

LET A JOY KEEP YOU.

REACH OUT YOUR HANDS

AND TAKE IT WHEN

IT RUNS BY...

— Carl Sandburg

" I HOPE SOME ONE

GETS

MY MESSAGE ... "

IN

THE UNIVERSE !!!

RINGO'S PEACE PARTY !!!

HIGH NOON

PEACE AND LOVE !!!

IMAGINE / LENNON

PEOPLE GET READY FOR TRAIN ACOMING A MEN

CURTIS MAYFIELD

March 2011

Friends,

First, we want to thank you all for the prayers, love and support you provided to us in the last few months as we have struggled to raise funds to maintain our programs. Despite these tough economic times our supporters on the outside and behind the walls have all contributed what they could to make a difference in the lives of those who are incarcerated and their families.

Something to think about.....

The Yiddish word for good deed is *mitzvah*. For example, my girlfriend writes to me every week, that is a *mitzvah*. It is a good deed, but it can be much larger. It is not just doing the good deed but the spirit that goes along with doing it. Another meaning of *mitzvah* is connection. When we show kindness to another a bridge is built between us and them. When we show kindness to another we step outside of ourselves. When we live a selfish life, we are living a life that is not connected with others except for what we need or want. When we live a spiritual life we are connected through the expression of our soul and it becomes less about what we need or want, but more about how we can do good for ourselves and others. Good deeds, no matter how simple, help dissolve the barriers between one person and another and allow us briefly to become one. Sure it is hard, we may not want to extend ourselves to someone who has been getting on our last nerve, or someone who has caused you pain, but know that there is always someone who will appreciate your efforts and you are the one that reaps the reward of extending yourself in a positive way. Can you think about the last time you did a *mitzvah*, or have been a *mitzvah* for someone else? Write us and tell us about your *mitzvah* experiences.

Peace and Blessings
Rev. Karen Hutt



What a gift is the curiosity of a child! The young shall always treasure the knowledge, the wisdom, the precious memories of their elders.

For this reason, we are given the responsibility to share the past so that the future might be made easier for the generations that follow.

Consider this quote from the Book of Daniel (13:50):

To Daniel the elders said, 'Come, sit with us and inform us, since God has given you the prestige of old age.'

We can see, then, our obligation to share our life's experiences, for they are the stepping stones to tomorrow!

† Make a list of things from your past which you feel your grandchildren would want to know. Mail the list to them with a note expressing your love!

If we feel frightened today, we need only remember that courage comes through the quiet confidence of prayer. In other words, courage is a gift from God!

† Finish this sentence: I could use a little courage when it comes to_____.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Courage faces fear and thereby conquers it."

*"Be kind to each other,
tenderhearted, forgiving
one another."*

A man wrapped up
in himself makes a very
small package.



NO MEMORY LOSS HERE

(from the Internet)

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imagined. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and try not to blame others.

However, upon reflection, I would like to point out that it was not the senior citizens who took:

The *melody* out of music,
The *pride* out of appearance,
The *courtesy* out of driving,
The *romance* out of love,
The *commitment* out of marriage,
The *responsibility* out of parent-
hood,
The *togetherness* out of the family,
The *learning* out of education,
The *service* out of patriotism,
The *Golden Rule* from rulers,
The *nativity scene* out of cities,
The *civility* out of behavior,
The *refinement* out of language,
The *dedication* out of employment,
The *prudence* out of spending,
The *ambition* out of achievement,
or *God* out of government and schools.

And we certainly are not the ones who eliminated *patience* and *tolerance* from personal relationships and interactions with others.

And we do understand the meaning of *patriotism*, by remembering those who have fought and died for our country. *We hold these truths to be self-evident....LR*





The secret of staying young is to live honestly,
eat slowly, and lie about your age.
--Lucille Ball

After a certain number of years,
our faces become our biographies.
--Cynthia Ozick, US novelist

I don't know what the big deal is about old age.
Old people who shine from inside look
ten to twenty years younger.
--Dolly Parton

When grace is joined with wrinkles, it is adorable.
There is an unspeakable dawn in happy old age.
--Victor Hugo, French novelist

You don't get to choose how you're going to die.
Or when. You can only decide how you're going to live. Now.
--Joan Baez, US singer

Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art.
--Garson Kanin, US playwright

I may be an antique, but antiques are valuable.
--Billy Joel

The best age is the age you are.
--Maggie Kuhn, US activist

Getting old is a fascination thing.
The older you get, the older you want to get.
--Keith Richards, English rock guitarist



The Power of Positive Attitude

Look at the happy side of life, and you will develop the happiness habit.

MEGAN & KATE

INSIDE

THEIR
BOND!

USMAGZINE.COM / COVER STORY
MARCH 19, 2018, P. P. 48-51

"Markle has already aced the first
Step: Thou shalt befriend your future
sister-in-law. Since their initial 2017
meeting, Markle, 36, has worked to
win over the duchess."

IdA. 49

LONG LIVE THE UNIVERSAL
PEOPLES QUEEN OF HEARTS
DIANA

LONG...G! LIVE PRINCE HARRY
WHOM CARRIES ONWARD HIS MOTHER'S
PRECIOUS BELOVED 'SOUL' EARTHLY JOURNEY

LONG LIVE DUCHESS
MEGAN!

THE CROWN MOTHER
OF ALL JEWELS!!!

2082 DATED: MAY 15, 2018

SEE US MAGAZINES.COM/COVER
MAY 21, 2018, P. 66
FOR INFO ON PRINCE
LOUIS "ROYAL PHOTO ALBUM
I get special issues.com/royal

A pregnant Duchess Kate
made an UNANNOUNCED
appearance with Prince
William and Prince Harry
to honor graduates of
coach core, a program they
founded to train adults to
be coaches and mentors,
US MAGAZINE.COM/HOT PIC!
NOVEMBER 2, 2017, P. 14
[FULL PG. OF PICS]

COME ON PEOPLE
ON THE PATH FROM VICTIMS
TO VICTORS

AUTHORS

BY BILL COSBY

ALVIN F. POUSSANT, M.D.

GOD DOES ANSWER
PRAYERS!!!

BILL COSBY'S
UNJUST GUILTY VERDICT

UPDATE:

FIRST - Universal Amigos - I
Truly ONLY know what I Read [NO
INTERNET, etc.] !

1.] Dr. Cosby \$2illion Lawyer
Was outrageously Incompetent:

A] Juror Harrison Syder readily
Admitted in media interviews [e.g.
INSIDE EDITION.com, etc.] that Dr. Cosby's
OWN WORDS OF: "having given Women
Drugs" ... before sex!!!!

REBUTTAL !!!

B] However, Dr. Cosby freely admit-
ted to this "IN THING"!!! ... HOLLYWOOD!
and "GO'S LOVE AND DRUGS" CULTURE!!!
E.g. "EASY RIDER"!!!, "YOU'LL NEVER EAT
LUNCH IN THIS TOWN AGAIN"!!!

AND AN UPDATE ON NBC.COM / Megyn
2 of 4

KELLY TODAY, 04-30-2018, MON, 9:00 AM.
CST... With GUEST: AUTHOR JOANNA COLES
Promoting her new: BOOK: "LOVE'S RULES"
"Getting drunk before sex"... [!]
"Getting Drunk to have sex" [!]

PREJUDICE JUDGE AND DA!!

[] The UNfair Judge became "Pro-
secutor" too - himself bolstered the so-
called INcriminating EVIDENCE with pur-
ported with FIVE Additional Female AC-
cusers hotly prejudicial Testimony IN
"a second kick at the "Black" cat", aka -
a Second Trial!

THE PEOPLES HERO!

ONLY CRIME IS "UPPITY, N. — word!!!"

PROOF

Where is The RICH CONVICTED WHITE MAN
[e.g. HARVEY WEINSTEIN, etc] ?!!

MERCY! MERCY!!

BILL COSBY

Guilty Verdict

ON April 26, a jury found Bill Cosby, 80, guilty on all three counts of indecent assault for drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand, 45, in 2004. AN ENRAGED Cosby called Pennsylvania's Montgomery County DA Kevin R. Steele an "asshole," but lawyer Gloria Allred is thrilled, "Justice has finally prevailed," the attorney told US, "I... am overwhelmed with joy." The victory comes 10 months after a hung jury led to a mistrial in this case, and three-plus years after dozens of other Cosby accusers shared similar accounts.

WHAT'S NEXT? The disgraced star faces 30 years in prison. But sources say Cosby, who is out on bail until sentencing, will absolutely appeal the verdict.

- US MAGAZINE.COM
MAY 14, 2018 P. 41

NEWS FLASH!!!

CHRISTIANS
CRUSADE
TO RETAKE
JERUSALEM!!!

ON UNIVERSAL EXPOSURE
Monday, May 14, 2018

How LONG!!!

#IMAGINE/LENNONO

1082 4

FEB. 03.2017

that could only have originated from a continent," says Ashwal.

The study said there are likely many pieces of various sizes of "undiscovered continent, collectively called Mauritia," spread over the Indian Ocean.

Co-defendant in French art heist says he destroyed paintings

PARIS — A co-defendant in one of the world's biggest art heists testified in court Monday that he destroyed and threw away five art masterpieces worth more than \$100 million that were stolen by a thief nicknamed "the spider-man."

Yonathan Birn was among three people who went on trial in the case Monday. The five paintings stolen in 2010 from the French capital's city Museum of Modern Art — a Picasso, a Matisse, a Modigliani, a Braque and a Fernand Leger — have never been found.

"I threw them into the trash," Birn repeated three times at the court bar, in tears. "I made the worst mistake of my existence."

Neither the investigating judge nor other defendants at the trial believe Birn's claims. The investigators are convinced the five paintings have been taken out of France, but they have not been able to prove that, court documents show. Birn's co-defendants testified he was "too smart" to destroy the masterpieces.

Lead suspect Vjeran Tomic, dubbed "the spider-man" by French news media, has been convicted 14 times in the past, notably for thefts. Authorities found climbing gear at his home: gloves, ropes, harness, climbing shoes and suction cups.

Tomic testified that around 3 a.m. on May 20, 2010, he broke into the museum near the Eiffel Tower with apparent ease, taking advantage of supposed failures in the security, alarm and video-surveillance systems.

"Spider-man" removed the glass from a bay window without breaking it, cut the padlock of the metal grid behind it, allowing him to then move from one room to another without arousing the guards' suspicions.

Tomic was there to steal a painting by Fernand Leger and possibly a Modigliani ordered by a third defendant, 61-year-old antiques dealer Jean-Michel Corvez, who confessed to being a receiver of stolen goods. Tomic said that when he came across the Picasso, the Matisse and the Braque paintings, he decided to take them as well. Several hours after the headline-making burglary, Tomic said, he offered the five paintings to Corvez, who said he was "totally stunned" by them.

Corvez said he initially gave Tomic a plastic bag containing 40,000 euros (\$43,000) in small denominations just for the Leger because he was unsure he would get buyers for the other paintings.

Corvez became worried about keeping the artworks in his shop after several months and showed them to his friend Birn, a 40-year-old expert and dealer in luxury watches. Birn said

he agreed to buy the Modigliani for 80,000 euros (\$86,000) and to store the others in his studio. The Modigliani was hidden in a bank safe, he said.

Birn said he panicked when police began investigating and finally one day in May 2011 he retrieved the Modigliani from the safe, returned to his workshop to break the stretcher bars on all the canvasses with fierce kicks and then threw them all into the building's trash.

Tomic is charged with stealing public cultural property, while Corvez and Birn are accused of receiving stolen goods. The three men are also accused of taking part in a criminal conspiracy to commit the thefts.

Both Corvez and Birn can be sentenced up to 10 years in prison if convicted. Tomic faces up to 20 years in prison as a repeat offender. The trial is expected to resume later this week.

After he was questioned, Tomic said he was sure Birn didn't destroy the paintings and wants him to say where they are located.

"These are my artworks," he said.

Israeli police, protesters clash amid dismantling of West Bank outpost

AMONA, West Bank — Israeli police stormed a synagogue Thursday and dragged young protesters resisting a court order to dismantle an illegal Jewish outpost in the West Bank.

Officers wearing goggles and wielding plastic shields broke through the doors and sprayed water to push back 200 defiant protesters, some as young as 12, who had barricaded themselves in this settlement. The protesters retaliated by throwing rocks. They used bookcases and large sheets of metal to try to block police from entering the building. Police said protesters caused slight injuries to at least 24 officers. Thirteen young protesters were arrested.

Abandoned bicycles, hammocks and overturned strollers were the only signs that families lived in settler homes as police guarded the front of the houses against theft and vandalism.

The court-ordered evacuation began Wednesday, prompting protesters to throw rocks and set fires, as 39 of the 40 settler houses were emptied.

Israeli security forces carry a Jewish supporter of the Amona outpost northeast of Ramallah as they evict settlers from the wildcat settlement on Feb. 1, 2017, in line with a High Court ruling that determined the homes were built on private Palestinian land. Israeli police began evicting dozens of Jewish settlers from a wildcat outpost, just hours after unveiling plans for 3,000 new homes in other West Bank settlements. Jack Guez, AFP/Getty Images

Amona is the largest of about 100 unauthorized outposts erected in the West Bank without permission but generally tolerated by the Israeli government. The Israeli Supreme Court ruled three years ago that the Amona outpost was built on private Palestinian land and ordered it to

be demolished. The court set next Wednesday as the final date for it to be destroyed.

The evacuation comes amid bold new settlement moves by Israel's government following the election of President Trump, who in December condemned the Obama administration's decision not to veto a U.N. Security Council resolution declaring the settlements illegal. But in a sharp shift in tone, Trump's White House released a statement Thursday saying that new settlements "may not be helpful" for the peace process.

The statement came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed earlier Thursday to establish a new settlement "as soon as possible" to make up for Amona. Shani Hamo, 31, who had lived in Amona for more than eight years, lamented being uprooted from her home.

"It was extremely difficult. My body was there but my soul and my mind were somewhere else," said Hamo, as she sat with her three young children in a youth hostel of an adjoining settlement where they had taken refuge. "It was as if I was watching the event from outside of my body. The trauma only hit me later that night."

Hamo, who is pregnant, said she and her family left Wednesday with only a few bags because they had no time to pack. "I was in denial. I did not think this could happen to us."

7 facts on the crack in the Antarctic ice shelf

A giant iceberg larger than Rhode Island is set to break off Antarctica, likely in the next few months.

Scientists are keeping a close eye on the ever-growing crack in an Antarctica ice shelf that will eventually lead to the iceberg's formation.

Swansea University professor Adrian Luckman, a scientist with Project MIDAS, which is keeping close watch over the rift, answered many of the burning questions about the imminent shearing of the iceberg.

Will the iceberg's formation raise sea levels?

No, but it could indirectly cause a tiny sea-level rise years, decades, or even centuries from now — or never.

The ice shelf is already floating, so when a part of it detaches — the iceberg — no extra water is displaced. Project MIDAS research shows the remaining ice shelf may be less stable and could follow the example of its northerly neighbor Larsen B, which experienced an acceleration of glaciers upon its ice shelf break-up. Other scientists expect the ice shelf to regrow. Only time will tell. Even if it is less stable, the point at which collapse of the remaining ice shelf would occur would be many years away. Only following this potential far-away collapse would sea-level rise occur, and even then the extra rates of sea-level rise would be small, measured in millimeters per year at most.

Are any penguins at risk?

20884

No. There are no penguin colonies on the ice shelf.

Here at MIDAS we are very aware that there are no penguins on Larsen C!

How long will it take for the iceberg to completely melt after it breaks off?

It depends on how quickly the iceberg moves to a warmer climate, and how quickly it breaks into smaller pieces. The iceberg — or icebergs if it breaks up ever further — may remain in the region, where the ocean is quite cold, and stick around for years, even decades. Or it could move with ocean currents and winds in a northward direction, where it will be eroded more quickly.

Will a wave be created when the iceberg breaks off?

No. The breaking off, or "calving" as it is called, will likely be slow and graceful. The ice is already floating so when the fracture breaks all the way through, it will simply start to drift away.

Is there any way to watch the event live?

No. Accessing that area is logistically difficult and involves preparing well in advance. And even if a camera were set up, it could only see a small part of the iceberg, while satellites see the whole thing on a regular basis.

Will another iceberg form behind this one?

It depends on how the remaining ice reacts to the change, but we are unlikely to see anything as big as this from this ice shelf for a long, long time.

Can the ice shelf reform?

Yes. Calving is a natural part of the cycle of ice shelves. Ice flows gradually into the shelf, the shelf expands until stresses become too much, and then icebergs are formed. Whether or not Larsen C will reform is unclear. Scientists think there is a possibility the remaining shelf is too fragile to grow back to its former size.

Defense secretary targets costly F-35, Air Force One programs

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has ordered the Pentagon to launch a review on how to save costs on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, the Pentagon's most costly weapons-buying effort in history. Mattis' memo, sent on Thursday, also calls on the military to determine whether the F-18 fighter can be modified to provide a "cost-effective fighter aircraft alternative." The Defense chief also directed the Pentagon to look for ways to save money for the Presidential Aircraft Recapitalization program, which is responsible for developing a replacement for the current presidential aircraft, which goes by the call sign Air Force One when the president is aboard. President Trump has blasted the \$400 billion F-35 program for out-of-control costs. In December, he tweeted that "billions of dollars can and will be saved on military (and other) purchases." He also criticized the higher costs of Air Force One and met with the CEOs of both Boeing and Lockheed Martin, which make the presidential aircraft and the F-35.

The F-35 program is slated to supply all the services and close U.S. allies with differing variants of the radar-evading plane. The plane has been plagued by problems with cost-overruns, performance and readiness for combat.

On Friday, the Pentagon called the review a "prudent step."

"This action is also consistent with the president's guidance to provide the strongest and most efficient military possible for our nation's defense, and it aligns with the secretary's priority to increase military readiness while gaining full value from every taxpayer dollar spent on defense," Navy Capt. Jeff Davis said in a statement.

The F-18 lacks the stealth qualities of the F-35. The Navy and Marine Corps and some allies fly the F-18.

The F-35 has support among members of Congress from both sides of the aisle as plants that produce its parts and assemble are scatter among nearly all 50 states. Plans call for nearly 2,500 of the jets to be produced. Sen. Orin Hatch, R-Utah, is one prominent backer. His state hosts Hill Air Force Base, one of the first homes for the F-35.

Ford redesigns its best-selling F-150 pickup for 2018

DETROIT -- Ford is updating the look of its F-150 pickups — featuring a redesigned grille — just a little more than two years after launching an all-new version of its top-selling model.

The refresh is evidence that the Dearborn, Mich.-based automaker is committed to continuing to invest heavily to keep its F-Series trucks the most popular in America. The confirmed F-150 mid-cycle refresh for the 2018 model year is largely a bunch of tweaks: a redesigned front-end grille and wheel options; bolder seat colors; first-in-class technological offerings; and a new diesel engine among other enhanced features designed to reach a broad cross-section of truck buyers.

But Ford officials insist continuous improvement every year is crucial for the massively profitable vehicle now marking 40 years as the nation's best-selling truck. Michelle Krebs, senior analyst for Autotrader.com, an online marketplace for vehicle shopping, said the addition of a diesel engine option is big news especially for the towing audience of diesel enthusiasts while helping Ford's need to meet increasing fuel economy standards.

"Added technology features fit with what we hear from consumers who want more and more technology, specifically safety features and information features that make them more connected," Krebs said. The integration of Apple Car Play and Android Auto — two ways to access smartphone features inside your car — is a response, she added, "to consumers, who according to our surveys, want seamless transition of their mobile devices into their transportation."

The changes are not as dramatic as those that transformed the F-150 in the 2015 model

year when Ford turned to an all-aluminum body, the first such transformation for a major American-made truck.

But the second-largest U.S. automaker hopes to get a leg up on its competition by unveiling the updated truck line, which accounts for nearly one-third of its North American sales.

"Truck customers are constantly looking to improve their productivity, for work and for play," Joe Hinrichs, Ford president of the Americas, said in a statement. "Since 1977, we've been America's favorite truck, and we've never taken that leadership for granted."

The idea behind the F-150 face-lift is a "bolder Built Ford Tough style," company officials said. But its aluminum make-up has also come under attack from rivals in commercials.

Officials at General Motors last week, for example, argued that their Detroit-based company has a broader lineup of trucks than Ford. Total Chevrolet and GMC full-size and midsize pickup sales were 942,730, "making GM the best-selling pickup company for the second consecutive year." (Ford F-Series full-size deliveries totaled 820,799 units in 2016).

In an era of technology-laden cars and trucks, Ford is equipping the next-year model for its signature truck line with radar and cameras to slow or stop a vehicle before it has a chance to collide with a pedestrian or another vehicle. Adaptive cruise control can keep the appropriate distance even in traffic that grinds to a standstill. A Wi-Fi hotspot is also available to help motorists to stay connected online.

The company touts the new F-150 as being capable of its best towing ever, but declined to release details. Each pickup in the F-150 lineup will have automatic start-stop technology designed to shut off the engine while the truck is stopped to save fuel. They'll also offer a 3.0-liter turbodiesel engine, enhanced V6 and V8 gas engines and expanded availability of 10-speed automatic transmissions.

It has been a big year for automakers, especially those heavily weighted in SUVs and trucks. They sold a record number of new cars and trucks in the U.S. for 2016, topping 2015's level and capping a seven-year run of rising sales, but it took more costly deals to do it.

For the year, sales at Ford were essentially flat, falling 0.1%.

But the overall industry, including Ford, has seen healthy profits boosted by sales of larger vehicles and fueled by easy credit, low gas prices and more recently by generous rebates on many models.

Sales of Ford's Ford F-Series pickups increased about 5% in 2016, and the automaker's line of pickups has now been America's best-selling truck for 40 consecutive years and America's best-selling vehicle for 35 years. But analysts say that rising interest rates and gas prices, combined

push already hesitant rank-and-file ex-combatants into the hands of criminal gangs. "Some of them feel abandoned," said Juan Carlos Garzon, a research associate at the Ideas for Peace Foundation, a Colombia think tank. "This reinforces a message that there is some uncertainty going ahead."

Dissident rebels still operating in FARC zones where the state has little presence are continuing to operate drug routes and are believed to be cooperating with Mexican drug cartels as Colombia's coca production skyrockets. There has long been speculation about whether former FARC have continued communication with dissident factions, though no evidence has been presented publicly to support it.

Jeremy McDermott, the Medellin-based executive director of InSight Crime, a group that studies organized crime in Latin America, said many ex-guerrillas may fear a repeat of what happened to demobilized paramilitary commanders a decade ago, when more dozen leaders were extradited on drug charges by former President Alvaro Uribe after reaching a peace accord with the government.

"The guerrillas may well fear this is a potential future scenario for them," he said. The FARC long funded their insurgency by leveling a "war tax" on cocaine moving through territory it dominated, and 50 members of its leadership structure — though not Santrich — were indicted in 2006 in the U.S. on charges of running the world's largest drug cartel.

North Korea tells US that Kim Jong to discuss nukes

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea's government has communicated with the United States to say that leader Kim Jong Un is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program with President Donald Trump, officials said Sunday, increasing the likelihood that the unprecedented summit will actually occur.

The confirmation from Pyongyang directly, rather than from third countries like South Korea, has created more confidence within Trump's administration about the wisdom of holding such a meeting, as U.S. officials make secretive preparations. The Trump administration has long said that if the North Koreans weren't ready to discuss giving up their nuclear program, there was no reason for the two countries to hold negotiations. Trump took his own administration and other countries by surprise last month when he accepted an unusual offer from Kim to hold a meeting. The North had conveyed the invitation to a visiting delegation from South Korea, which in turn traveled to Washington and relayed the message to Trump.

The president said yes to the meeting on the spot, even though the U.S. had not yet heard directly from North Korea about Kim's intentions. The U.S. later heard from other countries including China, where Kim paid a rare visit, that the North was serious about the offer.

Still, North Korea's government has not said anything publicly at all about a meeting with Trump, and the lack of known contact between Pyongyang and Washington about the meeting has fueled further speculation about the seriousness of Kim's offer.

A Trump administration official on Sunday said that the U.S. had "confirmed that Kim Jong Un is willing to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula?" A second official said that confirmation had come through direct contact between American and North Korean officials. Neither of the officials would say when or how the contact took place, nor in what location. The officials weren't authorized to comment by name and demanded anonymity. Previously, former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had said there were at least two or three channels through which U.S. and North Korean officials communicate from time to time.

The Trump administration has not said where the meeting will place or whether a location has been determined, nor has an exact date been set. Initially, the White House said it expected the meeting to take place by the end of May. It's unclear whether a date that early could be achieved or whether it might be delayed.

The contacts between Pyongyang and Washington come as Trump's new national security adviser, former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, prepares to start work at the White House formally on Monday. Prior to being named to the post, Bolton had long expressed hawkish views about North Korea, even advocating a pre-emptive military strike.

Gaza violence is latest salvo in war of narratives

JERUSALEM (AP) — Thousands of Palestinians took part in a mass protest along Gaza's volatile border with Israel, the second large-scale demonstration in what is expected to be a steady turnout over the coming weeks. More than 30 Palestinians were killed and hundreds more wounded by Israeli fire in mass protests on Friday and the previous week.

Gaza's Hamas rulers, who are orchestrating the demonstrations, say the protests are against a decade-old border blockade by Israel. But Israel accuses the Islamic militant group of using the protests as cover for trying to infiltrate the border and attack Israelis. It has warned that anyone approaching the border fence is risking their lives.

Here's a closer look at how the sides reached this point:

THE HAMAS TAKEOVER

Israel captured Gaza, a thin strip of land along the Mediterranean coast, from Egypt in the 1967 Mideast war and occupied the area for nearly four decades before withdrawing all troops and settlements in 2005. Hamas, a militant group sworn to Israel's destruction, won legislative elections the following year and in 2007 seized control of Gaza from the internationally recognized Palestinian

Authority, headed by President Mahmoud Abbas.

Israel and Egypt have maintained a blockade on Gaza in an attempt to weaken the group. Since then, Israel and Hamas have fought three wars, while attempts at internal Palestinian reconciliation have repeatedly failed, in large part because of Hamas' continued refusal to disarm.

Israel has defended the wars as a response to intense rocket fire from Hamas-ruled Gaza, and notes the group's history of suicide bombings and other deadly attacks, especially during the second Palestinian uprising early last decade. But the wars have left several thousand Palestinians dead, more than half of them civilians, drawing heavy international criticism.

WHY NOW?

The blockade, wars, international isolation and failed attempts at reconciliation have left Gaza's economy in tatters.

Unemployment is approaching 50 percent, according to official Palestinian figures. Gaza's 2 million residents receive only a few hours of electricity each day, tap water is undrinkable and the coastline has been polluted by tons of untreated sewage. The Israeli-Egyptian blockade greatly restricts the movement of people and goods in and out of the small territory of barely 360 square kilometers (139 square miles) making it difficult to do business or travel abroad for work, school or family reasons.

Hamas says the demonstrations are meant to draw attention to the harsh conditions in Gaza. But with public discontent rising, it also appears to be an attempt by the group to shake up the situation after other options failed.

Hamas can also capitalize on any hatred of Israel among Gazans, over half of whom are descendants of refugees from what is now Israel.

WHY DOESN'T ISRAEL EASE THE BLOCKADE?

Israel says its blockade is aimed only at Hamas, and it has no quarrel with Gaza's civilians. It has been careful to allow the continued flow of humanitarian goods and construction materials into Gaza, and says it will ease the blockade further based on security assessments.

But international organizations like the World Bank and United Nations say the blockade continues to stifle the economy. They have repeatedly urged Israel to ease the restrictions significantly.

Israel says it has no choice, accusing Hamas of trying to smuggle weapons and materials that can become weapons into the territory. It also has asked the international community, which already funnels hundreds of millions of dollars a year into Gaza, to increase aid.

WHY HAVE THE PROTESTS TURNED VIOLENT?
While thousands of Palestinians have gathered for what are billed as nonviolent protests, dozens of young men have approached the border and thrown stones,

4-13-2018

3 of 4

firebombs and burning tires toward the border fence. Israel has mobilized snipers and other special forces on the other side of the fence.

The Israeli military says Hamas has been using the demonstrations as cover for attacks, and says militants have attempted to carry out shootings, plant bombs and infiltrate the fence in order to attack inside Israel. Military officials say they have used live fire only as a last resort when all other alternatives, including warning shots and rubber bullets, have failed to stop the demonstrators from reaching the fence. It says it has targeted only main "instigators" trying to carry out attacks.

But witness accounts and amateur videos have shown some demonstrators appeared to be unarmed or far from the fence when they were shot. The United Nations and European Union have called for an independent investigation and urged all sides to show restraint.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Hamas has called for a series of demonstrations in the coming weeks, culminating on May 15, the 70th anniversary of Israel's establishment. Palestinians mark the date as their "naqba," or catastrophe, when hundreds of thousands were forced or fled from their homes.

Friday's demonstrations were smaller, and the death toll was lower than last week's demonstrations, suggesting the protests could be weakening.

But Hamas' top Gaza official, Yehiyeh Sinwar, made a surprise visit to one of the protests and appeared to issue a new threat. "Wait for our great move, when we breach the borders and pray at Al-Aqsa," referring to the major Muslim shrine in Jerusalem.

With Israeli communities lying just a few hundred meters away from the border, Israel has made clear that it will not accept any breach.

Sinwar's threat could set the stage for another serious round of violence in the coming weeks.

Dozens reported killed in suspected Syria chemical attack

Syrian opposition activists and aid groups said Sunday that dozens of people had died in a suspected chemical weapons attack on the city of Douma.

President Donald Trump described the attacks as "mindless" in a series of tweets on Sunday morning and, in an unusual criticism of the Russian president, said that "President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad. Big price to pay." Though Trump had last week expressed eagerness to get out of Syria, a White House official said Sunday a military response remains on the table.

The alleged attack occurred late on Saturday amid a resumed offensive by Syrian government forces after the collapse of a truce with the Army of Islam rebel group.

Douma is the last rebel stronghold in eastern Ghouta, a region that has been subjected to an intensive bombing campaign by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces, which are backed by Russia.

The 10-day truce between the two sides collapsed over a disagreement regarding the evacuation of the Army of Islam fighters from the city. Violence resumed days after hundreds of opposition fighters and their relatives left Douma toward rebel-held areas in northern Syria.

Both the Syrian and Russian governments denied any involvement in the alleged chemical attack on Sunday.

The State Department says it is monitoring reports of the possible chemical weapons attack.

Local activists told NBC News that they saw dozens of dead bodies, many of whom were children, in the underground shelters across the city. One activist said he saw at least 40 bodies in a basement and said he smelled very strong gas, adding that it was "definitely a chemical attack."

Another activist said he saw at least 25 bodies, most of whom he said were children. "Whole families, mothers and little children and babies, they were all dead," he said. "They tried to escape death, but here in Douma, there is death everywhere."

The White Helmets, a Syrian civil defense organization, tweeted several photos and videos of alleged victims Saturday night.

A joint statement released Sunday with the Syrian American Medical Society said more than 42 casualties were found dead in their homes. It added that "more than 500 cases — the majority of whom are women and children — were brought to local medical centers with symptoms indicative of exposure to a chemical agent."

The claim has not been verified by NBC News.

If confirmed, the use of chemical weapons would be another instance of the banned substances alleged to have been used in Syria's brutal civil war.

A spokesman for the U.N. Secretary General said: "While the United Nations is not in a position to verify these reports, the Secretary-General notes that any use of chemical weapons, if confirmed, is abhorrent, and requires a thorough investigation."

The possible chemical attack comes a year after Trump launched an assault on a Syrian air base after what U.S. officials said was a chemical attack on the town of Khan Sheikhoun. Trump said at the time that the

attack was meant to deter further Syrian use of illegal weapons.

"This is one of those issues on which every nation, all peoples, have all agreed, and have agreed since WWII, is an unacceptable practice ... I wouldn't take [military action] off the table," White House homeland security adviser Tom Bossert said on ABC's "This Week" Sunday.

Republican South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds discussed the issue in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday. He said Trump has "got to send a message once again that what he said, he meant ... he needs to have a good advice, he needs to know what his options are and he needs to act decisively."

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Saturday that Russia, whose involvement in the conflict has helped turn the tide in favor of the Assad regime, "ultimately bears responsibility for these brutal attacks."

"The United States calls on Russia to end this unmitigated support immediately and work with the international community to prevent further, barbaric chemical weapons attacks," she said in the statement.

Pope Francis also referred to reports of the deaths in Syria during his traditional Sunday blessing. "There is not a good or a bad war, and nothing can justify such instruments that exterminate defenseless people and populations," he said.

The Syrian government disputed any reports of gas attacks, saying the allegations are an attempt by rebels to stop the army from advancing, according to Syrian state news agency SANA. Russia also denied the reports in a statement from its Foreign Ministry on Sunday morning.

"Fake news on the use of chlorine or other chemical agents by the government forces continue," the ministry said in a statement provided to the TASS news agency.

"The goal of these false speculations, which are not substantiated by any facts, is to cover up terrorists and irreconcilable radical opposition, which opposes political settlement, and to simultaneously try to justify potential external military strikes," the statement added.

After Trump said earlier this week that he wanted to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria, a senior administration official told NBC News that in a meeting with his national security team on Tuesday the president reluctantly agreed to keep forces on the ground for an undetermined period of time to defeat Islamic State.

4 of 4 DATE: 05-14-2018

MOSCOW (AP) — Witnesses say fire alarms were silent and many doors were locked when a blaze at a Russian shopping mall packed with children and their parents on the first weekend of the school recess killed 64 people in Siberia.

The fire at the Winter Cherry mall in Kemerovo, a city about 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles) east of Moscow, was extinguished by Monday morning after burning through the night.

Sixty-four deaths were confirmed after firefighters finished combing through the four floors of the mall, Emergency Situations Minister Vladimir Puchkov told a televised briefing. Six of the bodies have not yet been recovered. Some of the dead were found inside a cinema, which one witness said had been locked shut.

Investigators said Monday that emergency exits were blocked and a security guard turned off the public announcement system when he received a call about the blaze, but they provided no information why that happened.

On Monday morning, Kemerovo residents were bringing flowers, candles and stuffed animals to a plaza outside the mall, and local hospitals reported an influx of people wanting to donate blood for the victims. Out of 23 victims whose bodies have been identified, eight are children, the emergency officials said.

Thirteen people have been hospitalized. Health Minister Veronika Skvortsova, who visited the Kemerovo hospital where the victims were receiving treatment, said on Russian state television that the patient in the gravest condition is an 11-year-old boy who jumped out of a window from the fourth floor. The boy's parents and younger sister died in the fire, Skvortsova said.

Some 200 animals are also believed to have died in the mall's petting zoo. The zoo's manager told the Tass news agency that the animals included rabbits, turtles, pigs, goats and rodents.

Russia's top investigative body said Monday afternoon that they are searching for a security officer who appears to have turned off the PA system when he received a call about the blaze.

Four people have been detained in connection with the deadly fire, including one of the mall's tenants. The investigators did not give the cause of the fire but said they have obtained evidence proving "flagrant violations" that could have contributed to the heavy loss of life, including the fact that the fire escapes were blocked.

Some accounts indicated that the blaze first erupted in a children's game room and spread quickly, filling the huge building with toxic fumes.

S. Korea's coast guard rescues all 163 after ferry hits rock

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's coast guard said it rescued all 163 people from a ferry that hit a large rock in waters off

the country's southwestern coast on Sunday. At least six people sustained minor injuries. A coast guard official said the ferry's 158 passengers and five crew members were being taken to shore on four coast guard vessels and a number of civilian fishing boats. The rescue operation went smoothly because the ferry wasn't flooded and didn't lose its balance despite the crash off islands in Sinan County, he said.

The coast guard initially said the ferry was carrying 187 passengers, but later revised the number to 158.

The official said it appeared the ferry hit the rock while trying to avoid a fishing boat while traveling in foggy waters.

Rescue workers treated six people for minor injuries caused from the shock of the crash, which left the ferry's front pushed atop the rock, he said.

Another coast guard official, from the nearby port of Mokpo, said his department planned to question the ferry's captain and crew members to investigate the cause of the crash. Tests from alcohol detectors showed that none of them had been drinking before the accident, he said.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules.

Hamas prepares for mass rallies along Gaza-Israel border

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Gaza's embattled Hamas rulers are imploring people to march along the border with Israel in the coming weeks in a risky gambit meant to shore up their shaky rule, but with potentially deadly consequences.

Beginning Friday, Hamas hopes it can mobilize large crowds to set up tent camps near the border. It plans a series of demonstrations culminating with a march to the border fence on May 15, the anniversary of Israel's establishment, known to Palestinians as "the Nakba," or catastrophe. The group aims to mobilize hundreds of thousands of people for the effort, though it hasn't been able to get such turnouts at past rallies. Nonetheless, a jittery Israel is closely watching and vowing a tough response if the border is breached.

"When we march to the border, the organizers will decide then what to do," said Ismail Radwan, a Hamas official. Warning Israel against targeting the protesters, he said "the occupation should not commit any stupidity in confronting the Palestinian crowds."

Hamas says the demonstration is meant to draw attention to the plight of hundreds of thousands of Gazans whose relatives fled or were expelled from their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

But the first-of-its-kind protest also comes at a low point for the Islamic militant group and the 2 million residents of Gaza, where conditions have deteriorated since Hamas seized control of the territory from the internationally-backed Palestinian Authority in 2007.

An Israeli-Egyptian blockade, along with three wars with Israel and a series of sanctions by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, have left Gaza's economy in tatters. Unemployment is well over 40 percent, tap water is undrinkable and Gazans receive just a few hours of electricity a day.

An Egyptian-led attempt to broker a reconciliation deal between Hamas and Abbas' Fatah movement took a major downturn earlier this month after a bombing targeted a convoy carrying Abbas' prime minister and security chief shortly after they entered Gaza. Abbas has blamed Hamas and threatened more financial pressure, such as cutting civil servant salaries or fuel purchases, to force the group to cede control. The area is not far from where a ferry sank and killed more than 300 people in 2014, triggering a national outpouring of grief and soul-searching over lax safety standards.

Kim Jong Un's China visit may be start of his world travels

TOKYO (AP) — After six years of seclusion, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un seems to want to get out and see the world.

Kim's surprise summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week was the first time he'd traveled outside of his country since he assumed power in 2011, according to his own state media. But Beijing is just the start of his ambitious coming out party. Next is a meeting just south of the Demilitarized Zone with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, then the trickiest meeting of all, with President Donald Trump in an as-yet undisclosed location. He is also rumored to be considering a sit-down with Russia's Vladimir Putin, while one of his staunchest critics, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, says he wants some face time, too.

Why the sudden penchant for travel?

A look at where Kim's been, where he might be headed and what kind of "souvenirs" he'll be hoping to gather along the way:

CHINA

In hindsight, this was the obvious choice for Kim's international debut.

China is far and away the North's most important economic partner, and it has tightened its sanctions in recent months to increase the pressure on Kim to ease up with his nuclear weapons program. Kim has appeared less willing to toe Beijing's line, however, and relations between the two countries have suffered.

By suddenly showing up in China on Monday, he completely changed that narrative.

It's not known yet what Kim and Xi discussed.

Two things are clear. By hosting Kim before anyone else, Xi very effectively reasserted China's primary role in defusing tensions on the Korean Peninsula, which has long been a key national security concern for Beijing. For Kim, meeting with Xi first means he will go into his summits with Moon and Trump better informed and less isolated.

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More importantly for Kim, the visit could be a step toward persuading China to ease its sanctions, or at least how strictly they are enforced.

SOUTH KOREA

The announcement that Kim and Moon would meet face to face was the first shocker of the year.

Kim floated the idea by sending his invitation-bearing sister to the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Olympics last month. The meeting is planned for late April in a truce village inside the DMZ.

Symbolically, it's a huge step forward. Moon and his liberal government have been taking the initiative to reach out to the North after a year of escalating missile launches and angry rhetorical barrages. Kim extended an olive branch of his own in January, vowing to make improved relations one of his top priorities for the year.

Until Kim showed up in Beijing, it appeared Moon would be his first summit partner. While that somewhat blurs the focus on North-South detente, the emotional story line of Korean nationalism and the hope of reunification is still bound to play well with Kim's domestic audience. North Korea is working on several development projects that appear aimed at boosting South Korean tourism to its east coast.

Optimistic, yes. But it's worked for Pyongyang before.

Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, played that card nicely in the previous inter-Korea summits, held in 2000 and 2007.

HAMBURGERS WITH TRUMP?

This one still has a lot of question marks. Basic things, like when and where — and, some might add, if — it will take place have yet to be disclosed.

Instead of announcing it themselves, the White House let a visiting delegation from South Korea inform the media that Trump had agreed to Kim's offer to meet "by May." Almost nothing official has been announced since.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that he had received a message from Xi saying that Kim "looks forward to his meeting with me." "Now there is a good chance that Kim Jong Un will do what is right for his people and for humanity. Look forward to our meeting!" he tweeted.

Lots of potential sites have popped up in the rumor mill, from Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida to Mongolia (which has good relations with Pyongyang) to an ancient castle in Sweden.

In return for the chance to stand shoulder to shoulder as an equal with the leader of the Free World, Kim may release three Americans imprisoned by the North as a gesture of goodwill.

But a big question remains over one very important word: "denuclearization."

Kim has been using it a lot recently, and some officials in Washington have interpreted that to mean he might be willing to negotiate away his costly and hard-won

nuclear arsenal. But another interpretation is that he means a process that would involve all 30,000-plus U.S. troops permanently withdrawing from the South and a slew of security guarantees culminating in a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War.

That's what the North has been demanding for decades.

RUSSIA

A meeting between Kim and Putin would seem to be a no-brainer.

Putin has been relatively friendly with Kim's regime and has actively tried to bolster ties, despite the international sanctions.

The two countries recently signed an agreement on cooperation in scientific research and might be discussing a new border bridge. Russian media, meanwhile, are speculating that North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho is planning to travel to Moscow next month.

Better relations with Moscow could benefit Kim tremendously.

The fall of the Soviet Union was a major blow to the North — and a contributing factor behind a famine in the 1990s that is believed to have killed at least hundreds of thousands of North Koreans. Ties have never been the same since.

But along with potential economic benefits, closer relations with Russia are important as a balance against Chinese influence and buffer against Washington and its allies. Putin is certainly wary of encouraging a nuclear-armed neighbor, cozying up with Kim would be a way of thumbing his nose at the West.

And he does seem to like doing that.

JAPAN

Tokyo is playing catch-up.

Mired in a domestic corruption scandal and prone to follow Washington's lead, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has just recently suggested he, too, wants to get in some quality time with Kim.

Japan has big problems with Pyongyang that go well beyond the nuclear issue.

Kim Jong Il admitted in a summit in 2002 with then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi that its agents had abducted Japanese citizens in the 1970 and '80s. Several were returned, but Tokyo has since demanded more information and the dispute has become a bitter stalemate.

Abe, a North Korea hawk, is worried that Japan's demands on the "abduction issue" will fall to the wayside if he is left out in the cold while Kim meets other leaders.

The cost could be excessively high, however. In return for normalized relations, Pyongyang will likely demand that Japan pay more for the damage caused by its 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula.

Some experts have speculated the bill could run into the billions of dollars.

Gun-maker Remington files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

The Madison, North Carolina-based firm manufactured the Bushmaster AR-15-style rifle used in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre.

Remington Arms Co filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in a Delaware court on Sunday to carry out a debt-cutting deal with creditors amid mounting public pressure for greater gun control.

It listed assets in the range of \$500 million to \$1 billion and liabilities in the range of \$500 million and \$1 billion.

The Madison, North Carolina-based firm manufactured the Bushmaster AR-15-style rifle used in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre that left 20 first-graders and six educators dead in 2012.

Remington's sales plunged 27 percent in the first nine months of 2017, resulting in a \$28 million operating loss.

Colt's Manufacturing Co LLC, a competitor of Remington, emerged from bankruptcy in 2016 following falling sales of its sports rifles and the loss of military contracts.

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Cisco Systems gives \$50M to combat California homelessness

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Internet gear maker Cisco Systems Inc. announced Monday that it will donate \$50 million over five years to address the growing problem of homelessness in California's Santa Clara County and is encouraging other Silicon Valley companies to make similar efforts. In a blog post, Chief Executive Chuck Robbins said people in the San Francisco Bay Area know homelessness has reached a crisis level, costing the county where many tech companies are based \$520 million per year. "Though homelessness seems intractable, I believe that it is a solvable issue," Robbins wrote. "I also feel very strongly that we have an opportunity — and a responsibility — to do something about it."

Northern California's booming economy has been fueled by the tech sector. But the influx of workers coupled with decades of underbuilding has led to a historic shortage of affordable housing throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Homelessness is now pervasive throughout Silicon Valley.

The median rent in the San Jose metro area is \$3,500 a month, but the median wage is \$12 an hour in food service and \$19 an hour in health care support, an amount that won't even cover housing costs. The minimum annual salary needed to live comfortably in San Jose is \$87,000, according to a study by personal finance website GoBankingRates. Cisco's donation will go to Destination: Home, a public-private partnership that focuses on getting housing for the homeless as the first step in addressing other problems related to health, addiction, family estrangement and joblessness. In addition to financing housing, the funding will also help

U.S. ! ISRAEL ! SAUDIS... VS. THE WORLD!!

unclear if such measures can bring permanent peace because no major breakthrough in the North Korean nuclear standoff was produced at the summit.

South Korean soldiers disassembled loudspeakers in multiple front-line areas in the presence of journalists before pulling them away from the border, the Defense Ministry said.

A South Korea military officer said later Tuesday that North Korea had also begun taking down its propaganda loudspeakers earlier in the day. He requested anonymity, citing department rules.

Both Koreas had turned off the propaganda broadcasts along the 248-kilometer (154-mile) -long border last week before the summit.

They had restarted their propaganda warfare in early 2016 when tensions rose sharply after North Korea's fourth nuclear test. South Korea broadcast K-pop songs as well as criticism of the North's abysmal human rights conditions, world news and weather forecasts. The North broadcast anti-South messages and praises of its own political system.

North Korea is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its system, and most of its 24 million people are not allowed access to foreign TV and radio programs. In 2014, North Korean soldiers opened fire after South Korean activists sent anti-North leaflets over the border with large balloons, prompting South Korea to return fire. There were no reports of casualties.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has suspended nuclear and missile tests and placed his nuclear program up for negotiation, but skepticism lingers about how serious his offer is and what disarmament steps he would eventually take. Some experts say Kim's sincerity will be tested during his planned meeting in several weeks with U.S. President Donald Trump, in what would be the first North Korea-U.S. summit talks since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Trump said Monday he likes the idea of going to the southern side of Panmunjom, the location of the Korean summit, to meet Kim, though he said Singapore was also under consideration.

Ahead of that meeting, the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China are to meet next Wednesday in Tokyo for a regular trilateral summit that is expected to focus on North Korea's nuclear program and other regional issues.

During their meeting last Friday, Kim told South Korean President Moon Jae-in that he would shut down his country's only known nuclear test site and allow outside experts and journalists to watch the process. He also said he would be willing to give up his nuclear programs if the United States commits to a formal end to the Korean War and pledges not to attack the North, according to South Korea's presidential office.

During a telephone call with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday, Moon

said he wants the U.N. to observe the closure of the Punggy-ri test site. Moon also asked the U.N. to formally declare its support for his summit declaration with Kim. Guterres responded that he will try to contribute to the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to Moon's office.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said late Tuesday that Moon asked Guterres for U.N. support "to verify the imminent closure" of North Korea's nuclear test site. He said the South Korean leader also asked the secretary-general for U.N. support in implementing the agreement by Moon and Kim "to transform the demilitarized zone into a peace zone." Dujarric said "the secretary-general reiterated the full support of the United Nations to furthering the inter-Korean dialogue and in this regard pledged that the United Nations stands ready to discuss possible forms of support."

Some experts downplayed the closure of the Punggy-ri site, saying the six underground nuclear explosions that have been conducted there may have made it too unstable for more testing. Kim denied such views, saying the site has two additional underground tunnels that could be used for new tests.

A major source of outside suspicion about Kim's sincerity is his use of the term, "the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" instead of "the denuclearization of North Korea." North Korea has long used the first term, and has argued it can disarm only when the United States withdraws its 28,500 troops from South Korea and removes its so-called "nuclear umbrella" security commitment to South Korea and Japan.

A joint summit statement issued by Kim and Moon said they will work together to achieve "a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization."

It was the first time that Kim has proposed negotiating away his nuclear weapons, and some analysts say he could reveal more substantial disarmament measures in his meeting with Trump, including the possible scrapping of his long-range missile program that has posed a direct threat to the United States.

Prospects for the Kim-Trump talks remain unclear because Kim prefers a gradual, step-by-step disarmament process in return for corresponding rewards, while the United States wants complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

On Monday, Moon shook off a suggestion that he receive the Nobel Peace Prize for reducing tensions with North Korea, saying Trump "can take the Nobel prize" as long as the Koreas receive peace in return.

Londoners warned of health threat from toxic caterpillars

LONDON (AP) — Residents in London are being told to beware the white-haired caterpillars that can cause rashes, vomiting and asthma attacks.

The British Forestry Commission says caterpillars that become oak processionary

moths have been spotted in and around the British capital since mid-April.

The caterpillars are covered in thousands of hairs containing the protein thaumetopoein, which can cause skin rashes, sore throats, breathing difficulties and eye problems. People are being warned not to touch the creatures, which are most often found in oak trees — and to keep pets away from them, too.

Officials are treating oak trees with pesticide to try and eliminate the moths, which were accidentally introduced to Britain in 2005 on plants imported from continental Europe. The Observer newspaper said Sunday that authorities will also set traps for the caterpillars.

Pompeo says US stands with Israelis, Saudis against Iran

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday ratcheted up the Trump administration's rhetoric against Iran and gave warm boosts of support to Israel and Saudi Arabia in their standoffs with Tehran.

Pompeo's comments in Riyadh and then Tel Aviv came as he neared the end of the Middle East leg of his first trip abroad as America's top diplomat. He has called for concerted international action to punish Iran for its missile programs and other actions that he said destabilize the region.

The tough line was welcomed by his hosts, particularly in Israel, which considers Iran its greatest threat and has led calls for the West to revise or reject the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

"We remain deeply concerned about Iran's dangerous escalation of threats to Israel and the region and Iran's ambition to dominate the Middle East remains," Pompeo said after a nearly two-hour meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "The United States is with Israel in this fight."

Israel has cited Iran's hostile rhetoric, support for anti-Israel militant groups and development of long-range missiles.

It also has complained the nuclear deal does not do enough to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear-weapons capability, and expressed concerns about Iran's involvement in the civil war in neighboring Syria. Israel says it will not allow Iran to establish a permanent military presence in Syria, fearing the Iranians use it to launch attacks.

"Iran must be stopped, its quest for a nuclear bomb must be stopped, its aggression must be stopped and we're committed to stopping it together," Netanyahu said.

President Donald Trump is to decide by May 12 whether to keep the U.S. in the nuclear deal. Pompeo repeated the Trump position that "if we can't fix it, he is going to withdraw."

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said the kingdom "supports the policy of the Trump administration against Iran and to improve the terms of the nuclear agreement with Iran."

4
DATED: 05-14-2018

cases wind through the system, often with orders that some of them wear ankle monitors. Children traveling alone are placed with family, other sponsors or in group homes overseen by the Health and Human Services Department.

Nearly 80 percent of asylum-seekers passed the initial screening from October through December, but few are likely to win asylum, which requires the petitioner to show well-founded fear of persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality, political beliefs or membership in a social group.

The denial rate for El Salvadorans seeking asylum was 79 percent from 2012 to 2017, according to the Syracuse University's Transactional Records Action Clearinghouse. Hondurans were close behind with a 78 percent denial rate, followed by Guatemalans at 75 percent.

Nebraska dust storm triggers chain-reaction crash, 1 dead

YORK, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say one person has died after a dust storm triggered a 29-vehicle accident along an interstate in eastern Nebraska.

The Nebraska State Patrol says visibility was reduced to nearly zero Sunday as dust blew in from farm fields along Interstate 80 near York, a city about 50 miles (80.5 kilometers) west of Lincoln.

The patrol says the conditions caused a chain-reaction crash that injured 15 people, including one person who was flown to a Lincoln hospital.

Patrol spokesman Cody Thomas said Monday that one of the injured had died. Thomas says he couldn't release further details.

Others injured were taken to hospitals in Aurora and York.

Winds gusts of 60 mph (97 kph) were reported in the area. The patrol says the crash closed a 2-mile (3-kilometer) stretch of the interstate for nearly three hours.

North Korea offers to give up nukes if US vows not to attack

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told his South Korean counterpart at their historic summit that he would be willing to give up his nuclear weapons if the U.S. commits to a formal end to the Korean War and a pledge not to attack the North, Seoul officials said Sunday. Kim also vowed during his meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday to shut down the North's nuclear test site in May and disclose the process to experts and journalists from South Korea and the United States, Seoul's presidential office said.

While there are lingering questions about whether North Korea will ever decide to fully relinquish its nukes as it heads into negotiations with the U.S., Kim's comments amount to the North's most specific acknowledgement yet that "denuclearization" would constitute surrendering its weapons. U.S. national security adviser John Bolton reacted coolly to word that Kim would

abandon his weapons if the United States pledged not to invade.

Asked on CBS' "Face the Nation" whether the U.S. would make such a promise, Bolton said: "Well, we've heard this before. This is — the North Korean propaganda playbook is an infinitely rich resource."

"What we want to see from them is evidence that it's real and not just rhetoric," he added. Seoul officials, who have shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to broker talks between Kim and President Donald Trump that are expected in May or June, said Kim has expressed genuine interest in dealing away his nuclear weapons.

But there has been skepticism because North Korea for decades has been pushing a concept of "denuclearization" that bears no resemblance to the American definition. The North has long vowed to pursue nuclear development unless Washington removes its 28,500 troops from South Korea and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

During their summit at a truce village on the border, Moon and Kim promised to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula but made no references to verification or timetables.

Kim also expressed optimism about his meeting with Trump, Moon's spokesman Yoon Young-chan said.

"Once we start talking, the United States will know that I am not a person to launch nuclear weapons at South Korea, the Pacific or the United States," Kim said, according to Yoon. Yoon also quoted Kim as saying: "If we maintain frequent meetings and build trust with the United States and receive promises for an end to the war and a non-aggression treaty, then why would we need to live in difficulty by keeping our nuclear weapons?" The Korean Peninsula technically remains in a state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War was halted with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

The closing of the nuclear test site would be a dramatic but likely symbolic event to set up Kim's summit with Trump. North Korea already announced this month that it has suspended all tests of nuclear devices and intercontinental ballistic missiles and plans to close its nuclear testing ground.

Still, Adam Mount, a senior defense analyst at the Federation of American Scientists, said Kim's comments were significant because they are his most explicit acknowledgement yet that denuclearization means surrendering his nuclear weapons.

"Questions remain about whether Kim will agree to discuss other nuclear technology, fissile material and missiles. However, they imply a phased process with reciprocal concessions," Mount said in an email. "It is not clear that the Trump administration will accept that kind of protracted program." Analysts reacted with skepticism to Kim's previously announced plan to close down the test site at Punggye-ri, saying the northernmost tunnel had already become too

unstable to use for underground detonations anyway following the country's sixth and most powerful test blast in September.

In his conversation with Moon, Kim denied that he would be merely clearing out damaged goods, saying the site also has two new tunnels that are larger than previous testing facilities, Yoon said.

Some analysts see Moon's agreement with Kim at the summit as a disappointment, citing the lack of references to verification and timeframes and also the absence of a definition on what would constitute a "complete" denuclearization of the peninsula. But Patrick McEachern, a former State Department analyst now with the Washington-based Wilson Center, said it was still meaningful that Moon extracted a commitment from Kim to complete denuclearization, which marked a significant change from Kim's previous public demand to expand his arsenal of nuclear weapons in number and quality.

"The public conversation should now shift from speculation on whether North Korea would consider denuclearization to how South Korea and the United States can advance this denuclearization pledge in concrete steps in light of North Korea's reciprocal demands for concrete steps toward an eventual peace agreement," McEachern said in an email.

North Korea has invited the outside world to witness the dismantling of its nuclear facilities before. In June 2008, international broadcasters were allowed to air the demolition of a cooling tower at the Nyongbyon reactor site, a year after the North reached an agreement with the U.S. and four other nations to disable its nuclear facilities in return for an aid package worth about \$400 million.

But the deal eventually collapsed after North Korea refused to accept U.S.-proposed verification methods, and the country went on to conduct its second nuclear test detonation in May 2009.

Yoon said Kim also revealed plans to sync its time zone with South Korea's. The Koreas had used the same time zone for decades before the North created its own "Pyongyang Time" in 2015 by setting the clock 30 minutes behind South Korea and Japan. Yoon said the North's decision to return to Seoul's time zone was aimed at facilitating communication with South Korea and the U.S.

2 Koreas dismantle propaganda loudspeakers at tense border

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The rival Koreas dismantled huge loudspeakers used to blare Cold War-style propaganda across their tense border on Tuesday, as South Korea's president asked the United Nations to observe the North's planned closing of its nuclear test site.

The dismantling of dozens of loudspeakers was in line with an agreement on reconciliation by the leaders of the Koreas at their historic summit last Friday. It is still

KEEPING IT SHORT AND BITTER !!!

" ONLY AN APOCALYPSE
CAN SAVE US NOW

ON the Politics of Nostalgia
BY Mark Lilla "

- HARPER'S MAGAZINE /
SEPTEMBER 2016 ESSAY,
P. R 49 -

" THE APOCALYPTIC STYLE
IN AMERICAN POLITICS "

- BY CHRIS LEHMANN

IN THESE TIMES.COM
JUNE 2017, P. 37

President Donald J. Trumped endless
way President Barack H. Obama's Lega-
cy IS NOW MANIFESTED IN ending the
IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL. SEE BELOW, P. P. 4-5

MIDEAST V. ASIAN
U. S. FOREIGN POLICY

Prez Obama pivoted America's
foreign policy focus from Israel to

- War Asia to confront China's pur-
ported expansionism;

TRUMPED

Killed Obama's, with Six Nations
, Iran nuclear deal.

Abandoned our European's allies!

Made Alliance with China!

Formed a Three Countries, viz.
Israel, Saudi Arabia + to rule the world.

Both countries leaders, namely,

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu, [03-04-2018] met

with Trumped at the white house

to plot Middle East domination under

the guise of noise of U.S. war with

N. Korea!

WAR!!

First they destroyed the poor
helpless Palestinian people (50
— slaughtered today), their two
2 of 8

Aisa

2

State Option and Prospect for Peace!

Their Policy is To Force them
into Permanent submission to Israel.

IRAN!

Their war on Iran is a fatal
mistake!

The U.S. has NOT won a war
since, with Russia - World War II!

TRUMP AND NETANYAHU

ARE BOTH UNDER
INVESTIGATION
FOR CRIMINAL ACTS.

SEE BELOW, P. 6

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

It's reported Netanyahu Rule
Trumped through his son-in-law
Jared Kushner! [MR. Kushner] !!!

for the mission because they want to keep California safe.

"Nobody has been ordered to come here," she said. "Everyone is here by choice and has said, 'I would like to support this mission.'" So far, 250 are in place but more troops may be added as the Border Patrol needs them, Holman said.

William Rogers, supervisory Border Patrol agent for the San Diego sector, said troops are being put in jobs that will keep them away from migrants. For example, he said National Guard camera operators will work monitoring video inside Border Patrol facilities and will not be assigned to manning a camera from a vehicle parked at the international line.

He said the added manpower for jobs such as dispatching radio calls and maintaining vehicles will mean agents can also focus more on investigative work.

"I think people really underestimate the help that the Guardsmen will provide," Rogers said. "I actually think this also will provide a huge sort of morale boost to agents by seeing Guardsmen enthusiastically doing their jobs." The troops, who will also work in neighboring Imperial County, are expected to stay until at least Sept. 30.

National Guard troops are also assisting agents in three other U.S. states bordering Mexico — Arizona, New Mexico and Texas — all governed by Republicans.

From prison to politics: Chelsea Manning runs for US Senate

NORTH BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Chelsea Manning is no longer living as a transgender woman in a male military prison, serving the lengthiest sentence ever for revealing U.S. government secrets. She's free to grow out her hair, travel the world, and spend time with whomever she likes.

But a year since former President Barack Obama commuted Manning's 35-year sentence, America's most famous convicted leaker isn't taking an extended vacation. Far from it: The Oklahoma native has decided to make an unlikely bid for the U.S. Senate in her adopted state of Maryland.

Manning, 30, filed to run in January and has been registered to vote in Maryland since August. She lives in North Bethesda, not far from where she stayed with an aunt while awaiting trial. Her aim is to unseat Sen. Ben Cardin, a 74-year-old Maryland Democrat who is seeking his third Senate term and previously served 10 terms in the U.S. House. Manning, who also has become an internationally recognized transgender activist, said she's motivated by a desire to fight what she sees as a shadowy surveillance state and a rising tide of nightmarish repression.

"The rise of authoritarianism is encroaching in every aspect of life, whether it's government or corporate or technological," Manning told The Associated Press during an interview at her home in an upscale apartment tower. On the walls of her barely furnished living room hang Obama's

commutation order, and photos of U.S. anarchist Emma Goldman and British playwright Oscar Wilde.

Manning's longshot campaign for the June 26 primary would appear to be one of the more unorthodox U.S. Senate bids in recent memory, and the candidate is operating well outside the party's playbook. She says she doesn't, in fact, even consider herself a Democrat, but is motivated by a desire to shake up establishment Democrats who are "caving in" to President Donald Trump's administration. She vows she won't run as an independent if her primary bid fails.

She's certainly got an eye-catching platform: Close prisons and free inmates; eliminate national borders; restructure the criminal justice system; provide universal health care and basic income. The top of her agenda? Abolish the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a federal agency created in 2003 that Manning asserts is preparing for an "ethnic cleansing."

Manning ticks off life experiences she believes would make her an effective senator: a stint being homeless in Chicago, her wartime experiences as a U.S. Army intelligence analyst in Iraq — even her seven years in prison. She asserts she's got a "bigger vision" than establishment politicians.

But political analysts suspect the convicted felon is not running to win.

"Manning is running as a protest candidate, which has a long lineage in American history, to shine light on American empire," said Daniel Schlozman, a political science professor at Johns Hopkins University. "That's a very different goal, with a very different campaign, than if she wanted to beat Ben Cardin."

Trump announces withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that he is withdrawing the United States from the Iran nuclear deal, reneging on a landmark pact and raising the question of whether Tehran might respond by resuming its frozen weapons program.

"It is clear to me that we cannot prevent an Iranian nuclear bomb under the decaying and rotten structure of the current agreement," Trump said in a nationally televised statement delivered from the White House. "The United States will withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal."

Trump further said that he would impose the "highest level" of sanctions, which would affect Iran directly and other countries that do business with the regime. But he did not specify which sanctions he would put in place or whether there would be time for foreign countries and companies to disentangle ties to Iran.

In 2015, Iran agreed to halt its pursuit of nuclear weapons — and to allow international checks on its facilities — in exchange for moves by the U.S., several other countries and the United Nations to roll back sanctions that had crippled its economy.

The accord was widely seen as the biggest foreign policy accomplishment of President Barack Obama's administration.

But Trump has long been a critic of the deal, maintaining that Obama gave up too much for too little. His decision signals a dramatic reversal of U.S. policy, and his rhetoric was hawkish.

If Iran doesn't get in line, he said, it will face "bigger problems than it ever has before."

But the move also raises two important questions for the Trump administration and the international community: whether Iran will respond by resuming its quest for nuclear weapons and whether reneging on the Iran pact will affect North Korea's willingness to cut a denuclearization deal with the president. "We are basically just going back on our word," said Jon Wolfstahl, who was the National Security Council's senior director for arms control and nonproliferation under Obama.

It is difficult to say exactly how Trump's decision is likely to play out. The U.S. sanctions regime is complex and only part of the international picture. Moreover, the reactions of each country involved in the original deal are difficult to predict precisely. Many of the existing Iran sanctions are independent of the 2015 deal and remain in place, including a prohibition on the vast majority of direct commercial activity between the U.S. and Iran, according to David Mortlock, who was a sanctions expert on Obama's National Security Council. But the waiver that was due for renewal May 12 — the one that created the deadline prompting Trump's action — is tied up in the Iran deal. Using the banking system, it effectively blocks implementation of U.S. sanctions on foreign countries that buy oil from Iran. Without that waiver, foreign countries can escape U.S. sanctions only if the president determines that they have reduced their purchases of Iranian oil. In short, that means foreign countries and companies are now risking their ability to do business in the U.S. if they continue to buy Iranian oil.

Iran initially came to the negotiating table because of the pain caused by economic sanctions imposed by Congress, a series of U.S. presidents, several foreign nations and the United Nations.

Proponents of the deal say that it has worked — that Iran has kept its promises to halt the nuclear weapons program and to allow international vetting of its energy capabilities. But Trump campaigned on rewriting the pact, and, during a speech to the U.N. last year, he called it a major "embarrassment" and "one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into." Until Tuesday, though, Trump had taken a more measured approach to the deal. Last October, in declining to certify that Iran had lived up to its end of the bargain, Trump kicked a decision on whether to re-impose U.S. sanctions to Congress — which did not act.

"We now have a date and we have a location. We'll be announcing it soon," Trump told reporters Friday from the White House South Lawn before departing for Dallas. He's previously said the summit was planned for May or early June.

A meeting with Kim seemed an outlandish possibility just a few months ago when the two leaders were trading threats and insults over North Korea's development of nuclear weapons. But momentum for diplomacy has built this year as the rival Koreas have patched up ties. In March, Trump unexpectedly accepted an offer of talks from Kim after the North Korean dictator agreed to suspend nuclear and ballistic missile tests and discuss "denuclearization."

According to South Korea, Kim has said he'd be willing to give up his nukes if the United States commits to a formal end to the Korean War and pledges not to attack the North. But his exact demands for relinquishing weapons that his nation spent decades building remains unclear.

Trump said that withdrawing U.S. forces from South Korea is "not on the table." Some 28,500 U.S. forces are based in the allied nation, a military presence that has been preserved to deter North Korea since the war ended in 1953 without a peace treaty.

"Now I have to tell you, at some point into the future, I would like to save the money," Trump said later as he prepared to board Air Force One. "You know we have 32,000 troops there but I think a lot of great things will happen but troops are not on the table. Absolutely."

The New York Times reported that Trump has asked the Pentagon to prepare options plans for drawing down American troops. It cited unnamed officials as saying that wasn't intended to be a bargaining chip with Kim, but did reflect that a prospective peace treaty between the Koreas could diminish the need for U.S. forces in South Korea.

At the inter-Korean summit last Friday, held on the southern side of the DMZ, Moon and Kim pledged to rid the peninsula of nuclear weapons and seek a formal end this year to the Korean conflict where the opposing sides remain technically at war more than six decades after fighting halted with an armistice.

But for Trump to contemplate withdrawing troops now would be a quixotic move as he enters into negotiations with Kim whose demands and intentions are uncertain. Two weeks ago, shortly before the inter-Korean summit, Moon said that Kim actually wasn't insisting on a longstanding demand for the withdrawal of U.S. troops as a precondition for abandoning his nukes.

National security adviser John Bolton, who met his South Korean counterpart Chung Eui-yong in Washington on Friday, called the Times report "utter nonsense."

During his presidential campaign, Trump complained that South Korea does not do enough to financially support the American military commitment. In March, Washington

and Seoul began negotiations on how much South Korea should offset the costs of the deployment in the coming years. Under the current agreement that expires at the end of 2018, the South provides about \$830 million per year.

Before Trump meets Kim, Washington is looking for North Korea to address another persistent source of tension between the adversaries: the detention of three Korean-Americans accused of anti-state of activities in the North.

Trump hinted that the release of Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim was in the offing, but again was sparing on the details.

"We're having very substantive talks with North Korea and a lot of things have already happened with respect to the hostages, and I think you're going to see very good things. As I said yesterday, stay tuned," Trump said, referring to an earlier tweet on the issue.

Sessions: Parents, children entering US illegally will be separated

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration plans to take a tougher approach to families that enter the U.S. illegally by separating parents from their children, instead of keeping them in detention together.

"If you are smuggling a child then we will prosecute you, and that child will be separated from you as required by law," Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday at a law enforcement conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. "If you don't like that, then don't smuggle children over our border." Administration officials explain that the goal of the program is 100 percent prosecution of all who enter the US illegally. When adults are prosecuted and jailed, their children will be separated from them, just as would happen for a US citizen convicted and jailed.

"If you cross this border unlawfully, then we will prosecute you. It's that simple," Sessions said.

Adults charged with illegal entry will be turned over to U.S. Marshals and sent directly to federal court. Their children will be transferred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, which refers them to relatives in the US or to shelters run by private organizations.

The Department of Homeland Services says 700 children have been separated from their parents since the fiscal year began last October.

A first conviction for illegal entry carries a maximum jail term of six months.

The tougher enforcement policy is another attempt to reduce the flow of illegal immigration from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Customs and Border Protection says the number of attempted border crossings by people found to be inadmissible was three times higher in April than it was during the same month last year.

"We are dealing with a massive influx of illegal aliens across our Southwest Border," Sessions said. "But we're not going to stand for this."

Last week, he sent 35 federal prosecutors to the southwest border region and 18 immigration judges to help deal with the increase in border crossing cases.

The new approach applies only to people arrested for attempting to enter the US illegally. The children of adults who present themselves at a designated port of entry and seek asylum will not be separated from their parents, administration officials said.

Opponents of the tougher enforcement policy strongly condemned the new approach. "This administration is set on tearing families apart, detaining immigrants without justification," said Vedant Patel of the Democratic National Committee.

APNewsBreak: Calif. National Guard begins border training

SAN DIEGO (AP) — After a contentious standoff between the state and federal government, California National Guard troops started training Thursday with the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to be camera operators, radio dispatchers, and to fill other support roles.

President Donald Trump ordered National Guard troops to deploy to the U.S.-Mexico border to help federal authorities combat illegal immigration and drug trafficking. California's all-Democratic leadership has positioned the state as a national leader in battling the Trump administration, especially on immigration issues. Government leaders at the state level and in big cities have condemned mass raids and deportation efforts, President Donald Trump's call for a border wall with Mexico and Attorney General Jeff Sessions' "zero tolerance" order to prosecute people caught illegally entering the United States for the first time.

Gov. Jerry Brown agreed to contribute 400 troops to the National Guard's deployment to the Mexican border to help go after drugs, guns and criminal gangs — not immigrants. The governor has said under the terms of the agreement the state reached with the Trump administration, the Guard cannot handle custody duties for anyone accused of immigration violations, build border barriers or have anything to do with immigration enforcement.

Some troops could start their new jobs as soon as Sunday, which will free up agents to patrol the Mexican border but keep National Guard members away from the international line so they do not have contact with migrants.

Maj. Kimberly Holman told The Associated Press that some of the 250 troops who volunteered for the call to help Border Patrol agents started their on-the-job training Thursday after meeting their Border Patrol supervisors in San Diego.

"This will free up the green shirts — the badged agents — and get them out on line," Holman said, adding that troops volunteered

When you look at the slave plantations of old, there weren't fences or barbed wire. It was a mindset that you can't get past the plantation boundary because people know you are black, that you are out of your area and someone will put you back in your place. Today, when you try to get off the plantation known as Milwaukee, you are surrounded by suburbs of influence and affluence. Your color defines you, and you become objects of suspicion and fear. By and large, African-Americans in the city do not have access to the suburbs. We don't have trains or buses, and many people don't have cars, or at least cars that look like they belong in the suburbs. So you are kept in the central city, the heart of the plantation.

Violence dominates the news out of the central city. What can be done about all the shootings?

In the last few weeks, you've seen the perfect storm of neglect – neglect in the household meets neglect in schools, neglect in the government and neglect in the church. The two young men in the shooting at a playground, clearly they are damaged and sick. What causes that level of anger and mental illness? What taught those young men that life is so casual? That's what frightens me.

Let's say I live in Brookfield and I agree with you. What should I do?

We have to educate each other. All our communities have problems. But only the problems in the black community are viewed like a contagious disease that will spread to white neighborhoods if black people move in. After those two young girls in Waukesha stabbed their friend, I wasn't suddenly afraid to live next to a white family with young daughters. I mostly felt bad for all the young people involved.

What's your take on Police Chief Edward Flynn?

He came in with a hard line and this Irish attitude of being a tough, hard-nosed police officer that would bring down the crime numbers. He got a huge lesson that these are human beings in the central city, not statistics. Right now, Flynn is leaning toward more of a community-policing approach, but he's still missing key elements.

Should the taxpayers help pay for a new sports arena?

If aliens came and saw us watching grown men run up and down and throw a rubber ball through a hoop, and what's more, they are some of the highest-paid individuals, I wonder if those aliens would think we were civilized. I'd like to see the same determination going into fighting poverty.

What are your dreams?

I have six kids and nine grandchildren. Every time I pray and I fight for this community, I'm also fighting for them. When they leave the house in the morning, I tell them, "Look at the sky. That's how large the world is. And your dreams can be as big as that sky." ■

» This article appears in the August 2014 issue of Milwaukee Magazine.

Read the rest of August issue online here, or subscribe to Milwaukee Magazine.

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TAGS: WILLIE BRISCO MILWAUKEE RACISM POVERTY MILWAUKEE INNER CITY CONGREGATIONS ALLIED FOR HOPE MILWAUKEE COUNTY



Point of View

Rev. Willie Brisco

As a religious activist, the Rev. Willie Brisco doesn't hold back. Bluntness is his battle-ax against racism and poverty. *BY BARBARA MINER 7/29/2014*



Photo by Adam Ryan Morris.

You've been president of MICAH since 2010. What does the group do?

Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope is a faith-based organization that began in 1988 and includes more than 40 congregations throughout Milwaukee County. MICAH also has 10 affiliates in the state, an organization called WISDOM, and a national affiliate. We cover a range of issues, from ending the prison pipeline, to immigration reform, to life-sustaining wages for all workers. We recently were part of the lawsuit for more mass transit in the rebuilding of the Zoo Interchange. Public transit and access to jobs will continue to be a big concern. We want to prove that public transit is not an invasion from Milwaukee, but a rescue effort to save the entire region.

Is there one key issue?

Jobs. If everyone had a chance for a life-sustaining job – not just a job paying slave wages, or a few jobs filling potholes – a lot of the other issues would correct themselves.

You worked at the House of Correction for 25 years, not the usual career path of a religious activist. Did you have a come-to-Jesus moment?

After my second night at the House of Correction, I looked up to the heavens and asked, "What the hell did I get myself into?" Twenty-five years later, as I was packing up to retire, I got the answer. "You've seen what I've wanted you to see. Now fix it." I went in looking at the inmates as criminals and ne'er-do-wells, but I changed. I remember one young man telling me he was going to make a million dollars selling drugs. He had all the numbers in his head – the percentages, the selling prices. I asked, "Did anyone ever tell you that you've got a mathematical gift?" He said, "No." I remember thinking, "What a waste."

You have said that Milwaukee is run like a plantation.

MOST VIEWED

Frank Gimbel

POSTED 7/1/2014

John Dargle Jr.

POSTED 4/30/2014

Rev. Willie Brisco

POSTED 7/29/2014

Tiffany Krihwan

POSTED 6/3/2014

MOST COMMENTED

Rev. Willie Brisco

POSTED 7/29/2014

Frank Gimbel

POSTED 7/1/2014

Tiffany Krihwan

POSTED 6/3/2014

John Dargle Jr.

POSTED 4/30/2014

A LOVER'S QUESTION ???

"RADICAL ISLAM"!!!

NOW THAT PREZ BARACK H. OBAMA
IS OUT !!

AND

NOW THAT PREZ DONALD J. TRUMP
EBO IS IN [JAN 2017]

WHERE IS THE TERM!

✓ "RADICAL ISLAM" ???

#WECALLBS

DATED: 04-22-2018

PARTING SHOTS!!!

YOU ALL MUST SERIOUSLY APPREHEND
THE IRL LESSONS OF 2016 TRUMPED
"ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATE"!!! PHENO-
MENDON!!!

HIGH ANXIETY!!!

AND WONDER WHEN A "HILTER"
SHALL BE THAT "ALTERNATIVE
CANDIDATE"!!! TO THIS "BS"!!!

BY: LEDNIRBY DATED: 04-28-2018

MAY 2018 ESQUIRE.COM
Pages 86-91, 126...

THE ANTI-OPRAH?

I don't tell people.
"You're okay the way you are."

- Jordan Peterson

FEB. 17, 2018, p. 87, 1d

I SAY !!!

I ONLY KNOW WHAT I READ !!! Based on
That TASTE, I SAY:

THANK GOD !!!

For Tweeting KANYE WEST
JORDAN PETERSON !!!

YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION
... YOU OUGHT CHANGE YOUR MIND -
INSTEAD !!! - Beatles

The elist stole our - People Revolution
FOR JOBS! FAIR HOUSING! EDUCATION! UNIVER-
SAL HEALTH CARE! HUMAN RIGHTS! "YOUR OWN
MIND! FREEING THE PRISONERS [THE NEW JIM
CROW" !!!], etc.

The ELIST fight over Abstract "LABELS"
and faux "WORDS"! [e.g. N-WORD]...
LET'S GET BACK TO THE BASICS OF
LIFE !!!

BRIGHT LIGHTS!!!

BIG IDEALS!!!

THE PASSION of
JORDAN

PETERSON

BY WESLEY YANG

HIS BOOK
12 RULES FOR
LIFE IS

NUMBER ONE IN
THE U.S.

His YouTube Lectures
Have Been Viewed by TENS
of Millions. Rapt Young
Men Pack Halls to Soak in His
speeches, which tell
them to stop whinning and take
some damn responsibility

IS THIS MIDDLE-AGED
CANADIAN COLLEGE
PROFESSOR THE
PHILOSOPHER OUR TIMES
NEED - OR
A DANGEROUS
ANTI-PC PROVOCATEUR
IN TWEED CLOTHING?

UPDATE

MIRANDA LAMBERT
CHEATING & LIES

HER
SIDE
OF THE
STORY

she insist she didn't cheat - break up
her married boyfriend's home...

but is this a twisted pattern she

can't seem to break?

~ USMAGAZINE.COM/COVER STORY 5-18-2018

THE TRUTH !!!

A Lady is got to have it!!!

XOXO!

DATED 05-11-2018

AND PROTECTION OF THE LETTER OF THE LAW.
SEE ALSO 1/106/2017, WED, 10:AM
CST]

HIGHEST ALERT!!!

SHE IS A REAL POTENT THREAT
TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND BLACK
MEN AND BOYS FREEDOM AND UN-
FIT TO BE A MEMBER OF ANY LEG-
ITIMATE REPUTABLE BAR.

GOD ANSWER PRAYS

PSA. 119:1

PSA. 116:2

DATED: MAY 06, 2018

2 of 2

MY PRAYER!!!

SUNNY HOSTIN

FORMER FEDERAL PROSECUTOR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CO-HOST ABC.COM/THEVIEW

My Prayer is a PETITION shall be Filed
With Atty. Hostin's STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
to REVOKE her LICENSE to Practice Law.

HER UNPARDONABLE VIOLATION

She uses her ABC NEWS.COM PUBLIC
[MEDIA] platform to POSE AS AN OBJECTIVE
Black Lady Playing Lawyer; "I play every-
day [THE LAWYER"!!!] [01-03-2018]
That DAILY Advocate BLACK MEN be PUNISH-
ED & Held Criminally Liable] without U.S.
CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS!!!

TELL US MORE! MORE!!

FURTHERMORE, ADVOCATING THE ACC-
USED IS NOT ENTITLED TO "DUE PROCESS"

What are Your Stereotype doing on
TV - ANYHOW ? ! ! !

MIRROR ! ! !

Put the SPOTLIGHT ON ONE WHITE
WOMAN IN HOLLYWOOD who mirror
your I MAGE.

BEV, You are Part of the ROST
GENOCIDE ! !

"He who Passively accepts evil is
as much involved in it as he who helps
to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil with-
out protesting against it is really co-
operating with it." — DR. MLK, JR

2052 DATED: MAY 26, 2018

HOLLYWOOD HATE BLACK FOLKS!!!

SHOUT-OUT OUTSIDE THE BARS!!

TO: BEV SMITH

PAGESIXTV.COM

MAY 04-2018, FRI.

Bev,

You, WENDY and others SO-CALLED
TV WHITE NEGROES, WHO PRETEND TO
SPEAK FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY... "WE
CALL BS"!

YOU LOOK IN THAT CAMERA AND DARE
TO EXCLAIMED TO AFRICAN QUEEN CAMILLE
COSBY, WE CANNOT CITE EMMETT TILL, 1955,
MONSTROUS LYNCHING TO MANIFEST DR. BILL
COSBY "HIGHTECH LYNCHING", AND THAT FEST-
IVE AND CELEBRATORY AFTERMATH!!!

WE SAY: FORGET YOU!!!!!!

TV WHITE NEGROES ON BLACK RACISM!
WHO WRITE YOUR SCRIPT?!!

202. Soft-Spoken

Shaped like a teddy bear, the grid contains things that are always or sometimes soft. The hidden message is an adage made famous by the person for whom the teddy bear is named.

```

      S C P D S
    E I E A A K P
  S S S E R T T A M O S
O U F T B L A N K E T
M L E Y A A N L D C A
  T E D D Y B E A R
    R T R E Y C Y A P
      A B F J O B S
        I M T O O F S T I B B A R
          A O G B C B U T T E R S O E T S
            N N I A R I P W O M A N S T O U C H
              E R C G K U E R G N I V I L A T C Y O U
Y P I L E O F L E A V E S   W W W O R D S
I O A L   R L D Z G O K   F M F
A L H   R T A W N E H N N
E S   O S E V O L G D I K
      S D O I P A A K R L O
        R I H I B   S N D O E
          R C S L N   O D T O W
            E U L A K   S S I K O
              C O E O S   E V O N L
                W B E C   L N T G
  
```

ANGORA
BABY'S BOTTOM
BEANBAG
BLANKET
BREEZE
BUTTER
COAL
COTTON
CUSHION
DATA

DRINKS
FOCUS
FUR COAT
GLOW
HAIR
JOBS
KID GLOVES
KISS
LANDING
LIVING

LOTION
MATTRESS
MONEY
MUSIC
PALATE
PILE OF LEAVES
PILLOW
POWDER PUFF
RABBIT'S FOOT
RAIN

SILK
SKIN
SLOPE
SPOT
SUEDE
TEDDY BEAR
VOICE
WATER
WOMAN'S TOUCH
WORDS

ANSWER, PAGE 330

200. Missing in Action

To find the missing word list, look below the grid where it says "Find." There'll you see nine different categories. Identify what words fit those categories and then look for those words in the grid. When you do, you'll see that one of the words in each category does not appear in the grid. Write that word in the blank in the "Missing" column next to the category. For example, if it said "Find 2 of the 3 colors of Olympics medals," you'd say GOLD, SILVER, and BRONZE. However, only two of those colors would appear in the grid. If you were to find SILVER and BRONZE in the grid but not GOLD, you'd then write GOLD in the appropriate blank. After you've filled in all the blanks, read the first letters of the missing words from top to bottom, column by column, to spell out a message that's quite appropriate for a grid shaped like a hand rising out of the ocean. If you're sinking instead of swimming, you can find both the word list and the missing words on page 253.

```

      M
    A  T
  O  S  B
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Find	Missing	Find	Missing
11 of the 12 signs of the zodiac	_____	2 of the 3 words in the abbreviation TLC	_____
3 of the 4 traditional "somethings" needed at a wedding	_____	2 of the 3 flavors in Neapolitan ice cream	_____
2 of the 3 most common pieces of silverware	_____	3 of the 4 main directional points on a compass	_____
4 of 5 of the most common voices in a choir	_____	3 of the 4 "elements" that were once thought to compose everything	_____
4 of the 5 cards in a royal flush	_____		

ANSWER, PAGE 329

DATED: 05-07-2018

TELL IT LIKE
IT IS

As racial INjustice continues to
roil the country, actor-writer-
director Nate Parker achieves his
career-long mission: bring the
story of Nat Turner's slave Re-
bellion to the big screen.

By Nathan Heller. Photographed by
ANTON CORBIJN "

VOGUE.COM

SEPTEMBER 2016, P. 721 (W/PLE)
P.P. 720-723; 795

#JUSTICEFORALL!!!

So-called Never seen, by me - before White Negroes gay males and Fat Females appeared in hordes to falsely accuse Mr. Parker of "RAPE" all over the media. E.g. NEWS HOUR PBS.ORG /

Namely so-called White Negroes - Gabriel UNION his Co-Star, and

SUNNY HOSTIN

she repeatedly denounced as
"A Rapist!"

WHITE co-host JOY BEHAR SAID:
"He was acquitted" !!!

HOSTIN: I don't care.
He's GUILTY

ABC.COM / THE VIEW.COM
12-06-2017, WED. 10:AM. CST

are SUMMARILY PRONOUNCED GUILTY OF
the MOST HEINOUS OF MULTI-CRIMES,
E.G. RAPE, etc.,

EVEN WITH NO PRIOR CONVICTIONS
they are CONCLUSIVELY declared GUILTY
ON a daily basis. SEE WENDY SHOW.
COM. [ESP. (01-22-2018); (04-16-
2018)]; [05-03-2018] Jada Nauseam!

GUILTY SIMILARLY AFTER
BEING GIVEN PURPORTEDLY
"DUE PROCESS" AND ACQUITTED
BY A JURY !!!

NATE PARKER

BLACK DIRECTOR-PRODUCER-
ACTOR

Made a Spectacular and Over the
MOONLIGHT CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED MOVIE!
NAT TURNER STORY, BIRTH OF A NATION; BELOW,
SEE P. 4

The Push Back was to RUN MR
"PAPER" OUT OF HOLLYWOOD AND BURN
HIS Valuable MOVIE.

THERE IS A NEW HIGH TECH
LYNCH MOB IN DODGE !!!

UNIVERSAL FRIENDS:

HAVE YOU ALL SEEN THE AMERICA
NEW HIGH TECH LYNCH MOB IN LIVING
COLOR IN ACTION ON DAY DISPLAY
ONLY !!!

ID !!!

There are so-called white-
Negroes, e.g., VIZ, SUNNY HOSTIN, FORMER
U.S. PROSECUTOR; WENDY WITKINS.COM;
Gabriel UNION, Actor, etc. whom are
LEADERS IN THIS LYNCH MOB JUSTICE !!!

SUNNY HOSTIN
ABC NEWS.COM/
THE VIEW.COM

ATTY. HOSTIN AND WENDY.SHOW.COM
OSTENSIBLY ARE THE CHIEF PROPONENTS
there of.

GUILTY WITHOUT TRIAL AND
"DUE PROCESS"

Black men like DR. WILLIAM "BILL" COSBY
1 of 4

EMMET TILL

JET, SEPT. 15, 1955

JETMAG.COM, P. 21

REPRINT IN FINAL ISSUE JUNE 23, 2014]

W/INFAMOUS PHOTOGRAPHS

TO: ATTY. GLORIA ALLARD

SUNNY HOSTIN

FORMER FEDERAL PROSECUTOR

They Believed her Too!

This country has always had a
#METOO Believe her! LYNCH mob
MASS MENTALITY when it involves
BLACK BOYS and BLACK MEN !!!

#STRANGEFRUIT !!!

#LADY DAY !!!

#BILCOSBY

DATED: MAY 10, 2018
1:32 A.M. CST

dollars of Cuban products, potentially generating hundreds of millions of dollars in new annual revenue for the Cuban state. The previous limit restricted travelers to a combined value of \$100 in rum and cigars, although enforcement of the limit notably declined after President Barack Obama declared detente with Cuba in December 2014.

"Challenges remain - and very real differences between our governments persist on issues of democracy and human rights - but I believe that engagement is the best way to address those differences and make progress on behalf of our interests and values," Obama said in a statement announcing the changes.

Rum and cigar production is entirely government-run under Cuba's centrally planned communist economy.

More than 160,000 American travelers visited Cuba last year and that figure is expected to double this year. Hundreds of thousands of Cuban-Americans visit family on the island each year and will also be able to take advantage of the new measure, which comes a month and a half before the restart of commercial flights to Havana after more than 50 years.

The package of regulatory changes announced Friday also allows cargo ships to visit U.S. ports directly after docking in Cuba. They had been barred from U.S. ports for 180 days after visiting Cuba. Cuba blamed that measure for harming its ability to import and export and dampening hopes that a new military-run port in the city of Mariel could serve as a major link in the regional cargo shipping system.

Huge Southern Calif. wiretap program was legal, judge says

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A Riverside County judge Friday upheld the legality of a massive wiretapping operation that secretly intercepted phone calls and text messages by tens of thousands of people to make arrests throughout the United States.

Superior Court Judge John Molloy ruled that the district attorney was allowed to delegate the responsibility of approving wiretap applications to his second-in-command. Defense attorneys, who had sought to persuade the judge that federal law required the district attorney to authorize the applications himself, said they would appeal. Paul Zellerbach, the former Riverside County district attorney who presided over the nation's largest wiretapping operation, was among those who testified during Friday's five-hour hearing.

He said he "could not remember" if he ever signed off on the eavesdropping himself, despite a federal law that appears to require it. Instead, the former top prosecutor said he allowed his second-in-command to approve wiretap applications when he was "unavailable or absent," including when he was in the bathroom.

Friday's hearing was the first time Riverside County prosecutors had been forced to

defend a wiretapping program that by 2014 had become the nation's largest by far. The case is one of at least five legal challenges filed in the aftermath of a USA TODAY Network investigation that found that federal drug agents and county prosecutors had built a vast and legally questionable eavesdropping program that secretly intercepted millions of calls and text messages.

Molloy, a former prosecutor who used to work with wiretap applications, ruled that Zellerbach's practice of letting his number-two prosecutor sign off on them did not violate state or federal wiretap laws.

Molloy also said that because Zellerbach was away at an education conference in another Southern California town when the specific wiretap defense lawyers were challenging was approved, he would have been allowed to delegate it anyway.

A judge in neighboring San Bernardino came to the opposite conclusion last year, throwing out wiretap recordings in a money laundering case after prosecutors there declined to defend Zellerbach's decision to not authorize the surveillance himself.

Zellerbach served as Riverside County's top prosecutor from 2010 to 2014. During those years, Riverside saw an astronomical rise in wiretaps, which allowed law enforcement to secretly intercept millions of phone calls and text messages. In 2014, a Riverside County judge approved 624 wiretap applications submitted by the DA's Office — three times as many as any other state or federal court. Most of the surveillance was conducted at the behest of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents, who used the eavesdropping to make arrests and seize drugs and cash as far away as New York and Virginia.

Riverside's wiretapping was scaled back last year by the county's new district attorney, Mike Hestrin, who says he prioritizes reviewing wiretap applications personally. Separately, the DEA this year ordered agents to seek input from federal prosecutors before asking state authorities for permission to tap someone's phone, a significant change in how the drug agency carries out surveillance. Zellerbach testified Friday he "could not remember" if he signed a single wiretap application in 2014.

Zellerbach said his second-in-command was empowered to approve wiretap applications when he was "unavailable or absent." That prosecutor, former Assistant District Attorney Jeff Van Wagenen, testified earlier in the day that he didn't check if Zellerbach was available before he tackled applications himself.

Zellerbach said his busy schedule meant he was unavailable "a lot of the time." His definition of absent was loose.

"What would absent mean?" asked defense attorney Guadalupe Valencia.

"It could mean I was not in the office. It could mean I was out of the county,"

Zellerbach said.

"Shoot — I hate to be blunt — but it could mean I could be in the bathroom."

Zellerbach made it clear that he was out of the loop on most wiretap applications, if not all. Zellerbach said he could not recall if other prosecutors checked if he was available before they approved wiretap applications, and he wasn't informed when they signed applications in his place. Zellerbach also said he was not familiar with the process by which wiretaps were approved.

The widespread wiretapping, revealed last year by a USA TODAY Network investigation, has faced significant questions about its legality. Justice Department lawyers had warned agents that they were not willing to use Riverside County wiretaps in federal court because they worried the taps could not withstand a legal challenge.

More concerns arose because Zellerbach delegated the duty of approving wiretap applications to lower-level attorneys.

Congress has required wiretap applications to go to the top elected prosecutor ever since the 1960s, when the FBI wiretapped civil rights leaders. The only exception in California is when the DA is "absent" and has authorized someone else to act in his place.

Under Zellerbach, that person was Van Wagenen. However, on Friday, Van Wagenen testified that he didn't actually check if Zellerbach was available before he signed hundreds of applications.

"The protocol was that I was to sign the application instead of Mr. Zellerbach," Van Wagenen said.

"On any occasion?" asked defense attorney Jan Ronis.

"If I was available and in the office, yes," Van Wagenen answered.

Judge Molloy revisited the questioning minutes later.

"Did you ever ask Paul Zellerbach to review a wiretap application?" Molloy asked.

"I did not," Van Wagenen said.

Friday's hearing was held in the case of Christian Agraz, who prosecutors allege was caught with heroin and meth after a wiretap led police to intercept a drug sale. When defense attorneys, who are looking to suppress the wiretap evidence in Agraz's case, tried to expand the discussion to all Riverside wiretaps, prosecutors repeatedly objected, arguing that thousands of other wiretap applications approved by the DA's office didn't matter to this case.

"The court's inquiry is to this particular wiretap," said Senior Deputy District Attorney Ivy Fitzpatrick. "What matters is what happened in regards to this wiretap."

How many wiretaps were signed in a particular year is completely irrelevant." Since the USA TODAY Network investigation revealed Riverside's mass wiretapping, there have been at least five drug trafficking cases in which defense attorneys have sought to suppress wiretap evidence. The first challenge, filed in Kentucky, was denied, but it still led a federal judge to say Riverside had so many wiretaps

controlled by a small handful of global special interests rigging the system, and our system is rigged," he told a rally in West Palm Beach last week. "This is reality. You know it, they know it, I know it, and pretty much the whole world knows it. The establishment and their media enablers will control over this nation through means that are very well known. Anyone who challenges their control is deemed a sexist, a racist, a xenophobe, and morally deformed." Some of his leading supporters chimed in with similar charges Sunday.

On ABC's *This Week*, former House speaker Newt Gingrich said, "Fourteen million citizens ... picked Donald Trump; 20 TV executives decided to destroy him." On CNN's *State of the Union*, former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, a Trump surrogate, charged that election fraud remains a reality in big cities such as Chicago and Philadelphia. "I'm sorry, dead people usually vote for Democrats rather than Republicans," he said.

Ari Fleischer, a former White House press secretary for President George W. Bush, said a decision by Trump not to concede the election would be only "impolite." But he said an argument that the election was somehow stolen would be corrosive, dangerous, and "could really undermine our democracy."

He doubts Trump would go that far, especially if he lost in a landslide. "At the end of the day, I would be surprised if he took that step," he said, "especially if it was a big loss."

"We will absolutely accept the result of the election," Pence said on NBC's *Meet the Press*. "But the American people are tired of the obvious bias in the national media. That's where the sense of a rigged election goes here." He accused the news media of "an avalanche of continuous negative attacks against my running mate instead of focusing on the real, hard evidence coming out about corruption and pay to play in the Clinton Foundation years."

A comprehensive investigation of voter impersonation finds 31 credible incidents out of one billion ballots cast

Voter ID laws are back in the news once again, with two new opinions from the Wisconsin Supreme Court late last week dealing with the state's ID requirement, which would allow people to vote only if they provide certain forms of government-issued ID. The Court made some minor changes to the law but otherwise upheld it. However, the ID requirement is still on hold pending a federal lawsuit.

Part of this litigation — and any rational debate about the issue generally — hinges on two things: costs and benefits. The costs of these sorts of laws vary, because the laws themselves differ from state to state (some are far more burdensome than others). The ostensible benefits, though, are all the same. And in addressing these purported benefits,

the Wisconsin Supreme Court blew it. Twice.

First, the court cited the idea that ID laws could enhance public confidence—that is, in theory, the laws might make us feel better about elections in that they might provide some security theater. It turns out, though, that this effect is hard to spot. People in states with more restrictive ID laws don't generally feel better about their elections than people in more permissive states. People who think elections are being stolen, and people who think they're not, each hold on to that opinion no matter what the governing ID rules in their area. The factor that really influences whether people think the elections are fair? Whether their preferred candidates win. Second, the court said that ID laws can help stop fraud. It then cited an example of recent fraud ... that ID laws aren't designed to stop. Specifically, it mentioned a case in which a supporter of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker was charged with 13 counts of election fraud, including "registering to vote in more than one place, voting where he didn't live, voting more than once in the same election, and providing false information to election officials," according to an account by Talking Points Memo. Wisconsin's ID law would not likely have prevented any of the alleged violations.

This sort of misdirection is pretty common, actually. Election fraud happens. But ID laws are not aimed at the fraud you'll actually hear about. Most current ID laws (Wisconsin is a rare exception) aren't designed to stop fraud with absentee ballots (indeed, laws requiring ID at the polls push more people into the absentee system, where there are plenty of real dangers). Or vote buying. Or coercion. Or fake registration forms. Or voting from the wrong address. Or ballot box stuffing by officials in on the scam. In the 243-page document that Mississippi State Sen. Chris McDaniel filed on Monday with evidence of allegedly illegal votes in the Mississippi Republican primary, there were no allegations of the kind of fraud that ID can stop.

Instead, requirements to show ID at the polls are designed for pretty much one thing: people showing up at the polls pretending to be somebody else in order to each cast one incremental fake ballot. This is a slow, clunky way to steal an election. Which is why it rarely happens.

I've been tracking allegations of fraud for years now, including the fraud ID laws are designed to stop. In 2008, when the Supreme Court weighed in on voter ID, I looked at every single allegation put before the Court. And since then, I've been following reports wherever they crop up.

To be clear, I'm not just talking about prosecutions. I track any specific, credible allegation that someone may have pretended to be someone else at the polls, in any way that an ID law could fix.

So far, I've found about 31 different incidents (some of which involve multiple ballots)

since 2000, anywhere in the country. If you want to check my work, you can read a comprehensive list of the incidents below. To put this in perspective, the 31 incidents below come in the context of general, primary, special, and municipal elections from 2000 through 2014. In general and primary elections alone, more than 1 billion ballots were cast in that period.

Some of these 31 incidents have been thoroughly investigated (including some prosecutions). But many have not. Based on how other claims have turned out, I'd bet that some of the 31 will end up debunked: a problem with matching people from one big computer list to another, or a data entry error, or confusion between two different people with the same name, or someone signing in on the wrong line of a pollbook.

In just four states that have held just a few elections under the harshest ID laws, more than 3,000 votes (in general elections alone) have reportedly been affirmatively rejected for lack of ID. (That doesn't include voters without ID who didn't show up, or recordkeeping mistakes by officials.) Some of those 3,000 may have been fraudulent ballots. But how many legitimate voters have already been turned away?

Port Canaveral Hurricane Matthew damage may reach \$7 million

Port Canaveral sustained as much as \$7 million in damage from Hurricane Matthew, port Chief Executive Officer John Murray estimates.

But the damage potentially could have been much worse, had the storm been a little closer to shore when it passed Brevard County. Additionally, the port was able to reopen quickly after the storm passed, avoiding a significant loss in cruise business.

Initial estimates show that the port has \$2 million to \$3 million in damage related to buildings, including roof damage on warehouse buildings and leaks at its cruise terminals.

The overall damage could increase to \$5 million to \$7 million, depending on how extensive damage is to port roads and how much dredging work might be needed in the port's channel areas.

Murray said more detailed figures should be available later this week.

US removes limits on bringing in Cuban rum, cigars

The administration is also lifting limits on cargo ship travel between the U.S. and Cuba and easing U.S. and Cuban researchers' ability to conduct joint medical research. The measures are contained in a package of relatively small-scale regulatory changes meant to ease U.S. trade with Cuba.

Cuban rum and cigars will now be subject to the same duties as alcohol and tobacco from other countries, meaning most travelers will be able to bring back as many as 100 cigars and several bottles of rum. Because high-end Cuban cigars can sell for more than \$100 apiece outside Cuba, every U.S. traveler can now legally bring back many thousands of

3 DATED: 14-MAY-2018

Obama: Yemen strikes were 'limited and proportionate'

WASHINGTON — President Obama told Congress Friday that the missile strikes he ordered against radar sites in Yemen were a "limited and proportionate" response to threats against U.S. Navy ships in the area. Obama's explanation came in the form of a notice under the War Powers Resolution, which denotes a significant U.S. intervention in a foreign conflict. While the U.S. has supported Saudi Arabian action against the Houthi rebels in the past, the missile strikes this week marked the entrance of U.S. forces into the long-simmering civil war on the Arabian peninsula.

U.S. missiles hit three radar facilities in rebel-controlled territory after the Navy said one of its destroyers, the U.S.S. Mason, was targeted by a cruise missile on Wednesday, as tensions have escalated following Saudi strikes have led to increasing civilian deaths. "I directed these strikes in response to anti-ship cruise missile launches perpetrated by Houthi insurgents that threatened U.S. Navy warships in the international waters of the Red Sea on October 9 and October 12," Obama wrote in the one-page notice. "The United States stands ready to take action in self-defense, as necessary and appropriate, to address further threats."

The White House has not ruled out similar strikes in the future.

"This is purely a self-defense action designed to deter future missile strikes against U.S. assets in the area," White House Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz said Thursday. "The intent of our strikes were to deter future attacks and to reduce the risk to U.S. and other vessels. And we are prepared to respond if necessary to any future missile launches."

AP Exclusive: US ignored rising-sea warnings at radar site

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The U.S. Air Force is spending nearly \$1 billion to build a radar installation that will help keep astronauts and satellites safe by tracking pieces of space junk as small as a baseball. That is, if global warming doesn't get in the way.

The Space Fence is being constructed on a tiny atoll in the Marshall Islands that scientists say could be regularly swamped by rising seas within a couple of decades as a result of climate change. The salt water could play havoc with the equipment, the scientists say.

And The Associated Press found that neither the military nor its contractor, Lockheed Martin, gave serious consideration to that threat when designing the installation and choosing a site, despite warnings from the island nation's environmental agency. The future "does not look good for a lot of these islands," said Curt Storlazzi, an oceanographer with the U.S. Geological Survey who is leading a study at Kwajalein Atoll, where the Space Fence complex is being built.

Dana Whalley, a civilian who is managing the Space Fence program, said that the radar installation has a projected lifespan of 25 years and that he doesn't expect sea levels to rise enough over that period to cause a problem. But if necessary, he said, the base could take steps to improve its seawalls. Still, because of budget pressures, military equipment is often used well beyond its projected lifespan. In fact, a key part of the radar tracking system that the Space Fence replaces was built during the dawn of the space age and was badly outdated by the time it was shut down 50 years later in 2013. Midway between Hawaii and Australia, the Marshall Islands are specks of land that typically poke just a few feet above the Pacific Ocean, making them some of the world's most vulnerable places to rising seas. The U.S. military has a longstanding connection to the islands. Bikini Atoll was used as a nuclear test site after World War II. Kwajalein Atoll, a battle site during the war, is now an Army base, a ballistic missile test site and an important part of the military's space surveillance network.

The growing problem of space debris was highlighted in 2009, when an old Russian satellite smashed into a commercial U.S. satellite, creating hundreds of pieces of orbiting junk. The 2013 movie "Gravity" dramatized the threat to astronauts, who need to be safe from debris whether they're traveling on the International Space Station or in a rocket.

Lockheed Martin won the \$915 million Space Fence contract in 2014 and broke ground last year. When the radar system becomes

operational in late 2018, it should increase the number of objects that can be tracked tenfold to about 200,000 and provide more precise information on their orbits.

The Space Fence installation will include digital transmitters and receivers as well as power and cooling facilities. About 15 people will operate and maintain it around the clock. The military chose the Marshall Islands because the Space Fence works best near the equator. But it means the installation is being built just 10 feet (3 meters) above sea level, or the height of a basketball hoop.

Storlazzi said his study explored the point at which storms will cause the sea to wash clear across an island, completely submerging it, at least once a year. He said that's when an island will no longer be able to sustain most plant or animal life.

He examined one island within Kwajalein Atoll and found that it will probably reach its tipping point within a few decades. He said the island on which the Space Fence is being built faces a similar threat.

The flooding there will probably damage power cables, sewer lines and other electronics and hardware, he said. The seawater will erode land, he said, and eat away at everything from concrete to cars. "When you get to the point where water is going over the top of the island annually, it will affect a lot of daily life, whether it's

related to the Space Fence or other operations, like moving food around," he said.

The study, funded primarily by the Defense Department, has not yet been peer-reviewed or published. But it paints a much more dire future for the atoll than earlier studies.

"We are talking the next couple of decades, not centuries, as previously thought,"

Storlazzi said.

He said his team studied the underwater contours of the islands and showed how coral reefs will become less effective as breakwaters when sea levels rise.

The Marshall Islands base is among dozens of U.S. military sites threatened by climate change. A July report by the Union of Concerned Scientists analyzed 18 military installations along the U.S. East and Gulf coasts. It found that with just a moderate rise in sea levels, 16 could flood 100 times a year by 2050.

Last October, strong winds and waves battered Kwajalein Atoll. Ferries were canceled and a dock was damaged, forcing the base to take the unprecedented step of hosting 845 Marshallese day workers overnight.

Whalley said the military investigated threats, including ocean flooding, in an environmental assessment of the site before beginning construction. "The over-wash threat, if you will, is built into the government requirements of the site," he said.

Yet that 2014 assessment, which runs over 100 pages and addresses everything from sea turtles to the island's archaeological history, makes no mention of climate change, noting only that the Space Fence would be able to withstand a small earthquake-generated tsunami.

A single line reads: "Based on historical data, there are no anticipated issues with ocean tide and/or wave flooding."

Lockheed Martin did not investigate the issue either. Bruce Schafhauser, Lockheed's program director for the Space Fence, said the Air Force asked it to design the system to withstand earthquakes but not rising seas.

"We don't have any insight into that," Schafhauser said. "It has not been something that has been required from the Air Force." Schafhauser said the responsibility for finding a suitable location for the installation fell to the military.

The Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Authority wrote a response to the environmental assessment, describing the U.S. military's overall treatment of the climate change threat to Kwajalein as "wholly inadequate." It questioned whether the military was overstating the atoll's elevation and criticized its reliance on historical data when the problem is rising seas, a more recent phenomenon.

The military responded in its final report: "Detailed study of sea-level rise risks are beyond the scope of this document."

"RIGGED ELECTION"

Since then, leaders from the Marshall Islands say they have been working with the U.S. to improve environmental standards and ensure climate effects are seriously addressed in future military projects.

Whalley said he plans to find out more about the USGS research at Kwajalein.

"It's the first I've heard about the study," he said. "When they give you a billion dollars, you tend to focus on getting the radar built."

Rigged election? A chorus of complaint from Team Trump

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's repeated charges that the race for the White House is being "rigged" against him is unprecedented, historians say. They warn it could undercut the ability of the next president to govern — or even spark violence on Election Day and afterwards.

Never in modern times has a major-party nominee hurled accusations — with no credible evidence — that the election results themselves can't be trusted, a development that could raise questions about legitimacy of the winner. Even in such razor-thin elections as 1960 and 2000, Republican Richard Nixon and Democrat Al Gore accepted results that some of their supporters disputed.

Each called on Americans to unite.

"There have certainly been candidates who toyed with apocalyptic language — Teddy Roosevelt running for the GOP nomination in 1912 comes to mind — but none has made questioning the validity of the election a centerpiece of his campaign," says Nicole Hemmer, an assistant professor in presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center. "There's just no useful historical precedent that I've come across, certainly not at the national level. Historians hesitate to label things unprecedented, but the word is certainly getting a workout this election."

Trailing in new national polls and beset by growing allegations of sexual assault, Trump is lashing out at the news media, the political establishment, a Mexican billionaire and others. "Election is being rigged by the media, in a coordinated effort with the Clinton campaign, by putting stories that never happened into news!" he declared in one tweet Sunday morning.

On Sunday afternoon, he tweeted: "This election absolutely is being rigged by the dishonest and distorted media pushing Crooked Hillary - but also at many polling places - SAD."

Trump is arguing that the results are being rigged even before Election Day has been held. What's more, as his supporters chant "Lock her up!," he repeatedly has promised that, if elected, he would ask the attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton.

Fears of violence

Trump's rhetoric has inflamed some of his followers and raised fears of violence at the polls and after the election.

At a campaign town hall in Newton, Iowa, last week, Trump's running mate, Mike

Pence, faced a woman who said she was "ready for a revolution."

"Our lives depend on this election," she said with emotion. "Our kids' futures depend on this election and I will tell you just for me, and I don't want this to happen but I will tell you for me personally if Hillary Clinton gets in, I myself, I'm ready for a revolution because we can't have her in."

When Pence demurred, saying "Don't say that," she went on: "What are we going to do to safeguard our votes? Because we've seen how the Democratic Party is just crooked, crooked, crooked."

Historian Michael Cohen, author of *American Maelstrom: The Election of 1968 and the Politics of Division*, says he is very concerned about the prospect of political violence. "He's telling his supporters that they didn't lose fair and square, but rather it was stolen," he says.

Hemmer says a "confluence" of disturbing developments are creating a volatile situation. She ticks them off: "Trump's attempt to render the election results illegitimate in advance, the rising temperature at Trump rallies, and Trump's language concerning the media 'poisoning' voters' minds."

"If Trump continues to throw gasoline on the fire over the next three weeks, the chances of violence on or after Election Day seem uncomfortably high," she says.

The consequences could resonate well beyond Election Day, Cohen says. "He's undermining the legitimacy of a national election — and without evidence. Assuming Clinton wins, it puts a permanent cloud of illegitimacy around her presidency. How do Republicans in Congress work with her?" Trump's rhetoric is at odds with the history of American presidential politics, even after the fiercest campaigns and closest returns.

"Even at times when there were serious voting irregularities that would support the claim of a rigged election, as in 1960 or 2000, the losing candidate has respected and reinforced the validity of the process,"

Hemmer says. "When Richard Nixon lost to John Kennedy, Republican officials pursued challenges to vote counts in Illinois, but Nixon himself publicly distanced himself from those efforts and made clear he accepted Kennedy's victory."

Here's what Nixon said in 1960: "As I look at the board here, while there are still some results still to come in, if the present trend continues, Mr. Kennedy, Sen. Kennedy, will be the next president of the United States. I want, I want Sen. Kennedy to know, and I want all of you to know, that certainly if this trend does continue, and he does become our next president, that he will have my wholehearted support and yours too."

Gore spoke in December 2000 after the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 against a recount of the disputed results in Florida.

"I spoke with George W. Bush and congratulated him on becoming the 43rd president of the United States — and I promised him that I wouldn't call him back

this time," Gore said. "I offered to meet with him as soon as possible so that we can start to heal the divisions of the campaign and the contest through which we just passed."

'Poor me!'

Over the weekend, Clinton held no public events as she prepared for the third and final presidential debate on

Wednesday. Democratic running mate Tim Kaine responded to Trump's assertions at a Miami rally Saturday night.

"Now that he thinks he's going to lose, he's going around and saying, 'Oh, the whole thing's rigged. It's just rigged against me. Poor me!'" the Virginia senator said, calling on supporters to provide such a wide margin of victory that accusations of a stolen election won't stick. "We've got to make sure that the margin that he loses by is so big and so clear and so powerful and so unmistakable, that when he stands up and says, 'Poor me, it was rigged against me' — that nobody will believe him."

The nation's highest-ranking Republican official, House Speaker Paul Ryan, also pushed back.

"Our democracy relies on confidence in election results, and the speaker is fully confident the states will carry out this election with integrity," Ryan spokesperson AshLee Strong said in a statement released Saturday. She said Ryan was "fully confident" in the nation's elections system. Trump responded on Twitter Sunday afternoon with a dismissive reference to Ryan's nomination as Mitt Romney's running mate in 2012. He called Ryan "a man who doesn't know how to win (including failed run four years ago)."

A national NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll released Sunday showed Trump trailing Clinton among likely voters by 11 percentage points, 48%-37%. An ABC News/*Washington Post* poll, also released Sunday, showed a closer race. Trump trailed Clinton by four points among likely voters, 47%-43%.

Meanwhile, more women came forward in news accounts with allegations that Trump in the past had groped and forcibly kissed them against their will. On Saturday, the British newspaper *The Guardian* quoted Cathy Heller who said the businessman manhandled her in an incident on Mother's Day about 20 years ago during a brunch at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's estate in Florida.

Before the *Guardian* story, 12 other women came forward last week to describe sexual misconduct by Trump in stories reported by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and others. Before the *Guardian* story, a total of 12 women came forward last week to allege sexual misconduct by Trump.

Trump has flatly denied all the accusations. As his poll ratings have fallen, Trump's accusations that there is a global conspiracy against him have escalated.

"This election will determine whether we are a free nation or whether we have only the illusion of democracy, but are in fact

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DATE: 14-MAY-2018

California "has indicated they will not perform."

Spring storm moves east after blanketing central US in snow

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota residents slogged through a mid-April storm Sunday that dumped 2 feet (half a meter) of snow on parts of the Upper Midwest, coated roads with ice and battered areas farther south with powerful winds and tornadoes before plowing toward the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic U.S.

The storm system prompted Enbridge Energy to temporarily shutter twin oil and gas pipelines in Michigan that may have been recently damaged by a ship anchor strike. The Line 5 pipelines were temporarily shuttered Sunday afternoon due to a power outage at Enbridge's terminal in Superior, Wisconsin, Enbridge spokesman Ryan Duffy told The Detroit News. Enbridge decided to shut down the twin pipelines until weather conditions improve in the Straits of Mackinac, which links Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, Duffy said.

At least four deaths were blamed on the weather.

At Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, where more than 13 inches (33 centimeters) of snow had fallen, 230 flights were canceled Sunday. Two runways were open, but winds were still strong and planes were being de-iced, spokesman Patrick Hogan said. On Saturday, the storm caused the cancellation of nearly 470 flights at the airport.

The wintry grip on the Twin Cities continued to keep the boys of summer off the diamond, forcing the postponement of the third straight Minnesota Twins-Chicago White Sox game. The New Yankees and the Tigers were rained out Saturday in Detroit and had planned to play a doubleheader on Sunday, but those games also were postponed. The Los Angeles Angels at Kansas City Royals, Atlanta Braves at Chicago Cubs and Toronto Blue Jays at Cleveland Indians games also were rained out Sunday.

The prolonged wintry weather is "starting to beat everybody down," said Erik Ordal, who lives in downtown Minneapolis and was taking his 3-month-old golden retriever puppy, Dakota, out for a walk in the snow. Ordal, who grew up in South Dakota, said he is used to the cold, snowy weather "but I'm certainly ready for some warmth."

Two northeastern Wisconsin communities, Tigerton and Big Falls, received more than 2 feet (60 centimeters) of snow over the weekend, the National Weather Service in Green Bay reported. Parts of the state that were already blanketed were getting a second helping of snow on Sunday. The heavy snow caused part of a hotel roof to collapse over a pool at a hotel in Ashwaubenon, which is next to Green Bay, but no one was in the pool area at the time and no one was hurt.

The storm finally let up in South Dakota, allowing the airport in the state's largest city, Sioux Falls, to reopen for the first time since

Thursday. Interstates 90 and 29 in parts of eastern South Dakota also reopened, and no-travel advisories were lifted across the state border in southwestern Minnesota.

In Michigan, freezing rain that began falling overnight had left roads treacherous and cut power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses by midday Sunday even as heavy snow was forecast to dump a foot or more of snow on parts of the state's Upper Peninsula by early Monday.

In North Carolina, authorities declared a local state of emergency in the city of Greensboro after an apparent tornado caused damage Sunday afternoon in several locations.

Greensboro police said in a tweet that there also was one storm-related fatality but they did not elaborate. Media reports prior to the police tweet said high winds damaged at least seven homes, destroyed a mobile classroom at an elementary school, and toppled trees and power lines.

To the south, officials in Lexington County, South Carolina, said several buildings were damaged and toppled trees were blocking roads, but no injuries were reported.

Tens of thousands of homes and businesses in the Carolinas were without power Sunday.

In addition to the Greensboro fatality, three other deaths were blamed on the weather.

A sleeping 2-year-old girl in Louisiana was killed when a tree fell on her family's recreational vehicle early Saturday. A Wisconsin woman was killed when she lost control of her minivan on slick roads and veered into an oncoming SUV. And an Idaho truck driver was killed when his semitrailer struck a semi in western Nebraska that had been stranded on a highway by the bad weather.

In Arkansas, a tornado ripped through the tiny Ozark Mountain town of Mountainburg on Friday, injuring at least four people. In Texas, hail the size of hen eggs fell south of Dallas, according to meteorologist Patricia Sanchez.

And another round of snow is possible midweek in the Upper Midwest, said meteorologist Eric Ahasic at the National Weather Service in Chanhassen, Minnesota. "It's not going to be as much snow as this one, thankfully," Ahasic said.

Analysis: Putin sits back as US, allies strike Syria

MOSCOW (AP) — Facing a stark choice between engaging the United States, Britain and France in combat or passively watching them strike his ally, Russian President Vladimir Putin has opted for the peaceful route.

That cautious response may dent the Russian leader's tough-man image but it won't undermine his gains in Syria or erode his authority at home.

The Kremlin had warned Washington that Russia would fend off any strike that jeopardized its servicemen in Syria. The West respected that red line by giving advance notice of Saturday's attack, just as it did a year ago when it struck a Syrian air

base. Russia had sat idle back then, but this time, it had threatened to retaliate.

Such a clash could have quickly spun out of control — an extremely dangerous scenario that was widely compared to the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, when the world narrowly escaped a nuclear conflict.

"With our allies, we ensured that the Russians were warned ahead of time," said French Defense Minister Florence Parly. The U.S.-led airstrikes were a response to a purported chemical attack on civilians in the Syrian town of Douma on April 7. Russia said its experts found no trace of chemical agents.

A senior French official noted that President Emmanuel Macron did not tell Putin about the strikes when they spoke on the phone Friday, but "certain de-confliction mechanisms" had already been triggered by that point and "both knew that a new phase was going to begin quickly."

Putin condemned Saturday's strikes as an "act of aggression" that will worsen the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria and have a "destructive influence on the entire system of international relations." He criticized Washington and its allies for attacking without waiting for inspectors from the international chemical weapons watchdog group to visit Douma, just outside Damascus. The Russian military said its air defenses at two bases in Syria tracked the incoming missiles but didn't engage them.

Russian social media buzzed Saturday with angry nationalist comments blasting Putin for failing to protect his ally. But state TV focused on criticizing the West for acting on the basis of what Moscow called a faked chemical attack.

The Kremlin's tight control over the media will help Putin avoid any significant damage to his carefully nurtured image of a strong leader.

In fact, his cautious stance could boost his popularity further amid fears of war that swept Russia. In recent days, state media have been offering tips on how to behave in a nuclear conflict and what supplies to take to bomb shelters.

Most Russians will now heave a sigh of relief and feel grateful to Putin for pulling back from the brink. State TV channels compared what they described as U.S. President Donald Trump's reckless action with the responsible, statesmanlike stance taken by Putin.

Fyodor Lukyanov, head of the Council for Foreign and Defense Policies, an association of top Russian foreign policy and security experts, said on state TV that Moscow's warning to strike back "clearly hasn't come unnoticed by the Pentagon, and the strike was quite careful."

The Kremlin will also use the crisis to advance its narrative of an aggressive West that plunges the world into chaos and disregards international law. Russian officials and lawmakers compared it to the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq that was launched on claims that Baghdad was developing

Japanese citizens abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s — an important domestic issue for Abe. Trump met with several families of the abductees during a visit to Tokyo in November, and the president was outraged by the death last summer of Otto Warmbier, an American college student who died shortly after being released in a coma from 17 months in captivity in the North. Three Americans remain in captivity, and U.S. officials suggested that their release is likely to be part of talks with Pyongyang. "This reflects your deep understanding for how Japan cares about this abduction issue. I am very grateful for your commitment," said Abe, who also pressed Trump to maintain "maximum pressure" on Pyongyang. Trump and Abe entered their summit hoping to repair a relationship that has been strained by Trump's decision to meet with Kim, which has alarmed Tokyo, and his move to enact steel and aluminum tariffs without granting Japan a waiver. In a sign that the two leaders were aiming to re-create their early chemistry, Trump said the two would sneak out for a round of golf Wednesday ahead of additional meetings. The president referred, as he has before, to Mar-a-Lago as the "winter White House." Trump aides acknowledged that they are probing the possibility of the United States reentering the 11-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership but emphasized that such a move is premature. Larry Kudlow, Trump's chief economic adviser, played down a rift with Japan on trade and said the administration's tariffs were aimed at punishing China, which he accused of "acting like a Third World economy." Kudlow declared that a global coalition stands behind the Trump administration's strategy. "This trade coalition of the willing that I've been talking about, that others have been talking about, is really aimed at China," he said. "China is a First World economy behaving like a Third World economy. And with respect to technology and other matters, they have to start playing by the rules." The United States does not need the TPP to confront Chinese bad behavior, Kudlow said. He touted a strong U.S. economy as leverage for American ideas on trade around the world and said Trump's tougher stance on Chinese trade has won wide international backing. "The rest of the world is with us. The president hasn't consciously sought this, but it's happening, and it's a good thing," Kudlow said. "So I hope China reads that carefully and responds positively." China on Tuesday announced temporary anti-dumping measures targeting U.S. sorghum, potentially hitting growers in states such as Kansas and Texas that Trump won in the 2016 election. The move discouraging imports of U.S. sorghum widens the brewing trade war between Beijing and Washington. On Monday, the United States banned U.S. firms

from selling parts to Chinese phone maker ZTE for seven years, as the world's two largest economies continue to exchange threats of tariffs worth billions of dollars. But Trump sought to balance his aides' criticism of Beijing with praise for Chinese President Xi Jinping, whom Trump has pressed to enact economic sanctions on North Korea.

"He's been incredibly generous," Trump said. "President Xi has been very strong on the border, much stronger than anyone thought they would be. I'd like them to be stronger on the border, but he's been at a level nobody ever expected. The goods coming into North Korea have been cut down very substantially."

Nakamura reported from Palm Beach. Philip Rucker, Anne Gearan, Julie Tate and Brian Murphy in Washington and Anna Fifield in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Shane Harris covers intelligence and national security for the Post.

Carol Leonnig is an investigative reporter at The Washington Post, where she has worked since 2000. She won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for her work on security failures and misconduct inside the Secret Service.

Trump wants loophole closed after Gorsuch casts decisive vote in immigration case

President Trump on Tuesday called on Congress to pass stricter immigration laws after Justice Neil Gorsuch cast the deciding vote in the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision that ruled in favor of an immigrant threatened with deportation.

"Today's Court decision means that Congress must close loopholes that block the removal of dangerous criminal aliens, including aggravated felons," Trump tweeted.

"This is a public safety crisis that can only be fixed by Congress -- House and Senate must quickly pass a legislative fix to ensure violent criminal aliens can be removed from our society," he added.

The Supreme Court earlier in the day sided with James Garcia Dimaya, a Filipino immigrant who the government sought to deport after his second first-degree burglary conviction in California.

The court ruled that the convictions did not qualify as cause for removal because the law's definition of a crime of violence is too vague.

Gorsuch, who Trump nominated last year, sided with the court's four liberal justices in the case. Trump did not mention Gorsuch in his tweet.

In delivering the opinion of the court, Justice Elena Kagan relied on a 2015 ruling in which the court said a similar clause in the Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA) that defined a "violent felony" was unconstitutionally void for vagueness.

Trump earlier this month sent out a series of tweets over the course of a few days calling for Congress to enact tougher immigration laws. He complained that existing laws "do not easily allow us to send those crossing our

Southern Border back where they came from."

In a statement after Tuesday's ruling, a Justice Department spokesman called on Congress to close loopholes that allow "criminal aliens" to remain in the country.

US says California rejects proposed border duties for troops

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Trump administration said Monday that California Gov. Jerry Brown rejected terms of the National Guard's initial deployment to the Mexican border, but a state official said nothing was decided.

"The governor determined that what we asked for is unsupportable, but we will have other iterations," Ronald Vitiello, U.S. Customs and Border Protection's acting deputy commissioner, told reporters in Washington.

Brown elicited rare and effusive praise from President Donald Trump last week for pledging 400 troops to the Guard's third large-scale border mission since 2006. But the Democratic governor conditioned his commitment on his state's troops having nothing to do with immigration enforcement, even in a supporting role.

Brown's announcement last week did not address what specific jobs the California Guard would and would not do, nor answer the thorny question of how state officials would distinguish work related to immigration from other duties.

Vitiello said the governor decided California will not accept terms of an initial troop rollout for the state that was similar to plans for the other three border states, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

According to two U.S. officials, the initial jobs for those troops include fixing and maintaining vehicles, using remote-control surveillance cameras to report suspicious activity to U.S. Border Patrol agents, operating radios and providing "mission support," which can include clerical work, buying gas and handling payrolls. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

California National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Thomas Keegan said "state officials have not rejected anything" since Brown proposed a formal agreement Wednesday with the Homeland Security and Defense Departments that prohibits any involvement in immigration.

"The federal government has not yet responded," Keegan said in an emailed statement.

Homeland Security Department spokesman Tyler Houlton said the federal government was committed to working with Brown and that the California leader shares interest in a secure border with Mexico.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Integration Robert G. Salesses said the administration wanted 237 troops for work in two parts of the state that

6 of 6 DATED: 05-14-18

barrel heat up and ignite particles of uranium, he said.

"They haven't run into anything like this actually happening," he said. "They've got a really good idea of what's in (the barrels), but they might not always know the concentrations."

He said an investigation will try to determine if there are other barrels at risk of rupturing. Workers entering the structure, even before the breach, must use self-contained breathing apparatus and wear full protective clothing. Officials said no radiation has been detected outside the structure, which has special filters to prevent radioactive particles from escaping.

It's not clear how many barrels are in the earthen-floor structure that's 380 feet (116 meters) long and 165 feet (50 meters) wide. The barrel that ruptured had been moved to the containment structure in preparation for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

At the underground repository in 2014, a barrel of radioactive waste ruptured after being inappropriately packed at Los Alamos National Laboratory, another of the nation's nuclear research labs. The waste had been mixed with organic cat litter to absorb moisture, resulting in a chemical reaction. The incident resulted in a radiation release that forced the closure of the repository for nearly three years and prompted an expensive recovery effort and a major policy overhaul for handling Cold War-era waste.

The sprawling Idaho site in high-desert sagebrush steppe sits atop the giant Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer that's used by cities for drinking water and farmers for irrigation. The area is near the striking 7,550-foot (2,300-meter) Big Southern Butte, which has a road to the top for adventurous drivers.

The site has been used for nuclear waste disposal and storage beginning in the 1950s. The federal government has been cleaning it up following court battles and several agreements with Idaho in the 1990s amid concerns by state officials that Idaho was becoming the nation's nuclear waste dump. The Energy Department has already missed several deadlines under those agreements involving moving nuclear waste out of Idaho and has paid about \$3.5 million in fines. Idaho is also preventing research quantities of spent nuclear fuel from entering the state to be analyzed by Idaho National Laboratory scientists due to a missed deadline.

The federal agency also faces deadlines concerning waste stored in barrels, and the radioactive release and investigation could slow the process of moving that waste out of state.

The Energy Department has floated the idea of bringing in more nuclear waste from Hanford in Washington state for treatment at a \$500 million facility at the Idaho site. Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden on Thursday declined to comment on the situation.

Wendy Wilson of the Snake River Alliance, an Idaho-based nuclear watchdog group, said the incident is a reminder of why the state should not allow more nuclear waste to be shipped into Idaho for treatment.

"It sure demonstrates how much things can go wrong when you're dealing with waste that hasn't been fully assessed," she said.

Pence to meet with 4 Latin American leaders during summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence plans to meet with four Latin American leaders during his weekend trip to Peru for an international summit where he is filling in for President Donald Trump. At the Summit of the Americas, Pence will meet Saturday with Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra and President Mauricio Macri of Argentina. The White House said Thursday that the vice president is also expected to hold a multi-lateral meeting with several Caribbean leaders.

The White House said Pence will also meet Saturday with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, conferring with America's northern neighbor as the U.S., Canada and Mexico have been discussing the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Pence is expected to use the summit to push for regional partners to continue to isolate Venezuela while pointing to the United States as a trade partner of choice in relation to China and to promote democratic institutions. Trump pulled out of the summit to oversee the U.S. response to an apparent chemical weapons attack on civilians in Syria and asked Pence to attend in his place. White House aides said Pence's presence will reassure allies of the administration's commitment to the region.

It will be Pence's second trip to the region — he traveled to Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Panama last August.

With the White House's support, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has been barred from the summit over his plans to hold a presidential election that the opposition is boycotting and many foreign governments consider a sham. The U.S. has sanctioned Maduro and dozens of top officials, accusing the country of human rights abuses and sliding into a dictatorship.

The vice president is also expected to try to counter Chinese attempts to increase its economic influence in the Americas. Pence's visit to the region will come as the Trump administration is embroiled in an escalating trade fight with China, seeking a renegotiated version of NAFTA and floating the possibility the U.S. could eventually rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Pence will also arrive as Trump has been pushing a tougher line on immigration and seeking stronger protections along the U.S.-Mexican border. White House aides said Pence does not have any meetings planned with the Mexican delegation.

Trump had planned to attend the summit and also travel to Bogota, Colombia, but backed out after the attack in Syria. Pence will not be traveling on to Colombia and is expected to return from the summit early Sunday.

Gradual deployment of US troops to Mexico border underway

ROMA, Texas (AP) — The deployment of National Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border at President Donald Trump's request was underway Tuesday with a gradual ramp-up of troops under orders to help curb illegal immigration.

The Trump administration also announced that Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen will visit this week a stretch of new border wall breaking ground in New Mexico, putting additional focus on what Trump has called a crisis of migrant crossings and crime. The construction and commitment of at least 1,600 Guard members from Arizona, New Mexico and Texas provoked fresh condemnation from immigrant activists and praise from border-state Republican governors, who will retain command-and-control of their state's Guard during a mission that for now has no firm end date.

The only holdout border state was California, led by Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown, who has not announced whether troops from his state's National Guard will participate and has repeatedly clashed with Trump over immigration policy. The state was still reviewing Tuesday whether it will join the effort, said Lt. Tom Keegan, a spokesman for the California National Guard.

The deployment of National Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border at President Donald Trump's request was underway Tuesday. National Guard soldiers were seen along the Rio Grande river in south Texas. (April 11)

In Texas, where Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has pledged to put more than 1,000 Guard members into action, military officials said Tuesday that 300 troops would report to armories this week for preparation and training. Texas has previously kept about 100 Guard members stationed on the border for years as part of its own border security efforts.

"What is different now it is happening in a different context and a different narrative," said Fernando Garcia, director of the Border Network for Human Rights, an immigrant advocacy group.

Speaking from the Rio Grande Valley where immigrant crossings are the highest along the 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometer) U.S.-Mexico border, Garcia said, "When you hear the narrative of the president, it seems to him the enemy is the immigrant family."

Abbott said in a statement Tuesday that the Guard has "proven to have a meaningful impact" in reducing immigration and crime. In the Texas border town of Roma, about a half-dozen uniformed Guard members were seen Tuesday near an international bridge along the Rio Grande. Children played just across the river in Mexico, and it wasn't clear

7
Trump seethes over FBI raid, ponders firing those he blames

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump was so incensed by the FBI's raid of his personal attorney's office and hotel room that he's privately pondered firing Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and publicly mused about ousting special counsel Robert Mueller.

The raid, in which agents seized attorney Michael Cohen's records on topics including a \$130,000 payment to a porn actress who alleges she had sex with Trump, left the president more angry than advisers had seen him in weeks, according to five people familiar with the president's views but not authorized to discuss them publicly.

Trump tweeted Tuesday that "Attorney-client privilege is dead!" Nervous White House aides expressed new fears about the president's unpredictability in the face of the Cohen raid, which he viewed as an assault on a longtime defender and a sign that Mueller's probe into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign was "going too far." Trump also announced Tuesday he was cancelling plans to attend the Summit of the Americas over the weekend as well as an overnight visit to Colombia.

The president had been telling confidants for weeks that he was not eager to make the three-day trip, which had already been shortened from original plans, according to two people who have discussed it with him in recent weeks but were not authorized to disclose the private conversations. His decision not to travel was publicly tied to the need to monitor the situation in Syria, but privately Trump said he didn't want to be away from the White House amid developments in the China trade dispute and in the Mueller investigation.

Trump also expressed confidence in the loyalty displayed by Cohen, his longtime personal and professional fixer, who ascended to one of the most powerful roles at the Trump Organization not filled by a family member. Cohen has steadfastly denied wrongdoing in his \$130,000 payment to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels and has publicly defended Trump, but he has confided in associates that he is fearful of being a fall guy, according to a person familiar with his thinking but not authorized to speak publicly about private discussions. Cohen has said he took out a personal line of credit on his home to pay Daniels days before the 2016 election and without Trump's knowledge. The raid of his office was overseen by the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan and based in part on a referral from Mueller.

Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders made clear that White House officials have explored Trump's authority to fire Mueller. "He certainly believes that he has the power to do so," she said at Tuesday's press briefing.

4-13-2018
Under Justice Department regulations, only Rosenstein, who oversees the Russia investigation, can fire Mueller.

On Capitol Hill, a bipartisan group of four senators moved to protect Mueller's job. Republican Sens. Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Democratic Sens. Chris Coons of Delaware and Cory Booker of New Jersey planned to introduce legislation Wednesday that would give any special counsel a 10-day window in which he or she could seek expedited judicial review of a firing, according to two people familiar with the legislation. They were not authorized to discuss the bill ahead of its release and requested anonymity.

Trump spent Monday evening calling associates to vent and gauge their reaction to the news. He bitterly complained that the raids were meant to ruin Cohen's life and expressed frustration that it was another front from which to attack his presidency, according to a person familiar with the conversations but not permitted to discuss them publicly.

Trump also revived his broadsides on Rosenstein as well as Rosenstein's boss, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, whom he belittled to confidants for recusing himself from the investigation and, in turn, delivering him to Mueller.

The White House insisted Trump was focused on the response to Syria following the country's apparent use of chemical weapons on civilians over the weekend, killing more than 40 people. A military strike would mark Trump's second retaliatory strike against Syrian President Bashar Assad's government at a time when Trump is seeking to reduce the U.S. footprint in Syria.

The discussions come as Trump's newest national security adviser, John Bolton, stepped into the job this week. He encouraged Trump to skip the trip to South America to manage the Syria strategy. Bolton, a seasoned bureaucratic operator, has been expected to put his stamp on the National Security Council staff. NSC spokesman Michael Anton resigned over the weekend, with two people familiar with the situation saying Anton resigned after learning he would be fired. Trump's homeland security adviser, Thomas Bossert, exited Tuesday. Bossert had overseen the administration's response to the 2017 hurricane season and was credited by his colleagues for leading the administration's efforts to bolster cybersecurity resiliency across government and private industry. Asked if Bolton forced Bossert out, Sanders said: "I'm not going to get into specific details about the ongoings of personnel, but I can tell you that he resigned. The president feels he's done a great job and wishes him the best."

The mood at the NSC this week was described as grim, with aides fearful over Bolton's plans. More senior-level departures are expected in the coming weeks, said two

people familiar with the dynamic but not authorized to discuss it publicly.

Trump's administration has set records for turnover in his 15 months in office at all levels, with Bossert marking at least the 13th official who held the rank of assistant to the president at the start of the administration to depart.

There is growing concern in Trump's orbit that the turmoil will only continue following the release next week of former FBI director James Comey's book, which promises to reveal new details about his conversations with the president and the Russia probe. An administration official said the White House would largely defer to outside surrogates to push back on Comey, but there was concern as to how the director's interviews could rile up the president.

Radioactive sludge barrel ruptures at Idaho nuclear site

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A barrel containing radioactive sludge ruptured at an Idaho nuclear facility, federal officials said Thursday, resulting in no injuries and no risk to the public but possibly slowing progress in shipping waste out of the state.

The U.S. Department of Energy said the 55-gallon (208-liter) barrel ruptured late Wednesday at the 890-square-mile (2,305-square-kilometer) site that includes the Idaho National Laboratory, one of the nation's top federal nuclear research labs.

The rupture triggered a fire alarm, and three Idaho National Laboratory firefighters extinguished the smoldering barrel and pulled it away from a dozen other barrels nearby. When the firefighters left the building, emergency workers detected a small amount of radioactive material on their skin, said department spokeswoman Danielle Miller. The material was washed off the firefighters, who were taken to a nearby medical facility as a precaution, she said.

Initial assessments showed they did not inhale the radioactive material and were not injured, Miller added.

None of the radioactive material was detected outside of the building where the rupture occurred, she said.

Federal officials said it's the first known rupture of a barrel containing radioactive sludge at the site but might not be the last. That's because secretive record-keeping during the Cold War makes it hard for officials to know the exact contents of similar barrels, said Idaho National Laboratory Joint Information Center spokesman Don Miley. The barrel contains a mixture of fluids and solvents that came from nuclear weapons production at the Rocky Flats Plant near Denver.

Officials during the Cold War were extremely secretive about the contents of the barrels for fear that the process of making nuclear weapons could be revealed if the contents were known, Miley said.

A preliminary theory about the cause of the rupture is that radioactive decay made the

Charges against Paul Manafort, Rick Gates and George Papadopoulos: What we know now

WASHINGTON — The first charges were filed Monday as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into any links between the Russian government and Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

A federal grand jury charged Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and campaign associate Rick Gates with multiple counts, including money laundering and conspiracy, related to their work for a foreign government.

Both men pleaded not guilty during court appearances Monday in federal court in Washington, D.C.

In addition, George Papadopoulos, a former foreign policy adviser to Trump's presidential campaign, pleaded guilty earlier this month to making false statements and "material omissions" to the FBI about the nature of links between the Trump campaign and the Russian government, according to documents released Monday.

The developments, while significant, are still a long way from resolving the question of whether there was collusion between any Trump associates and Russia to influence the 2016 election.

Here's what we know so far.

What did Manafort and Gates allegedly do?

The indictment alleges the pair worked for the government of Ukraine from at least 2006 to 2015 but did not register as lobbyists for foreign government as required by law. To hide the tens of millions of dollars they were paid, Manafort and Gates laundered money through scores of U.S. and foreign corporations, partnerships and bank accounts, according to the indictment. Manafort allegedly used his hidden wealth to enjoy a "lavish lifestyle" without paying taxes on the income. Gates used money from offshore accounts to pay for such personal expenses as his mortgage, children's tuition and interior decorating of his Virginia residence, according to the indictment.

What are the charges?

Manafort has been charged with nine counts — including conspiracy, money laundering, failing to register as a foreign agent, failing to disclose foreign banking activity and making false statements. Gates was charged with eight of the same counts.

Why were they charged with conspiracy against the U.S.?

The first count against Manafort and Gates charges them with conspiracy against the United States. Despite what it might sound like, however, the charge is not related to any allegation of collusion with the Russians to affect the 2016 election. Instead, the charge accuses Manafort and Gates of agreeing to do something illegal, in this case not reporting foreign banking activity, their lobbying work for a foreign government, and not truthfully answering questions about their activities. In legal terms, that means they

"conspired to defraud" the country by obstructing the Justice and Treasury departments' functions.

What are the penalties for the charges?

The two men each could face up to 40 years in prison and potentially millions of dollars in fines. The money laundering counts alone carry a maximum 20-year sentence and a fine of up to \$500,000 or twice the amount of the funds involved.

What work did Manafort and Gates do for their clients?

In 2006, a pro-Russia political party in Ukraine, the Party of Regions, allegedly hired Manafort's lobbying and public relations firm in part to help its candidates win elections. The party's presidential candidate, Victor Yanukovich, was elected president in 2010. He fled to Russia in 2014 after a popular uprising.

According to the indictment, Manafort and Gates tried to disguise their work in part by using the European Center for a Modern Ukraine to advocate on behalf of the Ukrainian government. The center, created around 2012, nominally hired two Washington, D.C.-based firms to lobby Congress on sanctions against Ukraine, the validity of the Ukrainian elections and other matters. But Manafort and Gates had arranged the hiring, directed the work, and the center was actually under the control of Yanukovich and the Party of Regions, the indictment alleges.

The center ceased to operate after Yanukovich fled Ukraine.

Who is Paul Manafort?

Manafort, 68, is a longtime lobbyist and political operative who has worked for Republican campaigns dating back to Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan. In 1980 he founded the consulting firm of Black, Manafort, Stone & Kelly.

Manafort was a key player in the early stages of the Trump presidential campaign. When campaign manager Corey Lewandowski was fired in June, Manafort took the reins, helping the Trump campaign wrangle delegates for the Republican National Convention. Gates signed on as Manafort's deputy. But Manafort was forced out by Trump in August amid questions about the campaign's tactics and his Russian ties.

Who is Rick Gates?

Gates, who is described in the indictment as Manafort's "right-hand man," had worked with Manafort in the private sector and followed him to Trump's campaign in 2016. Gates wound up moving to the Republican National Committee when Manafort was ousted from the campaign, and he helped set up a pro-Trump super PAC after the election.

Who is George Papadopoulos?

Papadopoulos served as a foreign policy adviser to the Trump campaign. He lied to federal investigators about his interactions with a professor with ties to the Kremlin, according to the statement of offense filed Monday. The professor told Papadopoulos that the Russians had "dirt" on then-candidate

Hillary Clinton in the form of "thousands of emails."

Papadopoulos claimed that his interactions with the professor occurred before he joined the campaign.

But "in truth and in fact," the criminal statement says, Papadopoulos learned he would be an adviser to the campaign in early March, and he met the professor on or about March 14, 2016. The professor "only took interest" in Papadopoulos because of his role in the campaign, and the professor told Papadopoulos about the "thousands of emails" on or about April 26, 2016, when he had been on board with the Trump operation for more than a month.

Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to the charge earlier this month, but it was kept secret until Monday, when charges were also unsealed against Manafort and Gates.

What do these developments mean?

The indictments are the first shoe to drop in the wide-ranging Mueller probe, which is only one part of the multi-faceted investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election. They're a sign that the probe will continue despite Trump's attempts to end the investigation as a meritless fishing expedition.

The indictments also show that Mueller is willing to dig back before the election into questionable activities by Trump aides as possible precursors to the activities that affected the campaign.

Papadopoulos' guilty plea shows the first evidence that members of Trump's campaign directly coordinated with Russian officials to collect damaging information on opponents. Collecting such information is routine in presidential campaigns, but the involvement of a foreign government is highly problematic.

How did President Trump react to the indictments?

Trump tweeted that the illegal acts Manafort has been charged with happened before Manafort joined Trump's campaign. He also said the investigation should be focusing on "Crooked Hillary" and the Democrats. "Also, there is NO COLLUSION!" he added.

How did Democrats react to the indictments?

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., warned Trump against interfering with Mueller's investigation. "If he does so, Congress must respond swiftly, unequivocally, and in a bipartisan way to ensure that the investigation continues," Schumer said in a statement.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said an "outside, fully independent investigation" is still needed even with Mueller's "accelerating" investigation and the work of congressional committees.

Judge orders Paul Manafort and Rick Gates to remain under house arrest, appear in court Monday

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Thursday ordered President Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and his

IT64

associate Rick Gates to remain temporarily under house arrest ahead of their trial date now tentatively set for April.

Manafort and his business and campaign associate Rick Gates appeared in court for a procedural hearing to determine the conditions of their confinement, just days after they were indicted by a federal grand jury on 12 counts including conspiracy, money laundering and failing to register as agents of a foreign government.

After both men pleaded not guilty to the charges special counsel Robert Mueller unsealed on Monday, both men were placed on house arrest. A \$10 million bond was set for Manafort and \$5 million for Gates.

Because their lawyers did not file motions that would allow the judge to reconsider the terms of their release on Thursday, U.S. District Judge Amy Jackson ordered both men back in court on Monday to determine whether they will remain under home confinement.

In the meantime, Jackson ordered attorneys for both defendants – and in Mueller's office – to avoid any conversations with reporters. "This is a criminal trial," Jackson said. "It is not a public relations campaign."

The charges against Manafort and Gates are among the first prosecutions in Mueller's wide-ranging investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 election.

Jackson's ruling comes despite an argument from Manafort's lawyers that their client was not a significant flight risk, in part because he was already warned to expect an indictment back in August and did not flee prosecution – and is now "one of the most recognizable people on the planet."

"Just so there was no misunderstanding, his former counsel was told by government prosecutors in August that they were going to indict him," wrote Manafort's lawyers Kevin Downing and Thomas Zehnle in a court filing. Manafort's Virginia home was also raided in July, they said. "During this investigation period, Mr. Manafort traveled overseas on business, and to no one's surprise, he returned to the United States." They also argued that that Manafort is not a threat to the community. Manafort, 68, has been married for almost 40 years and has two daughters in addition to grandchildren, according to his lawyers.

His lawyers also cited the "substantial media coverage" surrounding Manafort and the investigation. "It is fair to say that he is one of the most recognizable people on the planet today," Downing and Zehnle wrote.

Attorneys for Gates, meanwhile, argued there was no reason the former Trump campaign aide should be confined to his home – and even asked the judge to allow Gates to travel internationally on a limited basis as the case continued.

While that request was rebuffed, Jackson allowed Gates to leave his home twice this weekend for a kids sports tournament.

Gates's attorneys Shanlon Wu and Walter Mack said Gates has no prior criminal record or any history of mental illness, they said, and noted their client "is a devoted husband and a very involved father who closely manages the daily needs of four young children who depend on him financially."

"Mr. Gates' history and characteristics strongly negate any concerns about risk of flight."

On the other hand, federal prosecutors have argued that both men do pose a flight risk. In a court filing this week outlining their concerns, Mueller's prosecutors said both Manafort and Gates face "serious" charges, have a "history of deceptive and misleading conduct" and have both "significant financial resources" and extensive overseas ties – all of which would give them a reason and opportunity to run.

Prosecutors said both men have "substantial" money at their disposal — though the government still has little idea precisely how much because their assets are so complex. They said both men have connections to Ukrainian and Russian oligarchs – and to Ukraine where they "served as agents of its government."

Prosecutors alleged that Manafort and Gates worked secretly on behalf of pro-Russian factions in Ukraine, then laundered millions of dollars through overseas shell companies to dodge U.S. taxes, a scheme that mostly predated their work for Trump's campaign. Prosecutors said in court filings this week that the pair had successfully laundered \$18 million from Ukraine to the United States using a web of shell companies and bank accounts in Cyprus and the Caribbean.

Manafort holds three U.S. passports. Gates opened at least 55 bank accounts since 2004. Manafort's lawyers addressed the passport issue in court filings Thursday.

"As a U.S. citizen, Mr. Manafort only has U.S. passports in his name," the lawyers said. "Although it might be surprising to some, it is perfectly permissible to have more than one U.S. passport as individuals who travel abroad extensively no doubt know. Mr. Manafort has strong family and community ties and does not pose a serious risk of flight."

Downing and Zehnle argued that the \$10 million unsecured bond was enough to prevent Manafort from leaving the country – "subject to the condition that he (Manafort) not commit a federal, state or local crime during the period of release."

That, they said, "will more than suffice to assure his appearance as required."

For his part, Gates surrendered his passport and will give up an additional passport he was seeking. Gates will also surrender another travel document, though the records do not give more details about that document.

Manafort's lawyers also argued that the charges were far flimsier than than prosecutors had claimed. They said the said

the weight of evidence against Manafort had been "embellished," that the law governing his work in Ukraine was unclear and that money laundering charges amounted to a "tenuous legal theory."

Manafort's work on behalf of Ukrainian clients discussed in his indictment "was open, public, and well-known within the political consulting community," they wrote.

The Justice Department has brought only six criminal prosecutions since 1966 for alleged violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, the attorneys said in the document, and have secured only one conviction.

The defense lawyers also note in the memorandum that they will fight the government's efforts to seize \$18 million, from Manafort, "an amount which would wipe out a substantial portion of Mr. Manafort's wealth," they said.

Both Manafort and Gates face the prospect of long prison sentences. Prosecutors estimated in a filing that if Manafort is found guilty of all of the charges against him, federal sentencing guidelines would call for him to spend between 12 and 15 years in prison.

President Donald Trump Slams U.S. Courts as Too Slow and Weak

The U.S. justice system works too slowly, President Donald Trump said in an interview that aired Thursday night, urging swift punishment for the man charged with killing eight people with a rented truck in New York.

In an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham, which the network said was taped ahead of time, Trump called Sayfullo Habibullaevic Saipov an "animal." In a promotional clip that Fox released earlier in the day, Trump complained that Saipov would be "tied up forever in the court system."

Saipov, 29, has been charged with but not convicted of providing material support to a terrorist organization and using a vehicle in a destructive, violent act in Tuesday's deadly attack in lower Manhattan.

As president, Trump oversees the Justice Department, which would be responsible for bringing Saipov to trial. The remarks echoed the president's statements and tweets since Tuesday making it clear that he believes that Saipov is guilty and should be executed. NYC terrorist was happy as he asked to hang ISIS flag in his hospital room. He killed 8 people, badly injured 12. SHOULD GET DEATH PENALTY!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump)
November 2, 2017

"You look at some of the cases that are going on forever, and you have them dead to rights," Trump told Fox News in the clip that was published earlier. "No, the justice system has to go quicker. And it has to be, really, stronger and fairer."

Trump told reporters Wednesday that he would "certainly consider" sending Saipov to the U.S. detention facility at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, a decision that an administration

"RIGGED ELECTION"

Since then, leaders from the Marshall Islands say they have been working with the U.S. to improve environmental standards and ensure climate effects are seriously addressed in future military projects.

Whalley said he plans to find out more about the USGS research at Kwajalein.

"It's the first I've heard about the study," he said. "When they give you a billion dollars, you tend to focus on getting the radar built."

Rigged election? A chorus of complaint from Team Trump

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's repeated charges that the race for the White House is being "rigged" against him is unprecedented, historians say. They warn it could undercut the ability of the next president to govern — or even spark violence on Election Day and afterwards.

Never in modern times has a major-party nominee hurled accusations — with no credible evidence — that the election results themselves can't be trusted, a development that could raise questions about legitimacy of the winner. Even in such razor-thin elections as 1960 and 2000, Republican Richard Nixon and Democrat Al Gore accepted results that some of their supporters disputed.

Each called on Americans to unite.

"There have certainly been candidates who toyed with apocalyptic language — Teddy Roosevelt running for the GOP nomination in 1912 comes to mind — but none has made questioning the validity of the election a centerpiece of his campaign," says Nicole Hemmer, an assistant professor in presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center. "There's just no useful historical precedent that I've come across, certainly not at the national level. Historians hesitate to label things unprecedented, but the word is certainly getting a workout this election."

Trailing in new national polls and beset by growing allegations of sexual assault, Trump is lashing out at the news media, the political establishment, a Mexican billionaire and others. "Election is being rigged by the media, in a coordinated effort with the Clinton campaign, by putting stories that never happened into news!" he declared in one tweet Sunday morning.

On Sunday afternoon, he tweeted: "This election absolutely is being rigged by the dishonest and distorted media pushing Crooked Hillary - but also at many polling places - SAD."

Trump is arguing that the results are being rigged even before Election Day has been held. What's more, as his supporters chant "Lock her up!," he repeatedly has promised that, if elected, he would ask the attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton.

Fears of violence

Trump's rhetoric has inflamed some of his followers and raised fears of violence at the polls and after the election.

At a campaign town hall in Newton, Iowa, last week, Trump's running mate, Mike

Pence, faced a woman who said she was "ready for a revolution."

"Our lives depend on this election," she said with emotion. "Our kids' futures depend on this election and I will tell you just for me, and I don't want this to happen but I will tell you for me personally if Hillary Clinton gets in, I myself, I'm ready for a revolution because we can't have her in."

When Pence demurred, saying "Don't say that," she went on: "What are we going to do to safeguard our votes? Because we've seen how the Democratic Party is just crooked, crooked, crooked."

Historian Michael Cohen, author of *American Maelstrom: The Election of 1968 and the Politics of Division*, says he is very concerned about the prospect of political violence. "He's telling his supporters that they didn't lose fair and square, but rather it was stolen," he says.

Hemmer says a "confluence" of disturbing developments are creating a volatile situation. She ticks them off: "Trump's attempt to render the election results illegitimate in advance, the rising temperature at Trump rallies, and Trump's language concerning the media 'poisoning' voters' minds."

"If Trump continues to throw gasoline on the fire over the next three weeks, the chances of violence on or after Election Day seem uncomfortably high," she says.

The consequences could resonate well beyond Election Day, Cohen says. "He's undermining the legitimacy of a national election — and without evidence. Assuming Clinton wins, it puts a permanent cloud of illegitimacy around her presidency. How do Republicans in Congress work with her?" Trump's rhetoric is at odds with the history of American presidential politics, even after the fiercest campaigns and closest returns.

"Even at times when there were serious voting irregularities that would support the claim of a rigged election, as in 1960 or 2000, the losing candidate has respected and reinforced the validity of the process," Hemmer says. "When Richard Nixon lost to John Kennedy, Republican officials pursued challenges to vote counts in Illinois, but Nixon himself publicly distanced himself from those efforts and made clear he accepted Kennedy's victory."

Here's what Nixon said in 1960: "As I look at the board here, while there are still some results still to come in, if the present trend continues, Mr. Kennedy, Sen. Kennedy, will be the next president of the United States. I want, I want Sen. Kennedy to know, and I want all of you to know, that certainly if this trend does continue, and he does become our next president, that he will have my wholehearted support and yours too."

Gore spoke in December 2000 after the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 against a recount of the disputed results in Florida.

"I spoke with George W. Bush and congratulated him on becoming the 43rd president of the United States — and I promised him that I wouldn't call him back

this time," Gore said. "I offered to meet with him as soon as possible so that we can start to heal the divisions of the campaign and the contest through which we just passed."

'Poor me!'

Over the weekend, Clinton held no public events as she prepared for the third and final presidential debate on

Wednesday. Democratic running mate Tim Kaine responded to Trump's assertions at a Miami rally Saturday night.

"Now that he thinks he's going to lose, he's going around and saying, 'Oh, the whole thing's rigged. It's just rigged against me. Poor me!'" the Virginia senator said, calling on supporters to provide such a wide margin of victory that accusations of a stolen election won't stick. "We've got to make sure that the margin that he loses by is so big and so clear and so powerful and so unmistakable, that when he stands up and says, 'Poor me, it was rigged against me' — that nobody will believe him."

The nation's highest-ranking Republican official, House Speaker Paul Ryan, also pushed back.

"Our democracy relies on confidence in election results, and the speaker is fully confident the states will carry out this election with integrity," Ryan spokesperson AshLee Strong said in a statement released Saturday. She said Ryan was "fully confident" in the nation's elections system. Trump responded on Twitter Sunday afternoon with a dismissive reference to Ryan's nomination as Mitt Romney's running mate in 2012. He called Ryan "a man who doesn't know how to win (including failed run four years ago)."

A national NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll released Sunday showed Trump trailing Clinton among likely voters by 11 percentage points, 48%-37%. An ABC News/*Washington Post* poll, also released Sunday, showed a closer race. Trump trailed Clinton by four points among likely voters, 47%-43%.

Meanwhile, more women came forward in news accounts with allegations that Trump in the past had groped and forcibly kissed them against their will. On Saturday, the British newspaper *The Guardian* quoted Cathy Heller who said the businessman manhandled her in an incident on Mother's Day about 20 years ago during a brunch at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's estate in Florida.

Before the *Guardian* story, 12 other women came forward last week to describe sexual misconduct by Trump in stories reported by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and others. Before the *Guardian* story, a total of 12 women came forward last week to allege sexual misconduct by Trump. Trump has flatly denied all the accusations. As his poll ratings have fallen, Trump's accusations that there is a global conspiracy against him have escalated.

"This election will determine whether we are a free nation or whether we have only the illusion of democracy, but are in fact

ALLEN DERSHOWITZ
RENOWNED HARVARD LAW SCHOOL PROFESS-
OR ABC.COM/THISWEEK (04-29-2018);
NBC.COM / MTP.COM 05-06-2018]

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP DO
NOAM CHOMSKY
MALCOLM X

"PITY THE FOOL" !!!

WE, THE PEOPLE KNOW DARN
WELL: AMERICA'S JUSTICE IS BLIND
TO JUSTICE !!!

A

AMERICA'S JUSTICE
IS BLIND TO JUSTICE!!!

SHOUT-OUT OUTSIDE THE BARS:

A WISE WORD TO THE FOOLS !!

TO: THOSE LIKE WENDY WILLIAMS.com;
SUNNY HOSTIN; Former Federal Pro-
secutor, ON ABC.com/THE VIEW;
and ATTY. GLORIA ALLRED; etc.;
Who Taut US DISSENTERS _ with
MY HERO DR. WILLIAM "BILL" COSBY
got a Fair JURY TRIAL. "WE CALL BS"

WHOM DO YOU BELIEVE ?!

' THE SYSTEM IS RIGGED ' !!!

EMMET TILL, 1955. Dear MOTHER
WALL STREET REVOLUTIONARIES
BILL MOYERS.com
FORMER U.S. A.G RAMSEY CLARK
RUDY GIULIANI, FORMER FEDERAL
PROSECUTOR (NYC)
ABC.COM/THIS WEEK [05-06-2018]

TELL US WHAT DID HE SAY:!!!

UPDATE : PRESIDENT DONALD JOHN
TRUMPED

WHERE IS MY ROY COHN' ?

PREVIOUS FULL POST

in debate about gun laws following several high-profile mass shootings that have tested the public's support for the Second Amendment.

North, 74, the Marine at the center of the Iran-Contra scandal in the 1980s and a darling of the right, will be the biggest celebrity to lead the 5-million-member gun lobby since Hollywood leading man Charlton Heston, who famously declared in 2000 that his guns would have to be taken "from my cold, dead hands."

"Oliver North is a legendary warrior for American freedom, a gifted communicator and skilled leader," NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre said.

Momentum for gun control has been building since the mass shooting in Las Vegas last fall that killed 58 people and the Feb. 14 rampage at a Parkland, Florida, high school that left 17 dead.

North was picked Monday by the NRA's board of directors, which elects a president every two years. He's expected to assume office within the next several weeks. North succeeds Pete Brownell, who did not seek a second term.

LaPierre remains as vice president and chief executive, running the powerful group's day-to-day operations. North will lead the board, and NRA observers say they anticipate he will take on a more public role in the style of Heston, a fiery presence who used his acting background to energize members.

North was a military aide to the National Security Council during the Reagan administration in the 1980s when he emerged into the spotlight for his role in arranging the secret sale of weapons to Iran and the diversion of the proceeds to the anti-communist Contra rebels in Nicaragua. He was convicted in 1989 of obstructing Congress during its investigation, destroying government documents and accepting an illegal gratuity. Those convictions were overturned in 1991.

With his crisp military bearing and teary-eyed testimony before Congress, North came to be regarded as an earnest American patriot by many on the right, and he went on to run for office, write several books and serve as a commentator on Fox News.

In a statement, North said he was honored to be selected and "eager to hit the ground running."

Parents said son had cancer to get Syracuse football team visit, GoFundMe donations

A couple was arrested after authorities in central New York concluded that their son's cancer battle – which led to a visit to a Syracuse football practice and more than \$3,000 in donations – was a lie.

Martin and Jolene LaFrance of Port Byron, N.Y., were each charged with one felony count of scheme to defraud and a misdemeanor count of endangering the welfare of a child, the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

Detective Nicole Stewart told Syracuse.com on Tuesday that the couple convinced their 10-year-old son, CJ, that he had cancer as part of the scheme.

"The investigation revealed that Mr. and Mrs. LaFrance participated in the creation of a GoFundMe request for donations which indicated that their child had cancer," the sheriff's office said in a statement. "As a result of this online solicitation, they did receive several thousand dollars in donations. The investigation revealed conclusively that the child was never diagnosed with cancer or any other medical condition that was alleged in the GoFundMe solicitation."

Beyond the donations to the crowdfunding site, CJ LaFrance visited the Syracuse football team last year. Syracuse.com reported that CJ was 9 at the time of the visit – which included other family members – in August 2017.

The couple said their son was battling Hodgkin's lymphoma. The boy's uncle, Justin Roe, told Syracuse.com at the time of the visit that CJ had undergone radiation treatment and that he had lymph nodes surgically removed.

"He has not been getting better," Roe told Syracuse.com.

GoFundMe said in a statement to USA TODAY Sports that family has been banned from the site and "all donors will receive a refund."

"It's important to remember that our platform is backed by the GoFundMe Guarantee, which means that in the rare case that GoFundMe, law enforcement or a user finds campaigns are misused, donors are fully protected and will get their money back. Additionally, we are working with law enforcement on their investigation," GoFundMe said in its statement.

Justify wins sloppy Kentucky Derby; Baffert takes fifth title

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – If you want to bust a racing curse, call Bob Baffert.

The white-haired trainer smashed a jinx that stood for 136 years when Justify splashed through the slop to win the Kentucky Derby by 2 1/2 lengths on Saturday.

Not since Apollo in 1882 had a colt won the roses without racing as a 2-year-old.

Now, Baffert is in position to make another run at the Triple Crown. Three years ago, he trained American Pharoah to the sport's first sweep of the Derby, Preakness and Belmont in 37 years and just the 12th ever.

Records and streaks are made to be a broken and Baffert is certainly on a tear.

The Derby record for most wins by a trainer is within Baffert's grasp, too. With his fifth victory, the 65-year-old snapped a tie for second and trails only Ben Jones with six. Justify is just as impressive. The imposing chestnut colt with the blaze running from his eyes to the tip of his nose improved to 4-0 – winning his races by a combined 21 1/2 lengths. The favorite won for the sixth year in a row, the longest such run since the 1970s.

Mike Smith earned his second Derby victory, becoming at 52 the second-oldest winning jockey. Bill Shoemaker was 54 when he won with Ferdinand in 1986.

Smith crossed the finish line at Churchill Downs with only a few specks of mud on his white and green silks in the rainiest Derby in the race's 144-year history. Nearly 3 inches fell on the crowd of 157,813 throughout the day.

"Amazing horse," Smith said. "He's got that 'it' factor. He is so above average, he's got unbelievable talent and he's got a mind to go with it. He was loving this stuff."

Smith's silks were nearly spotless after he kept 5-2 favorite Justify near the lead throughout the race. He gunned Justify out of the No. 7 spot in the starting gate – something Baffert said had to happen – and the colt's early speed helped hook leader Promises Fulfilled from the start.

"When he got away clean, then I thought we had a chance," Baffert said. "We had to get away. Then Mike took his time."

They set a blistering pace through the muck, going a half-mile in 45.77 seconds.

"It was an unbelievable performance by the winner, on this track, going that fast," Derby trainer Dale Romans said. "He never stopped. He may be a super horse."

Entering the final turn, Justify took the lead and kept on going to the finish under Smith's left-handed whip.

Justify ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:04.20. He paid \$7.80, \$6 and \$4.40.

"I was just in awe of the performance," Baffert said. "He just put himself up there with the greats."

Good Magic returned \$9.20 and \$6.60, while Audible was another head back in third and paid \$5.80 to show. Audible was the best of trainer Todd Pletcher's four entries.

Deal calls for 15 live 'UFC on ESPN+ Fight Night' events per year

The Walt Disney Company and UFC have reached a multiyear deal to bring exclusive, live UFC Fight Night events to ESPN+, effective January 2019.

ESPN announced the new partnership Tuesday. The deal, which is the first media-rights agreement between ESPN and UFC, calls for up to 15 live "UFC on ESPN+ Fight Night" events per year, with 12 bouts on each card.

"UFC is a premier global sports property with legions of incredibly avid fans," ESPN president Jimmy Pitaro said. "We are excited to be able to bring their world-class events and content to ESPN+ and ESPN Networks. This agreement shows the commitment we have to delivering fans the very best across our entire platform."

In addition to live events, ESPN will air UFC content across multiple platforms, including a 30-minute special before every UFC pay-per-view event. Re-airs of previous fights will also be made available on ESPN platforms. ESPN+ will also carry the UFC's Dana White Tuesday Night Contender Series, beginning in June 2019.

4 of 5

and Torrefazione Italia coffee, and will be allowed to put the Starbucks brand on Nestle single-serve capsules for coffee machines. The agreement does not include bottled drinks like iced coffees and Frappuccinos that are sold in and outside of Starbucks stores. Nestle hinted last year that it was looking at focusing on higher-growth areas like pet care, coffee and infant nutrition. In January it announced it was selling its U.S. candy business to Italy's Ferrero for approximately \$2.8 billion. And last year, Nestle bought a majority stake in high-end coffee company Blue Bottle.

With the strength of the Starbucks brand, Nestle will be able to better compete against JAB Holdings, an investment holding company that has gobbled up coffee businesses and brands associated with Peet's, Caribou, Stumptown and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

Starbucks already has a deal with JAB, creating single-serve coffee for its Keurig brewers. Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson said that deal is unaffected by the agreement with Nestle.

Nestle announced Monday that Starbucks Corp. will receive \$7.15 billion in an up-front cash payment. Approximately 500 Starbucks employees will join Nestle, and operations will continue to be located in Seattle.

The deal is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close by the end of the year.

Travolta to get Cinema Icon Award at Cannes Film Festival

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For John Travolta, "icon" will be the word at the Cannes Film Festival.

Trade publication Variety said Friday that Travolta will receive its inaugural Cinema Icon Award at this month's festival in France. Steven Gaydos, Variety vice president and executive editor, said in a statement that Travolta's long career, popularity and honors "splendidly qualify" him for the recognition. Travolta received an Oscar nomination for his star-making turn in 1977's "Saturday Night Fever" and another for 1994's "Pulp Fiction."

"Grease," released in 1978 and starring Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, is among the biggest movie musical hits ever.

Travolta will receive the Cinema Icon Award on May 15, following the premiere at Cannes of his new film, "Gotti."

Pitbull, who composed the film's score, will perform at the award event.

'Avengers: Infinity War' scores second best weekend 2 ever

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After breaking opening weekend records, "Avengers: Infinity War" continued to dominate in its second weekend in theaters, but alternative programming like the romantic comedy "Overboard" also found an audience in what has historically been considered the "official" kick-off to the summer movie season.

The Walt Disney Co. said Sunday that "Avengers: Infinity War" will gross an estimated \$112.5 million from North

American theaters over the weekend, becoming the second highest grossing film in weekend two behind "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (\$149.2 million and just slightly ahead of "Black Panther" (\$111.7 million). It's a 56 percent drop from its first weekend in theaters — less steep than the second weekend fall of "Avengers: Age of Ultron" (59.4 percent) or "Captain America: Civil War" (59.5 percent), but more than "Black Panther's" uniquely soft 44.7 percent sophomore weekend decline.

"We're in uncharted territory again," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "This is a second weekend number that many films would aspire to have on opening weekend."

Globally, "Avengers: Infinity War" has now grossed over \$1.2 billion and become the first film ever to cross the \$1 billion mark in 11 days of release, and it has yet to even open in China.

There was little new competition this weekend in the blockbuster space, although there were a handful of other options, like "Overboard," which came in a very distant second to "Avengers," but still made a notable splash for a film its size.

MGM and Lionsgate's Pantelion Films' gender-swapped remake of Garry Marshall's 1987 comedy, "Overboard" scored the highest-grossing opening weekend for Pantelion Films with a better-than-expected \$14.8 million from 1,623 theaters. It's already surpassed its modest mid-teens production budget.

Pantelion Films CEO Paul Presburger and Jonathan Glickman, president of the Motion Picture Group at MGM, both attribute the success to the star-power of Eugenio Derbez ("Instructions Not Included," "How to be a Latin Lover") who helped developed the bilingual remake with an American star (Anna Faris) to appeal not just to his Hispanic fan base but all audiences. The cast, including Derbez and Eva Longoria, helped promote the film on their social media accounts too.

"It's great to have a large base especially in the wake of 'Avengers,'" Presburger said.

"We have a movie out there that plays to families and all audiences that should have success into Mother's Day and onwards."

Although critics were not especially won over by "Overboard," audiences gave the film a more favorable A- CinemaScore. Third place went to "A Quiet Place," which has grossed \$159.9 million in five weeks in theaters, and fourth place to "I Feel Pretty," now up to \$37.8 million in weekend three. "Rampage" rounded out the top five with \$4.6 million, bumping its domestic total to \$84.8 million.

In sixth place, "Tully," starring Charlize Theron, launched on 1,353 screens with \$3.2 million. It's the third collaboration between director Jason Reitman and screenwriter Diablo Cody, the team behind "Juno," and their second with Theron, who also starred in their film "Young Adult."

Hollywood's summer movie season typically runs from the first weekend in May through Labor Day, but this year got a jump-start with the late April release of "Avengers: Infinity War."

"This was not the strongest weekend ever in terms of the official kick-off of the summer season, but we could be looking at a record May ultimately," Dergarabedian said, noting upcoming releases like "Deadpool 2" (May 18) and "Solo: A Star Wars Story" (May 25). "This weekend just shows how the strategy of release dates is changing how the box office plays out."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

Longtime Menards pitchman Ray Szmanda dies at 91

MILWAUKEE — Holding up a paint brush or package of batteries or excitedly extolling the virtues of a line of new sinks or cans of varnish, Ray Szmanda sold untold hammers, saws, drills and lumber to Menards customers throughout Wisconsin for years.

In a way, he was the guru of home remodeling projects even though he was not particularly handy.

Szmanda, 91, died Sunday at his Antigo, Wis., home.

Instantly recognizable for his shock of white hair, black-rimmed glasses and grin, Szmanda enthusiastically hawked Menards wares for more than two decades.

"He was only handy with a hammer," said his daughter, Jane Szmanda Zeller. "Dad knew his limitations as far as being handy. He didn't have a lot of free time, so he did what he could."

Szmanda was born in Milwaukee. He enlisted in the Navy right after graduating high school in 1944 and served on ships in the South Pacific for the next two years and entertained his shipmates by playing drums in a band, said his daughter.

He was working as a freelance broadcast announcer when he answered a call in 1976 for Eau Claire, Wis.-based Menards. Little did Szmanda know that he would become the face and dulcet voice of the home improvement chain for more than two decades.

"Menards was advertising for a pitchman and he auditioned. It was about as simple as that," said his daughter.

Iran-Contra figure Oliver North named president of the NRA

ATLANTA (AP) — Retired Lt. Col. Oliver North's appointment as the next president of the National Rifle Association gives some star power to the gun lobby but also inspires disdain by gun-control advocates who call it a tone-deaf move that shows an unwillingness to find solutions to gun violence.

North, long a popular speaker before the NRA and other conservative groups, is being appointed at a time when the nation is roiled

INTO President Ronald W. Reagan's Iran-
Contra Gate Escapade. SEE BELOW, PP 3-4;

OUT LAWS!!!

Now, CIA Director Gina Haspel
can be Trumped's Ollie North!

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED NPR, OM
4:00 P.M. [4:35 P.M. SEGMENT] CST
WED. 05-09-2018) U.S. Senate
INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HEARINGS IN RE:
GINA HASPEL ... ORDERED TAPES OF TORTURE
DESTROYED [BLACK SITE IN THAILAND] ...

BLAST FROM THE PAST:

OLIVER NORTH
FAWN HALL

IRAN CONTRA GATE

GINA HASPEL
CIA DIRECTOR NOMINEE
IN NOW NEWS

"WHERE IS MY ROX COHEN?"

-TRUMPED

WHAT MORE?

President Donald J. Trump, no doubt
being fully cognizant of Active CIA
Director Gina Haspel having ordered
[and/or recommended] the destruc-
tion of CIA incriminating evidence [e.g.,
VIDEO TAPES, etc.] pertaining to CIA torture
and dark sites, and past being prologue
[logically]: back in the day of the North
and his Assistant MS. Fawn Hall destroy-
ed evidence germane to investigations

WENDY SHOW.COM

WED. 03-28-2018

WANTED DEAD :

SHOOT ON SIGHT :

BLACK MAN, VIZ, CHRIS BROWN

MEAN-SPIRITED WIND BAG - RUBBER-
NECK WENDY IS ADVOCATING PUTTING
YET ANOTHER BLACK MAN, VIZ, ACTOR-
SINGER CHRIS BROWN, INTO PRISON [AKA
THE NEW JIM CROW]!!!

BAD HOMBRE!!!

HE IS VIOLENT! HE IS A KNEE CAP
BREAKER! HE IS TERRIFYING!!!

SHE IS!!!

SOME OLD TV WHITENEGROE!!!
SOME OLE MANNISH STEREOTYPE AUNTIE
MAMMA!

FREE CHRIS BROWN!!!

#FREEMEEKMILL

DATED: 05-14-2018

JESSE JACKSON



African Americans vote overwhelmingly for Dems not because we reject the Republican Party but because the RP rejects us.

Is the Black Vote 'Captured'?

Are black voters so loyal to Democrats that their issues are ignored? Donald Trump suggests as much, arguing that blacks had "nothing to lose" by voting for him. Now a column by Farai Chideya at FiveThirtyEight.com cites academics who make a similar argument.

In recent elections, about 90% of the black vote has gone to Democrats. Chideya cites Professor Paul Frymer of Princeton, who argues that politicians focus their appeals on swing voters, particularly "moderate, disaffected whites in the middle — whether you call them soc-

cer moms or NASCAR dads."

Chideya also cites two recent studies on how well black interests are represented in government. A 2015 report from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies concluded that "black voices are less equal than others when it comes to policy." And a 2015 law review article by Professor Nicholas Stephanopoulos of the University of Chicago Law School "found that black support for Congressional legislation actually decreased its chances of passage."

Are blacks voting against their own interests? Are they a "captured group" who would be better off if they weren't so pro-Democrat?

African-American voters are neither fools nor inherently Democratic partisans. When Lincoln Republicans were leading the fight for the freedom amendments after the Civil War — the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments — African-Americans voted overwhelmingly with Republicans. Blacks began voting Democratic when FDR launched the New Deal and stood with poor and working people in the Great Depression. When Democratic Dixiecrats fought to sustain legal segregation, many African-Americans in the South voted Republican. Dr. Martin Luther King's father was a Republican.

But then, after Lyndon Johnson pushed through the Voting Rights Act and the Great Society, Republicans — beginning with

Richard Nixon's Southern strategy and continuing with Ronald Reagan and beyond — used racial dog-whistle politics to consolidate their party in the white South. The party of Lincoln became the party of Jefferson Davis.

Now African-Americans vote overwhelmingly for Democrats not because we reject the Republican Party but because the Republican Party rejects us. If we vote our interests, we have little choice but to vote against a party that has systematically tried to undermine and constrict the right to vote, that votes against affordable housing, against expanding Social Security and against poverty programs.

Republicans have led the fight against a living wage. They oppose efforts to curb gun violence in our cities by blocking background checks and repealing the ban on assault weapons. They vocally undermine enforcement of equal employment laws and anti-discrimination measures. Their Supreme Court nominees gutted the Voting Rights Act, and their legislators have blocked efforts to restore it. They have consistently voted against any plan to rebuild our cities, reinvest in infrastructure and put people to work. They oppose efforts to ease the student loan debt that burdens too many African-Americans.

Blacks vote against Republicans in overwhelming numbers because Republicans are overwhelmingly campaigning against our core interests. Republicans can appeal to black

voters but only if they reach out and change their policy positions. As former New Orleans Mayor Mark Morial told Chideya, "A chicken can't root for Colonel Sanders."

Arguably, the real "captured group" of voters are the poor and working-class white voters who vote Republican. That vote is surely against their economic interests. Republicans have won their votes by appeals to race, to religion and to conservative social issues, but they never deliver. Liberal social movements for equality — the civil rights movement, the women's movement and the gay rights movement — continue to make progress. And working and poor white people continue to lose ground economically. Now polls suggest that they favor Donald Trump for president, someone who opposes lifting the minimum wage, opposes empowering workers to organize, opposes expanding Social Security, wants to repeal health care reform and vows to cut taxes on the rich and corporations.

African-Americans aren't a captured bloc of voters. We are people who are voting our interests — and looking for allies. Republicans have to decide if they want to continue to push off against us or begin to reach out to us.

Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. can be reached c/o the Rainbow Coalition, 930 E 50th St., Chicago, IL 60615. Email jjackson@rainbowpush.org. Follow him on Twitter @RevJJackson.

A CHECK, and its a PROMISSORY NOTE.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR
ME LATELY?!!

You buy something of VALUE! in
EXCHANGE for that VOTE! You get
something material! REAL! "SOME-
THING OF VALUE"!!

You don't Give Away that Precious
TREASURE!

JUST ANOTHER OLD FASHIONED
LOVE SONG

Never For Just a DARN SONG:
"Let's stay Together"! "Amazing
Grace" !!! Indeed!

MORE THAN A "DREAM"??!

AS DR. MLK JR. Said in that 1963
WOEFULLY OVERUSED "I HAVE A DREAM"
SPEECH!!!, WE came to cash a PRO-
MISSORY NOTE and came... It came
back STAMPED "BANKRUPT"!!!

2 of 2 DATED: 5-14-2018

A LOVER'S PRAYER
THE BLACK VOTE

I Pray 24/7, like Moses, that the
Black American Citizens, having been
miseducated and misleader!!!,
Lose Their VOTES UNTIL Such Time as
they have been RE-EDUCATED !!!
SEE, e.g. THE BOOK of LEVITICS!

STONING!!!

To Those Whom Would Rush to
Stone This Writer, I would Respond
What the HECK! have they ever got for
for electing every Democratic Presi-
dent since 1960 John F. Kennedy.

SHINE BRIGHTLIGHT !!!

FIRST Show me and With That
Shut my MOUTH and RE-EDUCATE MY
MIND!!!

WHAT IS A VOTE?!!

Black Folks must be Taught that
a VOTE is CURRENCY, It's CASH MONEY!

Hmar said the league was planning to hold a charity match in Mr Biaksangzuala's memory. Bethlehem Vengthlang also announced they would retire his shirt number, 21.

World Series: Tempers Flare As Giants' Bullpen Melts Down In Game 2

Salvador Perez shouted at Hunter Strickland, who shouted right back. The Kansas City Royals streamed from their dugout, the San Francisco Giants from their own. And for a tense moment in the sixth inning Wednesday night, Kauffman Stadium was consumed by chaos.

The one thing that was clear? The World Series suddenly had some life.

Perez broke open Game 2 with a two-run double in a five-run sixth, and the Royals' cast of clutch relievers kept the Giants in check for a 7-2 victory that evened the Series and spiced things up as it shifts to San Francisco for three games.

"We showed them that we have fight in us, and I think they knew that already," said Billy Butler, whose RBI single in the sixth inning gave the Royals a 3-2 lead. "But we stepped up big there as a team, and that gave us some confidence."

Jeremy Guthrie will be on the mound Friday night for the Royals, who had won eight straight playoff games before a 7-1 loss in the opener. Tim Hudson will start for San Francisco.

"With their pitching and our pitching, and the way both teams play, we're going to have a fight, I think, every game," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

So much talk of fighting after the two teams nearly came to blows Wednesday.

The Royals had surged ahead on Butler's single when Perez followed with a double off Strickland into the left-field gap. Omar Infante then scorched a pitch into the bullpen in left, the fifth homer that Strickland had allowed to 23 postseason batters.

Boiling over with anger, Strickland yelled into his glove then got into a shouting match with Perez as the big, burly catcher headed for home. Players spilled out of both dugouts, and several Royals streamed in from the outfield bullpen before the umpires finally restored order.

"He started to look at me, so I asked him like, 'Hey, why you look at me?'" Perez said. "So he was telling me, 'Get out of here, whatever.' So I don't know. 'You don't have to treat me like that. Look at Omar. Omar hit a bomb. I didn't hit a bomb. I hit a double.'" Strickland said he simply let his frustration get to him.

"I let the team down," Strickland said. "My emotions got to me."

"I'm not too proud of that, but it is what it is. I can't take it back," he added.

Perez doesn't expect anything to carry over into Game 3.

"It's part of the game," he said. "We forget about that, and we'll see them Friday in San Francisco."

With his 100 mph fastball singeing the Giants' batters, Royals flamethrower Yordano Ventura allowed two runs while pitching into the sixth inning. The 23-year-old protege of Pedro Martinez hardly looked like the first rookie to make a World Series start for the Royals, calmly handling a lineup that had ravaged staff ace James Shields. The dynamic trio of Kelvin Herrera, Wade Davis and Greg Holland did the rest. Herrera got the final two outs of the sixth to escape a jam, his first three pitches clocking at least 100 mph. He also survived a shaky seventh before Davis breezed through the eighth.

Greg Holland, who saved each game in the Royals' sweep of Baltimore in the AL Championship Series, allowed a two-out single to Brandon Crawford before fanning Gregor Blanco to end the game.

The Giants' only runs came on a homer by Blanco and a double by Brandon Belt, their streak of seven straight World Series wins ending on a crisp, breezy night.

Early on, it looked as if the Giants could have a big lead heading back to the Bay Area.

The fleet-footed Blanco silenced a rollicking sea of blue, becoming the 10th player to open a World Series game with a home run. He deposited Ventura's 98 mph fastball in the bullpen in right field, just his 17th home run in more than 2,300 at-bats.

The crowd, energized from the moment that Hall of Famer George Brett delivered the ceremonial first pitch, was left waiting for something good to happen for the second straight night.

This time, the scrappy Royals gave it to them. ALCS MVP Lorenzo Cain stretched a two-out double later in the first, and Eric Hosmer walked on four pitches. Butler, Giants starter Jake Peavy's long-time nemesis, then bounced a single past the outstretched glove of Crawford at shortstop to knot the game 1-1.

The Giants, so accustomed to October baseball, refused to back down.

Belt tied it in the fourth with a double that bounced off Nori Aoki's glove in right field. The game was still knotted at 2 when the Royals got their first two batters aboard in the sixth. Bochy pulled the fiery Peavy. Butler promptly hit a go-ahead single off Jean Machi, and Strickland came in two batters later.

Your daily horoscope

There's some corner of your mind that won't accept that you can't control things that you, in fact, have absolutely no control over.

Thinking you can will it not to rain doesn't give you weather-power. However, you can bet that the universe is listening to all intentions, and under the new spooky Scorpio regime, it just may work out for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your confidence will attract money. It might come in the form of income, a stellar deal or found dollars. This is no accident. It's coming to you for a reason.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It seems that the main thing you want is being denied you time and again. It's becoming plain: You need a better system for fitting what's important to you into each and every day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Anyone telling you what you must do is wrong. Maybe it's time to throw the self-help book out the window. Trying to do a little better each day is not only enough; it's the golden ticket. CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your pride often gets in the way of your asking for help. Don't let it. Your willingness to be vulnerable will have a rippling effect, leading to a healing for many others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). No comparing! The very act of comparing the situation you're in to another situation hinders your ability to be fully present, thus hampering your joy and, by extension, your charisma.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Talking with someone can make a huge difference in your mood, providing it's the right person. Who brightens you? Who makes you feel stronger than you did before you connected?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If it takes you three minutes today, it will take you two minutes tomorrow — and the next day, five. But then on Monday, one. Progress won't be steady, but it will be certain.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You think you want something, but you won't really know until you get it. Work toward it anyway. Even if you're unsatisfied with the reward, you'll be stronger for the effort.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can. Don't underestimate your inner qualities. You really can. Do something spontaneous. It will reinforce your ability to connect your inner drive to the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are times when defining a goal is equal to setting a limitation. It's probably starting to dawn on you that you don't really know what you can do. Do your best, and you'll blow the rest out of the water.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Today's state doesn't dictate tomorrow's. Just know that this is a weird transitional time and not at all indicative of your entire future. That may help you better treasure the experience.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's not about hitting a certain number. Dollars, weight and achievement statistics aren't enough to keep you motivated these days. It's about creating habits and systems you can stick to.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 24). It's a mind-over-matter situation at the start of the year, and your mind is mighty, indeed! Fix your attention on the way you want your life to run. Anything that's not matching up to your ideal will change in time. Friends will brag about you in January and hook you up with personal and professional opportunities. Sagittarius and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 35, 44, 25 and 6.

A "NAME" WITH THE "FACE"

26

1. BOLDFACE
2. DEFACE
3. ENAMEL
4. FACE-LIFT
5. FACE MASK
6. FACE-OFF
7. FACE
POWDER
8. FACETIAE
9. FACETIOUS
10. INTERFACE
11. MULTIFAC-
ETED
12. NAMEABLE
13. NAME BRAND
14. NAMELESS
15. NAMEPLATE

Z	N	B	E	E	S	H	Z	Y	N	L	A	S	B	F
R	A	X	E	C	A	F	R	U	S	I	V	E	K	A
E	M	E	L	B	A	E	M	A	N	O	R	F	V	C
D	E	T	E	C	A	F	I	T	L	U	M	F	L	E
W	L	C	M	F	A	C	E	T	I	O	U	S	M	O
O	E	B	A	Z	N	R	A	D	P	K	D	A	G	F
P	S	T	N	F	F	I	N	O	S	J	N	R	H	F
E	S	T	E	A	D	A	C	A	Y	N	A	R	R	T
C	Y	N	C	A	M	L	M	K	E	E	R	O	Y	R
A	B	E	S	E	I	E	O	P	N	P	B	P	Y	K
F	M	M	S	A	C	T	P	B	P	A	E	G	B	I
U	N	A	X	A	E	J	E	L	H	F	M	A	N	O
O	K	N	F	A	Q	A	Y	C	A	B	A	E	D	Y
E	P	R	E	F	A	C	E	C	A	T	N	E	J	K
W	K	O	T	F	I	L	E	C	A	F	E	U	X	F

16. NAMESAKE

20. PREFACE

17. NICKNAME

21. SURFACE

18. ORNAMENT

22. TYPEFACE

19. PEN NAME

Solution is on page 106

MAY 14, 2018

Malcolm X called it "House" ... N. - word!!!

Dr. King compared them to those Jews, whom Deided Moses did preferred to return to the "sweet pots of Egypt.

The rabid mob attack on Mr. West merely demonstrate the correctness of his "PRDFILE IN COURAGE" STANCE!!!

LET THE PEOPLES' VOICE BE HEARD!

No one may Read this message but Thank God I can say it!!

#THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED!!!

3 of 3
DATED: May 14, 2018

He doesn't speak for The BLACK COMMUNITY!

He is "BIZARRE"!

He is FAKING: Promoting his new LP!

I SAY!!!

I Shout-out To GOD! Thank You for a GENUINE (NON-GAY) BLACK MAN in The SPIRIT OF JOHN BROWN! NAT. TURNER! MARCUS GARVEY!! — in Honorable KANYE WEST, With a BOOMING MIC!!!

MALCOLM X and Dr. MLK, JR.

HEED!!!: Without Malcolm X there could be NO Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. !!!

WHAT DID HE REALLY SAY!??

"If the mind is ENSLAVED the body can never be free" — DR. MLK, JR.

Mr. West spoke correctly of a well documented "WILLIE LYNCH" kind of "MENTAL SLAVERY"!

A LOVER'S QUESTION !!!?

TV WHITE NEGROES - RACIST

STONING OF BLACK-MEN !!!

MY ONE question is who the HECK
Appointed; nominated these TV WHITE NEGROES
and wrote their "scripts" to Castigate!
LITERALLY ERASE Targeted Black men!!!?

KAYNE WEST

" This Mouth it's Bro. Kayne West.

KANYE WEST WHAT'S GOING ON "US

MAGAZINE.COM MAY 14, 2018, PP 50-51

HELLO MR. AND MRS

JIM CROW !!!

Reading from the same script Bey
Smith! Whoopi Goldberg! Sheryl Under
wood! Van - on TMZ.com, ad Abused.mf!

Shoot em Down!

That "M. Word" is Crazy!
He is off his "Med"!

10f3

Sri Lanka rescuers find bodies as flood deaths reach 146

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lankan rescuers pulled out more bodies under enormous mudslides on Sunday as the death toll climbed to 146 with 112 others missing. Although the weather has cleared, more rains are forecast for Sunday and Monday, threatening to bring more misery to over 100,000 displaced in the country's western and southern regions that were lashed by two days of torrential rains.

Taking advantage of a lull in rains, soldiers cleared road access to most of the affected areas while others were reachable by boat, said Maj. Gen. Sudantha Ranasinghe, who is heading the search and rescue mission. People waded in knee-deep floodwaters to get to army trucks transporting relief supplies and taking away those waiting to be evacuated.

Ranasinghe said he didn't expect to find any more survivors.

The U.N said it is assisting in relief efforts in response to a government appeal. It also promised to donate water purification tablets, tents and other supplies for the displaced. India sent a shipload of goods while the United States and Pakistan also promised consignments of relief supplies.

Mudslides have become common during the monsoon season in Sri Lanka, a tropical Indian Ocean island nation, as land has been heavily deforested to grow export crops such as tea and rubber. Last May, a massive landslide killed more than 100 people in central Sri Lanka.

French president flexes diplomatic muscles in Putin meeting

VERSAILLES, France (AP) — Flexing his diplomatic muscles, French President Emmanuel Macron said he had "extremely frank" and "direct" talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday and launched an extraordinary attack on two state-funded Russian media outlets he accused of spreading "lying propaganda" during France's presidential campaign. Macron's full-on blast at the state news agency Sputnik and broadcaster Russia Today came at a news conference with Putin standing at his side. His comments underscored the clear differences between the two men on multiple issues and fulfilled the French president's campaign promises to pull no punches with Russia when needed. But after more than two hours of meetings — their first since Macron's May 7 election and longer than scheduled — both leaders also signaled a shared desire not to let disagreements define their fledgling relationship. The fight against terrorism, in particular, appeared to offer common ground. Putin said Macron proposed a framework for French and Russian anti-terror experts to meet and work together. And both leaders agreed they don't want Syria — where Russia is propping up the government of President Bashar Assad — to collapse into a failed state.

Progress in Syria "will happen by a joint effort, which today we laid the foundations for," Macron said.

Speaking through a translator, Putin said the two countries were "totally capable of trying to progress together" on world affairs.

"What unites us allows us to hope that the possibility exists to improve our ties," he added later.

But there was no disguising the rifts.

Macron said he spoke to Putin about LGBT rights in the Russian republic of Chechnya and about the rights of embattled non-governmental organizations in Russia, vowing to be "vigilant" on these issues. Earlier Monday, human rights activists protesting near the Eiffel Tower displayed a banner that said, "Stop homophobia in Chechnya."

Any use of chemical weapons in Syria is a "red line" for France and would be met by "reprisals" and an "immediate riposte" from the government, Macron said.

He did not specify the form of such reprisals, but France flies warplanes over Syria and Iraq, striking Islamic State targets as part of an international coalition.

On Sputnik and Russia Today, Macron showed little restraint, saying the two organizations spread "untruths about me and my campaign" during the French election. "I will not give an inch on this," he said.

"Russia Today and Sputnik ... behaved as organs of influence, of propaganda, of lying propaganda."

Putin, seemingly unfazed, pushed back any suggestion that Russia sought to influence the election. Russian meddling became a concern in France after allegations that Russia sought to interfere in the U.S. presidential contest that elected Donald Trump and after a document leak hit Macron's campaign in the final hours of the French race.

Putin also hosted Macron's far-right rival, Marine Le Pen, at the Kremlin in March. On Monday, he defended that gesture as simple good manners, saying it would have been strange to rebuff Le Pen's Russia-friendly overtures.

"That doesn't mean that we tried to influence the results of the election. Besides, that is almost impossible," he said.

Macron was the first Western leader to speak to Putin after the Group of Seven summit the French leader attended over the weekend, where relations with Russia were a key topic. These first forays into world diplomacy by the French president who has never before held elected office have shown the 39-year-old to be a quick learner and self-confident, willing to take the calculated risk of voicing firm views on thorny issues.

Macron portrayed the Putin meeting as just a first step in resetting relations with Russia.

"Big things are built over time," he said. "It was an exchange that was extremely frank, direct, with a lot of things that were said."

"We have disagreements, but at least we talked about them," he added.

After the deterioration in ties under Macron's predecessor, Socialist Francois Hollande, Putin expressed the hope that in Macron and his team there will be "more people who understand us."

The body language Monday was good. Their first handshakes — relatively brief and cordial — were far less macho than Macron's now-famous who-will-blink-first handshake showdown with Trump when the two leaders met last week for the first time. Macron and Putin also hugged goodbye and shook hands, both smiling, after ending their meetings with a visit to an exhibit about the 300th anniversary of Russian Czar Peter the Great's trip to Paris.

The venue for the exhibit and Putin's visit was the sumptuous Palace of Versailles, west of Paris. Putin seemed wowed, saying he was "very impressed by the grandeur of France, by its history."

The news conference was held in the palace's largest room, the Gallery of Great Battles, which celebrates 14 centuries of French military successes.

Macron, almost lecturing Putin, couldn't resist the opportunity to hammer home a message.

"These military victories," he said, "should never make us forget that they were always the result of lack of understanding."

German biker loses bag of cash, raining bills over Autobahn

BERLIN (AP) — German police say a businessman on a motorcycle lost a plastic bag stuffed with his day's earnings while driving along a southern highway, sending a shower of cash across the Bavarian Autobahn.

Ingolstadt police said Sunday the 36-year-old had been carrying about 9,000 euros (\$10,000) in small bills Saturday night when he lost the bag on the A9 highway.

The man, whose name wasn't released, stopped his motorcycle and tried to collect the cash himself, and witnesses called police. Authorities temporarily shut down the stretch of the highway and helped the man collect his cash, but an estimated 1,500 euros was taken away by the wind before it could be recovered, the dpa news agency reported. Police say he was able to produce a slip showing the cash was his.

Craft soda makers add fizz to flat soft drink sales

You might expect to detect the hints of lavender, juniper or hibiscus in bath soap or potpourri, but not in your soft drink. But it's unique formulations that are at the heart of the growing segment of "craft soda," fizzy concoctions that are starting to make an impact in the \$52.5 billion U.S. soft drink market.

With traditional colas and other soft drinks under attack by nutritionists, craft soft drinks — also known as artisanal, specialty or small-batch soda — are capturing share by hyping premium and natural ingredients, creative flavors, limited runs, unusual packaging or their local roots.

7-01-2017 GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL

maritime economic zone Monday, officials said, the latest in a string of test launches as the North seeks to build nuclear-tipped ICBMs that can reach the U.S. mainland. This launch of a suspected Scud-type missile, which the South Korean military said flew about 280 miles, may also be an attempt to demonstrate North Korea's ability to strike U.S. and South Korean troops in the region. The missile launched from the coastal town of Wonsan, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. It landed in Japan's exclusive maritime economic zone, which is set about 200 nautical miles off the Japanese coast, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said. He said there was no report of damage to planes or vessels in the area.

Because Monday's test — the North's ninth ballistic missile launch this year — was apparently of a short-range variety of which Pyongyang has a surplus of reliable missiles, it may have been meant more as a political and military message to outsiders than as a crucial test of not-yet-perfected technology. The content of that message is open to interpretation, but some see a resolve to ignore U.S.-led pressure, which has included vague threats from President Trump and the arrival in Korean waters of powerful U.S. military hardware, while also showing that the North can hit U.S. targets near and far. Scuds are capable of striking at American troops in South Korea, for instance, and two newly developed missiles tested earlier this month have potential ranges that include Japan, Guam and even, according to some South Korean analysts, Alaska. North Korea is still thought to be several years from its goal of being able to target U.S. mainland cities with a nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile. It has a strong arsenal of short- and medium-range missiles and is working to perfect its longer-range missiles.

North Korea's state-controlled media had no immediate comment. But a day earlier, the North said leader Kim Jong Un had watched a separate, successful test of a new type of anti-aircraft guided weapon system. It wasn't clear from the state media report when the test happened.

The official Korean Central News Agency cited Kim as ordering officials to mass-produce and deploy the system all over the country so as to "completely spoil the enemy's wild dream to command the air." The North's nuclear and missile programs are perhaps the biggest foreign policy challenges to the new leaders in Washington and Seoul. Trump has alternated between bellicosity and flattery in his public statements about North Korea, but his administration is still working to solidify a policy to handle its nuclear ambitions.

Monday's launch was the third ballistic missile launch by North Korea since South Korean President Moon Jae-in was inaugurated on May 10. He has signaled an interest in expanding civilian exchange with

North Korea, but many analysts say he won't likely push for any major rapprochement because North Korea has gone too far in developing its nuclear program. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters that "North Korea's provocation by ignoring repeated warnings from the international society is absolutely unacceptable."

Suga, the Japanese cabinet secretary, said the missile fell about 190 miles north of the Oki islands in southwestern Japan and 310 miles west of Sado island in central Japan. Suga said Japanese officials will discuss North Korea with a senior foreign policy adviser to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Yang Jiechi, who is scheduled to visit Japan later Monday. He said China, the North's only major ally, has been increasingly using its influence over North Korea.

Besides its regular ballistic missile test-launches, the North carried out two of its five nuclear tests last year — in January and September. Outside analysts believe North Korea may be able to arm some of its shorter-range missiles with nuclear warheads, though the exact state of the North's secretive weapons program is unknown.

Post-summit, Merkel says Europe 'must take our fate into our own hands'

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Sunday warned that Europeans "must take our fate into our own hands," suggesting that President Trump's visit last week — and his contentious relations with the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) — show that the days when Europe could rely on others were "over to a certain extent."

Speaking at a campaign rally in a packed Bavarian beer hall, Merkel told the crowd, "This is what I have experienced in the last few days," *The Washington Post* reported. Merkel never mentioned Trump by name, but the remarks seemed a clear response to the president's trip, which included a fraught Group of Seven summit.

Trump has refused to endorse the Paris climate agreement, and has said he wants a 35% import tax on BMWs assembled in Mexico to encourage manufacturers to move to the U.S. On Thursday, he told EU Commissioner Jean-Claude Juncker and European Council president Donald Tusk, "The Germans are bad, very bad," German news magazine *Der Spiegel* reported. "Look at the millions of cars they're selling in the U.S. Terrible," he reportedly said. "We will stop this."

Last March, Merkel reminded Trump that the U.S. can't negotiate a deal with Germany alone — it must deal with the entire EU, since Germany is a member state. She told him at the time that trade agreements with the U.S. have "not always been all that popular in Germany either."

Also on Thursday, in a speech at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Trump failed to explicitly endorse the military alliance's commitment to collective defense, even as he

called on other leaders to spend more money on security.

Trump has never formally endorsed the NATO treaty's Article 5 commitment that an attack on one member country will be treated as an attack on all, making his silence on the subject in an address Thursday especially striking. The president who has touted an "America First" foreign policy did, however, refer more generally to "the commitments that bind us together as one" and promised to "never forsake the friends who stood by our side."

After the speech, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said it should have been assumed that Trump backed Article 5, given the fact he was speaking at the dedication of a memorial to it. "We're not playing cutesy with this. He's fully committed," Spicer told reporters. "There's 100 percent commitment to Article 5."

After returning to the U.S., Trump on Sunday tweeted that the nine-day trip "was a great success for America. Hard work but big results!"

But Merkel apparently thought differently. Campaigning for a fourth term in elections that take place this September, she also referenced Britain's recent decision to leave the European Union, telling a crowd in Munich, "The times in which we could rely fully on others, they are somewhat over," *The New York Times* reported.

Trump critic Bill Kristol, editor of the conservative *Weekly Standard* magazine, tweeted: "Merkel's comments today are a reminder that Trump's failures are, while he's president, also America's failure, and damage America." Former George W. Bush speechwriter David Frum, also a frequent Trump critic, was more blunt. He called the trip "a catastrophe for U.S.-Europe Relations" and tweeted: "Since 1945, the supreme strategic goal in Europe of the USSR and then Russia was the severing of the US-German alliance. Trump delivered."

Merkel said Europe must stand up for its own interests and be more self-reliant on defense, among other issues. "We have to know that we must fight for our future on our own, for our destiny as Europeans."

The White House has said Trump was getting wide-ranging advice on what to do about the Paris climate pact, which requires nearly 200 nations to commit to voluntary plans to reduce carbon emissions.

Some Trump aides want the U.S. to withdraw, saying the accord's commitments to reduce greenhouse gases in future years will damage the U.S. energy industry. Others say the U.S. should stay in the accord in order to shape the debate over climate change and avoid diplomatic problems associated by withdrawal.

Merkel said the climate discussion during the summit "was very difficult, not to say unsatisfactory. There's a situation where it's six — if you count the European Union, seven — against one," *The Times* reported.

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hospital conditions are deteriorated, staff is depleted by reorganizing services.” Amado Lebaube, a 20-year-old philosophy student in the Sorbonne university, said degraded working conditions are already hurting consumers of public services, and could threaten his ability to stay in school. He expressed thanks for state-paid teachers, student housing aid and government scholarships, adding, “I can study today because there are public services in this country.”

Flagship carrier Air France said about 25 percent of domestic flights were cancelled due to a walkout by some traffic controllers. The airline maintained long-haul flights to and from Paris airports.

The education ministry said in a statement about 17 percent of teachers across the country were on strike Tuesday. Some school canteens and nurseries were closed, and several high schools in Paris were closed because students were blocking the entrances in solidarity with the union action.

“They unravel all the social protections supposed to protect the weakest and the workers,” said Sandrine Amoud, a teacher on strike in Paris to protest against Macron’s policies.

Jean-Claude Mailly, secretary general of the FO union, called on Macron to stop “austerity” policies toward public servants during a protest in the city of Lyon.

While demonstrations were largely peaceful across the country, a small group of protesters skirmished with police at the end of a march to the Place de la Nation in eastern Paris.

Tuesday’s industrial action comes after several other street protests in recent weeks against Macron’s proposed changes to labor laws, which apply to employees of the private sector. Unions fear Macron’s economic policies would weaken France’s hard-won worker protections.

The hard-left CGT union called for new protests and strikes against Macron’s labor reforms on Oct. 19

Weeks after Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico struggles to find a new normal

AGUADILLA, P.R. – Signs of deprivation are both obvious and subtle.

Hurricane Maria claimed dozens of lives on Puerto Rico, although the exact number is still in dispute. The worst hurricane to hit the island, Maria also took homes, shoreline, crops, livestock and left millions struggling to survive without power, water, cash and jobs.

“All the flowers are gone. The bees are going crazy,” said Gerry Giles, a New Mexico native who moved to the Aguadilla area more than 40 years ago.

“It’s a cash-only society right now,” he said, gently shooing the bees away as he waited for a pizza lunch at one of the few open restaurants in Aguadilla.

Puerto Rico and Caribbean islands struggle after Hurricane Maria

At a roadside stand in nearby Anasco, Rey Martos-Rivera asked for a bottle of water and was met with laughter. More than two weeks after the hurricane, like flowers for bees, drinking water remains by far the No. 1 need.

“Bottled water? Forget it,” Giles said. “You won’t find that anywhere. Once we get water people will start feeling a lot better.”

No complaints

Driving through Aguadilla and neighboring towns like Anasco, Mayaguez, Rincon and elsewhere, people appeared to be managing without complaint.

I have seen utility workers only once. I have not seen the Red Cross or FEMA. That’s not to say they aren’t here and doing an amazing job. I just haven’t seen them.

Sure, gas lines remain long but get shorter every day. Temporary ATMs have popped up here and there. Food trucks and roadside stands are slowly reopening.

“This was a natural disaster,” said Carlos Pena Brito in Anasco. “What can we do? We just have to try and take care of those who need more help than us.”

Bruto, who manages the pastoral care unit at his church, said those suffering the most are in the rural, mountainous areas. These small villages are hard to get to on good days. Now with mudslides covering roads, downed trees and little communication, they need the most attention.

Five days after the storm, word trickled down of a family in Rincon that had not had any water to drink besides a meager amount of rain water in five days. The normally 45-minute trip to see them took eight hours. Brito says people have not wasted energy complaining — but he fears for the near future.

“A lot of people are anxious,” he said. “The crops were destroyed. The cows were washed away and killed and now contaminate the water.”

Hoping he is wrong, Brito said he thinks things will get worse before getting better.

“I spoke to several small business owners in Mayaguez who decided to close their businesses after they heard it may take six months to restore their power,” he said.

“They can’t afford to keep their places and will lose all their inventory if they stay open.”

Raymond Ortiz in Mayaguez celebrated having his running water turned on Thursday. But he still does not know about the future.

“My work is only part-time now,” he said with a shrug. “We are waiting for a package that relatives have sent us from the mainland.”

And still, he asked me if I would like something to eat.

The longest night

At the very western part of the island in Mayaguez, Monserrate Ramos thought the night of the storm would never end.

“I cried all night,” she said from inside her darkened concrete home. “I didn’t know what to do. Everything was shaking.”

The storm was impossible to sleep through. Giles, in Aguadilla, said he stepped outside as the eye passed through, believing the storm had passed. He drove around and assessed damage before the second and more devastating portion of the storm came through.

“Man, it was scary. If you looked out the window — any window that you could look out of — everything was bent over. It was just God awful,” he said. “The windows were shaking, and we moved the sofa and the cushions between the glass and the sofa and moved all the other furniture up against it to keep it from rattling. That calmed my wife down because she was worried it would bust wide open. The south part of the storm hit us with a vengeance all night long.”

When the storm was finally over, Giles said the streets were covered with debris and impassable.

“It was mayhem,” he said.

Aftermath

The stench driving through parts of Anasco is unbearable. The roads are covered with mud and so are the dead horses and cows whose stiff legs stick out like battered flags of defeat.

“Look, look at that,” Matos-Rivera said.

“That entire field was a plantain field and now that crop is gone.”

Hernan Gonzalez, 78, rode out the storm in his Aguadilla home even as the waters rose down the street and started coming into his home.

He and his wife, Nancy Nazario, took two-hour shifts resting while the other worked non-stop mopping and sweeping the water away. When the long night finally ended, the couple was OK with food, bottled water and cash for a few weeks.

How much longer they can go is uncertain.

“I don’t know how long it will take for things to get back to normal. We are OK without air conditioning,” he said with a smile. “But I would love something cold to drink.”

Few people are talking about normal, though. Right now, just making it through each day is the daily struggle that commands all their attention.

For now it’s life without many of the most basic necessities: no water, no power, not much food, no work. And even the flowers are gone.

Terrorism ruled out after car plows into pedestrians in London, injuring 11

Eleven people were injured Saturday when a car plowed into a number of pedestrians outside the Natural History Museum in London, according to Scotland Yard.

The Metropolitan Police Service described the incident as a traffic collision and said in a statement that it was not terror-related.

Scotland Yard said one man was arrested and taken into police custody at the scene in South Kensington. Passersby pinned the driver to the ground after he reportedly tried to flee the site.

The London Ambulance Service said in a statement that 11 people, including the driver, were treated, mainly for leg and head injuries. Nine were hospitalized. None of the injuries were believed to be life-threatening, police said.

The crash happened at 2:20 p.m. on a day when the central London museum is usually teeming with pedestrians, including international tourists. Photographs of the site showed a dented silver car and a man being held to the ground.

BBC reporter Chloe Hayward was leaving the Natural History Museum as the incident happened. "I could see ... a car diagonally across the road, looking like it was going into one of the boulders on the side of the road, and I could see a crowd of people around what was clearly one or two people on the pavement," she said, according to the BBC. Many shops in the museum district were evacuated and the museum was shut down as police tried to determine if there was a threat to the public, the Associated Press reported. Marilyn Mueller, 20, said she thought at first it was a traffic accident but that "loads of police cars" arrived shortly after. She says "all of these police came marching down saying, 'Move, move.' They said, 'you need to evacuate.'"

Dieon Rurora said people were running down the street to get away and some fell over. "It was quite scary," he added.

The incident comes amid heightened security concerns in the country and as London's terrorism threat level remains at "severe," meaning an attack is likely. The city has suffered a series of terror attacks in the past year, including ones involving vehicles plowing down pedestrians on two of its famous bridges.

What happens next if Trump refuses to certify the Iran nuclear deal: three scenarios

President Trump, who has called the Iran nuclear agreement the "worst deal ever," has signaled he will back out of the accord before an Oct. 15 deadline for certifying that Iran is complying with the terms—which U.N. inspectors say is the case.

The 2015 agreement, which was approved by President Barack Obama, lifts international sanctions on Iran in return for a long-term suspension of its nuclear development program.

Supporters include most of the international community and businesses eager to sign deals with oil-rich Iran.

Critics, ranging from Trump to Israel to members of Congress from both parties, say the agreement gives Iran billions of dollars in new funds to sponsor terrorist organizations around the world and develop ballistic missiles, which are not covered under the accord.

Members of Trump's own administration, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, have cautioned against undermining the agreement, which was also signed by China, France, Germany, Russia and the United

Kingdom. "If we can confirm that Iran is living by the agreement, if we can determine that this is in our best interest, then clearly we should stay with it," Mattis said in congressional testimony this week.

Trump's likely decision to refuse certification of the agreement won't immediately kill it, but will lead to a period of great uncertainty.

A symbolic break

Trump could refuse to certify compliance, but allow the terms of the agreement to remain in place. That lets him express his opposition without having the deal fall apart. If Trump doesn't certify the deal, it is then up to Congress to determine how to proceed. It's likely Congress would not take action—such as imposing new sanctions—which would leave the agreement in place, said Michael Rubin, an analyst at the American Enterprise Institute. "Decertification isn't synonymous with walking away from the deal," he said. If Congress sticks to the status quo, major investment deals, including a Boeing deal to sell Iran's airlines \$3 billion worth of commercial aircraft, could proceed. The certification process, which is required every 90 days, is a legislative requirement that it is not part of the international agreement with Iran.

Deal falls apart

Trump could decertify compliance and Congress could reimpose sanctions and even add new ones, which would prompt Iran to walk away from the deal and restart its nuclear program.

"If Iranians walk away and blame the United States that's a twofer" for Iran, Rubin said. Iran has already benefited from the lifting of sanctions and now could restart its nuclear program as well — and blame it all on the United States.

New sanctions would endanger billions of dollars in potential investments that have already been negotiated. It would also anger U.S. allies, including France, which has urged the United States not to discard the nuclear deal. "Proponents of the agreement are saying American credibility is at stake, especially with European allies," Rubin said.

U.S. and Iran renegotiate

Critics of the deal want the United States and its allies to force Iran to accept modifications to the agreement, such as tighter restrictions on missile tests and funding radical militias in the Middle East.

"Congress and the president, working together, should lay out how the deal must change and, if it doesn't, the consequences Iran will face," Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark, said. Cotton, a leading critic of the deal, met this week with Trump to discuss the issue.

The Iranian government, however, has ruled out renegotiating any part of the agreement. "It will be a great pity if this agreement were to be destroyed by rogue newcomers to the world of politics," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said.

It's possible that the White House could work with Congress to threaten severe sanctions as

a way to get Iran to agree to renegotiate, said Luke Coffey, an analyst at the Heritage Foundation. But he acknowledged that is unlikely. "I don't see why Iran would want to renegotiate anything since the deal is so favorably on their side," he said.

SpaceX launches 10 more Iridium

Communications satellites

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — Ten new satellites for Iridium Communications Inc. have been carried into orbit by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched from California.

The booster lifted off from coastal Vandenberg Air Force Base before dawn Monday. Its first stage successfully returned from space and set down on a landing platform floating in the Pacific Ocean as the second stage went on to deploy the satellites in orbit.

It was the third successful launch in the McLean, Virginia-based company's campaign to replace its entire globe-circling fleet with a total of 75 next-generation communications satellites. Five more SpaceX launches are expected to complete the process by mid-2018.

The satellites also carry payloads for global real-time aircraft tracking and a ship-tracking service.

The old Iridium satellites are being deorbited.

Pizza Hut promises to deliver its pies 15 degrees hotter

Pizza Hut doesn't want you to complain about lukewarm pizza.

The chain is rolling out a redesigned delivery system that promises to keep pies 15 degrees hotter as they travel from stores to customers' homes.

It's the latest move by the Yum Brands-owned pizza company, which has struggled in a competitive market to regain its lead. Earlier this year, Pizza Hut was dethroned as the "best pizza chain brand," ending a four-year winning streak, by rival Papa John's. Meantime, Yum Brands has laid out a \$130 million investment plan for Pizza Hut, planning to upgrade its equipment, improve restaurant technology and boost Pizza Hut's advertising through 2018.

"We have cracked the code on how to deliver pizzas hotter," said Zipporah Allen, vice president of brand marketing and consumer insights at Pizza Hut. "This is consistent with where we see our growth, with digital and delivery."

The new pizza boxes feature thicker sides that will lock in heat and keep a pie in place through delivery. Each box includes a patented "crisp sheet insert" to keep the pizza elevated and to maintain an "oven-hot" temperature.

The sheets, made of cardboard, feature ridges on the bottom, so when placed underneath a pizza they allow warm air to linger longer in those pockets and permeate the pie. The restaurant chain said it has spent more than two years looking at ways to perfect the design.

7 of 8

Pyongyang's claim that nuclear weapons ensure its security. "In reality, they have the opposite effect," he said in a statement. Trump said the weapons and tests "further isolate North Korea, weaken its economy, and deprive its people." He vowed to "take all necessary steps" to ensure the security of the U.S. and its allies.

The president has said he will not allow North Korea to obtain an ICBM that can deliver a nuclear warhead. But this week, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency reportedly concluded that the North will have a reliable ICBM capable of carrying a nuclear weapon as early as next year, in an assessment that trimmed two years from the agency's earlier estimate.

China, meanwhile, urged its ally North Korea to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions and halt any moves that could escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

In addition, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) will likely convene an emergency meeting early next week to discuss possible countermeasures, the South Korean news agency Yonhap reported Saturday, quoting a government source. In April, Russia vetoed a proposed UNSC resolution that would have condemned Pyongyang for an earlier ballistic missile test.

The French Foreign Ministry condemned the launch and called for "strong and additional sanctions" by the United Nations and European Union. "Only maximal diplomatic pressure might bring North Korea to the negotiating table," the ministry said in a statement.

A spokesman for Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that Dunford met at the Pentagon with the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, Adm. Harry Harris, to discuss U.S. military options in light of North Korea's missile test. The spokesman, Navy Capt. Greg Hicks, said Dunford and Harris placed a phone call to Dunford's South Korean counterpart, Gen. Lee Sun Jin. Dunford and Harris "expressed the ironclad commitment to the U.S.-Republic of Korea alliance," Hicks said, referring to the U.S. defense treaty that obliges America to defend South Korea. Abe, too, said Japan would cooperate closely with the U.S., South Korea and other nations to step up pressure on North Korea to halt its missile programs.

July 27 is a major national holiday in North Korea called Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War Day, marking the day when the armistice was signed ending the 1950-53 Korean War. That armistice is yet to be replaced with a peace treaty, leaving the Korean Peninsula technically in a state of war.

U.S. flexes military muscle after North Korea's ICBM test

The U.S. conducted a test of its missile defense system in Alaska and flew two supersonic bombers over South Korea on Sunday in a show of force following North

Korea's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test on Friday.

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) announced it conducted a test of its Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) defense system in Alaska by launching a ballistic missile over the Pacific Ocean.

The missile was fired by a U.S. Air Force C-17 plane and successfully intercepted by the system, based in Kodiak, Alaska, the MDA said.

"In addition to successfully intercepting the target, the data collected will allow MDA to enhance the THAAD weapon system, our modeling and simulation capabilities, and our ability to stay ahead of the evolving threat," said MDA Director Lt. Gen. Sam Greaves.

In South Korea, U.S. B-1 bombers were escorted by South Korean fighter jets as they flew over an air base near the South Korean capital of Seoul before returning to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, the U.S. Pacific Air Forces said in a statement.

It said the mission was a response to consecutive ICBM tests by North Korea this month. Analysts say flight data from the North's second ICBM test showed that a broader part of the mainland United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of Pyongyang's weapons.

"North Korea remains the most urgent threat to regional stability," said Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, Pacific Air Forces commander. "Diplomacy remains the lead. However, we have a responsibility to our allies and our nation to showcase our unwavering commitment while planning for the worst-case scenario."

"If called upon, we are ready to respond with rapid, lethal, and overwhelming force at a time and place of our choosing," O'Shaughnessy said.

The U.S. has sent B-1 bombers to South Korea for flyovers several times this year in response to the North's banned missile tests, and also following the death of a U.S. college student last month after he was released by North Korea in a coma.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Saturday expressed "great satisfaction" after the Hwasong-14 missile reached a maximum height of 2,314 miles and flew 620 miles before landing in waters off Japan.

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said that the test was aimed at confirming the maximum range and other technical aspects of the missile it says was capable of delivering a "large-sized, heavy nuclear warhead," according to the Associated Press. Kim also noted that the rare night launch showed North Korea's ability to mount a surprise attack.

Wildfires threaten French Riviera

BORMES-LES-MIMOSAS, France — Backed by planes dropping water and fire retardant, more than 1,000 firefighters battled wildfires Wednesday that billowed smoke into the sky over France's southern Cote d'Azur coast and forced the evacuation of at least 12,000 people.

France's prime minister, visiting the area, predicted a grim day ahead.

Large swaths of Mediterranean forest have been left bare and blackened after three days of fires. About 250 trailer homes, a hangar, an atelier and several vehicles were burned in the blazes, but no one has been injured so far, the prefect of the Var region said.

Residents and tourists were evacuated early Wednesday after a ferocious fire whipped by strong Mistral winds spread from La Londe-Les-Maures to dense forests around the picturesque hilltop town of Bormes-Les-Mimosas. About 60 people were evacuated by boat from nearby Cap Benat.

"There will be more fires tomorrow," Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said. He traveled to Bormes on Wednesday night, flew over the devastated region and met with firefighting personnel.

Firefighting aircraft made more than 500 drops of water or retardant on Wednesday, Phillipe said, and only three fires remained active in the Var region — out of dozens that started Wednesday.

But "the situation remains difficult, I must say it. Like me, you feel the wind is blowing," the prime minister said.

Further south of the French mainland, flames ate through 4,950 acres of forest on the northern end of the French Mediterranean island of Corsica, in what was the largest blaze in France.

Fires also were blazing across parts of bone-dry Portugal and Italy.

Tourist Francoise Roparse, who was visiting the south of France, was among the evacuees awakened in the middle of the night who found shelter in a sailing club near Bormes. "First, it was a bit the panic," Roparse said. "We tried to gather all important things ... Obviously, we forgot a lot."

Dozens of people initially spent the night on a beach, but public spaces pressed into service as emergency shelters were filling up. The disaster, which hit at the height of the summer season, challenged regional governments with economies that depend on tourism. The town of Bormes tweeted a call for donations of towels for the evacuees staying in the local gymnasium.

The wildfires began raging along France's Mediterranean coast on Monday, forcing smaller, scattered evacuations as flames reached a corner of Saint-Tropez. Since noon Tuesday, French firefighters had conducted about 100 operations.

Firefighters said they were exhausted and needed more manpower and equipment. Hundreds of reinforcements were sent in from around France but the president of the Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur area, Renaud Muselier, said on BFM-TV that "we don't have enough means."

Numerous firefighting aircraft are grounded for repairs, and nine are 60 years old, Eric Faure of the National Federation of Firefighters told BFM-TV.

The prime minister said France plans to buy six new aircraft to beef up the country's

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU SUSPECTED OF CRIMINAL ACTS

attorney, Tim Casey. Defense attorney Dennis Wilenchik said Casey neglected to follow up on training scenarios that would have clarified the order.

Casey had testified earlier that he had explained the order several times, and that Arpaio had assured him the office already wasn't doing the things the order prohibited. Ultimately, Wilenchik had said, there was "not one shred of evidence" that Arpaio had intentionally defied the judge.

We're cooked: Earth's atmosphere to warm by at least another 2 degrees
We're cooked.

A scientific study released Monday said that the Earth's atmosphere will warm by at least another 2 degrees C (3.8 degrees F) — regardless of what we do in the future to limit greenhouse gas emissions. There's only a 5% chance that Earth will warm 2 degrees or less by the end of this century, the study said. It shows a mere 1% chance that warming could be at or below 1.5 degrees, which was the target set by the landmark 2016 Paris Agreement.

"Our analysis is compatible with previous estimates, but it finds that the most optimistic projections are unlikely to happen," said study lead author Adrian Raftery of the University of Washington. "We're closer to the margin than we think."

The study was published in the peer-reviewed British journal Nature Climate Change. The burning of fossil fuels such as gas, oil and coal is causing the planet to warm to levels that cannot be explained by natural factors, scientists say.

To come up with his conclusion, Raftery and his team looked at total world population, gross domestic product per person and the amount of carbon emitted for each dollar of economic activity.

The Paris Agreement of 2016 was signed by 195 countries including the United States to keep global temperature rise less than 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels. President Trump pulled the U.S. out of the pact earlier this year.

"Overall, the goals expressed in the Paris Agreement are ambitious but realistic," Raftery said. "The bad news is they are unlikely to be enough to achieve the target of keeping warming at or below 1.5 degrees C."

A second study, which used different methodology to reach its conclusion, focused on how much warming is already baked in. It said that even if humans could instantly turn off all emissions of greenhouse gases — which will of course not happen — Earth would continue to heat up about 1.3 degrees C by 2100.

The second study was also published in Nature Climate Change and was led by Thorsten Mauritsen of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Germany and Robert Pincus of the University of Colorado.

"Our estimates are based on things that have already happened, things we can observe, and they point to the part of future warming that is already committed to by past emissions,"

Mauritsen said. "Future carbon dioxide emissions will then add extra warming on top of that commitment."

Israeli police: Prime Minister Netanyahu suspected of bribery, fraud, breach of trust
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is suspected of bribery, fraud and breach of trust, police confirmed Thursday, according to Israeli media.

Potential allegations involving Netanyahu stretch into Israeli journalism circles and even Hollywood.

Details of the investigation came out when the court issued a gag order requested by the police limiting media coverage on police attempts to recruit a former Netanyahu aide, Ari Harow, as a state's witness, Reuters reported.

Representatives for Netanyahu issued a statement saying the allegations were false, according to *Haaretz*.

"We completely reject the unfounded claims made against the prime minister," the statement read. "The campaign to change the government is underway, but it is destined to fail for a simple reason: there won't be anything because there was nothing."

Progress was being made in talks with Harow about becoming a state's witness, Israeli attorney general Avichai Mendelblit said, according to *Haaretz*.

During a ceremony at the Israeli supreme court, he asked members of the news media to "let us work in peace and find the truth," *Haaretz* reported.

There are two cases in question. One involves allegations that Netanyahu accepted luxury gifts from Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan and Australian billionaire James Packer, ABC reported. In another, Netanyahu allegedly tried to make a deal with Arnon Mozes, publisher of Yedioth Ahronoth, a daily newspaper based in Tel Aviv, to promote legislation that would hurt its main competitor, according to ABC. In exchange, the news organization was to provide favorable coverage of the prime minister, ABC reported.

Netanyahu, 67, is serving his fourth term as prime minister. He was born in Tel Aviv, spent his teen years in Philadelphia, where his father was a professor, and returned to Israel in 1967, according to Biography.com.

U.S. analysts say North Korea's missile test puts U.S. mainland in range

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Saturday the second flight test this month of an intercontinental ballistic missile shows that his country can hit the U.S. mainland, a view shared by U.S. analysts who say a stretch from Los Angeles and Chicago now appears technically within range of the North's weapons.

Kim, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), expressed "great satisfaction" after the Hwasong-14 missile reached a maximum height of 2,314 miles and flew 620 miles before landing in waters off Japan.

The agency said that the test was aimed at confirming the maximum range and other technical aspects of the missile it says was capable of delivering a "large-sized, heavy nuclear warhead," according to the Associated Press.

Kim also noted that the rare night launch showed North Korea's ability to mount a surprise attack. The KCNA quoted him as saying the launch reaffirmed the reliability of the country's ICBM system and an ability to fire at "random regions and locations at random times" with the "entire" U.S. mainland now within reach.

The July 4 test indicated that Alaska was technically in range, but not the U.S. mainland.

A U.S. expert, David Wright, co-director and senior scientists for the Union of Concerned Scientists, writes Saturday that Friday's launch sent the missile on a "very highly lofted trajectory" that narrowed its range, but that one flown on a standard trajectory would have a range of 6,500 miles.

A chart of U.S. cities "shows that Los Angeles, Denver, and Chicago appear to be well within range of this missile, and that Boston and New York may be just within range," he writes in his blog All Things Nuclear. "Washington, D.C., may be just out of range."

What remains unclear, Wright said, is the mass of the payload the latest test missile carried. "If it was lighter than the actual warhead the missile would carry, the ranges would be shorter than those estimated above," he said, referring to the chart of vulnerable U.S. cities.

Increasing alarm by Washington and its allies over the Friday night test was underscored by an immediate move by U.S. and South Korean forces to conduct live-fire exercises. In addition, South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo called for the deployment of strategic U.S. military assets — which usually means stealth bombers and aircraft carriers — as well as additional launchers of an advanced U.S. anti-missile system. In Japan, government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said the missile flew for about 45 minutes — about five minutes longer than on July 4 — before landing west of Japan's island of Hokkaido.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said he told U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson by phone that the second missile test greatly increased the threat from Pyongyang. He said two sides agreed to consider all means necessary to exert the utmost pressure on North Korea. They reiterated calls for new sanctions and to work closely together with South Korea along with efforts by China and Russia.

For his part, Kim said the launch sent a "serious warning" to the United States, which has been "meaninglessly blowing its trumpet" with threats of war and stronger sanctions, the KCNA said.

President Trump condemned the missile test as a threat to the world, and rejected

6 of 8

The women refused to be intimidated.

"Fear is exactly what — at the time — we perceived ISIS wanted from military families," said Volkman, using another term for the Islamic State group.

Volkman was quoted in half a dozen media outlets; Bushatz wrote an article describing what happened; Ricketts, interviewed as part of a Fox News segment devoted to the menace of radical Islam, told TV host Greta Van Susteren that the nature of the threat was changing.

"Military families are prepared to deal with violence that's directed toward our soldiers," she said. "But having it directed toward us is just complete new ground."

Historians name 2 Indian Ocean 19th century shipwrecks

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — A four-year search of the depths of the Indian Ocean has failed to find Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. But the unprecedented sonar hunt for the missing airliner might be close to solving 19th century mysteries — the locations of two sailing ships that vanished with cargos of coal.

Maritime historians on Thursday published a short list of the possible identities of two shipwrecks found during the initial 710,000-square kilometer (274,000-square mile) three-year search for the Boeing 777 that was lost in 2014 with 238 people aboard.

The wrecks, found in 2015, are 36 kilometers (22 miles) apart and 2,300 kilometers (1,440 miles) southwest of Australia in debris fields scattered with coal more than 3.7 kilometers (2.3 miles) below the ocean's surface.

The searchers had a closer look with underwater drones that took photographs of both sites and retrieved a coal sample from one. Analysis showed the coal was probably from Britain, a Western Australian Museum report said.

The museum's examination of the images of the scattered remnants of a wooden ship discovered on May 19, 2015, found it was possibly the brig W. Gordon or the barque Magdala, according to incomplete records of ships lost in that period.

W. Gordon was on a voyage from Scotland to Australia when it disappeared in 1877 with 10 crew aboard. Magdala was lost in 1882 while sailing from Wales to Indonesia. The report found the splintered wreck was most likely sunk by an explosion. Coal cargoes in the era exploded through sparking of methane gas accumulating below deck or the spontaneous combustion of overheated coal.

An iron wreck found on Dec. 19, 2015, was most likely the barque West Ridge, which vanished while sailing from England to India with 28 sailors in 1883, the report said. A coal sample from that wreck suggested the cargo was British.

There was no evidence of what caused the disaster, but the wreck's location east of the trade route from Europe to Asia suggested it might have been heading to the closest port in Australia for help.

The museum's curator of maritime archaeology, Ross Anderson, said the new data about the two sinkings was a significant byproduct of the search for Flight 370, which was flying from Malaysia to China when communications with it were lost.

But Anderson doubted that the identities of the two deepest wrecks found in the Indian Ocean would ever be confirmed without a wealthy private benefactor because of their depth and remoteness.

"If it was a shipwreck that we could dive on ... we'd be looking for any artifacts like ceramics or bottles or anything that could confirm providence," Anderson said.

"These are the deepest wrecks so far located in the Indian Ocean, they're some of the most remote shipwrecks in the world, so we try to maximize any information," he added.

The initial underwater sonar probe scoured remote seabed at depths of up to 6,000 meters (20,000 feet) before Malaysia, China and Australia agreed to end the state-funded search for Flight 370 last year. The wrecks were found during that search.

The wrecks of two trawlers sunk the late 20th century were also discovered, but the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which supervised the search, did not ask the museum to research them.

Ocean Infinity, a U.S. technology company conducting a new search, said this week it had covered nearly 80,000 square kilometers (31,000 square miles) since January without finding any sign of the plane's wreckage.

In January, the Malaysian government pledged to pay Texas-based Ocean Infinity up to \$70 million if it could find the wreckage or black boxes of the aircraft within 90 days.

Greek restaurant owner arrested over antique decorations

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A man in northwestern Greece has been arrested after artifacts going back hundreds and even thousands of years were found adorning his restaurant.

Police say they confiscated about 90 mostly fragmentary pots and jars that archaeologists identified as ancient Greek and late medieval. The artifacts, which were on display in the restaurant, in the seaside town of Parga, appeared to have been fished out of the sea, probably from old shipwrecks.

The 32-year-old owner was arrested Monday under Greece's cultural heritage laws.

Police who announced the arrest Tuesday said the man was not suspected of trying to sell the artifacts. They said he claimed to have inherited the pottery from his grandfather who found the items in the sea. All antiquities found in Greece are by law state property.

Last outgoing Jeep Wrangler rolls off the line

A white 2018 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited became the last of the outgoing version of the go-anywhere vehicle to roll off the line Friday in Toledo, Ohio. It had been in production for 12 years.

The old version of the Wrangler, known by the internal code of JK, has been made even as the newer version of the Jeep Wrangler, which is lighter and more capable, has been winning attention from auto critics and buyers. That one is dubbed the JL.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, which owns the Jeep brand, plans to retool for the launch of a Jeep truck next year, according to the company. More than 2.1 million Wrangler JKs have been made since production started in 2006.

Wrangler production, however, is not stopping.

The Wrangler JK's replacement, the JL, which was unveiled at last year's Los Angeles Auto Show, is being produced on the north side of the complex in Toledo. The changes are part of a \$4.5 billion production realignment plan to boost the Jeep and Ram brands.

The Jeep Wrangler has become a legend in the auto industry. It is the direct descendant of the vehicle that helped win World War II. **Classic motorcycle prices soar, but this Vincent tops them all**

As a prestigious auction in England showed, prices on collectible vintage motorcycles are soaring.

The 1951 Vincent Black Lightning tops the list of the most valuable, as compiled by U.K. insurance buying site GoCompare.com. In U.S. dollars, the Vincent's current value is \$929,000, according to Ben Walker, international director of the motorcycle department for Bonhams auction house. "It will always be on every collector's wish list," Walker said. "Only 19 all-original bikes are known to exist."

Despite that, he said, bidders on the Vincent, which auction house Bonham's sold in Las Vegas earlier this year, were enthusiasts who'd probably ride it someday, not investors who planned to store the bike and watch its value appreciate.

The market for collectible bikes values those with original, matching-number frames and motors, he said.

"If the Lightning hadn't had matching numbers, its value would fall 40% to 50%," Walker said.

Bike collectors also value "patina," a finish that shows the bike has lived and been used over fresh, restored paint, he said.

"It's only factory paint, once. If you've got that, value it."

A new generation of bikes are becoming collectible, he said.

"Interest from baby boomers is tailing off. They're selling bikes, not acquiring them."

As with collectible cars, baby boomers fixated on bikes from the '50s and '60s. Generation X is focused on bikes from when they were kids in the 1970s and '80s, frequently from Japanese manufacturers. "The prices of top models are rocketing," Walker said.

A couple of bikes from the '70s set records at Bonhams recent spring auction in Stafford,

Trump pushed the call to Congress, even though he always has had the power to re-impose sanctions through executive action and perhaps because he knew it was unlikely Congress would be capable of agreeing to anything.

Back then, his national security adviser was H.R. McMaster, who was considered a moderate on Iran. Now, though — with leading Iran critic John Bolton newly installed in McMaster's old role — Trump has decided to take on Tehran.

That has worried America's European allies, Democrats and some Republican in Congress.

Even if Iran doesn't kick-start its nuclear weapons program, its leaders could banish inspectors.

"When our country, even if it's just the president, makes an agreement with our allies with another country, we ought to be very careful about changing that," Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., who opposed the deal in the first place, said on Hugh Hewitt's radio show Monday. Though the deal has "a lot of flaws," he said, it does give "a window into what Iran is doing and limits their development of nuclear weapons."

British and French officials urged Trump not to disrupt the deal in advance of Tuesday's announcement.

Boris Johnson, the British foreign secretary, wrote that the deal has "helped to prevent catastrophe" in the form of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East and that "only Iran would gain from abandoning the restrictions on its nuclear program."

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave a much-publicized presentation late last month in which he accused Iran of violating the deal because it hadn't shared pre-existing plans for nuclear weapons with the international community. Israeli intelligence operatives had spirited thousands of pages of documents detailing the program from Iran.

Trump quickly used Netanyahu's revelation to claim, "I was 100 percent right" on Iran.

UN chief asks for halt to 'all hostile acts' in Middle East

BEIRUT (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an immediate halt to "all hostile acts" to avoid "a new conflagration" in the Middle East after Israeli forces bombed Iranian targets inside Syria. Guterres' comments came as a calm night followed intense attacks on parts of Syria by Israel. Israel said the strikes early Thursday were retaliation for an Iranian rocket barrage on its positions in the Golan Heights and has called on the U.N. Security Council and secretary-general to immediately condemn Iran's attack.

Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned Israel's attacks and called it a blatant violation of Syria's sovereignty.

In Iran's first official reaction to the attack, a Friday report in state-run IRNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram

Ghasemi as saying the Israeli attack on Syria under "fabricated and baseless excuses" is a breach of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria.

He added that Syria has the right to defend itself "against the aggressors."

The Security Council, deeply divided over Syria, is highly unlikely to issue a statement and as of Friday morning no council member had asked for a meeting.

Israel and Iran have long fought each other through proxies, and with the new exchange each seemed to be sending a warning that a direct clash between them could swiftly escalate.

The scope of the attacks — which Israel called its largest in Syria since the 1973 Mideast war — raised the specter of a full-fledged war between Iran and Israel in Syria, a conflict that could potentially drag the militant Hezbollah and Lebanon into the mix with devastating effects, although both sides appeared to signal they wanted the confrontation to remain contained, at least for now.

Near the capital Damascus, opposition fighters and their families left three southern suburbs that were held by rebels bringing the area under government control for the first time in years, Syrian state media and a war monitor say

Syria's state news agency SANA said opposition fighters who decided to stay in the suburbs of Babila, Beit Sahem and Yalda will hand over the weapons and return to normal life.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a total of 8,400 fighters and civilians left the area since May 3 and the last group left Thursday night.

Syrian state TV and the Observatory said police forces are getting ready to enter the area on Friday to guarantee security.

With the capture of the three suburbs, the only area outside government control in Damascus is that of the neighborhood of Hajar al-Aswad and the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk that are partially controlled by the Islamic State group.

Government forces have been on the offensive against IS in the area since last month and its capture would boost security in President Bashar Assad's seat of power

Russian hackers posed as IS to threaten military wives

PARIS (AP) — Army wife Angela Ricketts was soaking in a bubble bath in her Colorado home, leafing through a memoir, when a message appeared on her iPhone:

"Dear Angela!" it said. "Bloody Valentine's Day!"

"We know everything about you, your husband and your children," the Facebook message continued, claiming that the hackers operating under the flag of Islamic State militants had penetrated her computer and her phone. "We're much closer than you can even imagine."

Ricketts was one of five military wives who received death threats from the self-styled

CyberCaliphate on the morning of Feb. 10, 2015. The warnings led to days of anguished media coverage of Islamic State militants' online reach.

Except it wasn't IS.

The Associated Press has found evidence that the women were targeted not by jihadists but by the same Russian hacking group that intervened in the American election and exposed the emails of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign chairman, John Podesta.

The false flag is a case study in the difficulty of assigning blame in a world where hackers routinely borrow one another's identities to throw investigators off track. The operation also parallels the online disinformation campaign by Russian trolls in the months leading up to the U.S. election in 2016. Links between CyberCaliphate and the Russian hackers — typically nicknamed Fancy Bear or APT28 — have been documented previously. On both sides of the Atlantic, the consensus is that the two groups are closely related.

But that consensus never filtered through to the women involved, many of whom were convinced they had been targeted by Islamic State sympathizers right up until the AP contacted them.

"Never in a million years did I think that it was the Russians," said Ricketts, an author and advocate for veterans and military families. She called the revelation "mind blowing."

"It feels so hilarious and insidious at the same time."

'COMPLETELY NEW GROUND'

As Ricketts scrambled out of the tub to show the threat to her husband, nearly identical messages reached Lori Volkman, a deputy prosecutor based in Oregon who had won fame as a blogger after her husband deployed to the Middle East; Ashley Broadway-Mack, based in the Washington, D.C., area and head of an association for gay and lesbian military family members; and Amy Bushatz, an Alaska-based journalist who covers spouse and family issues for Military.com.

Liz Snell, the wife of a U.S. Marine, was at her husband's retirement ceremony in California when her phone rang. The Twitter account of her charity, Military Spouses of Strength, had been hacked. It was broadcasting public threats not only to herself and the other spouses, but also to their families and then-first lady Michelle Obama. Snell flew home to Michigan from the ceremony, took her children and checked into a Comfort Inn for two nights.

"Any time somebody threatens your family, Mama Bear comes out," she said.

The women determined they had all received the same threats. They were also all quoted in a CNN piece about the hacking of a military Twitter feed by CyberCaliphate only a few weeks earlier. In it, they had struck a defiant tone. After they received the threats, they suspected that CyberCaliphate singled them out for retaliation.