

Groton Daily Independent

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Friday, February 12

Debate at Harrisburg

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, blueberry cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Ashley Ptacek, Brett Merkel, Yvonne Lorenz

6:30pm: GBB: Britton-Hecla here

Saturday, February 13

Birthdays: Arlene Gibbs, Bradley Sheridan, Michelle Patton

10:00am: Wrestling at Howard

2:00pm: GBB/BBB DH in Groton with Mobridge-Pollock (GJV at 2, BJV at 3, Girls varsity at 4:30, Boys Varsity at 6:00)

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Anniv: Duane and Dodie Neumann

Birthdays: Brooklyn Clara Imrie, Derek Pfitzer, Diane Nilssen, John Neff, Joyce Krueger, Zach Kern

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

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

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

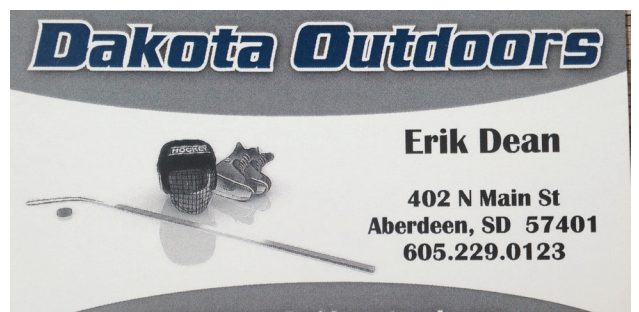
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

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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Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

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Follow The Groton
Activities On-Line



gdilive.com

Coming up this week at gdilive.com

Friday, Feb. 11: GBB host Britton-Hecla (Varsity)

Saturday, Feb. 12: GBB/BBB host Mobridge-Pollock

(Varsity games only)

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!

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Groton Lions Club

The Groton Lions Club held its February monthly meeting, last Thursday evening. Justin Olson, first vice president; led the business session, and Lee Schinkel served lunch.

Lee and Topper Tastad reported on the state convention, held in Aberdeen in January. They were the voting delegates from the Groton Club.

Michelle Mullenburg reported on the spring Lions sponsored city-wide rummage, which she is chairing again this year, set for Saturday, May 7. Michelle also reported on the annual Easter egg hunt, in the city park, set for Saturday, March 19; with March 26, as an alternate date. Time will be 10 a.m.

Michelle and Nancy Larsen are working on a Lions website. The wheel of meat project at the Legion is going well.

A monetary donation was voted to the GHS robotics team. The Show 'n Shine show will be June 12, at the Terry Thompson farm. Pastor Elizabeth Johnson and Lee are the scholarship committee again this year, and others offered to help us.

Justin reported on his ongoing Facebook project. Pastor Elizabeth invited all to join her Emmanuel Lutheran youth group in the Kids Against Hunger project, at the old Elks building in Aberdeen, coming up in March.

At the close of the meeting, Lee presented a new application for membership for Jason Bickel, of Andover. Jason was voted upon to become a new member of the Groton Lions Club. This makes seven new members since early December.

Lewandowski makes Scholar-Athlete PC list

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Presentation College is pleased to announce that Groton native, Cole Lewandowski has made the North Star Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete list for the 2015 fall academic season. To be eligible for selection to the Academic NSAA Scholar-Athlete, a student-athlete must achieved a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale. Thanks for your outstanding achievement this past season!

Special Weather Statement NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ABERDEEN SD 535 AM CST FRI FEB 12 2016

LIGHT SNOW WILL DEVELOP SATURDAY AHEAD OF A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING STORM SYSTEM...WITH POCKETS OF FREEZING RAIN WEST OF THE MISSOURI VALLEY. SNOW WILL BECOME HEAVIER LATE SATURDAY. SNOWFALL AMOUNTS COULD POTENTIALLY RANGE FROM 3 TO 6 INCHES FOR EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA INTO WESTERN MINNESOTA. CONDITIONS WILL IMPROVE SUNDAY.

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Report from Pierre from Rep. Dennis Feickert, District 1

We've just wrapped up Week Five of the 91st Legislative Session. It is my honor to represent District 1 counties which include Brown, Marshall, Roberts, and Day.

This Session, just like the past several years, has put an emphasis on health care and education. Now that we have bills before us to review the education plan put forward by the Blue Ribbon Task Force, we have much to discuss. The plan is described in HB 1182 which was approved this week by the House Appropriations Committee with a unanimous 9-0 vote. However, then the progression of the bill was blocked by a contingent of the GOP super majority.

I was very disappointed with 14 House Republicans on Wednesday when they postponed a vote to increase education funding (HB 1182) through a procedural motion. This seldom used motion caused the delay on final action of an amendment. The education funding bill was quickly amended and then "Rule 5-17" was invoked. (Rule 5-17 of the Joint Rules of the Legislature allows final action on any amendment to be delayed until one legislative day has passed. Because it effectively stops a bill from going forward, it may NOT be invoked during the last fourteen days of the Session). In these circumstances, the amendment is no more than a "prop" used to stop action on a bill. This effort was led by Brian Gosch, a term limited Republican leader from Rapid City. The motion received the required one-fifth second and thus delayed the vote until Tuesday, Feb. 16.

These games are exactly what the people of South Dakota don't want when it involves our children's education. If the House Republicans are too embarrassed to vote against teacher pay with hundreds of educators in the gallery, I hope they are prepared to see them at the ballot box.

Debate on HB 1182 will continue next week. It's time to be bold. The only South Dakotans that think this issue can wait another day are the House Republicans.

Health care is the other major issue of the Session and it seems like Medicaid Expansion is on target to keep moving through the Session. Unlike education which will have separate bills and require a 2/3 vote to pass any new funding source, Medicaid funding is imbedded in the General Funding bill which funds all of state government. Because of this the G-Bill won't be seen until the end of Session and requires a simple majority to pass. It seems that a majority of South Dakotans are also becoming advocates of Medicaid Expansion. According to a recent survey conducted by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and the American Heart Association and published in the Argus Leader: 74 percent of 400 registered voters surveyed between Jan. 14 and 17 said they favored "South Dakota accepting the federal money to increase access to health care coverage for 50,000 low-income South Dakotans through the state's Medicaid program".

SB 2 was signed by the Governor today. This bill was introduced by the County Government summer study. Counties will now receive 25% of alcohol taxes, and cities will continue to receive 25%. Prior to this redistribution, the state received 75% and will now receive 50%. Counties have had increased jail and lawyer expenses related to alcohol, but received no funding from alcohol tax. This will give them another \$3.8 million to help with jails and other expenses.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you, the residents of District 1. Please feel free to contact me at rep.feickert@state.sd.us or call me at 605-216-3451 with any questions, concerns or comments. If you plan to travel to Pierre during the legislative session, please let me know as I would be honored to meet with everyone from back home in District 1.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman
Secretary**

WEAR YOUR COLORS PROUDLY

Colors hold significance for people around the world. Not only do colors influence emotion, but they also hold meaning in various cultures, holidays and activities, such as football! Some might ask, "What do the colors orange, dark blue, and white symbolize?" This question can be answered differently depending on where you live. I've been proudly wearing the dark blue, orange and white for over 30 years. To me these colors signify Broncos, winners, teamwork, success, champions, front-runners, spirit and loyalty!

Color charts will show you that dark blue symbolizes integrity, knowledge, power, and seriousness; while orange symbolizes energy, balance, enthusiasm, warmth, vibrant, expansive, flamboyant, demanding of attention; so I guess they align close with my analogy!

Colors play a large role in many of our lives – from our first pack of colors, to the color of our first car, to decorum in our home, to our holiday decor. Holidays such as St. Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, Independence Day and Christmas are symbolized and marketed by colors.

Every Independence Day we wave our flag, but do we ever stop and ask "Why does America salute the red, white and blue?"

The colors and their significance trace back to the birth of the country, and had very specific meanings in the creation of the Great Seal. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing a committee to develop a seal for the country. The committee was instructed to draw up a seal that reflected the Founding Fathers' beliefs and values, as well as the sovereignty of the new nation. Red, white and blue were chosen.

Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, explained the significance to Congress when he presented the seal. "The colors," Thomson said at the time, "are those used in the flag of the United States of America. White signifies purity and innocence. Red, hardiness & valor, and blue... signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice."

Although most Americans today aren't aware of the symbolism behind the flag's red, white and blue, I do believe the flag still evokes patriotism and pride and that they know the flag represents our freedoms — freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion.

Perhaps Ronald Reagan said it best when he said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

God bless the United States of America and the men and women who serve to protect our freedom.
God bless the red, white, and blue.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Valentine's Day Sunday, Feb 14th

Allow us to help you show your loved one how much you love them!

♦ Fresh Floral Bouquets – **Free bottle of Sparkling Wine** (\$20 value) with purchase of a dozen roses in vase or mixed arrangement at same value (limited quantities)

♦ Wine or Coffee Gift Basket

♦ Candy or Snack Gift Basket

♦ Jewelry, Purses, Scarves

♦ Gift Certificates



Call us at 397-8650

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Oldebankfloral@nvc.net

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Oldebankfloralsd.com

Or Message us on
Facebook!

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Today in Weather History

February 12, 1905: On this date in weather history, record low temperatures occurred across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota with lows in the 30s below zero. Sisseton, Aberdeen, and Watertown all had record lows. Sisseton fell to 31 degrees below zero, Watertown fell to 35 degrees below zero, and Aberdeen fell to 36 degrees below zero in 1905. In central South Dakota, Kennebec fell to 34 degrees below zero.

1784: Ice flows were spotted in the Gulf of Mexico after passing from the Mississippi River in February 1784. Ice actually blocked the river at New Orleans, Louisiana. This was only one of two times that this occurred, the other during the Great Arctic Outbreak of 1899. The eruption of Laki in Iceland from June 8, 1783 through February 7, 1784 is the likely cause for the severe winter of 1783 to 1784.

1899: More from the bitter cold outbreak of 1899. Texas and the eastern plains experienced their coldest morning of modern record. The mercury dipped to 8 degrees below zero at Fort Worth, Texas and to 22 degrees below zero at Kansas City, Missouri. The temperature at Camp Clarke, Nebraska plunged to 47 degrees below zero to establish a record for the state. The all-time record low for Oklahoma City was set. The mercury plunged to a frigid 17 degrees below zero and broke the previous record low of 12 below zero, which was set on the previous day. In the eastern U.S., Washington D.C. hit 15 degrees below zero, while Charleston SC received a record four inches of snow. Snow was reported in Fort Myers, Tampa, and Tallahassee in Florida.

1958: Snow blanketed northern Florida, with Tallahassee reporting a record 2.8 inches. A ship in the Gulf of Mexico, 25 miles south of Fort Morgan Alabama, reported zero visibility in heavy snow on the afternoon of the 12th.










**Livestream
your
wedding!**

How cool would that be?!

Call or text Paul at 605/397-7460.

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Overnight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night
						
Scattered Flurries	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Snow and Breezy	Snow and Breezy	Chance Snow then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy
Low: 12 °F	High: 12 °F ↓	Low: -4 °F	High: 18 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 20 °F

Arctic High Pressure Dominates Today

Fast Moving System Brings Snow & Mild Air Back For Saturday Night/Sunday



TODAY
Partial Clearing

Falling
Temperatures

Highs:
Teens and 20s

TONIGHT
Increasing
Clouds

Light Snow
West River

Lows:
-15 to +15

SATURDAY
Light Snow

Highs:
Teens to 30s

SAT NIGHT
Heavy Snow
Likely

2 – 6" Possible

Lows:
Teens & 20s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen

National Weather Service Aberdeen

@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 2/12/2016 5:00 AM Central

Published on: 02/12/2016 at 5:10AM

An Arctic high pressure system will cause temperatures to drop through the day. As moisture backs into the region tonight we could see some light snow move into the Missouri valley. This area of light snow expands east Saturday - and we may see a few spots with mixed precipitation. A strong wave zips across the region causing snow to expand and intensify overnight. Snowfall amounts could top 6 inches for the Sisseton hills region before things wind down Sunday. Temperatures Sunday will also jump into the 30s and 40s as mild air follows the system.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 24
Low: 11.4
High Gust: 13
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 62° in 1921
Record Low: -36° in 1905
Average High: 27°F
Average Low: 6°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.19
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.66
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:55 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:39 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Feb 12, 2016, issued 2:36 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



"GOOD MISS MURPHY"

Paul was a serious first grade student always striving to do his best. However, he had difficulty with his hearing and there were times when others became impatient with him.

But his Sunday school teacher, Miss Murphy, was always kind and gracious, going out of her way to help him. One Sunday morning she lovingly taught him to recite the twenty-third Psalm from memory.

Hurrying home, he anxiously stood in front on his mother and repeated it perfectly, except for the last verse. Looking at his Mom with excitement and pride he said, "Surely Good Miss Murphy shall follow me forever."

Everyone needs a "Good Miss Murphy" nearby when we are having difficulties with the issues of life. We all need someone who goes the extra mile in helping us solve our problems, give us a word of encouragement or a smile when we have little to be happy about. It is the "Good Miss Murphy's" of God's Kingdom who show His love, give others a portion of His grace and show others what the love of Christ is about.

There's one more lesson here. All of us can be "Good Miss Murphys." Acts of kindness and deeds of thoughtfulness are expressions of God's love and grace that we can put on display every day if we are alert to others.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may we be quick to see and respond to the pains and problems of those around us. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 23:6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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News from the Associated Press

Sioux Steel workers mark 1-year anniversary of shooting

LENNOX, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Steel workers in Lennox are marking the one-year anniversary of a workplace shooting that left two dead and two others seriously injured.

Scheduled memorial events Friday included a private dedication of a memorial plaque, a balloon release and a private memorial service.

Authorities say Sioux Falls truck driver Jeffrey DeZeeuw got into an argument Feb. 12, 2015, with a supervisor at a Sioux Steel location called ProTec and fatally shot Richter and wounded a woman before killing himself. Authorities say DeZeeuw also injured another male worker who confronted him.

CEO Scott Rysdon says the incident was a "senseless loss" of friends and family.

Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 75, Mitchell 47
Arlington 45, Castlewood 40
Britton-Hecla 53, South Border, N.D. 45
Burke/South Central 50, Kimball/White Lake 42
Canistota 65, Menno 38
Colman-Egan 79, Dell Rapids St. Mary 38
Corsica 73, Freeman 33
DeSmet 73, Estelline 27
Deubrook 48, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 34
Edmunds Central 55, Northwestern 54
Elk Point-Jefferson 56, Lawton-Bronson, Iowa 49
Elkton-Lake Benton 79, Great Plains Lutheran 68
Eureka/Bowdle 59, Aberdeen Christian 41
Flasher, N.D. 56, Lemmon 52
Hanson 51, Mitchell Christian 37
Harding County 72, Bison 38
Herreid/Selby Area 100, Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 94
Hill City 74, Douglas 65
Hitchcock-Tulare 57, Iroquois 25
Huron 50, Yankton 29
Kadoka Area 77, Takini 38
Mt. Vernon 72, Ethan 60
Oakes, N.D. 55, Leola/Frederick 53
Potter County 51, Faulkton 35
Rapid City Christian 52, Faith 51
Sioux Falls Christian 60, Western Christian, Hull, Iowa 58
Sisseton 63, Deuel 39
Waverly-South Shore 44, Rosholt 28
Wessington Springs 47, Miller 45, OT
White River 75, Stanley County 40
Dakota Plains Invitational
First Round

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Oelrichs 60, Santee, Neb. 58

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 53, Clark/Willow Lake 52, OT

Crow Creek 70, Lower Brule 60, OT

Elkton-Lake Benton 45, Lake Preston 34

Eureka/Bowdle 46, Aberdeen Christian 11

Kimball/White Lake 51, Sunshine Bible Academy 26

Lawton-Bronson, Iowa 49, Elk Point-Jefferson 46

Lennox 55, Parkston 40

Sturgis Brown 28, Douglas 23

Waubay/Summit 60, Great Plains Lutheran 15

Waverly-South Shore 51, Rosholt 28

Webster 69, Milbank Area 45

West Central 54, Vermillion 35

Wilmot 52, Florence/Henry 22

Winner 57, Platte-Geddes 35

Yankton 64, Huron 40

Dakota Plains Invitational

First Round

Marty Indian 77, Santee, Neb. 39

Parents encouraged to register kids in SDCHIP

WORTHING, S.D. (AP) — Officials will be in Rapid City on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to encourage parents to register their kids in a comprehensive child identification program.

SDCHIP generates packages of various identifying items of children for parents or guardians. The information includes dental impressions, a DNA cheek swab, a digital still photo, fingerprints and a video image interview.

The South Dakota Child Identification Program is part of MASONICHIP, an initiative of the Masons.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says it's a comprehensive child identification program designed to assist in the event a child becomes missing,

The events at Rushmore Plaza Civic Center are Friday from noon to 9 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Department of Education looking for work group applicants

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Education says it's looking for people who want to review education content standards.

The agency says people are encouraged to apply to participate by March 4.

Starting in the summer, South Dakota is reviewing standards in content areas such as math and English language arts.

The standards represent a map for the knowledge students should have and what they should be able to do by the end of every grade.

The work group review allows interested people including teachers and business representatives to analyze the state's content standards.

Members are expected to become familiar with standards resources and materials before initial work group meetings.

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South Dakota never trails in 72-58 win over North Dakota St.

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Tyler Flack had season highs of 18 points and 10 rebounds and Tre Burnette 11 points and 10 boards to lead South Dakota to a 72-58 win over North Dakota State on Thursday night. Flack posted his first double-double of the season and Burnette his fifth. D.J. Davis added 13 points and Casey Kasperbauer 10 for the Coyotes (12-14, 4-8 Summit), who never trailed.

A free throw by Flack gave South Dakota its largest lead of 20 points, 52-32, with 10:13 remaining. North Dakota State briefly got within nine with 4:41 to go.

Carlin Dupree had 14 points and Khy Kabellis 12 for the Bison (16-9, 6-5), who scored only six points in the game's first 10 minutes and trailed 29-21 at halftime.

South Dakota won its second in a row while North Dakota State lost for the first time in three games.

Mid-Central cooperative director announces June retirement

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The director of a Platte-based educational cooperative that was pushed into the spotlight after a murder-suicide involving two employees is retiring effective June 30.

A lawyer for Mid-Central Educational Cooperative released Director Dan Guericke's retirement announcement Thursday. The September murder-suicide occurred hours after the state informed Mid-Central it was losing a contract for GEAR UP, a federal college-readiness grant.

Attorney General Marty Jackley has said there's a state-federal financial investigation surrounding GEAR UP.

Mid-Central attorney Scott Swier didn't immediately respond to an email requesting comment. Guericke has previously declined to comment.

Guericke says in the letter that Mid-Central is "well-positioned for the opportunities and challenges ahead." He says he is leaving in the "best interests" of the cooperative and that he's focused on a new chapter in his career.

Congress gives final OK to banning local Internet taxes

ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress voted Thursday to permanently bar state and local governments from taxing access to the Internet, as lawmakers leapt at an election-year chance to demonstrate their opposition to imposing levies on online service.

On a vote of 75-20, the Senate gave final congressional approval to the wide-ranging bill, which would also revamp trade laws. The White House said President Barack Obama will sign it.

"The Internet is a resource used daily by Americans of all ages," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who brokered an agreement with a Democratic leader earlier this week that helped clear the way for passage. "It's important that they be able to do all of this without the worry of their Internet access being taxed."

The ban on local Internet access taxes had broad support. Even so, some lawmakers remained unhappy over its trade provisions and because the measure omitted a separate, more controversial proposal to let states force online retailers to collect sales taxes for their transactions.

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the bill was full of "missed opportunities and half-measures."

Since 1998 in the Internet's early days, Congress has passed a series of bills temporarily prohibiting state and local governments from imposing the types of monthly levies for online access that are common for telephone service. Such legislation has been inspired by a popular sentiment that the Internet should be free, along with Republican opposition to most tax proposals.

Until now, states that imposed Internet access taxes have been allowed to continue. Under the approved bill, those states would have to phase out their taxes by the summer of 2020.

Seven states — Hawaii, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin — have been collecting a combined \$563 million yearly from Internet access taxes, according to information gath-

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ered by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

Forty-nine Republican and 26 Democratic senators backed the legislation Thursday while 17 Democrats and three Republicans voted "no."

The House approved the compromise in December with the backing of nearly all Republicans but just 24 Democrats.

Although Obama planned to sign the bill, the White House took issue with a provision opposing the "boycott, divestment and sanctions" movement against Israel that uses the phrase "Israeli-controlled territories." White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the provision contradicts U.S. policy toward Israeli settlements. U.S. policy considers Israeli settlements in the disputed West Bank to be illegitimate.

"As with any bipartisan compromise legislation, there are provisions in this bill that we do not support," Earnest said.

The legislation, especially its trade provisions, has pitted the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups supporting the bill against opponents including the AFL-CIO and other labor organizations.

Supporters say the measure would strengthen U.S. trading by improving protections for American intellectual property like copyrights and trademarks and upgrading trade law enforcement at the country's borders.

They also cite provisions reinforcing the government's ability to head off China and other countries from manipulating their currency to make their exports more affordable, cracking down on imported products made with child labor and accelerating investigations into companies accused of evading the payment of duties.

Democratic critics complained that its trade protections were insufficient and said negotiators who wrote the compromise weakened it significantly, including the currency manipulation language.

Democrats also disliked provisions barring trade agreements that would curb some efforts to restrict greenhouse gas emissions, a major contributor to climate change, or would force the U.S. to revamp its immigration laws.

For years, the drive in Congress to permanently bar taxes on Internet service has languished alongside another effort to empower states to require online retailers to collect state and local sales taxes for online purchases. Supporters of enhancing the collection of online sales taxes say without that, brick-and-mortar stores face a competitive disadvantage.

In hopes of gaining leverage, senators backing the collection of online state sales taxes have long linked the two efforts.

A breakthrough came this week when McConnell agreed to hold a vote this year on the online state sales tax proposal. He reached that deal with No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Dick Durbin of Illinois, a strong advocate of the separate Internet sales tax measure.

Even so, some lawmakers were upset that the sales tax measure would be considered later, with no guarantee of success.

Eminent domain possible issue in pipeline's passage in Iowa

DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa utilities regulators are considering whether to allow a Texas company to bury 346 miles of a crude oil pipeline under farmland and give it authority to use eminent domain to force unwilling landowners to sign easements.

Iowa is the only state yet to approve the permit for the \$3.78 billion Bakken pipeline, which will carry about a half-million barrels of oil per day from North Dakota to Illinois, crossing through Iowa and South Dakota. The pipeline, to be built by Dakota Access, would stretch diagonally across 1,300 parcels of land and 18 counties in Iowa at a cost of \$1 billion.

Thursday was the fourth day of meetings for the three-member Iowa Utilities Board, and it has set additional meetings for next week and into March.

Environmental and property rights groups have spoken out against the pipeline, coordinating most of the

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3,700 letters to the board opposing the project. Among the concerns are that pipeline leaks could harm farmland and waterways, hurt land values, disrupt land productivity and damage timber areas.

Dakota Access also wants to use eminent domain for 296 parcels, but a 2006 Iowa law prohibits agricultural land from being taken by eminent domain for private projects or private development, which raises legal questions about whether Dakota Access — owned by Phillips 66 and Energy Transfer Partners, both publicly traded companies based in Texas — can force landowners to sign easements.

If the pipeline is approved by the utilities board, it'll certainly lead to lawsuits, said Wallace Taylor, a Cedar Rapids attorney who represents the Sierra Club, an environmental group that opposes the project. "That law the Legislature passed has never been litigated at all," Taylor said.

Dakota Access says the pipeline will be significantly safer than transporting oil by truck or railroad, its construction will create \$1 billion in economic benefit to Iowa and the domestically produced oil will improve national security. Labor unions favor the project because of the thousands of jobs construction will create.

The Iowa Utilities Board must decide whether the pipeline meets the requirements of Iowa law, which authorizes approval of a permit only if the service provided "will promote the public convenience and necessity."

The project also must receive approval from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers because the pipeline will be tunneled underneath the Mississippi River.

Senate panel approves transgender student bathroom bill

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill limiting transgender students' use of bathrooms and locker rooms is headed to the full Senate against the urging of transgender people who testified, some clergy members and advocacy groups.

The Senate Education Committee approved a measure Thursday that would require students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that correspond to their biological sex at birth. The House has already passed the measure, which advocates argue is meant to protect the privacy of students, but opponents say discriminates against vulnerable adolescents.

Under the plan, schools would have to provide a "reasonable accommodation" for transgender students, such as a single-occupancy bathroom or the "controlled use" of a staff-designated restroom, locker room or shower room.

Thomas Lewis, a transgender student at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, set down two thick binders with a loud thud Thursday before addressing the committee. The binders were filled with thousands of signatures from opponents of the proposal.

The bill isolates transgender students, said Lewis, who is a senior.

"It makes me feel like I'm not a human being," he said. "It makes us feel like we're all alone in the world and that the stigma that we face already is real."

The American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota and the Human Rights Campaign oppose the measure and say South Dakota would be the first state to pass such a law.

"This outrageous legislation is a blatant attack on transgender children," Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said in a statement.

Advocates have also criticized some lawmakers' comments about transgender people.

"I'm sorry if you're so twisted you don't know who you are," Republican Sen. David Omdahl said at a recent event when asked about the bill. "I'm telling you right now, it's about protecting the kids, and I don't even understand where our society is these days."

Republican Rep. Fred Deutsch said his bathroom plan is a reasonable solution to "a complex social issue." He said the proposal is about respecting children's privacy.

"Do we want our boys and girls to shower together, change clothes together and use restrooms together?" Deutsch said.

The plan is a response to changes in the Obama administration's interpretation of the federal Title IX anti-discrimination law related to education, he said.

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Federal officials have said that barring students from restrooms that match their gender identity is prohibited under Title IX.

Schools that don't comply run the "very real risk" of losing their federal funding, said Libby Skarin, policy director at the ACLU of South Dakota.

The bathroom bill is one of several measures introduced this session addressing transgender rights. Some legislators this session are also attempting again to void a high school activities association policy allowing transgender student athletes to request playing on the team of their choice.

It isn't clear when the bathroom bill will be taken up by the Senate, which could vote to send it to Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

The governor offered a positive reaction to the bill "at first blush," but said he would likely review testimony so he fully understands both sides of the issue before making a decision.

Meetings on EPA's Clean Power Plan canceled for now

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Department of Environmental and Natural Resources is cancelling public meetings on the EPA's Clean Power Plan in light of the U.S. Supreme Court issuing a stay this week.

The meetings had been scheduled to fulfil EPA's public participation requirements on its plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel power plants. The first South Dakota meeting was to be held at the Milbank Visitor Center in Milbank on Feb. 23.

A coalition of 29 states including South Dakota challenged the plan in October. The states argue that the EPA exceeded its authority by double-regulating coal-fired power plants and forcing states to shift their energy portfolios away from coal-fired generation.

The D.C. Circuit Court will hear oral arguments on the merits of the states' case on June 2.

The Latest: Wall Street set to join the rebound at the open

LONDON (AP) — The latest on the turmoil afflicting global financial markets (all times local):

12:35 p.m.

Wall Street is set to track European stock markets higher when it opens for trading, at the end of a tumultuous week that has stoked talk of a full-blown crash.

Dow futures are pointing to a 150 point, or 1 percent, advance at the open. That's short of the rebound many European markets are enjoying. The Stoxx 600 index of European shares, for example, is up 2 percent at 309.65.

A bounce back in the price of oil is widely credited for the more positive tone in stock markets. On Friday, the benchmark New York rate was trading around 4 percent higher at \$27 a barrel.

Confidence remains low, however, that Friday's rebound in stocks and oil prices marks a turning point.

Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA, sees "no reason to believe that any short-term rallies won't continue to be sold into, as they have repeatedly this year."

12:00 p.m.

Bank stocks are among the top risers in European markets, led by Germany's Commerzbank, which has announced its first dividend since 2007.

Commerzbank said Friday it was proposing a dividend of 20 euro cents per share for the 2015 financial year after it posted upbeat earnings. That marks something of a turnaround for the bank, which has struggled to overhaul its business since the global financial crisis

Shares in Commerzbank were up 17 percent, helping to push the German DAX stock index up 1.5 percent.

10:20 a.m.

Official figures have confirmed that the 19-country eurozone's economy grew 0.3 percent in the final quarter of 2015 compared with the previous three-month period.

The figure was in line with expectations, and European markets remained higher after its release.

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The growth is, however, relatively weak considering the region has been benefiting from low energy costs, an export-boosting drop in the euro's value and monetary stimulus from the central bank.

The figure also suggests the bloc may be somewhat vulnerable to shocks in 2016, particularly the turmoil that has engulfed global financial markets.

9:30 a.m.

The main economic release Friday is the first estimate of fourth-quarter economic growth across the 19-country eurozone.

Following a flurry of releases, including news that Germany expanded by a quarterly rate of 0.3 percent, there is a growing consensus that the eurozone also grew at the same 0.3 percent tick.

The recent turmoil in global financial markets has raised fears that growth will falter this year.

Jonathan Loynes, chief European economist at Capital Economics, says the downside risks have increased and as a result he thinks the European Central Bank will back "further decisive policy support" at its March meeting.

8:20 a.m.

European stock markets have opened higher following a rebound in the price of oil and despite another slide in Japan's main stock index.

Soon after the open, the FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was up 1 percent at 5,591 while the CAC-40 in France rose 1.6 percent to 3,960.

The increases, seen across Europe, come at the end of what's been a tumultuous week in financial markets with investors fretting over the scale of the global economic slowdown and the ability of banks to weather the storm. Those concerns still weighed heavily Friday on Japan's Nikkei index, which fell 4.8 percent.

One reason why sentiment has improved in Europe is that oil prices bounced back from 13-year lows. A barrel of benchmark New York crude was up 3 percent at \$27.

UK: Hong Kong bookseller 'removed' in breach of China treaty

KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Britain says a missing Hong Kong bookseller was likely abducted to mainland China, calling it a "serious breach" of the treaty under which Beijing took control of the city.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said in a twice-yearly report on Hong Kong affairs released Thursday that Lee Bo was "involuntarily removed" to the mainland.

Britain's Foreign Office said it was the first time that Britain has accused China of a "serious breach" of the 1984 treaty, although it has previously raised concerns about Chinese compliance.

Lee, a British citizen, is one of five men linked to Hong Kong publishing company Mighty Current Media and its Causeway Bay Bookshop who have gone missing in recent months only to turn up later in mainland China. Their disappearances have raised international concern,

Lee is chief editor of Mighty Current, which specialized in books critical of China's communist leadership that were banned in the mainland but popular with visiting Chinese tourists.

Hammond said while visiting Beijing last month that he made urgent inquiries with Chinese authorities about Lee's whereabouts.

Lee's disappearance at the end of December sparked international concern because he was last seen at his company's Hong Kong warehouse and didn't have his mainland China travel permit with him, raising suspicions he was snatched by Chinese security agents who crossed over from the mainland. He later sent letters to his wife saying he was helping with an investigation on the mainland, though some believe he was coerced.

"The full facts of the case remain unclear, but our current information indicates that Mr. Lee was involuntarily removed to the mainland without any due process under Hong Kong SAR law," the report said.

"This constitutes a serious breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong and undermines the principle of 'one country, two systems' which assures Hong Kong residents of the protection of the Hong Kong legal system," the report added.

The Joint Declaration is the treaty signed in 1984 between Britain and China safeguarding Hong Kong's rights and freedoms after Beijing took power in 1997. Under the "one country, two systems" principle, Hong Kong retains a high degree of control over its own affairs, including law enforcement.

The Hong Kong government said in a statement Friday that while its police are continuing to investigate and have sought assistance from mainland authorities, "Any suggestion that 'Mr. Lee was involuntarily removed to the mainland' remains speculative."

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not respond to a faxed request for comment. Beijing has previously said Hong Kong enjoys sufficient autonomy.

Lee's colleague, Swedish citizen Gui Minhai, disappeared from Thailand in October and turned up last month on Chinese state TV to confess to a decade-old fatal drunk driving accident. Hong Kong police said last week the three other men are being held on the mainland for an investigation into unspecified "illegal activities."

Flint crisis may help governor ease GOP doubt on Detroit aid

DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Rick Snyder's standing as one of the GOP's most accomplished governors has taken a beating in the crisis over lead-contaminated water in Flint, Michigan. Democrats, especially those running for president, have pointed to his administration's mishandling of the city's switch to a cheaper water supply as an example of Republican cost-cutting run amok.

But in a twist, the national scorn could pay one political dividend for him inside the state. The uproar should lessen resistance within his own party to the largest remaining item in Snyder's plan for revitalizing Michigan's economy: rescuing the worst-in-the-nation public schools in Detroit.

Snyder's oft-stated goal since his election in 2010 has been reversing the state's economic slide that worsened during the U.S. auto industry's downturn. His successful effort to push financially devastated Detroit through bankruptcy was a key step in his plan.

But until the Flint disaster erupted, the GOP-controlled Legislature was balking at also pumping much more money into fixing the schools, despite the governor's insistence that functioning Detroit schools are essential to giving Michigan a metropolitan economic hub again. Snyder's bailout of the city cost \$195 million in state money. The school rescue would cost \$720 million more.

Now, with the national spotlight on Flint and Michigan's other high-poverty, majority-black cities, the political atmosphere has changed. Republicans are moving to unify behind the governor, potentially to limit the political impact to him and the party.

"In a bizarre kind of way, it's conceivable this might work to his advantage," said former GOP lawmaker Bill Ballenger, a long-time political analyst. He noted that Snyder made both helping Flint and Detroit major themes in his annual budget address this week, and legislators could worry "they're going to start getting tarred with the same brush that Snyder is if they don't do anything."

Snyder, a former corporate CEO who ran for office as a turnaround specialist, has been juggling the complicated politics of a state split between white, more affluent and conservative residents and poorer black residents in the industrial cities. As Snyder has pursued his urban rescue plans, some Republicans have complained about throwing good money after bad.

The finances of Detroit Public Schools, with a projected \$515 million debt load, have become so dire that the system — which has been under state financial management for almost seven years — appears in danger of starting to run out of money in April.

Snyder initially proposed that other schools forgo \$50 per student in state funding annually to come up with the bailout money, but it was rejected outright by the Legislature. In the newly changed political environment, however, lawmakers appear open to diverting money from the state's settlement with tobacco companies, which is used for general spending and economic development.

Getting beyond Detroit's financial woes cannot be avoided, said Republican Rep. Al Pscholka, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "All of us agree that the financial piece must be taken care of and probably pretty quickly," he said.

Snyder and lawmakers are negotiating a way of providing state oversight to ensure that the school system stays solvent but is run by a locally elected school board.

Like with the 2014 aid package for the city of Detroit, Snyder is warning legislators that bailing out the state's largest school district would be cheaper now than later.

However, Snyder and legislators say they are also concerned about how to improve the district's academic quality. "We have to do something. What that something is is the big question right now," said Republican Rep. Tom Hooker.

But Hooker said a bailout would not be approved merely to provide Snyder with a legislative "win" after the Flint debacle.

Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders have both condemned Snyder's handling of the crisis.

GOP strategist Tom Shields predicted the attacks will only intensify before Michigan's March 8 primary, saying Flint has become a "symbolic racial issue."

"The Republicans in the Legislature are certainly rallying around the governor on the Flint water issue and that could continue on the funding of Detroit schools. Six months ago, the governor was having a hard time finding a Republican sponsor of the Detroit schools legislation. But now Republicans are starting to line up in support," he said.

Lawmakers have committed \$37 million — with another \$195 million on the table — to help Flint deal with the lead contamination of its water supply, which occurred when the city switched to local river water without applying chemicals that would prevent corrosion of lead pipes. The state Department of Environmental Quality has acknowledged instructing Flint, which was run by a state-appointed financial manager at the time, not to use corrosion chemicals based on a misreading of federal regulations.

The cost to aid impoverished Flint and Detroit could continue for years, in part funded by the state's budget surplus.

Republican Sen. Mike Kowall said he wants to avoid "just throwing good money after bad" but people also "just want to get something done. ... We have another opportunity to clean this problem up, too."

Death of officer, 2nd killed in line of duty, shakes Fargo

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's largest city has been shaken by the fatal shooting of a decorated police officer, the first death of a Fargo officer in the line of duty in more than 130 years.

Officer Jason Moszer, 33, died Thursday of a gunshot wound suffered while responding to a domestic disturbance hours earlier. The six-year veteran of the force was hit by gunfire just after midnight, during an 11-hour standoff with a suspect at a house near downtown Fargo.

Police warned that the father of two wasn't expected to survive. His family visited him in a hospital early Thursday to say goodbye, Fargo Police Chief David Todd said.

Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney said in a statement the city was "profoundly saddened" by the death of Moszer, who won a Silver Star commendation after he and another officer were credited with risking their lives in 2011 to rescue two children from an apartment fire.

"A tragedy affecting our men and women in uniform impacts our entire community," Mahoney said in a statement.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple extended prayers to Moszer's family, the police department and the community of Fargo.

"We are grateful for his service and for the service of all of our law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe," Dalrymple said in a statement.

Late Thursday, about 200 people gathered for a candlelight vigil in Moszer's honor, KFGO-AM reported. Moorhead Police Officer Nicole Reno said Moszer "made jokes when he needed to get through the day

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and was just really a great officer," the station reported.

Moszer graduated from Fargo South High School in 2001 and from North Dakota State University in 2009.

The only other Fargo police officer killed in the line of duty was Frederick Alderman, who was shot to death July 5, 1882, according to the Officer Down Memorial Page, a national nonprofit group that keeps records of fallen officers.

Wednesday's suspected shooter, Marcus Schumacher, 49, was found dead shortly before dawn Thursday. Police were not sure whether Schumacher died of a police bullet or shot himself.

The police chief said Schumacher had exchanged gunfire with a SWAT officer. Todd said Schumacher fired on a squad car at the scene and that he believed the man was targeting police.

Officers were initially sent to the scene after Schumacher's son called dispatchers and said Schumacher had fired a gun at his mother, Schumacher's wife. The caller and his mother escaped the home unharmed.

Police said they tried to communicate with Schumacher during the lengthy standoff, during which he fired round after round of gunfire, but that he didn't respond. The SWAT team eventually entered the house and found his body.

Schumacher was convicted in 1989 of negligent homicide in the shooting death of 17-year-old Maynard Clauthier in Grand Forks, and was sentenced to five years. He was also convicted of disorderly conduct in January 2013. He received a 30-day suspended jail sentence and served a year of probation.

Russian Orthodox Church allowed to return debt in prayers

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian regional court has ruled that an Orthodox Church diocese can repay part of an outstanding debt in prayers rather than money.

In a ruling that went viral Thursday, the Nizhegorodsky Regional Court said the local Russian Orthodox Church diocese can repay 258,000 rubles (\$3,244) it owes for the installation of a boiler system— along with an additional 65,000 rubles (\$817) in fines and legal fees— by praying for the health of the company that installed the system.

According to the court ruling, which was issued in October, the procedure cost 916,000 rubles (\$11,561), of which the diocese originally paid approximately half. The diocese still owes an additional 200,000 rubles (\$2,525) for the boiler system, which the court said should be paid in money.

Candidates promise unity in Central African Republic vote

KRISTA LARSON, Associated Press

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) — For more than two years, even going to the cemetery to bury a loved one could get a mourner killed too. The threat of attack from Christian militia fighters was once so high that Muslims here began burying their dead at home.

Now the capital's largest Muslim cemetery has reopened just ahead of the country's landmark presidential runoff vote, with imams, the archbishop and ambassadors all gathering together to watch as the reddish earth was broken to once again receive the dead with palm fronds.

It's one tangible sign that intercommunal relations here are improving after the cycles of violence that have left nearly 1 million people displaced and an untold thousands dead. Central African Republic's future remains highly precarious and yet the barricade that once blocked Bangui's remaining Muslims from leaving their enclave no longer exists. Muslims who only several months earlier were afraid to walk on the streets, even in their own PK5 neighborhood, are now praying in public.

Many credit the November visit of Pope Francis, who met with Christian leaders and ventured in his open-air vehicle to the mosque where many have sought refuge since tensions exploded in late 2013. Whether these advances hold largely depends on the success of Sunday's historic vote that pits two Christians — both former prime ministers — against each other after a crowded first round of balloting.

"We want these elections to take place as quickly as possible — we have waited long enough," says Polycarpe Bebongo-Congo, 40, who is supporting Faustin Archange Touadera, the second-place finisher

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in the first round.

The election is meant to end a two-year political transition that began when a Muslim rebel leader stepped aside under mounting international pressure less than a year after he deposed the Christian president of a decade. It comes as France prepares to downscale its military presence in its former colony, and as serious questions remain about the U.N. peacekeeping force that has helped secure the country but whose mission has been severely tarnished by allegations that peacekeepers sexually abused the country's most vulnerable — young children living in squalid refugee camps.

Only months earlier, many doubted whether a presidential election could even be held, with many polling stations and voter records destroyed during the conflict. The runoff vote then was postponed several times and the legislative vote was thrown out altogether because of concerns about irregularities.

Since independence from France in 1960 more leaders have come to power here through coups than through fair elections. Both presidential candidates are campaigning on pledges of strengthening unity and peace in the tumultuous capital where only two years ago Muslims were being decapitated in the streets and their limbs set ablaze. Pickup trucks carrying dancing supporters and blaring music from loudspeakers snake through a city still marked by burned out cars and homes reduced to rubble.

Front-runner Anicet Georges Dologuele says he is confident that his presidency could secure the peace, describing himself as someone who is connected to the international community and who can make difficult decisions.

He wants to create conditions that would encourage the hundreds of thousands who fled the country to return from refugee camps in neighboring Chad and Cameroon. He emphasizes the economic origins of the conflict, which saw Christians pillaging the Muslim merchant class as they fled for their lives, and the work that must be done to improve livelihoods.

"The essential problem for Central Africans is poverty," he said. "When people are poor, they think it's their neighbor's fault."

Dologuele, who led the first round of voting in December with about 24 percent, has since been endorsed by the third-place finisher. His entourage already calls him "the president," and his billboards across town show him flashing the V for victory sign.

His opponent — who surprised many with a strong finish of 19 percent — is also campaigning on a slogan of "peace, security and reconciliation" and has cast himself as "man of the people." Supporters say he has strong grassroots support, including from influential anti-Balaka local militias.

"These elections are important, but they are not the only step out of this crisis," he said this week. "We have to create the conditions for dialogue between the two communities. We will do everything we can so that Central Africans can live together in the Central African Republic."

Pakistani intelligence arrests nearly 100 militants

ADIL JAWAD, Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's intelligence agencies arrested a collective of 97 "hardcore terrorists" from three banned groups involved in a string of major terrorist attacks and seized weapons, explosives and communications gear intended for future attacks, a Pakistani official said Friday.

Lt. Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa told reporters at a press conference in Karachi that the militants belonged to different groups — Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Tahrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and the local al-Qaeda affiliate.

"Among the arrested militants are three high-value targets and 94 hardcore terrorists," including 26 with government bounties on their capture, said Bajwa.

The army spokesman said those arrested include explosives experts, financiers and militants preparing to become suicide bombers. The militants had been arrested in a series of raids and operations over the course of several months.

He said they had been coordinating on logistics and planning and were in the midst of planning a major attack on a jail in Hyderabad in order to free Ahmed Umar Saeed Shaikh, who was convicted of involvement in the killing of Wall Street Journal correspondent Daniel Pearl in 2002.

"Their plan for Hyderabad jail break was about to be executed for which they have prepared explosives-laden vehicles," said Bajwa.

Diplomats aim for temporary Syria truce in a week

MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

MUNICH (AP) — Diplomats agreed Friday to work toward a temporary “cessation of hostilities” in Syria’s civil war within a week, although efforts to secure a lasting cease-fire fell short.

The deal appeared to be the result of a compromise between the United States, which had wanted an immediate cease-fire, and Russia, which had proposed one to start on March 1.

Although foreign ministers from the International Syria Support Group managed to seal an agreement to “accelerate and expand” deliveries of humanitarian aid to besieged Syrian communities beginning this week, their failure to agree on a cease-fire leaves the most critical step to resuming peace talks unresolved. It was not clear from their comments afterward if deep differences regarding the truce and which groups would be eligible for it could be overcome.

Secretary of State John Kerry, however, defended the agreement.

“They wanted it called and defined as a cessation of hostilities. That is very much in line with their thinking and their hopes,” he said.

Speaking for the group, Kerry hailed the results as a significant accomplishment but noted that a cessation-of-hostilities agreement, if it can be achieved, would only be a “pause” in fighting and that more work would need to be done to turn it into a fully-fledged cease-fire.

He also allowed that the agreements made were “commitments on paper” only.

“The real test is whether or not all the parties honor those commitments and implement them,” he told reporters after the nearly six-hour meeting at a Munich hotel, which ran into the early hours of Friday.

Dramatizing the high-stakes nature of the Munich talks, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev argued that a full-scale ground operation in Syria could widen the conflict.

“A ground operation draws everyone taking part in it into a war,” Medvedev was quoted as saying in an interview published by the German newspaper Handelsblatt.

When asked about a recent proposal from Saudi Arabia to send in ground troops to Syria, the prime minister answered that “the Americans and our Arab partners must consider whether or not they want a permanent war.”

Meanwhile, humanitarian access to the battle-scarred country was to be discussed by a working group on Friday in Geneva. It is key to relieving the suffering of millions of Syrians in the short term, a durable and lasting cease-fire will be required if stalled negotiations between Syrian President Bashar Assad’s government and the opposition are to resume on or before a U.N.-set target date of Feb. 25. The talks broke down last month before they really started, due largely to gains by Assad’s military with the heavy backing of Russian airstrikes.

Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the U.S. and Russia would co-chair both the working group on humanitarian aid as well as a task force that will try to deal with the “modalities” of the temporary truce. That task force will include members of the military along with representatives from countries that are supporting various armed groups in Syria. The Syrian government and the opposition would both have to agree to the details.

Russia had proposed the March 1 cease-fire date, which the U.S. and others saw as a ploy to give Moscow and the Syrian army three more weeks to try to crush Western- and Arab-backed rebels. The U.S. countered with demands for an immediate stop to the fighting.

Despite apparent concessions on potential timing of the truce and the agreement to set up the task force, the U.S., Russia and others remain far apart on which groups should be eligible for it. The new task force will take up a job that was supposed to have been settled months ago. At the moment, only two groups — the Islamic State and the al-Qaida-affiliated al-Nusra Front — are ineligible because they are identified as terrorist organizations by the United Nations.

Russia, Syria and Iran argue that other groups, notably some supported by Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, should not be eligible for the cease-fire, and there was no sign Friday that those differences had been resolved.

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Lavrov said the Russian air campaign in support of Assad's military would continue against terrorist groups and denied persistent reports that the Russian strikes have hit civilian areas, notably around rebel-held Aleppo, where heavy fighting has been raging for the past week.

Asked Friday to comment on the Munich talks, Salem Meslet, the spokesman for the Syrian opposition coalition known as the High Negotiations Committee, said, "We must see action on the ground in Syria."

Five years of conflict have killed more than a quarter-million people, created Europe's biggest refugee crisis since World War II and allowed the Islamic State to carve out its own territory across parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq.

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. WHAT LATEST DEBATE UNCOVERED

How far are Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders willing to go to advance a Democratic agenda if elected to the White House.

2. CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ON SYRIA TRUCE

A temporary "cessation of hostilities" in the civil war has been agreed by diplomats to start next week.

3. THAAD ON TABLE IN KOREA TALKS

Seoul and Washington will begin negotiations as early as next week on deploying a sophisticated U.S. missile defense system in South Korea.

4. IN MEETING POPE, PATRIARCH ASSERTS RUSSIA'S ROLE

When Kirill meets Francis, the historic event will allow the head of the Russian Orthodox Church to assert Russia's leading role in the Eastern Christian world.

5. FEAR PERVASIVE AFTER DEADLY PRISON RIOT

Gang rule, extortion and human rights violations are exposed after 49 inmates were killed in Mexico.

6. HOW RANCHERS STANDOFF ENDED

The last four armed occupiers of an Oregon wildlife refuge shouted, argued and raved, but surrendered without a shot being fired.

7. U.N. HEALTH AGENCY GIVES ZIKA TIMETABLE

The World Health Organization says possible vaccines for the virus are at least 18 months away from large-scale trials.

8. U.S. LOOPHOLE TO CLOSE ON PRODUCTS MADE BY SEAFOOD SLAVES

A bill headed for Obama's desk this week includes a provision that would ban U.S. imports of fish caught by means of forced labor in Southeast Asia.

9. MAKE THEM AN OFFER THEY 'CAN'T REFUSE'

A collection of "The Godfather" author Mario Puzo's papers can be had at a Boston auction next week.

10. WHO MET WITH GERMAN LEADER

George Clooney and his lawyer wife Amal held a private meeting with Angela Merkel to discuss the crisis in Syria and Europe's efforts to help refugees.

European shares gain as bank sell-off abates, oil rebounds

ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — European shares rose Friday, shrugging off a bad day in Asia, as the sell-off in banking shares abated and oil prices rebounded from a 12-year low. But Japan's main stock index lost nearly 5 percent, leading other Asian markets lower.

In early trading, Germany's DAX was up 1.3 percent at 8,863.25 and Britain's FTSE 100 leapt 1.3 percent to 5,611.99. France's CAC 40 advanced 1.3 percent to 3,948.44. Wall Street was set to snap its losing streak. Dow futures rose 0.8 percent to 15,737.00 and S&P 500 futures added 1 percent to 1,842.20.

Shares in Germany's Commerzbank AG jumped 11 percent after it reported strong gains in fourth quarter net profit and forecast further gains for this year. Deutsche Bank AG's shares rose 3.8 percent and Credit

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Suisse Group AG jumped 5 percent.

News that Germany's economy expanded at a 0.3 percent pace last quarter, as earlier estimated, further underpinned buying.

It was a sharp turnaround from trading in Asia, where Tokyo's Nikkei 225 plunged 4.8 percent to 14,952.61 after earlier sinking as much as 5.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.2 percent to 18,319.58. Markets in China and Taiwan have been closed all week for Lunar New Year holidays and will reopen on Monday.

Japan's finance minister, Taro Aso, and other senior leaders said Friday they hoped for a united response from major economies to the market volatility. Finance ministers of the Group of 20 nations that account for most of the world economy are due to meet in Shanghai later this month.

A surprise decision by the Bank of Japan late last month to introduce a negative interest rate for some deposits it holds for banks has so far not helped to stabilize markets.

"Global central bank policy is increasingly becoming a symptom of what's wrong with the financial markets and real growth than a cure for economic ills," said Bernard Aw, market strategist at IG in Singapore. "We may not have seen the worst yet. The performance of Chinese equities when they return next week will be key to whether the global stock rout would go on or not," he said in a market report.

Global stocks have been in a slump since the beginning of the year when China's market, which had been propped up by government buying, plunged dramatically. Concerns about China, however, are now just one of several factors behind the slide.

Investors recognize that prices rose too high during several years of artificial support from the ultra-easy monetary policies of central banks that were trying to foster economic recovery following the 2009 global recession. A crunch moment has arrived as global economic growth wanes again and the Federal Reserve signals it is still committed to raising U.S. interest rates from record lows.

Among other Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi gave up 1.4 percent to 1,835.28 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 1.2 percent to 4,765.30. Shares in New Zealand and Southeast Asia also fell.

Benchmark U.S. crude was up \$1.27 to \$27.48 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract tumbled to \$26.21 in New York on Thursday, its lowest level since May 2003, as investors fled to the traditional havens of bonds and precious metals.

Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, gained \$1.46 to \$31.52 a barrel in London. It dropped 78 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$30.06 on Thursday.

The dollar rose to 112.52 yen on Friday from 112.29 the previous day, while the euro fell to \$1.1269 from \$1.1315.

How impoverished but nuclear-armed North Korea earns money

KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The closure of a factory park in North Korea jointly run by both Koreas has cost the impoverished North a rare source of legitimate hard currency. Seoul says it shut the Kaesong complex in response to the North's recent long-range rocket launch to keep its impoverished neighbor from using the money factories provided to fund its nuclear and missile programs.

With that hit to Pyongyang's already shaky finances gone, at least for now, here's a look at the North's economy and the external sources of income it maintains despite a raft of heavy international sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missiles program.

PYŎNGYANG'S ECONOMY

Seoul and Washington want more stringent trade and financial sanctions to punish the North's nuclear and missile adventures, but some question whether sanctions will ever meaningfully influence one of the least trade-dependent economies on the planet.

And what of that economy? It is extremely difficult to read because it doesn't release official trade statistics and treasures its secrecy.

South Korea's central bank, however, provides some idea of what's happening, based on data it receives every year from other government agencies, related organizations and an investigation of research orga-

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nizations.

The bank has been publishing estimates of North Korea's economy since 1991. In its latest report, it said it believes the North's economy grew by 1 percent in 2014 to 33.95 trillion South Korean won, or \$28.5 billion, or about 2 percent of South Korea's economy.

The Bank of Korea said North Korea's combined imports and exports that year were about \$9.9 billion, including \$2.4 billion in trade with the South, which the Unification Ministry says was generated nearly entirely from the activities at Kaesong.

TRADE WITH CHINA

And then there's China, Pyongyang's last major ally, its diplomatic protector and by far its largest trading partner.

North Korea's main exports to China include coal, minerals, clothing, textiles and foodstuffs, while its imports from China include petroleum, steel, machinery, cars and electronics, according to South Korea's government-funded Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency.

Beijing, however, is unlikely to support harsh punishment over the nuclear test and rocket launch for fear of provoking a government collapse in Pyongyang and a potential stream of refugees across its border.

Transactions with China accounted for more than 74 percent of North Korea's trade in 2014, and more than 90 percent when excluding trade related to the Kaesong park, according to Statistics Korea, Seoul's official statistics agency, which analyzed the central bank data and information from trade organizations.

KAESONG INDUSTRIAL PARK

The South's Unification Ministry says the Kaesong park provided 616 billion won (\$560 million) of cash to the North since its establishment in 2004, during an era of rapprochement between the rivals.

More than 120 South Korean companies employed about 54,000 North Koreans at Kaesong, paying each about \$150 a month to manufacture products such as clothing, wristwatches, cosmetics and electronics components.

The ministry hasn't provided a detailed explanation on why it suspects money generated from Kaesong was channeled to North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile projects.

Jeong Joon-Hee, the ministry's spokesman, said it was plausible that a sizeable amount of the money the South Korean companies paid for North Korean labor would have ended up in Pyongyang's state coffers because of the way the workers receive their wages. While the South Korean companies pay the North in U.S. dollars, their North Korean employees receive wages in North Korean won based on an exchange rate dictated by the North's government.

EXPORTING WORKERS

Outside experts say that North Korea since the mid-2000s has been increasing the number of workers sent for contract labor overseas in an attempt to bring in more hard currency.

The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, based on information collected from its global offices and reports from international organizations, estimates that 60,000 to 100,000 North Koreans are working in 40 different countries.

Marzuki Darusman, a U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in North Korea, said in a report last year that more than 50,000 North Koreans are working overseas and earning the country something between \$1.2 billion and \$2.3 billion annually in foreign currency.

North Koreans have been employed in a broad range of activities in foreign countries, including working at restaurants in China and Southeast Asia and construction sites in Russia, the Middle East and North Africa, according to the International Network for the Human Rights of North Korean Overseas Labor.

North Korean workers overseas often face harsh working conditions and abuse, said the U.N. report.

LURING TOURISTS

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North Korea has tried to strengthen tourism in recent years by setting up special tourism zones and developing scenic areas and recreational facilities.

North Korean officials have told The Associated Press that about 100,000 tourists came to the country in 2014, all but a few thousand of them from neighboring China. The growth in tourism has come despite the occasional arrest of foreign visitors, including, most recently, American university student Otto Warmbier, who was detained last month over an unspecified act that the North called "hostile."

Tours to the North's scenic Diamond Mountain by South Koreans were popular for about a decade until 2008, when they were halted after a North Korean guard fatally shot a South Korean woman.

The U.S. State Department has long warned against travel to North Korea. After North's recent nuclear test, Washington has reportedly sought a ban on tourism and restrictions to keep North Korea's flagship airline, Air Koryo, from flying into and out of airports abroad.

In show-dog circles, breeders in big cities are a small pack

JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In the dog world, Angela Reilly is a rare breed.

Like many show-dog owners, Reilly has bred her own puppies. But she did it in a Manhattan apartment.

She's among the relatively few big-city dwellers who aim to breed dogs like those at next week's Westminster Kennel Club show, where one of Reilly's Cardigan Welsh corgis has won awards.

With shared walls and city sidewalks instead of a country spread or suburban property, Reilly camped out at a veterinarian friend's New Jersey home to await her first litter's birth last fall. She covered her two-bedroom apartment in plastic wrap for the pups' weekend visits.

Now, with two adult dogs and a puppy she's keeping, she rotates one dog at a time to her mom's Connecticut home, since Reilly has set herself a two-dog limit to avoid antagonizing neighbors and having more leashes than arms.

"Everything is more difficult" for urban breeders, says Reilly, who juggles dog care with a banking career (two of her dogs: Freddie Mac and Sallie Mae). "It's a struggle to make it all work, but for me, it's all about the dogs."

Big-city breeders say they have the same goals as their more countrified cohorts: Nurturing healthy animals that exemplify their breed's traits and history. But city life presents special obstacles beyond the expense and work involved in conscientious dog breeding anywhere.

There are space squeezes. Close quarters. Tricky trash situations. Even some who do it occasionally think they're nuts.

"Absolutely," laughs longtime Labrador retriever owner Micki Beerman of Brooklyn. "But it's great."

She's bred Labs since 1987, first in a two-bedroom apartment and now in a house 13 feet wide. She and wife Linda Pensabene currently share it with five Labs, while another one they bred lives down the block.

While other breeders may have acres of land and a freestanding kennel, Beerman's pups are born (dog-folk say "whelped") in a big, specially outfitted box in the couple's kitchen. There's little distance from whatever the little dogs, well, do.

"When they poop, all the house stinks, so you really have to be conscious of everything and pick up immediately," says Beerman, a retired teacher who has sent dogs to Westminster. The quick-cleanup rule also goes for the small backyard, since neighbors are close by.

There are no firm statistics on the number of dog breeders in highly urban settings, but they tend to be scant on breeder lists maintained by fanciers' clubs. And no wonder: In Manhattan, for instance, many buildings limit the number or total weight of dogs per apartment, notes Barbara Fox, a real estate broker and dog rescuer.

The American Kennel Club, the nation's oldest purebred dog registry, urges all breeders to meet standards that include daily exercise and clean premises but doesn't take sides on urban vs. rural environments. Nor does the Humane Society of the United States, though it urges people to adopt rather than buy dogs.

To be sure, there are critics of breeding dogs in any setting.

"We don't feel that there is such a thing as breeding responsibly when there are so many animals dying

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in shelters," says Daphna Nachminovitch, a senior vice president of animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Breeders such as Reilly and Beerman note that they've produced only occasional litters, largely to seek more show dogs for themselves. And they emphasize that it takes a major commitment of care and cash.

It costs thousands of dollars for genetic and hormone tests, breeding fees, ultrasounds, vet visits and puppy inoculations. A small litter — common for some breeds — can leave a breeder in the red. Even with litters as large as nine pups, Beerman says she's never made money.

But urban breeders say they benefit in other ways.

After buying a Chinese shar-pei with serious health problems, Maria Johnson researched breeders more carefully before getting her next puppy. He was healthy, turned out to have dog-show game and made her wonder what his offspring would be like.

In breeding two litters over five years at her home with a small fenced yard in Newark, New Jersey, Johnson has learned a few lessons, such as: Don't put the whelping box in your master bathroom if you plan on getting sleep.

"You have to love it" to do it, she says, but she's seen the rewards.

So, for that matter, so did the Westminster judges. One of Johnson's first puppies, a showman she named Deniro, grew up to win breed awards on the show's green carpet.

Punch, counterpunch: GOP hopefuls bare knuckles in Carolina

BILL BARROW, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Jeb Bush says he was better at real estate than Donald Trump, and the former Florida governor is even embracing the "establishment" label.

Marco Rubio is unloading on nearly all of his presidential rivals, Trump and Bush included, declaring them unprepared for the national security responsibilities of the job.

Ted Cruz says Trump isn't conservative enough for South Carolina. John Kasich's throwing a few elbows amid his nice-guy pitch.

And Trump, who leads them all in the polls, was in Louisiana, which doesn't even vote until March 5 — two weeks after South Carolina, known for rough-and-tumble Republican primaries, takes its shot at bringing order to this scrambled Republican race for the White House.

The Democratic presidential contest had its moments Thursday, too, even before Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders met for their evening debate in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Clinton got the endorsement of the Congressional Black Caucus political action committee, part of the two rivals' continued drive for minority voters ahead of the Nevada caucus and a slate of Southern primaries that will give non-whites their first major say in the nominating contest.

Perhaps more noteworthy was civil rights hero John Lewis, a Georgia congressman, dismissing Sanders' work in the civil rights movement as a college student in the 1960s. "Never saw him," Lewis said.

Among Republicans, several candidates embraced the chaos Thursday as they felt out the best strategies to survive South Carolina and advance into a grueling March primary schedule, when 58 percent of the party's delegate total will be at stake.

Rubio, looking to re-establish his footing after a fifth-place finish in New Hampshire, lashed out at Trump, Cruz and Bush as he addressed retirees near the resort town of Hilton Head.

Of real estate mogul Trump, Rubio said, "Negotiating a hotel deal in another country is not foreign policy experience." A first-term senator, Rubio also said Bush, at one time Rubio's mentor in Florida politics, has no foreign policy experience. Rubio accused Cruz, another first-term senator, of hurting U.S. military might with his budget stances.

In Sumter, South Carolina, Bush effectively called Trump a failure. The former Florida governor, himself once a commercial real estate executive, said he "didn't go bankrupt four times and call that success."

Bush cited his brother and father, both former presidents, as well, saying he embraces the "establishment" label — generally anathema in this election defined by voter anger. His campaign confirmed former President George W. Bush will campaign in South Carolina next week.

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Trump made clear he was ready to take on the former president during a rally Thursday night in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Trump repeated his own opposition to the war in Iraq and pointed to George W. Bush "getting us in that quicksand."

"That was a horrible call to go in," Trump said.

Kasich, the Ohio governor, continued his town hall tour, pledging a positive campaign and alluding to continued efforts by the Bush campaign to label him as weak on defense. "I'm worried about Jeb. It's all negative," Kasich said. "I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing. Either it will work or it won't."

The web of punches and counterpunches thus far in South Carolina reflects the fractured nature of the primary and the Republican electorate. The GOP primary here is expected to draw more than 700,000 voters, dwarfing the Iowa and New Hampshire contests. The total will include sizable groups of all GOP factions: religious and social conservatives, business and fiscal conservatives, and national security hawks.

With polls suggesting Trump has a healthy lead, it could become a matter of simply trying to claim momentum and a handful of delegates. South Carolina Republicans award 29 out of 50 delegates to the overall statewide winner. The other 21 delegates are distributed evenly to the winners of the seven congressional districts.

That leaves candidates to gamble on where to prioritize their efforts as they await a Saturday debate in Greenville, South Carolina, that could afford some of them their lone opportunity to move large numbers of voters.

Cruz, who has run second in South Carolina polling, will try to catch Trump by leaning heavily on evangelicals. Iowa and New Hampshire exit polls show Trump competed well with Cruz among voters who call themselves born-again Christians.

The Texas senator's schedule through the weekend targets evangelicals. "You run first by energizing your base," Cruz spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said Thursday.

Rubio banked on coming into South Carolina as the clear favorite for traditionalist Republicans wary of Trump and Cruz, creating effectively a three-man race going forward. Instead, he finished New Hampshire looking up at Kasich and Bush, and now finds himself trying to peel votes from all the other campaigns.

The two governors are concentrating their early efforts along the South Carolina coast, which includes many transplants, veterans and active military — and which has trended in the past to more moderate candidates like Mitt Romney, the GOP's 2012 nominee, and John McCain, the 2008 nominee.

Clinton, Sanders vigorously agree _ except when they don't

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders vigorously agreed. Except when they didn't.

The rivals spent much of Thursday's sixth Democratic presidential debate in a respectful discussion of their marginal differences on issues like immigration, criminal justice reform and entitlements. But both were animated when the contest turned to one of fundamental questions facing Democrats: has President Barack Obama gone far enough in his policies and if not, how far should the next president go?

Clinton, who has cast herself as the rightful heir to Obama's legacy, accused Sanders of diminishing the president's record, short-changing his leadership and seeking to wipe away his signature health care law.

"The kind of criticism I hear from Senator Sanders, I expect from Republicans. I do not expect it from someone seeking the Democratic nomination," Clinton said in a sharp exchange near the close of the two-hour debate in Milwaukee. Her biting comments followed an interview in which Sanders suggested Obama hadn't succeeded in closing the gap between Congress and the American people — something Obama himself has acknowledged.

Sanders responded: "Madam Secretary, that is a low blow." And he noted that Clinton was the only one on the stage who ran against Obama in the 2008 presidential race.

Long viewed as the overwhelming front-runner in the Democratic race, Clinton has been caught off guard by Sanders' strength, particularly his visceral connection with Americans frustrated by the current political and economic systems. Clinton's own campaign message has looked muddled compared to his ringing

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call for a "political revolution," and her connections to Wall Street have given Sanders an easy way to link her to the systems his supporters want to overhaul.

Seeking to stem Sanders' momentum, her campaign has argued that his appeal is mostly limited to the white, liberal voters who make up the Democratic electorate in Iowa and New Hampshire. Clinton's team says that as the race turns now to Nevada, South Carolina and other more diverse states, her support from black and Hispanic voters will help propel her to the nomination.

Attempting Thursday night to boost his own support from minorities, Sanders peppered his typically economic-focused rhetoric with calls to reform a "broken criminal justice system" that incarcerates a disproportionate number of minorities.

"At the end of my first term, we will not have more people in jail than any other country," he said.

In one of many moments of agreement between the candidates, Clinton concurred on a need to fix the criminal justice system, but cast her proposals for fighting racial inequality as broader than his.

"We also have to talk about jobs, education, housing, and other ways of helping communities," said Clinton, who was endorsed earlier in the day by the political action committee of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The candidates both vowed to pursue comprehensive immigration reform, using the emotional issue to draw a contrast with Republicans who oppose allowing many of the millions of people in the United States illegally to stay.

"We have got to stand up to the Trumps of the world who are trying to divide us up," said Sanders, referring to Republican front-runner Donald Trump, who has called for deporting everyone in the country illegally and constructing a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Both Clinton and Sanders also disagreed with raids authorized by Obama to arrest and deport some people from Central America who recently came to the country illegally.

"We should be deporting criminals, not hardworking immigrant families who do the very best they can," Clinton said.

While the Democratic race has become more heated in recent weeks, Clinton and Sanders have cast their disagreements as matters of substance and degree while condemning Republicans for focusing more on personal attacks. The GOP race has been a fiery contest, with Trump levying sharply personal attacks on his rivals and other candidates, including Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, releasing no-holds-barred negative advertisements.

Clinton, who remains the favorite for the Democratic nomination, has a political incentive to keep her disagreements with Sanders focused on policy. She can't afford to alienate the young voters who are overwhelmingly backing Sanders in the primary, if she does become the Democratic nominee.

Still, the former secretary of state sought to discredit some of the proposals that have drawn young people to Sanders, including his call for free tuition at public colleges and universities and a plan for a government-run, single-payer health care system. Clinton said those proposals come with unrealistic price tags. And she accused Sanders of trying to shade the truth about what she said would be a 40 percent increase in the size of the federal government in order to implement his policies.

Sanders didn't shy away from the notion that he wants to expand the size of government.

"In my view, the government of a democratic society has a moral responsibility to play a vital role in making sure all our people have a decent standard of living," Sanders said.

Sanders has focused his campaign almost exclusively on a call to break up big Wall Street banks and overhaul the current campaign finance system that he says gives wealthy Americans undue influence. His campaign contends that his message will be well-received by minority voters, arguing that blacks and Hispanics have been hurt even more by what he calls a "rigged" economy.

In the debate's early moments, Clinton found herself having to explain comments by surrogates, including former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, that suggested women had a responsibility to help elect the first female president.

"I'm not asking people to support me because I'm a woman," Clinton said. "I'm asking people to support me because I think I'm the most qualified, experienced and ready person to be the president and

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the commander in chief.”

It was Sanders — a democratic socialist who would be the first Jewish president if elected — who tried to drape his candidacy in a bit of history, saying:

“I think a Sanders victory would be of some historical accomplishment as well.”

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2016. There are 323 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in present-day Larue County, Kentucky.

On this date:

In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who'd claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1818, Chile officially proclaimed its independence, more than seven years after initially renouncing Spanish rule.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1914, groundbreaking took place for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 1915, the cornerstone was laid for the Lincoln Memorial.

In 1924, George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" premiered in New York.

In 1940, the radio play "The Adventures of Superman" debuted with Bud Collyer as the Man of Steel.

In 1959, the redesigned Lincoln penny — with an image of the Lincoln Memorial replacing two ears of wheat on the reverse side — went into circulation.

In 1963, a Northwest Orient Airlines Boeing 720 broke up during severe turbulence and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 43 people aboard.

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

In 2000, Charles M. Schulz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip, died in Santa Rosa, California, at age 77. Hall-of-Fame football coach Tom Landry, who'd led the Dallas Cowboys to five Super Bowls, died in Irving, Texas, at age 75. Michelle Kwan won her third straight U.S. Figure Skating Championships crown, while Michael Weiss successfully defended the men's title.

Ten years ago: A record 26.9 inches of snow fell in New York's Central Park over a two-day period. Figure skater Michelle Kwan effectively retired from competition as she withdrew from the Turin Olympics due to injury (she was replaced on the U.S. team by Emily Hughes). Snowboarder Shaun White beat American teammate Danny Kass to win the Olympic gold medal.

Five years ago: Thousands of Algerians defied government warnings and dodged barricades in their capital, demanding democratic reforms; demonstrations continued in Yemen as well. Death claimed actress Betty Garrett, 91, and actor Kenneth Mars, 75.

One year ago: European leaders agreed on a truce to halt fighting in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russian-backed separatist rebels.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Franco Zeffirelli is 93. Actor Louis Zorich is 92. Baseball Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Joe Garagiola is 90. Movie director Costa-Gavras is 83. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Bill Russell is 82. Actor Joe Don Baker is 80. Author Judy Blume is 78. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is 74. Country singer Moe Bandy is 72. Actress Maud Adams is 71. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 70. Actor Michael Ironside is 66. Rock musician Steve Hackett is 66. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 64. Actress Joanna Kerns is 63. Actor-talk show host Arsenio Hall is 60. Actor John Michael Higgins is 53. Actor Raphael Sbarge is 52. Actress Christine Elise is 51. Actor Josh Brolin is 48. Singer Chynna Phillips is 48. Rock musician Jim Creeggan (Barenaked Ladies) is 46. Rhythm-and-blues musician Keri Lewis is 45. Actor Jesse Spencer is

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37. Actress Sarah Lancaster is 36. Actress Christina Ricci is 36. NFL quarterback Robert Griffin III is 26. Actress Jennifer Stone is 23. Actresses Baylie and Rylie Cregut (TV: "Raising Hope") are six.

Thought for Today: "Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still." — President Harry S. Truman (1884-1972).