real and being who we are."

The Sioux Falls newspaper first wrote about the story on May 11, 1979, saying that Lincoln High School had approved a request from an unidentified high school senior to take his boyfriend to the prom. Later stories clarified that the two weren't romantically involved.

Apart from the attention and news coverage, the night ended up being an average high school prom.

The Washington Post wrote several days later that the only special treatment that Rohl and Quinn received "was a lot of room on the dance floor."

Rebuffing suggestions from acquaintances in the years that followed that he could somehow capitalize on the event, Quinn told them: "What? No. It's part of my life. It was just a moment."

The two drifted from the public eye after the prom, eventually losing touch after they both moved away from Sioux Falls.

Quinn said he later learned that Rohl had died of AIDS in 1993.

"It hit kind of hard," Quinn said. "I lost a lot of good friends in that era. It was sad to learn that was what got him."

Sioux Falls Pride hosts an annual event named after Rohl. The Randy Rohl Youth Prom is held for LGBTQ and allied youth who aren't permitted to bring their partner to prom, or who would feel unsafe doing so.

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Quinn Kathner, president of Sioux Falls Pride, said she doesn't think many Sioux Falls residents know about this part of the city's history.

"It transcends," Kathner said. "The message transcends whether it was 40 years ago or today."

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

El Salvador man accused of violence arrested in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials say a man from El Salvador wanted in connection to gang-related violence has been arrested in Sioux Falls.

The Argus Leader reports that 25-year-old Moises De Jesus Ruiz-Mejia was taken into custody earlier this week on an international warrant issued by the Salvadoran government in October.

Ruiz-Mejia is one of 25 people named in the warrant wanted for aggravated homicide or attempted homicide of "numerous victims." ICE says Ruiz-Mejia and others had connections to the 18th Street Gang.

The release says Ruiz-Mejia entered the U.S. illegally in October. After an encounter with border officials he was released from custody and ordered to regularly report to the ICE office in Sioux Falls.

It wasn't clear if Ruiz-Mejia had an attorney.

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

Sioux Falls leaders mulling future of mixed-use parking ramp

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — City officials in Sioux Falls are reviewing the future of a \$70 million mixed-use downtown parking ramp and hotel after developers requested changes to the project.

The Argus Leader reports that Mayor Paul TenHaken's office is reviewing the new proposal for the Village on the River facility and the financial impact to the city. A spokeswoman for TenHaken says the city does not want taxpayers to take a hit because of the changes.

In addition, officials say the city has yet to receive proof of a performance bond and a \$350,000 fee spelled out in the development agreement.

The city is paying for the \$20.6 million, seven-story parking ramp that is nearing completion. Work on the hotel portion or any other privately-funded work cannot start until the city receives its fees and developers get their performance bond.

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

Kentucky Derby shocker: Country House wins via DQ

By BETH HARRIS AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Maximum Security led the Kentucky Derby every step of the way except for the last one — into the winner's circle.

The colt became the first winner disqualified for interference in the Derby's 145-year history, leading to an agonizing wait and an eventual stunning reversal that made 65-1 shot Country House the winner Saturday.

Country House finished second in the slop before objections were raised, causing a 22-minute delay while three stewards repeatedly reviewed different video angles before they unanimously elevated him into the winner's circle.

That gave Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott his first Derby victory at age 65.

"It's bittersweet. You always want to win with a clean trip and have everybody recognize the horse as the very good horse and great athlete that he is," Mott said. "Due to the disqualification, I think some of that is diminished."

Jockey Flavien Prat, one of two jockeys who originated the claim of foul, also won his first Derby.

"I'm kind of speechless right now," Prat said, letting out a long sigh.

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Country House paid \$132.40 to win — the second-highest payout in Derby history. He was the least affected horse in the chain of events on the rain-soaked track, but the biggest beneficiary.

"Looking at the tote board there's probably a lot of people that didn't think we could win," Mott said, "but that's horse racing."

Gary West, who owns Maximum Security with his wife, Mary, indicated they may pursue an appeal.

"I think this is the most egregious disqualification in the history of horse racing," he told The Associated Press by phone, "and not just because it's our horse."

The victory was worth \$1.8 million; Maximum Security earned nothing since only the top five finishers are paid.

Country House was dismissed as a long shot with a bad post on the far outside. It was only the chestnut colt's second win in seven career starts and his first stakes victory.

Maybe this was one for his father: Lookin At Lucky got saddled with the dreaded No. 1 post in the 2010 Derby, where he got pinned to the rail and wound up sixth. He rebounded to win the Preakness two weeks later.

The disqualification was a crushing turn of events for Maximum Security trainer Jason Servis and jockey Luis Saez, who already had begun celebrating what they thought were their first Derby victories.

Instead, previously undefeated Maximum Security was dropped to 17th of 19 horses for veering out turning for home and stacking up War of Will, Long Range Toddy and Bodexpress (also owned by the Wests), according to Barbara Borden, chief steward of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. Country House, in turn, was brushed by Long Range Toddy.

Sent off as the 9-2 second choice, Maximum Security was placed behind all the horses that he bothered. "I never put anybody in danger," Saez said. "My horse shied away from the noise of the crowd and may have ducked out a little."

Servis backed up his jockey, saying: "He's right. He straightened him up right away and I didn't think it affects the outcome of the race."

Prat claimed that Maximum Security ducked out in the final turn and forced several horses to steady, including Long Range Toddy, whose jockey, Jon Court, also lodged an objection.

"I had to stop very abruptly," Court said.

War of Will came perilously close to clipping heels with Maximum Security, which could have caused a chain-reaction accident.

"I checked pretty hard when the seven (Maximum Security) came out as far as he did," said Tyler Gafalione, aboard War of Will.

Mott said War of Will and Long Range Toddy "lost all chance" to win.

"They were in position at the time to hit the board," the trainer said. "If what happened to us was the only thing they were looking at I don't think you would have seen a disqualification."

Mott said the incident was caused by Maximum Security's action and not Saez's riding tactics.



Flavien Prat celebrates after riding Country House to victory during the 145th running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs Saturday, May 4, 2019, in Louisville, Ky. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

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"I don't think Luis Saez did anything intentionally," he said. "My heart actually aches for them a little bit. That's the way it is. I've been on the other end of it, just not in the Kentucky Derby."

The stewards reviewed race footage and interviewed the affected jockeys while keeping the crowd of 150,729 and millions more watching on television and online in suspense, clutching their betting tickets. Trainers and jockeys involved stared at the closest video screen waiting for a result.

"I know the stewards had a very, very difficult decision," Mott said. "I'm damn glad they put our number up."

Code of Honor was moved up to second and Tacitus — also trained by Mott — was third.

Improbable was fourth and Game Winner fifth, two of trainer Bob Baffert's trio of entries. His other horse, Roadster, was 15th.

The last claim of foul by a jockey in the Derby was unsuccessful. John Velazquez, aboard runner-up Invisible Ink in 2001, alleged interference at the quarter pole against Monarchos and Jorge Chavez, who crossed the finish line $4\frac{3}{4}$ lengths in front. The stewards didn't change the result.

The only other disqualification in the Derby occurred long after the race in 1968. Dancer's Image, the first-place finisher, tested positive for a prohibited medication, and Kentucky state racing officials ordered the purse money to be redistributed. Forward Pass got the winner's share. A subsequent court challenge upheld the stewards' decision.

Country House wore the garland of red roses, but it's possible the situation doesn't end here. There could be appeals to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission or the courts.

"We are exploring our options to appeal," West told the AP. "If we can't appeal to the stewards, our other options are the state racing commission. If those don't work, we might go to legal options."

Mott hopes it doesn't come to that.

"That's a nightmare. It's a no-win situation for anybody involved," said Mott, who spoke with Servis after the reversal. "I didn't get a hint of that from him. He's been around long enough, and I'm sure he watched the films well enough. He knows what happened."

The surprising flip threw a few bettors into a frenzy, too. Some who had wagered on Country House to win immediately tossed away their tickets at the finish, only to then scramble to the ground at Churchill Downs, frantically searching for their betting slips.

Master Fencer, the first Japan-bred to run in the Derby, was sixth. War of Will was seventh, followed by Plus Que Parfait, Win Win Win, Cutting Humor, By My Standards and Vekoma.

Bodexpress finished 13th, followed by Tax, Roadster, Long Range Toddy, Maximum Security, Spinoff and Gray Magician.

AP Sports Writer Gary B. Graves contributed to this report.

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-sports> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Fines, jail time? Trump team resists oversight, Dems dig in

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — They're talking at the Capitol about jailing people. Imposing steep fines. All sorts of extraordinary, if long-shot measures to force the White House to comply with Democratic lawmakers' request for information about President Donald Trump stemming from the special counsel's Russia investigation.

This is the remarkable state of affairs between the executive and legislative branches, unseen in recent times, as Democrats try to break through Trump's blockade of investigations and exert congressional oversight of the administration.

"One of the things that everybody in this country needs to think about is when the president denies the Congress documents and access to key witnesses, basically what they're doing is saying, Congress you don't count," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

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"We cannot — we simply cannot — have a presidency that is run as if it were a king or a dictator in charge," said Cummings, D-Md.

Trump's blanket refusal to engage in oversight — and Democrats' unrelenting demand that he do so — is testing the system of checks and balances with a deepening standoff in the aftermath of Robert Mueller's investigation.

Trump derides the oversight of his business dealings and his administration as "presidential harassment" and has the backing of most Republicans in Congress. With Mueller's work completed, Trump wants closure to what he has long complained was a "witch hunt."

"No more costly & time consuming investigations," Trump tweeted.

Stunned by the administration's refusal to allow officials to testify or respond to document requests, lawmakers have been left to think aloud about their next steps against the White House.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the House Judiciary Committee chairman, has given Attorney General William Barr a Monday deadline to comply with a subpoena demanding a redacted version of Mueller's report, along with its underlying evidence, or face a contempt charge.

Barr could face another subpoena to appear before Nadler's committee after skipping a hearing Thursday in a dispute over the rules for questioning him. Nadler, D-N.Y., also has subpoenaed testimony from former White House counsel Don McGahn.

Cummings is considering what to do on several fronts, including about testimony from Carl Kline, the White House's personnel security director. Cummings said Kline declined last week to answer specific questions in a closed-session hearing about the security clearances granted for White House advisers Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump, the president's son-in-law and daughter. Also, the House Ways and Means Committee is being refused access to Trump's tax returns.

Republicans are largely declining to join Democrats in pursuing the investigations any further.

"It is over," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, as Barr testified last week before the committee. Graham, R-S.C., has asked Mueller to respond to Barr's testimony, particularly after the disclosure of a letter the special counsel sent Barr complaining about attorney general's summary of the 400-plus page Russia report.

The rejection of oversight is the latest and perhaps most high-profile example of the new normal in the Trump era. Gone are the daily White House press briefings, once a fixture in Washington. Top department vacancies go unfilled, leaving fewer officials to respond to congressional requests. Agencies across the government seem more insular than before.

Princeton professor Julian E. Zelizer said what's unfolding between the White House and Congress "fits



Whether fact or folklore, this small space in the basement of the Capitol with steel bars is sometimes referred to as the old "House jail," but it used today to protect the cherished Lincoln Catafalque, the pedestal for caskets used during state funerals, in Washington, Friday, May 3, 2019. When William Barr refused to appear before the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Calif., suggested a stay in the House "jail" for the recalcitrant attorney general. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

in a long history of bad moments when the branches clash over vital information.”

While other presidents, including Barack Obama, have resisted congressional oversight in certain situations, including during Attorney General Eric Holder’s blockade of the “Fast and Furious” gun-running investigation, Zelizer said “Trump is going further by saying no to everything.”

To Zelizer, “certainly there are echoes of Watergate when the administration did everything possible to stonewall Congress as they undertook legitimate investigations and hearings into presidential corruption.”

He said presidents with “too much power” can easily make decisions that undermine government operations in everyday lives. “Should citizens care? Of course, the restraint of presidential power is an essential part of our Constitution and the health of our democracy,” Zelizer said.

Impeachment is being shelved, for now. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and her leadership team are taking a step-by-step approach to the White House standoff, declining any rush to impeachment proceedings, as some in her party want, for a more incremental response.

Pelosi did note this past week that obstructing Congress was one of the articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon.

“Impeachment is never off the table, but should we start there?” Pelosi said Friday. “I don’t agree with that.”

Short of that, lawmakers are considering options for Barr and others. There’s a long history of lawmakers holding officials in contempt. They can sue for compliance with the threat of fines. Some lawmakers are suggesting censuring the attorney general or impeaching him. Others have called for Barr to resign.

And then there’s talk of jail time.

Capitol Hill has been buzzing about the unlikely prospect of using a jail that some say exists somewhere in the Capitol and that was used in the past to detain those in contempt of Congress.

But the House and Senate say no such facility exists.

“No evidence suggests that any room in the Capitol was ever designated for use as a jail,” says an entry on the House website’s historical pages.

During the Civil War, some Confederate soldiers and others were held at a brick building on the site of what’s now the Supreme Court, across the street from the Capitol, that was often referred as the “Capitol Prison” or “Old Capitol Jail,” according to the history page.

Otherwise, those found in contempt “were almost certainly held temporarily in the offices of the Sergeant at Arms, locked in committee anterooms, or put under guard at local hotels,” it says.

Senate Historian Betty Koed said in the past, the District of Columbia’s jail facility has also been used for detentions. “There is no Senate jail,” she said.

Lawmakers remain undeterred. Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., a member of party leadership, said lawmakers have “a whole range of options.”

Follow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/lisamascaro>

Gaza rocket fire kills Israeli man amid worsening violence

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — An early morning rocket from the Gaza Strip killed an Israeli man Sunday outside a home in the coastal city of Ashkelon amid a massive wave of attacks, marking the first Israeli casualty from rocket fire since the 2014 war with Hamas militants.

Moshe Agadi, a 58-year-old father of four, was struck in the chest by shrapnel in a residential courtyard from one of the 450 rockets fired from Gaza in less than 24 hours — one of the most intense flareups of violence in years. The Israeli military retaliated with some 220 airstrikes against militant targets in Gaza, and said it killed eight militants.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli strikes had killed six Palestinians, including a pregnant woman and her 14-month-old niece in their east Gaza City home Saturday. However, military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said Sunday that a detailed review found that a Palestinian rocket had misfired and

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killed them. He said the Palestinians were "trying to sell a story that isn't true." The conflicting accounts could not immediately be reconciled.

The sudden outburst in fighting has broken a month-long lull. Egyptian mediators had been trying to negotiate a long-term cease-fire between the two sides, who have fought three wars and several other rounds of conflict over the past decade.

Conricus said Israel's strikes hit a variety of "high-quality" militant sites, that included commanders' homes in which militant activity was observed. He said he had no knowledge of civilians being harmed by Israeli fire. Conricus said Israel was deploying an armor brigade along the Gaza front, with tanks ready for offensive missions as needed. The Israeli military has already struck rocket launchers, tunnel shafts, training sites, storage depots and warehouses of both the territory's Hamas rulers and the smaller, Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad group.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas was paying a "heavy price" for its rocket attacks against Israel and that it would be held accountable not only for its own militant actions but also for that of the Islamic Jihad, which operates under its jurisdiction in Gaza.

Sirens wailed along the border region overnight warning of incoming attacks. School was cancelled in southern Israel and emergency protocol enacted. A new round of attacks midday Sunday targeted major cities in the country's south.

In Gaza, large explosions thundered across the blockaded enclave during the night as plumes of smoke rose into the air.

By morning, bulldozers were clearing the streets from rubble and debris strewn on the ground and municipal workers were fixing damaged power lines. Owners of clothing stores that were destroyed in Gaza City's relatively upscale Remal neighborhood squatted across the streets from where their stores had stood, cupping their faces in their hands.

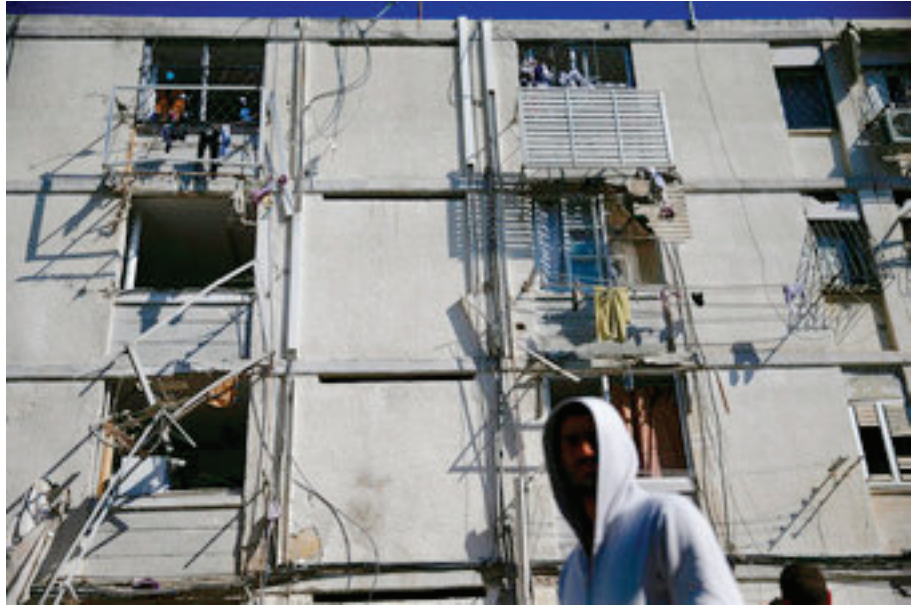
One of the airstrikes hit a six-story commercial and residential building that housed the office of Turkey's official Anadolu news agency.

"We thought the Remal neighborhood is safe, but it seems there is no safe place in Gaza," said Nidal al-Dali, who lived in the building and lost his home.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu called it a "new example of Israel's unrestrained aggression."

Jordan has called for an immediate cessation of attacks, saying that the "humanitarian and living crisis (in Gaza) are unacceptable."

The Israeli military says its Iron Dome defense system intercepted more than 150 of the projectiles from Gaza, but several still managed to slip through. A rocket scored a direct hit on a residential home in the border town of Sderot.



Damage is seen in a residential area after it was hit a by a rocket fired from Gaza in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon, Israel, Sunday, May 5, 2019. An early morning rocket from the Gaza Strip killed an Israeli man Sunday outside a home in the coastal city of Ashkelon, marking the first Israeli casualty from rocket fire since the 2014 war with Hamas militants. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

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Jonathan Rieck, director of the emergency room at Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon, said they had treated some 80 people, most from shock symptoms, but several with body wounds, including an elderly man who was in critical condition from head injuries.

Israel has vowed to hit back hard against both Hamas and Islamic Jihad, whom it suspects of triggering the current conflagration. But, as in similar previous rounds where it stopped short of a full-fledged war, the timing for a prolonged round of fighting is tricky for Israel.

The country marks Memorial Day and Independence Day this week, when masses head out to ceremonies at military cemeteries and then street parties across the country. The following week it is set to host the Eurovision song contest in which large groups of tourists are expected to arrive for the campy spectacle.

For Gazans, the violence comes ahead of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan that begins Monday. Hamas, an Islamic group vowed to Israel's destruction, forcefully seized control of Gaza in 2007. It most recently engaged in several days of heavy fighting with Israel in March before Egypt brokered a truce, in which Israel agreed to ease a crippling blockade on Gaza in exchange for a halt in rocket fire.

In recent days, Hamas accused Israel of reneging on its pledges as militants began to fire rockets into Israel. Israel accuses Islamic Jihad of operating behind Hamas' back and instigating the latest round of violence by shooting and wounding two Israeli soldiers Friday.

Yaakov Amidror, a former Israeli national security adviser, said the source of the eruption of violence was Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza being pushed by their patrons in Tehran.

"This is the interest of the Iranians, that there will be another operation in Gaza that they will be free to continue what they are doing in Syria and Israel will be busy with and focusing on Gaza," explained Amidror, currently a senior fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security.

Islamic Jihad has threatened to fire longer range rockets toward Israel's heartland, and in a video that also was seen as an implicit claim of responsibility, it showed archived footage of militants attaching warheads to rockets.

The resurgence of violence threatened to shatter the shaky understandings recently reached though Egyptian mediators. Israel had agreed to expand a fishing zone off Gaza's coast, increased imports into Gaza and allow the Gulf state of Qatar to deliver aid to cash-strapped Gaza. Militant leaders were in Cairo trying to reach a new cease-fire.

Hamas has hoped that Egyptian mediators could further ease the blockade, which has ravaged Gaza's economy. For over a year, the Islamic group has orchestrated mass demonstrations each week along the Israeli frontier to draw attention to Gaza's plight. More than 200 Palestinians and an Israeli soldier have been killed in the border protests.

Fares Akram contributed reporting from Gaza City.

Follow Heller at www.twitter.com/aronhellerap

The Latest: Pope seeks common ground with Bulgarian Orthodox

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — The Latest on Pope Francis' trip to Bulgaria (all times local):

1:20 p.m.

Pope Francis is seeking to build new paths of dialogue with the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, noting Christianity's shared history of martyrdom and mission.

Francis met Sunday with Patriarch Neofit at the headquarters of the Holy Synod, the Bulgarian church's governing body, before praying alone in the Orthodox cathedral.

Relations between the two churches are cordial but hardly warm. The Holy Synod doesn't participate in official Vatican-Orthodox theological dialogue, and made clear that it wouldn't take part in any joint services or prayers with Francis.

Francis referred to the "wounds" of division caused by the 1,000-year-old schism that divided Christianity and said he was "confident with the help of God, and in his good time, these contacts will have a positive

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effect on many other dimensions of our dialogue.”

Neofit, however, was clear that he felt the Bulgarian Church would remain the keepers of true Christianity.

11:45 p.m.

Pope Francis is urging Bulgarians to open their hearts and homes to migrants, arguing that a country like Bulgaria, which is losing its population to emigration, should well understand the forces that drive people to leave their native lands.

As he arrived Sunday in the Balkan nation, Francis “respectfully suggested” Bulgaria recognize that migrants coming to their country are fleeing war, conflict and dire poverty to find safety and opportunity.

He appealed to government authorities “that you not close your eyes, your hearts or your hands — in accordance with your best tradition — to those who knock at your door.”

Bulgaria’s center-right, pro-Brussels coalition government has called for the European Union to close its borders to migrants and has sealed off its own border to Turkey with a barbed-wire fence.

Human rights organizations and the European Commission have accused Bulgaria of violating EU asylum laws.

11:20 p.m.

Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov has offered Pope Francis a very personal gift at the start of his visit to the Balkan nation: A cup of Bulgarian yogurt.

Borissov said Sunday after meeting with Francis upon his arrival in Sofia that on previous occasions he had been told by Francis that the first time he had heard about Bulgaria was during his childhood in Argentina when his grandmother gave him Bulgarian yogurt.

Borissov gave Francis the yogurt when they met at the airport. The official gifts also included an Orthodox icon and a traditional episcopal vestment.

The prime minister said: “I was happy to welcome a man who is the symbol of faith in our world. Pope Francis’ prayers for peace are extremely important for our region that stretches from Ukraine to the east to the Western Balkans.”

10 a.m.

Pope Francis has arrived in Bulgaria, the European Union’s poorest country and one that taken a hard line against migrants.

That stance conflicts with the pontiff’s view that reaching out to vulnerable people is a moral imperative.

On a two-day trip that began Sunday, Francis plans to tour a refugee center and dive into the Vatican’s complicated relations with the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.



Pope Francis smiles as he gets to Alexander Nevsky square in Sofia, Sunday, May 5, 2019. Pope Francis is visiting Bulgaria, the European Union’s poorest country and one that taken a hard line against migrants, a stance that conflicts with the pontiff’s view that reaching out to vulnerable people is a moral imperative. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

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Later in the day, Francis is meeting with Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, whose center-right, pro-Brussels coalition government includes three nationalist, anti-migrant parties. The government has called for the closure of EU borders to migrants and sealed off its own frontier to Turkey with a barbed-wire fence.

Bulgaria, which joined the EU in 2007, is the bloc's poorest country, with the lowest average monthly salary — 575 euros (\$645) — and the smallest average monthly pension of 190 euros (\$213).

9 a.m.

Pope Francis is heading to Bulgaria, the European Union's poorest country and one that taken a hard line against migrants, which conflicts with the pontiff's view that reaching out to vulnerable people is a moral imperative.

Francis is expected to visit a refugee center during his two-day visit starting Sunday, as well as dive into the Vatican's complicated relations with the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. The trip ends with a daylong stop Tuesday in neighboring North Macedonia, the first by a pope.

Francis starts his Bulgarian trip by meeting with Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, whose center-right, pro-Brussels coalition government includes three nationalist, anti-migrant parties. The government has called for the closure of EU borders to migrants and sealed off its own frontier to Turkey with a barbed-wire fence.

The Argentine pope has made the plight of migrants and refugees a hallmark of his papacy. His visit falls just three weeks before European Parliament elections across the EU's 28 nations in which nationalist, anti-migrant parties are expected to make a solid showing.

Kim oversees missile firing drills, tells troops to be alert

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean state media on Sunday showed leader Kim Jong Un observing live-fire drills of long-range multiple rocket launchers and what appeared to be a new short-range ballistic missile, a day after South Korea expressed concern that the launches were a violation of an inter-Korean agreement to cease all hostile acts.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim expressed "great satisfaction" over Saturday's drills and stressed that his front-line troops should keep a "high alert posture" and enhance combat ability to "defend the political sovereignty and economic self-sustenance of the country."

The weapons launches were a likely sign of Pyongyang's growing frustration at stalled diplomatic talks with Washington meant to provide coveted sanctions relief in return for nuclear disarmament. They also highlighted the fragility of the detente between the Koreans, which in a military agreement reached last September vowed to completely cease "all hostile acts" against each other in land, air and sea.

South Korea said it's "very concerned" about North Korea's weapons launches, calling them a violation of the agreements to reduce animosities between the countries. The statement, issued after an emergency meeting Saturday of top officials at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, also urged North Korea to stop committing acts that would raise military tensions and join efforts to resume nuclear diplomacy.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff initially said on Saturday that the North launched a single missile from the site near the coastal town of Wonsan but later said in a statement that "several projectiles" had been fired.

In its updated assessment on Sunday, the JCS did not confirm whether the North fired a ballistic missile, but said a "new tactical guided weapon" was among the weapons tested by the North, which also included 240 millimeter- and 300 millimeter-caliber multiple rocket launchers. The JCS said the various projectiles flew from 70 to 240 kilometers (44 to 149 miles) before splashing into sea.

The North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper published photos that showed Kim, equipped with binoculars, observing tests of different weapons systems, including multiple rocket launchers and what appeared to be a short-range missile fired from a launch vehicle, and also an explosion of what seemed to be a target set on island rocks.

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"Praising the People's Army for its excellent operation of modern large-caliber long-range multiple rocket launchers and tactical guided weapons, he said that all the service members are master gunners and they are capable of carrying out duty to promptly tackle any situation," the KNCA paraphrased Kim as saying.

"He stressed the need for all the service members to keep high alert posture and more dynamically wage the drive to increase the combat ability so as to defend the political sovereignty and economic self-sustenance of the country and ... the security of the people from the threats and invasion by any forces," the report added.

The North Korean missile appeared to be modeled after Russia's 9K720 Iskander mobile short-range ballistic missile system, said Kim Dong-yub, an analyst from Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies. The solid-fuel North Korean missile was first revealed in a military parade in Pyongyang in February last year and is likely the unspecified tactical weapon the North said it tested last month, he said.

The new missile would be potentially capable of delivering nuclear warheads and striking targets as far away as 500 kilometers (310 miles), which puts the entire Korean Peninsula within reach, said Kim, who based his analysis on the capabilities of the Iskander and North Korea's current levels in missile technology.

The missile is also likely designed to be maneuvered during flight and warhead delivery, which would make it less likely to be intercepted by missile defense systems, he said.

"The North tried to clearly demonstrate its abilities to strike any target on the Korean Peninsula, including U.S. troops stationed across South Korea in areas such as Seoul, Pyeongtaek, Daegu and Busan," said Kim, a former South Korean military official.

The distance between Wonsan, where the launch was held, and the South Korean capital of Seoul is roughly 200 kilometers (124 miles).

The North in Sunday's report did not issue any direct threat or warning toward the South or the United States. Experts say the North may increase these sorts of low-level provocations to apply pressure on the United States to agree to reduce crushing international sanctions.

The launches come amid a diplomatic breakdown that has followed a failed summit earlier this year between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un over the North's pursuit of nuclear bombs that can accurately target the U.S. mainland. The North probably has viable shorter-range nuclear-armed missiles,



This Saturday, May 4, 2019, photo provided on Sunday, May 5, 2019, by the North Korean government shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, equipped with binoculars, observing tests of different weapons systems, in North Korea. North Korean state media on Sunday said leader Kim observed live-fire drills of long-range multiple rocket launchers and unspecified tactical guided weapons, a day after South Korea's military detected the North launching several unidentified short-range projectiles into the sea off its eastern coast. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: "KCNA" which is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP)

but it still needs more tests to perfect its longer-range weapons, according to outside analysts.

Trump said Saturday that he still believes a nuclear deal with North Korea will happen. He tweeted that Kim "fully realizes the great economic potential of North Korea, & will do nothing to interfere or end it."

Trump added: "He also knows that I am with him & does not want to break his promise to me. Deal will happen!"

Pyongyang has recently demanded that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo be removed from nuclear negotiations and criticized national security adviser John Bolton. North Korea also said last month that it had tested a new type of unspecified "tactical guided weapon."

North Korea could choose to fire more missiles with longer ranges in coming weeks to ramp up its pressure on the United States to come up with a roadmap for nuclear talks by the end of this year, said Nam Sung-wook, a professor at Korea University.

"North Korea wants to say, 'We have missiles and nuclear weapons to cope with (U.S.-led) sanctions,'" Nam said. "They can fire short-range missiles a couple more times this month, and there is no guarantee that they won't fire a medium-range missile next month."

North Korea last conducted a major missile test in November 2017 when it flight-tested an intercontinental ballistic missile that demonstrated potential capability to reach deep into the U.S. mainland. That year saw a string of increasingly powerful weapons tests from the North and a belligerent response from Trump that had many in the region fearing war.

During the diplomacy that followed those weapons tests, Kim said that the North would not test nuclear devices or ICBMs. The short-range projectiles launched on Saturday don't appear to violate that self-imposed moratorium, and they may instead be a way to register Kim's displeasure with Washington without having the diplomacy collapse.

Associated Press writers Foster Klug and Hyung-jin Kim contributed to this report.

Trump attacks social media companies after Facebook bans

STERLING, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump criticized social media companies after Facebook banned a number of extremist figures, declaring that he was "monitoring and watching, closely!!"

Trump, who tweeted and re-tweeted complaints Friday and Saturday, said he would "monitor the censorship of AMERICAN CITIZENS on social media platforms." He has previously asserted that social media companies exhibit bias against conservatives, something the companies have rejected as untrue.

The president's comments came after Facebook this week banned Louis Farrakhan, Alex Jones and other extremists, saying they violated its ban on "dangerous individuals." The company also removed right-wing personalities Paul Nehlen, Milo Yiannopoulos, Paul Joseph Watson and Laura Loomer, along with Jones' site, Infowars, which often posts



President Donald Trump speaks during a National Day of Prayer event in the Rose Garden of the White House, Thursday, May 2, 2019, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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conspiracy theories. The latest bans apply both to Facebook's main service and to Instagram and extend to fan pages and other related accounts.

Facebook's move signaled renewed effort by the social media giant to remove people and groups promoting objectionable material such as hate, racism and anti-Semitism. The company said it has "always banned" people or groups that proclaim a violent or hateful mission or are engaged in acts of hate or violence, regardless of political ideology.

On Twitter, Trump cited a number of individuals he said were being unfairly treated by social media companies, including Watson and actor James Woods. He insisted it was "getting worse and worse for Conservatives on social media!"

Woods, one of Hollywood's most outspoken conservatives, has had his Twitter account locked. Twitter spokeswoman Katie Rosborough said Woods will need to delete a tweet that violated Twitter rules before he can be reinstated.

Trump tweeted: "How can it be possible that James Woods (and many others), a strong but responsible Conservative Voice, is banned from Twitter? Social Media & Fake News Media, together with their partner, the Democrat Party, have no idea the problems they are causing for themselves. VERY UNFAIR!"

Rosborough said Twitter enforces its rules "impartially for all users, regardless of their background or political affiliation."

Trump, who uses Twitter extensively to push his message, recently met with Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey at the White House after attacking the company and complaining that it was not treating him well because he was a Republican. He later described it as a "great meeting."

The president had more than social media on his mind Saturday. Trump also tweeted that he was holding out hopes for a deal with North Korea on its nuclear program, as well as improved relations with Russia, now that he feels the special counsel investigation is behind him.

2nd person confirmed dead after explosion at Illinois plant

WAUKEGAN, Ill. (AP) — An explosion and fire at an Illinois silicone factory claimed a second victim Saturday when an employee taken to a hospital after the blast died, a local coroner confirmed, and the official death toll is expected to rise to four as authorities suspended the search for two other bodies believed to be in the rubble.

Crews suspended their search due to concerns about the stability of the structure, and Waukegan Fire Marshal Steven Lenzi said they would not resume searching until what remains of the plant is torn down.

The four believed dead were among nine employees who were inside AB Specialty Silicones in Waukegan, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Chicago, when the explosion occurred around 9:30 p.m. Friday, Lenzi said. Four were taken to hospitals and two declined treatment. The death on



Emergency personnel work at the scene of an explosion at AB Specialty Silicones on Sunset Ave. and Northwestern Ave. on the border between Gurnee, Ill., and Waukegan on Saturday, May 4, 2019. The explosion happened Friday night. (John Starks/Daily Herald via AP)

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Saturday was one of the four taken to hospital. Authorities have not identified the employees.

Lenzi said it's unlikely the missing workers survived.

"The conditions are really rough in there," Lenzi said. "There's a lot of damage. There was a lot of fire throughout."

The blast was heard miles away and the force shredded the plant, leaving little more than the skeleton of the building standing.

The Chicago Tribune quoted Lake County Coroner Howard Cooper as saying that the death Saturday was at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois.

The plant typically operates 24 hours a day, mixing chemicals and other materials to make silicone, he said.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined, Lenzi said. The state fire marshal is investigating, along with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

It could be days before crews are able to resume their search because heavy piping and other materials that were inside the 30,000-square-foot (2,787-sq. meter) structure pose a danger to firefighters and investigators, Lenzi said.

Residents in the area said they heard the explosion and felt their homes shake. Five buildings nearby were damaged, with glass on windows and doors shattering, Lenzi said.

"The explosion was a big boom and the ground shook," Nancy Carreno, who lives near the plant, told the Lake County News-Sun. "Our cable TV flickered and the electricity, and then it came back on."

Lenzi says more than 100 firefighters from at least 30 departments responded to the scene.

Mac Penman, general manager of AB Specialty Silicones, said in a statement that company officials were "shocked and heartbroken by the tragedy..."

"We have spent the day trying our best to support all of the members of our AB family as we attempt to process this terrible loss together," he said.

The company said it makes specialty silicone chemical raw materials for products such as adhesives, sealants and coatings. AB Specialty Silicones said in a press release earlier this year that it expanded its corporate campus in Waukegan to four buildings with more than 240,000 square feet (22,297 square meters) housing headquarters, manufacturing, research and development and warehouses.

All survive as plane carrying US military crashes into river

By **JOSH REPLOGLE and MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A military-chartered jet carrying 143 people landed hard, then bounced and swerved as the pilot struggled to control it amid thunder and lightning, ultimately skidding off the runway and coming to a crashing halt in a river at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

It meant chaos and terror for passengers in the Boeing 737 as the plane jolted back and forth and oxygen masks deployed, then overhead bins opened, sending contents spilling out.

But authorities said all the people onboard emerged without critical injuries Friday night, lining up on the wings as they waited to be rescued. Only a 3-month-old baby was hospitalized, and that was done out of an abundance of caution, officials said.

"I think it is a miracle," said Capt. Michael Connor, the base's commanding officer, hours after the plane landed. "We could be talking about a different story this evening."

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team of investigators Saturday to the crash site in the St. Johns River in north Florida, where the aircraft was still partially submerged in shallow water and its nose cone was sliced off, apparently from the impact. Two pet cats and a dog were still on the plane as well, and their status wasn't immediately clear.

Rescuers looked in the cargo area after the plane ended up in the river but saw no crates and heard no animal noises. When they returned later, they didn't see any pet carriers above water, Connor said.

Members of the 16-person NTSB team recovered the plane's flight data recorder Saturday.

Investigators will examine the aircraft, the environment and human factors in trying to discover why the

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plane rolled into the river. The pavement on the runway wasn't grooved, and Landsberg said grooves can help the water flow off the pavement more quickly. He said investigators will examine what role that may have, with reported heavy rain during the landing.

The flight took off Friday from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with 136 passengers and seven crew members. It was a regular charter run by Miami Air International, which has many military contracts, including weekly flights between Guantanamo Bay and the Jacksonville air station as well as Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. The company didn't immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press.

The aircraft had no prior history of accidents, said NTSB vice chairman Bruce Landsberg.

Among those onboard was Cheryl Bormann, a defense attorney, who described the chaotic landing.

The plane "literally hit the ground and then it bounced. It was clear that the pilot did not have complete control of the plane because it bounced some more, it swerved and tilted left and right," she told CNN. "The pilot was trying to control it but couldn't, and then all of a sudden it smashed into something."

Bormann said people weren't screaming because the flight staff worked quickly to give direction. Everyone onboard helped one another to put on their life vests and then evacuated to safety.

A veteran death penalty attorney from Chicago, Bormann has been defending Walid bin Attash, who is charged with helping to train some of the 9/11 hijackers. The U.S. holds 40 men at the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. It has been prosecuting some of them by military commissions, including five charged with planning and aiding the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Their cases have been in the pretrial stage since May 2012 and no trial has been scheduled.

Authorities say everyone onboard the flight was alive and accounted for, but nearly two dozen people sought medical attention.

The passengers were a mix of military personnel and families, and a few civilians. While some were staying in the area, others planned to fly on to other parts of the country, Connor said.

It wasn't immediately clear what went wrong. Boeing said in a tweet Friday night that it was investigating: "We are aware of an incident in Jacksonville, Fla., and are gathering information."

Connor said he didn't know what impact the weather had on the flight. "I was at home when this happened and there were thunderstorms and lightning," he said.

The plane had been expected to return to Cuba on Saturday to carry other members of the military, lawyers and others to Andrews after this week's military commission hearings of people charged with war crimes.

It wasn't immediately clear how long it would take to remove the plane from the river.

"We have challenges because bottom half of fuselage is covered with water," Landsberg said.

Connor said the landing gear appeared to be resting on the riverbed, making it unlikely for the aircraft to float away. He said crews began working to contain any jet fuel leaks almost immediately after securing the passengers' safety.



A charter plane carrying 143 people and traveling from Cuba to north Florida sits in a river at the end of a runway, Saturday, May 4, 2019 in Jacksonville, Fla. The Boeing 737 arriving at Naval Air Station Jacksonville from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with 136 passengers and seven aircrew slid off the runway Friday night into the St. Johns River, a NAS Jacksonville news release said. (AP Photo/Gary McCullough)

The smell of fuel and oil was pungent as AP journalists went by boat for a closer look. The bottom of the plane was under water, making it difficult to access the cargo hold.

"We're obviously very concerned about the environment and we're doing everything we can to contain it," Connor said about the fuel. "Once we were assured that personnel were safe, our next priority effort was to ... contain any type of fuel."

Schneider reported from Orlando. Other Associated Press contributors include Ben Fox in Washington, David Fischer in Miami and Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco.

7 Venezuelan military officers killed in chopper crash

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Seven Venezuelan military officers were killed on Saturday when their helicopter crashed while heading to a state where President Nicolás Maduro appeared alongside troops, days after the opposition called in vain for a military uprising.

The Cougar helicopter hurtled into a mountain outside Caracas in the early hours of an overcast day in the capital. An investigation was underway.

The armed forces in a statement said the chopper was heading to San Carlos in Cojedes state. That's near a military academy where Maduro appeared early Saturday to oversee training exercises following a week of intrigue that saw a small group of security forces turn against him in the failed attempt by opposition leader Juan Guaidó to overthrow the government.

On board the helicopter were two lieutenant colonels as well as five lower-ranking officers. The statement didn't say if the chopper was part of the presidential delegation.

Also in Caracas on Saturday, a protester handed over a written appeal for the military's support, but a Venezuelan policeman burned the document and let the ashes fall to the ground.

The armed forces "won't be blackmailed or bought," said a second officer standing nearby.

Benito Rodriguez fumed as he watched the events unfold.

"It's a humiliation," said Rodriguez, a demonstrator who had joined a crowd of about 150 protesters gathered near La Casona, a residence historically used by Venezuelan presidents.

The scene highlights the uphill battle now facing opponents of Maduro who have failed to persuade the country's security forces to join efforts to oust the leader.

The critical role of the Venezuelan military in the country's crisis was on display as Maduro tried to portray strength by joining troops at the military academy, while Guaidó attempted to woo the armed forces



An opponent to Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, his face the colors of the Venezuelan national flag and the Spanish word for "Freedom" written on his forehead, takes part in a march in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, May 4, 2019. Opposition leader Juan Guaido took his quest to win over Venezuela's troops back to the streets, calling his supporters to participate in an outreach to soldiers outside military installations across the country. (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

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to his side by urging supporters to the streets.

National television showed Maduro wearing a camouflage hat as he shook hands and exchanged fist bumps with security forces during a visit to a military base before watching troops engage in a shooting exercise.

"Loyal forever," Maduro bellowed to a crowd of cadets in green uniforms.

Guaidó, meanwhile, told backers to go to military garrisons to persuade forces to turn against Maduro, whose years in office have been marked by escalating hardship for most people in a country that was once one of the wealthiest in Latin America.

As demonstrators linked arms and moved toward police, protest leader Maria Suarez urged calm.

"Please, a lot of discipline," she said.

Others broke the line and went forward to hand over printed documents, saying the military's role in helping Venezuela emerge from an "unsustainable" situation is vital.

"They think it's a joke. They don't take us seriously. They're not listening," said demonstrator Andrea Palma after police burned the paper with a lighter.

Divisions among the protesters were evident as some young men from poor neighborhoods scoffed at a speaker who insisted that the gathering must be peaceful.

"It's the frustration talking," said demonstrator Mariajose Molina.

The latest displays of will come as the political standoff between Maduro and U.S.-backed Guaidó sinks deeper into a stalemate.

On Tuesday, Guaidó appeared outside a Caracas military base urged the military to overthrow his political rival.

As the leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly waited, however, it became clear that his call had failed to rally armed forces to his side. Clashes between protesters and police then erupted, leaving five dead.

Maduro's government has also shown signs of weakness and has not moved to arrest Guaidó, who the United States and over 50 other nations recognize as Venezuela's rightful leader.

More than three million Venezuelans have left the country to escape a shrinking economy, hyperinflation and shortages of necessities such as medicine.

The opposition blames the sharp decline on state corruption, mismanagement and authoritarianism and says Maduro's re-election last year was illegitimate. Maduro portrays Venezuela as a victim of U.S. antagonism toward the socialist principles championed by his predecessor, Hugo Chávez.

On Saturday, one protester looked on as the printed proclamation was burned. He then wished the policeman a nice day.

"See you later," replied the officer before turning away.

Under heavy rocket fire, Israeli reprisals kill 6

By FARES AKRAM Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian militants on Saturday fired over 250 rockets into Israel, drawing dozens of retaliatory airstrikes on targets across the Gaza Strip in a round of heavy fighting that broke a month-long lull between the enemies. Six Palestinians, including a pregnant mother and her baby, were killed, while four Israelis were wounded, including an elderly man who was in a critical condition.

The fighting, the most intense between the sides in months, came as leaders from Hamas, the militant group that rules Gaza, and the smaller armed faction Islamic Jihad, were in Cairo for talks with Egyptian mediators aimed at preventing a fraying cease-fire from collapsing altogether.

It also comes at a sensitive time for Israel, which is to mark its Memorial Day and Independence Day holiday this week, before hosting the Eurovision song contest in the middle of the month. Prolonged fighting could overshadow the Eurovision and potentially deter international travelers from coming in for the festive event. For Gazans, the violence continued as they prepare to begin the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan on Monday.

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Israel and Hamas, an Islamic group that opposes Israel's existence, have fought three wars and dozens of smaller flare-ups of violence since Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007. They engaged in several days of heavy fighting in March before Egypt brokered a truce in which Israel agreed to ease a crippling blockade on Gaza in exchange for a halt in rocket fire. In recent days, Hamas accused Israel of renegeing on its pledges as militants began to fire rockets into Israel.

In a familiar scene, air raid sirens wailed across southern Israel throughout the day and into the evening as barrages of rockets were repeatedly fired. Retaliatory airstrikes caused large explosions to thunder across Gaza, as plumes of smoke rose into the air. Outgoing Palestinian rockets left long trails of smoke behind them.

Gaza's Health Ministry said a 14-month-old girl, Seba Abu Arar, was

killed in an Israeli airstrike that hit their home in east Gaza City. Her pregnant mother, 37, was severely wounded and died later at the hospital, the ministry added. Another child was moderately injured.

"They were sitting at the yard in their house with their mother. They were shocked by a missile landing on them," said Abu Nidal Abu Arar, a relative living next door. "This occupation is criminal."

In the morning, Gaza's Health Ministry said a 22-year-old Palestinian man was killed by an Israeli airstrike, and 40 other Palestinians were wounded. Late Saturday, health officials said a 25-year-old man was killed by an Israeli drone missile as he was traveling on a motorbike in northern Gaza. At dawn, two Islamic Jihad militants were killed by an airstrike in central Gaza Strip, the group said.

In Israel, medical officials said an 80-year-old woman was severely wounded by rocket fire, a 50-year-old man was moderately wounded by shrapnel and a teenage boy was mildly hurt as he ran for cover. Israeli police said a house in the coastal city of Ashkelon was damaged.

Early Sunday, Israeli police said a rocket landed in a courtyard in Ashkelon, about 10 kilometers north of Gaza, causing damage to several buildings. As a result, an Israeli man suffered "heavy injuries and was in a grave condition."

The Israeli military accused the Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad of instigating the latest round of violence by shooting and wounding two Israeli soldiers Friday. It said the shooting was not coordinated with Hamas, but said it holds Hamas, as the territory's ruling power, responsible for all fire emanating from Gaza.

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said "the United States strongly condemns the ongoing barrage of rocket attacks by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad from Gaza upon innocent civilians and their communities across Israel."

"We stand with Israel and fully support its right to self defense against these abhorrent attacks," she said in a statement.

By nightfall, the army said militants had fired well over 200 rockets into Israel. It said dozens of the rockets were intercepted by its Iron Dome rocket-defense system. But it closed roads near the Gaza border



Israeli air defense system Iron Dome takes out rockets fired from Gaza near Sderot, Israel, Saturday, May 4, 2019. Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired at least 90 rockets into southern Israel on Saturday, according to the Israeli military, triggering retaliatory airstrikes and tank fire against militant targets in the blockaded enclave and shattering a month-long lull in violence. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

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to civilian traffic and closed a popular beach as a security precaution.

The military said it struck some 120 targets in Gaza, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad military compounds, a Hamas rocket-manufacturing site and a "high-end Islamic Jihad tunnel" that it said stretched into Israel for use in attacks.

Late on Saturday, Israel struck a building that it said housed Hamas military intelligence offices in Gaza City. Another airstrike hit a six-story commercial and residential building. Journalists said the building housed the office of Turkey's news agency Anadolu. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

COGAT, the Israeli defense body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs, said it was closing the fishing zone off Gaza's coast altogether and sealing Israel's two land crossings with Gaza. The crossings are used by Palestinian medical patients to enter and exit the territory, and provide the main entry for cargo into the blockaded territory.

The U.N.'s Mideast envoy, Nickolay Mladenov, said the United Nations was working with Egypt to restore calm and called on all sides to "de-escalate" and restore recent understandings.

"Those who seek to destroy them will bear responsibility for a conflict that will have grave consequences for all," he said in a statement.

The European Union's ambassador to Israel, Emanuele Giaufret, sharply criticized the rocket attacks on Twitter, saying "firing indiscriminately against civilians (is) unacceptable."

Islamic Jihad, which sometimes acts independently of Hamas, threatened to fire longer range rockets toward Israel's heartland. In a video that also was seen an implicit claim of responsibility, it showed archived footage of militants attaching warheads to rockets.

Israel and Egypt have maintained a crippling blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized control of the territory in 2007.

Under the recent understandings, Israel agreed to expand a fishing zone off Gaza's coast, increased imports into Gaza and allow the Gulf state of Qatar to deliver aid to cash-strapped Gaza. But like previous Egyptian-mediated agreements, those understandings have shown signs of unraveling in recent days.

On Friday, two Palestinians were fatally shot by Israeli forces during the weekly protests along Israel-Gaza perimeter fence. Palestinian militants also shot and wounded two Israeli soldiers along the border fence. No group claimed responsibility for the shooting. In response, Israeli aircraft carried out retaliatory strikes, killing two Hamas militants.

Hamas has hoped that Egyptian mediators could further ease the blockade, which has ravaged Gaza's economy. For over a year, the Islamic group has orchestrated mass demonstrations each week along the Israeli frontier to draw attention to Gaza's plight. More than 200 Palestinians and an Israeli soldier have been killed in the border protests.

Biden: Trump, Republicans allowing Jim Crow to return

By MEG KINNARD and BILL BARROW Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Former Vice President Joe Biden charged Saturday that Jim Crow is "sneaking back in" as he emphasized voting rights at his first presidential campaign stop in South Carolina, where black voters play a key role in the South's first presidential primary.

In criticizing Republican efforts to adopt more stringent voting rules, including identification requirements and curtailing early voting hours, Biden recalled the racial segregation laws of the past.

"You've got Jim Crow sneaking back in," he said, referring to the era before the civil rights movement. "You know what happens when you have an equal right to vote? They lose."

Biden centered much of his trip around the need to restore decency to the White House. "Your state motto is, 'While I breathe, I hope,'" he said at the rally after continuing his full-throated denunciation of President Donald Trump. "It's not a joke. We're breathing, but God, we have got to have hope."

He kept up that theme at a private evening fundraiser, telling several dozen donors that he expects a nasty race from President Donald Trump.

"This guy is going to go after me and family," Biden said, recalling his grandchildren telling him before

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his announcement that they expect Trump and others to bring up family details including his son Hunter Biden's divorce.

Biden said there "are so many nicknames I want to give this guy," and he drew laughter when he joked that he'd "start with clown." But he added that he doesn't want to respond in kind.

"The only place he has any confidence is in the mud," Biden said, because the president "doesn't understand how to respond to issues."

Biden said he will answer Trump "directly" in the future without name-calling. He recalled saying in 2016 that in high school he'd have "taken him behind the barn and beat the hell out of" Trump. "Guess what? I probably shouldn't have done that," Biden said. "The presidency is an office that requires dignity and reestablishing respect and standing."

Biden will continue his trip Sunday by worshipping at a black church in Columbia.

He opened his latest run for president with explicit appeals to white, working-class voters across the Midwest, pledging his support for unions and promising to rebuild the middle class. Now, Biden is trying to gauge whether his message will resonate among more diverse electorates. Black voters accounted for a solid majority of Democratic presidential primary ballots in 2016.

Ahead of her husband's afternoon remarks, Jill Biden emphasized the couple's long ties to South Carolina, saying they came to the state to grieve after their son Beau died of cancer in 2015.

"Joe and I love South Carolina," she said.

The former vice president credited the late South Carolina Sen. Fritz Hollings with persuading him not to abandon public office after Biden's first wife and daughter were killed in an auto accident weeks after his election to the Senate in 1972. Last month, Biden traveled to Charleston to eulogize his longtime desk mate and friend .

He also noted his long friendship with Rep. Jim Clyburn, one of the top-ranking House Democrats. Clyburn, who typically doesn't endorse a candidate before the South Carolina presidential primary, didn't attend Biden's events.

Elsewhere in campaigning Saturday by Democratic presidential candidates:

BERNIE SANDERS

Sen. Bernie Sanders said one area in which he doesn't fault President Donald Trump is his handling of North Korea, telling ABC's "This Week" that Trump's face-to-face meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un "is the right thing to do."

Sanders called North Korea "a threat to the planet" and said the U.S. has to do everything possible to have China and others in the region put pressure on the North and "make it clear that they cannot continue to act this way."

South Korean officials said North Korea fired several unidentified short-range projectiles into the sea off its eastern coast on Saturday. The launch came amid a diplomatic breakdown between the U.S. and the North.



Former Vice President Joe Biden takes photos with supporters following the first rally of his 2020 campaign, Saturday, May 4, 2019 in Columbia, S.C. (AP Photo/Meg Kinnard)

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"This Week" released quotes from the interview in Iowa ahead of its broadcast Sunday.

Sanders told reporters in Iowa that if he were in the House, he would hold Attorney General William Barr in contempt for his refusal to appear at a congressional hearing on the special counsel's Russia investigation and its report.

"We have a separation of powers, we don't have an authoritarian government," Sanders said.

AMY KLOBUCHAR

Sen. Amy Klobuchar is knocking Trump as being too soft on Russian President Vladimir Putin during their recent phone call.

Trump and Putin on Friday had their first known call since the release of the special counsel's report on Russian election meddling, and Trump said he didn't warn the Russian president against interfering in future elections.

Klobuchar told reporters after an event in Des Moines, Iowa, that her message would be very different.

"What I would say when I'm president to Vladimir Putin is that we've got your number, I've got the FBI after you, I've got the CIA looking at all of this, I've figured out what you guys are up to and we're going to protect our elections and we're going to put increasing sanctions on against you."

Klobuchar also said she was frustrated that congressional investigators haven't been able to question special counsel Robert Mueller, whom she described as "the witness we need to go after Russia so that they don't attack our elections again."

SETH MOULTON

Rep. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts is calling for more funding for the State Department.

Moulton said his own experience serving as a Marine in the Middle East showed the importance of diplomacy.

"When the State Department goes in first to these conflicts they prevent having to send American troops. So the more money that we invest in the State Department, it doesn't just save ammunition. It saves American lives."

BETO O'ROURKE

Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke said in a commencement address that the legacies of "slavery, of segregation, of Jim Crow, of suppression" are "alive and well" today.

In remarks at historically black Paul Quinn College in Dallas, O'Rourke said "the work is far from over." He has previously expressed support for creating a commission to study economic reparations for black Americans.

ELIZABETH WARREN

Sen. Elizabeth Warren warned the nation remains "at risk" for further foreign interference in its elections and that Trump "puts us squarely in trouble" with his public warmth toward Putin.

The Massachusetts Democrat told reporters in Iowa that the special counsel's report "demonstrated conclusively that Russia attacked our electoral system with the purpose of helping Donald Trump."

She said Trump then "turns around two weeks later and says, 'We're all good on this'? We're not all good on this."

Trump tweeted on Saturday that his call with Putin the previous day was a sign of "tremendous potential for a good/great relationship with Russia."

Warren also criticized Trump for maintaining his alignment with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un even after Pyongyang launched short-range projectiles off its coast.

"Trump is just all over the map," Warren told reporters. "Foreign policy by tweet doesn't work."

Associated Press Alexandra Jaffe in Des Moines, Iowa; Elana Schor in Osage, Iowa; Will Weissert in Dallas; and Hunter Woodall in Salem, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

Meg Kinnard can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP>

Justice Clarence Thomas' moment may finally have arrived

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Clarence Thomas has been a Supreme Court justice for nearly three decades. It may finally be his moment.

Many Americans know Thomas largely from his bruising 1991 confirmation hearing, when he was accused of sexual harassment charges by former employee Anita Hill — charges he denied. People may know he's a conservative and has gone years without speaking during arguments at the court. But scholars say it would be wise to pay closer attention to Thomas.

Thomas is now the longest-serving member of a court that has recently gotten more conservative, putting him in a unique and potentially powerful position, and he's said he doesn't plan on retiring anytime soon. With President Donald Trump's nominees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh now on the court, conservatives are firmly in control as the justices take on divisive issues such as abortion, gun control and LGBT rights.

Thomas, for the first time, is on a court where there are at least four votes for some "pretty radical" decisions, said political science professor Corey Robin, the author of a Thomas book due out in September. Robin says the question will be whether the court's more conservative justices — Thomas, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Samuel Alito — can get Chief Justice John Roberts, a more moderate conservative, to go along.

Thomas, 70, became the high court's longest-serving justice, the "senior associate justice," when Justice Anthony Kennedy retired last summer. But unlike Kennedy, who sat at the court's ideological center and was most often the deciding vote when the court split 5-4, Thomas is consistently on the court's far right.

That's won him praise from Trump. As a presidential candidate, he called Thomas "highly underrated." Trump said Thomas has "been so consistent for so long, and we should give him credit."

More than 20 of the men and women Thomas mentored as law clerks have gone on to hold political appointments in the Trump administration or been nominated to judgeships by Trump. Thomas and his wife, Virginia, herself a well-known conservative activist, have dined with the president and first lady.

Elizabeth Wydra, president of the liberal Constitutional Accountability Center, acknowledged that Thomas' views may now have more sway, something she described as "terrifying to many progressives."

Still, Thomas' views can be so far from his fellow justices that neither Roberts nor Chief Justice William Rehnquist before him have assigned Thomas big, landmark opinions on the belief that he won't be able to



FILE - In this Nov. 30, 2018, file photo, Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, appointed by President George H. W. Bush, sits with fellow Supreme Court justices for a group portrait at the Supreme Court Building in Washington. Thomas is now the longest-serving member of a court that has recently gotten more conservative, putting him in a unique and potentially powerful position, and he's said he isn't going away anytime soon. With President Donald Trump's nominees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh now on the court, conservatives are firmly in control as the justices take on divisive issues such as abortion, gun control and LGBT rights. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

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keep together the votes of his colleagues, said Ralph Rossum, the author of a book on Thomas. Instead, Thomas often writes separately, speaking only for himself. Some critics dismiss those solo opinions as uninfluential, but Rossum disagrees.

"He stakes out a position more forthrightly or vigorously than other justices are willing to go, but they're kind of sucked along in his wake," Rossum said, adding that, like a magnet, "Thomas drags the court in his direction. They may not go as far as he goes, but they go further than they would have otherwise."

Some of the areas of law where, over time, Thomas has pulled the court closer to his positions include voting rights, campaign finance, and the Second Amendment, Robin and Rossum said.

If it were up to Thomas alone, the high court would be willing to make sweeping moves. While the court is typically cautious about overturning its past decisions, Thomas, who as an originalist believes in reading the Constitution as those who wrote it meant, feels less bound by precedent than other justices.

Just this term, Thomas called on the court to reconsider a landmark 1964 First Amendment case, describing it and later decisions extending it as "policy-driven decisions masquerading as constitutional law ." He also criticized a 1963 Supreme Court decision that guarantees a lawyer for anyone too poor to hire one. And he equated the court's Roe v. Wade abortion decision with its Dred Scott decision, which said African Americans weren't citizens, labeling both "notoriously incorrect."

He also wrote an opinion rebuking his colleagues for declining to hear cases involving states' efforts to strip Medicaid money from Planned Parenthood, a decision Thomas described as "abdication of our judicial duty." Alito and Gorsuch agreed.

If Thomas' writing can be attention-getting, he personally keeps a low profile. Thomas shies away from public speaking, describing himself as an introvert. He once explained : "My personality is not such that I enjoy public appearances."

At the high court, Thomas rarely asks questions during arguments, a contrast with his vocal colleagues. When in March he asked a question during arguments for the first time in three years, it was headline news .

But colleagues and court staff know Thomas as gregarious.

"Clarence knows the name of every employee in the courthouse, from the lowest position to the highest ... with virtually all of them he knows their families, their happinesses and their tragedies," Justice Sonia Sotomayor told an audience in 2014 at Yale , where both she and Thomas attended law school.

Over the past year, speculation has intensified about whether Thomas might retire, letting Trump nominate a like-minded, conservative justice. But Thomas, who declined an Associated Press interview request, said in public comments recently that he's not retiring, not even in 20 or 30 years.

If so, Thomas is on track to be the longest-serving justice in history in 2028, when he'll celebrate his 80th birthday. He is currently the court's third-oldest member, behind Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 86, and Justice Stephen Breyer, 80.

Yale law professor Akhil Amar said part of the appeal of staying on the court for Thomas has to include his increasing influence. Amar said he could see Thomas justify staying this way: "It's a pretty good job. I'm having fun, and I'm winning."

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

Berkshire Hathaway investors worry about life after Buffett

By JOSH FUNK AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Tens of thousands of Berkshire Hathaway shareholders return to Omaha every year to learn from Warren Buffett and celebrate the company he built through acquisitions and investments.

But with the 88-year-old Buffett and 95-year-old Charlie Munger leading the company, it's hard for shareholders not to wonder how much longer the revered investors will be in place. And the fact that Berkshire is holding more than \$114 billion in cash and short-term investments raises questions about what Buffett might buy next.

Shareholder Stephen Teenois, 30, made his first trip to this year's meeting on Saturday after owning

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the stock for several years because he wanted to experience the event where Buffett and Munger spend hours answering questions.

"I just want to soak in everything I can and learn from him," said Tee-nois, who is from Houston.

Buffett has said that Berkshire has a succession plan in place for whenever it is needed. Neither Buffett nor Munger has any plans to retire. Two longtime executives, Ajit Jain and Greg Abel, have been promoted to vice chairmen to help oversee Berkshire's businesses. One of them will likely eventually be Berkshire's next CEO.

Buffett said Saturday that both Abel and Jain have done a great job since they were promoted into the new roles in early 2018, and both earned about \$18 million last year. Jain oversees the conglomerate's insurance businesses while Abel oversees non-insurance business operations.

"You could not have two better operating managers than Greg and Ajit," Buffett said.

Jim Weber, CEO of Berkshire company Brooks Running, said the transition from reporting directly to Buffett to reporting to Abel has gone smoothly.

"I've enjoyed working with him. He's incredibly smart," Weber said about Abel.

Berkshire's eclectic collection of more than 90 businesses includes a variety of industries. Previously, Abel oversaw Berkshire utility businesses.

Shareholder Bill Laub, 67, of Moline, Illinois, said he wasn't worried about Buffett's successor or the future of the company because he has faith in the team behind him.

"If something happened to Warren, there would be the shock and the blip, and then it will all be over," Laub said.

Laub said he hopes there is another big acquisition in Buffett and Berkshire's future. Buffett has said that he has had a hard time finding acquisitions selling for reasonable prices in recent years because the market has soared.

"I hope he finds something good to buy," Laub said.

Buffett faced several questions about whether relatively recent deals, including Kraft Heinz, were paying off for Berkshire:

Buffett said he's happy with Berkshire Hathaway's partnership with the Brazilian firm of 3G Capital. The companies worked together to buy Kraft and Heinz, but recently the combined food giant had to write down the value of its brands by \$15 billion.

"I'm pleased that we are partners, and it's conceivable that something else could come up," Buffett said.

Buffett said the main problem with the Kraft investment is that Berkshire and 3G overpaid for it. Buffett also said that he and 3G underestimated the challenges branded foods face from retailers and the growth of private label products.



Shareholders in overflow rooms watch on a big screen as Berkshire Hathaway Chairman and CEO Warren Buffett, left, and Vice Chairman Charlie Munger preside over the annual Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting in Omaha, Neb., Saturday, May 4, 2019. An estimated 40,000 people are thought to be in town for the event, where Buffett and Munger spend hours answering questions. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

Some states seek to close loopholes in marital rape laws

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Witches were still being burned at the stake when Sir Matthew Hale came up with his legal theory that rape could not happen within marriage. The 17th century English jurist declared it legally impossible because wedding vows implied a wife's ongoing consent to sex.

Three and a half centuries later, vestiges of the so-called "marital rape exemption" or "spousal defense" still exist in most states — remnants of the English common law that helped inform American legal traditions. Legislative attempts to end or modify those exemptions have a mixed record but have received renewed attention in the #MeToo era.

The most recent efforts to roll back protections for spouses focus on rapes that happen when a partner is drugged, unconscious or otherwise incapacitated. Minnesota is the latest to take action. The state Legislature this week voted to eliminate the exemption, which had prevented prosecutions in those cases.

"No longer will this antiquated and shameful law be on our books," Gov. Tim Walz said as he signed the bill into law on Thursday. "The concept of a pre-existing relationship defense should have never been part of our criminal statutes."

In Ohio, determined opponents plan to re-introduce a marital rape bill this month, after two earlier attempts failed.

Former lawmaker and prosecutor Greta Johnson was the first to introduce the Ohio legislation in 2015. She said having to address whether a woman was married to her attacker as part of sexual assault prosecutions struck her as "appalling and archaic."

"Certainly, there was a marital exemption lifted years ago, but it was just for what in the prosecutorial world we call the force element — by force or threat of force," she said. "You could still drug your spouse and have sex with them, and it's not rape. You could commit sexual imposition against your spouse, and it's not a crime. It was really troubling."

All 50 states had laws making marital rape a crime by 1993, whether as a result of the two preceding decades of activism by women's rights groups or because of a pivotal court ruling. Nearly 9% of women and 0.8% of men have been raped by an intimate partner, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National surveys have placed the percentage of women raped within marriage between 10% and 14%.

Still, many states' marital rape laws have loopholes — not only involving the victim's capacity to con-



Jenny Teeson, center in white, of Andover, Minnesota, looks on as Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz signs a bill at the Capitol in St. Paul, on Thursday, May 2, 2019, repealing a Minnesota law that prevented prosecutors from filing sexual assault charges against people accused of raping their spouse. Teeson, testified before legislative committees earlier this year about how her now ex-husband drugged her and made a video of himself raping her while she was unconscious. Prosecutors dropped rape charges because of the old law, and he served just 30 days in jail for invasion of privacy. (AP Photo/Steve Karnowski)

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sent, but related to age, relationship, use of force or the nature of the penetration. Some impose short timeframes for victims to report spousal rape.

A recent Maryland bill sought to erase the marital exemption for all sex crimes.

During discussion of the bill, one skeptical male lawmaker wondered whether a spouse might be charged with sexual assault for "smacking the other's behind" during an argument. Maryland Del. Frank Conaway Jr., a Baltimore Democrat, raised religious concerns.

"If your religion believes if you're married, two are as one body, then what happens? Can you get a religious exemption?" he asked.

"No, I would actually say that the First Amendment would prevent the state from getting entangled in that sort of judgment," replied Lisae Jordan, executive director of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. "So you would have to rely on your faith and your commitment to that to not bring those charges. But that's no place for the General Assembly."

The bill died in March.

Professor D. Kelly Weisberg of the University of California Hastings College of the Law said the Maryland debate touched on some of the common rationales for the marital rape exemption over the centuries.

One is Hale's premise from the 1670s that marriage implies irrevocable consent and even property rights by the husband over his wife and her body. Those ideas have never truly disappeared, said Weisberg, author of a new reference book on domestic violence law.

She said other arguments for such laws are that marital privacy is a constitutional right, as when spouses can't be forced to testify against one another in court, that marital rape isn't serious enough to criminalize and that it would be difficult to prove.

For those and other reasons, Weisberg said marital rape laws have not kept pace with other domestic violence laws. That means in some cases an unmarried domestic partner has more legal protections against attack than a spouse.

Changing attitudes — and laws — about marital rape is what drove Jenny Teeson to go public this year with her story.

The 39-year-old from Andover, Minnesota, was going through a divorce in 2017 when she discovered a flash drive with videos taken by her husband. They showed him penetrating her with an object while she lay drugged and unconscious. In one, their 4-year-old lay next to her on the bed.

Teeson turned the videos over to the police. After an investigation, her husband was charged with third-degree criminal sexual assault against an incapacitated victim. Charges were brought in the morning — but dropped by afternoon because of the state's marital rape exemption.

"I was beside myself," she told The Associated Press.

Her ex-husband ultimately pleaded guilty to a gross misdemeanor charge of invading her privacy and served 30 days in the county jail. Still shocked that he could not be charged with a felony because of the state law, Teeson decided to take action.

"I thought if I can't have the law be in place to keep myself, my kids and my community safe, I could wallow in it, or I could do something about it," she said.

The AP does not normally identify victims of sexual assault, but Teeson has shared her story publicly, including during testimony before legislative committees. Democratic state Sen. Karla Bigham credited Teeson's advocacy for persuading lawmakers to pass the bill.

"She had to relive the trauma every time she shared her story," Bigham told her colleagues during a debate in the Senate chamber this past week. "Her voice speaks loudly to those women who deserve justice. Let's do the right thing. Let's right this wrong."

AEquitas, a resource for prosecutors, reported last month that 17 states still maintain some form of the exemption for spouses who rape partners when they are drugged or otherwise incapacitated: Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Washington and Wyoming.

In Ohio, state Rep. Kristin Boggs, a Democrat, said she's not optimistic the upcoming version of the marital

rape bill will be any more successful in the Republican-controlled Legislature than it has been in the past. But at least one past opponent — the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association — has evolved on the issue. Executive Director Lou Tobin said he expects the group will support a bill that seeks to eliminate the exemption.

"In the past, I know that there's been some concern that these cases are difficult to prove; they can be a lot of he-said, she-said back and forth," Tobin said. "But sorting through those things is what prosecutors are for."

Boggs' bill would again call for removing references to the marital exemption throughout Ohio's criminal code. Her argument in favor of it is straightforward.

"Our rationale for introducing this legislation is simply that your legal relationship to another human being shouldn't give you permission to rape them," she said.

Karnowski reported from St. Paul, Minnesota.

Associated Press writer Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland, and News Researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York also contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Carr Smyth at <http://www.twitter.com/jcarrsmyth> and Steve Karnowski at <https://twitter.com/skarnowski>

Prosecutors refuse final meeting with Cohen as prison looms

By JIM MUSTIAN and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For months, President Donald Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen tried — but failed — to position himself as a whistleblower in the vein of Watergate hero John Dean.

As the time ticked down toward his deadline to report to prison, Cohen also lost the interest of the one group of people who could help him out: the federal prosecutors he desperately hoped would ask a judge to shorten his sentence.

Since mid-March, prosecutors in New York have rebuffed Cohen's repeated offers to provide more information about alleged wrongdoing by Trump and other people in his orbit, Cohen's attorney Lanny Davis told The Associated Press on Friday.

"Why not see him?" Davis asked. "What's the downside? He's about to go to prison."

Cohen's legal team reached out to prosecutors in March asking for an opportunity to meet for a "frank discussion" about reducing his sen-



Michael Cohen, right, President Donald Trump's former personal attorney, walks down the street with his son Jake after leaving his apartment, Saturday, May 4, 2019, in New York. Cohen is scheduled to report to a federal prison on Monday, May 6, to begin serving a three-year sentence for campaign-finance violations, tax evasion, bank fraud, and lying to Congress. (AP Photo/Jonathan Carroll)

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tence, based on his cooperation. That meeting never happened.

That snub might be the best evidence yet that Cohen's months-long campaign to sell himself as a potential witness hasn't paid off.

Cohen is scheduled to report Monday to a federal prison 70 miles north of New York City to begin serving a three-year sentence for campaign-finance violations, tax evasion, bank fraud and lying to Congress.

In an apparent bid to maintain a semblance of normalcy before starting his sentence, Cohen left his Manhattan apartment building on Saturday with his son to go to a coffee shop and then to a barbershop, Eddie Arthur Salon. They both got haircuts. Cohen's next stop was the pricy retailer Barneys New York, where he told journalists that he plans to hold a news conference Monday before heading to prison.

Cohen remains the only person charged in a scandal involving hush money payments to the porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal, who were threatening during the presidential campaign to speak up about alleged affairs with Trump.

Cohen started to cast himself publicly as a whistleblower less than three months after the FBI raided his home and apartment.

He gave a series of tantalizing teases that there was "more to come," starting with an interview last July in which he told ABC anchor George Stephanopoulos he was no longer loyal to Trump. More dribbled out over the next few weeks. Davis released a tape of Cohen and Trump discussing one of the hush-money payments.

That effort, though, has largely been met with an uncompromising approach by federal prosecutors.

New York investigators built their case for months without speaking with Cohen, then finally agreed to meet with him on a Saturday last August, just a few days before he would plead guilty.

At the meeting, they delivered an ultimatum: plead guilty or be indicted within days. Cohen also believed after the meeting that his wife could be charged with financial crimes if he didn't cooperate.

"I love this woman, and I am not going to let her get dragged into the mud of this crap," Cohen later told an acquaintance, the actor Tom Arnold, in a conversation that Arnold recorded and provided to The Wall Street Journal.

Cohen's wife, Laura, filed taxes with her husband and made investments with Cohen in taxi medallions. She ultimately was not charged.

After pleading guilty in August, Cohen did meet with Manhattan-based prosecutors multiple times to discuss several issues. Those included Trump's personal business dealings, the president's personal involvement in attempts to pay off McDougal and Daniels, and his inaugural committee, which is now the subject of a criminal investigation centering on possible donations by foreign nationals and influence peddling.

Cohen also met with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigators several times, culminating with a session just days before the former FBI director turned his report over to the Justice Department.

Still, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan, in court filings before his sentencing, criticized what it described as Cohen's unwillingness to cooperate fully and be debriefed "on other uncharged criminal conduct, if any, in his past."

They didn't ask the judge for a lenient sentence and have given no sign that they intend to file a so-called Rule 35 motion—a legal filing that could reduce Cohen's punishment if his cooperation is deemed to be of substantial assistance. Cohen's attorneys say they believe Cohen's information supports several potential prosecutions.

A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office declined to comment.

In February, Cohen testified before several Congressional panels about what he said was dishonesty by Trump in his business affairs. He also testified that a Trump Organization executive, Allen Weisselberg, and Trump's son Donald Jr. were involved in reimbursing him for one of the hush money payments.

During that testimony, Cohen said a number of Trump-related topics were still being probed by New York prosecutors.

"I am currently working with them right now on several other issues of investigation that concerns them, that they're looking at," Cohen said.

Yet, within weeks, prosecutors were through speaking with him. Davis, in the interview Friday, said he believes Cohen has been treated unfairly. "The Southern District of New York was disproportionate in the sentence it asked for and appears to have targeted just Michael Cohen for reasons that I can't understand," Davis said.

Sisak reported from New York.

Young voters eager for change in South Africa's election

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — At 24, Abetse Mashigo was born a year after South Africa's brutal apartheid system was dismantled. Yet she still feels frustrated by what she sees as continued economic inequality for its people.

And that will be on her mind as she and others vote May 8 to elect a president and parliament.

"South Africa is a great country, but it has many shortfalls," Mashigo said, flicking her dreadlocks back with a flourish. "Seeing the spectrum of both wealthy and poor, it's a constant everyday struggle."

Many of the country's young voters never directly experienced apartheid's racial oppression and segregation that was ended in 1994 under South Africa's first black president, Nelson Mandela, and his African National Congress. But they and others say they want to see more drastic change, and leaders of opposition parties are hoping to win their support.

Mashigo said she is angered by apartheid's legacy, which keeps many blacks in poverty. She said she's impatient for change, and that's why she backs the Economic Freedom Fighters, known as the EFF, one of the three main parties among dozens vying for power in the election.

"I'm part of the Red Sea," she said, jokingly referring to the bright red clothing worn by supporters of the opposition party. "I like the EFF because it is radical and different. It's rebellious, and I like that."

The party has pledged to seize white-owned land without compensation and nationalize mines and banks.

Mashigo's 59-year-old father, Thamsanqa, watches with pride as his daughter voices her outspoken opinions. He shares many of her beliefs but has a more cautious approach, saying he is still undecided which party will get his vote.

Many older South Africans among the 26 million eligible voters still support for the ANC, which has governed for a quarter-century. But they also say they are disgusted by widespread corruption blamed on the



In this April 27, 2019, photo, Abetse Mashigo, left, and her father Thamsanqa pose for a photograph in their home near Johannesburg. Abetse Mashigo, 24, was born a year after South Africa's brutal apartheid system was dismantled, yet she still feels frustrated by what she sees as continued economic inequality for its people. Thamsanqa shares many of her beliefs but has a more cautious approach, saying he is still undecided which party will get his vote May 8 to elect a president and parliament. (AP Photo/

Denis Farrell)

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party. President Cyril Ramaphosa has pledged to root out corruption in the country. A former trade union representative, he came to power in February 2018 after Jacob Zuma resigned amid mounting scandals.

The elections are taking place amid growing pessimism. About 64% of South Africans are dissatisfied with the country's democracy, an increase from 34% who described themselves as unhappy in 2013, according to a Pew Research poll released Friday.

"I have voted in every election (since blacks could vote) and I'm not going to miss this one," Thamsanqa Mashigo said. "I've never had doubts in my mind about who to vote for, but this time ... I'm still deciding. ... There is doubt in my mind."

He described a "frightening" life under apartheid, when "people disappeared. I think some families even today don't know what happened to their loved ones."

When apartheid ended, "we were really excited about that. ... We had a black government and Mandela was president. That was progress! ... We said freedom at last was arriving in our lifetime!"

Mashigo, who works in information technology, said he is now disappointed with the ANC.

"The gap between black and white has just grown bigger and bigger. And by 25 years, I expect it to be much better. The gap should have closed, not totally, but at least be on the right track," he said, adding that the ANC should have focused on education and health care.

Like his daughter, he complained about rampant corruption and the high unemployment rate of 27%.

Unemployment is an even more pressing among the young, with nearly 40% of those under 34 without jobs, according to the government's Stats SA.

Although disillusioned with the ANC, Mashigo is suspicious of the Economic Freedom Fighters that his daughter supports.

He said he doesn't trust the EFF's firebrand leader Julius Malema because "he was caught with his hands in the cookie jar."

Malema was kicked out of the ANC after allegations of corruption surfaced.

"These guys are disgruntled, that's all," Mashigo added.

Nor is he convinced by the other major opposition party, the Democratic Alliance. It was started by white liberals but has attracted considerable black support, winning control of city councils in Cape Town and Johannesburg. It now has a black leader, Mmusi Maimane.

"I don't think he controls the party the way a leader should control his party," Mashigo said, leaving him still undecided about how to vote.

There are 5.6 million registered voters between the ages of 18 to 29, nearly one-fifth of those eligible to cast ballots.

They could boost support for the Economic Freedom Fighters, which got about 6% of the vote in the 2014 election and is widely expected to improve on that number.

"These elections are exciting for young voters," said Lwazi Khoza, a 22-year-old university student and project manager for YouthLab, a youth advocacy group.

"The EFF are appealing to many young voters. The EFF leaders present themselves as rebellious and non-conformist," she said.

Khoza, who will be finishing her degree this year, said many young voters want change.

"As a young black woman living in post-apartheid South Africa, I am frustrated by the slow pace of change. Yes, things have improved since the apartheid days, but not enough. Things have become stagnant," she said.

"Are we free? Really? Or are we still being held down because of the past?" she said. "We cannot say we are on an equal playing field, educationally or economically. That's why many young voters want to see change."

Makhumo Kwathi, an unemployed 25-year-old who lives with her parents in Soweto, Johannesburg's largest black township, said she is looking forward to voting.

"I want my voice to be heard," Kwathi said. "To be quite honest, I'm not going to vote for the ANC, because the ANC has been giving us all these false hopes till now. ... All these scandals ... Now we can see

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where our money is going. The ANC is promising us the opposite of what they have been doing.”

Kwathi, a high school graduate who is looking for work as a bank teller, would not say which party she will vote for but said she wants a new government that will create more jobs.

“I want to see change. More youth need to be employed,” she said. “How can we, the youth, be the future of the country when we are unemployed? How can we go forward as a country?”

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Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 5, the 125th day of 2019. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 5, 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

On this date:

In 1494, during his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus landed in Jamaica.

In 1818, political philosopher Karl Marx, co-author of “The Communist Manifesto” and author of “Das Kapital,” was born in Prussia.

In 1862, Mexican troops defeated French occupying forces in the Battle of Puebla.

In 1891, New York's Carnegie Hall (then named “Music Hall”) had its official opening night, featuring Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky as a guest conductor.

In 1892, Congress passed the Geary Act, which required Chinese in the United States to carry a certificate of residence at all times, or face deportation.

In 1925, schoolteacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

In 1934, the first Three Stooges short for Columbia Pictures, “Woman Haters,” was released.

In 1942, wartime sugar rationing began in the United States.

In 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children. Denmark and the Netherlands were liberated as a German surrender went into effect.

In 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland on his 66th day without food.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton.

Ten years ago: Connie Culp, America's first face transplant recipient, appeared before reporters at the Cleveland Clinic. (Culp underwent the procedure after being shot by her husband in a failed murder-suicide attempt.) Texas health officials confirmed the first death of a U.S. resident with swine flu.

Five years ago: A narrowly divided Supreme Court upheld Christian prayers at the start of local council meetings. Philadelphia guard Michael Carter-Williams won the NBA's Rookie of the Year Award.

One year ago: Russians demonstrated in scores of cities across the country against the impending inauguration of Vladimir Putin to a new term as president, and police responded by reportedly arresting nearly 1,600 of them. North Korea readjusted its time zone to match South Korea's, saying it was an early step toward making the longtime rivals “become one.” NASA launched the Mars InSight lander from California on a flight of more than six months to the red planet, where the robot geologist would dig deeper in to the Martian surface than ever before. Justify, on his way to a Triple Crown sweep, splashed through the slop at Churchill Downs to win the Kentucky Derby by 2½ lengths, becoming the first horse since Apollo in 1882 to win the Derby without having raced as a 2-year-old.

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Today's Birthdays: Actress Pat Carroll is 92. Former AFL-CIO president John J. Sweeney is 85. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 81. Actor Michael Murphy is 81. Actor Lance Henriksen is 79. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 76. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 75. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 74. Rock musician Bill Ward (Black Sabbath) is 71. Actress Melinda Culea is 64. Actress Lisa Eilbacher is 62. Actor Richard E. Grant is 62. Former broadcast journalist John Miller is 61. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 60. NBC newsman Brian Williams is 60. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 53. TV personality Kyan (KY'-ihn) Douglas is 49. Actress Tina Yothers is 46. Rhythm and blues singer Raheem DeVaughn is 44. Actor Santiago Cabrera is 41. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 40. Singer Craig David is 38. Actress Danielle Fishel is 38. Actor Henry Cavill is 36. Rock musician Josh Smith is 36. Actor Clark Duke is 34. Soul singer Adele is 31. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chris Brown is 30. Figure skater Nathan Chen is 20.

Thought for Today: "Some of us think holding on makes us strong; but sometimes it is letting go." — Hermann Hesse, German-born Swiss poet and author (1877-1962).