



88° / 70°
Cloudy

WONDER WOMAN

Director discusses the message of female empowerment in her new film. FEATURES, 6



Southwest Journalist

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Tensions boil over at Texas Capitol

BY PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A Hispanic Texas lawmaker whom a Republican colleague threatened to shoot “in self-defense” after the Democrat pushed him said Tuesday that the altercation was a boiling point in a session where minority members were powerless to stop conservative legislation they say is discriminatory.

Tensions erupted on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives on Monday when Republican state Rep. Matt Rinaldi told

Democrats he had called U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents about demonstrators in the gallery holding signs that read, “I am illegal and here to stay.”

Hundreds of immigrant-rights activists — many of whom were Hispanic — had jammed the state Capitol on the final day before the Texas Legislature adjourned un-



Rinaldi



Nevarez

til 2019. Some came from as far as Arizona to protest a “sanctuary city” crackdown that will allow police, starting in September, to ask people during routine stops whether they’re in the U.S. legally.

Democratic state Rep. Poncho Nevarez did not deny pushing Rinaldi, who wrote on Facebook that he told Nevarez after being

threatened that “I would shoot him in self-defense.” Nevarez said he was “sick of” the attitudes toward Hispanics in the Legislature and was taking a stand.

“Another legislator sidled up to me yesterday and said, ‘Those aren’t Americans up there,’” said Nevarez, referring to the protesters in the gallery.

“I think there are some people in some moments that bring out racism. They want to believe that they’re not racist because when they deal with me I’m one of the ‘good’ ones. But I’m just one of the

folks up there,” he said of the protesters.

A phone message left at Rinaldi’s office was not returned Tuesday. Rinaldi wrote on Facebook that he was under the protection of state troopers.

“I think yesterday was the symptom of what’s been a difficult, challenging and emotional session. No one has totally clean hands but what happened on the floor with the physical attack on Matt was beyond the pale,” Re-

■ SANCTUARY, Page 2

Scripps Spelling Bee celebrates 90 years, new changes this year

BY BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

OXON HILL, Maryland — Shaheer Imam never thought it would take so long to get back to the National Spelling Bee.

The 13-year-old from Catonsville, Maryland, made his first appearance in 2012. Shaheer was just 8, and he spelled “capricious” and “quinzaine” correctly.

This year, he finally made it back and Tuesday morning, he took his place among 290 other spellers at a convention center outside Washington, D.C., as the 90th Scripps National Spelling Bee began with a written spelling and vocabulary test.

In a year when the bee is welcoming its youngest-ever participant, 6-year-old Edith Fuller, Shaheer is setting a more unusual record, for the longest gap — five years — between appearances. His frustrating wait shows just how tough it can be to emerge from a field of 11 million spellers in the U.S. and abroad.

Much has changed since Shaheer’s previous appearance in 2012. The bee added vocabulary to the written test, forcing spellers for the first time to learn the definitions of words, although the top spellers had been doing that for years. Then the secretive Scripps word team started struggling to dig out words tough enough to identify a single champion. The bee has ended in a tie for three consecutive years.

Last year, the bee made the championship rounds longer and the words tougher, but it still ended with two spellers sharing the title. This year, the bee added a second written and vocabulary test that the remaining spellers will take before the prime time finals on Thursday. The results will be used only if necessary to break a tie. Not everyone is happy about the latest change.

“It might need a couple tweaks. I don’t think there should be vocabulary in it,” said Jairam Hathwar, last year’s co-champion.

Competitors were asked to spell 12 words and identify the definitions of 14 more on Tuesday. On Wednesday, all 291 spellers will spell two words on stage, and those who miss will be eliminated. Among those who survive, the written test will determine who advances to the final day of competition on Thursday.

‘OPEN’ SEASON IN PARIS



CRISTOPHE ENA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain’s Andy Murray is to smash the ball as he plays Russia’s Andrey Kuznetsov during their first round match the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium on Tuesday in Paris. Murray progressed safely to the second round, defeating Kuznetsov of Russia 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0. In all, of the 11 men from the United States who entered the main draw at Roland Garros, only John Isner and No. 25 Steve Johnson remain in the tournament. It’s the first time since 2011 that as few as two Americans got to the second round in Paris.

US touts success in interceptor test

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon scored an important success Tuesday in a test of its oft-criticized missile defense program, destroying a mock warhead over the Pacific Ocean with an interceptor that is key to protecting U.S. territory from a North Korean attack.

Vice Adm. Jim Syring, director of the Pentagon agency in charge of developing the missile defense system, called the test result “an incredible accomplishment” and a critical milestone for a program hampered by setbacks over the years.

“This system is vitally important to the defense of our homeland, and this test demonstrates that we have a capable, credible deterrent against a very real threat,” Syring said in a written statement announcing the test result.

Despite the success, the \$244 million test didn’t confirm that under wartime conditions the U.S. could intercept an intercontinental-range missile fired by North Korea. Pyongyang is understood to be moving closer to the capability of putting a nuclear warhead on such an ICBM and could develop decoys sophisticated enough to trick an interceptor into missing the real warhead.



LEN WOOD / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spectators watch an interceptor missile launch from an underground silo at Vandenberg Air Force Base on Harris Grade Road north of Lompoc, California.

Syring’s agency sounded a note of caution. “Initial indications are that the test met its primary objective, but program officials will continue to evaluate system performance

based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test,” his statement said.

Philip E. Coyle, a former head of the Pentagon’s test and evaluation office and a senior fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, said Tuesday’s outcome was a significant success for a test that was three years in preparation, but he noted that it was only the second success in the last five intercept attempts since 2010.

“In several ways, this test was a \$244 million-dollar baby step, a baby step that took three years,” Coyle said.

The most recent intercept test, in June 2014, was successful, but the longer track record is spotty. Since the system was declared ready for potential combat use in 2004, only four of nine intercept attempts have been successful.

“This is part of a continuous learning curve,” said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, ahead of Tuesday’s test. The Pentagon is still incorporating engineering upgrades to its missile interceptor, which has yet to be fully tested in realistic conditions.

North Korea says its nuclear and missile programs are a defense against perceived

■ NORTH KOREA, Page 2

White House communications director announces resignation

BY JILL COLVIN AND CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top communications aide to President Donald Trump is exiting the White House as the embattled president considers a broader shakeup amid rising anxiety over investigations into his campaign’s contacts with Russia.

Fresh off Trump’s first official trip abroad, White House communications director Michael Dubke announced his resigna-

tion Tuesday in what many inside and outside the White House see as the first shoe to drop. A wider overhaul is expected, aimed at more aggressively responding to allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and revelations of possible ties between Trump’s campaign and Moscow.

Dubke said in a statement it had been an honor to serve Trump and “my distinct pleasure to work side by side, day by day with the staff of the communica-

tions and press departments.”

However, Trump has privately and publicly pinned much of the blame for his administration’s woes on the communications effort.

“In terms of messaging, I would give myself a C or a C plus,” Trump said in an interview on Fox News Channel early in his term. “In terms of achievement, I think I’d give myself an A. Because I think I’ve done great things, but I don’t think I have —

I and my people — I don’t think we’ve explained it well enough to the American public.”

Trump has long believed that he is his most effective spokesperson and has groused about supporters and aides not defending him vigorously enough. At the same time, he often undermines his staffers, contradicting their public statements and derailing their efforts to stay on topic with inflammatory tweets.

White House spokesman Sean

Spicer pushed back Tuesday on the idea that a broader reorganization was imminent, but he acknowledged the president is frustrated with news stories “that are absolutely false, that are not based in fact. That is troubling.”

Spicer said he thinks the president “is very pleased with his team,” but he added, “Ultimately the best messenger is the president himself. He’s always proven that.”

■ TRUMP, Page 2

Amazon tops online market again

Company continues to dominate e-commerce

BY SPENCER SOPER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amazon.com Inc.'s shares topped \$1,000 for the first time, marking a new milestone for a company wooing investors by dominating online commerce and cloud computing, two industries expected to keep growing as shopping habits change and businesses rethink technology.

Amazon shares hit \$1,001.20 in New York Tuesday, up about 40 percent from a year ago and more than double the 15 percent gain of the S&P 500 Index in the same period. Investors are thinking about how much further Amazon can grow as it tries to replicate its U.S. success abroad.

The shares will likely push even higher since Amazon is growing so quickly in massive global industries that show no signs of slowing, said John Blackledge, analyst at Cowen and Company LLC, who

recently upped his Amazon price target to \$1,125 a share.

"The markets Amazon is playing in with global retail and cloud computing are just massive," he said.

The Seattle company's \$478 billion market value is double that of Walmart Stores Inc. even though the world's biggest retailer will have sales three times larger than Amazon's this year. Investors put more value in Amazon's web traffic and delivery network than they do in Wal-Mart's vast store presence because online spending will grow more than four times faster than overall retail spending this year as shoppers continue to shift from stores

to websites, according to EMarketer Inc.

The world's largest online retailer is dominating e-commerce with its \$99-a-year Amazon Prime subscription, which includes delivery discounts, music and video streaming and photo storage that keep shoppers engaged with the website. Seattle-based

Amazon had 80 million Prime subscribers in the U.S. as of March 31, an increase of 38 percent from a year earlier, according to Consumer Intelligence Research Partners. Prime memberships help lock in loyalty, which is critical as competitors such as Walmart enhance their e-commerce offerings

to slow Amazon's momentum.

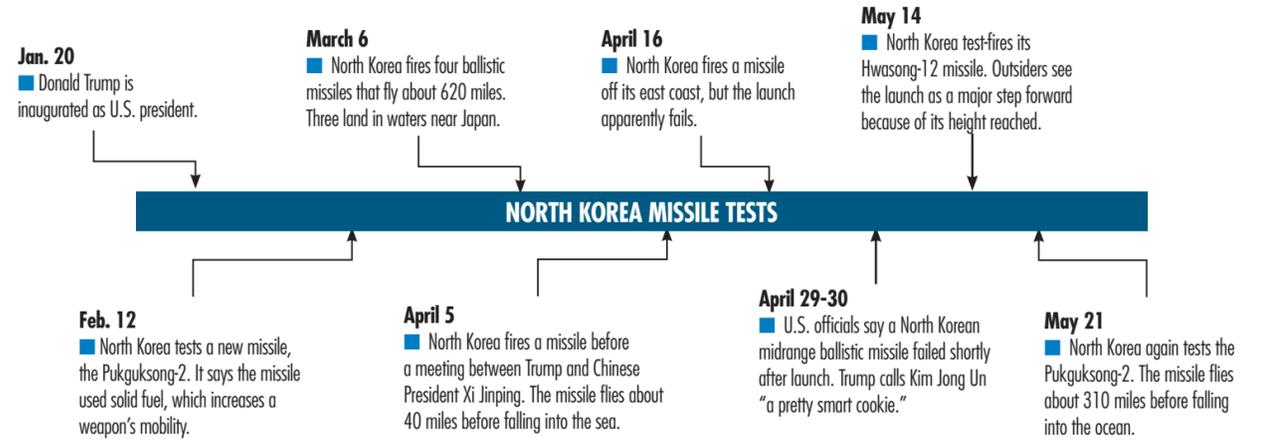
Amazon has been tackling retail one category at a time, disrupting bookstores and more recently pushing into apparel and groceries. Its rise has coincided with the decline of retail chains such as Macy's Inc. and Sears Holdings Corp., which have shuttered stores and laid off workers in response to declining sales.

Amazon's rise has made its founding CEO Jeff Bezos the world's second wealthiest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. His ascendancy has won praise from fellow self-made billionaire Mark Cuban.

"Consumers always want things at lower prices delivered faster," said Cuban, an Amazon investor. "Amazon uses data better than anyone to achieve those goals for everything it sells. They have a chance to be the most dominant company in the world."

"Amazon uses data better than anyone to achieve those goals for everything it sells. They have a chance to be the most dominant company in the world."

MARK CUBAN
BILLIONAIRE AND AMAZON INVESTOR



North Korea using solid fuel in rockets

Continued from Page 1

U.S. military threats. Its accelerating missile development has complicated Pentagon calculations, most recently by incorporating solid-fuel technology into its rockets. The step would mean even less launch warning time for the United States. Liquid fuel is less stable and rockets using it have to be fueled in the field, a process that takes longer and can be detected by satellites.

Underscoring its uninterrupted efforts, North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile on Monday that landed in Japan's maritime economic zone.

In Tuesday's U.S. test, the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency launched an interceptor rocket from an underground silo at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The target was an intercontinental-range missile fired from a test range on Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific.

According to the plan, a 5-foot-long "kill vehicle" released from atop the interceptor zeroed in on the ICBM-like target's mock warhead outside Earth's atmosphere and obliterated it by sheer force of impact, the Pentagon said. The "kill vehicle" carries no explosives in testing or in actual combat.

The target was a custom-made missile simulating an ICBM, meaning it flew faster than missiles used in previous intercept tests, according to Christopher Johnson, the Missile Defense Agency's spokesman. It was not a mock-up of an actual North Korean ICBM.



This image made from video of an undated still image broadcasted in a news bulletin on Tuesday by North Korea's KRT shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and a missile launcher in North Korea. State television aired video of Kim apparently giving field guidance.

With congressional support, the Pentagon is increasing the number of deployed interceptors to 44 from 36, by the end of this year.

Laura Grego, senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, which has criticized the missile defense program, called the inter-

ceptor an "advanced prototype," meaning it is not fully matured technologically even if it has been deployed and theoretically available for combat since 2004. A successful test Tuesday, she said, could demonstrate the Pentagon is on the right track with its latest technical fixes.



White House communications director Michael Dubke walks out of the West Wing of the White House in Washington on Tuesday. Dubke has resigned as communication director, but his last day has not yet been determined.

White House communications director resigns

Continued from Page 1

Rumors of impending shake-ups have come and gone in the Trump White House before. But numerous people close to the president and his team are expecting further changes this time amid the ongoing probe.

For example, Trump has entertained bringing his former campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and former deputy campaign manager, David Bossie, more formally back into the fold.

Both Lewandowski and Bossie visited the White House on Monday night, according to two people familiar with the meeting, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bossie told "Fox & Friends" that

the administration has reached out but hasn't offered him a job.

"They have talked to many people, including me," Bossie said.

Another person whose name has been raised as a possible addition to the president's team is David Urban, a prominent Republican lobbyist.

While overseas, Trump's longtime lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, joined a still-forming legal team to help the president shoulder the intensifying investigations into Russian interference in the election and Trump associates' potential involvement.

More attorneys with deep experience in Washington investigations are expected to be added.

Sanctuary cities spark tension

Continued from Page 1

publican state Rep. Jeff Leach said.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who signed the "sanctuary ban" known as SB4 this month, has stayed quiet over the skirmish and a spokesman did not return messages Tuesday. Nevarez said he wanted Abbott to publicly say that Rinaldi calling immigration authorities was wrong.

A Democrat hasn't won a statewide office since 1994 — the nation's longest such political losing streak — frustrating a party that has seen the state's Hispanic population boom but hasn't had electoral fortunes change. About 43 percent of Texas residents are white, while whites make up the majority of legislators.

The tensions flared at the end of the divisive session in Texas in which race was invoked in debates over immigration, voting rights, border security and policing. Among the bills sent to Abbott's desk are changes to a voter ID law that a federal judge has ruled was intentionally discriminatory. Another was the "Sandra Bland Act," named for a black woman who died in a Texas jail in 2015 following a confrontational traffic stop with a white state trooper. Bland's family was disappointed after police accountability measures were removed.

Democrat state Rep. Helen Giddings, who was first elected in 1992 and heads Texas' black legislative caucus, blamed politics, not race, for the tone of the session.

"In my years in the Texas House I have never seen the kind of disrespect, intolerance, incivility that we are seeing in the Texas Legislature," Giddings said. "Intolerable, became acceptable. Behavior we had never thought of as acceptable became acceptable."

National Guardsman killed, 3 injured in California training

FORT IRWIN, California — One Mississippi National Guard member was killed and three others were injured when their tank rolled over during a training exercise in the California desert.

Investigators were trying to determine what caused the death and injuries Monday night at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, a remote facility in the High Mojave Desert between San Bernardino and Las Vegas.

A military helicopter flew the three injured soldiers to a hospital in Loma Linda. Two have been released, and one was in stable condition Tuesday. The names of all four are being withheld until 24 hours after their families are notified.

The members of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, based in Tupelo, Mississippi, were participating in a two-week training exercise, which focused this week on maneuvering tanks, said Kenneth Drylie, spokesman for the center.

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INTERNATIONAL

Coldplay, Bieber to join Manchester charity concert

NEW YORK — Justin Bieber, Coldplay and Katy Perry will join Ariana Grande at a charity concert in Manchester, England, on Sunday.

Grande announced Tuesday that the "One Love Manchester" show will be held at the city's Old Trafford cricket ground just under two weeks after a bomber killed 22 people at the pop singer's concert in Manchester.

Other performers will include Pharrell Williams, Miley Cyrus, Usher and Niall Horan. Proceeds will go to an emergency fund set up by the city of Manchester and the British Red Cross.

Tickets go on sale Thursday.

"Our response to this violence must be to come closer together, to help each other, to love more, to sing louder and to live more kindly and generously than we did before," Grande said in a statement.

Retrieval of Everest bodies dangerous for dimbers

KATHMANDU, Nepal — A Indian man wept as a helicopter landed in Kathmandu carrying the body of his brother, one of hundreds of climbers who have died while climbing Mount Everest.

The body had been left on the mountain for a year until last week, when a team of Sherpa climbers managed to recover it along with two others. But the high-risk expedition, financed with about \$92,000 from the Indian state of West Bengal, has sparked heated debate in the mountaineering community about the morality of risking more lives to retrieve bodies from one of the most unforgiving places on Earth.

Asking others to carry down the bodies, which are heavy because they are frozen and covered in ice, puts more people in danger, they said.

About 300 climbers have died since Everest was first conquered in 1953, and at least 100, maybe 200, corpses remain on the mountain. Most are hidden in deep crevasses or covered by snow and ice, but some are visible and have become macabre landmarks, earning nicknames for their plastic climbing boots, colorful parkas or final resting poses.

It is often Sherpas who are hired for retrieval expeditions. Climbers from the ethnic group have lived for centuries around Everest and rely on the pay they can earn during the three-month climbing season to carry their families through the year.

Gentiloni backs Merkel: Europe must claim future

MILAN — Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni says he shares German Chancellor Angela Merkel's sentiment that Europeans must take their future into their own hands.

During a press conference Tuesday with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Gentiloni affirmed the importance of ties with the United States, but said: "We have fundamentally different goals which we cannot renounce, such as climate."

Gentiloni was responding to a question about German Chancellor Angela Merkel's weekend remark that "we Europeans must really take our destiny in our own hands."

The comments underline the shift in the relationship between the United States and Europe following a NATO meeting in Brussels and Group of Seven summit in Sicily with President Donald Trump.

UN refugee agency cites 5 for fraud at Kenya camp

GENEVA — The U.N. refugee agency says it has turned to Kenyan police for possible criminal prosecution of three staffers for allegedly carrying out threats, intimidation and fraud against refugees and other personnel at a camp in Northwest Kenya.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Babar Baloch says the move follows an internal investigation launched after allegations of wrongdoing involving those three and two more staffers at the Kakuma refugee camp emerged between April 2016 and January 2017.

Baloch said staff members allegedly sought payments of \$500 to \$2,500 from refugees for various services that should be free, threatened other workers and intimidated camp occupants.

As the allegations emerged, UNHCR said Tuesday it suspended normal resettlements from Kakuma, a 25-year-old camp now housing 172,000 refugees, mostly from South Sudan.

Goldman criticized for buying Venezuela bonds

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela opposition leaders are decrying Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s purchase of bonds from the socialist government of President Nicolas Maduro, who has been targeted by almost two months of protests.

The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday that the bank bought \$2.8 billion in bonds from the state-run oil company PDVSA at a steeply discounted price — paying \$865 million, or roughly 31 cents on the dollar — according to unidentified sources.

Opposition leaders accused the bank of getting in bed with a deeply unpopular administration. Julio Borges, president of the opposition-led Congress, said Goldman Sachs is propping up a dictatorship and argued that the bond purchase violated the bank's own code of conduct.

In a statement, Goldman Sachs acknowledged its purchase, but said the bonds were bought in the secondary market and not directly from the Venezuelan government.

About 20 people gathered outside the Goldman Sachs headquarters in Manhattan on Tuesday to protest the bank's investment in PDVSA bonds, carrying signs that read "Goldman Sachs supports Maduro's dictatorship."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baghdad bombings kill dozens

IS suspected after Iraq attacks

BY MURTADA FARAJ AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two attacks by the Islamic State group, one a massive bombing outside a popular ice cream parlor in central Baghdad and the other a car bomb in a different downtown, killed at least 31 people Tuesday, Iraqi officials said.

Later in the day, bombings in and around the Iraqi capital killed seven more people.

The attacks come as IS militants are steadily losing territory to U.S.-backed Iraqi forces in the battle for Mosul, the country's second-largest city. The Sunni extremists are increasingly turning to insurgency-style terror attacks to distract from their losses.

The nighttime attack outside the ice cream parlor in the bustling Karrada neighborhood killed 17 people and wounded 32, police and health officials said.

A closed-circuit camera captured a video of the explosion, showing cars driving down a busy downtown avenue when the blast strikes. A huge fireball engulfs a building, causing cars to scramble to get away. Other videos of the attack posted on social media show wounded and bloodied people crying for help on the sidewalk



KARIM KADIM / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civilians inspect the site of a deadly bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday. Two attacks in the city killed 31, officials say.

outside the ice cream parlor.

In the second attack, a car bomb went off during rush hour near the state-run Public Pension Office in Baghdad's busy Shawaka area, killing 14 and injuring at least 37, a police officer said.

In separate online statements, IS claimed responsibility for the two attacks, saying its suicide bombers targeted gatherings of Shiites. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the statements but they were posted on a militant website commonly used by extremists.

Later Tuesday, seven people

died and 19 were wounded in four separate bombings in and around Baghdad, officials said. The attacks targeted commercial areas and a patrol of Sunni anti-IS tribal fighters. No group immediately claimed those attacks.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The attacks came just days into the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims fast during daylight hours. After sundown, families break their fast, and Baghdad's restaurants and cafes quickly fill up with people staying long into

the night.

During Ramadan last year, another section of Karrada was hit by a massive suicide bombing that killed almost 300 people, the deadliest single attack in the Iraqi capital in 13 years of war. IS also claimed that attack.

Iraqi troops are pushing IS fighters out of their last strongholds in Mosul. Iraqi commanders say the offensive, which recently entered its eighth month, will mark the end of the IS caliphate in Iraq, but concede the group will likely increase insurgent attacks in the wake of defeats.

Treating dementia with nostalgia

BY KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
Associated Press

BERLIN — Every weekday morning, white-haired women patiently line up before a door at a Dresden retirement home, step in, and quickly step back nearly six decades into their past in Communist East Germany.

Most of the women, in their late 70s or older, are suffering from severe dementia, but the reminders of the past trigger memories and skills once thought lost, and produce surprising levels of happiness and comfort.

They park their walkers next to a Kaufhalle sign from the former East German grocery chain, put on their colorfully patterned nylon aprons and start the day just like they did some 50 years ago. They prepare a popular Hungarian salad of their youth and wash dishes in an original 1960s sink.

It's hard to imagine that many were, not so long ago, bedridden and unable to eat or use the bathroom on their own, said Gunter Wolfram, the director of the Alexa home in the former East German city of Dresden.

"From the first day on, this room has been a big success story," Wolfram said. "The people are very happy to recognize things from the old times. They immediately feel comfortable."

The 49-year-old, who grew up in East Germany himself, said it was sheer coincidence that he found out that Communist kitsch and other memorabilia brought comfort to some of his 130 residents.

The revelation came two years ago when he decided to decorate the home's movie theater with a vintage flashy Troll scooter that was once very popular in East Germany.

"Instead of paying attention to the movie, these people got so excited about the motorcycle. They could all of a sudden remember how to start the ignition, and chatted with bright eyes about outings to the Baltic Sea on their own Trolls a long time ago. It was amazing," Wolfram said.

Inspired by this, he created an



JENS MEYER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A resident reads a magazine in the Alexa Seniors' Residence in Dresden, eastern Germany. The words read: "Good advice." The retirement home has recreated the Communist era of the former German Democratic Republic in two living rooms to help residents with Alzheimer's and dementia.

entire room in 1960s East German style.

The home's residents were so eager to spend time in a place that felt like home they started coming in droves.

Soon Wolfram added a second room, this one designed in East German 1970s style, including psychedelic-patterned curtains and a bright-orange rotary dial phone.

After World War II, the Communist East frowned upon materialism and consumer goods were scarce. Since few brands were sold in the country's Kaufhalle supermarkets, they have very high recognition value among former East Germans.

Herlind Megges, a gerontologist from Berlin's Charite university hospital who is not involved in the Alexa home project, said, "Memory therapy is often used because it activates exactly what's still there and still working well."

Objects from earlier phases of a patient's life that are connected to comfortable feelings can lead to physical and cognitive improvement, Megges said.

"The people are very happy to recognize things from the old times. They immediately feel comfortable."

GUNTER WOLFRAM

Often patients can still retrieve memories from their childhood and early adulthood even when their short-term memory fails.

"We're treating the symptoms, we currently cannot treat the causes of the disease," Megges said.

For Gerda Noack, a 92-year-old retired hat maker born and raised in Dresden, the room has been a blessing.

Noack used to roam the hallways of the home all day, says Wolfram. She was restless and frustrated, always looking for something she thought she had lost, until she started visiting the yesteryear room.

While standing in the room's kitchen last week, she cleaned up dishes with an expression of contentment.

Asked if she was happy, she nodded cheerfully, waiting for the nurses to dish up the Hungarian salad she helped to prepare.

"It's almost become like a job for them, where they spend the entire week here with a whole new sense of purpose," said Wolfram.

Former Panamanian dictator dies at 83

BY JUAN ZAMORANO AND KATHIA MARTINEZ
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY — Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, a onetime U.S. ally who was ousted by an American invasion in 1989, died late Monday at age 83.

Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela wrote in his Twitter account that "the death of Manuel A. Noriega closes a chapter in our history."

Varela added, "His daughters and his relatives deserve to mourn in peace."

Noriega ruled with an iron fist, ordering the deaths of those who opposed him and maintaining a murky, close and conflictive relationship with the United States.



Noriega

After his downfall, Noriega served a 17-year drug sentence in the United States, then was sent to face charges in France. He spent all but the last few months of his final years in a Panamanian prison for murder of political opponents during his 1983-89 regime.

He accused Washington of a conspiracy to keep him behind bars and attributed his legal troubles to his refusal to cooperate with a U.S. plan to topple Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government in the 1980s.

Ezra Angel, a lawyer for Noriega, said Tuesday there was no official word on what caused his death.

"We are asking for the family to be given space to say goodbye to their father in peace and tranquility," Angel told The Associated Press.

In recent years Noriega suffered various ailments including high blood pressure and bronchitis.

In 2016, doctors detected the rapid growth of a benign brain tumor that had first been spotted four years earlier, and in January a court granted him house arrest to prepare for surgery on the tumor.

He is survived by his wife, Felicidad, and daughters Lorena, Thays and Sandra.

Following Noriega's ouster, Panama underwent huge changes, taking over the Panama Canal from U.S. control in 1999, vastly expanding the waterway and enjoying a boom in tourism and real estate.

Today the Central American nation has little in common with the bombed-out neighborhoods where Noriega hid during the 1989 invasion, before being famously smoked out of his refuge at the Vatican Embassy by incessant, loud rock music blared by U.S. troops.

Known mockingly as "Pineapple Face" for his pockmarked complexion, Manuel Antonio Noriega was born poor in Panama City on Feb. 11, 1934.

TRANSGENDER STUDENT EARNS COURT WIN



TRANSGENDER LAW CENTER VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ashton Whitaker, right, hugs his mother, Melissa, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. A federal appeals court says Ashton, a transgender senior student who identifies as a male, should be able to use the boys' bathroom at Kenosha's Tremper High School.

Police shootings spark debate

Officer in Tamir Rice killing fired for unrelated reason

DAKE KANG
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The police officer who shot and killed Tamir Rice was fired Tuesday for failing to disclose that he had been forced out of another department before Cleveland hired him.

Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams announced the discipline against officers Timothy Loehmann, who shot the boy, and Frank Garmback, who was driving the cruiser. Garmback was suspended for driving too close to the 12-year-old seconds before the boy was killed.

Tamir, who was black, was shot outside a recreation center in November 2014 as he held a pellet gun that the officers, who are white, mistook for a real firearm. The killing became part of a national outcry about police violence against black boys and men. The officers weren't charged criminally, but Tamir's mother settled a federal civil rights lawsuit with the city for \$6 million.

Loehmann was fired because the department concluded he wasn't truthful on his job application, failing to reveal that a suburban department had allowed him to resign instead of being fired at the end of a six-month probationary period. An evaluation in the suburban department's file said Loehmann had a "dismal" handgun performance, broke down in tears at the gun range and was emotionally immature.

Garmback was suspended for 10 days for violating a tactical rule for his driving that day, with a disciplinary letter saying he drove too close to Tamir. Video of the shooting shows the patrol car skidding to a stop just feet from the boy.

The officers' union said it was challenging the discipline, while Tamir's mother said both officers should have been fired.

The two officers had gone to the center after a man called 911 to report a "guy" was pointing a gun. He told the dispatcher that the person could be a juvenile and the gun might be a "fake," information that wasn't conveyed to the officers. Loehmann shot

Tamir within two seconds after the police cruiser stopped near the boy.

A county prosecutor announced in December 2015 that Loehmann and Garmback wouldn't be indicted. Then Williams ordered a committee to determine if the officers violated department rules.



JOSE LUIS MAGANA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tomiko Shine holds a sign with a photo of Tamir Rice while protesting a grand jury's decision not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in 2014 after the shooting death of Michael Brown. Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams announced Tuesday, that Timothy Loehmann, the police officer who shot and killed the 12-year-old boy, has been fired for inaccuracies on his job application.

have been a police officer," she said. But she said Garmback also should have been fired for driving so close to her son.

She and her attorney, Subodh Chandra, said Cleveland city agencies suffered from systematic problems and that they hope a Department of Justice investigation will lead to rare federal civil rights charges.

"Shame on the city of Cleveland for taking so long to deal with the situation," Rice said. "We still need accountability."

Two officers were disciplined in 2015 for failing to thoroughly check Loehmann's personnel file before he was hired.

Williams said the department now makes sure to read through all applicants' personnel files and employment history.

Earlier this year, the 911 operator who took the call about Tamir was suspended for eight days for failing to tell the radio dispatcher the caller had said Tamir could be a juvenile and the gun might be fake. Garmback could be back on patrol after his suspension. Cleveland police spokesperson Jennifer Ciacia said he would first have to go through a reintegration program.

"There's a 12-year-old kid, dead. People on both sides are going to say, 'It wasn't enough, it was too much,'" Williams said.

Stephen Loomis, president of the Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association, called the discipline "unjustified" and said the union filed grievances minutes after they were announced.

Loomis called Loehmann's firing a "joke," saying that officers haven't been fired in the past over job applications.

Tamir's mother, Samaria Rice, said she was relieved Loehmann was fired. "He should never

have been a police officer," she said. But she said Garmback also should have been fired for driving so close to her son.

She and her attorney, Subodh Chandra, said Cleveland city agencies suffered from systematic problems and that they hope a Department of Justice investigation will lead to rare federal civil rights charges.

"Shame on the city of Cleveland for taking so long to deal with the situation," Rice said. "We still need accountability."

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SCOTUS sides with officers

SAM HANANEL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A unanimous Supreme Court on Tuesday sided with sheriff's deputies in a legal dispute stemming from 2010, when an innocent couple was shot while California deputies searched for a wanted man.

The justices overturned an award of \$4 million in damages to the couple and ordered a lower court to take another look at whether the deputies should be held liable for the shooting.

Deputies were searching for a parolee when they entered the backyard shack in Lancaster, north of Los Angeles.

Seeing an armed man, they fired shots that seriously wounded him and his pregnant girlfriend.

But the man wasn't the suspect they were searching for, and it turned out he was carrying a BB gun. A federal appeals court ruled that the deputies were liable because they provoked a violent confrontation by entering the shack without a warrant.

Justice Samuel Alito said such a "provocation rule" is not compatible with excessive force claims under the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures. If the officers were reasonable in using force to defend themselves, he said, a court should not go back in time to see whether the incident was provoked.

"We hold that the Fourth Amendment provides no basis for such a rule," Alito said.

Justice Neil Gorsuch did not take part in the case, which was argued before he joined the Supreme Court.

New Miami mall to become largest in US

CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

MIAMI — Call it retail-tainment. Just don't call American Dream Miami a mall.

Developers are proposing a massive 6 million-square-foot project on the edge of the Everglades in bustling South Florida that would dwarf any other shopping mall in North America, including Minnesota's Mall of America.

Miami-Dade County officials could vote this fall to approve it, despite some criticism that it will worsen the region's traffic problem and might produce mostly low-paying jobs. In general, malls across the U.S. have been in a slow decline as shoppers flock to the internet.

Don Ghermezian, president of developer Triple Five Worldwide Group of Edmonton, Canada, which also built Mall of America, said this is not your father's shopping mall. In addition to millions of square feet of retail, the project would include an indoor ski slope, a water park, a submarine ride attraction, a skating rink, 2,000 hotel rooms, theaters, a performing arts center and places to eat and drink.

The idea, Ghermezian said at a recent public hearing, is to give millions of residents and tourists in the Miami area a family-friend-

ly alternative to Orlando attractions such as Disney World and Universal.

"We are not mall developers. That's not what we're trying to build," he said. "A lot of it is 'retail-tainment.' What we're trying to create is an economic engine."

Triple Five predicts American Dream would draw 300,000 visitors a day and create about 14,500 permanent jobs. Politicians are lining up in support.

"World-class cities have world-class facilities," said Dennis Moss, a Miami-Dade County commissioner. "All of the great things that

we have going in this community, a huge disadvantage is we don't have a lot of family entertainment and amusement activities. This is a game-changer."

Local resident Stuart Bloomberg said at the recent hearing that Miami needs something just like that.

"I am tired of hearing everybody say there's nothing south of I-4," Bloomberg said of the interstate that runs through Orlando. "It's about time Miami-Dade participated."

South Florida's existing malls, including the region's top tourist attraction Sawgrass Mills, are watching nervously. They say they are not opposed to American Dream but would not favor public tax dollars going to subsidize it.

NATIONAL

Woods blames DUI on prescription drugs

Police found Tiger Woods asleep at the wheel on the side of a six-lane Florida road with his car's engine running and his right blinker flashing. His speech was slow and slurred, though there was no alcohol in his system.

In a statement Monday evening, Woods attributed his DUI arrest to an "unexpected reaction" to prescription medicine.

Woods had fusion surgery on his lower back, his fourth back surgery since 2014, on April 20 and told police he was taking several prescriptions. The affidavit listed four medications, including Vicodin, that Woods reported taking. The FDA warning for Vicodin says it "may impair the mental and/or physical abilities required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks such as driving a car or operating machinery; patients should be cautioned accordingly."

The report also said Woods changed his story about where he was coming from and where he was going. His car was parked in the opposite direction from his home.

"I didn't realize the mix of medications had affected me so strongly," Woods said in his statement. Woods is scheduled to be arraigned July 5 in Palm Beach County on the DUI charge.

Kansas lawmakers OK new abortion rule

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas legislators approved a new requirement for abortion providers Tuesday that calls for them to disclose doctors' histories to their patients and specifies that it be done on white paper in black, 12-point Times New Roman type.

The measure tightens the state's longstanding "Right to Know" law already requiring that 24 hours ahead of terminating a pregnancy, abortion providers give women the name of the doctor and information about the risks of the procedure and fetal development.

The new requirement for abortion providers is unusual for being so specific in state law, and supporters say it is justified because abortion is fundamentally different from other medical procedures.

"We need to give these women, who may be acting under coercion or ignorance, as much protection as possible," said Sen. Mary Pilscher-Cook, a conservative Shawnee Republican, one of the Legislature's most vocal abortion opponents.

But Sen. Lynn Rogers, a Wichita Democrat, described the measure as "simply harassment" of abortion providers. The Senate voted 25-15 in favor of the measure, and the House approved the bill last week.

US stock market hot streak comes to an end

A seven-day winning streak for stocks came to a quiet end Tuesday as banks, especially smaller ones, dropped along with bond yields and interest rates. Energy companies also sank. On Tuesday:

The Standard & Poor's 500 index sank 2.91 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,412.91. The Dow Jones industrial average gave up 50.81 points, or 0.2 percent, to 21,029.47. The Nasdaq composite slid 7 points, or 0.1 percent, to 6,203.19. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks skidded 11.05 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,371.19.

For the year: The S&P 500 is up 174.08 points, or 7.8 percent. The Dow is up 1,266.87 points, or 6.4 percent. The Nasdaq is up 820.07 points, or 15.2 percent. The Russell 2000 is up 14.06 points, or 1 percent.

3 Mile Island owner might close ill-fated plant

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Three Mile Island's owner, Exelon Corp., announced Tuesday that the plant that was the site of a partial meltdown in 1979 will close in 2019 unless the state of Pennsylvania comes to its financial rescue.

Nuclear power plants around the U.S. have been struggling in recent years to compete with generating stations that burn natural gas to produce electricity.

The Chicago-based energy company's announcement came after what it called more than five years of losses.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has made no commitment to a bailout. In a statement Tuesday, Wolf said he is concerned about layoffs at Three Mile Island. Exelon employs 675 people at the plant.

In December, Illinois approved \$235 million a year for Exelon to prop up nuclear plants in the Quad Cities and Clinton, six months after the company threatened to shut them down.

Closing Three Mile Island would have little or no effect on electricity bills, analysts say. But the power may be replaced by electricity generated by carbon-emitting fuels such as coal or gas.

'Pink slime' defamation trial to start in SD

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — Jury selection is set to start in a defamation case over ABC news reports on a South Dakota meat producer's lean, finely textured beef product, which critics have dubbed "pink slime."

Dakota Dunes-based Beef Products Inc. sued the television network in 2012. It said ABC's coverage that year led to plant closures and hundreds of layoffs by misleading consumers into believing the product is unsafe. ABC and correspondent Jim Avila are defendants.

ABC argues that the network accurately presented views and information from knowledgeable sources on a matter of public interest. The actual damages BPI is seeking could be as high as \$1.9 billion, though ABC has disputed that figure.

Jury selection starts Wednesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST

Police officer forced off road, aided by passers-by

DALLAS — Dallas police are praising a group of people who helped a critically injured officer by scrambling down into a creek bed to stabilize the officer's patrol car after it was forced off the road by another vehicle.

At least 10 people went into the creek bed Monday after the car landed on its roof. Video posted to social media shows they pushed the car onto its side in an effort to free Senior Cpl. Dale Ordogne.

The heavily damaged car was then pushed onto its wheels, and Ordogne was pulled free. He was listed in stable condition.

Ordogne was responding to a call when a stolen pickup crossed an intersection and struck his patrol car, forcing it about 25 feet down into the creek. The suspects in the pickup fled.

Texas Girl Scouts rescued after stranded by storm

NATCHITOCHES, La. — Some Girl Scouts from Texas received help after becoming stranded by a thunderstorm while kayaking in Louisiana.

Multiple news outlets report that the troop is from Dallas.

Six girls and three adults set out Sunday evening from a boat launch in west central Louisiana. They were headed to a campground, but because of the storm, they retreated to the banks of Saline Bayou and used their kayaks for shelter.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries said some of its agents worked with officers from the U.S. Forest Service and local law enforcement agencies to find the group. They were joined by a private citizen on an all-terrain vehicle.

After more than five hours, the group was found early Monday and was led to the campground, about a mile away.

Cowboys player suspected of DWI near party for him

DALLAS — Newly acquired Cowboys comeback Nolan Carroll has been arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated near a club that held a promotional event welcoming him to Dallas.

Dallas police say the 30-year-old Carroll was arrested early Monday after being stopped for a traffic violation. He was booked into the Dallas County jail and later posted bail.

The Dallas Morning News reports Carroll was arrested near a club in the Uptown neighborhood that hosted the promotion in his honor.

Carroll joined the Cowboys in March as a free agent from NFC East rival Philadelphia on a three-year, \$10 million deal.

The team issued a statement saying it's aware of his arrest and is "gathering information at this time."

Carroll is an eight-year NFL veteran who began his career in Miami.

Texas air base lockdown lifted, no danger revealed

SAN ANTONIO — Military officials say the lockdown of a U.S. Air Force base in Texas has been lifted after a preliminary search of a community center there did not reveal any danger.

Authorities at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland earlier Tuesday had warned of a "security incident" and directed personnel in some areas of the base to stay inside.

Base spokesman Oscar Balladares said security officers are continuing to search the area, and a post to the base's official Facebook page indicated the matter has been "resolved."

The lockdown appears to be the first to occur at the base since a shooting in April 2016, when a man killed his commanding officer before turning the gun on himself.

Purported Hendrix guitar withdrawn from auction

DALLAS — Heritage Auctions has halted the planned offering of a guitar purported to have been played by Jimi Hendrix at the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival amid concerns it's not that particular instrument.

Dallas-based Heritage on Tuesday announced the guitar, originally estimated to bring up to \$750,000, will no longer be up for sale on June 17.

A Heritage statement said auction house experts examined the instrument and cited concerns that it may not be the same guitar Hendrix played at the Monterey, California, event.

Heritage previously announced the Fender Stratocaster would be offered for sale in Beverly Hills, California, via a private collector from the United Kingdom.

Former 'Bachelorette' contestant, 31, found dead

AUSTIN — A former contestant on "The Bachelorette" has died after police found him unresponsive at a South Austin residence.

An Austin Police Department spokeswoman said officers were sent to the residence at 2:10 a.m. Monday in reference to a reported unresponsive man and found 31-year-old Michael Nance unresponsive. He was pronounced dead shortly before 3 a.m.

Spokeswoman Anna Sabana said the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office will have to determine what caused Nance's death, but investigators do not consider the death suspicious.

Nance was a contestant in the eighth season of "The Bachelorette" in 2012 but was eliminated in the fourth of the season's 10 weeks.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas foster care puts children at risk

Audit says welfare cases failed to meet state, federal regulations

BY PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A federal audit released Tuesday heaped more criticism onto Texas' troubled child welfare system and warned of foster kids potentially put in jeopardy over missed deadlines during abuse and neglect investigations.

The report was published a day after the Texas Legislature ended a session in which lawmakers approved an extra \$500 million for a beleaguered system that a federal judge called unconstitutional and has worsened despite major shake-ups.

The findings by the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are far from the scathing newspaper investigations or a ruling by U.S. District Judge Janis Graham Jack in December 2015 that ordered an independent overhaul of Texas' foster care agency.

But the 18-page report still points to bureaucratic lapses that could put children in danger.

The federal audit said 46 of 100 Texas child welfare cases reviewed by federal auditors did not comply with federal and state requirements, including investigators not discussing findings with

supervisors in a timely manner.

Those failures "undermines the State agency's internal controls for providing oversight of the investigation and could place foster care children at risk," the report read.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Commissioner Hank Whitman called the title of the audit "inflammatory" and sensationalized.

Whitman defended the thoroughness of his agency's investigations.

The audit said Texas didn't always ensure that allegations of abuse and neglect were investi-

gated in accordance with state and federal statutes.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott had declared additional child welfare spending and reforms a priority for the Texas Legislature.

State data last year showed the state was failing to check on thousands of children who are at the highest risk of abuse or neglect.

More recently, the number of Texas foster children staying in agency offices or alternate sites because of lack of placement more than doubled from February to March, according to state figures.



MICHAEL CIAGLO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lalo Ojeda holds a photo he took of the seawall after Hurricane Ike in Galveston, Texas. Ojeda is watching the Atlantic hurricane season that begins Thursday with more concern than usual.

Heightened sea levels provoke Gulf flooding

BY HARVEY RICE
Houston Chronicle

GALVESTON — Lalo Ojeda has lived with hurricanes all his life.

The Houston Chronicle reports he was 14 when Hurricane Carla inundated Galveston Island in 1961. He evacuated as Hurricane Rita barreled toward the coast in 2005, then rode out the devastating Hurricane Ike in his Galveston home in 2008.

But Ojeda is watching the Atlantic hurricane season that begins Thursday with more concern than usual. The retired Coast Guard employee said he worries rising sea levels could make the next hurricane more destructive than those he's lived through.

"That's really scary to me," the 70-year-old said.

A study released in May shows rising sea levels threaten to make storm surges more dangerous, seemingly reinforcing Texas officials' push for federal funding for a storm-surge barrier, or Ike Dike, to protect Galveston.

Scientific studies have established an acceleration in sea-level rise because of a warming atmosphere. Coal and oil burning and the destruction of tropical forests have increased heat-trapping gases that have warmed the planet by 1.8 degrees since 1880. Earth has been losing 13,500 square miles of ice annually since 1979, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Sea levels are generally rising faster along the Texas Gulf Coast and the western Gulf than the average globally, according to a January study by NOAA.

"The western Gulf is experiencing some of the highest rates of relative levels of sea-level rise in the country," said William Sweet, NOAA oceanographer and lead author of the study. "The ocean is not rising like water would in a bathtub."

Sea-level rise is making storm surges larger, said John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas state climatolo-

gist at Texas A&M University in College Station.

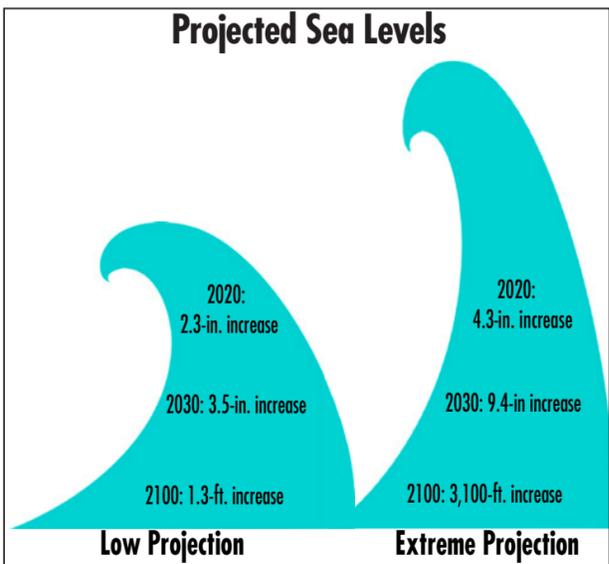
By 2100, sea level is expected to rise between 1.3 feet and 31 feet, the NOAA study predicts; Galveston Island and most of the Texas coast would be swallowed up under the latter scenario.

Sweet said the lower levels were more likely but added, "We ultimately don't know how much heating will occur."

The effects will be felt as far away as Austin, according to a recently released study by Mathew E. Hauer, who heads the Institute of Government's applied demography program at the University of Georgia. Hauer's study found that sea-level rise would force thousands from their homes along the Texas Gulf Coast as well as coastal areas nationwide. The study estimates Houston and Austin each would absorb 250,000 refugees from sea-level rise by 2100. The hardest hit would be Galveston County, where Hauer estimates 124,000 people could be forced from their homes. Rising water would force about 108,000 from their homes in Jefferson County, 42,000 in Brazoria County and 30,000 in Harris County, Hauer said.

Apart from sea-level rise, climate change is expected to cause hurricanes to be more intense and produce more rain, according to NOAA. The number of hurricanes each season would likely remain the same or decrease, the overview determined. NOAA is predicting 11 to 17 named storms this season, which runs from Thursday to Nov. 30.

Funding for efforts to slow or halt sea-level rise was slashed in a recently released President Donald Trump administration budget. Texas officials have asked Trump to put a proposed \$15 billion storm-surge barrier on his list of infrastructure improvements, but there is no guarantee Congress will fund the the barrier system.



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ASSOCIATION STUDY

State legislative session leaves issues unresolved

BY PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A raucous end to a divisive Texas legislative session erupted Monday when a large protest over a "sanctuary cities" crackdown provoked a heated scuffle between lawmakers on the House floor, including a Republican lawmaker saying he told a Democratic colleague he would "shoot him in self-defense."

The animus was a fitting finish to a combative 140-day session splintered by tensions over immigration, transgender rights and an escalating power grab within the Texas GOP between uncompromising social conservatives and Republican moderates.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signaled Monday he might quickly order lawmakers back to Austin for unfinished business instead of letting the Legislature adjourn until 2019 as scheduled. Abbott said he will announce a decision later this week.

These are the main issues to know as the Texas Legislature calls it quits for now:

Death of "bathroom bill"

Social conservatives who drive Texas politics fell short of placing North Carolina-style bathroom restrictions on transgender people. It was torpedoed by House Republicans, who heeded direct appeals from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Apple CEO Tim Cook and others from companies that panned the proposed law as discriminatory and bad for business.

Abbott went against other GOP governors nationwide in calling for a "bathroom bill." But it's unclear whether he will put it on lawmakers' to-do list if he hauls them back for a special session.

Racial tension

Republican state Rep. Matt Rinaldi acknowledged on Facebook that he called federal immigration agents on some demonstrators in the Capitol protesting a "sanctuary cities" ban, which lets police inquire about immigration status during routine stops.

Rinaldi alleged he was "physically assaulted" by Democrat Ramon Romero over making the phone call and said he told Democratic state Rep. Pancho Nevarez that he would defend himself with a gun after Nevarez allegedly threatened him.

Democrats say the so-called sanctuary ban and commitment to a voter ID law was part of a racial undercurrent that marred the session. Republicans said they never tried to intentionally discriminate, despite rulings by judges over Texas voting rights laws, and defended the "sanctuary city" crackdown as necessary to keep communities safe.

Lean budget follows oil slump

A new \$217 billion budget better funds Texas' beleaguered child welfare system but puts little new money into public schools and doesn't fully restore Medicaid therapy cuts for disabled children. Republicans say a prolonged energy slump demanded tough choices and they refused to raid \$11 billion that is in Texas' emergency coffer.

FLAMENCO FESTIVAL



RUSSELL CONTRERAS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flamenco performer Giovanna Hinojosa dances during a show at Tablao Flamenco in Albuquerque, N.M. An annual flamenco festival is celebrating its 30th anniversary in Albuquerque.

"When I was playing Wonder Woman (as a child), I was able to do incredible things and save the world."

PATTY JENKINS,
DIRECTOR OF "WONDER WOMAN"

WONDER WOMAN



Gal Gadot plays princess Diana, better known as Wonder Woman, in the 2017 release of the DC movie.

Gal Gadot brings superheroine to life in 'Wonder Woman.' The film, directed by Patty Jenkins, opens in theaters June 2.

BY SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

In a world of only women, no phallic structures exist. At least that's how Patty Jenkins imagined the island home of the Amazons and of their heroic princess Diana, who grows up to become Wonder Woman.

"Like columns? They didn't make that much sense to me," Jenkins said in a recent interview. "They felt like an imposition on landscape, which didn't feel like something that women are jonesing to do."

As the director of "Wonder Woman," Jenkins is creating new worlds for women both onscreen and off. Not only did she help dream up the look of the Amazon island and hire scores of actresses to serve as its resident warriors, but she's also the first woman to direct a major superhero movie, and her success could pave the way for others.

Wonder Woman inspired her as a child, and she described Lynda Carter's portrayal on TV as "the embodiment of everything that I wanted to be as a woman."

"When I was playing Wonder Woman, I was able to do incredible things and save the world," the 45-year-old filmmaker said.

That's the feeling she said she hopes to evoke with viewers of "Wonder Woman," in theaters Friday. Gal Gadot plays the title character, who discovers her superpowers and fights for justice alongside humans after following a charming spy (Chris Pine) to London during World War I.

The Israeli-born Gadot didn't grow up with Wonder Woman, but she said she was always on the lookout for powerful characters to play.

"Usually the women are the damsel in distress or the heartbroken woman or the sidekick, but in real life it's not the case. In real life, we bring life. We have babies. We have careers. We are so many other things," said Gadot, a 32-year-old married mother of two. "Wonder Woman symbolizes the magnificence of a woman and how amazing women are. And I think that it's an important movie not only for women and girls, but it's also great for boys and men. ... You can't empower women if you don't educate the men and you don't teach the boys, so as much as it's important for girls to be exposed and see this movie, it's important for boys to have a strong female figure that they can look up to."

Wonder Woman was created in 1941, yet this is her first solo feature film. Jenkins said she wanted to bring Wonder Woman to the big screen for more than a decade, but studios doubted the appeal of the lasso-wielding superheroine.

"I don't understand why somebody who has had zero big blockbuster

representation for 75 years still has 15 little girls a minute coming to my door dressed as her every Halloween, like how does that not equal dollar signs?" Jenkins said.

Connie Nielsen, who plays Diana's mother, Amazon queen Hippolyta, also didn't grow up with Wonder Woman, but had myriad other models of powerful women as a child in Denmark.

"The Denmark I grew up in was a Denmark in which women were, in fact, fully liberated and the whole world had been opened up to us," she said. "In the magazines in the early '80s, it was men who were photographed doing the vacuum cleaning in the ads for vacuum cleaners, and women were no longer posing on the Ford Mustang."

So Nielsen said she felt entitled to question why, on an island populated by only women, her character would wear high heels. She and Gadot, both statuesque, wear wedges in the film.

"I actually had that conversation several times, and Patty was adamant," Nielsen said. "She really felt like you stand a different way (in heels), and you do."

The costumes, including the wedges, had to be considered during the physical training, which included horseback riding, archery and swords(wo)manship. For Robin Wright, who was raised on the "Wonder Woman" TV show, training and shooting with the Amazons was the best part.

"I think it was a little daunting for the men because it was very unusual. I think there were like 120 Amazons," said Wright, who plays the warrior Antiope, Diana's aunt and teacher. "That's a different energy on the set, and great for us. We just felt like a team of women that had each other's backs."

She called Jenkins "the biggest cheerleader of them all."

With the film's arrival this week, Jenkins said she is thinking about what "Wonder Woman" might mean for a new generation of aspiring superheroes — and filmmakers.

"I am a filmmaker who wants to make successful films, of course. I want my film to be celebrated," she said. "But there's a whole other person in me who's sitting and watching what's happening right now who so hopes, not for me, that this movie defies expectation. Because I want to see the signal that that will send to the world."

CRITICS' RATINGS

IMDb 8.4/10
FRESH 96%

WONDER WOMAN THROUGHOUT THE YEARS



1942
Original "Wonder Woman" comic book debuts.



1973
"Super Friends"



1975
Lynda Carter and Hayden Rorke



2001
Justice League, Susan Eisenberg



2017
Gal Gadot