

USA TODAY 03.20.19



Mike Trout, Angels finalizing \$426.5M deal

At 27, seven-time All-Star and two-time MVP is set to land the largest contract in baseball history. In Sports

USA TODAY SPORTS

NEWSLINE

IN NEWS



JAKE CRANDALL/AP

Sen. Warren: Get rid of Electoral College

"My view is that every vote matters," the presidential contender declares

USC clamps down on students tied to scam

No registration, transcripts allowed during school's "case by case" review

IN MONEY

Facebook vows to end ad discrimination

Social giant will pay about \$5 million to settle suits, take steps to change

Will hire even with a criminal record

More businesses pledge to give those formerly incarcerated chance to work

IN SPORTS



SPURS MASCOT CATCHES A BAT BY AP

San Antonio driving opponents batty

Spurs on a win streak at home since Mexican free-tailed bats moved in

Filling out a bracket is 'very emotional'

Rocket scientist offers tips to get your March Madness off to good start

IN LIFE

Southwest goes to Hawaii in style

Lucky passengers treated to leis and hula dancing on inaugural flight



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USA SNAPSOTS® Year's final supermoon to occur on spring equinox. The moon will be about 224,000 miles from Earth, which is 14,000 miles closer than usual. 14% bigger and 30% brighter than an average full moon

SOURCE Farmers' Almanac, NASA FRANK POMPA, JANET LOEHRKE/USA TODAY

'ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES'

A vanished princess, and her final plea



A WhatsApp string shows one of the final messages Sheikha Latifa sent her lawyers before she disappeared. RADHA STIRLING AND DAVID HAIGH

Her life was 'disposable' in Dubai, so she planned a desperate escape

Kim Hjelmgard USA TODAY

"My name is Latifa bint al-Maktoum," the statement to the camera begins. "My father is the leader of Dubai. ... I am making this video because it could be the last one I make."

Less than a minute later in the video, uploaded to YouTube last March, 33-year-old Sheikha Latifa of Dubai's royal family, known informally as a princess, gives a further warning.

"If you are watching this, it's not such a good thing. Either I'm dead or I'm in a very, very, very bad situation," she says.

Since 1980, the United Nations has documented more than 55,000 cases in 107 countries of "enforced disappearances." Such cases typically mean a person is abducted or imprisoned by a state or political organization, which refuses to acknowledge the fate of that person or what the person supposedly did wrong.

Latifa is one of these "disappearances."

A legal case is pending. Her



Princess Latifa went skydiving in Dubai on May 12, 2013. TIINA JAUHAINEN

story has been corroborated by witnesses and friends as well as lawyers acting on her behalf. The United Nations and rights groups such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have backed Latifa's account.

USA TODAY reviewed emails, images, encrypted social media messages, ID certificates, satellite data and audio and video that sub-

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'The levees are busted'

Sodden Midwest battles rapidly rising rivers

John Bacon and Doyle Rice USA TODAY

Seventy-four cities, 65 counties and four tribal areas in Nebraska declared states of emergency Tuesday as swaths of the Midwest battled rivers swollen by days of heavy rains and spring snowmelt.

Three deaths have been blamed on the flooding in Nebraska. As of Tuesday afternoon, more than 7 million people in 14 states live where a flood warning was still in effect, the National Weather Service said.

In Nebraska alone, the farm and ranch losses because of floods could reach \$1 billion, the state's farm bureau said.

Vice President Mike Pence was scheduled to survey damage in the region Tuesday with Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts and Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds.

"Heading to Nebraska today to survey the devastating flood damage," Pence said in a tweet. "To the people of Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas & all regions impacted: we are with you!"

About 200 miles of levees were

See FLOODING, Page 2A



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Buttigieg isn't necessarily the LGBTQ candidate

Maureen Groppé USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - Luke Robbins couldn't hold back the tears when he introduced South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg as a featured speaker at the College Democrats of America's 2018 convention.

Robbins told the gathering that Buttigieg's 2015 public essay, "Why Coming out Matters," helped persuade him - a gay teen from a conservative Indiana family - to come out. It showed him that doing so wouldn't mean giving up his love of politics.

As Buttigieg explores a bid for the 2020 Democratic nomination for president, "it just makes me so happy," said Robbins, president of College Democrats of Indiana.

But Buttigieg isn't necessarily Robbins' top choice for the nomination. "I'm personally very feminist. I would love to see a female candidate," he

See BUTTIGIEG, Page 4A

# Princess

Continued from Page 1A

stantiate what happened to her.

Latifa planned her escape from Dubai's ruling family for seven years, running away from what she said was her father's oppressive and cruel treatment.

Dubai is a glitzy modern state in the United Arab Emirates. UAE law prioritizes men's legal rights when it comes to marriage, divorce and custody of children. It permits domestic violence. Latifa wasn't allowed to travel or study outside Dubai. A minder or male guardian trailed her everywhere.

In her video, Latifa says her father, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum - ruler of Dubai and prime minister and vice president of the UAE - portrays his emirate as enlightened and Western-friendly. But to her, life as a princess was one big sham.

She was not allowed to visit non-public places. Even the homes of her friends were off-limits.

She dreamed of studying medicine. That, too, was not permitted. "There's no justice here," she says in the video. "Especially if you're female, your life is so disposable."

## 'Your father told us to beat you'

In 2002, when she was 16, she tried to cross into neighboring Oman. She was caught, imprisoned, tortured and denied medical help, she says in the 40-minute video.

"One guy was holding me, and the other guy was beating me," she says. "They told me, 'Your father told us to beat you until we kill you.'"

A Dubai government media office did not reply to a request for comment. Neither did the UAE Embassy in Washington.

Dubai's leader has six wives and 30 children.

Latifa is the second of Sheikh Maktoum's daughters to disappear. Her older sister, Sheikhha Shamsa, 37, fled the Dubai royal family's British estate in 2000.

In the video, Latifa says her sister was drugged and smuggled back into Dubai by security officers working for her father.

A Scotland Yard detective tried to in-



Sheikha Latifa, left, is "troubled," says Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland, who had lunch with Latifa on Dec. 24. AFP/Getty Images

**"I don't know how, how I'll feel, just waking up in the morning and thinking: I can do whatever I want today."**

Sheikha Latifa, on video discussing her hopes to find asylum in the USA

investigate. The case hit a dead end. Shamsa has not been seen or heard from in public since.

The YouTube video was intended to be Latifa's insurance policy. She did not want to end up like Shamsa.

The last time she saw Shamsa in Dubai, Latifa says in the video, "she wouldn't open her eyes. I don't know why. They would make her eat, then give her a bunch of pills to control her, basically. The pills made her like a zombie."

There has been no official comment from Dubai authorities about Shamsa, and authorities did not respond to USA TODAY's inquiries about her.

Latifa hoped to obtain political asylum in the USA.

"I don't know how, how I'll feel, just

waking up in the morning and thinking: I can do whatever I want today," she says in the video, which was recorded in the Dubai apartment of Tiina Jauhiainen, 42, a Finnish-born capoeira instructor who gave Latifa lessons in the Afro-Brazilian martial art.

"She's like family to me," Jauhiainen said.

## The stirrings of a plan

The idea for the escape plan came to Latifa after reading a book by Herve Jaubert.

In "Escape from Dubai," Jaubert, a former French intelligence officer and U.S. citizen, chronicles how he made an unlikely escape from the emirate years earlier after a failed business venture.

Jaubert, according to the account in his 2009 book, dressed in a black, burqa-like robe, under which he wore a wetsuit and scuba diving gear.

After dark, he stole a rubber dinghy belonging to a police patrol and headed for international waters to rendezvous with another former French intelligence officer waiting on a yacht.

Eight days later, Jaubert was in India. Latifa approached Jaubert online.

They agreed Latifa and Jauhiainen would meet for an early-morning work-

out, drive across the desert to Oman and use a dinghy to meet Jaubert in international waters aboard his boat, the Nostromo.

"I believed we were well-prepared to get (Latifa) out," Jaubert said.

## Final messages

About a week after leaving Oman, Latifa sent a series of increasingly desperate WhatsApp messages from aboard the Nostromo to Radha Stirling, a human rights campaigner, and David Haigh, a London-based attorney. She had contacted them from the boat for advice about her legal status and asylum procedures.

"Please help. Please please there's men outside," Latifa's final message says.

Six days later, on March 11, 2018, her video was published by Stirling and Haigh.

## In her sister's footsteps

Jaubert and Jauhiainen said they were intercepted by Indian security services and military at the request of authorities in Dubai. They were taken back to the UAE.

A few weeks later, they were released without charges.

Satellite tracking data show the last position of the Nostromo on March 4, 2018, was about 50 miles off Goa, India, in international waters.

A nagging question is how the UAE authorities were able to locate the Nostromo.

And Latifa? Her friends and lawyers heard nothing for nine months.

Then, on Christmas Eve, the UAE's Foreign Ministry released pictures it said "rebutted false allegations" and proved she was at home with her family.

In the photos, Latifa is having lunch with Mary Robinson, a former U.N. high commissioner for human rights and former president of Ireland. Robinson called Latifa a "troubled young woman." The characterization drew sharp rebuke from rights groups.

Latifa's friends said the photos confirm their worst fears, and Latifa's: that she might be drugged and held against her will.

In the photos, she looks lost, and her eyes never lock on the camera.

# WEATHER

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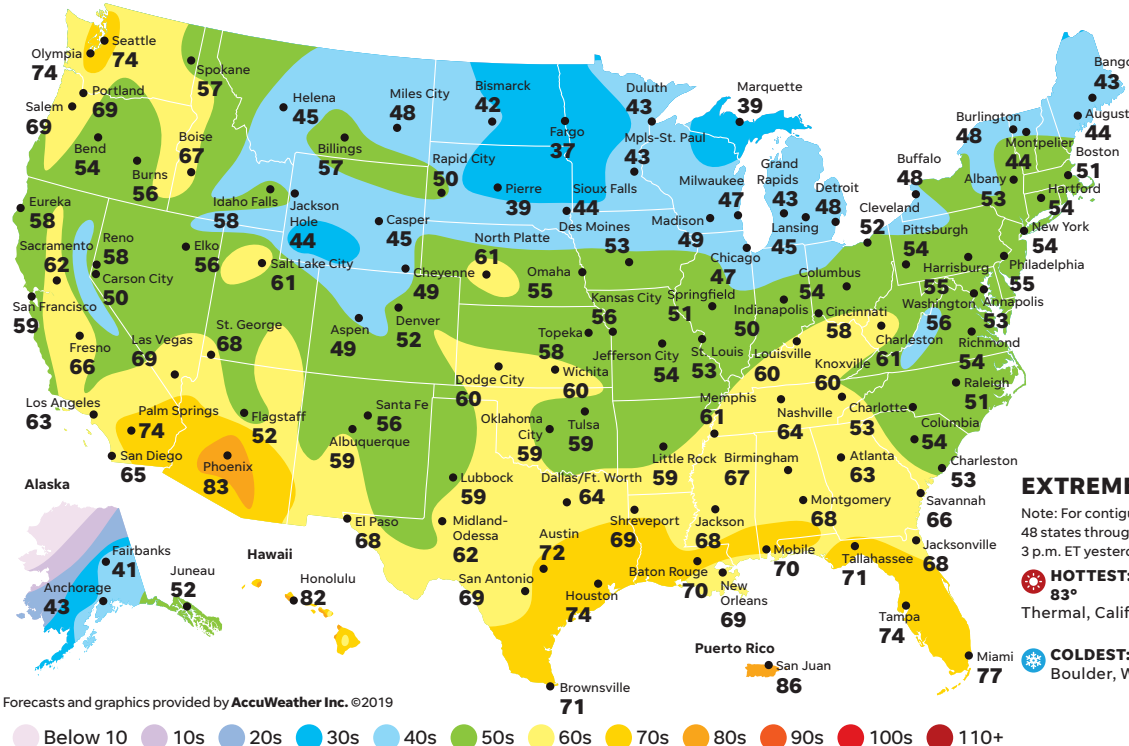
## TODAY'S FORECAST

Most areas from the upper Gulf Coast to the Appalachians and coastal Northeast can expect dry weather, sunshine and a mild afternoon today. A storm will spread rain and windy conditions with above-normal tides northward along the southern Atlantic coast.

This may evolve into a major storm in the Northeast Thursday to Friday. A swath of rain will push eastward from the Great Lakes to the southern Plains.

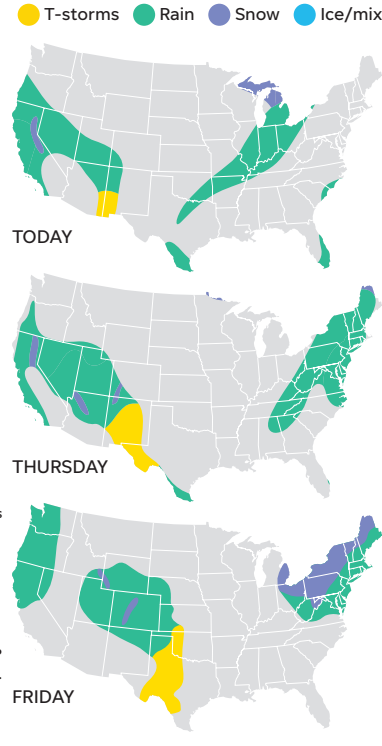
Colder air will follow the rain over the northern and central Plains. A storm will spread low-elevation rain and mountain snow inland over the Southwest.

## TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



## AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

## PRECIPITATION FORECAST



## EXTREMES

Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday.  
HOTTEST: 83° Thermal, Calif.  
COLDEST: -8° Boulder, Wyo.

## TOP TRAVEL CITIES

CITY	WED	THU	FRI	WED	THU	FRI	WED	THU	FRI	WED	THU	FRI	WED	THU	FRI	WED	THU	FRI	WED	THU	FRI	WED	THU	FRI																																																																																															
ATLANTA	Mostly sunny 63/45	Partly sunny 61/40	Plenty of sun 65/42	AQI Moderate	BALTIMORE	Inc. clouds 56/38	Heavy rain 54/41	A.P.M. shower 53/32	AQI Good	BOSTON	Mostly sunny 51/36	Mainly cloudy 49/43	Morning rain 51/33	AQI Moderate	CHARLOTTE	Inc. clouds 53/39	Rather cloudy 61/39	Mostly sunny 65/36	AQI Good	CHICAGO	A little rain 47/34	Sunny 48/34	Clouding up 71/53	AQI Moderate	DALLAS/FT. WORTH	Showers 64/43	Warmer 72/43	Clouding up 71/53	AQI Good	DENVER	Partly sunny 52/29	Clouds, breezy 55/33	Showers around 54/34	AQI Good	DETROIT	Rain 48/36	Partly sunny 47/31	A.M. flurries 41/24	AQI Moderate	HONOLULU	Mostly sunny 82/67	Partly sunny 82/69	Sunny, nice 84/69	AQI Good	HOUSTON	Partly sunny 74/48	Mostly sunny 73/48	Sunny, nice 75/54	AQI Moderate	LAS VEGAS	Mostly cloudy 69/51	Showers 65/49	Some sun, nice 71/55	AQI Good	LOS ANGELES	Showers 63/51	Showers 61/49	Partly sunny 65/52	AQI Good	MIAMI	Shower 77/64	Partly sunny 78/57	Sunny, nice 77/56	AQI Good	MPLS.-ST. PAUL	Partly sunny 54/29	Sunny 47/30	Plenty of sun 50/30	AQI Good	NEW ORLEANS	Partly sunny 69/51	Sunny 69/50	Sunny 71/53	AQI Good	NEW YORK	Mostly sunny 54/41	Rain 50/42	Showers 51/32	AQI Good	ORLANDO	Partly sunny 72/52	Partly sunny 75/49	Sunny, nice 74/47	AQI Good	PHILADELPHIA	Mostly sunny 55/40	Heavy rain 52/42	Showers 52/32	AQI Good	PHOENIX	Mostly cloudy 83/56	Partly sunny 71/51	Partly sunny 73/55	AQI Good	SALT LAKE CITY	Partly sunny 61/41	A few showers 56/42	Showers around 52/42	AQI Good	SAN DIEGO	Shower 65/55	Spotty showers 62/54	Partly sunny 64/55	AQI Good	SAN FRANCISCO	Rain 59/49	P.M. rain 59/49		AQI Good	SEATTLE	Partly sunny 74/49	Partly sunny 65/49	Showers 63/48	AQI Good	WASHINGTON	Clouding up 56/44	Rain at times 54/42	A.P.M. shower 55/35	AQI Good

## U.S. CITIES

CITY	TODAY	THU
Akron, Ohio	53/38pc	48/34pc
Albany, N.Y.	53/36s	49/39r
Albuquerque	59/43c	57/42r
Allentown, Pa.	55/37s	50/40r
Amarillo, Texas	59/31pc	64/37c
Anaheim, Calif.	65/51c	62/49pc
Anchorage, Alaska	43/32r	44/37c
Aspen, Colo.	49/20pc	49/23sn
Atlanta, Ga.	49/42s	51/41r
Augusta, Ga.	62/36pc	69/38pc
Austin, Texas	72/48sh	74/45pc
Bakersfield, Calif.	68/47sh	64/45c
Baton Rouge, La.	70/45s	70/42s
Billings, Mont.	57/30s	58/29s
Birmingham, Ala.	67/43s	62/37pc
Bismarck, N.D.	42/22pc	45/16pc
Boise, Idaho	67/38pc	62/43pc
Burlington, N.Y.	48/36pc	46/32pc
Burlington, Vt.	48/34pc	46/33r
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	48/30c	51/30s
Charleston, S.C.	63/39pc	68/44pc
Charleston, W.Va.	61/41s	52/36sh
Cheyenne, Wyo.	49/26s	53/30c
Cincinnati	58/41r	49/35sh
Cleveland	52/39r	46/33pc
Colorado Springs	54/26pc	56/32c
Columbia, S.C.	54/37pc	66/40pc
Columbus, Ohio	54/42r	49/35pc
Corpus Christi, Texas	72/55c	74/57pc
Dayton, Ohio	53/40r	48/33pc
Daytona Beach, Fla.	68/51pc	74/49pc
Des Moines, Iowa	53/30pc	56/32s
Duluth, Minn.	43/27c	46/25pc
Durham, N.C.	53/41pc	58/40r
El Paso, Texas	68/50c	69/50t
Fairbanks, Alaska	41/25pc	49/25pc
Flagstaff, Ariz.	52/31c	40/21sn
Fargo, N.D.	37/25c	42/22s
Fort Myers, Fla.	78/57pc	77/55pc
Fort Smith, Ark.	57/37r	65/35s
Fort Wayne, Ind.	46/36r	47/32pc
Fresno, Calif.	66/50t	65/46c
Grand Rapids, Mich.	43/33r	45/32s
Grand Bay, Wis.	45/29pc	48/31s
Greensboro, N.C.	51/33s	57/38c
Greenville, S.C.	56/39s	62/37pc
Harrisburg, Pa.	55/36pc	50/37r
Hartford, Conn.	54/32s	49/40r
Indianapolis	50/36r	48/35pc
Islip, N.Y.	51/37s	51/40r
Jackson, Miss.	68/41s	66/37s
Jacksonville, Fla.	68/45pc	73/43s
Jefferson City, Mo.	54/35pc	54/36s
Key West, Fla.	79/71pc	79/69pc
Knoxville, Tenn.	60/42s	53/35sh
Laredo, Texas	70/58sh	74/61sh
Lexington, Ky.	60/42pc	50/35sh
Lincoln, Neb.	57/27s	59/30s
Little Rock, Ark.	59/37r	64/38s
Long Beach, Calif.	64/52c	63/49pc
Louisville, Ky.	60/43c	53/38pc
Lubbock, Texas	59/34c	65/43c
Madison, Wis.	49/31pc	51/31s
Manchester, N.H.	52/33s	48/40sh
Memphis, Tenn.	61/40r	58/38s
Milwaukee	47/35r	50/36s
Mobile, Ala.	70/46pc	71/43s
Modesto, Calif.	65/48t	65/47c
Montgomery, Ala.	68/44s	67/39s
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	52/44r	65/42pc
Nags Head, N.C.	53/49r	55/45r
Nashville, Tenn.	64/43pc	57/36pc
Newark, N.J.	53/40s	51/42r
New Haven, Conn.	51/38s	49/42r
Norfolk, Va.	54/47c	59/45r
Oakland, Calif.	61/50r	62/46pc
Oklahoma City	59/36pc	63/38c
Omaha, Neb.	55/29s	59/31s
Palm Springs, Calif.	74/52c	71/49pc
Pensacola, Fla.	71/50pc	72/46s
Pierre, S.D.	39/21pc	45/24s
Pittsburgh	54/38pc	49/35sh
Portland, Maine	45/32pc	45/36c
Portland, Ore.	69/45pc	62/45pc
Providence, R.I.	51/41sh	48/41r
Raleigh, N.C.	51/41s	56/39r
Rapid City, S.D.	50/24s	54/26s
Reno, Nev.	58/39sh	54/35sh
Richmond, Va.	54/42pc	54/40r
Rochester, N.Y.	53/35pc	51/34c
Sacramento, Calif.	62/46t	64/44c
San Antonio	69/50sh	74/49pc
San Jose, Calif.	60/47r	63/42pc
Santa Fe, N.M.	56/34c	52/35r
Sarasota, Fla.	75/56pc	73/56s
Savannah, Ga.	66/40pc	71/43s
Scottsdale, Ariz.	81/54c	69/48pc
Shreveport, La.	69/40pc	71/43s
Sioux Falls, S.D.	44/28pc	49/28s
South Bend, Ind.	43/32r	44/30s
Spokane, Wash.	57/32s	60/35s
Springfield, Mo.	51/34pc	54/33s
Springfield, Ill.	51/34r	52/34s
St. Louis	53/37sh	53/38s
St. Petersburg, Fla.	74/56pc	72/57s
Syracuse, N.Y.	50/36pc	47/31sh
Tampa, Fla.	71/42pc	73/44s
Toledo, Ohio	48/33s	47/31pc
Topeka, Kan.	58/35r	58/34s
Tucson, Ariz.	82/49c	71/46pc
Tupelo, Miss.	65/41r	60/34pc
Tulsa, Okla.	59/37pc	62/37s
Virginia Beach, Va.	53/47c	55/43r
Wichita, Kan.	60/32s	61/38pc
Wilmington, Del.	54/38s	53/40r
Winston-Salem, N.C.	51/39s	58/38c
Worcester, Mass.	48/31s	44/37r
Beijing	68/40c	57/32w
Buenos Aires	68/45pc	67/53pc
Cancun, Mexico	82/68pc	83/67pc
Dubai, UAE	75/65s	80/69pc
Frankfurt	56/34pc	60/38pc
Hong Kong	78/71sh	79/71pc
Istanbul	57/46pc	55/44pc
Jerusalem	66/47pc	65/48s
Johannesburg	88/59s	87/59s
London	60/44c	59/45pc
Mexico City	75/49pc	74/49pc
Montreal	45/32pc	43/34sn
Moscow	40/31pc	38/27c
Mumbai, India	88/68h	88/66h
Paris	58/40pc	61/38pc
Rio de Janeiro	86/76t	84/75pc
Rome	62/43pc	67/43s
Seoul	64/46r	58/28c
Singapore	91/75pc	90/78r
Sydney	76/69r	78/69pc
Toronto	49/34r	45/33c
Tokyo	67/55s	64/57r