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Wednesday, January 20

State FFA District Officer Training in Pierre
School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit sauce, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: David Nilsson, Todd Anderson.

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

6:45pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Thursday, January 21

State FFA District Officer Training in Pierre

School Breakfast: French toast, link, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Cheese sticks, tater tots, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, oatmeal raisin cookie.

Birthdays: Ella Johnson, Landon Larson, Rachel Zoellner, Steve Young, Valerie Kavanaugh

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Quilting

Ready to bring your heart and expertise to a team that feels more like a family? Bring your passion for patient care to the Golden LivingCenter in Groton. The Groton facility is now hiring for CNAs and Nurses. They have new wages with an excellent benefits package. All shifts are open. Join the team today by calling Jessica at 397-2365. The Golden LivingCenter of Groton is looking for you!

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

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Boys storm past Ipswich

Ipswich had 29 turnovers thanks to the Groton defense Tuesday night as the boys' basketball team posted a 60-38 nonconference win over Ipswich in Ipswich.

Groton Area led at the quarter stops at 13-6, 21-11 and 33-14.

Four players hit double figures for the Groton Area Tigers with Sean Schuring leading the way with 13 points followed by Hunter Lerew with 12, Brandon Keith and Bennett Shabazz each had 10, Anthony Sippel seven, and Seric Shabazz and Aaron Severson each had four points.

Ipswich was led by Trenton Steger with 12 followed by Dylan Northrop with nine, Jacob Baer seven, Ben Pond five and adding two points each were Lance Leonhardt and Riley Gilbert.

Groton Area is now 5-4 on the season and will travel to Webster on Friday. Ipswich, now 3-6, will host Faulkton Area on Thursday.

Groton made 38 percent of its field goals, making 14 of 29 shots while Ipswich made 56 percent of its field goals putting up only 12 shots and making eight of them. Three-pointers were made by Brandon Keith with two and Anthony Sippel with one.

Groton Area made nine of 17 free throws off of Ipswich's 18 team fouls for 53 percent while Ipswich was seven of nine from the line off of Groton Area's 12 team fouls for 78 percent. Groton Area had 21 offensive and 11 defensive rebounds with Hunter Lerew having eight rebounds. Ipswich had two offensive rebounds and 23 defensive rebounds with Trenton Steger having seven. Groton Area had nine turnovers, four of which were steals. Ipswich had 29 turnovers, 20 of which were steals with Bennett Shabazz having six and Seric Shabazz four. Lerew had three blocks.

Ipswich won the junior varsity game, 36-23. Scoring for Groton Area were: Marshall Lane 9, Brandon Keith 5, Treyton Diegel 3, Anthony Sippel 2, Austin Jones 2, Johnny Doeden 1, Tylan Glover 1.

Groton won the C game, 36-24. Scoring for Groton Area were: Austin Jones 12, Treyton Diegel 6, Peyton Johnson 5, Johnny Doeden 4, Tylan Glover 4, Mitchell Koens 3, Mitchell Thurston 2.

S & S Lumber
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201 East Hwy 12 • 605/397-2361

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24 Hours PERSONAL TRAINING
Call Caitlin 605-290-9719
for info
Downtown Groton

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Pictured are Sean Schuring in the top left, Aaron Severson above and Anthony Sippel in the bottom left. (Photos by Julianna Kosel)

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Today in Weather History

January 20, 1944: A late January warm up occurred on this date in weather history in 1944. Temperatures rose into the upper 50s to the mid-60s across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Overnight lows in the 20s and lower 30s were above the normal highs for the year. Record highs were set at Aberdeen, Kennebec, Sisseton, and Watertown. Watertown rose to 56 degrees, Sisseton rose to 58 degrees, Aberdeen rose to 60 degrees, and Kennebec rose to 65 degrees. Also, Mobridge rose to 57 degrees, and Pierre rose to 61 degrees.

1863 - A severe coastal storm dropped heavy rain on the Fredericksburg area of Virginia. It disrupted a Union Army offensive in an ill famed "mud march." (David Ludlum)

1982 - The second of two major snowstorms to hit southern Minnesota came to an end. Minneapolis received 20 inches of snow in 24 hours to break the previous record of 17 inches in 24 hours established just a few days earlier. A record 38 inches of snow covered the ground following the two storms, with drifts ten feet high. (David Ludlum)

1985 - Three days of snow squalls at Buffalo NY finally came to an end. The squalls, induced by relatively warm water in Lake Erie, produced 34 inches of snow at the International Airport, with up to 47 inches reported in the suburbs of Buffalo. The New York "blizzard of '85" left many counties disaster areas. (19th-21st) (Weather Channel) (Storm Data) President Reagan was sworn in for a second term in the coldest Inauguration Ceremony of record. Cold and wind resulted in wind chill readings as much as 30 degrees below zero. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Low pressure over Minnesota produced high winds in the Northern Plains Region. Winds gusted to 66 mph at Rapid City SD, and reached 70 mph at Belle Fourche SD. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - High pressure over northern Nevada and low pressure off the coast of southern California combined to produce high winds in the southwestern U.S. Wind gusts in the San Francisco area reached 70 mph at Fremont. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)










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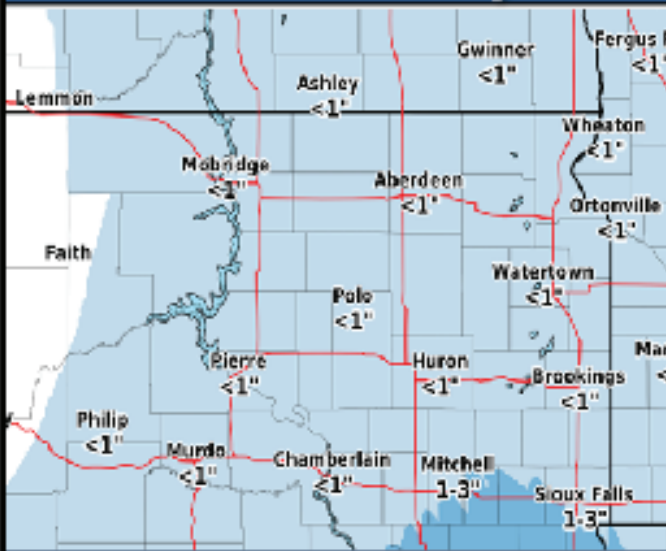
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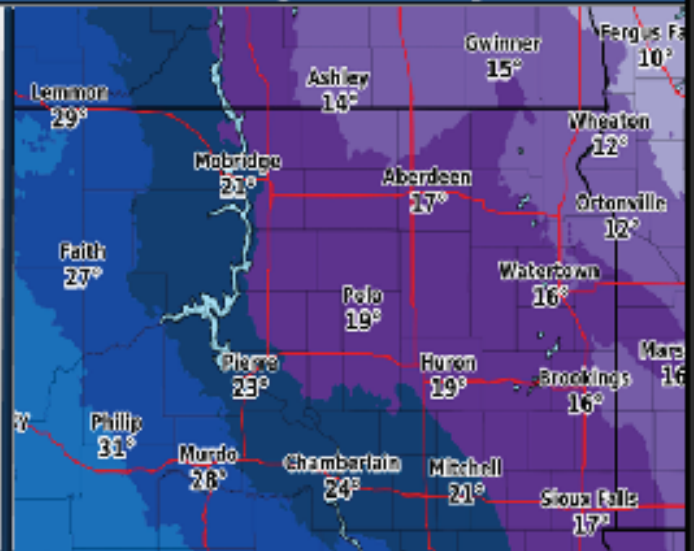
Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Patched Fog then Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 25 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 19 °F	Low: -2 °F	High: 18 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 30 °F

Light Snow with Below Normal Temps Today

Snowfall Today



Highs Today



Generally expect under an inch of snow today.
 Wednesday will feature near normal temperatures
 With highs in the 20s and low 30s.

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 1/19/2016 5:23 AM Central

Published on: 01/19/2016 at 5:26 AM

A weak upper level disturbance crossing the region today will bring light snow to most locations. Snowfall amounts under an inch can be expected.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 18.8 at 11:48 PM

Low: 3.2 at 2:20 AM

High Gust: 22 at 12:40 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1944

Record Low: -29° in 1936

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.32

Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.32

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:23 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:05 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jan 19, 2016, issued 2:45 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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ENCOURAGE THE DISCOURAGED

Nathaniel Hawthorne is recognized as one of the great American novelists. However, that is not the way his life began. Most of his early writings were rejected for publication. Once while thinking about his passion to write he said, "I had not lived, but only dreamed about living."

After college, Hawthorne supported himself through various means, writing only when he had time. One of his jobs was as a surveyor and measurer in a government office. However, when a new political party was elected, he lost his job. He went home dejected and worried, concerned about the effect his job loss would have on his wife.

But instead of finding fault with him, his wife embraced him. She then set a pen and ink before him and exclaimed, "Now you'll be able to write your novel!" She gave him the encouragement that he needed to go on.

The two little letters "en" mean to put into. That's what Hawthorne's wife did for him. She put the courage into him to write by reaching out in love and care when he was confronted with a crisis. A kind word, a pen and a bottle of ink were all that it took to put enough courage into Hawthorne to bring the gifts God gave him to life.

Prayer: Father, may we look around us and find someone, somewhere who needs a word of encouragement. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Samuel 30:6 But David found strength in the Lord his God.

Daugaard appoints new chief for Office of Hearing Examiners

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard has appointed a new chief for the state's Office of Hearing Examiners.

A 15-year veteran in South Dakota government, Catherine Duenwald, has been named chief hearing examiner.

The Office of Hearing Examiners conducts administrative hearings and issues decisions for residents who have the right to a hearing before a state agency. The office receives requests for hearings either directly from state agencies or from residents.

Duenwald currently serves as general counsel for the Bureau of Administration. She says she looks forward to "protecting the high integrity" of the hearing examiners' office.

Duenwald will replace Hillary Brady, who died of cancer earlier this year.

County funding proposals set to be considered by lawmakers

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two measures that would give more money to South Dakota counties are facing their first tests in the Legislature.

The separate proposals are set to go before two legislative committees Wednesday.

Cash-strapped counties are looking to lawmakers this session to help keep pace with rising costs, frequently for courts and jails.

The pair of proposals would allow them to impose a sales tax and would distribute alcohol revenue from the state to the counties.

Republican Rep. Elizabeth May says she expects her sales tax bill to fail in committee and plans to attempt to revive it later.

Sen. Bob Ewing is a Republican from Spearfish. Ewing says he's hopeful the redistribution of alcohol revenue will be approved by the committee.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's spokeswoman has said he opposes both measures.

Daugaard appoints new chief for Office of Hearing Examiners

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State Library accredits 8 South Dakota public libraries

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Library has accredited eight more of the state's public libraries.

The eight libraries will be honored in front of lawmakers, library colleagues and community members at the state Capitol rotunda on Wednesday afternoon.

The South Dakota Department of Education says accredited libraries demonstrate that they meet im-

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portant benchmarks for providing high quality library services to their communities.

The newly accredited libraries are in Brookings; Watertown; Dell Rapids; Edgemont; Madison; Hill City; Scotland; and Gettysburg.

Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 64, Brookings 52
Bon Homme 72, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 38
Canistota 75, Freeman Academy 46
Centerville 73, Freeman 57
Chester 63, Sioux Valley 58
Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, Minn. 80, Summit 41
Colome 68, Jones County 41
Crow Creek 68, Miller 48
Dell Rapids 85, Garretson 50
DeSmet 54, Hamlin 39
Ellendale, N.D. 71, Leola/Frederick 29
Flandreau 64, Deuel 40
Groton Area 60, Ipswich 38
Hanson 63, Howard 28
Huron 51, Brandon Valley 38
Irene-Wakonda 72, Scotland 36
Lemmon 44, Faith 41
Milbank Area 65, Tiospa Zina Tribal 55
Mitchell 61, Harrisburg 44
O'Neill, Neb. 47, Wagner 40
Parker 64, Gayville-Volin 35
Pierre 70, Rapid City Central 51
Potter County 51, Herreid/Selby Area 48
Rapid City Stevens 70, Douglas 46
Red Cloud 98, Todd County 77
Rosholt 73, Wilmot 51
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 59, Yankton 53
Sisseton 62, Flandreau Indian 48
Spearfish 70, Hill City 42
Stanley County 50, Lyman 40
Tri-Valley 72, Beresford 49
Vermillion 52, Elk Point-Jefferson 38
Warner 63, Northwestern 24
Waverly-South Shore 80, Great Plains Lutheran 50
Webster 73, Florence/Henry 49
White River 78, Philip 26
281 Conference Tournament
Consolation Semifinal
Hitchcock-Tulare 64, Iroquois 35
Wessington Springs 58, Sunshine Bible Academy 20
Semifinal
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 77, Highmore-Harrold 33
Wolsey-Wessington 46, James Valley Christian 45
Panhandle Conference Tournament

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Edgemont 54, Morrill, Neb. 50

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 50, Brookings 36

Aberdeen Roncalli 48, Redfield/Doland 41

Alcester-Hudson 52, Menno 41

Avon 52, Mitchell Christian 15

Belle Fourche 48, Douglas 40

Brandon Valley 56, Huron 41

Chamberlain 59, Gregory 32

Crow Creek 71, Miller 61, OT

Elk Point-Jefferson 46, Vermillion 43

Flandreau 57, Deuel 34

Gayville-Volin 60, Parker 58

Hamlin 58, DeSmet 40

Harrisburg 46, Mitchell 22

Irene-Wakonda 57, Scotland 29

Kimball/White Lake 62, Bridgewater-Emery 51

Lennox 42, Tri-Valley 37

Lyman 44, Stanley County 19

McCook Central/Montrose 77, Baltic 37

Pierre 59, Rapid City Central 55

Platte-Geddes 46, Burke/South Central 36

Sioux Falls Christian 38, Garretson 36

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 54, Yankton 30

Sioux Valley 59, Chester 38

Spearfish 72, Hill City 40

St. Thomas More 56, Lead-Deadwood 23

Sully Buttes 76, Eureka/Bowdle 20

Wagner 47, O'Neill, Neb. 46

West Central 61, Dell Rapids 47

Winner 77, Bennett County 19

Dakota Valley Conference Tournament

First Round

Arlington 56, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 29

Deubrook 66, Lake Preston 21

Elkton-Lake Benton 45, Dell Rapids St. Mary 26

Estelline 34, Colman-Egan 28

Lawmaker puts in bill to dissolve Board on Geographic Names

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A lawmaker has introduced a measure that would dissolve a state board thrust into the spotlight for considering a recommendation for a new name for Harney Peak.

Republican Rep. Lee Schoenbeck said Tuesday that the board has finished its work and now can be closed down. Lawmakers in 2009 created it to recommend replacements for offensive geographic feature names.

The board worked largely in obscurity until members considered a request to rename Harney Peak. They decided against it last year.

Schoenbeck says the Harney Peak renaming is "their business." He says the bill simply recognizes that the board completed its work and that "government isn't a license to exist forever."

The board's chairwoman didn't immediately return a request for comment. Gov. Dennis Daugaard's spokeswoman says he hasn't yet reviewed it.

Sioux Falls chef to appear on Food Network show in March

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A well-known chef in Sioux Falls will soon have her skills shown on the small screen.

Sanaa Abourezk, the owner of Sanaa's 8th Street Gourmet, will appear on the Food Network show "Beat Bobby Flay" on March 3.

Abourezk was flown to New York last April to record the episode, but has had to keep it a secret until now. The show involves two contestants competing to create a dish using an ingredient selected by Flay. The winner of that challenge goes on to battle the celebrity chef.

Abourezk's Mediterranean restaurant is a popular staple in Sioux Falls. In 2014, the New York Times included the restaurant in its feature story about the city's burgeoning culinary scene.

Abourezk tells KELO-TV that she "didn't freeze" on camera.

Legislature approves changes to budgeting for transparency

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers have approved changes to how the Legislature sets South Dakota's budget that advocates say should give the public more opportunities to weigh in.

The House on Tuesday joined the Senate in approving the rules.

Senate Majority Leader Corey Brown says the rule changes mean lawmakers would decide how much money the state has to spend earlier in the session.

During the economic downturn, legislators wanted to wait to get the latest economic information possible. But Brown says the extra information doesn't change much.

The changes also mean budget makers will draft the state budget over two weeks, a process that currently happens much more quickly.

Brown says the new rules mean the public and legislators have a better chance to engage in the budget.

Elder abuse proposal receives first hearing in Legislature

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A proposal that includes provisions to make it a crime to emotionally or psychologically abuse an elderly person in South Dakota and largely bar felons from being guardians and conservators had its first legislative hearing Tuesday.

The Senate Judiciary Committee delayed a vote until a review of the bill's potential impact on the state's inmate population is performed, though the plan is expected to advance easily.

A group of officials and experts that studied elder abuse put forward the wide-ranging measure, which has the backing of Gov. Dennis Daugaard and the chief justice of the state Supreme Court. The task force said that 38 other states criminalize both assaults and emotional and psychological abuse, which would become a misdemeanor under the plan.

The proposal would also require a background check for someone to become a guardian or conservator and prohibit felons from serving as one unless a court decided it is in the best interest of the elderly person.

The bill would create an avenue for a vulnerable adult to secure protection orders and the ability to recover damages from exploitation, as well as allow a court to require vulnerable adults' legal costs be covered, among other provisions.

It's unfortunate to have to address the abuse of the elderly, but the overhaul should improve the "access that people have to justice when they feel like they have an elder family member or friend who is being abused," said Jim Seward, general counsel to Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

South Dakota Supreme Court Justice Steven Zinter, who chaired the task force, said family disputes over money are becoming more prevalent before the high court. But, Zinter said, he doesn't know "how you legislate away greed."

The plan is necessary because South Dakota should make sure the elderly are protected, said Republican

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Sen. David Novstrup, who pushed legislation last session that established the study committee.

"The reason why it's important is just to hold people accountable and make sure people are being protected, especially as our population gets older," he said.

Novstrup also said lawmakers should support a recommendation to add money in the state budget for employing a new state prosecutor and investigator specializing in elder abuse.

Secretary of state approves union fees measure for ballot

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Secretary of State Shantel Krebs has certified for the November election ballot an initiated measure giving certain organizations the right to charge fees.

The labor union-backed measure would give corporate or nonprofit organizations the right to charge fees in right-to-work South Dakota. Supporters of the proposal say unions shouldn't have to provide services such as contract negotiations or representation during the grievance process for free.

Krebs says the sponsor turned in more than enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot. Her certification can be challenged through Feb. 18.

The office looks at signatures and petition completeness as part of its review before the measures can appear on the ballot.

It's the seventh initiated measure approved out of eight submitted. The final ballot measure remains under review.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. OLDEST CHRISTIAN MONASTERY IN IRAQ RAZED

Satellite photos obtained by The AP reveal yet another victim, this one stood for 1400 years, of the Islamic State group's relentless destruction of heritage sites it considers heretical.

2. 20 KILLED IN UNIVERSITY ATTACK IN PAKISTAN

A Pakistani official says the army and police have finished their operation to clear Taliban gunmen following the assault in the country's northwest.

3. WHICH CONSERVATIVE HEAVYWEIGHT IS BACKING TRUMP

Sarah Palin endorses the GOP front-runner, saying: "He's going rogue left and right. That's why he's doing so well."

4. HIGH COURT COULD GIVE OBAMA HIS FINAL CHANCE ON IMMIGRATION

If justices side with the president, ruling that he has the authority to unilaterally shield up to 5 million immigrants from deportation, he would claim a sizable last win.

5. WHOSE MARKET TEMPTS EUROPEAN FIRMS

With many barriers to dealing with Iran suddenly lifted, some European companies are ready to seize business opportunities in a country of 78.5 million people.

6. MICHIGAN GOVERNOR PLEDGES TO FIX WATER CRISIS IN FLINT

The disaster in the impoverished city has engulfed Gov. Rick Snyder's administration with criticism from across the country.

7. WHY PALESTINIANS LAMBAST AIRBNB'S WEST BANK SETTLEMENT LISTINGS

They say that the vacation rental operator helps perpetuate Israel's settlement enterprise.

8. LIBRARIES, MEETUP GROUPS GET INTO ADULT COLORING CRAZE

"People just love this. I think they feel successful, like they've finished something," says Jane Henze, the adult-programming director at a library in Wisconsin.

9. DREW BARRYMORE'S SETS NEW SIGHTS FOR BEAUTY BRAND

The actress says she's in talks with retailers overseas to sell her Flower brand cosmetics in such places as China, South America, Australia and the United Kingdom.

10. TENNIS STARS, PAST AND PRESENT, WANT NAMES OF MATCH-FIXERS

"We need facts, not suppositions," tweets Martina Navratilova, the 18-time Grand Slam champion.

Singapore deports 26 Bangladeshis as suspected militants

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore says it has arrested and deported 26 Bangladeshi construction workers for forming a religious study group that spread the ideology of al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

The Home Ministry said Wednesday the workers were arrested in November and detained without trial under the city-state's rigorous Internal Security Act.

It says they held discreet weekly meetings to share jihadi-related materials and discuss armed conflicts involving Muslims. It also says its members supported the teachings of U.S.-born radical Islamic cleric Imam Anwar al-Awlaki.

The ministry says that they were not planning attacks in Singapore, but that an investigation showed that several of them had considered carrying out attacks overseas.

The Latest: Pakistani army ends deadly university attack

CHARSADDA, Pakistan (AP) — The latest developments in an ongoing gunbattle after Taliban militants stormed a university in northwestern Pakistan. All times local.

3:30 p.m.

A Pakistani official says the army and police have finished their operation to clear Taliban gunmen following an attack on a university campus in the country's northwest. Twenty people have died in the assault.

Provincial governor Sardar Mehtab Abbasi says Wednesday's attack is now over and that the troops have cleared the campus. Four attackers have been killed.

Deputy Commissioner Tahir Zafar says the attack began shortly after the Bacha Khan University opened for classes in the town of Charsadda, some 35 kilometers (21 miles) outside Peshawar.

After the attack, Pakistani army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif visited the university and the wounded in hospital.

2:15 p.m.

The Pakistani Taliban have claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on a university in a town near the city of Peshawar in the country's northwest.

A Taliban leader, Khalifa Umar Mansoor, made the claim in a phone call to The Associated Press from an undisclosed location.

Mansoor was the mastermind behind the December 2014 attack on an army-run school that killed over 150 people, 144 of them children.

Mansoor says his four-man team conducted the assault at the campus in the town of Chasadda. He says it was in revenge for the scores of militants the Pakistani security forces have killed in recent months.

The main spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban, Mohammad Khurasani, also reiterated the claim of responsibility.

1:50 p.m.

Pakistan's prime minister has vowed to fight to the end and destroy "the menace of terrorism" as a major battle is unfolding in the country's northwest.

Gunmen stormed a university campus in the northwestern town of Chasadda, near the city of Peshawar, killing at least 19 people. The attack triggered a gunbattle with police and army troops, which were quickly deployed to the scene on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was quoted on the website of the Daily Pakistan as saying in a statement: "We are determined and resolved in our commitment to wipe out the menace of terrorism from our homeland."

1 p.m.

Pakistani officials say the death toll from a brazen attack on a university in the country's northwest has risen to 19, with several people wounded.

Deputy Commissioner Tahir Zafar says the attack began shortly after the Bacha Khan University opened

for classes on Wednesday in Charsadda town, some 35 kilometers (21 miles) outside the city of Peshawar.

Heavy police and military forces were deployed to the area, and a gunbattle is underway. Hospital official Sher Akbar Khan says the hospital has received 19 bodies so far.

Pakistani army says the attackers have been contained and that four of them have been killed.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

A Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar in December 2014 killed over 150 people, mostly children.

Israel: Hezbollah recruits Palestinians to attack Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's domestic security agency says it has thwarted a plot by the son of the chief of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah to recruit Palestinians to attack Israel.

The Shin Bet agency and the Israeli military say Jawad Nasrallah, the son of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, solicited a Palestinian online who recruited other Palestinians into a militant cell. It says another Hezbollah operative instructed the cell about using explosives, training suicide bombers, gathering intelligence on security forces and purchasing weapons.

They say an Israeli military court has indicted five Palestinians from the area Tulkarem, in the West Bank, who were planning a shooting attack against Israeli forces with Hezbollah backing.

Shin Bet says Hezbollah is trying to "ride the wave" of Palestinian attacks on Israelis in the last four months.

Vietnam's Communists set to reinstall conservative as chief

GRANT PECK, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — In a single-party communist state one would expect the process of picking the country's new leaders to be a smooth-sailing affair with no dramas.

Not so this time. Despite the veil of secrecy that the party pulls around its inner workings, it is clear that the Communist Party's eight-day Congress set to open Thursday was the kind of political cliffhanger that would do a democracy proud, as a battle for power hinged on a last-minute procedural question.

After weeklong deliberations, the congress of 1,510 delegates will select a new set of leaders to rule Vietnam for the next five years: the president, the prime minister, the chairman of the National Assembly, and most importantly, the party's general secretary, the de-facto national leader. He is first among equals in the Politburo that runs the country as well as in the party.

A rare and intriguing contest arose between the 71-year-old incumbent Nguyen Phu Trong, a conservative party stalwart, and Nguyen Tan Dung, 66, a two-term prime minister with greater ambitions who projected himself as a pro-business, economic reformist.

On Wednesday, just a day before the Congress was to open, Trong (pronounced "Chong") appeared to have secured his job, according to news leaked from party insiders, who declined to be named because they were not authorized to release such information. In keeping with the close nature of the proceedings, no confirmation of the news was immediately available.

At the last preparatory meeting, it was agreed to sustain a controversial rule enacted in 2014 barring all but officially nominated candidates from consideration, with no new nominations allowed from the Congress floor. Trong was endorsed as the general secretary candidate earlier this month.

Although the names on the official list were not publicly announced, word was leaked that on the slate with Trong would be two of Dung's (pronounced "Dzoong") allies for the posts of prime minister and president. The selection would be the sort of balancing act that is the usual outcome of the conclaves.

Vietnam's next leader will play a key role in deciding the pace of Vietnam's economic reforms, which has brought a flood of foreign investment, a fledgling stock market and helped triple per capita GDP to \$2,100 over the past 10 years.

He will also shape Vietnam's relationship with China, its biggest trading partner, ideological ally and regional rival. Beijing has been expanding its territorial assertions in the South China Sea, but Vietnam has pushed back against those claims.

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And experts believe that regardless of who took the top spot, Vietnam's ratification of the U.S. Trans-Pacific Partnership trade initiative and pace of improving ties with the U.S. will continue.

Every five years, delegates from around the country attend the congress to review and set national and party policies, and elect a new Central Committee. On one of the last days of the congress, the new Central Committee meets to elect a new Politburo from among its ranks and selects one of them as party general secretary.

The country's three other top leaders — prime minister, president and National Assembly chairman— are nominated, but their actual selection is done by the National Assembly, which itself is elected about six months after the Congress.

All this is done behind closed doors. No media are allowed to cover the proceedings, and in any case Vietnamese media are controlled by the government.

It had not been a sure thing for Trong. Up until the past few weeks, Dung had been the odds-on favorite to take the top party post, even though Trong has several times in the past few years tried to undercut the popular Dung's growing political strength.

Dung took on the pro-Trong Politburo several times, coming out on top. In 2012, the Central Committee rejected a Politburo vote that would have cast blame on him for mismanaging the economy. Another effort to diminish his power backfired when a vote of confidence was held by the Central Committee in early 2015 on the top 20 party leaders, and he led the pack with the top number of supporters.

He also has been the target of murkier attacks, mostly through blog postings accusing him of nepotism and trying to tie him to corruption.

"Mr. Trong is an ideologue, who has a PhD in 'party building.' As the party general secretary, his most important task is to maintain party unity and ultimately the party's hold on power," said Le Hong Hiep, a visiting fellow at Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

Dung, however, rose mainly through bureaucratic ranks, holding various positions from provincial governor, to governor of the State Bank, deputy minister of Public Security, deputy prime minister, and then prime minister. He also drew support from the business sector.

Dung "is more result- and action-oriented, and less beholden to ideological dogmatism," Hiep said.

Trong and his followers were worried that if Dung took over the party, he will further expand his patronage network, which in turn will likely lead to more corruption.

"From the perspective of Mr. Trong's camp, the rise of Mr. Dung may therefore pose an existential threat to the Party's survival in the long run," he said.

Still, Vietnam has collective leadership, and that means major decisions are made by the all-powerful Politburo that runs day-to-day affairs of the party and the country.

Dung was more outspoken in his criticism of China's assertiveness in the South China Sea, said Murray Hiebert, a Southeast Asian expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"Trong has been less strident in his criticisms of Chinese behavior, but no one expects him to cozy up to Beijing in the face of tensions in the South China Sea," he said.

And despite their differing styles, Hiebert said both men recognize that the party's survival "depends on continuing economic reform and global economic diversification."

NYC's Bloomberg offers Latin American city-innovation prizes

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of Latin American and Caribbean cities are being invited to vie for millions of dollars from former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Bloomberg Philanthropies is set to announce its latest Mayors Challenge competition. Prizes range up to \$5 million for initiatives that address major local issues, make local government more efficient or get citizens more engaged.

It follows similar competitions in the U.S. and Europe.

This one is open to cities of over 100,000 people in many countries from Argentina to Mexico to Haiti, though not Cuba. The Bloomberg foundation notes the continuing U.S. trade embargo involving Cuba.

The foundation says more than 900 cities are eligible.

Winners of a \$5 million grand prize and four \$1 million awards are to be announced in the fall.

Serena Williams, Federer into 3rd round at Australian Open

JOHN PYE, AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Serena Williams has had so much success for such a long time that even in a second-round match she can set a record at the season's first Grand Slam event.

The six-time and defending champion beat No. 90-ranked Hsieh Su-wei 6-1, 6-2 on Wednesday at Rod Laver Arena, an all-time record 79th main draw match at the Australian Open.

"It all started here — this is where I played my first Grand Slam right on this court and I'm still going, it's such an honor," said Williams, who has a 70-9 win-loss record at Melbourne Park since her debut in 1998. "I love it every time I come here."

She hit 26 winners, including one around the post that she thought may have been a first for her, at age 34.

"My first one I think," she said. "I was like, "Yay. Never too late."

Roger Federer extended his streak by reaching the third round for the 17th straight Australian Open, and registered his 299th match win at a major.

Federer, playing his 65th consecutive major, advanced 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 over Alexandr Dolgoplov. He lost in the third round in his first two trips to Melbourne Park in 2000 and '01 and again last year — in between he won the title four times and lost one final during a run of reaching the semifinals or better in 11 straight years.

"I hope to keep it up as long as I choose to play tennis," he said. "I mean, it's the least I expect to be in the third round of a Slam, obviously, so I'm pumped up, playing well, feeling good.

"But there's always a danger, you know. Like last year the third round was the end for me, so I hope to go further this time."

Federer will next play Grigor Dimitrov, who has a style that has been compared with Federer's, after the No. 27-seeded player beat Marco Trungelliti 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Seventh-seeded Kei Nishikori, the 2014 U.S. Open finalist, advanced with a 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3 win over Austin Krajicek and advanced along with No. 6 Tomas Berdych, No. 9 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 12 Marin Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion, No. 14 Gilles Simon, No. 15 David Goffin, No. 19 Dominic Thiem and No. 24 Roberto Bautista Agut.

Williams' next opponent will be 18-year-old Russian Daria Kasatkina, who beat Croatia's Ana Konjuh 6-4, 6-3, and she faces a potential quarterfinal match against 2015 finalist Maria Sharapova, who reached the third round with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

Williams was on course for a calendar-year Grand Slam in 2015 with wins here and at the French Open and Wimbledon before a semifinal loss at the U.S. Open to Roberta Vinci of Italy.

Asked, by an Italian journalist, if she'd watched a replay of that match, Williams gave a touchy response: "Yeah, I watch it every day. Every night to get ready."

No. 13 Vinci beat Irina Falconi 6-2, 6-3 to advance in the opposite quarter of the same half of the draw. Vinci is a potential fourth-round rival for No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska, who beat Eugenie Bouchard 6-4, 6-2 in a match featuring two former Wimbledon finalists.

Bouchard, coming off a long layoff late last year after sustaining a concussion when she slipped and fell in a dressing room at the U.S. Open, reached the final in a warmup tournament at Hobart last week but ran out of steam against Radwanska.

No. 10 Carla Suarez Navarro and No. 12 Belinda Bencic advanced along with 92nd-ranked Kateryna Bondarenko, who earned one of her biggest wins since returning from retirement in 2014 with a straight sets win over two-time major winner and No. 23-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Oregon standoff leader attends meeting, hears chants of 'go'

LISA BAUMANN, Associated Press

The leader of an armed group who took over a national wildlife refuge in southeastern Oregon weeks

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ago joined hundreds of area residents at a tense community meeting — listening quietly as many loudly chanted at him to “go.”

Ammon Bundy, who has been trying to drum up support for his cause, didn’t speak at Tuesday night’s meeting in Burns where residents discussed the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge which began earlier this month.

Some of the several hundred community members spoke to Bundy directly. One woman thanked him for raising awareness around issues of public lands, but told him it’s time to go home to his family.

“Ammon, you need to go home to your family; thank you,” said local resident Jennifer Williams. “I’ve heard so many things I didn’t know before. Now I’m aware.”

Other speakers were less congenial and at times angry and emotional in comments directed at the armed group as well as at local government officials and federal government, in part for not doing more to end the occupation.

Harney County Judge Steve Grasty took the microphone over to where Bundy sat in the bleachers and told Bundy he’d drive him wherever he wanted to go, as far as Utah. He also offered to meet with him anytime.

Bundy and his small posse left after the meeting without incident.

Rallies also were held in Portland and Eugene, Oregon and in Boise, Idaho, Tuesday, with hundreds of people calling for Bundy to end the occupation and pointing out that federal management allows all kinds of people to enjoy public lands.

Harney County Sheriff Dave Ward reiterated in a statement before the Burns meeting that law enforcement wants the armed group to vacate the refuge.

He said police have arrested two men affiliated with the group and included a new report that Duane Kirkland of Hamilton, Montana, was stopped and arrested Thursday on a felon in possession of a firearm charge. Police arrested Kenneth Medenbach, of La Pine, in Burns Friday for unauthorized use of a vehicle authorities say was taken illegally from the refuge.

Bundy and his group are demanding that the refuge be turned over to local residents. Bundy is a son of rancher Cliven Bundy, who was involved in a 2014 Nevada standoff with the federal government over grazing rights.

Rallies also were held in Portland and in Boise, Idaho, Tuesday, with hundreds of people calling for Bundy to end the occupation and pointing out that federal management allows all kinds of people to enjoy public lands.

The group Bundy leads has said repeatedly that local people should control federal lands. Bundy has told reporters the group would leave when there was a plan in place to turn over federal lands to locals — a common refrain in a decades-long fight over public lands in the West. At a Tuesday news conference, Bundy said “we’re not going anywhere” until his group gets its goals accomplished.

Deadly clashes erupt between police, protesters in Kashmir

AIJAZ HUSSAIN, Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Violent clashes between police and protesters erupted Wednesday in Indian-controlled Kashmir, leaving a man dead and two others wounded, officials said.

The protesters were angry that Indian government forces killed a suspected rebel in a gunbattle Wednesday after they had surrounded the village of Naina on a tip that anti-India militants were hiding there, said police officer Nitish Kumar.

Chanting pro-independence slogans, scores of youths hurled rocks at government forces during protests in Naina and in neighboring Batpora village.

Police tried to quell the protests by firing gunshots and tear gas into the air, but protesters torched an armored police vehicle, Kumar said. Government forces then fired on the protesters, killing one man and wounding two others, according to witnesses.

Inspector-General Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gillani confirmed that a civilian had been killed and said the two

men injured were hospitalized and in stable condition.

He said the gunbattle had destroyed a home in Naina, and authorities were searching the debris for the body of a second militant believed to have been killed.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep in Kashmir where rebels have been fighting since 1989 for the region's independence or merger with Pakistan, which controls another portion of the disputed Himalayan territory in the west.

More than 68,000 people have been killed in the conflict. The rebel groups have largely been suppressed by Indian troops in recent years, and resistance is now principally expressed through street protests.

Only On AP: Oldest Christian monastery in Iraq is razed

MARTHA MENDOZA, Associated Press

MAYA ALLERUZZO, Associated Press

BRAM JANSSEN, Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — The oldest Christian monastery in Iraq has been reduced to a field of rubble, yet another victim of the Islamic State group's relentless destruction of ancient cultural sites.

For 1,400 years the compound survived assaults by nature and man, standing as a place of worship recently for U.S. troops. In earlier centuries, generations of monks tucked candles in the niches and prayed in the cool chapel. The Greek letters chi and rho, representing the first two letters of Christ's name, were carved near the entrance.

Now satellite photos obtained exclusively by The Associated Press confirm the worst fears of church authorities and preservationists — St. Elijah's Monastery of Mosul has been completely wiped out.

In his office in exile in Irbil, Iraq, the Rev. Paul Thabit Habib, 39, stared quietly at before- and after-images of the monastery that once perched on a hillside above his hometown of Mosul. Shaken, he flipped back to his own photos for comparison.

"I can't describe my sadness," he said in Arabic. "Our Christian history in Mosul is being barbarically leveled. We see it as an attempt to expel us from Iraq, eliminating and finishing our existence in this land."

The Islamic State group, which broke from al-Qaida and now controls large parts of Iraq and Syria, has killed thousands of civilians and forced out hundreds of thousands of Christians, threatening a religion that has endured in the region for 2,000 years. Along the way, its fighters have destroyed buildings and ruins historical and culturally significant structures they consider contrary to their interpretation of Islam.

Those who knew the monastery wondered about its fate after the extremists swept through in June 2014 and largely cut communications to the area.

Now, St. Elijah's has joined a growing list of more than 100 demolished religious and historic sites, including mosques, tombs, shrines and churches in Syria and Iraq. The extremists have defaced or ruined ancient monuments in Nineveh, Palmyra and Hatra. Museums and libraries have been looted, books burned, artwork crushed — or trafficked.

"A big part of tangible history has been destroyed," said Rev. Manuel Yousif Boji. A Chaldean Catholic pastor in Southfield, Michigan, he remembers attending Mass at St. Elijah's almost 60 years ago while a seminarian in Mosul.

"These persecutions have happened to our church more than once, but we believe in the power of truth, the power of God," said Boji. He is part of the Detroit area's Chaldean community, which became the largest outside Iraq after the sectarian bloodshed that followed the U.S. invasion in 2003. Iraq's Christian population has dropped from 1.3 million then to 300,000 now, church authorities say.

The destruction of the monastery is a blow for U.S. troops and advisers who served in Iraq and had tried to protect and honor the site, a hopeful endeavor in a violent place and time.

Suzanne Bott, who spent more than two years restoring St. Elijah's Monastery as a U.S. State Department cultural adviser in Iraq, teared up when the AP showed her the images.

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"Oh no way. It's just razed completely," said Bott. "What we lose is a very tangible reminder of the roots of a religion."

Army reserve Col. Mary Prophit remembered a sunrise service in St. Elijah where, as a Catholic lay minister, she served communion.

"I let that moment sink in, the candlelight, the first rays of sunshine. We were worshipping in a place where people had been worshipping God for 1,400 years," said Prophit, who was deployed there in 2004 and again in 2009.

"I would imagine that many people are feeling like, 'What were the last 10 years for if these guys can go in and destroy everything?'" said Prophit, a library manager in Glenoma, Washington.

This month, at the request of AP, satellite imagery firm DigitalGlobe tasked a high resolution camera passing over the site to grab photos, and then pulled earlier images of the same spot from their archive of pictures taken globally every day. Imagery analyst Stephen Wood, CEO of Allsource Analysis, reviewed the pictures for AP and identified the date of destruction between Aug. 27 and Sept. 28, 2014. Before it was razed, images show a partially restored, 27,000-square-foot religious building. Although the roof was largely missing, it had 26 distinctive rooms including a sanctuary and chapel. One month later, "the stone walls have been literally pulverized," said Wood.

"Bulldozers, heavy equipment, sledgehammers, possibly explosives turned those stone walls into this field of gray-white dust. They destroyed it completely," he said. "There's nothing to rebuild."

The monastery, called Dair Mar Elia, is named for the Assyrian Christian monk — St. Elijah — who built it between 582 and 590 A.C. It was a holy site for Iraqi Christians for centuries, part of the Mideast's Chaldean Catholic community.

In 1743, tragedy struck when as many as 150 monks who refused to convert to Islam were massacred under orders of a Persian general, and the monastery was damaged. For the next two centuries it remained a place of pilgrimage, even after it was incorporated into an Iraqi military training base and later a U.S. base.

Then in 2003 St. Elijah's shuddered again — this time a wall was smashed by a tank turret blown off in battle. Iraqi troops had already moved in, dumping garbage in the ancient cistern. The U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division took control, with troops painting over ancient murals and scrawling their division's "Screaming Eagle," along with "Chad wuz here" and "I love Debbie," on the walls.

A U.S. military chaplain, recognizing St. Elijah's significance, kicked the troops out and the Army's subsequent preservation initiative became a pet project for a series of chaplains who toured thousands of soldiers through the ruin.

"It was a sacred place. We literally bent down physically to enter, an acquiescence to the reality that there was something greater going on inside," remembered military chaplain Jeffrey Whorton. A Catholic priest who now works at Ft. Bragg, he had to collect himself after viewing the damage. "I don't know why this is affecting me so much," he said.

The U.S. military's efforts drew attention from international media outlets including the AP in 2008. Today those chronicles, from YouTube videos captured on the cell phones of visiting soldiers to AP's own high resolution, detailed photographs, take on new importance as archives of what was lost.

One piece published in Smithsonian Magazine was written by American journalist James Foley, six years before he was killed by Islamic State militants.

St. Elijah's was being saved, Foley wrote in 2008, "for future generations of Iraqis who will hopefully soon have the security to appreciate it."

US piles pressure on China to help with N. Korea sanctions

HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A senior U.S. diplomat stepped up pressure on China on Wednesday to play a leading role in punishing North Korea for its recent nuclear test that raised worries about advancements in its bomb program.

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U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in South Korea on a diplomatic push for tougher sanctions and punishment that can force change in the North. Key to those efforts is whether China, the North's last major ally and a veto-wielding U.N. Security Council member, will join in such moves.

"We believe that China has a special role to play given the special relationship that it has with North Korea," Blinken told reporters after meeting with South Korean officials.

He said Beijing has "more influence and more leverage" over Pyongyang than any other country because most its trade goes from, to or through China. "We are looking to China to show leadership on the issue," Blinken said.

He flies to Beijing later Wednesday for talks on North Korea.

During a meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se, Blinken said Seoul and Washington are working closely in New York with the United Nations Security Council.

Yun said it is time for the international community to stand united to make North Korea face the consequences for its bomb test. "This is North Korea versus international community," he said.

China is expected to join in some U.N. sanctions, but won't likely go as far as to take steps that might lead to the collapse of the North's authoritarian government. China fears the onslaught of a wave of refugees and violence surging across the border, analysts say.

North Korea says it conducted a hydrogen bomb test on Jan. 6. Many governments and experts remain highly skeptical about the North's claim, but whatever device North Korea detonated will likely push the country a step closer toward its goal of manufacturing a miniaturized warhead to place on a missile that can threaten the U.S. mainland.

After the bomb test, the rival Koreas resumed psychological warfare with Seoul blasting anti-Pyongyang broadcasts from border loudspeakers, while Pyongyang does the same and also floats propaganda leaflets over the border by balloon, according to South Korean officials.

Sarah Palin: Trump 'would let our warriors do their job'

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Donald Trump is brandishing the endorsement of conservative Republican firebrand Sarah Palin in the increasingly intense 2016 GOP presidential sweepstakes, giving the billionaire businessman a boost against Texas Sen. Ted Cruz less than two weeks before Iowa's kick-off caucuses.

Media heads are spinning," the former vice presidential candidate said after taking the stage at a Trump rally Tuesday at Iowa State University. "This is going to be so much fun."

Palin, the former governor of Alaska and 2008 GOP vice presidential nominee, said that with Trump as president, America would no longer apologize.

"No more pussy-footing around," Palin said.

The endorsement comes as Trump is locked in a dead heat with Cruz in Iowa. The two have been ramping up their attacks against one another as the Feb. 1 caucuses have neared.

In the statement announcing the endorsement, Trump's campaign described Palin as a conservative who "helped launch the careers of several key future leaders of the Republican Party and conservative movement." The statement also quoted Cruz as once saying he "would not be in the United States Senate were it not for Gov. Sarah Palin. ... She can pick winners."

Campaigning in New Hampshire, Cruz said, "Regardless of what Sarah intends to do in 2016, I will remain a big, big fan of Sarah Palin."

Palin endorsed Cruz in his 2012 Senate race and said as recently as last month that he and Trump were both in her top tier of candidates, making the endorsement a symbolic blow to Cruz.

Palin's remarks in Ames, Iowa, were signature Palin, combining the folksy charm and everywoman appeal that initially made her a GOP superstar with defiant taunting of a "busted" GOP establishment that she slammed for counting both Trump and herself out.

Palin offered her full-throated support for Trump and slammed President Barack Obama as the "capitulator in chief." Trump, she said, would be a commander in chief who would "let our warriors do their job and go kick ISIS' ass!"

She also took aim at the Republican establishment for "attacking their own front-runner" and offered a

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challenge to those who have suggested that Trump, whose positions on issues like gun control and abortion rights have shifted over the years, isn't conservative enough.

"Oh my goodness gracious. What the heck would the establishment know about conservatism?" she said. "Who are they to tell us that we're not conservative enough? ... Give me a break."

Trump, whose team had been touting a major, surprise announcement, praised Palin as "a friend, and a high-quality person whom I have great respect for" in a statement.

"We're going to give 'em hell," he said after her speech.

Palin will also be joining Trump at two events Wednesday, including a rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Palin was a virtual newcomer to the national political arena when 2008 GOP presidential nominee John McCain named her as his running mate. She has since risen to prominence as one of the most outspoken conservatives in the party. She signed on as a Fox News commentator after resigning as Alaska's governor in 2010, a job she held until last year.

Trump and Palin did not discuss how the endorsement had come about, but Trump's national political director, Michael Glassner, previously worked for her. Trump said earlier Tuesday that he doesn't typically put much stock in endorsements, but said of this one, "I think it could very well result in votes."

GOP consultant Kevin Madden said the timing will likely help Trump crowd out Cruz's message as the Iowa caucuses approach.

"I think it helps Trump overwhelm the news cycle with Trump coverage at a critical time," he said.

Madden also said Palin's support could help shield Trump from charges that his past positions make him too liberal to be the GOP nominee, "giving Trump some rhetorical cover from a conservative validator in the eyes of many grassroots conservatives."

But some rally-goers at Trump's event Tuesday evening said they weren't sure whether Palin's support would help Trump win over voters. Several referenced what they saw as her poor performance as a vice presidential candidate.

"I don't think it's going to be a detriment, but I don't think it's going to be a huge asset," said Stephen Freese, 56, of Burlington, Iowa, who works in construction.

"I don't think she's really credible anymore," said Bruce Dodge, 66, a retiree who lives in Ankeny, Iowa.

The event came a day after Palin's oldest son, Track, was arrested in a domestic violence case in which his girlfriend told police she was afraid he would shoot himself with a rifle. Track Palin was charged with assault, interfering with the report of a domestic violence crime and possessing a weapon while intoxicated in connection with the incident.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump received an endorsement from the daughter of movie star John Wayne.

Standing in front of a life-size, rifle-toting model of the actor in full cowboy gear, Trump accepted the endorsement of Aissa Wayne at the John Wayne Birthplace Museum in Winterset, Iowa.

"America needs help and we need a strong leader and we need someone like Mr. Trump with leadership qualities, someone with courage, someone that's strong, like John Wayne," she said.

Rubio betting on a long-haul strategy to win GOP nomination

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

BETTENDORF, Iowa (AP) — Under pressure to emerge as the Republican mainstream's presidential contender, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio is increasingly relying on a national strategy as he lowers expectations for February's primary contests.

He's betting big that Republican voters across the political spectrum will ultimately coalesce behind his candidacy in the state-by-state slog for delegates his team envisions for the months ahead.

It's a strategy fraught with risk for Rubio, who's still fighting to break out among the pack of candidates looking up at New York billionaire Donald Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. The outsider favorites are dominating in Iowa less than two weeks before the state's leadoff caucuses.

For now at least, Rubio, a first-term senator, is embracing a patient approach that goes well beyond the four states with contests in February: Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

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Rubio in recent days has cast himself as a passionate evangelical conservative, a national security hawk, an empathizer of immigrants in the country illegally, and someone who can bring new voters to the Republican Party. This, as he jabs at Trump, Cruz and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, yet works to capture the anger and frustration that fuel their candidacies.

"I won't be able to appeal to everybody on everything," Rubio told The Associated Press on Monday. "I want to get enough delegates to be the nominee."

But that's exactly the theme he projected as he campaigned through Iowa this week before a trip to New Hampshire, where he hopes to rise from a cluster of so-called establishment alternatives to Trump and Cruz.

"Too often, I think, as Republicans we have a bad choice," said Iowa state Sen. Jack Whitver, Rubio's state campaign chairman, introducing him at one of his many Iowa stops this week. The choice, he said, is often between "the establishment, moderate person that everyone says can win the election, or we have a true consistent conservative that everyone says can't win the election."

"This year we don't have to make that choice," he said. "This year, we can have it all."

Given Jeb Bush's continued struggles, some major Republican donors and elected officials see Rubio as their party's best candidate to defeat the leading Democrat, Hillary Clinton, in this fall's general election. But in a year when voters appear to be rejecting insiders, Rubio has struggled to tap the anti-establishment anger, putting him behind Cruz and Trump with time running out before the Feb. 1 Iowa caucuses.

Facing that reality, Rubio's team has conceded he's unlikely to win any of the first three contests: Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

No Republican in the modern political era has won the presidential nomination without winning one of the first three states. Rubio's team sees a path around that history: finishing in the top three in those states and surviving until March. That's when party insiders expect the race to become a long haul because of new rules that award delegates proportionally.

The strategy also assumes some of Rubio's mainstream challengers will drop out, leaving Rubio's mix of messages — his tea party rise, national security background and abiding conservative social positions — to allow him to unify the GOP.

"Any preconceived notions you have from previous cycles are out the window," said California-based donor John Jordan, who is running a pro-Rubio super PAC. "Given that, I don't think it's necessary to win one of the early states." He calls this "a rolling national election."

Rubio's team describes his message not as scattered, but as based on Ronald Reagan's "three-legged stool" with conservative approaches to economic, social and national security policy.

Rubio emphasized his religious faith in Iowa, where he's running an ad highlighting his opposition to abortion rights and where he told voters in the more socially conservative northern part of the state that his Christianity is "the single greatest influence in my life."

In more moderate eastern Iowa, Rubio asserted his credentials on military and foreign policy as unmatched in the field. "It's not even close," he said.

And the 44-year-old son of Cuban immigrants pressed the point in Ottumwa that he can bring people into the party who normally don't vote for it.

"We have some differences," Rubio said of the candidates in the field. "But it's a big tent."

Yet when asked why he was more electable than Trump, he nodded to the raucous throngs that have flocked to Trump's rallies.

"What he's tapped into is a real frustration that needs to be addressed," Rubio said.

Ottumwa physician Michael Shaeffer, who asked Rubio what set him apart, wanted more, but still plans to support him.

"We're not going to vote necessarily for the best person," Shaeffer said. "We're going to vote for the one with the best chance of winning."

Global stocks fall after US turbulence, Chinese weakness

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JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Global stocks sagged Wednesday after the IMF's lower growth forecast added to anxiety over a weaker Chinese economy.

KEEPING SCORE: In early trading, Germany's DAX tumbled 2.4 percent to 9,436.57 and France's CAC-40 shed 2.2 percent to 4,176.45. Britain's FTSE 100 sank 2 percent to 5,762.07. Wall Street looked set for losses. Futures for the Dow Jones industrial average were down 1.9 percent at 15,617.00 and S&P 500 futures lost 1.8 percent to 1,838.60.

IMF OUTLOOK: The International Monetary Fund cut its forecast for this year's global economic growth to 3.4 percent from its October outlook of 3.6 percent. The IMF downgraded the outlook for developing economies to 4.3 percent growth from a forecast of 4.5 percent in October. Earlier this month, the World Bank cut its global growth forecast to 2.9 percent from last June's 3.3 percent outlook.

CHINESE SLOWDOWN: The world's second-largest economy cooled further in the latest quarter, dragging 2015's growth to a 25-year low of 6.9 percent. The slowdown has dampened demand for goods from oil to iron to heavy machinery. Anxiety over China's outlook has contributed to oil prices falling to 12-year lows.

THE QUOTE: "The stabilisation we saw yesterday now appears to have only been a pause" in volatility for financial markets, said IG analyst Angus Nicholson in a report. "China's somewhat mystifying 3 percent rally in the Shanghai Composite was quickly lost at the open, killing sentiment across the whole Asian region."

ASIA'S DAY: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 fell 3.7 percent to 16,416.19 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng retreated 3.8 percent to 18,886.30. The Shanghai Composite Index lost 1 percent to 2,976.69 and South Korea's KOSPI was off 2.3 percent at 1,845.45. Australia's ASX/S&P 200 shed 1.3 percent to 4,841.50. India's Sensex was down 1.9 percent at 24,005.56. Markets in Southeast Asia also retreated.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks struggled through turbulent trading Tuesday and eked out small gains, led by utility and consumer stocks. The Dow rose as much as 183 points in the first minutes of trading Tuesday. Gains faded in the afternoon before a late spurt of buying. The Dow ended up 27.94 points, or 0.2 percent, at 16,016.02. The S&P 500 rose one point to 1,881.33. The Nasdaq composite index fell 11.47 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,476.95. Major indexes had plunged Friday, and the Dow and S&P 500 are coming off their worst opening weeks of a year in history.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude for March delivery was down 88 cents at \$28.70 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The February contract, which expires Wednesday, fell 96 cents to \$28.46 on Tuesday. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, lost 60 cents to \$28.16 in London. The contract rose 21 cents on Tuesday to close at \$28.76.

CURRENCIES: The dollar declined to 116.20 yen from 117.46 in the previous trading session. The euro rose to \$1.0964 from \$1.0922.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2016. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 1936, Britain's King George V died after his physician, Lord Dawson of Penn, injected the mortally ill monarch with morphine and cocaine to hasten his death; the king was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward VIII, who abdicated the throne 11 months later to marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson.

On this date:

In 1265, England's first representative Parliament met for the first time; the gathering at Westminster was composed of bishops, abbots, peers, Knights of the Shire and town burgesses.

In 1649, King Charles I of England went on trial, accused of high treason (he was found guilty and executed by month's end).

In 1887, the U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.

In 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final

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solution" that called for exterminating Jews.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn into office for an unprecedented fourth term.

In 1954, "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial," a play by Herman Wouk based on part of his novel "The Caine Mutiny," opened on Broadway.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

In 1975, several former William Morris talent agents, including Michael Ovitz, founded Creative Artists Agency (CAA).

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1990, actress Barbara Stanwyck died in Santa Monica, California, at age 82.

In 2001, George Walker Bush became America's 43rd president after one of the most turbulent elections in U.S. history.

Ten years ago: Michael Fortier (FOHR'-tee-ur), the government's star witness in the Oklahoma City bombing trials, was released from federal prison after serving more than 10 years for failing to warn authorities about the plot. Japan halted all imports of U.S. beef because of mad cow fears. (Shipments resumed six months later.)

Five years ago: In a luncheon speech to American business executives in Washington, Chinese President Hu Jintao denied his country was a military threat despite its arms buildup and pressed the U.S. for closer cooperation between the global powers. Federal authorities orchestrated one of the biggest Mafia takedowns in FBI history, charging 127 suspected mobsters and associates in the Northeast with murders, extortion and other crimes spanning decades.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, undaunted by the new Republican majority in Congress, issued a sweeping challenge in his State of the Union address to do more for the poor and middle class and to end the nasty partisan political fight that had characterized his six years in office. The Islamic State group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages unless its ransom demands were met. (Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa were both slain by their captors.)

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Arte Johnson is 87. Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 86. Olympic gold medal figure skater Carol Heiss is 76. Singer Eric Stewart is 71. Movie director David Lynch is 70. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 69. Israeli activist Natan Sharansky is 68. Actor Daniel Benzali is 66. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 64. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 64. Comedian Bill Maher (MAR) is 60. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 58. Actor James Denton is 53. Rock musician Greg K. (The Offspring) is 51. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 51. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, is 51. Actor Rainn Wilson is 50. Actress Stacey Dash is 49. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 48. Singer Xavier is 48. Actor Reno Wilson is 47. Singer Edwin McCain is 46. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 46. Rap musician ?uestlove (questlove) (The Roots) is 45. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 37. Singer/songwriter Bonnie McKee is 32. Country singer Brantley Gilbert is 31. Rock singer Kevin Parker (Tame Impala) is 30. Actor Evan Peters is 29.

Thought for Today: "Whatever people in general do not understand, they are always prepared to dislike; the incomprehensible is always the obnoxious." — Letitia Landon, English poet (1802-1838).