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Emotional ceremony for Barbara Bush comes to a close



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North Korea says will stop nuclear tests, scrap test site

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea said on Saturday it would immediately suspend nuclear and missile tests, scrap its nuclear test site and instead pursue economic growth and peace, ahead of planned summits with South Korea and the United States.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country no longer needed to conduct nuclear tests or intercontinental ballistic missile tests because it had completed its goal of developing the weapons, the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

Kim is scheduled to hold talks with South Korean President Moon Jae-in next week and with U.S. President Donald Trump in late May or early June.

The pledge to halt the development of nuclear weapons, initiated by his grandfather, would mean a significant reversal for Kim, 34, who for years has celebrated such weapons as a pillar of his regime's legitimacy and power.

A testing freeze and commitment to close the test site alone would fall short of Washington's demand that Pyongyang completely dismantle all its nuclear weapons and missiles.

But announcing the concessions now, rather than during summit meetings, shows Kim is serious about decentralization talks, experts say.

"The northern nuclear test ground of the DPRK will be dismantled to transparently guarantee the discontinuance of the nuclear test," KCNA said after Kim convened a plenary session of the Central Committee of the ruling Worker's Party on Friday. The Pyonggye-ri site is North Korea's only known nuclear test site. All of its six underground tests were conducted there, including the last and largest in September. Trump welcomed the statement and said he looked forward to a summit with Kim.

"North Korea has agreed to suspend all Nuclear Tests and close up a major test site. This is very good news for North Korea and the World - big progress! Look forward to our Summit," Trump said on Twitter. South Korea said the North's decision signified "meaningful" progress toward decentralization of the peninsula and would create favorable conditions for successful meetings with it and with the United States. China, North Korea's sole major ally, has been frustrated by its defiant development of weapons and welcomed the announcement, saying it would ease tension and promote decentralization.



North Korean soldiers keep watch toward the south at the truce village of Panmunjom

The British government said in a statement that Pyongyang's commitment was a positive step and hoped it indicated "an effort to negotiate in good faith". Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said "verifiable steps" would be needed to ensure testing had indeed been halted. The European Union's foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini said North Korea's move was a positive step and called for an "irreversible decentralization" of the country. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said North Korea's announcement was a step in the right direction but it must "disclose its complete nuclear and missile program in a verifiable way".

Australia and Britain were also cautious. The British government said in a statement that Pyongyang's commitment was a positive step and hoped it indicated "an effort to negotiate in good faith". Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said "verifiable steps" would be needed to ensure testing had indeed been halted. The European Union's foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini said North Korea's move was a positive step and called for an "irreversible decentralization" of the country. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said North Korea's announcement was a step in the right direction but it must "disclose its complete nuclear and missile program in a verifiable way".

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Emotional ceremony for Barbara Bush comes to a close

By Craig Hlavaty

Three former U.S. presidents joined former President George H.W. Bush at a celebration of the life of his wife Barbara Bush at a funeral service Saturday in Houston.

More than 1,500 friends and family members attended the 90-minute service at the Bushes' longtime place of worship, St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Barbara Bush died Tuesday at age 92. Attendees include former President George W. Bush and his wife Laura; former President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle; former President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary; and first lady Melania Trump.

After the service, the Bush family was to travel through Houston's Memorial Park by motorcade en route to the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library Center and Museum in College Station. She was to be buried in a private ceremony around 3 p.m. alongside the grave of her deceased 3-year-old daughter Robin.

Below are updates from the day's memorial events.

12:45 p.m.

The motorcade carrying Barbara Bush's body has left St. Martin's for the burial site at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library Center and Museum in College Station.

Law enforcement officers saluted as the Bush family left the church grounds in the motorcade, which will pass through Houston's Memorial Park.

Pattie Kerr was among those waiting at the park to pay her respects as the motorcade passed. Kerr said she used to shop at the same Tanglewood grocery stores as Barbara Bush.

That, she said, is evidence that Barbara Bush never thought of herself as being better as anyone else.

"She never acted like a celebrity or anything," Kerr

said. "She went to Sam's Club and ate at Fuzzy's Pizza. How awesome is that?"

Kerr met the Bush family a handful of times. But she talked about them like they're old friends.

"She made you feel like you were the most important person in the world to her," Kerr said. "Now I feel like a piece of Houston is gone. But she left behind so many gifts for us."

The motorcade will arrive in College Station around on Highway 6, then onto Highway 6 Business to George Bush Drive. The motorcade will turn left on George Bush Drive, then right on Barbara Bush Drive, which leads to the library. Public access to the motorcade will end at Penberthy and George Bush Drive.

The burial at 3 p.m. Saturday is for invited guests only.

12:20 p.m.

The funeral service for Barbara Bush has ended.

Her casket was taken out of the church at about 12:18 p.m.

Former President George W. Bush then pushed his father's wheelchair up the main aisle, with his wife Laura by their side. The elder Bush shook a few hands of well-wishers as he was wheeled out. They were followed by other member of the Bush family.

Barbara Bush's granddaughters had tearfully done readings during the service. Her grandsons carried her casket outside to the hearse, as the 41st and 43rd presidents looked on from the edge of the sidewalk.

Earlier, the homily was delivered by the Rev. Russell Levenson, Jr., the rector at St. Martin's.

"What you saw was what you got," Levenson said of



Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush attends the funeral service for his wife former first lady Barbara Bush in Houston

Barbara Bush.

"She believed in and practiced the principles of honesty, tolerance, decency, courage and strength. And perhaps above all, humility. She lived accounting to the mantra of the Bush family for many years: don't get caught up in big me."

Levenson spoke of how she was a highly visible figure in Houston.

"Here in Houston, we saw her at major galas, behind home plate at Astros games, praying here in the pews, catching up with a neighbor while pushing her own buggy in Walgreens," he said.

He said "the least of Barbara's virtues was patience."

"I think Barbara was becoming impatient. She was tired of waiting on the next chapter, so she welcomed it on April 17th."

"Some books have no true ending," he said of Bush, an avid reader. "Some offer an epilogue, a hint to imagine what rests beyond the closing chapter. Can we imagine this day, a reunion with her parents, with your parents? My guess is she's already hunted down Jane Austen..."

Former President George H.W. Bush struggled to hold back tears as his son Jeb read from the elder Bush's love letters to his wife of 73 years.

Jeb Bush, the third of three eulogists, also described his mother as a "teacher and role model on how to live a life with purpose."

He said his mother taught her children: "Sit up, look people in the eye, say please and thank you, do your homework, quit whining and stop complaining, eat your broccoli -- yes Dad, she did say that."

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Emotional ceremony for Barbara Bush In Houston



Pallbearers escort the casket of former first lady Barbara Bush after funeral services at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston



Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush attends the funeral service for his wife former first lady Barbara Bush in Houston



Detailed view of a program during the funeral for former First Lady Barbara Bush at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston



Former Presidents George W. Bush, and George H.W. Bush arrive at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church for funeral services for former first lady Barbara Bush in Houston



Former U.S. Congresswoman Giffords and husband Astronaut Kelly arrive at Barbara Bush funeral in Houston



Actor Norris arrives for Barbara Bush funeral, at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston



Attendees stand during during funeral services for former first lady Barbara Bush at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston



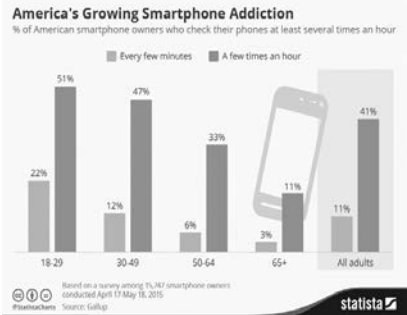
Singer Golden arrives for Barbara Bush funeral at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston.



Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush attends the funeral service for his wife former first lady Barbara Bush in Houston

SAN DIEGO — If you are worried about your child’s smartphone use getting out of hand, you should be. A new study finds that teens who are hooked on their phones and other digital devices are “markedly” unhappier than their less-plugged-in peers.

Researchers from San Diego State University and the University of Georgia examined data on more than a million 8th, 10th, and 12th grade American students participating in the longterm “Monitoring the Future” study. Participants were polled on their mobile device and computer use and their amount of face-to-face social interaction with others. They were also surveyed on their level of overall happiness. The authors found that teens who spent more time hanging out with friends in person and less time texting or video chatting were happier than those who spent more time in front of a screen. There was a notable increase in overall life satisfaction for students who participated in more extracurricular activities or sports, as well as those who read actual print publications more frequently. The research team believes that habitual use of smartphones or computers to socialize was a key factor in how unhappy a participant felt.



“The key to digital media use and happiness is limited use,” says Jean M. Twenge, the study’s lead author a professor of psychology at SDSU, in a news release. “Aim to spend no more than two hours a day on digital media, and try to increase the amount of time you spend seeing friends face-to-face and exercising — two activities reliably linked to greater happiness.” And while Twenge suggests allowing a maximum of two hours for screen time, she says the study showed that the happiest teens were those who spent a tad less than an hour per day on digital media. That statistic includes teens who report not using digital devices at all — which means some use of technology makes children happier. But after that first hour, unhappiness rose steadily among participants as their total screen time increased.

The Happiest Teens Use Smartphones, Digital Media Less Than One Hour A Day

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Twenge notes that while some studies have proven social media use can lead to greater unhappiness for a child, the study showed that being unhappy did not lead to more social media use.



Not surprisingly, the authors point out that studies have shown self-esteem and life satisfaction levels dropped sharply after 2012, which is the same year that the number of Americans who owned a smartphone jumped over 50 percent.

To that point, her study only adds to the wealth of work that’s determined parents must monitor how much time their teens are spending online.

“The advent of the smartphone is the most plausible explanation for the sudden decrease in teens’ psychological well-being,” she says. (Couresty <https://www.studyfinds.org>)

Related

1 In 3 Can’t Get Through Meal Without Looking At Phone, Survey Finds

FORT WASHINGTON, Pa. — The phone addiction problem may be getting to be a bit much. A new survey finds that a third of Americans can’t get through a meal without looking at their mobile devices. Researchers from the weight loss service Nutrisystem commissioned a poll of 2,000 adults last month to determine how distracted we are at the dinner table.



The phone addiction problem may be getting to be a bit much. A new survey finds that a third of Americans can’t get through a meal without looking at their mobile devices. (Photo by Alejandro Escamilla on Unsplash)

Twenty-nine percent indicated their phone joins them for every single meal, while more than half said they bring their device to the table most of the time. Only 17 percent said they never bring their phone with them to a meal.

The figures were highest for millennials. Thirty-five percent of respondents between ages 18-35 need their phone with them at the table all the time, though that number drops for older age groups.

“What we’re eating, how much, and how often—those are the things we think about when we’re trying to lose weight. The part we probably focus less on, however, is how we eat,” says Courtney McCormick, a dietitian at Nutrisystem, in a press release. “And that is just as important. And it starts with putting down the phone and turning off the TV.”



Television was also an attention grabber during meals for participants. Nearly a third of those surveyed (72%) said they often watch the tube while eating. Perhaps the worst part about this figure is that people were more apt to say watching TV made a meal more enjoyable than talking to friends and family at the table.

Smartphones at the table have become so prevalent, people aren’t even watching what they’re putting in their mouths, researchers say. The survey found a third of participants eat so fast when they’re staring at a tablet or a TV that they didn’t even realize how fast they were scarfing down their food.

The researchers say this type of distraction not only prevents people from listening to their friends, but also their bodies — when they’re being told they’re full. The unhealthy practice could cause phone addicts to pack on unwanted pounds.

“Early research has shown that taking a mindful approach to eating may help you lose weight and consume fewer calories and fat,” says McCormick.

So if you’re one of the those who brings your device with you to the table, try leaving it on a different floor in your home, or put it somewhere out of sight and out of mind. It’ll be there when you’re finished. And at the very least, you’ll hear what your belly tells you. (Courtesy <https://www.studyfinds.org>)

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Plans By Tepco To Release Entire Fukushima Waste Into Ocean Confirmed

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



the entire Pacific Ocean in just five years. This could easily be the worst environmental disaster in human history and it is almost never talked about by politicians, establishment scientists, or the news. It is interesting to note that TEPCO is a subsidiary of General Electric (also known as GE), one of the largest companies in the world, which has considerable control over numerous news corporations and politicians alike. Could this possibly explain the lack of news coverage Fukushima has received in the last five years? There is also evidence that GE knew about the poor condition

level of radiation. According to them, the amount of radiation in the Pacific Ocean is increasing every year. Why is this being ignored by the mainstream media? It might have something to do with the fact that the US and Canadian governments have banned their citizens from talking about Fukushima so “people don’t panic.” Further south in Oregon, USA, starfish began losing legs and then disintegrating entirely when Fukushima radiation arrived there in 2013. Now, they are dying in record amounts, putting the entire oceanic ecosystem in that area at risk. However, government officials say Fukushima is not to blame even though radiation in Oregon tuna tripled after Fukushima.



Wakana Kumagai, 7, visits the spot in Miyagi prefecture where her house once stood, before it was washed away by the March 11, 2011 tsunami. (Photo: Reuters)

Tepco has confirmed it plans to release the radioactive material from the Fukushima plant into the ocean saying that the “decision has already been made”. The decision has an upset local fisherman who says the decision will kill their industry as a result of a massive loss of sea life. (TEPCO, is a Japanese electric utility holding company servicing Japan’s Kantō region, Yamanashi Prefecture, and the eastern portion of Shizuoka Prefecture. This area includes Tokyo. Its headquarters are located in Uchisaiwaicho, Chiyoda, Tokyo, and international branch offices exist in Washington, D.C., and London. It is a founding member of strategic consortiums related to energy innovation and research; such as JINED, INCJ and MAI.)

Under the controversial plan, which could be a massive environmental disaster, the radioactive material tritium, which is being used to cool reactors whose cooling systems were damaged in 2011 tsunami, will now be released into the ocean.

rt.com reports: “I’m very sorry that Tepco has been prolonging making a decision,” the new chairman of Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO) Takashi Kawamura told reporters on Thursday, reported Reuters. “We could have decided much earlier, and that is Tepco’s responsibility.” The plan still requires the approval of the Japanese government before TEPCO can proceed. Some 770,000 tons (metric) of tritium-containing water is currently stored in 580 tanks at the plant, reported the Japan Times. Toxic water at the plant is currently being treated through a processing system that can remove 62 different types of radioactive material, except tritium.



The local fishermen cooperative has hit out at the plan, saying it had not been discussed with local residents. “Releasing (tritium) into the sea will create a new wave of unfounded rumors, making our efforts all for naught,” Kanji Tachiya, head of a local fishermen cooperative, told the Japan Times. Situated 10 meters above sea-level, three of the nuclear power plant’s six reactors’ cooling systems were crippled by flooding caused by the tsunami, making the disaster the worst since the Chernobyl catastrophe in the USSR in 1986. The plan still requires the approval of the Japanese government before TEPCO can proceed.

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Fukushima Radiation: The Entire Pacific Ocean Has Been Contaminated, And It’s Only Going To Get Worse

The nuclear disaster has contaminated the world’s largest ocean in only five years and it’s still leaking 300 tons of radioactive waste every day. What was the most dangerous nuclear disaster in world history? Most people would say the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine, but they’d be wrong.

In 2011, an earthquake, believed to be

an aftershock of the 2010 earthquake in Chile, created a tsunami that caused a meltdown at the TEPCO nuclear power plant in Fukushima, Japan. Three nuclear reactors melted down and what happened next was the largest release of radiation into the water in the history of the world. Over the next three months, radioactive chemicals, some in even greater quantities than Chernobyl, leaked into the Pacific Ocean. However, the numbers may actually be much higher as Japanese official estimates have been proven by several



scientists to be flawed in recent years. If that weren’t bad enough, Fukushima continues to leak an astounding 300 tons of radioactive waste into the Pacific Ocean every day. It will continue to do so indefinitely as the source of the leak cannot be sealed as it is inaccessible to both humans and robots due to extremely high temperatures. It should come as no surprise, then, that Fukushima has contaminated

of the Fukushima reactors for decades and did nothing. This led 1,400 Japanese citizens to sue GE for their role in the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Even if we can’t see the radiation itself, some parts of North America’s western coast have been feeling the effects for years. Not long after Fukushima, fish in Canada began bleeding from their gills, mouths, and eyeballs. This “disease” has been



Japanese fishermen draw up a fishing net full of Echizen kurage, or Nomura’s jellyfish, off the shores of Awashimaura, northern Japan. Japan is still struggling to convince consumers that fish from contaminated areas is safe. (Photo/ Reuters)

ignored by the government and has decimated native fish populations, including the North Pacific herring. Elsewhere in Western Canada, independent scientists have measured a 300% increase in the

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