

Groton Daily Independent

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➤ 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

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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

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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Weekly Vikings Roundup

Draft Edition

By Jordan Wright

We have already covered the Minnesota Vikings' first three draft picks, but we have a ton more names to get through so without any more preamble, let's get into it!

In the fourth round, the Vikings traded up to select Dru Samia, a guard from Oklahoma. "Teams that are looking for a tough, scrappy, and attitude driven interior offensive lineman will love Samia. He plays the game like a prospect that was told that he never had a chance of ever becoming a professional. Always playing with a big chip on his shoulder, he plays the game with an extreme amount of aggressiveness. A trait that's not coachable, he already has it instilled in him to seek and destroy any defender that is in his way." – Jordan Reid's 2019 NFL draft guide.

In the fifth round, the Vikings drafted Cameron Smith, a linebacker from USC. It was a surprise move, as most draft boards – including Reid's – didn't have Smith rated very highly. He is a reliable tackler with a nose for the ball and a high football IQ, but he is athletically limited. He will likely be a backup and special teamer for the first few years of his career.

In the sixth round, the Vikings drafted Armon Watts, a defensive tackle from Arkansas. Watts is a raw prospect who has the potential to play every spot along the defensive line. He wasn't a starter until his senior season, but the Vikings see an athletic player they can mold into a good defensive tackle.

With their second pick in the sixth round, the Vikings selected Marcus Epps, a safety from Wyoming. Epps wasn't highly recruited coming out of high school, so he ended up as a walk-on at Wyoming where he played in 50 games for the Cowboys. He is an undersized safety with adequate speed and athleticism. The Vikings have him listed as a defensive back, so he could end up playing anywhere in the defensive backfield.

With their third pick in the sixth, the Vikings drafted Olisaemeka Udoh, a tackle from Elon (which apparently is in North Carolina). Udoh is exactly the type of raw, but upside filled offensive lineman that teams will salivate over. He already has the traits that aren't coachable with size and determination to finish defenders on the ground." – Jordan Reid

With the first of four picks for the team in the seventh round, the Vikings selected another defensive back with Kris Boyd from Texas. Boyd is a big, aggressive cornerback who needs to work on his backpedal. The Vikings' depth at corner means Boyd will likely sit on the practice squad for a year or two.

Also in the seventh round, the Vikings took Dillon Mitchell, a wide receiver from Oregon. Mitchell is athletically gifted, and it really shows up when he has the ball in his hands, but he has relied on that for most of his career and will need to really put in the work required to make it in the NFL. If he can learn the nuances of the game, and put in his time in the weight room, he could turn into a decent receiver in the league.

With their next pick, the Vikings took another receiver with Olabisi Johnson from Colorado State. Johnson is the polar opposite of Mitchell – he runs great routes and really studies the game, but he lacks top end speed.

With their 12th and final pick of the 2019 NFL draft, the Vikings took Austin Cutting, a long snapper from the Air Force. There isn't much film on long snappers, but he seems to be consistent and have good velocity on his snaps. The Vikings will have to work around his military commitment, but he has a good shot to make the team when that commitment is over.

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Even though the draft is only seven rounds long, the NFL draft doesn't stop with the selection of Mr. Irrelevant (the last pick in the draft). Teams get on the phone with those players who weren't drafted, trying to recruit them as free agents. The Vikings signed 10 such players this year:

Micah Abernathy, Safety, Tennessee
Khari Blasingame, Fullback, Vanderbilt
Jake Browning, Quarterback, Washington
Davion Davis, Wide receiver, Sam Houston State
Brandon Dillon, Tight end, Marian
Alexander Hollins, Wide receiver, Eastern Illinois
John Keenoy, Center, Western Michigan
Nate Meadors, Cornerback, UCLA
Tito Odenigbo, Defensive tackle, Miami
Anree Saint-Amour, Defensive end, Georgia Tech

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!



The sunrise this morning. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Men Would Rather Face a Charging Lion

By Richard P. Holm, MD

Did you know that an average South Dakotan male lives to 75-years-of-age, and the average woman lives to 80? Why is that? Is it because we men are more prone to violent deaths early by going to war, riding motorcycles or driving cars faster? Nah! This accounts for only a small part of the difference.



By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

I think more likely it is because men, who are genetically built larger and more muscular (likely in order to be the defender or hunter for the family) no longer need to use those muscles in this modern world.

Just look at most 22-year-old men, they come built almost automatically ready to fight or lift or throw or build. But instead, in this society, you find them driving a car, sitting at a desk or laying on the couch rolling through the channels looking for videos of people playing games and being physically active.

Even our young boys are often living through the pretend movements of action figures or computer-generated warriors, rather than actually running through fields in some sort of sport, or chase, or hunt. As men age, their activity drastically reduces while their caloric intake continues excessively on. All the while their bellies grow. I truly believe this combination of excessive calories and reduced activity accounts for the sleep apnea, diabetes, vascular disease and, overall, increased death rate of men over women.

But there is one more factor, which should be added here. Men are also built to deny and do what they can to avoid going to the doctor to have a check-up. Let's face it, denial has something to do with being a man. It goes with the testosterone, guns, action toys, and channel changers. You would think a man would rather face a charging lion than the yearly physical exam.

Men, please don't just think about it, find a way to stay active, participate, don't just watch. Prevent or lose the belly by eating smaller amounts (fewer calories) and by being more active. Also, go see your doctor every once-in-a-while. You just might live longer and feel better too.

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Today in Weather History

May 6, 1988: High winds produced blowing dust which reduced visibilities to less than one-half mile in northeastern South Dakota. Wind gusts of 62 mph were reported at Aberdeen. A small building was destroyed in Gettysburg, and a building was damaged near Timber Lake. Winds also blew over a tractor-trailer injuring a man in Okaton.

May 6, 1999: High winds of 35 to 50 mph, gusting to over 60 mph blew across central and north central South Dakota from the early morning to the late evening hours causing some damage. In Pierre, the high winds blew a large tree down and tore loose a piece of the sheet metal cornice atop a downtown building. At the Legion Memorial Park in Mobridge, the high winds knocked the centerfield lights to the ground. In Jones County, a semi-tractor trailer was blown over and damaged. A fishing tournament at Lake Oahe had to be postponed as a result of the high winds.

1876: A tornado, estimated at F3 intensity, tracked four miles across Chicago, Illinois. The damaged buildings included a candy factory, a hospital, a freight depot, and a church. The tornado moved out over Lake Michigan and was observed to have multiple vortices by a reporter. Further south in Illinois, a tornado blew a moving passenger train off the tracks near Neoga, injuring all 19 people aboard.

1937: The German passenger airship LZ 129 Hindenburg caught fire and was destroyed during its attempt to dock with its mooring mast at Naval Air Station Lakehurst in Manchester Township, New Jersey, United States. Of the 97 people on board (36 passengers and 61 crewmen), there were 35 fatalities (13 passengers and 22 crewmen). One worker on the ground was also killed, making a total of 36 deaths. The Hindenburg was delayed two hours from docking due to thunderstorms in the area.

1975: A massive tornado hit Omaha, Nebraska killing three persons, injuring 133 others, and causing over 250 million dollars damage. The tornado struck during the late afternoon moving northeastward through the industrial and residential areas of west-central Omaha and lifting over the northern section of the city. The twister, which cut a swath ten miles long and as much as a quarter of a mile wide. It was the most costly in U.S. history up till that time.

1933 - Charleston, SC, was deluged with 10.57 inches of rain, an all-time 24 hour record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - A massive tornado hit Omaha, NE, killing three persons, injuring 133 others, and causing 150 million dollars damage. The tornado struck during the late afternoon moving northeastward through the industrial and residential areas of west central Omaha, and lifting over the northern section of the city. The twister, which cut a swath ten miles long and as much as a quarter of a mile wide, was the mostly costly in U.S. history up til that time. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Eighteen cities in California and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 91 degrees at Portland OR, 101 degrees at Medford OR, and 104 degrees at Sacramento CA, were the warmest of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

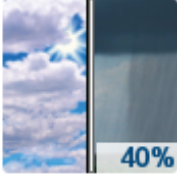


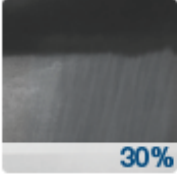

1988 - A major storm brought high winds to the western half of the country. A wind gust of 74 mph at Pueblo CO broke their May record established just four days earlier, and winds in the Arapahoe Ski Basin area of Colorado reached 85 mph. In North Dakota, the high winds reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust closing many roads. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Sixteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 17 at Bismarck ND and 26 at Minneapolis MN were the coldest of record for so late in the season. A reading of 43 degrees at the start of the Kentucky Derby was the coldest in 115 years of records. Light snow was reported in the Upper Midwest, with an inch reported at Chicago IL. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Snow and high winds prevailed behind a Pacific cold front crossing the northwestern U.S. Wind gusts above 50 mph were reported in southeastern Idaho, and heavy snow blanketed the Cascade Mountains of Washington State, with twelve inches reported at Stampede Pass. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Decreasing Clouds	Mostly Sunny	Chance Showers	Slight Chance Showers
High: 54 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 58 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 57 °F

Mostly Cloudy with Scattered Showers

(Steadier rains across central SD late morning-aftn)

Cool, Highs Upper 40s West – Mid 50s East
Rainfall Amounts up to 0.20" in central SD



 **NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Aberdeen, SD 5/6/2019 5:59 AM  

Published on: 05/06/2019 at 7:17AM

Mostly cloudy skies and cool temps will persist across most of the area today. An upper level disturbance will bring in more chances for rain shower activity, especially across central portions of South Dakota. Daytime highs will be stuck in the mid to upper 40s across central South Dakota to the mid 50s across northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 54 °F at 4:59 PM

Low Outside Temp: 39 °F at 6:38 AM

High Gust: 21 mph at 11:07 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 2016

Record Low: 23° in 1931

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in May.: 0.51

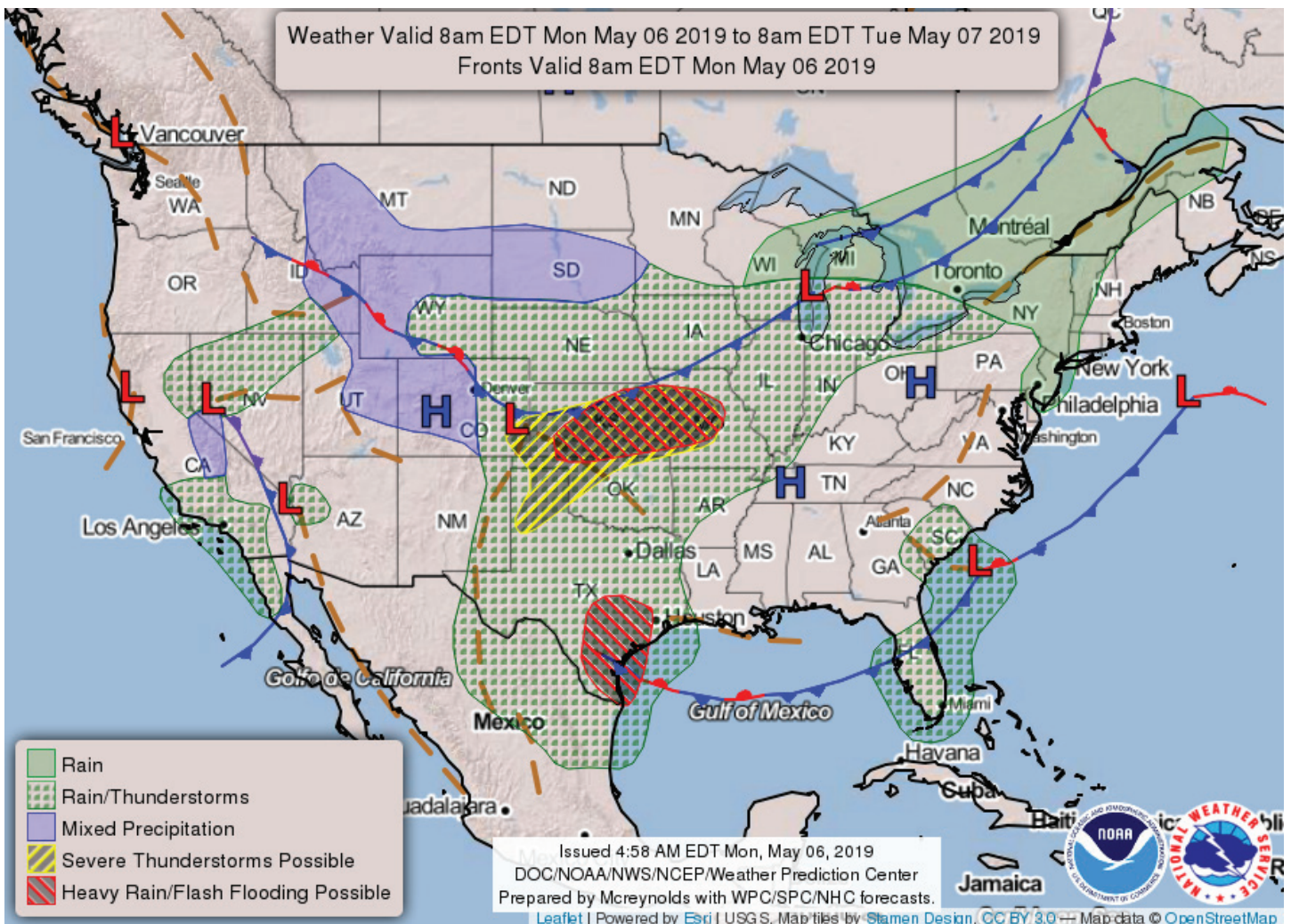
Precip to date in May.: 0.28

Average Precip to date: 4.54

Precip Year to Date: 4.97

Sunset Tonight: 8:46 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:14 a.m.



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OUR DAILY BREAD

There can be no doubt about the significance of work in the eyes of God. It is a theme that we find throughout His Word. Work glorifies God and is a way to demonstrate our obedience to His plan for our lives as well as a way to worship and honor Him.

Consider Paul. He was a tentmaker by trade but a minister of the gospel, theologian, philosopher, warrior, legal expert, missionary and author of Scripture under the direction of God. In fact, he instituted a rule with the church of the Thessalonians. This rule was blunt and to the point: For when we were with you, we gave you this rule: If a man will not work he shall not eat. One does not need a degree in Biblical exegesis to understand that.

Solomon addressed two points of view about work: He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment. Willing workers will be blessed and have all their needs met. God will see to that. God, however, has another rule: if we know of someone in need, who honestly cannot work or find work, we who are Christians are obligated to help them.

Those who chase fantasies lack judgment referring to delusional thinking. They are the ones who chase an easy way of living by devising schemes to take advantage of others. They want to receive life's rewards without hard work and riches from rackets not righteousness.

And, yes, they may have their day. But, in the end, they lack judgment that comes from following God's way and His wisdom, and ultimately, face His judgment.

Prayer: Sound judgment, wise decisions and eternal rewards, Lord, come from obedience to Your Word. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 12:11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.

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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)

News from the Associated Press

Judge sends suit over pipeline back to North Dakota court

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge has sent back to North Dakota state court a lawsuit alleging the environmental group Greenpeace conspired against the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

The two sides had agreed to the move, and U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland recently signed off on it. Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners maintains Greenpeace and others should be held responsible for trying to disrupt pipeline construction and damage the company's reputation and finances. Greenpeace accuses ETP of using the legal system to bully critics.

Greenpeace had cited federal law dealing with court jurisdiction to try to get the state lawsuit moved to federal court, where the group had already prevailed against racketeering claims alleged by ETP. But ETP disputed Greenpeace's argument, and the group late last week acknowledged the company was correct.

St. Francis woman sentenced for accidentally smothering child

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A St. Francis woman has been sentenced to more than a year in federal prison for unintentionally smothering her child.

The U.S. attorney's office says 22-year-old Chelsea Nixon fell asleep while bottle-feeding her child on Aug. 18, 2018, and her shoulder ended up covering the child's face. The child died of asphyxiation.

Authorities say Nixon had been using methamphetamine and had stayed up late the prior evening.

Nixon pleaded guilty on Feb. 7 to involuntary manslaughter and was recently sentenced to 13 months in prison.

Hiking South Dakota peak offers cultural lesson for students

By **ARIELLE ZIONTS** Rapid City Journal

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

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

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

"Every time the thunders roll for the first time we always come up here," Two Crow told the Rapid City Journal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

the offerings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Officials to assess storm damage to South Dakota properties

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Officials are preparing to survey storm damage of individual properties in South Dakota to help determine the possibility for federal assistance.

A state Department of Safety release says that Federal Emergency Management Agency staff members, along with state and local representatives, plan to begin preliminary assessments Monday on homes and businesses damaged by snowmelt, rains and flooding.

The list of counties includes Bennett, Bon Homme, Hutchinson, Jones, Minnehaha, Spink, and Yankton, as well as the reservations of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

A preliminary assessment of public infrastructure is scheduled to start on May 13.

Michael Cohen heads to prison in Trump hush-money scheme

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Cohen, the former lawyer, media attack dog and all-around fixer for President Donald Trump, is scheduled to begin serving a three-year prison sentence Monday for crimes including campaign finance violations related to hush-money payments made on Trump's behalf.

Cohen faces a 2 p.m. deadline to report to the Federal Correctional Institution, Otisville, a federal prison in the countryside 70 miles (113 kilometers) northwest of New York City. A minimum-security prison camp there has become a haven for white-collar criminals.

Cohen, who has been disbarred, is trading plaid blazers for khaki prison garb after trying and failing in recent weeks to get his sentence delayed or reduced.

His legal team asked House Democrats last month to intercede after Cohen testified on Capitol Hill, but they were reticent to do so. Federal prosecutors in New York were also no help, Cohen's lawyers said.

Cohen was originally scheduled to start his sentence in March, but a judge granted a two-month delay so he could recover from surgery and get his affairs in order.

Cohen, 53, is the only person charged with a crime in connection with the hush-money payments to women who allegedly had affairs with Trump.

Federal prosecutors have said Trump directed Cohen to arrange the payments to buy the silence of porn actress Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal in the run-up to the 2016 election. Trump denies that he had trysts with either woman.

Cohen also pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about a Trump Tower project in Moscow, as well as to charges of tax evasion and bank fraud.

Once he gets to prison, Cohen will undergo medical and mental health screenings and be assigned a job, such as mowing the grounds or cleaning up the visiting room. He'll also get sets of clothing, bedding and towels.

At the prison camp, about 115 inmates sleep in bunks lined up in barrack-style halls, instead of individual

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or two-man cells like in higher-security facilities. Recreational amenities include tennis courts, horseshoes and bocce ball.

Forbes once ranked Otisville as one of "America's 10 Cushiest Prisons," but former employees and inmates say it's hardly "Club Fed." Inmates are still doing time and they're still separated from their families and friends.

"There's no free time to work on your book, or whatever," said former employee Don Drewett. "You get your downtime when you're supposed to be sleeping or when you can exercise, but that only happens at certain windows of the day. It's not where in the middle of the day you can just opt to not go to work and go work out. That's not the way that works."

Cohen's fellow inmates include "Jersey Shore" star Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, who wraps up an eight-month tax fraud sentence in September, and Fyre Festival fraudster Billy McFarland, who's serving a six-year sentence.

But Cohen should avoid acting like he's still in the spotlight, said Jack

Donson, a former Otisville case manager who advises white-collar criminals on what to expect in prison.

Some high-profile inmates have been known to hire other prisoners to do their laundry and heat up their meals, but that's looked at by staff as a sign of laziness and entitlement.

So too are inmates who try to set themselves up with the cushiest accommodations by having a doctor write a note suggesting they sleep in a bottom bunk or wear soft shoes.

If there's a legitimate medical need, it should come up at intake, Donson said.

"You assume the role of an inmate," said Donson. "You're cordial to everybody. You're respectful to everybody. You do your time. You ask for nothing from staff. Nothing from inmates. You accept nothing from inmates. You're nobody. Seriously."

If Cohen can't adjust, Donson said, "his time is going to be miserable."



FILE - In this Saturday, May 4, 2019, file photo, Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal attorney, is confronted by members of the media as he heads back to his Park Avenue apartment in New York. Cohen has until Monday afternoon, May 6, 2019, to report to a federal prison where he'll begin his three-year sentence. Cohen is the only person charged in connection with hush-money payments to women who allegedly had affairs with Trump.

(AP Photo/Jonathan Carroll, File)

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Experts hunt for reason why 41 died in Moscow plane fire

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian emergency workers have recovered 41 bodies and two flight recorders from the wreckage of a plane that caught fire during an emergency landing in Moscow, officials said Monday as they sought to discover the cause of the disaster.

Transport Minister Yevgeny Dietrich gave the death toll and said six of the survivors had been hospitalized. The plane, an Aeroflot SSJ100, was carrying 78 people, including five crew members.

The plane caught fire Sunday evening about 6:30 p.m. as it came down hard on the runway at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport after turning back from a flight destined for Murmansk. The landing occurred about a half hour after takeoff, indicating that the plane had little time to dump its fuel.

Videos showed desperate passengers hurrying down emergency slides deployed from the plane's forward section as black smoke billowed.

One of the dead was flight attendant Maxim Moiseev, Dietrich said. Russian news reports, citing unnamed sources, said the Moiseev was in the back part of the plane, which was engulfed in flames and tried unsuccessfully to deploy an evacuation slide.

Russia's main investigative body said both of the plane's flight recorders — data and voice — have been recovered. Committee spokeswoman Svetlana Petrenko was also quoted by Russian news agencies on Monday as saying that investigators were looking into three main possibilities behind the cause of the disaster: inexperienced pilots, equipment failure and bad weather.

Storms were passing through the Moscow area as when the plane made its emergency landing. The reason why the pilots decided to make an emergency landing has not been announced.



The Sukhoi SSJ100 aircraft of Aeroflot airlines is covered in fire retardant foam after an emergency landing in Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, May 5, 2019. Scores of people died when the Aeroflot airliner burst into flames while making the emergency landing at the airport Sunday evening, officials said. (Moscow News Agency photo via AP)

UN report says nature is in worst shape in human history

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Nature is in more trouble now than at any other time in human history, with extinction looming over 1 million species of plants and animals, scientists said Monday in the United Nations' first comprehensive report on biodiversity.

It's all because of humans, but it's not too late to fix the problem, the report said.

Species loss is accelerating to a rate tens or hundreds of times faster than in the past, the report said. More than half a million species on land "have insufficient habitat for long-term survival" and are likely to go extinct, many within decades, unless their habitats are restored. The oceans are not any better off.

"Humanity unwittingly is attempting to throttle the living planet and humanity's own future," said George Mason University biologist Thomas Lovejoy, who has been called the godfather of biodiversity for his re-

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search. He was not part of the report.

"The biological diversity of this planet has been really hammered, and this is really our last chance to address all of that," Lovejoy said.

Conservation scientists from around the world convened in Paris to issue the report, which exceeded 1,000 pages. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) included more than 450 researchers who used 15,000 scientific and government reports. The report's summary had to be approved by representatives of all 109 nations.

Some nations hit harder by the losses, like small island countries, wanted more in the report. Others, such as the United States, were cautious in the language they sought, but they agreed "we're in trouble," said Rebecca Shaw, chief scientist for the World Wildlife Fund, who observed the final negotiations.

"This is the strongest call we've seen for reversing the trends on the loss of nature," Shaw said.

The findings are not just about saving plants and animals, but about preserving a world that's becoming harder for humans to live in, said Robert Watson, a former top NASA and British scientist who headed the report.

"We are indeed threatening the potential food security, water security, human health and social fabric" of humanity, Watson told The Associated Press. He said the poor in less developed countries bear the greatest burden.

The report's 39-page summary highlighted five ways people are reducing biodiversity:

— Turning forests, grasslands and other areas into farms, cities and other developments. The habitat loss leaves plants and animals homeless. About three-quarters of Earth's land, two-thirds of its oceans and 85% of crucial wetlands have been severely altered or lost, making it harder for species to survive, the report said.

— Overfishing the world's oceans. A third of the world's fish stocks are overfished.

— Permitting climate change from the burning of fossil fuels to make it too hot, wet or dry for some species to survive. Almost half of the world's land mammals — not including bats — and nearly a quarter of the birds have already had their habitats hit hard by global warming.

— Polluting land and water. Every year, 300 to 400 million tons of heavy metals, solvents and toxic sludge are dumped into the world's waters.

— Allowing invasive species to crowd out native plants and animals. The number of invasive alien species per country has risen 70% since 1970, with one species of bacteria threatening nearly 400 amphibian species.

Fighting climate change and saving species are equally important, the report said, and working on both environmental problems should go hand in hand. Both problems exacerbate each other because a warmer



FILE - In this June 7, 2017, file photo, two wild elephants, part of a herd that arrived at a wetland near the Thakurkuchi railway station engage in a tussle on the outskirts of Gauhati, Assam, India. Development that's led to loss of habitat, climate change, overfishing, pollution and invasive species is causing a biodiversity crisis, scientists say in a new United Nations science report released Monday, May 6, 2019. (AP Photo/ Anupam Nath, File)

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world means fewer species, and a less biodiverse world means fewer trees and plants to remove heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the air, Lovejoy said.

The world's coral reefs are a perfect example of where climate change and species loss intersect. If the world warms another 0.9 degrees (0.5 degrees Celsius), which other reports say is likely, coral reefs will probably dwindle by 70% to 90%, the report said. At 1.8 degrees (1 degree Celsius), the report said, 99% of the world's coral will be in trouble.

"Business as usual is a disaster," Watson said.

At least 680 species with backbones have already gone extinct since 1600. The report said 559 domesticated breeds of mammals used for food have disappeared. More than 40% of the world's amphibian species, more than one-third of the marine mammals and nearly one-third of sharks and fish are threatened with extinction.

The report relies heavily on research by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, or IUCN, which is composed of biologists who maintain a list of threatened species.

The IUCN calculated in March that 27,159 species are threatened, endangered or extinct in the wild out of nearly 100,000 species biologists examined in depth. That includes 1,223 mammal species, 1,492 bird species and 2,341 fish species. Nearly half the threatened species are plants.

Scientists have only examined a small fraction of the estimated 8 million species on Earth.

The report comes up with 1 million species in trouble by extrapolating the IUCN's 25% threatened rate to the rest of the world's species and using a lower rate for the estimated 5.5 million species of insects, Watson said.

Outside scientists, such as Lovejoy and others, said that's a reasonable assessment.

The report gives only a generic "within decades" time frame for species loss because it is dependent on many variables, including taking the problem seriously, which can reduce the severity of the projections, Watson said.

"We're in the middle of the sixth great extinction crisis, but it's happening in slow motion," said Conservation International and University of California Santa Barbara ecologist Lee Hannah, who was not part of the report.

Five times in the past, Earth has undergone mass extinctions where much of life on Earth blinked out, like the one that killed the dinosaurs. Watson said the report was careful not to call what's going on now as a sixth big die-off because current levels don't come close to the 75% level in past mass extinctions.

The report goes beyond species. Of the 18 measured ways nature helps humans, the report said 14 are declining, with food and energy production noticeable exceptions. The report found downward trends in nature's ability to provide clean air and water, good soil and other essentials.

Habitat loss is one of the biggest threats, and it's happening worldwide, Watson said. The report projects 15.5 million miles (25 million kilometers) of new roads will be paved over nature between now and 2050, most in the developing world.

Many of the worst effects can be prevented by changing the way we grow food, produce energy, deal with climate change and dispose of waste, the report said. That involves concerted action by governments, companies and people.

Individuals can help with simple changes to the way they eat and use energy, said the co-chairman of the report, ecological scientist Josef Settele of the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research in Germany. That doesn't mean becoming a vegetarian or vegan, but balancing meat, vegetables and fruit, and walking and biking more, Watson said.

"We can actually feed all the coming billions of people without destroying another inch of nature," Lovejoy said. Much of that can be done by eliminating food waste and being more efficient, he said.

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at www.twitter.com/borenbears .

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US dispatched aircraft carrier to send message to Iran

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **CATHERINE LUCEY** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A White House decision to dispatch an aircraft carrier and other military resources to send a message to Iran followed “clear indications” that Iranian and Iranian proxy forces were preparing to possibly attack U.S. forces in the region, a defense official told the Associated Press.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information, said that the Pentagon approved the deployments and that U.S. forces at sea and on land were thought to be the potential targets. The official declined to be more specific.

White House national security adviser John Bolton said in a statement Sunday night that the U.S. is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the U.S. Central Command region, an area that includes the Middle East.

Bolton said the move was in response to “a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings.” He didn’t provide details, but said the U.S. wants to send a message that “unrelenting force” will meet any attack on U.S. interests or those of its allies.

“The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or regular Iranian forces,” he said.

The Pentagon had no immediate comment on the Bolton statement.

The Abraham Lincoln and its strike group of ships and combat aircraft have been operating in the Mediterranean Sea recently. Last Wednesday a group of senior Albanian government officials visited aboard the Lincoln as it sailed in the Adriatic.

Bolton’s reference to the Central Command area would mean the Lincoln is headed east to the Red Sea and perhaps then to the Arabian Sea or the Persian Gulf. The U.S. Navy currently has no aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf.

Bolton’s mention of deploying a bomber task force suggests the Pentagon is deploying land-based bomber aircraft somewhere in the region, perhaps on the Arabian Peninsula.

Speaking to reporters while flying to Europe, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the actions undertaken by the U.S. had been in the works for a little while.

“It is absolutely the case that we have seen escalatory actions from the Iranians and it is equally the case that we will hold the Iranians accountable for attacks on American interests,” Pompeo said. “If these actions take place, if they do by some third-party proxy, a militia group, Hezbollah, we will hold the Iranian leadership directly accountable for that.”



FILE - In this April 1, 2019, file photo, the USS Abraham Lincoln deploys from Naval Station Norfolk, in the vicinity of Norfolk, Va. The White House said Sunday, May 5, that the U.S. is deploying military resources to send a message to Iran. White House national security adviser John Bolton said in a statement that the U.S. is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the U.S. Central Command region, an area that includes the Middle East. (Kaitlin McKeown/The Virginian-Pilot via AP, File)

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Asked about "escalatory actions," Pompeo replied, "I don't want to talk about what underlays it, but make no mistake, we have good reason to want to communicate clearly about how the Iranians should understand how we will respond to actions they may take."

Asked if the Iranian action were related to the deadly events in Gaza and Israel — militants fired rockets into Israel on Sunday and Israel responded with airstrikes — Pompeo said, "It is separate from that."

The Trump administration has been intensifying a pressure campaign against Iran.

Last month, President Donald Trump announced the U.S. will no longer exempt any countries from U.S. sanctions if they continue to buy Iranian oil, a decision that primarily affects the five remaining major importers: China and India and U.S. treaty allies Japan, South Korea and Turkey.

The U.S. also recently designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist group, the first ever for an entire division of another government.

Trump withdrew from the Obama administration's landmark nuclear deal with Iran in May 2018 and, in the months that followed, reimposed punishing sanctions including those targeting Iran's oil, shipping and banking sectors.

Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have in recent months spoken stridently about Iran and its "malign activities" in the region.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

China says trade envoys preparing to go to Washington

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese envoys are preparing to travel to the United States for trade talks, a government spokesman said Monday, suggesting talks on ending a bruising tariff war will go ahead despite President Donald Trump's surprise threat to raise import taxes.

Beijing is "trying to get more information" following Trump's announcement he might impose 25 percent tariffs on more Chinese imports, said the foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang.

Trump's announcement Sunday on Twitter caused financial markets to plunge. It prompted suggestions Beijing might pull out of talks planned for this week to avoid looking weak in the face of American pressure.

Asked whether the top Chinese envoy, Vice Premier Liu He, would visit Washington as planned, Geng said, "a Chinese team is preparing to travel to the United States for trade talks."

Geng declined to give further details when asked who might go or whether the talks would start Wednesday as



People walk by a globe structure showing the United States of America on display outside a bank in Beijing, Monday, May 6, 2019. U.S. President Donald Trump raised pressure on China on Sunday, threatening to hike tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods in a tweet that sent financial markets swooning. Trump's comments, delivered on Twitter, came as a Chinese delegation was scheduled to resume talks in Washington on Wednesday aimed at resolving a trade war that has shaken investors and cast gloom over the world economy. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

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scheduled. He referred other questions to the Commerce Ministry, which did not respond to requests for comment.

The lack of details suggested Beijing is wrestling with the conflict between wanting to end a fight that has battered Chinese exporters and its reluctance to appear to be giving in to Washington.

"We hope the United States will join efforts with China and we can meet each other halfway so we make a mutually beneficial agreement on the basis of win-win and mutual respect," Geng said.

The two governments have raised tariffs on tens of billions of dollars of each other's goods in their dispute over U.S. complaints about Chinese technology ambitions.

That has disrupted trade in goods from soybeans to medical equipment.

Trump turned up the heat Sunday by saying he would raise import taxes on \$200 billion in Chinese products to 25% from 10% as of Friday. Washington already is charging 25% duty on another \$50 billion of Chinese imports, while Beijing has imposed penalties on \$110 billion of American goods.

China's main stock index plunged 5.6 percent and Hong Kong lost 2.9 percent, while Japanese markets were closed for a holiday.

In early trading, market benchmarks in France and Germany fell 2 percent. On Wall Street, futures for the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average were down almost 2 percent.

Trump pushed back deadlines in January and March to raise tariffs in a bid to buy more time for negotiations. But on Sunday, Trump said on Twitter a deal with Beijing was coming "too slowly, as they attempt to renegotiate. No!"

Trump also threatened to slap tariffs on another \$325 billion in imports from China, covering everything it ships annually to the United States.

Trump hiked tariffs on Chinese imports on July 6 in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand technology.

Washington and other trading partners also want Beijing to scale back plans for government-led creation of Chinese global competitors in robotics and other technology. They say those violate the communist government's market-opening commitments.

Both sides say they are making progress but no details have been released.

Beijing's negotiators have agreed to narrow the politically sensitive Chinese trade surplus with the United States by purchasing more soybeans, natural gas and other goods.

They have offered to change industrial strategies but have ruled out discarding them outright.

Another sticking point is U.S. insistence on an enforcement mechanism with penalties in the event Beijing fails to stick to any commitments it makes.

Economists suggested Trump may want to step up pressure because China's economy is improving, reducing the urgency for Beijing to strike a deal.

The latest quarter's growth held steady despite a slump in exports to the United States. That suggested official efforts to reverse a downturn were gaining traction.

"China may have appeared less willing to offer additional concessions," said Citigroup economists in a report.

Trump's threat makes going ahead with talks "very difficult politically" for President Xi Jinping's government, said Jake Parker, vice president of the U.S.-China Business Council. He said the Chinese public might "view this as a capitulation" if Beijing reached an agreement before Trump's Friday deadline.

If Trump carries out his threat, American companies in China "would be very concerned" about official retaliation, said Parker.

A Chinese decision to pull out of talks could have global repercussions, causing turmoil in financial markets and dragging on economic growth, economists said.

"The risk of an all-out U.S.-China trade war has increased significantly," Tao Wang and Ning Zhang of UBS said in a report.

Israel army lifts restrictions, cease-fire reached with Gaza

By ARON HELLER and FARES AKRAM Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military lifted protective restrictions on residents in southern Israel on Monday, while Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group reported a cease-fire deal had been reached to end the deadliest fighting between the two sides since a 2014 war.

The escalation had killed 23 on the Gaza side, both militants and civilians, while on the Israeli side four civilians were killed from incoming fire.

The Islamic Jihad militant group, which Israel accused of instigating the latest violence, confirmed that a "mutual and concurrent" truce had been brokered by Egypt. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said Egyptian mediators, along with officials from Qatar and the U.N., helped reach the deal. He said Hamas could still use "different pressuring tools" to pressure Israel into easing a crippling blockade of Gaza it has enforced along with Egypt.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pointedly noted that "the campaign is not over, and it requires patience and judgment."

The intense fighting over the past two days came to a halt in the early morning hours and residents on both sides went back to their daily routines. The Israeli military said that as of 7 a.m., "all protective restrictions in the home front will be lifted."

Schools and roads had been closed, and residents had been encouraged to remain indoors and near bomb shelters as intense rocket fire pounded the area, threatening to devolve into all-out war.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and have fought three wars and numerous smaller battles since the Islamic militant group seized Gaza in 2007.

In the latest fighting, which erupted over the weekend, Palestinian militants fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, while the Israeli military responded with airstrikes on some 350 militant targets inside Gaza, including weapons storage, attack tunnels and rocket launching and production facilities.

It also deployed tanks and infantry forces to the Gaza frontier, and put another brigade on standby. A Hamas commander involved in transferring Iranian funds to the group was killed in an airstrike, in an apparent return to Israel's policy of "targeting killing" of militant leaders.

Palestinian medical officials reported 23 deaths, including at least nine militants as well as two pregnant women and two babies. The four Israeli civilians killed were the first Israeli fatalities from rocket attacks since the 50-day war in 2014. One was killed when his vehicle was hit by a Kornet anti-tank missile near the Gaza border.

Egyptian mediators had been working with the U.N. to broker a cease-fire. Under past Egyptian-brokered deals, Israel has agreed to ease its joint blockade of Gaza with Egypt in exchange for a halt to rocket fire.

The latest fighting broke out after Palestinian militants accused Israel of not honoring an earlier cease-



People watch the aftermath of a rocket fired from Gaza after it hit in the southern Israeli port city of Ashdod, Monday, May 6, 2019. The Israeli army on Monday lifted protective restrictions on residents in southern Israel, while the Hamas militant group's radio station in the Gaza Strip reported a cease-fire, signaling a deal had been reached to end the bloodiest fighting between the two sides since a 2014 war. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

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fire deal from March, and opened fire on soldiers on the Israeli side of the Gaza border.

The terms of the latest deal were not known, but recent cease-fires have been short-lived.

In weary communities in southern Israel, there was criticism that the latest round of fighting had ended without tangible results — and no hope that it would not recur soon.

“When we have the upper hand, we need once and for all to finish the terror because this will repeat itself and will not stop,” said Jacque Mendel, a resident of the coastal city of Ashdod, where a man was killed in his car by a rocket Sunday night.

Despite its fierce response, Israel appears to have little appetite for another prolonged conflict. Later this week, the country marks Memorial Day, one of the most solemn days of the year, followed by the festive Independence Day. Next week, Israel is to host the popular Eurovision song contest and the backdrop of fighting would have likely overshadowed the occasions and deterred foreign tourists.

Netanyahu, who recently secured re-election in part thanks to the votes of the rocket-battered residents along the Gaza Strip frontier, has traditionally been cautious in his handling of Gaza, for fear of sparking an open-ended war with no clear endgame. But he is under pressure from the same electorate to end its anguish and his perspective coalition partners appear to favor a more hard-line agenda on Gaza.

Even within his own ruling Likud Party, Netanyahu faced unusual criticism for not going further to quash Gaza militants.

Likud lawmaker Gideon Saar wrote on Twitter that the reported cease-fire was not an achievement for Israel. “The timeframes between these violent attacks on Israel and its citizens are getting shorter and the terror groups in Gaza are getting stronger between them,” he wrote.

Benny Gantz, Israel’s emerging opposition leader, also criticized Netanyahu, saying that ending the current round amounted to “another surrender to the extortion of Hamas and the terror organizations.”

In Gaza, a year of Hamas-led protests along the Israeli frontier against the blockade that has ravaged the economy has yielded no tangible benefits. In March, Hamas faced several days of street protests over the dire conditions.

Still, Hamas’ leader Ismail Haniyeh said late Sunday that the militant group was “not interested in a new war,” and the start on Monday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan likely lessened motivation for battle.

Signs of normal life slowly returned to Gaza, with banks opening after three days; schools are to reopen on Tuesday.

In the northern Gaza Strip, residents searched for a man and his wife missing among the rubble of an apartment building. The upper two floors of the five-story structure in the Sheikh Zayed residential complex was hit by an Israeli airstrike and four Palestinians — a 12-year-old boy, an infant and her parents — were killed.

Akram reported from Gaza City, Gaza Strip.

Trump threatens to hike tariffs on \$200B of Chinese imports

By PAUL WISEMAN and JOSEPH PISANI AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump raised pressure on China with a threat to hike tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods in a tweet that sent global financial markets swooning on Monday.

Trump’s comments on Twitter came as a Chinese delegation was scheduled to resume talks in Washington on Wednesday aimed at resolving a trade war that has shaken investors and cast gloom over the world economy.

Chinese government officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Trump turned up the heat Sunday by saying he would raise import taxes on \$200 billion in Chinese products to 25% from 10% as of Friday.

The Wall Street Journal, citing unidentified sources, said China’s government was considering canceling this week’s talks. Beijing has responded to previous U.S. threats by saying it wouldn’t negotiate under pressure.

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Stock markets fell on the news. The future for the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 1.8% and that for the S&P 500 sank 1.6%. The Shanghai Composite index plunged nearly 6% while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong sank 3.1%. Japan's markets were closed for a holiday.

Trump had twice pushed back deadlines — in January and March — to raise the tariffs in a bid to buy more time for a negotiated settlement. But on Sunday, Trump, who has called himself a “tariff man,” said he’s losing patience. “The Trade Deal with China continues, but too slowly, as they attempt to renegotiate. No!” Trump tweeted.

In his tweets, Trump also threatened to slap tariffs on another \$325 billion in Chinese imports, covering everything China ships annually to the United States.

The two countries are locked in a high-stakes dispute over China’s push to establish itself as a technological superpower.

The U.S. charges that China is resorting to predatory tactics — including cybertheft and forcing foreign companies to hand over technology — in a drive to establish Chinese companies as world leaders in advanced industries such as robotics and electric vehicles.

Trump’s threat makes going ahead with talks “very difficult politically” for President Xi Jinping’s government, said Jake Parker, vice president of the U.S.-China Business Council. He said the Chinese public might “view this as a capitulation” if Beijing reached an agreement before Trump’s Friday deadline.

And if Trump goes ahead, American companies in China “would be very concerned” about official retaliation, said Parker.

A month ago, Trump predicted “something monumental” would be achieved in the next few weeks.

But last week, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin seemed to temper expectations, suggesting that Washington was willing to “move on” if it can’t get the deal it wants.

A substantive deal would require China to rethink the way it pursues its economic ambitions, abandoning or scaling back subsidies to its companies, easing up on the pressure for foreign companies to share trade secrets and giving them more access to the Chinese market.

Philip Levy, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a White House economist under President George W. Bush, said the talks are too complicated for Trump’s high-pressure tactics to work. “The president treats this like we’re haggling over the price of a used car,” Levy said.

Trump has made a priority of shaking up American trade policy.

As a candidate for the presidency, Trump raged repeatedly about alleged Chinese perfidy — so much



FILE - In this file photo taken Wednesday, May 1, 2019, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, right, gestures as U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, center, chats with his Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, left, before they proceed to their meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. President Donald Trump turned up the pressure on China on Sunday, May 5, threatening to hike tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods. Trump’s comments, delivered on Twitter, came as a Chinese delegation was scheduled to resume talks in Washington on Wednesday aimed at resolving a trade war that has shaken financial markets and cast gloom over the world economy.(AP Photo/Andy Wong, Pool, File)

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so that a video mashup of him spitting out the word "China" went viral and collected more than 15 million views on Youtube.com.

Trump charged that previous administrations, gullible and weak, had let China get away with abusive trade practices, accepting empty promises from Beijing and allowing the U.S.-China economic relationship to grow ever more lopsided. As evidence, he pointed to America's vast U.S. trade deficit with China — \$379 billion last year, by far the biggest with any country in the world.

Once he took office, Trump's relationship with Xi seemed to get off to a good start. The two men shared chocolate cake and amiable conversation at Trump's resort in Mar-a-Lago, Florida, in April 2017. A few weeks later, China agreed to open its market U.S. beef, cooked chicken, and natural gas in what Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross called a "herculean accomplishment."

The romance faded. In March 2018, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative issued a report accusing China of using predatory tactics to strengthen its tech companies.

Last July, the Trump administration gradually began slapping import taxes on Chinese goods to pressure Beijing into changing its policies. It now has imposed 10% tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports and 25% tariffs on another \$50 billion. The Chinese have retaliated by targeting \$110 billion in U.S. imports.

The fight between the world's two biggest economies is raising worries about global economic growth. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and others have downgraded their forecasts for the world economy, saying the U.S.-China standoff is reducing world trade and creating uncertainty for companies trying to decide where to buy supplies, build factories, and make investments.

Trump has portrayed his tariffs as a moneymaker for the United States and a benefit to the U.S. economy.

But a March study by economists from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Columbia University, and Princeton University found that the burden of Trump's tariffs - including taxes on steel, aluminum, solar panels, and Chinese imports - falls entirely on U.S. consumers and businesses who buy imported products. By the end of last year, the study found, they were paying \$3 billion a month in higher taxes and absorbing \$1.4 billion a month in lost efficiency.

Nonetheless, the overall U.S. economy has remained healthy. On Friday, the government reported that the U.S. unemployment rate had fallen to the lowest level in half a century.

Markets rallied.

But on Monday those gains were reversed as investors reversed course.

"This is a big surprise given the increasingly positive messages from the various US officials involved in the trade talks in recent weeks," said Tao Wang and Ning Zhang of UBS said in a commentary.

"Certainly the risk of an all-out US-China trade war has increased significantly."

Joseph Pisani reported from New York.

Student who charged a campus gunman remembered as a hero

WAYNESVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Family, hundreds of friends and a military honor guard on Sunday remembered a North Carolina college student credited with saving classmates by rushing a gunman firing inside their lecture hall.

Riley Howell, 21, was fatally shot Tuesday while tackling the gunman accused of killing Howell and one other person and wounding four more at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Howell has been called a hero.

"A man I never knew is now a man I'll never forget," the Rev. Robert Blackburn remembered one young man's sign reading as Howell's body was returned earlier this week to his hometown in the Blue Ridge Mountains. His memorial service was held Sunday at a 1,900-seat auditorium on the grounds of a Methodist retreat on Lake Junaluska.

Blackburn opened the service by asking participants to remember the horror of the shooting, pray for the other victims, and offer compassion for the family of the man arrested in the case, Trystan Andrew Terrell.

Terrell, a 22-year-old former UNC-Charlotte student, has been charged with first-degree murder, first-

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degree attempted murder and other offenses in connection with the attack.

A military honor guard outside the auditorium stood at attention as a trumpeter played through open doors. Howell had been enrolled in a second semester of college ROTC courses at UNC-Charlotte, though he wasn't among those pursuing a career as a military officer, said Lt. Col. Chunka Smith, who runs the school's Army ROTC program.

Howell's mother received a folded American flag from a military honor guard, which came on stage during the memorial.

Howell was a big-hearted, affectionate person with an adventurous streak who loved Star Wars and superhero tales, his siblings recounted. Riley "unapologetically lived as who he was" and set an example to be "bigger than the small things this world wants us to be hung up on," said his sister Iris.

"My superhero doesn't wear a cape, he wears Texas," said his brother Teddy.

Before the bluegrass band Balsam Range played "I'll Fly Away," the father of Howell's high school sweetheart of five years wondered whether the young man had died saving college classmates who may have lives of high purpose.

"I choose to believe that Riley knew that some things were bigger than he was, and he was right where he was supposed to be. Maybe it was to show all of us in the world that selflessness is not gone. We just don't see it enough," said Kevin Westmoreland.



Parents of Riley Howell, Natalie Henry-Howell, center left, stands next to Thomas Howell, comforting their son Teddy, after a memorial service for Riley Howell in Lake Junaluska, N.C., Sunday, May 5, 2019. Family and hundreds of friends and neighbors are remembering Howell, a North Carolina college student credited with saving classmates' lives by rushing a gunman firing inside their lecture hall.

(AP Photo/Kathy Kmonicek)

Polarizing but enduring Cabinet member: Education head DeVos

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

When President Donald Trump visits a school, it's usually for a campaign rally, not a classroom tour. At his latest State of the Union address, he mentioned education just once. On Twitter, he has used the word "education" six times while in office, compared with 500 uses of the word "border."

Education, it's safe to say, is not his top priority.

Instead, Trump entrusts that realm to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who after two years has emerged as one of the most polarizing figures in his Cabinet yet also one of its most enduring members. While chiefs of a dozen other agencies have quit or been fired, DeVos has survived and shows no intention of leaving.

"Just because she's been a lightning rod and been engaged in controversy doesn't mean she's not doing her job," said Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. "She's come and she has stayed, which is more than you can say about some others in the Cabinet."

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Among DeVos' supporters, there's a belief that Trump's distance from education is a blessing. While the White House focuses on issues such as immigration and the economy, DeVos has been free to continue her push for school choice, the topic that drew her into education and fueled her more than 30 years of advocacy.

In return, Trump gets an education leader who appeals both to school choice supporters and to evangelical Christians. DeVos, 61, who was raised in the Christian Reformed Church, is known for her devout faith and often weaves religion into her education speeches.

Despite her distance from Trump, she has a longtime friendship with Vice President Mike Pence, and has built other alliances across the administration, her aides say, including with Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and adviser, and her husband, Jared Kushner.

It also helps that, in a Cabinet plagued by scandal, DeVos has kept a clean ethical record. Unlike several of her peers who have faced inquiries over lavish travel taken at taxpayer expense, DeVos travels in a family plane and covers the cost herself. Every year, she distributes her \$200,000 salary among different charities.

"Lots of people disagree with her, but not because she's done the wrong thing," said Nathan Bailey, her chief of staff. "She's probably the person of the deepest personal integrity I've ever met in my life."

DeVos has shied away from media attention, and her staff said she was unavailable to be interviewed for this story. She is scheduled to speak Monday to education journalists, her first appearance at a conference that has been a regular stopping point for her predecessors.

For an education secretary, DeVos has attracted a remarkable amount of vitriol. She's reviled by teachers unions, who oppose her school choice policies and call her an enemy to public schools. She's a common political target for Democrats, who have vilified her in campaign ads from Michigan to Texas.

Detractors portray her as an aloof billionaire with a poor grasp of education policy, an image that hasn't been helped by occasional public gaffes.

At her 2017 confirmation hearing, for example, she appeared confused when asked about a federal law protecting students with disabilities. Later she was mocked after suggesting some schools might need guns for protection against grizzly bears.

Her aides say DeVos continues to receive support from Trump and has a good relationship with him. But behind the scenes, occasional conflicts with the White House have bubbled into public view, including during a March dispute over funding for the Special Olympics.

In private meetings, DeVos had objected to an administration proposal to eliminate money for the Special Olympics, a group she supports. But when the cut was kept in place in Trump's 2020 budget proposal,



FILE - In this May 31, 2018, file photo, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos speaks during a visit of the Federal School Safety Commission at Hebron Harman Elementary School in Hanover, Md. Education, it's safe to say, is not President Donald Trump's top priority. Instead, he entrusts that realm to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who after two years has emerged as one of the most polarizing figures in the Cabinet but also one of its most enduring members. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana, File)

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DeVos fell in line and defended it in public, even though it drew intense criticism from Democrats.

As public outcry grew, however, Trump changed course and restored the money, saying, "I have overridden my people." To some on Capitol Hill, it sounded like Trump was throwing DeVos under the bus even after she loyally defended a White House proposal.

"The president didn't do her any favors by changing his mind on his own budget when the iron got hot," said Alexander, education secretary in the early 1990s. "It's not her budget, it's the president's budget, and everyone in the room knew it was never going to be adopted."

DeVos aides say she didn't take it as a slight. But at a Washington event the next day, when asked if she was glad to be secretary, DeVos said yes — "most days I am."

Other conflicts with the White House have stayed quieter. DeVos disagreed with the administration's early decision to revoke Obama-era guidance protecting transgender students, for example, and a recent executive order from Trump upholding free speech on college campuses. DeVos had previously spoken against a federal response to free speech disputes but stayed quiet on the issue when Trump issued his order.

Some who know DeVos are confounded by her persistence. She doesn't need the money. She has no dream of higher office, they say. She could easily pack up and return to the comfort of her home.

"I have wondered why in the world she keeps doing this," said Rev. Robert Sirico, a family friend and president of the conservative Acton Institute think tank. "It's not for personal gain. It's certainly not for personal aggrandizement."

The answer he arrives at: "She believes the truth of what she professes," he said. "It's because she thinks this is going to benefit the kids in American schools."

At times, rumors have swirled that DeVos would quit. As recently as November, after Democrats won control of the House, even some conservatives expected her to step down. But she dismissed the rumors, and if anything she has ramped up her work since then.

She recently started touring the country to promote her new school choice initiative, a proposed tax credit to support scholarships sending students to private schools and other education options. It's meant to be a more politically viable option than her past school choice plans, which failed to gain traction even in her own party.

Win or lose, supporters say she has succeeded in widening the conversation about school choice, and has encouraged more states to consider it.

"I didn't expect her to be anyplace further than she is right now," said Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Mich., a friend of DeVos. "But she has put the dialogue out there, and it is causing us to talk about things that haven't been on the docket for a number of years."

Democrats, though, say DeVos is taking the country in the wrong direction. Her new plan has drawn wide pushback from Democrats, including Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

"Her focus has been on voucher programs and school choice," he said. "I think the focus ought to be on students being educated in public schools."

Two other Democrats recently called on DeVos to resign, saying she has endangered students by rolling back Obama-era guidelines protecting transgender students, racial minorities and students who were cheated by for-profit colleges. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., wrote that DeVos should quit "before her actions wreak even more havoc than has already occurred."

Her aides say she isn't going anywhere.

"She doesn't need this job, and I think that actually gives her some liberty to stay focused," said Bailey, her chief of staff. "The noise that tends to distract and bog down people who are more focused on the politics of things, it doesn't get to her."

Follow Collin Binkley on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/cbinkley>

Trump now says Mueller should not testify before Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that special counsel Robert Mueller should not testify before Congress, abandoning his previous declaration that he would leave that decision to his attorney general.

Escalating tensions with House Democrats as they seek to bring Mueller before the House Judiciary Committee, Trump tweeted: "Bob Mueller should not testify. No redos for the Dems!"

Democrats are seeking more information about Mueller's report on his Russia investigation. Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has said he doesn't plan to invite Mueller to testify on the report.

Trump told reporters in the Oval Office last week that testimony from Mueller was "up to our attorney general." William Barr has said he has no objection to Mueller testifying.

Trump again asserted on Twitter Sunday that Mueller's report revealed "NO COLLUSION" and argued that there was "NO OBSTRUCTION."

On collusion, Mueller said he did not assess whether that occurred because it is not a legal term. He looked into a potential criminal conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign and said the investigation did not collect sufficient evidence to establish criminal charges on that front. Mueller didn't charge Trump with obstruction but wrote that he couldn't exonerate him, either.

Trump did not indicate if he would take any steps to block Mueller, who is a Justice Department employee. The president tweeted Sunday after a Democrat on the committee said he was hopeful Mueller would testify, noting that May 15 has been proposed.

Rhode Island Rep. David Cicilline told "Fox News Sunday" that "we hope the special counsel will appear" at that time and that "we think the American people have a right to hear directly from him."

Cicilline later tweeted that "nothing has been agreed to yet."

The House Judiciary Committee chairman, Democratic Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, said last week the committee was "firming up the date" for Mueller's testimony and hoping it would be May 15.

Cicilline said on Fox that "obviously until the date comes, we never have an absolute guarantee" and in his tweet later, said that "we hope the Special Counsel" will agree to the proposed date for his testimony.

Spokespeople for the Justice Department and Mueller declined to comment on Cicilline's remarks and on Trump's tweet.

Democratic lawmakers expressed their displeasure with Trump's position. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer tweeted, in part: "Now he's trying to silence Mueller. For a man who constantly proclaims his innocence, @realDonaldTrump is acting awfully guilty. Mueller must testify publicly before Congress."

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, noted in a tweet that Trump's opposition to Mueller testifying follows his opposition to having a former White House counsel testify.

"Barr's testimony alone — designed to protect Trump — isn't going to cut it. They will testify. The Ameri-



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

can people deserve the truth," said Schiff, who has previously stated that he would like Mueller to appear before his panel.

Another body found at Illinois factory; death toll reaches 3

WAUKEGAN, Ill. (AP) — Search and recovery personnel found the body of another worker Sunday in the rubble of a northern Illinois silicone factory that exploded and burst into flames two days earlier, bringing the death toll to three employees with one more body believed to be in the debris, a fire official said.

Waukegan Fire Marshal Steve Lenzi told a news conference that the body was found as first responders resumed searching in hazardous conditions in the debris from the AB Specialty Silicones plant in Waukegan, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Chicago.

They were searching for the bodies of two of the nine workers who were there when an explosion rocked the building Friday night and left it a shattered skeleton.

It took recovery personnel two hours to bring out the body Sunday afternoon, Lenzi said in a statement. The search for the remaining body was called off Sunday evening and will resume on Monday, he said.

Of the nine employees in the building at the time of the blast, one body was found early Saturday. Four people were taken to the hospital and one of those died later Saturday. The condition of the other three workers in the hospital was not immediately known, Lenzi said. The third confirmed death was the body located Sunday with one other body still to recover. Two other workers did not require treatment at the time.

The cause of the explosion hasn't been determined, although Lenzi said it originated in the building where the silicone is produced.

"Most of the processes that they do are very non-hazardous. Silicone itself, not a hazardous substance," Lenzi said. "Something ... this weekend went horrifically wrong."

AB Specialty Silicones makes specialty silicone chemical raw materials for products such as adhesives, sealants and coatings.

Lenzi said authorities have concluded that the explosion and fire were accidental.

"We are not looking at foul play."

Lenzi said that from information they have gleaned in the preliminary investigation, some of the employees realized something was wrong and alerted others to get out of the building just before the explosion.

Lake County Coroner Howard Cooper said that his office would perform autopsies Monday on at least two of the bodies and would announce the names of the victims and preliminary causes of death. Dental records would be used to identify at least one of the deceased, he said.



Debris can be seen as emergency personnel and others search and clear the scene of an explosion and fire at AB Specialty Silicones chemical plant Saturday, May 4, 2019, in Waukegan, Ill. An explosion and fire at an Illinois silicone factory was believed to have killed three people, authorities said Saturday, as they recovered the body of one victim while suspending the search for the other two.

(Erin Hooley/Chicago Tribune via AP)

Israel steps up strikes as Gaza rocket attacks intensify

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and FARES AKRAM Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Gaza militants fired hundreds of rockets into southern Israel on Sunday, killing at least four Israelis and bringing life to a standstill across the region in the bloodiest fighting since a 2014 war. As Israel pounded Gaza with airstrikes, the Palestinian death toll rose to 23, including two pregnant women and two babies.

The bloodshed marked the first Israeli fatalities from rocket fire since the 2014 war. With Palestinian militants threatening to send rockets deeper into Israel and Israeli reinforcements massing near the Gaza frontier, the fighting showed no signs of slowing down.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spent most of the day huddled with his Security Cabinet. Late Sunday, the Cabinet instructed the army to “continue its attacks and to stand by” for further orders. Israel also claimed to have killed a Hamas commander involved in transferring Iranian funds to the group.

Israel and Hamas, an Islamic militant group that seeks Israel’s destruction, have fought three wars since Hamas violently seized control of Gaza from Western-backed Palestinian forces in 2007. They have fought numerous smaller battles, most recently two rounds in March.

While lulls in fighting used to last for months or even years, these flare-ups have grown increasingly frequent as a desperate Hamas, weakened by a crippling Egyptian-Israeli blockade imposed 12 years ago, seeks to put pressure on Israel to ease the closure.

The blockade has ravaged Gaza’s economy, and a year of Hamas-led protests along the Israeli frontier has yielded no tangible benefits. In March, Hamas faced several days of street protests over the dire conditions.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said in a statement late Sunday that the militant group was “not interested in a new war.”

He signaled readiness to “return to the state of calm” if Israel stopped its attacks “and immediately starts implementing understandings about a dignified life.”

With little to lose, Hamas appears to be trying to step up pressure on Netanyahu at a time when the Israeli leader is vulnerable on several fronts.

Fresh off an election victory, Netanyahu is now engaged in negotiations with his hard-line political partners on forming a governing coalition. If fighting drags on, the normally cautious Netanyahu could be weakened in his negotiations as his partners push for a tougher response.

Later this week, Israel marks Memorial Day, one of the most solemn days of the year, and its festive Independence Day. Next week, Israel is to host the Eurovision song contest. Prolonged fighting could overshadow these important occasions and deter foreign tourists.

The arrival of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which begins Monday, does not seem to be deterring Hamas.



Smoke rises from an explosion after an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City, Sunday, May 5, 2019. The Israeli military said Sunday it had responded to 450 rockets fired from Gaza with over 250 airstrikes against the besieged Palestinian enclave. (AP Photo/Hatem Moussa)

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But the group is also taking a big risk if it pushes too hard. During the 50-day war in 2014, Israel killed over 2,200 Palestinians, over half of them civilians, according to U.N. tallies, and caused widespread damage to homes and infrastructure. While Hamas is eager to burnish its credentials as a resistance group, the Gazan public has little stomach for another devastating war.

"Hamas is the change seeker," said retired Brig. Gen. Assaf Orion, a former head of the Israeli military general staff's strategic division. "Hamas needs to make its calculus, balancing its hope for improvement against its fear of escalation."

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Israelis have "every right to defend themselves." He expressed hope that the recent cease-fire could be restored.

President Donald Trump warned the Gaza militants that "these terrorist acts against Israel will bring you nothing but more misery." "We support Israel 100% in its defense of its citizens...." he tweeted. "END the violence and work towards peace - it can happen!"

The U.N. Mideast envoy, Nickolay Mladenov, called for a halt in rocket fire and "a return to the understandings of the past few months before it is too late."

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini also called for a halt to "indiscriminate rocket attacks" from Gaza and expressed support for Egyptian and U.N. mediation efforts.

Previous rounds of fighting have all ended in informal Egyptian-mediated truces in which Israel pledged to ease the blockade while militants promised to halt rocket fire. Following a familiar pattern, the current round began with sporadic rocket fire amid Palestinian accusations that Israel was not keeping its promises to loosen the blockade.

On Friday, two Israeli soldiers were wounded by snipers from Islamic Jihad, a smaller Iranian-backed militant group that often cooperates with Hamas but sometimes acts independently. Israel responded by killing two Palestinian militants, leading to intense rocket barrages and retaliatory Israeli airstrikes beginning Saturday.

Islamic Jihad threatened to strike deeper into Israel, saying it "is ready to engage in an open confrontation and can open a broader front to defend our land and people."

By Sunday, the Israeli military said militants had fired over 600 rockets, with the vast majority falling in open areas or intercepted by the Iron Dome rocket-defense system. But more than 30 rockets managed to strike urban areas, the army said.

Israeli officials said Moshe Agadi, a 58-year-old Israeli father of four, was fatally struck in the chest by shrapnel in a residential courtyard in the southern town of Ashkelon.

The other deaths included a 49-year-old man killed when a rocket hit an Ashkelon factory, a man who was killed when his vehicle was hit by a Kornet anti-tank missile near the Gaza border, and a 35-year-old man whose car was hit by a rocket in the southern city of Ashdod.

Israeli police said 66 people were wounded, three seriously. In Ashkelon, the Barzilai hospital itself was hit by debris from a rocket that was intercepted by an Iron Dome missile.

The Israeli deaths were the first rocket-related fatalities since the 2014 war, when 73 people, including six civilians, were killed on the Israeli side.

The Israeli military said it struck 250 targets in Gaza, including weapons storage, attack tunnels and rocket launching and production facilities. It also deployed tanks and infantry forces to the Gaza frontier, and put another brigade on standby.

"We have been given orders to prepare for a number of days of fighting under current conditions," said Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman.

Palestinian medical officials reported 23 dead, including at least eight militants hit in targeted airstrikes. At least four civilians, including two pregnant women and two babies, were also among the dead.

Late Saturday, the Palestinians said a 37-year-old pregnant woman and her 14-month-old niece were killed in an Israeli airstrike. The army denied involvement, saying they were killed by an errant Palestinian rocket. There was no way to reconcile the claims.

Among the militants who were killed was Hamas commander Hamed al-Khoudary, a money changer

whom Israel said was a key player in transferring Iranian funds to the militant group.

Late Sunday, an Israeli airstrike hit an apartment building in northern Gaza, killing a couple in their early 30s and their 4-month-old daughter. A 12-year-old boy was also killed in northern Gaza.

Sirens wailed along Israel's border region throughout the day warning of incoming attacks. School was canceled and roads were closed. In Gaza, large explosions thundered across the blockaded enclave during the night as plumes of smoke rose into the air.

Hamas seized control of Gaza from the forces of internationally recognized Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Despite his fierce rivalry with Hamas, Abbas appealed to the international community "to stop the Israeli aggression against our people."

Akram reported from Gaza City. Ilan Ben Zion in Jerusalem and Mohammed Daraghme in Ramallah, West Bank, contributed.

At least 40 dead in Russian plane's fiery emergency landing

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian airliner burst into flames while making an emergency landing at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport Sunday evening, and at least 40 people died, officials said.

The Sukhoi SSJ100 operated by national airline Aeroflot had 73 passengers and five crew members on board when it touched down and sped down a runway spewing huge flames and black smoke.

Elena Markovskaya, a spokeswoman for Russia's Investigative Committee, said early Monday that 41 people were killed. But Health Minister Veronika Skvortsova said later that 38 survived, implying the death toll was 40.

The victims included one member of the crew and at least two teenagers, according to the Investigative Committee.

Video showed desperate passengers leaping out of the plane onto inflatable evacuation slides and staggering across the airport's tarmac and grass, some holding luggage.

The airport said in a statement that the plane, which had taken off from Sheremetyevo Airport for the northern city of Murmansk, turned back for unspecified technical reasons and made a hard landing that started the fire.

Video broadcast later on Russian television showed flames bursting from the jetliner's underside as it lands and then bounces. The plane apparently did not have time to jettison fuel before the emergency landing, news reports said.

The SSJ100, also known as the Superjet, is a two-engine regional jet put into service in 2011 with considerable fanfare as a signal that Russia's troubled aerospace industry was on the rise.



This image taken from video provided by Instagram user @artempetrovich, shows the SSJ-100 aircraft of Aeroflot Airlines on fire during an emergency landing in Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, May 5, 2019. (@

artempetrovich via AP)

However, the plane's reputation was troubled after defects were found in some horizontal stabilizers. The plane's manufacturer, Sukhoi Civil Aircraft, said the plane in Sunday's accident had received maintenance at the beginning of April. Aeroflot said the pilot had some 1,400 hours of experience flying the plane. The plane is largely used in Russia as a replacement for outdated Soviet-era aircraft, but also has been used by airlines in other countries, including Armenia and Mexico. This is the second fatal accident involving a SSJ100. In 2012, a demonstration flight in Indonesia struck a mountain, killing all 45 aboard.

Venezuelans hold vigil for those killed in street clashes

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Led by Roman Catholic priests in white robes, several hundred Venezuelans said prayers Sunday at a candle-lit vigil for at least five people killed in street clashes following a failed opposition call for a military uprising.

Opposition leader Juan Guaidó was unable to attend because of meetings, a representative told the crowd at the vigil. He did not elaborate, though he noted that some members of the opposition-controlled National Assembly were at the memorial service. A few police officers watched from a distance.

Some of those who gathered waved Venezuelan flags and chanted "Freedom," but the mood was muted after the major setback for the opposition in its long campaign to topple President Nicolás Maduro.

Venezuelans who want political change must keep protesting in the streets, said David Manrique, a 20-year-old student.

"A lot of people have had faith in the political process, which hasn't brought results, or at least the results that we want," he said.

The U.S.-backed Guaidó declared himself interim president in January, saying Maduro's re-election last year was rigged and one in a series of increasingly authoritarian steps since he replaced the late Hugo Chávez in 2013 as president. Venezuela, meanwhile, has been in sharp decline for years, suffering from hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicine that the opposition blames on state corruption and mismanagement by the socialist administration.

For his part, Maduro says U.S. sanctions aimed at forcing him from power are taking a toll on the economy, and his government has accused Guaidó of fomenting violence when he appealed to the military last week to switch sides to the opposition. The armed forces did not heed the call, and those killed in ensuing clashes between police and protesters on Tuesday and Wednesday included two teenage boys.

Maduro's government has not moved to arrest Guaidó, possibly reflecting its own weakness in the face of intense U.S. pressure not to move against the opposition leader.



An opponent to Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro holds a candle during a vigil for those killed in street fighting over the past week in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, May 5, 2019. Opposition leader Juan Guaid called in vain for a military uprising to overthrow President Nicolas Maduro, and five people were killed in clashes between protesters and police. (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

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Also Sunday, Venezuelan authorities were investigating the cause of a helicopter crash that killed seven military officers while they were heading to a state where Maduro was visiting troops.

The Cougar helicopter crashed on the southeastern outskirts of Caracas on Saturday. The armed forces said the chopper was heading to San Carlos in Cojedes state, near a military base where Maduro addressed cadets.

In late April, a Venezuelan National Guard general and a pilot died in a police helicopter crash in the city of Maracaibo.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday said ABC's "This Week" program that he planned to meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov soon to discuss U.S. concerns that Russian support for Maduro is fueling the political and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. Russia, in turn, has accused the United States of aggressively interfering in Venezuela's affairs.

U.S. officials are working to provide President Donald Trump with "a full-scale set of options; diplomatic options, political options, options with our allies, and then ultimately, a set of options that would involve use of U.S. military," Pompeo said.

Lavrov met with Venezuela's foreign minister, Jorge Arreaza, in Moscow on Sunday and said afterward that he hoped U.S. talk of a military option does "not reflect the intentions" of Trump.

"We call on both the Americans and those who support them to drop irresponsible plans," the Russian foreign minister said.

Associated Press journalist Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

Boeing didn't tell airlines that safety alert wasn't on

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

Boeing said Sunday that it discovered after airlines had been flying its 737 Max plane for several months that a safety alert in the cockpit was not working as intended, yet it didn't disclose that fact to airlines or federal regulators until after one of the planes crashed.

The feature was designed to warn pilots when a key sensor might be providing incorrect information about the pitch of the plane's nose.

But within months of the plane's debut in 2017, Boeing said, its engineers realized that the sensor warning light only worked when airlines also bought a separate, optional feature.

The sensors malfunctioned during an October flight in Indonesia and another in March in Ethiopia, causing software on the plane to push the nose down. Pilots were unable to regain control of either plane, and both crashed, killing 346 people.

It is not clear whether having the warning light would have prevented either the Lion Air crash or the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max near Addis Ababa. Boeing's disclosure on Sunday, however, raised fresh questions about the company's candor with regulators and airline customers.

Boeing said again that the plane was safe to fly without the sensor alert, called an angle-of-attack disagree light. Other gauges tell pilots enough about the plane's speed, altitude, engine performance and other factors to fly safely, the company said.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said the agency was notified of the non-working warning light in November, after a Lion Air 737 Max crashed on Oct. 29 in Indonesia. He said FAA experts determined that the non-working cockpit indicator presented a low risk.

"However, Boeing's timely or earlier communication with (airlines) would have helped to reduce or eliminate possible confusion," the spokesman said in an emailed statement. He declined to give more details.

In manuals that Boeing gave to Southwest Airlines, the biggest operator of both the Max and 737s in general, the warning light was depicted as a standard feature just as it is on older 737s, according to Southwest spokeswoman Brandy King.

After the Lion Air crash, King said, Boeing notified Southwest that it had discovered the lights didn't work without the optional angle-of-attack indicators, so Southwest began adding the optional feature too.

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That allowed the airline to activate the sensor-disagree warning lights on its 34 Max jets earlier this year, she said.

King described both features as “supplemental” and “advisory” to other information provided to pilots during flights.

The indicator was supposed to tell pilots when sensors that measure the pitch of the plane’s nose appear to conflict, a sign that the sensor information is unreliable. Boeing told airlines that the warning light was standard equipment on all Max jets.

Boeing engineers quickly learned, however, that the warning light only worked if airlines also bought an optional gauge that told pilots how the plane’s nose was aimed in relation to the onrushing air. Boeing said the problem stemmed from software delivered to the company. A Boeing spokesman declined to name the software vendor.

Boeing said Sunday that because in-house experts decided that the non-working light didn’t affect safety, the company decided to fix the problem by disconnecting the alert from the optional indicators at the next planned update of cockpit display software.

Boeing didn’t tell airlines or the FAA about this decision.

Boeing hopes to win approval from the FAA and foreign regulators to get the Max flying again before summer is over. When it does, the company said, the sensor warning light will be standard.

Nearly 400 Max jets were grounded at airlines worldwide in mid-March after the Ethiopia crash. Boeing is working to fix the software that pitched the planes’ noses down based on faulty sensor readings, and to provide pilots with more information about the plane’s automation.

The Justice Department is conducting a criminal investigation into whether Boeing misled regulators about features on the plane including flight-control software at the heart of the crash investigations. The company is also under scrutiny by congressional committees and the Transportation Department’s inspector general, and it faces a growing number of lawsuits by families of the dead passengers.

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FILE - In this Wednesday, April 10, 2019 file photo, a Boeing 737 Max 8 airplane being built for India-based Jet Airways, takes off on a test flight at Boeing Field in Seattle. Boeing said Sunday, May 5, 2019, that it discovered after airlines had been flying its 737 Max plane for several months that a safety alert in the cockpit was not working as intended, yet it didn’t disclose that fact to airlines or federal regulators until after one of the planes crashed.

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren, File)

Pilots made runway change before jet hit Florida river

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

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Pilots of a chartered jet that ran into a river at a Florida military base made a last-minute change to the runway where they would make a landing, a federal investigator said Sunday.

The pilots on the Miami Air International plane requested the change to air traffic controllers shortly before landing at Naval Air Station Jacksonville Friday night.

The 9,000-foot-long runway where the Boeing 737 landed was essentially limited to 7,800 feet since there was a wire barrier set up to recover Navy aircraft in instances they couldn’t land on a carrier during

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training, said Bruce Landsberg, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

"We don't know what they were thinking or why they made that choice," Landsberg said at a news conference. "That will be one of the things we look to find out."

Landsberg didn't elaborate on the significance of the runway change, but said it would be a focus of investigation.

NTSB investigators said they hope a cockpit voice recorder helps them answer that question, but they have been unable to recover it yet since the part of the plane where it's located is still underwater in the St. Johns River. Investigators also plan to interview the pilots, Landsberg said.

Investigators have retrieved the flight data recorder.

Landsberg said the plane recently had been in maintenance, and logs showed a left-hand thrust reverser that was inoperative.

Thrust reversers are used to divert thrust from the engine, but they typically aren't used in calculating a plane's performance, Landsberg said.

According to a Purdue University College of Engineering description, reverse thrust can be used to help an aircraft come to a stop.

"We will be looking very carefully at the maintenance of the aircraft in the several weeks prior," Landsberg said.

There were no serious injuries on the flight from a military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, although almost two dozen of the 143 passengers and crew members sought medical attention for minor injuries.

Capt. Michael Connor, the base's commanding officer, said all passengers had left the base Sunday on their way to their scheduled destinations.

Some aircraft will be allowed to depart the base and be relocated so that pilots can continue with their training, but Naval Air Station Jacksonville will essentially be closed until the plane is removed from the river, Connor said.

The NTSB investigators are still deciding whether to relocate the plane off the base, which would require the use of a barge.

"How the aircraft is positioned now certainly gives you limitations on a good thorough assessment," said NTSB investigator John Lovell. "We are not aware of the extent of the damage under the waterline because it can't be seen."

All fuel needs to be removed before the plane can be moved, and that effort was complicated by the aircraft being partially submerged in the river, as well as stormy weather on Sunday, Landsberg said.

Officials said they didn't know how many gallons of fuel have spilled into the river, but engineers were using booms to contain the fuel and skimmers to vacuum up contaminants.

Divers on Sunday were sent into the plane's cargo area to search and remove a few pets that they had been unable to be rescued because of safety concerns. The investigators didn't say outright whether the



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)

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animals were dead, but the pets would have been submerged for almost two days.

Cell phone video from passenger Darwing Silva captured the immediate, uncertain moments after the chartered jet landed.

A passenger shouted "Watch out! Watch out!" as other passengers and crew members cautiously walked out on a wing of the plane. Another passenger shouted, "Baby coming through!" and a man can be seen holding an infant in his arms as he walks along the other passengers in yellow life jackets getting drenched by rain.

Silva shared the video with Jacksonville television station News4Jax.

Silva told the Tampa Bay Times that passengers initially were told Friday the aircraft might not be fit for takeoff. Then the flight was cleared to leave Cuba, but with the warning there would be no air conditioning.

Even though the plane was hot, there were no other problems during the flight from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Silva said.

The landing at Naval Air Station Jacksonville seemed normal at first, but then the plane didn't stop on the runway. There was a loud bang, he hit his head on the ceiling, and the jet ended up in the water, Silva said.

He looked down and his ankles were in water, he said, and he heard someone yell, "Fuel!"

Silva said he helped usher people out an emergency door onto a wing.

On Sunday, Miami Air International, which operated the aircraft, notified passengers that their overhead luggage from the plane was available for pickup. The airline said passengers would be contacted directly once their checked bags were retrieved.

Also Sunday, a small, one-propeller airplane crashed into the St. Johns River in Jacksonville. The pilot, who was the only person on board and wasn't injured, was rescued by a kayaker, according to the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department.

Mike Schneider reported from Orlando, Fla.

Maximum Security owner weighs options after disqualification

By GARY B. GRAVES AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Maximum Security co-owner Gary West criticized race stewards' disqualification of his horse's Kentucky Derby victory as "egregious" and said he was pondering his next step, including a possible appeal.

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

Several hours earlier, Maximum Security appeared to back up his undefeated record with a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -length victory in the slop over Country House in the Kentucky Derby. The victory was overturned 22 minutes later with a stunning decision by the stewards to disqualify the 9-2 second choice because of interference.

President Donald Trump weighed in on Sunday, tweeting that the decision was "not a good one." He wrote: "Only in these days of political correctness could such an overturn occur. The best horse did NOT win the Kentucky Derby — not even close!"

Runner-up Country House, a 65-1 long shot, was elevated to the winner's circle Saturday to the astonishment of Maximum Security's team, which insisted the horse did not cut off his competitors.

West said his team is exploring options to appeal, starting with the stewards. The owner said stewards told him he can see a replay of the incident on Thursday.

Kentucky Horse Racing Commission chief steward Barbara Borden said the riders of Long Range Toddy and Country House lodged objections against Maximum Security for interference.

"We had a lengthy review of the race," Borden said. "We interviewed affected riders. We determined that (Maximum Security) drifted out and impacted the progress of War of Will, in turn interfering with the 18 and 21. Those horses were all affected by the interference."

Maximum Security was dropped to 17th of 19 horses, placed behind all the horses it was determined that he bothered.

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Borden did not take questions and exited the news briefing to shouts from reporters about a lack of transparency. West said there wasn't much jockey Luis Saez could do to control Maximum Security on a sloppy track.

"When you're leg weary, you're not going to run straight all the time," he said. "Horses don't either."

Said Saez, "I never put anybody in danger."

Trainer Jason Servis agreed with the jockey in the immediate aftermath and added, "He straightened him up right away and I didn't think it affects the outcome of the race."

The stewards disagreed, culminating in the first Derby winner being disqualified because of interference. The last objection in the Derby was filed in 2001 by jockey John Velazquez, who claimed interference by winner Monarchos and jockey Jorge Chavez. Stewards did not sustain the objection.

This time, they did.

The controversial finish capped an eventful weekend at Churchill Downs in two of the sport's marquee races.

Friday's Kentucky Oaks for fillies began with a scary spill at the start by Positive Spirit that dumped rider Manny Franco. Neither the horse nor rider was injured, and both walked off the track. Serengeti Empress won the race in her first start since pulling up early in March at Fair Grounds with external bleeding.

The incidents come soon after the industry enacted a raft of medication and safety rules changes following the deaths of 23 horses over three months at California's Santa Anita.

For Maximum Security, the disappointing reversal spoiled what appeared to be his statement performance after 4-0 start.

The son of New Year's Day and Lil Indy by Anasheed was coming off a 3½-length victory in the Grade 1 Florida Derby on March 30 that established him as the Derby's only unbeaten horse.

For a brief moment, Maximum Security and his team appeared to bask in victory before the long wait and the disqualification, which might not be the final step.

"If we can't appeal to the stewards," West said, "our other options are the state racing commission. If those don't work, we might go to legal options. ... But we have not seen what they saw."



Luis Saez riding Maximum Security, second from right, goes around turn four with Flavien Prat riding Country House, left, Tyler Gaffalione riding War of Will and John Velazquez riding Code of Honor, right, 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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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 6, the 126th day of 2019. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 6, 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

On this date:

In 1863, the Civil War Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia ended with a Confederate victory over Union forces.

In 1889, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1915, Babe Ruth hit his first major-league home run as a player for the Boston Red Sox. Actor-writer-director Orson Welles was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg caught fire and crashed while attempting to dock at Lakehurst, New Jersey; 35 of the 97 people on board were killed along with a crewman on the ground.

In 1941, Josef Stalin assumed the Soviet premiership, replacing Vyacheslav M. Molotov. Comedian Bob Hope did his first USO show before an audience of servicemen as he broadcast his radio program from March Field in Riverside, California.

In 1942, during World War II, some 15,000 American and Filipino troops on Corregidor surrendered to Japanese forces.

In 1974, West German Chancellor Willy Brandt resigned after one of his aides was exposed as an East German spy.

In 1992, former Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev delivered a speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, where Winston Churchill had spoken of the "Iron Curtain"; Gorbachev said the world was still divided, between North and South, rich and poor. Actress Marlene Dietrich died at her Paris home at age 90.

In 1994, former Arkansas state worker Paula Jones filed suit against President Bill Clinton, alleging he'd sexually harassed her in 1991. (Jones reached a settlement with Clinton in November 1998.) Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand (frahn-SWAH' mee-teh-RAHN') formally opened the Channel Tunnel between their countries.

In 2013, kidnap-rape victims Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight, who went missing separately about a decade earlier while in their teens or early 20s, were rescued from a house just south of downtown Cleveland. (Their captor, Ariel Castro, hanged himself in prison in September 2013 at the beginning of a life sentence plus 1,000 years.)

Ten years ago: After a day of meetings at the White House, President Barack Obama declared he'd received the commitments he wanted from the leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan to more aggressively fight Taliban and al-Qaida militants. Gov. John Baldacci (bahl-DAH'-chee) signed a bill making Maine the fifth state to legalize same-sex marriage (however, the law was later overturned by a public vote).

Five years ago: A federal report said that global warming was rapidly affecting the United States in both visible and invisible ways; shortly after the report came out, President Barack Obama used several television weathermen to call for action to curb carbon pollution before it was too late. The Vatican disclosed that over the past decade, it had defrocked 848 priests who raped or molested children and sanctioned another 2,572 with lesser penalties. Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant won his first NBA MVP award.

One year ago: The number of homes destroyed by Hawaii's Kilauea volcano reached 26, as scientists reported lava spewing more than 200 feet into the air. Lebanon's Iranian-backed Hezbollah group scored major gains in parliamentary elections, as the main Western-backed faction headed by Prime Minister Saad Hariri lost a third of its seats.

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Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays is 88. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 85. Rock singer Bob Seger is 74. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 74. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 73. Actor Alan Dale is 72. Actor Ben Masters is 72. Actor Richard Cox is 71. Actor Gregg Henry is 67. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 66. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 64. Actress Roma Downey is 59. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 59. Actress Julianne Phillips is 59. Actor-director George Clooney is 58. Actor Clay O'Brien is 58. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 55. Actress Leslie Hope is 54. Actress Geneva Carr (TV: "Bull") is 53. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 52. Rock musician Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 48. Actress Stacey Oristano is 40. Model/TV personality Tiffany Coyne is 37. Actress Adrienne Palicki is 36. Actress Gabourey Sidibe (GA'-bah-ray SIH'-duh-bay) is 36. Actress-comedian Sasheer Zamata is 33. Rapper Meek Mill is 32. Houston Astros infielder Jose Altuve is 29. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 26. Actor Noah Galvin is 25.

Thought for Today: "Form ever follows function." — Louis Sullivan, American architect (1856-1924).