

Groton Daily Independent

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Service Notice: Tony Bruckner

Services for Anthony "Tony" Bruckner, 86, of Conde will be 1:30 p.m., Thursday, January 26th at the United Methodist Church, Conde. Rev. Thomas Carlson will officiate. Burial will follow in Conde Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, on Wednesday from 5-7 p.m., with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Tony passed away January 20, 2017 at Sanford Hospital, Aberdeen.

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

Closed: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

Due to the condition of the ice, the Carnival of Silver Skates Board has decide to CANCEL dress rehearsal today, January 22. Your instructors may contact you about scheduling an additional practice, but that will be determined by each instructor.

Sunday practices are "to be determined," at this point. Look for a communication from individual group instructors regarding Sunday practices.

The forecast is calling for a cool-down this week, so we are optimistic that we will be able to be back out on the ice again soon!

Thank you for your understanding!

CSS Board

Sunday, Jan. 22

Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

United Methodist Parish: Worship in Conde at 9 a.m., coffee fellowship time at 10 a.m. and worship in Groton at 11 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran, Groton: Worship at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m.

Heaven Bound Ministries in Pierpont: Worship at 10 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran, Groton: Worship at 9 a.m. followed by annual meeting, Sunday School at 10 a.m.

Open Gym for JH-8 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and for grades 6-12 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 23

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, fruit crisp, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.



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Groton Area wins three of four games over Potter County

It was a double header on Saturday as Potter County came to Groton where the Groton Area girls varsity and junior varsity teams and the boys junior varsity team all won their games and the Potter County boys won the final game of the night.

The Groton junior varsity girls won their game, 38-19, with Payton Maine leading the Tigers with 11 points followed by Sam Menzia with eight, Miranda Hanson six, Kaycie Hakwins five, Taylor Holm four and Gia Gengerke and Eliza Wanner each had two points.

The girls varsity team won its game, 53-36. That game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, Groton Ford, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgenson and Ken's Food Fair. The Lady Tigers led at the quarterstops at 16-9, 30-17 and 36-21. Audrey Wanner led the Tigers with 18 points followed by Miranda Hanson with 16, Jessica Bjerke had a double-double on the night with 10 points and 11 rebounds, Katie Koehler had five points and Jennie Doeden and Gia Gengerke each had two points.

Groton Area made 12 of 34 two-pointers, six of 15 three-pointers, 11 of 13 free throws, had 33 rebounds, 10 steals with Wanner having five, eight assists with Wanner and Holm each having two, 12 turnovers and nine team fouls.

Potter County made 12 of 43 field goals, nine of 12 free throws, had 13 team fouls and had 19 turnovers. Kori Hansen led the Battlers with nine points followed by Karen Smith with eight, Siera Wiesler, McKenna Dillabaugh and Jenna Robbenolt each had four points, Paige Worth and Delaine Larson each had three points and Kendar Dressel added one free throw.

The Groton Area junior varsity boys team defeated Potter County, 43-36. That game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Treeline Tree Service and Sperry Stump Removal.

Potter County jumped out to a 6-2 first quarter lead and led, 11-4, before the Tigers roared back and tied the game at 12 with a last second shot by Marshall Lane. The game was tied three times in the third quarter and Groton Area took a 26-21 lead at the end of the third quarter. Groton Area scored nine straight points to take a 40-27 lead, but within 40 seconds, Potter County closed the lead to four, 40-36. Groton regrouped and went on to win, 43-36.

Treyton Diegel led the Tigers with 11 points followed by Cade Guthmiller with nine, Darien Shabazz had seven, Peyton Johnson six, Austin Jones five, Marshall Lane four and Jonny Doeden added a free throw.

Calen Decker led the Battlers with 14 points.

In the varsity boys game, Potter County would score 28 unanswered points between the second and third quarters to run away from Groton Area, 56-23.

The game was tied three times and there were two lead changes in the first quarter before Potter County held a 14-12 lead at the break. It was 19-15, Potter County, early in the second quarter before the long scoring streak boosted the Battlers to a 47-15 lead. The game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, Groton Ford, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgenson, Krueger Brothers and Ken's Food Fair.

Sean Schuring led the Tigers with seven points followed by Bennett Shabazz with six, Seric Shabazz had five, Luke Thorson had three and Marshall Lane added two points.

Potter County was led by Tanner Storer who scored 17 points in the second quarter and finished the night with 23 points, Ben Krueger scored 12 first quarter points and finished thenight with 15, Dawson Simon scored seven second quarter points and finished with 11, Jeremy Fegueroa had three points and Cole Nafziger and Ivan Canchola each had two points.

Groton Area made eight of 50 field goals for 16 percent, was four of seven from the line for 57 percent off of Potter County's 13 team fouls, had four assists with Anthony Sippel having two, 11 turnovers with six of them being steals, and 24 rebounds with Bennett Shabazz having seven.

Potter County made 23 of 46 field goals for 55 percent, was five of nine from the line for 55 percent off of Groton Area's 14 team fouls, had 39 rebounds with Simon having seven, two assists, 13 turnovers with five being steals (two by Bennett Shabazz).

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Boys Varsity Stat Sheet

VISITOR: Potter County ()

NO	PLAYER	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN	
		P	FG	FGA	FG			FGA	OFF	DEF								TOT
10	Storer,	*	9	15	2	6	3	4	4	1	5	2	23	0	1	0	3	24:00
15	Canchola,	*	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	2	1	1	0	1	16:00
22	Krueger,	*	4	7	1	4	2	3	0	6	6	1	11	0	5	0	1	24:00
23	Simon,	*	7	9	1	1	0	2	2	5	7	1	15	0	0	0	0	8:00
33	Swier,	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	4	0	0	3	0	0	16:00
0	Nafziger,		1	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	16:00
3	Fegueroa,		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	8:00
4	Stanley,		0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	16:00
5	Kirby,		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	16:00
13	Sharp,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	16:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									1	7	8			0				
Team Totals			23	42	5	14	5	9	10	29	39	13	56	2	13	0	6	160

Total FG% - 1st: 15/28 0.536 2nd: 8/14 0.571 Game: 0.548 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 4/10 0.400 2nd: 1/4 0.250 Game: 0.357 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 5/9 0.556 2nd: 0/0 0.000 Game: 0.556 (1,0)

HOME: Groton ()

NO	PLAYER	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN	
		P	FG	FGA	FG			FGA	OFF	DEF								TOT
3	Sippel, Anthony	*	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	2	1	0	0	16:00
4	Shabazz, Bennett	*	3	9	0	4	0	0	2	5	7	2	6	0	3	0	2	24:00
12	Schuring, Sean	*	2	9	2	8	1	2	2	2	4	1	7	0	4	0	1	16:00
20	Keith, Brandon	*	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	8:00	
42	Shabazz, Seric	*	1	16	1	12	2	2	2	2	4	1	5	1	0	0	1	24:00
10	Lane, Marshall		1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	8:00
11	Shabazz, Darien		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
14	Diegel, Treyton		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
22	Guthmiller, Cade		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
24	Wuestewald, Frankie		0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	8:00
32	Thurston, Mitch		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
34	Jones, Austin		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
40	Johnson, Peyton		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	8:00
50	Thorson, Luke		1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									2	0	2			0				
Team Totals			8	46	3	30	4	7	12	12	24	14	23	4	11	0	5	160

Total FG% - 1st: 5/28 0.179 2nd: 3/18 0.167 Game: 0.174 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/19 0.105 2nd: 1/11 0.091 Game: 0.100 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 3/4 0.750 2nd: 1/3 0.333 Game: 0.571 (0,0)

Technical Fouls: PC (0)
 : groto (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Potter County	14	25	10	7	56
Groton	12	3	8	0	23

Last FG: Potter County 4th-08:00, Groton 3rd-08:00
 Largest lead: Potter County by 33 4th-08:00, Groton by 2 1st-08:00
 Score tied: 3 times, Lead changed: 2 times

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Boys Junior Varsity Stat Sheet

VISITOR: Potter County ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
0 Unknown,	*	1	5	0	1	2	2	1	2	3	0	4	0	1	0	0	16:00
5 Kirby,	*	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	24:00
13 Sharp,	*	3	5	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	7	1	3	0	0	8:00
31 Weller,	*	3	3	0	0	2	5	1	2	3	2	8	0	0	0	2	24:00
41 Decker,	*	6	9	2	4	0	0	2	0	2	2	14	0	4	0	4	32:00
11 Frost,		0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	3	16:00
25 Vetter,		0	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	24:00
33 Eide,		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
35 Keller,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0:00
45 Canchola,		0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								1	1	2				1			
Team Totals		13	29	2	9	8	13	6	7	13	14	36	4	15	0	11	160

Total FG% - 1st: 4/11 0.364 2nd: 9/18 0.500 Game: 0.448 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/4 0.250 2nd: 1/5 0.200 Game: 0.222 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 3/7 0.429 2nd: 5/6 0.833 Game: 0.615 (3,0)

HOME: Groton ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
5 Shabazz, Darien	*	3	7	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	7	1	4	0	0	24:00
10 Lane, Marshall	*	2	5	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	4	0	4	0	1	24:00
14 Diegel, Treyton	*	5	7	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	11	1	7	0	0	32:00
30 Doeden, Jonny	*	0	2	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	8:00
40 Johnson, Peyton	*	2	2	0	0	2	5	2	2	4	2	6	0	1	0	1	8:00
22 Guthmiller, Cade		2	2	2	2	3	3	0	0	0	1	9	0	2	0	1	16:00
32 Thurston, Mitchell		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	8:00
34 Jones, Austin		1	1	0	0	3	4	2	6	8	3	5	1	0	0	1	24:00
42 Morris, Alex		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
50 Thorson, Luke		0	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								1	3	4				1			
Team Totals		15	28	4	9	9	17	11	12	23	12	43	6	21	0	6	160

Total FG% - 1st: 5/12 0.417 2nd: 10/16 0.625 Game: 0.536 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/4 0.500 2nd: 2/5 0.400 Game: 0.444 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 0/2 0.000 2nd: 9/15 0.600 Game: 0.529 (3,0)

Technical Fouls: PC (0)
 : groto (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Potter County	6	6	9	15	36
Groton	2	10	14	17	43

Last FG: Potter County 4th-08:00, Groton 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Potter County by 7 2nd-08:00, Groton by 13 4th-08:00
 Score tied: 4 times, Lead changed: 3 times

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Potter County Game Stats

	2-pt	3-pt	FT	Pts	Rbs	Steals	Assists	TO	Fouls
Audrey Wanner	5-11	1-1	5-6	18	1	5	2	3	1
Katie Koehler	2-3	0-1	1-1	5	5	1	1	3	1
Jessica Bjerke	2-5	1-3	3*4	10	11	1	0	0	0
Jennie Doeden	1-4	0-0	0-0	2	5	1	1	1	2
Taylor Holm	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	5	0	2	1	2
Alex Stange	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	1	2
Miranda Hanson	1-3	4-11	2-2	16	2	1	0	0	0
Payton Maine	0-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Gia Gengerke	1-1	0-0	0-0	2	1	0	0	1	1
Sam Menzia	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	12-34	6-15	11-13	53	33	10	8	12	9

*Under New
Ownership*

GDI Living Fitness

25 Main St., Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460 or Tina at 605-397-7285
for membership information



Student: Monthly: \$26.63 Yearly \$255.60
Single: Monthly: \$31.95 Yearly: \$319.50
2-person*: Monthly: \$53.25 Yearly: \$575.10
Family: Monthly: \$63.85 Yearly: \$702.26
* 2 person can be husband/wife or parent/child

Fitness Rewards

These insurance companies offer the following (subject to change):
★ Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance of ND (Full Membership Reimbursed)
★ Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN (\$20 Credit)
★ Blue Cross Blue Shield of WY (\$20 Credit)
★ Sanford Health (\$20 Credit)
★ U Care Minnesota (\$20 Credit)

Anyone who works at 3M can enroll in Fitness Rewards.

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Gun show set for Aberdeen

GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association 15th Annual Aberdeen Gun Show. Saturday, February 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, February 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aberdeen Ramkota Hotel on Highway 281 North. Roger Krumm 701-851-0129.



Annual Kiwanis Pancake Brunch

Sunday, January 29th

Groton Community Center
Serving 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Adults \$6.00 - Children \$3.00 - Age 0-5 Free



livestream Upcoming Events

Monday, Jan. 23: Northwestern Boys in Groton, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24: Webster Area girls in Groton, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 26: Groton girls at Sisseton, 8 p.m.

gdilive.com

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Kingsbury County Invitational Results for Groton Area

113 - Dragr Monson (3-9)

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 3-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Jason Nixon (Brookings) 17-10 won by fall over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 3-9 (Fall 3:55)

Cons. Round 2 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 3-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Isaac McDugle (Parker) 12-15 won by fall over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 3-9 (Fall 3:57)

126 - Trevor Pray (14-2) placed 1st and scored 22.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 14-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 14-2 won by fall over Levi Boyko (Britton/Hecla) 5-18 (Fall 1:40)

Semifinal - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 14-2 won by decision over Wyatt Stevens (Wessington Springs)

14-13 (Dec 10-3)

1st Place Match - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 14-2 won by decision over Aaron Elijah (Sioux Valley) 21-2 (Dec 11-4)

132 - Wyatt Kurtz (10-7) placed 3rd and scored 18.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 10-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Landon Wolter (Wessington Springs) 8-15 won by fall over Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 10-7 (Fall 2:47)

Cons. Round 2 - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 10-7 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Parker) 2-7 (For.)

Cons. Round 3 - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 10-7 won by fall over Ashton Bultje (Sioux Valley) 6-9 (Fall 1:16)

Cons. Semi - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 10-7 won by fall over Jacob Hoffer (Lyman County) 12-13 (Fall 1:50)

3rd Place Match - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 10-7 won by fall over Landon Wolter (Wessington Springs) 8-15 (Fall 1:37)

152 - Lane Krueger (0-10)

Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Kesmond Willert (Brookings) 14-7 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-10 (Fall 0:54)

Cons. Round 2 - Boston Marlow (Britton/Hecla) 6-14 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-10 (Fall 0:39)

182 - Grady O`Neil (1-10) placed 3rd and scored 10.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Grady O`Neil (Groton Area) 1-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Grady O`Neil (Groton Area) 1-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Logan Hadley (Brookings) 15-8 won by fall over Grady O`Neil (Groton Area) 1-10 (Fall 1:11)

Cons. Semi - Grady O`Neil (Groton Area) 1-10 received a bye () (Bye)

3rd Place Match - Grady O`Neil (Groton Area) 1-10 won by fall over Geoff Dunkelberger (Parker) 1-19 (Fall 0:36)

220 - Wyatt Locke (9-8) placed 2nd and scored 18.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 9-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 9-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 9-8 won by fall over Camron McManigal (Lyman County) 12-9 (Fall 3:21)

1st Place Match - Austin Johnson (Flandreau) 21-5 won by decision over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 9-8 (Dec 5-2)

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285 - Brandyn Anderson (14-2) placed 3rd and scored 17.50 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 14-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 14-2 won by tech fall over Ernie Johnson (Marion/Free-man) 9-15 (TF-1.5 5:51 (18-3))

Semifinal - Riley Schmiedt (Wessington Springs) 18-8 won by decision over Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 14-2 (Dec 3-0)

Cons. Semi - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 14-2 won by fall over Jadeon Biggers (Lyman County) 13-11 (Fall 0:29)

3rd Place Match - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 14-2 won by fall over Silas Larsen (Sioux Valley) 14-6 (Fall 1:24)



Trevor Pray placed first at 126 pounds



Brandyn Anderson placed third at 285 pounds



Grady O'Neill placed third at 182 pounds

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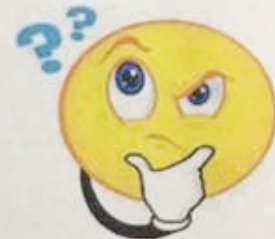
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Leave all your money and worries at home as we have you covered unless you see something on the side of the road you just can't live without then your on your own. Pack your overnight bag and your ready to enjoy



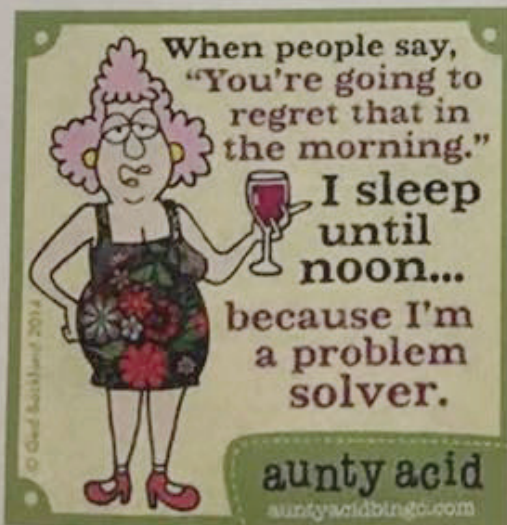
Like Adventure and Fun? Then join Duenwald Transportation on our Two Day Mystery Tour, March 1st and 2nd. Cost is \$225 per person based on double occupancy \$290 for single. For information on how to get signed up for this exciting



trip call [Keri Kline](tel:605-233-0144) 605-233-0144 Seats are limited!!

Bus will depart Clark at 8:30am and Watertown at 9:15am on Wednesday March 1st. It's going to be a trip of a lifetime and you will be doing things you have never done before???? So jump on the bus sit back and wonder where this

bus will be taking me today and tomorrow.



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Today in Weather History

January 22, 1982: A winter storm of long duration lasting 3 days from the 22nd to the 24th virtually paralyzed South Dakota with snowfall of 6 to 20 inches. Subzero temperatures statewide coupled with strong winds of 30 to 50 mph brought wind chills of 50 to 70 below zero. One woman died of exposure near her home in Aurora County. Snow drifted as high as 15 feet. Blowing snow reduced visibilities to near zero for most of the duration of the storm. Hundreds of motorists were stranded. Numerous traffic accidents occurred due to near zero visibilities. Some power outages occurred. Major highways, interstates, and airports were closed. Numerous businesses and schools were closed for several days.

January 22, 2010: A powerful mid-season winter storm moved northeast out of the four corners region of the United States and into the Northern Plains. Ahead of this system, warm and moist air streamed northward creating widespread fog and freezing fog conditions during the days leading up to the event. Heavy riming frost began to accumulate on power lines and tower guide wires, placing heavy strain on them by the time the freezing rain arrived in the late morning and afternoon hours on Friday, January 22nd. Along with the freezing rain, southeast winds gusting over 30 mph also created a strain on sagging power lines. Scattered power outages were reported as early as Tuesday, January 19th due to the frost covered lines, but the majority of power line and power pole damage occurred during the evening of the 22nd and the morning of the 23rd. The freezing rain that arrived during the afternoon and evening of the 22nd was the proverbial "straw that broke the camel's back". By the time the rain, freezing rain, and snow ended Saturday morning, January 23rd, nearly every power cooperative across central and northeast South Dakota suffered extensive power pole and power line damage. Also, several radio and television towers were downed by the icing and strong winds. The heavy icing and strong winds downed over 5000 power poles along with 21,000 miles of power lines across South Dakota leaving thousands of households without power. Several homes sustained substantial damage caused by broken water pipes. Power was still not restored for many customers until several weeks after the event. Power line crews from Minnesota, Kansas, and Oklahoma were called upon to help restore power. Several counties, along with the state emergency operations center, opened emergency shelters for people to stay. Forty-one National Guard members were on active duty across the state helping to restore power. Many flights were delayed or cancelled at several airports. The ice and the wind also helped topple a canopy at a truck stop at the intersection of Highway 20 and 212. On January 23rd, a radio and television signal transmission tower northwest of South Shore was downed along with a tower north of Reliance and a radio tower southwest of Marvin. The hardest hit area with this storm was the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Sioux reservations in central and north central South Dakota. With no electricity, residents were dependent on donations of food, bottled water, blankets, heat and light sources, toiletries, and cots. The rural water system serving the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe was shut down resulting in the state EOC shipping water to the reservation. The Governor asked for a presidential disaster declaration for most of the counties and three reservations. The request was for both public and individual assistance for total damages estimated over 20 million dollars for the state.

1904: An unusual estimated F4 tornado leveled the northern part of Moundville, Alabama just after midnight, killing 37 people. The tornado reportedly had a phosphorescent glow. An engineer on a northbound Great Southern train saw the destruction right after it occurred, and backed his train 12 miles in reverse to the town of Akron, where he sent a telegram for help.

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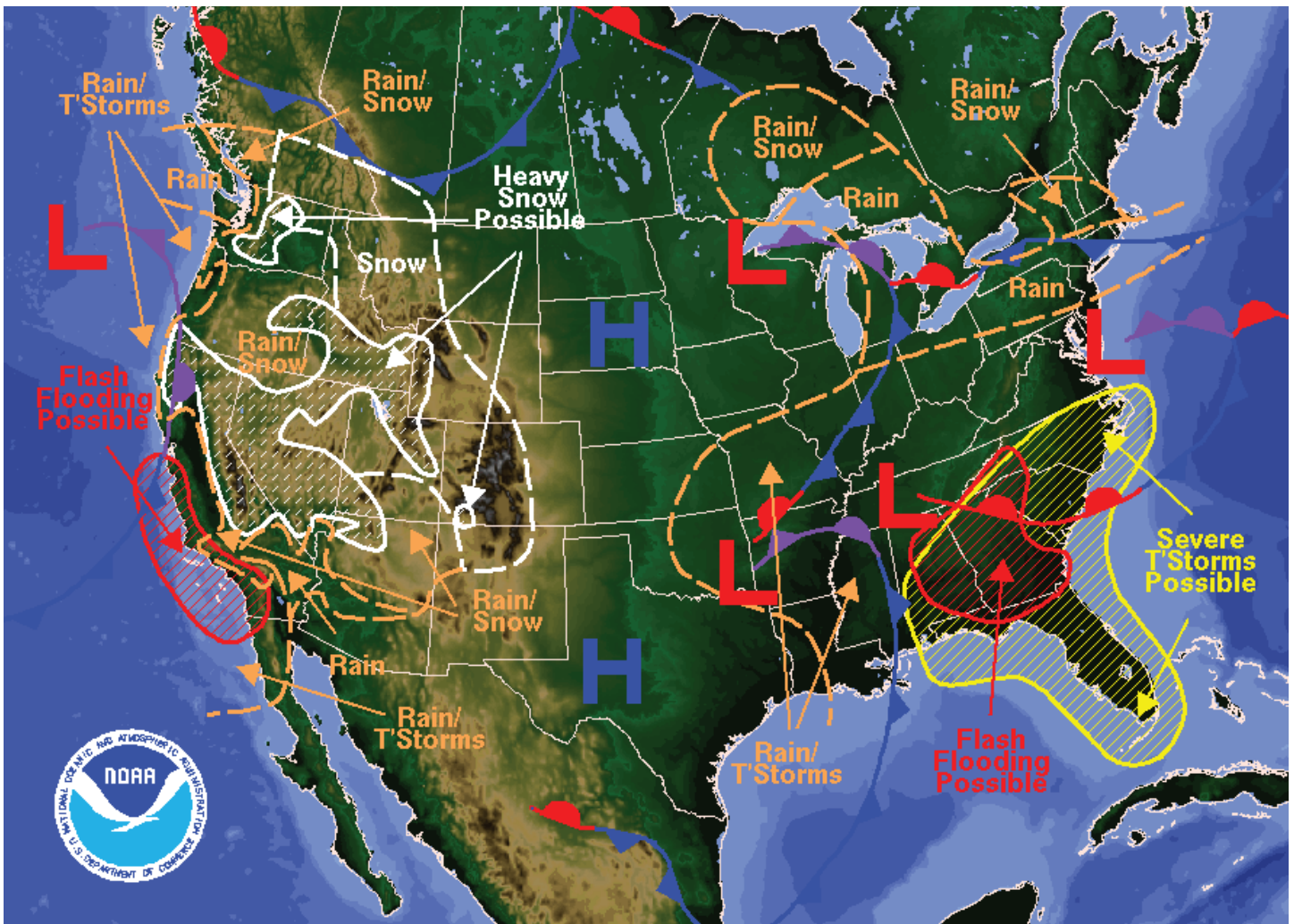
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 36.6
Low Outside Temp: 29.3 F
High Gust: 15 Mph

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 58° in 1942
Record Low: -30 in 1936
Average High: 23°F
Average Low: 1°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.35
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.35
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:03 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Jan 22, 2017, issued 4:57 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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GREAT MEN - GREAT GOD

When General Ulysses S. Grant lay dying, he called for his pastor. As his pastor stood by his bedside Grant asked, "Tell me, will God receive me?"

"Yes," he replied, "for the Lord said, 'him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.'"

General Grant, at that moment came to the Lord. The pastor, both amazed and grateful for this startling conversation said, "God's Kingdom had just gained a great man!"

Quietly, but with great sincerity and dignity Grant said, "God does not need great men, but great men need God."

General Grant put things in the proper perspective. It is not uncommon for those who achieve status and power, prestige and importance to believe that God needs their help. We hear much about the résumés and financial statements of prominent people. We offer our respect and esteem to those who move across the world's stage attempting to control world events. We speak of their efforts and accomplishments as though they keep the planet in orbit or from spinning out of control.

But in the final analysis they still need God's grace, mercy and salvation as we do. God without man is still God. But man without God is nothing and is condemned to spend eternity in hell.

Prayer: Father, we thank You with grateful hearts for Your salvation through Jesus Christ, Your Son. May we recognize Your Lordship and serve You with gladness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 6:37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

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News from the  Associated Press

Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 69, Harrisburg 52
Brandon Valley 62, Mitchell 43
Brookings 59, Pierre 38
Castlewood 43, Milbank Area 36
Crazy Horse 71, Dupree 35
Crow Creek 79, Todd County 70
Dell Rapids 70, Elk Point-Jefferson 58
Flandreau 61, Parker 40
Flandreau Indian 83, Marty Indian 67
Gayville-Volin 66, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 36
Hot Springs 63, Lead-Deadwood 55
Lawton-Bronson, Iowa 68, Dakota Valley 45
Leola/Frederick 60, Edgeley-Kulm-Montpelier, N.D. 46
Miller 82, McLaughlin 77
Philip 54, Bennett County 47
Potter County 56, Groton Area 23
Rapid City Central 60, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 48
Rapid City Stevens 71, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 65
Red Cloud 69, Custer 46
Sioux City, East, Iowa 65, Sioux Falls Lincoln 59
St. Francis Indian 67, Freeman 44
Wall 70, New Underwood 20
Yankton 60, Huron 36
Dakota Valley Conference Tournament
Seventh Place: Elkton-Lake Benton 62, Estelline 44
Fifth Place: Dell Rapids St. Mary 59, Deubrook 52
Third Place: Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 65, Lake Preston 51
Championship: Arlington 50, Colman-Egan 44
Hanson Corn Palace Classic
Bridgewater-Emery 46, Warner 39
Chester 66, Wolsey-Wessington 56
Corsica/Stickney 48, Langford 40
Platte-Geddes 45, Hanson 43
St. Thomas More 70, Sioux Valley 69
Tea Area 71, Aberdeen Roncalli 53
Tri-Valley 57, Winner 40
White River 61, Parkston 39
Mobridge Big Bob Classic
Herreid/Selby Area 49, Eureka/Bowdle 29
Mobridge-Pollock 58, Pine Ridge 51
Panhandle Conference Tournament
Fifth Place: Hay Springs, Neb. 63, Edgemont 32

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GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Avon 49, Wagner 35
Brookings 56, Pierre 39
Crazy Horse 79, Takini 38
Custer 50, Red Cloud 43
Dakota Valley 53, Lawton-Bronson, Iowa 37
Dell Rapids 67, Elk Point-Jefferson 45
Edgeley-Kulm-Montpelier, N.D. 68, Leola/Frederick 38
Flandreau Indian 53, Marty Indian 39
Freeman 77, St. Francis Indian 43
Groton Area 53, Potter County 36
Harrisburg 59, Aberdeen Central 51
Hill City 54, Rapid City Christian 25
Lead-Deadwood 40, Hot Springs 20
Little Wound 73, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 42
McLaughlin 70, Miller 55
Milbank Area 60, Clark/Willow Lake 50
New Underwood 37, Wall 35
Parker 53, Flandreau 52
Philip 62, Bennett County 20
Rapid City Central 39, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 38
Rapid City Stevens 45, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 43
Sioux Falls Christian 48, Mitchell Christian 10
Sioux Falls Lincoln 73, Sioux City, East, Iowa 42
Todd County 83, Crow Creek 53
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 57, Gayville-Volin 40
Yankton 76, Huron 39
Dakota Valley Conference Tournament
Seventh Place: Estelline 46, Arlington 41
Fifth Place: Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 52, Lake Preston 42
Third Place: Dell Rapids St. Mary 47, Colman-Egan 40
Championship: Elkton-Lake Benton 52, Deubrook 43
Little Moreau Conference Tournament
Seventh Place: Tiospaye Topa 44, Harding County 43
Fifth Place: Dupree 55, Lemmon 47
Third Place: McIntosh 44, Bison 32
Championship: Faith 55, Timber Lake 47
Southern Plains Conference Tournament
Seventh Place: Gregory 37, Jones County 29
Fifth Place: White River 57, Colome 26
Third Place: Burke/South Central 51, Stanley County 20
Championship: Lyman 54, Kadoka Area 46

Teachers opt for flexible seating options for students

By Megan Raposa, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Students in Sheremy Haas' classroom don't work in rows of desks with chairs. Many don't sit in chairs at all.

The first-grade Harvey Dunn Elementary School teacher encourages choice in where her students sit. Some find cushions on the floor. Others sit on yoga balls or wobble chairs, hard plastic stools shaped like empty spools of thread that tip gently side to side and require both feet to stay firmly planted on the ground.

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More teachers like Haas are moving away from traditional desks and chairs to offer a variety of what they call "flexible seating" options intended to help students find ways to wiggle while they work, as Haas' colleague second-grade teacher Kelly Allen said.

Haas and Allen obtained much of the flexible seating in their classrooms through grant programs and support from parents, but many teachers are left to make due with seats they can find or go into their own pockets, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2joFr2b>) reported.

"With kiddos, if we want them to be self-motivated and highly engaged, you have to find ways to meet student needs," Haas said. "The work isn't optional, but the seating is."

Flexible seating options range from the simple, such as pillow cushions, to the more involved methods like bicycle pedals on the floor below student desks or homemade standing desks like the one in Justin Stanford's classroom.

Stanford knows firsthand the need for flexible seating. He prefers to work standing to avoid back pain, and he said he also sees his students itching to move during the day.

"Kids' attention spans are less than they used to be," Stanford said.

The ability to softly bounce on a yoga ball or stand as they work keeps them active, and those small motions keep them more focused on their learning, Stanford said.

Teachers familiar with flexible seating say the only downside is the cost.

One yoga ball can cost around \$30, and each wobble stool rings up at \$80.

Many teachers turn to crowdfunding sites, or apply for grants. Some have had luck asking parents for support, but others like Stanford are left to "beg, borrow and steal."

Stanford made the standing desk that bisects his classroom using materials he was able to borrow from around Discovery Elementary School. He also has some exercise bands from the gymnasium that his students use during breaks to stretch out and move around.

Flexible seating is especially helpful for students who struggle to pay attention or have attention deficit disorders.

Classrooms with flexible seating can look chaotic, DeJong said especially if teachers have multiple types of seats throughout the room, but teachers who use seating options have methods of organization.

"It's really not clutter, it's options," DeJong said. "It's opening new doors for kids."

It's important to let students try out several seating options and allow them to select what works best for them, Haas said.

That selection process gives students a chance to take responsibility for their own learning. Allen draws up a "flexible seating contract" with her students each year, outlining that while they are encouraged to sit in a way that's most productive for them, she reserves the right to place them somewhere else if they become a distraction.

"They really do get good at choosing what's best for them," Haas said.

Flexible seating not only kept students more focused, it also brought about more collaboration between students, said Alyssa Erickson, a second-grade teacher at Discovery Elementary School.

"I see a lot more participation in the lessons," Erickson said.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Recreational vehicle offers health fair on wheels in Yankton

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF, Yankton Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — For six hours on Jan. 7, Hy-Vee shoppers found a huge reminder of their New Year's resolutions sitting in the parking lot.

Then again, it was hard to miss the Healthy You Mobile, a converted recreational vehicle offering a health fair on wheels. The vehicle's painted exterior carried messages such as fruit, dumb bells and a measuring tape.

Hy-Vee dietitian Elizabeth Volzke greeted passers-by braving frosty temperatures.

"Would you like to come inside?" she asked. "We can take your height and weight, and I'll answer any

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questions.”

The mobile represents the partnership of Hy-Vee and Avera Health in promoting wellness and preventative health, the Yankton Press and Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2jQU22Q>) reported. Launched in 2013, the effort has become so popular that six vehicles now travel an eight-state region.

“It’s all about keeping people healthy,” Volzke said. “More and more, the focus is on wellness than illness.”

She finds that’s particularly true during January, filled with New Year’s resolutions and good intentions. The store and mobile feature the theme “A New Year, A New You.”

“But some people set totally unrealistic goals,” she said. “I hear people say they’re going to lose 15 pounds by the end of the month. That’s just not going to happen in most cases, and people usually get discouraged and quit.”

Two visitors to the mobile suggested not taking on a new health resolution alone, whether it’s diet and exercise or efforts to stop smoking and curb drinking.

“I think it makes a big difference if you have a buddy,” Avera Health media relations director Jay Gravholt. Dr. Byron Nielsen of Yankton Medical Clinic agreed.

“There’s something to be said about accountability and encouraging each other,” he said. “Exercising with someone makes it more enjoyable, and the time passes more quickly.”

A journey starts with a single step, Nielsen noted.

“It’s better to start small and then build up,” he said.

Sometimes, a person becomes too rigid with a resolution or lifestyle, Volzke said. She told of one person who severely limited caloric intake.

“At that point, your body thinks you’re starving and starts storing up fat,” she said. “You also have people working out and still gaining weight. It’s because they’re building muscle, which weighs more than fat.”

The Healthy You Mobile can provide information to set people on the right path, Gravholt said. The mobile made its Yankton debut last August during Riverboat Days.

“It’s a really great way for people to get quick health screenings,” he said. “We want it out where people can see it and can take advantage of it. We give out free health information, and the tests are low cost or no cost.”

This particular mobile makes stops in Yankton, Vermillion and LeMars, Iowa, Volzke said. In that way, the bus can make a tight loop among three closely located stores.

The Healthy You Mobile offers a wide variety of services, Volzke said. The list includes checks or tests for cholesterol, hemoglobin and blood sugar. The program also offers flu shots and samplings in the store’s Health Market.

In addition, Volzke used a person’s height, weight and age to determine the body mass index (BMI).

However, she warned against becoming too reliant on any one figure, such as the BMI or the scale. An individual needs a healthy, well-rounded lifestyle, she said.

“These numbers are good starting points, but they’re not the gold standard. It may not take into account things like whether you have bigger bones,” she said. “And some people become really bothered by the number on the scale.”

Sometimes, it only takes a few tweaks, she noted. But those tweaks can loom large in today’s society.

“Everything is built for convenience,” she said. “We have escalators in stores and elevators to our apartments. We don’t walk to school or work.”

In turn, people often want instant gratification, she said.

“We want a pill, or we see these fad diets,” she said. “All you may need to do is eat more fruits and vegetables. And every 30 minutes of TV has 11 minutes of commercials, so do simple exercises during the commercials.”

When it comes to diet, more nutritious food can remain affordable, Volzke said.

“I had a four-ounce salmon filet and a half-bag of vegetables for \$2.76, and I still had the other half of the veggies for another meal,” she said. “It’s so easy to buy snacks and other food, but you can buy nutritious things on sale. And when you think about it, a poor diet costs you more in terms of your health down the line.”

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One woman who stopped at the mobile posed the classic holiday baking question. "What do I do about all those cookies that people bring and just lay around?" she asked.

Volzke smiled and answered in one word. "Willpower," she said.

After the woman departed, Volzke noted the importance of such lifestyle choices in preventing or slashing the risk of many diseases.

"When it comes to exercise, where you live makes a huge importance," she said. "It makes such a difference if you have lit sidewalks, green space and parks. Yankton is excellent in that regard."

Nielsen pointed to the abundance of Yankton's outdoor offerings.

"It's important to be active, even something like just walking around the community," he said. "We have all types of bike trails in Yankton, and we have so many outdoor activities that are cheap or free. There are all sorts of ways to get out and do (things)."

The current cold weather can lead to more sedentary lifestyles as people stay indoors, Nielsen said. Exercise can be as simple as light weights or moving arms and legs. Even people who work at desks all day need to stand up and move.

Family history can play a major role, particularly for diabetes, cancer and heart disease, Nielsen said. Early detection can catch diseases early and head off major problems,

Such care can also prove a good financial move, Gravholt said. "It can lower your health care costs overall," he said.

In addition, Volzke pointed to the importance of early and updated vaccinations.

"It's the craze right now of not vaccinating children because of fears it will cause ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) or autism. That just won't happen," she said. "And then, people don't vaccinated and we're seeing the return of diseases like polio, measles and certain childhood diseases."

Good habits can start at any age, with Hy-Vee's "Simple Fix" program teaching young people the basics of preparing healthy meals. Volzke also offers free grocery store tours, while other services are offered for a fee.

And for those who missed it, the Healthy You Mobile may be returning soon to a Hy-Vee store near you, Volzke said.

"I hope the mobile comes back for a follow-up visit in February, which is Healthy Heart Month, and then once a month after that," she said.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Daum scores career-high 42 as S. Dakota St. beats Fort Wayne

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum scored a career-high 42 points, made 10 baskets from 3-point range and collected 10 rebounds as South Dakota State defeated Fort Wayne 77-67 on Saturday.

The scoring output has placed the red-shirt sophomore in the SDSU 1,000-points club with 1,020, only the fourth player to get there in two seasons. On Saturday he made 14 of his team's 25 field goals. The Jackrabbits (9-13, 2-5 Summit League) got 18 points from A.J. Hess on six 3-pointers. Mike Orris dished 10 assists.

Daum hit a 3 with just under 10 minutes to play that put South Dakota State ahead 52-50 then hit two more in quick succession, boosting the lead to 58-50. He had missed three of his first four 3-point attempts after halftime.

Scott Bryson paced Fort Wayne (14-7, 3-4) with 21 points. The Mastodons led by as many as five points early in the second half but have now lost three in a row.

In South Dakota, lawmaker dealings with interns scrutinized

By JAMES NORD and HANNAH WEIKEL, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota House member's admission this week that he had sexual contact with two interns has raised questions — and conflicting accounts — about the ways legislators and interns

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interact in this tiny government town.

One former intern says drinking with lawmakers was commonplace, with occasional flirting. A former state representative said she often saw lawmakers giving unwanted attention to interns and pages, and a "what happens in Pierre stays in Pierre" mindset in the state capital, which is home to only about 14,000 people.

Many current lawmakers said otherwise.

"I've known legislators around these halls on and off for 40 years," said House Speaker Pro Tempore Don Haggar, a Republican. "Almost to a man and a woman, they're outstanding people in every facet of their lives."

The issue came to the fore this week when GOP state Rep. Mathew Wollmann, a 26-year-old former Marine, acknowledged the contact with interns in 2015 and 2016. In his admission, which came minutes after the House voted to set up a committee to investigate his conduct, Wollmann apologized and said he was ready to accept punishment.

He said both interns were over 21 and the contact was consensual. The Associated Press has been unable to verify that. A woman believed to be one of the two women did not respond to messages, and the AP was unable to identify the second woman.

Wollmann is the second South Dakota lawmaker in roughly a decade to be investigated for alleged misconduct involving interns or pages. In 2007, the state Senate censured Democrat Dan Sutton after he was accused of fondling an 18-year-old page when they shared a motel room during the 2006 legislative session. Sutton denied the allegation and was re-elected.

In South Dakota, interns are college students, some 21 or older. Pages are high school students. While interns are forbidden to socialize with pages, no such prohibition exists between interns and legislators.

Legislative rules also don't explicitly ban sexual contact or relationships between lawmakers and interns, although they do prohibit sexual harassment and call on lawmakers to maintain "the highest of moral and ethical standards."

Wollmann's public admission came shortly after a legislative committee voted down a new rule — proposed by a lawmaker who had raised questions privately about Wollmann's conduct — to explicitly bar legislators from sexual contact with interns and pages. One lawmaker who spoke against the change said he felt the current rules were sufficient.

Former Democratic state Rep. Peggy Gibson, who served eight years before retiring last year, said she noticed unwanted attention from lawmakers toward interns and pages, such as too much touching in the hallways or sexual references and jokes.

"What happens in Pierre stays in Pierre and that's kind of been the philosophy," Gibson said.

The AP contacted seven people who had served as interns and three who had served as pages since 2014. Most declined to be interviewed or didn't respond.

Olivia Siglin, a legislative intern in 2014, said drinking with lawmakers was common and that she saw occasional flirting between legislators and college-age interns. She said many of the interns would accompany legislators to receptions at hotels or meeting centers, and later to bars.

"Past interns had told me about the drinking," Siglin said. "You can avoid that pretty easily if you want to, but you miss out on networking. If you avoid the events you miss out on a lot of the bonding opportunities."

Menno Schukking, a legislative intern in 2014, said he attended some receptions where there was alcohol. But he said he saw no flirting and knew of no sexual relationships between politicians and interns.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm said lawmakers and interns may attend the same banquets or functions, but he said as far as "going any place to get together with the interns, that doesn't happen."

Interns and pages are overseen by the Legislative Research Council. A manual instructs that they should attend only after work social functions to which they are invited, but doesn't discuss consuming alcohol, Director Jason Hancock said in an email. During orientation, interns are advised to tell their supervising lawmaker or the LRC if they are subjected to sexual harassment, Hancock said.

The House committee that will consider potential discipline for Wollmann meets Tuesday.

hanweikel .

Black Hills State University considers solar panel project

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Black Hills State University is considering a project to install solar panels on the roofs of four buildings on campus.

Each panel would be tied directly to the building and would reduce the energy the university would have to purchase from its two current providers, The Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2jEZJUS>) reports.

“We want to be known as the campus that cares about the environment, cares about the Black Hills, and cares about our surroundings,” said Kathy Johnson, vice president for Finance and Administration at Black Hills State University.

Information from the South Dakota Board of Regents says the first-year cash savings is projected at \$10,000. The solar panels will produce an estimated 1.5 million kilowatt hours, or approximately 17 percent, of the university’s electricity use over a year. The panels are expected to last 40-50 years.

Director of university and community relations Corinne Hansen said the school is working on a contract with a third party so the panels would not cost the university anything.

Hansen said the third party would own the panels and the university would buy the electricity from them.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Sioux Falls archive storage facility ready needs more money

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A planned 29,000-square-foot archive storage facility in Sioux Falls will need funding from City Hall before construction can begin.

Siouxland Heritage Museums director Bill Hoskins tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2joFKKf>) that he hopes construction on the facility can begin in March.

The facility is planned to include two micro climate rooms, a space for textile storage, a lobby and public work space area.

Construction would also leave room for a future addition.

Currently, items such as newspaper archives and historic photographs are being stored at the Old Court-house Museum or the Pettigrew Museum.

“The collection is literally stuck in every nook and cranny,” Hoskins said. “If we can move those things into one place, I think the management will be much more efficient than it is today. It will be much easier for the general public to come in and get to see what they would like at that time.”

Plans for the facility were developed and approved by the Minnehaha County Commission and the Sioux Falls City Council in 2013. At that time, the two groups agreed to cover \$1.3 million of the estimated \$3.9 million construction costs. The rest would be paid for with funds generated from the sale of 20 acres of land donated to the county for the sole purpose of raising money for the facility.

Hoskins said there was a four-year delay in construction has likely driven up the costs to as much as \$4.5 million.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

11 people killed in Georgia following severe weather

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Eleven people were killed and 23 were injured after severe weather struck southern Georgia, officials said Sunday.

Catherine Howden of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency said the deaths occurred in Cook, Brooks and Berrien counties in southern Georgia near the Georgia-Florida line.

She said the deaths were related to severe weather but could not specify whether tornadoes were the cause. Tornado warnings had been issued for parts of Georgia overnight.

Local officials are still assessing the area. No other information was immediately available.

The southeastern United States has been pounded by storms, high winds and unstable weather over the weekend. Four people died after a tornado with winds above 136 mph tore a 25-mile path across southern Mississippi before dawn Saturday.

The National Weather Service in Jacksonville, Florida, has issued a tornado warning for Echols, Clinch and Ware counties in southeastern Georgia. A severe thunderstorm warning was in effect for the Florida panhandle.

Gambia awaits new leader, but exiled one has right to return

By CARLEY PETESCH, Associated Press

BANJUL, Gambia (AP) — Gambia's capital on Sunday was awaiting the arrival of the country's new leader and an era of democracy, hours after the authoritarian ruler of 22 years flew into exile with an extraordinary set of assurances from the international community.

Even as new President Adama Barrow remained in neighboring Senegal awaiting a triumphant return after a whirlwind political crisis sparked by his December election win, former leader Yahya Jammeh appeared to be guaranteed the right to come home.

A joint declaration issued shortly after Jammeh left by the United Nations, African Union and West African regional bloc ECOWAS said the bodies will work with Barrow's government to make sure Jammeh, his family and his close associates are not the target of punishment.

But a top Barrow adviser, Mai Ahmad Fatty, said the declaration didn't have the new leader's approval. "I was very shocked to learn from Facebook that the document we had rejected was already posted at the websites of both ECOWAS and the AU," he said Sunday. "Gambia will neither respect nor honor what was contained in that joint declaration. We don't consider it legally binding on us."

The unpredictable Jammeh, known for startling declarations like his claim that bananas and herbal rubs could cure AIDS, flew off late Saturday with a wave as supporters and soldiers wept. He was last seen flying toward Equatorial Guinea, which is not a state party to the International Criminal Court.

Jammeh's dramatic about-face on his election loss to Barrow, at first conceding and then challenging the vote, appeared to be the final straw for the international community, which had been alarmed by his moves in recent years to declare an Islamic republic, leave the Commonwealth and leave the ICC.

With global backing, Barrow was sworn in Thursday at Gambia's embassy in Senegal for his safety, hours after Jammeh's mandate expired at midnight. Meanwhile, Jammeh was abandoned by his defense chief and many Cabinet members.

A regional military force that had been poised to oust Jammeh if last-minute diplomatic efforts failed entered Gambia shortly after his departure and was securing the country and its capital, Banjul, ahead of Barrow's arrival.

"President Barrow would like to leave (Senegal) as soon as possible. One can't leave the country open," Marcel Alain de Souza, chairman of the regional bloc, told reporters. But part of Gambia's security forces needed to be "immobilized," he said, and he confirmed that Jammeh had had mercenaries by his side during the standoff.

De Souza also revealed details of the negotiations before Jammeh's departure. In response to his insistence on "a sort of amnesty" for him and his entourage, the West African regional body attempted to have Gambia's national assembly vote on an amnesty law. "Sadly, we couldn't reach a quorum. The deputies had fled," de Souza said. "Most were in their villages. The others were in Dakar," Senegal's capital.

Jammeh also wanted to stay in his home village in Gambia, but regional heads of state preferred that "for the moment" he leave the country, de Souza said.

With Jammeh gone, a country that had waited in silence during the standoff sprang back to life. Shops and restaurants opened, music played and people danced in the streets.

As he waited for the arrival of the regional force in Banjul, Gambia defense chief Ousmane Badjie said the military welcomed it "wholeheartedly." With proper orders, he said, he would open the doors to the notorious prisons where rights groups say many who have disappeared over the years may be kept.

"We are going to show Barrow we are really armed forces with a difference, I swear to God," Badjie

said. "I have the Quran with me."

Some of the 45,000 people who had fled the tiny country during the crisis began to return. The nation of 1.9 million, which promotes itself to overseas tourists as "the Smiling Coast of Africa," has been a major source of migrants heading north toward Europe because of the situation at home.

Barrow, who has promised to reverse many of Jammeh's actions, told The Associated Press on Saturday that at he will launch a truth and reconciliation commission to investigate the alleged human rights abuses of Jammeh's regime.

"After 22 years of fear, Gambians now have a unique opportunity to become a model for human rights in West Africa, in which no one need to be afraid to stand up or speak out," Amnesty International's deputy director for West and Central Africa, Steve Cockburn, said in a statement Sunday.

Associated Press writers Krista Larson and Babacar Dione in Dakar, Senegal contributed.

4 dead mourned in Mississippi storm as living begin recovery

By JEFF AMY, Associated Press

PETAL, Miss. (AP) — Cynthia Holland has to repair her liquor store. William Carey University has to find a place to hold classes. Michelle Kirk has to allay her 11-year-old daughter's anxieties while living in a damaged house.

And families will mourn four people who died after a tornado with winds above 136 mph tore a 25-mile path across southern Mississippi before dawn Saturday.

The Forrest County coroner identified the dead as Earnest Perkins, 58; Cleveland Madison, 20; David Wayne McCoy, 47 and Simona Cox, 72.

Monica McCarty lost her father — Perkins — who died in the same Hattiesburg trailer park where she and her boyfriend live. Madison, her son, was apparently crushed to death while in bed at her mother's house where he lived.

Standing amid the tornado's carnage, McCarty wept as her boyfriend, Tackeem Molley, comforted her.

"They couldn't get him out of the house. They said he was lying in the bed," McCarty said of her son.

Molley said he and McCarty were in a trailer when the storm hit. Molley, whose bare foot was bandaged, said he climbed out through a hole in what had either been the trailer's roof or wall.

"I had a little hole I could squeeze out of," he said.

The living are beginning to look toward recovery. That task will be steep in Petal, a city of 10,000 people across the Leaf River from the larger Hattiesburg.

Residents of the two cities are no strangers to tornado recovery following a February 2013 tornado that plowed through the area. But Petal Mayor Hal Marx says that for his city, Saturday's storm was more severe than the one four years ago. Early estimates show more than 300 homes and 30 businesses were damaged in Petal alone. Hundreds of more structures, including almost every building on the campus of William Carey University, were damaged in Hattiesburg.

"It's devastating," Marx said Saturday.

The 54-year-old Holland had hoped the Wine Cellar would be a good investment for her retirement.

"We just purchased this business on July 29 and totally remodeled it," Holland said. "It was all looking really nice, but it's not anymore."

By Saturday evening, Holland had tarped the damaged roof. But she's worried about water damage, looting and collecting insurance. And her three employees may go without work while she rebuilds.

The losses are closer to home for Michelle Kirk, who has lived for five years in a Petal subdivision. She was looking at squatting in a damaged house that may be without power for as long as a week. At dusk Saturday, more than 6,000 people were without power in Forrest and Lamar counties. Utilities were warning that restoration could take days because of damage to transmission lines, even as crews worked into the night.

Early Sunday, the National Weather Service confirmed a tornado near Nashville, Georgia, and officials

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said more severe weather was possible.

Kirk said her 15-year-old daughter Kimmie burst into her parents' room to warn that her phone was sounding a tornado warning. Kirk hustled her children into a closet, and soon followed them in with her husband.

"As soon as we did, I heard glass breaking," Kirk said. "I had debris — leaves, roof tiles, anything you can think of — in my kitchen."

One sharpened piece of wood shot through the roof and landed on the bed where her younger daughter would have been sleeping. That daughter was clinging to her mother as the sun set Saturday, in a subdivision where every house was seriously damaged — some obviously beyond repair.

William Carey sent students home from the campus where 3,200 of them study and 800 live. Spokeswoman Mia Overton says school officials hope to restart classes in borrowed space at the University of Southern Mississippi or at Pearl River Community College while the campus is repaired.

Tegan Sager, a freshman from Hermiston, Oregon, said she'd never been in a tornado before. She said bursts of lightening lit the campus just before the tornado hit. She and 20 other students huddled in the first-floor dorm hallway, cradling their heads in their hands.

"That's when the panels from the roof were falling in," she said. "Girls were screaming and a person next to me got cut on the leg."

Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney says insured damages will likely top \$200 million.

Follow Jeff Amy at: <http://twitter.com/jeffamy> . Read his work at <https://www.apnews.com/search/JeffAmy>.

Italy rescue crews hold out hope of more hotel survivors

FARINDOLA, Italy (AP) — Rescue crews digging through an Italian hotel buried in an avalanche say there could be additional survivors more than three days after tons of snow came barreling down a mountainside.

Rescuers told reporters in the central Apennine mountains on Sunday morning there are air pockets in some of the Hotel Rigopiano's wreckage. But they haven't been able to reach all those areas yet.

Nine survivors from the Wednesday evening avalanche were located in air pockets inside the crushed hotel on Friday. Rescue officials say there are other spaces where some of the 23 people still missing might be found alive.

Five bodies have been recovered from the hotel's wreckage.

Rain is making the snow heavy and complicating the manual rescue operation. Officials say the risk of fresh avalanches is high.

Trump turns to routine matters after day of bashing media

By JULIE PACE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, who spent his first full day in office berating the media over their coverage of his inauguration, will spend Sunday engaged in more routine matters, like overseeing the swearing in of high-level staffers.

On the second full day of his administration, Trump will see the "assistants to the president" sworn in, according to his press secretary, Sean Spicer. He'll also hold a reception for law enforcement officers and first responders who helped with his inauguration as he celebrates his 12th wedding anniversary.

White House staff are scheduled to have a briefing on ethics and another on the proper use and handling of classified information as they begin to make themselves comfortable in their new White House offices.

While Trump has said that he'll consider Monday his first real day in office, he is already making clear that sparring with the press will be a defining aspect of his administration.

Trump turned a bridge-building first visit to CIA headquarters on Saturday into an airing of grievances about "dishonest" journalists, while wildly overstating the size of the crowd that gathered on the National Mall as he took the oath of office. Trump said throngs "went all the way back to the Washington monument," despite photos and live video showing the crowd stopping well short of the landmark.

Standing in front of a memorial for fallen CIA agents, Trump assured intelligence officials, "I am so

behind you." He made no mention of his repeated criticism of the intelligence agencies following the election, including his public challenges of their high-confidence assessment that Russia meddled in the White House race to help him win.

"There is nobody that feels stronger about the intelligence community and CIA than Donald Trump," he said, blaming any suggestion of a "feud" on the media.

Trump's visit took place as throngs of women, many of them wearing bright pink, pointy-eared hats, descended on the nation's capital and other cities around the world for marches organized to push back against the new president. Hundreds of protesters lined the motorcade route as Trump sped back to the White House, many screaming and chanting at the president.

The Washington rally alone attracted more than 500,000 people by the unofficial estimate of city officials. It appeared to be more people than attended Trump's inauguration on Friday, but there were no comparable numbers. The city did not release an estimate for the inauguration. The National Park Service does not provide crowd counts.

Suggestions of weak enthusiasm for his inauguration clearly irked the new president. Shortly after his remarks, Trump dispatched Spicer to aggressively reinforce the message.

"There's been a lot of talk in the media about holding Donald Trump accountable. And I'm here to tell you that it goes two ways. We're going to hold the press accountable as well," Spicer said in his first appearance in the White House briefing room.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Jill Colvin at <http://twitter.com/colvinj>

In midst of Aleppo wreckage, a Syrian family returns home

By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

ALEPPO, Syria (AP) — The street looks as if it was hit by an earthquake and the bombed-out building in a former rebel-held northeastern neighborhood of Aleppo is deserted — except for the second-floor apartment where Abdul-Hamid Khatib and his family are staying.

There is no electricity or running water. The apartment windows are covered with nylon sheets and a hole caused by a shell in the sitting room wall is closed with a piece of metal, pierced by the exhaust pipe for the wood-burning heater.

Khatib and his family are the only occupants of the six-story building and they keep its main gate locked with a metal chain, fearing looters. At night, they fumble around the two-bedroom apartment with candles.

But the family has nowhere else to go.

The 56-year-old blacksmith had been jobless for months and could not afford to continue paying rent. He was worried their apartment in Aleppo's Ansari neighborhood would be completely looted if they stayed away.

"A few days ago a man who brought some stuff over told me, 'Is it possible that you live here?' I said where can we go? At least this is our house and no one will ask us to leave," said Hasnaa, Khatib's wife.

Life and war have been very unkind to the Khatib family. The eldest son Mohammed was killed in the bombardment of east Aleppo in 2013 and their granddaughter Hasnaa, 4, was killed a year later by a bullet as she played on the balcony of her parents' apartment. Their son Mahmoud died at work of severe burns while welding a metal container filled with gas.

Since rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad stormed east Aleppo in July 2012, the family had to leave the house twice to move to safer areas, before returning back home. But in August 2016, when government forces intensified their offensive on east Aleppo, an airstrike near their home forced them to flee for the third time.

"It was so dangerous and our kids were terrified so we could not tolerate it anymore. We used to tell the gunmen to move away from here but they would not listen to us," Abdul-Hamid said.

In late December, government forces and their allies took control of east Aleppo, bringing the whole city under state control in the biggest victory for Assad since the country's conflict began in March 2011.

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The Khatib family — like many of east Aleppo's residents — were taken to shelters in the village of Jibrin, just south of Aleppo, where they spent a week before returning to their hometown during the first week of January.

Having little money left to rent an apartment, they returned to their abandoned home in Ansari and fixed it as much as possible. They found many of their belongings looted including the refrigerator, stove, a microwave and seven gas cylinders. When asked who was behind the looting, Khatib blamed both rebels and pro-government gunmen.

The couple now lives in the apartment with their daughter Rasha, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, Abdul-Hamid and Rimas.

Their apartment appears in relatively good shape compared with nearby housing units. The buildings on either side of theirs are uninhabitable. Most buildings in their area are either a pile of metal and stones, or so damaged they're no longer suitable to live in. Their home now attracts attention from curious passersby as it's the only apartment on the street with washed laundry hanging from the balcony and wood smoke coming from the heater.

Thousands of other families from east Aleppo have returned to their homes because they have nowhere else to go.

Others come in every day to look at their homes and take whatever they can carry with them — especially those in heavily damaged buildings. One neighboring family came to check on their home about 50 meters away and found it could collapse at any moment.

Despite everything, Abdul-Hamid Khatib is optimistic that the situation in his city can only get better. But his wife, Hasnaa, wishes they had fled Syria and joined the nearly four million refugees who settled in neighboring countries, mostly Lebanon and Turkey.

"I feel life was so unjust to me. Although I am alive, I feel as if I am dead," she said, sitting on a plastic chair in her living room. "I wish we left at the beginning of the crisis, even if we had to stay in the street."

At least 32 killed, 50 injured as train derails in India

By MUNEZA NAQVI, Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — An overnight passenger train derailed in southern India, killing at least 32 people and injuring 50 others in the latest accident to hit the country's massive, disaster-prone rail network.

Seven coaches of the Hirakand Express were thrown off the tracks around midnight Saturday, some landing on a goods train that was on a parallel track, said Divisional Railway manager Chandralekha Mukherji.

Rescue workers were trying to cut open the mangled coaches Sunday morning near the Kureru railway station in the Vizianagram district of Andhra Pradesh state. The train was traveling between Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh state to Bhuvaneshwar in Orissa.

J.P. Misra, the chief press officer of the East Coast Railways, said that the toll could rise further as many people were still trapped. An investigation is underway.

In November, 146 people were killed when a packed passenger train derailed near the town of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh in the deadliest rail accident in the country in at least five years.

India's railway system is the world's third largest, but is severely hampered by a lack of modern signaling and communication systems as well as poor maintenance of tracks and equipment. Manual signaling is still used at several places, raising the risk of human error.

According to a government report in 2012, about 15,000 people are killed every year in train accidents. The worst occurred in 1981, when a train fell into the Bagmati River in northern India, killing nearly 800 people.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged last year to invest \$137 billion over the next five years to modernize the railway network, which is used by about 23 million passengers a day.

On Sunday, Modi tweeted his condolences for those killed in the most recent accident and said that the railway ministry was monitoring the situation closely.

Trump praises the CIA, bristles over inaugural crowd counts

By **JULIE PACE** and **JILL COLVIN**, Associated Press

LANGLEY, Va. (AP) — On his first full day in office, President Donald Trump on Saturday berated the media over its coverage of his inauguration, and turned a bridge-building first visit to CIA headquarters into an airing of grievances about “dishonest” journalists. But it was Trump who spread inaccuracies about the size of the crowds at his swearing in.

Standing in front of a memorial for fallen CIA agents, Trump assured intelligence officials, “I am so behind you.” He made no mention of his repeated criticism of the intelligence agencies following the election, including his public challenges of their high-confidence assessment that Russia meddled in the White House race to help him win.

“There is nobody that feels stronger about the intelligence community and CIA than Donald Trump,” he said, blaming any suggestion of a “feud” on the media.

Trump’s decision to travel to CIA headquarters so quickly after taking office was seen as an attempt at a fresh start with the intelligence agencies he will now rely on for guidance as he makes weighty national security decisions. Following his private meeting with top CIA leaders, Trump said the U.S. had been “restrained” in its efforts to combat terrorism, calling the threat “a level of evil we haven’t seen.”

But in unscripted, stream-of-consciousness remarks, Trump appeared more focused on settling scores with the media.

He defensively touted the crowd size for his swearing-in ceremony, wrongly claiming that the throngs on the National Mall stretched “all the way back to the Washington Monument.” Photos and video clearly showed the crowd stopping well short of the landmark.

Trump’s visit took place as throngs of women, many of them wearing bright pink, pointy-eared hats, descended on the nation’s capital and other cities around the world for marches organized to push back against the new president. Hundreds of protesters lined the motorcade route as Trump sped back to the White House, many screaming and chanting at the president.

The Washington rally alone attracted more than 500,000 people by the unofficial estimate of city officials. It appeared to be more people than attended Trump’s inauguration on Friday, but there were no comparable numbers. The city did not release an estimate for the inauguration. The National Park Service does not provide crowd counts.

During his remarks at the CIA, the president claimed the inaugural crowds topped 1 million people, offering no evidence.

Suggestions that weak enthusiasm accompanied his inauguration clearly irked the new president. Shortly after his remarks, he dispatched his press secretary, Sean Spicer, to the White House briefing room to aggressively reinforce the message.

“There’s been a lot of talk in the media about holding Donald Trump accountable. And I’m here to tell you that it goes two ways. We’re going to hold the press accountable as well,” Spicer said in his first on-camera appearance at the White House.

Trump, and later Spicer, also slammed a Time magazine reporter for incorrectly reporting Friday that Trump had moved a bust of Martin Luther King Jr. out of the Oval Office. But Trump followed with a misstatement of his own, saying the reporter had not corrected the mistake. In fact, the item was quickly retracted.

High-level CIA brass stood largely silent during Trump’s remarks, though some of the roughly 400 other officers in attendance cheered on the president during his remarks.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, slammed Trump for using his CIA visit to squabble over media coverage.

“He will need to do more than use the agency memorial as a backdrop if he wants to earn the respect of the men and women who provide the best intelligence in the world,” Schiff said.

Former CIA Director John Brennan went further. His former aide Nick Shapiro released a statement saying “Brennan is deeply saddened and angered at Donald Trump’s despicable display of self-aggrandizement in

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front of CIA's Memorial Wall of Agency heroes. Brennan says that Trump should be ashamed of himself."

The inaugural celebrations have been shadowed by reports that the CIA and other federal agencies are investigating Russian interference in the presidential election on behalf of Trump. McClatchy reported that the investigation included whether money from the Kremlin covertly aided Trump. The New York Times said agencies were examining intercepted communications and financial transactions between Russian officials and Trump's associates.

FBI Director James Comey has declined to confirm or describe the nature of the government's investigation, both during a congressional hearing and in closed-door meetings with members of Congress.

Saturday marked the end of three days of inaugural celebrations, with Trump and his family attending a national prayer service traditionally held for the new president. The president and his wife, Melania, and Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, sat in a front pew at Washington National Cathedral for the morning service.

The interfaith service is a tradition for new presidents and is hosted by the Episcopal parish. But the decision to hold a prayer session for Trump sparked debate among Episcopalians opposed to his policies.

Bishop Mariann Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington wrote in a blog post that while she shared "a sense of outrage at some of the president-elect's words and actions," she felt an obligation to welcome all people without qualification, especially those who disagree and need to find a way to work together.

Trump arrived at the cathedral mid-morning. The service included readings and prayers from Protestant, Jewish, Sikh, Mormon, Buddhist, Roman Catholic, Baha'i, Episcopal, Hindu and Native American leaders. But the program was remarkable for the large number of evangelicals participating, including two former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, the country's largest evangelical denomination. Several speakers had served as Trump advisers and supporters who spoke at the Republican National Convention.

AP Religion Writer Rachel Zoll in New York and Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

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Families lobby Malaysian minister to resume search for MH370

By ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Relatives of passengers and crew aboard the missing Malaysian airliner plan to present the Malaysian transport minister in Australia with letters urging that the search resume.

Sheryl Keen, a supporter of the international victims' advocacy group Voice370, said Sunday she plans to personally hand to Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai dozens of letters from relatives when Liow meets this week in the west coast city of Perth with his Australian counterpart Darren Chester.

Last week, Malaysia, Australia and China announced that the deep sea search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 had been suspended, perhaps forever, after a sonar scan of 120,000 square kilometers (46,000 square miles) of the Indian Ocean west of Australia failed to find any trace of the Boeing 777 that vanished on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board after flying far off course during a trip from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing.

Keen, who chairs her own support organization Aircrash Support Group of Australia, said she had yet to hear from the Malaysian Consulate in Perth whether she would be allowed a one-minute meeting with Liow on Sunday or Monday.

"The general content is urging him to continue the search," Keen said. "I do believe some of them are quite heartfelt and others are quite brief."

Chester said he would hold an informal meeting with Liow on Sunday. Both ministers will welcome the final search ship Fugro Equator when it returns from the abandoned search area to Perth's port at Fremantle on Monday.

"We will both be in Perth tomorrow to thank the crew of the Fugro Equator for their search efforts in trying conditions," Chester said in a statement.

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Voice370 wants the ministers to use the meeting to reconsider the suspension of the search.

"A quick decision to extend the search would avoid the immediate demobilization of the equipment on board the search vessel, Fugro Equator, and additional costs at a later date for mobilization of vessels," Voice370 said in a statement.

But Chester said the decision to suspend the search "was not taken lightly."

"I understand the disappointment and frustration felt by the families," he said. "Not knowing the final resting place of their loved ones only adds to the tragedy of the situation."

Voice370 has launched an online petition to increase public pressure on the governments to continue the search.

Because the airliner was registered in Malaysia, the Malaysian government has a final say on the search's future. Australia, Malaysia and China agree they won't relaunch the search until they have credible evidence pointing to the plane's exact location.

Malaysia has offered a reward to any private company that found the plane's fuselage. The government has not put a figure on that reward.

Keen described that offer as "free-for-all treasure hunt."

Pope: I'll judge Trump after we see what he does

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis says he'll wait to see what U.S. President Donald Trump does before forming an opinion about him.

In an interview published Saturday evening by Spanish newspaper El Pais, Francis says he doesn't like "judging people early. We'll see what Trump does."

Asked about populist-style political leaders emerging in the United States and Europe, Francis warned against seeking a savior in times of crisis.

He said Adolf Hitler in the 1930s' Germany "was voted for by the people and then he destroyed the people."

Francis laments that in crises "we look for a savior to give us back identity, and we defend ourselves with walls, barbed-wire fences, from other peoples."

He was interviewed Friday at the Vatican at the same time as Trump's inauguration ceremony.

Trump's DC hotel a hub of activity and ethics questions

By JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Red, white and blue balloons rained down over crystal chandeliers in the soaring atrium of the Trump International Hotel at midnight Friday — "a new inaugural tradition," its social media account promised.

But while President Donald Trump's hotel in Washington did serve as a hub of inaugural activities, it also stands as ground zero for what top Democrats and some ethics advisers see as his unique web of conflicts of interest.

Trump's lease with the federal government to develop and operate a hotel inside the historic Old Post Office building expressly prohibits any elected official from benefiting from the property, yet Trump has not divested from his company or this particular project.

The government's General Services Administration previously said it would refrain from commenting on the apparent contract violation until Trump took office, which he did at noon Friday. The agency did not respond to requests for comment.

"I think it's a simple matter of amending the lease," said Patrick Keogh, a real estate investor in Austin, Texas, who has developed projects for the GSA and other federal agencies. He said Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and chief negotiator on the hotel, should ask the GSA to exempt her father from that provision of the contract. The GSA should make the process public and transparent, Keogh said.

Others say Trump must relinquish ownership of the hotel. More broadly, they argue, Trump should sell

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off his company and put the cash into a blind trust as previous presidents have done. He is not legally required to do so, but it's become common for presidents to separate themselves from their personal finances to avoid any possible conflicts with national policy.

The liberal-funded watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington complained to the GSA that it should terminate its deal or take legal action because the president had violated the conditions of the lease. The American Civil Liberties Union said it had filed a Freedom of Information Act request for documents about Trump's conflicts of interest, including any recent memos, emails and other private communications on the issue with his transition team.

The Washington hotel also attracted protesters on Friday and Saturday. People participating in the women's march Saturday booed in unison as they walked by, and many left their protest signs in front of the building.

Trump handed control of his international real estate development, property management and licensing company to his two adult sons. To help ease the appearance of conflicts of interest, the company said it would not enter into any new international deals, promised to hire a compliance officer and ethics adviser to vet domestic deals, donate foreign profit from its hotels and refrain from doing anything that could be perceived as exploiting the office of the presidency.

"The Trump Organization has directed that no communications of the organization, including social media accounts, will reference or otherwise be tied to President-elect Trump's role as president of the United States or the office of the presidency," a company attorney wrote in a briefing released earlier this month.

Trump has voluntarily taken these measures, since few conflict laws apply to the president or vice president. That means people will have to trust that the president and his company are following through.

"We are waiting for you Mr. President! Thank you!" Trump's Washington hotel wrote on its Twitter account shortly before the president was scheduled to roll past the Pennsylvania Avenue property as part of the inaugural parade. Indeed, Trump hopped out of his motorcade to walk and wave in front of the hotel.

The tweet would appear to violate the company's no-reference-to-the-president policy.

Trump Organization representatives did not respond to requests for comment.

Patricia Tang, the Washington hotel's director of sales and marketing — who said she was responsible for social media — did not directly answer a questions about the possible violation. But she said, "We have nothing to do with the administration. We have nothing to do with the presidency. We just want to be the best possible luxury hotel that we can be."

The new White House raised eyebrows on its first day by posting on its official website a biography of first lady Melania Trump that included an explicit reference to her jewelry collection, which it noted was sold on the home-shopping channel QVC. By Saturday, that line had been edited and simplified to say that she had "launched her own jewelry collection."

A spokeswoman for the first lady said the website was updated out of "an abundance of caution" and that the jewelry line is no longer available in any case.

There have also been questions about what the Trump Organization means by no "new" foreign deals.

Earlier this week, the company confirmed it wanted to expand at one of its Scottish resorts, including plans to add a golf course. A spokeswoman for the resort said the expansion is just another "phase" of a project outlined in a planning document approved by the local government years ago, and so did not break any Trump promise.

But Richard Painter, chief ethics lawyer under former President George W. Bush, said every phase of a real estate project is like a new deal, requiring financing and government permits, and allowing foreigners to hold something back that the president might want in hopes he will shape public policy in their favor.

Trump's administration addressed one potential conflict when the Justice Department on Saturday said federal anti-nepotism laws do not prevent the president from appointing his son-in-law to his administration. That clears the way for Jared Kushner, Ivanka Trump's husband, to take a post as a senior adviser.

Federal anti-nepotism laws prevent relatives from being appointed to government positions. The Trump transition team argued, and a career Justice attorney agreed, the laws apply to jobs in federal agencies, not White House posts.

Associated Press writers Bernard Condon in New York and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Over 1 million join anti-Trump women's marches worldwide

By NANCY BENAC and BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a global exclamation of defiance and solidarity, more than 1 million people rallied at women's marches in the nation's capital and cities around the world Saturday to send President Donald Trump an emphatic message on his first full day in office that they won't let his agenda go unchallenged.

"Welcome to your first day, we will not go away!" marchers in Washington chanted.

Many of the women came wearing pink, pointy-eared "pussyhats" to mock the new president. Plenty of men joined in, too, contributing to surprising numbers everywhere from New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles to Mexico City, Paris, Berlin, London, Prague and Sydney.

The Washington rally alone attracted over 500,000 people according to city officials — apparently more than Trump's inauguration drew on Friday. It was easily one of the biggest demonstrations in the city's history, and as night fell, not a single arrest was reported.

The international outpouring served to underscore the degree to which Trump has unsettled people in both hemispheres.

"We march today for the moral core of this nation, against which our new president is waging a war," actress America Ferrera told the Washington crowd. "Our dignity, our character, our rights have all been under attack, and a platform of hate and division assumed power yesterday. But the president is not America. ... We are America, and we are here to stay."

Turnout in the capital was so heavy that the designated march route alongside the National Mall was impassable. Protesters were told to make their way to the Ellipse near the White House by way of other streets, triggering a chaotic scene that snarled downtown Washington. Long after the program had ended, groups of demonstrators were still marching and chanting in different parts of the city.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer had no comment on the march except to note that there were no firm numbers for turnout because the National Park Service no longer provides crowd estimates.

Around the world, women brandished signs with slogans such as "Women won't back down" and "Less fear more love." They decried Trump's stand on such issues as abortion, health care, diversity and climate change. And they branded him a sexist, a bully, a bigot and more.

"We want a leader, not a creepy tweeter," some marchers chanted in Washington.

In Chicago, organizers canceled the march portion of their event for safety reasons because of an overflow crowd that reached an estimated 250,000. People made their way through the streets on their own anyway. In New York, well over 100,000 marched past Trump's home at glittering Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue. More than 100,000 also gathered on Boston Common, and a similar number demonstrated in Los Angeles.

In Miami, real estate agent Regina Vasquez, 51, brought a sign saying "Repeal and Replace Trump."

"I believe that strength is in the numbers, and that we should all come out and not make Trump the new normal," she said.

All told, more than 600 "sister marches" were planned worldwide. Crowd estimates from police and organizers around the globe added up to well over a million.

"I feel very optimistic even though it's a miserable moment," said Madeline Schwartzman of New York City, who brought her twin 13-year-old daughters to the Washington rally. "I feel power."

Retired teacher Linda Lastella, 69, who came to Washington from Metuchen, New Jersey, said she had never marched before but felt the need to speak out when "many nations are experiencing this same kind of pullback and hateful, hateful attitudes."

"It just seemed like we needed to make a very firm stand of where we were," she said.

As the demonstrators rallied alongside the National Mall, Trump opened his first full day as president by attending a prayer service at the Washington National Cathedral, a tradition for the day after inauguration,

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and later visited the CIA. As he traveled around town, his motorcade passed large groups of protesters that would have been hard to miss.

The Women's March on Washington appeared to accomplish the historic feat of drawing more people to protest the inauguration than the ceremony itself attracted.

It far surpassed the 60,000 people who protested the Vietnam War at Richard Nixon's inauguration in 1973. Before Saturday, that was thought to be the largest such demonstration in inaugural history.

Christopher Geldart, Washington's homeland security director, said the crowd exceeded the 500,000 that organizers told city officials to expect. The largest-ever demonstration in Washington, according to National Park Service crowd estimates, was an anti-Vietnam protest in 1969 that drew 600,000.

The Million Man March in 1995 drew 400,000, according to the park service, which no longer estimates crowd sizes, in part because the organizers of that event accused the agency of lowballing the number and threatened to sue.

The Washington rally was a peaceful counterpoint to the window-smashing unrest that unfolded on Friday when self-described anarchists tried to disrupt the inauguration. Police used pepper spray and stun grenades against the demonstrators. More than 200 people were arrested.

Marlita Gogan, who came to Washington from Houston for the inauguration, said police advised her family not to wear their "Make America Great Again Hats" as they walked through crowds of protesters while playing tourist on Saturday.

"I think it's very oppressive," she said of the march atmosphere. "They can have their day, but I don't get it."

Hillary Clinton, who lost to Trump, took to Twitter to thank the participants for "standing, speaking and marching for our values."

The marches displayed a level of enthusiasm that Clinton herself was largely unable to generate during her campaign against Trump, when she won the popular vote but was outdistanced in the Electoral College that decides the White House.

The hand-knit "pussyhats" worn by many women served as a message of female empowerment, inspired by Trump's crude boast about grabbing women's genitals. They "ain't for grabbing," actress Ashley Judd told the Washington crowd.

The marches were a magnet for A-list celebrities, unlike Trump's inauguration, which had a deficit of top performers.

Alicia Keys sang "Girl on Fire" for the Washington crowd. Madonna gave a fiery, profanity-laced address to the gathering. Cher, also in the nation's capital, said Trump's ascendance has people "more frightened maybe than they've ever been."

In Park City, Utah, it was Charlize Theron leading demonstrators in a chant of "Love, not hate, makes America great." Actresses Helen Mirren and Cynthia Nixon and Whoopi Goldberg joined the crowd of protesters in New York.

Tens of thousands of protesters squeezed into London's Trafalgar Square. In Paris, thousands rallied in the Eiffel Tower neighborhood in a joyful atmosphere, singing and carrying posters reading "We have our eyes on you Mr. Trump" and "With our sisters in Washington." Hundreds gathered in Prague's Wenceslas Square in freezing weather, mockingly waving portraits of Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

In Sydney, thousands of Australians gathered in solidarity in Hyde Park. One organizer said hatred, bigotry and racism are not only America's problems.

Associated Press Writers Alanna Durkin Richer, Tami Abdollah, Juliet Linderman, Brian Witte, Matthew Barakat, and David Dishneau in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Nancy Benac and Ben Nuckols on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/nbenac> and <http://twitter.com/APBenNuckols>

Search intensifies for 23 missing in Italian avalanche

By COLLEEN BARRY and PAOLO SANTALUCIA, Associated Press

FARINDOLA, Italy (AP) — The strain showed on Fabio Salzetta's face.

The maintenance worker at the luxury Hotel Rigopiano who escaped being buried under the deadly avalanche because he had gone to check the boiler told Italian media Saturday that he called for hours to find survivors, but no one responded. The scene, he said, "felt like it was a dream. It was a nightmare."

One of the people buried inside, and among the 23 still missing, is his sister. His voice shaking, he said he last saw her in the kitchen.

Five people have been confirmed killed, including two hotel waiters, while nine, including four children who had been on family vacations, have been pulled alive from the reinforced concrete structure buried beneath as many as eight meters of snow last Wednesday.

Doctors at the hospital in Pescara said one of the adults underwent surgery for a crushed arm, and was in fair condition, but that all of the other patients were doing well. The children were being moved from intensive care to the pediatric ward.

Buoyed by the rescues on Friday, more than two days after the disaster, search crews were intensifying their round-the-clock operation, fighting against the clock and deteriorating weather conditions including fresh snowfall and freezing temperatures.

"The research is difficult also because the site is in a precarious equilibrium, that's why the interventions are made very carefully and why we cannot intervene with big machineries risking to modify a very vulnerable situation," said Titti Postiglione of Italy's civil protection agency.

Instead, workers pushed ahead using saws, shovels and gloved hands, listening for any sounds that might suggest more survivors.

Dozens of friends and family members kept vigil at the hospital, some growing frustrated at the lack of news.

In one family, elation that 9-year-old Edoardo Di Carlo had survived in good condition was tempered by news that his mother, Nadia Aconcciamessa, a nurse in the nearby town of Penne, was among the dead. The toll also includes two waiters at the hotel, Gabriele di Angelo and Alessandro Giancaterino.

Postiglioni said the high number of people still missing was giving impetus to the search. They include Di Carlo's father and the parents of 6-year-old Samuel Di Michelangelo.

The search included sending sound-sensitive instruments down into snow-crusted debris. Rescuers passed crates full of chunks of hardened snow and ice to colleagues as they tried to penetrate deeper into the wreckage, creating the rough equivalent of elevator shafts to allow searchers to descend into the smashed hotel.

Searchers also used devices that could pick up any electronic waves emitted by cell phones of the missing, said Walter Milan, a spokesman for the alpine rescuers.

That voices haven't been heard lately doesn't mean no one is still alive, he said, explaining "we know that thick walls and snow isolates" possible voices.

Because of the continued avalanche risk, escape routes were planned for rescue crews and each participant was equipped with a tracking device in case they were buried under the snow.

Snowfall higher than 3 meters (10 feet) thwarted the arrival of heavy equipment like cranes, said rescue spokesman Marco Bini, leaving the searchers to often rely on their hands or simple snow shovels to make progress.

Salzetta has been spending time at the hotel rescue operation advising crews on the hotel's layout and guests' possible locations.

Talking to reporters as he left the area, he recalled that the guests had gathered to go home, some shaken by the four quakes that day, but their departure was stymied by heavy snowfall that had made the road out impassable.

"In the end, they were calm. No one imagined that something like this could happen, after all the earthquakes that there have been," Salzetta said.

The last thing he remembers of that night: "The snow. Everything snow."

Barry reported from Pescara. Giulia Saudelli contributed from Penne and AP writer Frances D'Emilio contributed from Rome.

"Is God mad?' Mississippi tornado wreaks havoc; kills 4

By JEFF AMY and REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) — Rain was pouring down in the pre-dawn darkness, and the wind was picking up as Darryl McMorris ran for his daughters' bedroom. The windows started blowing out as he dove on top of his girls, grabbing one under each arm as he tried to protect them.

"As soon as I did that it seemed like we were flying in the air," he recalled Saturday. Walls began to collapse and the house began to blow apart as his daughters screamed. But he held on tight.

When the tornado finished ripping its way through their Hattiesburg home he and the two girls were under a wall. Their house appears to be a total loss, bedding tossed 50 feet into a tree and their oldest daughter asking, "Is God mad at us?" But they're alive.

"I don't see how we survived this," said his fiancée Shanise.

Across the tornado's devastating path, families were taking stock of the damage, hugging friends and neighbors, grieving over the remains of their homes and in many cases mourning those killed.

Authorities said four people died when the twister touched down around 3:35 a.m. Saturday. Shannon Hefferan, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, says damage reports indicate it touched down in Lamar County before ripping into Forrest County and skirting just south of downtown Hattiesburg — the state's fourth largest city.

The tornado continued across the Leaf River into neighboring Petal. Emergency management officials said the severe weather also damaged Perry and Jones counties.

Teams are out assessing the damage. Already they know that the tornado was accompanied by a deluge of rain — 3.42 inches over a six to seven hour period Saturday morning — Hefferan said.

And the bad weather isn't over yet.

The weather service anticipates another round Saturday night. A tornado watch was already in effect until 9 p.m. in parts of southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi, warning that hail, gusting winds and tornadoes are possible.

Forrest County Coroner Butch Benedict on Saturday afternoon released the names of the dead: Earnest Perkins, 58; Cleveland Madison, 20; David Wayne McCoy, 47 and Simona Cox, 72.

Monica McCarty lost her father — Perkins — who died in the same trailer park where she and her boyfriend live and her son — Madison — who was apparently crushed to death while in bed at her mother's house where he lived.

Standing amid the tornado's carnage, McCarty wept as her boyfriend, Tackeem Molley, comforted her.

"They couldn't get him out of the house. They said he was lying in the bed," McCarty said of her son.

Molley said he and McCarty were in a trailer when the storm hit. Molley, whose bare foot was bandaged, said he climbed out through a hole in what had either been the trailer's roof or wall.

"I had a little hole I could squeeze out of," he said.

In the surrounding neighborhood, power company trucks ran up and down the streets and city backhoe plowed debris from the road. Dozens of homes were damaged.

Sheet metal was strewn everywhere. Trees turned into spindly sticks were lying across power lines. At least three nearby churches had sustained damage.

Mayor Johnny DuPree has signed an emergency declaration for the city, which reported "significant injuries" and structural damage.

Greg Flynn of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said "massive damage" was reported. At least 50 people have been treated for injuries at two area hospitals, he said. Gov. Phil Bryant visited

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the damaged areas Saturday. Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney says insured damaged is likely to top \$200 million.

"You've got so many buildings that are for all practical purposes totally destroyed," said Andy Case, a disaster recovery specialist with the Department of Insurance.

Emergency management officials reported 16,000 customers were without power as power companies rushed to restore electricity where damage allowed.

At William Carey University, a Baptist institution south of downtown Hattiesburg, almost every building on campus suffered at least superficial damage. Many were heavily damaged. College officials closed the campus where 3,200 students study and 800 students live and are not sure when it will reopen.

Saturday afternoon parents and students streamed onto campus to remove belongings from damaged dorms with some students making their way over shattered glass or around fallen bricks to reach their room.

For students in their dorms when the tornado struck, it was terrifying. Tegan Sager, a freshman from Hermiston, Oregon, said she'd never been in a tornado before. She said bursts of lightening lit up the outside just before the tornado hit. She and 20 other students huddled in the first floor hallway of their dorm, cradling their heads in the hands.

"That's when the panels from the roof were falling in," she said. "Girls were screaming and a person next to me got cut on the leg."

In many areas the roar of chain saws could be heard as people began cutting down trees, salvaging belongings and considering their next steps.

As the McMorris family gathered at a parking lot of a ruined gas station across the street from their house, they took stock of their losses and what had been saved.

"I lost everything but I'm just glad I didn't lose my daughters," McMorris said.

Rebecca Santana reported from New Orleans.

Budapest mourns as 16 die in fiery bus crash on Italian road

By NICOLE WINFIELD, PABLO GORONDI and CHARLENE PELE, Associated Press

VERONA, Italy (AP) — The Hungarian students had just finished a week of skiing in France when their bus swerved right, then left, then hit a highway barrier and burst into flames. Sixteen people were killed and over two dozen injured in a tragedy that sparked a national day of mourning in Hungary.

The impact of the crash just before midnight Friday on the northern Italian highway was so violent that the overpass support column actually entered several rows into the bus, officials said Saturday. The ensuing fireball burned some of the 16 dead beyond recognition and torched the bus, leaving just a skeleton of twisted steel.

No other vehicles were involved in the crash near Verona, and the cause wasn't known, said a tearful police commander, Girolamo Lacquaniti. Of the 39 survivors, 26 were injured, some seriously, he said. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto told reporters in Budapest that one passenger was in an induced coma.

"The fire was so huge it took up practically half of the three-lane highway," said Lanfranco Fossa, a businessman who stopped to offer help when he realized some injured youths had escaped the flames.

"These poor creatures, almost all of them were in short-sleeves, some without shoes," he said. "I gave them what I had: a shirt, a blanket. And others stopped to give them things as well."

Fossa said he also offered the kids his cellphone so they could call home to Budapest. He stayed over an hour to help translate for rescue crews, helping them find the most severely injured and understand what had happened. The students all spoke excellent English — but the rescuers didn't.

Fossa wasn't the only hero. One teacher on the bus managed to save some of the kids, suffering serious burns to his back as he did so, said Judit Timaffy of Hungary's consulate, who was at the scene.

And one student had the smarts to smash open a bus window with the emergency hammer.

"The kids told me that the fire started and they escaped from the fire, breaking the windows of the bus,"

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she said. "Some of them managed to escape, but many were left inside."

In Budapest, the government declared a day of national mourning for Monday, with flags to be flown at half-staff and schools around the country holding commemorations.

A black flag flew Saturday above the entrance to the Szinyei Merse Pal high school in Budapest. A few hundred students and parents gathered for a vigil outside the school, some of them weeping, lighting small candles and laying flowers in memory of the victims.

"We knew many of them, but the ones we were closest to and in daily contact are mostly all right," student Tamas Mezo said after placing candles at the school's door.

He said the school organized a ski camp each year, involving about 50-60 students and a few teachers.

"I was very much planning on going this year but in the end it didn't work out," Mezo said. "There were three or four teachers on the bus and unfortunately one of them did not survive. Our hearts our hurting because we loved him."

There were no official details about those who died in the crash and the exact number on board was not clear. Hungary's Foreign Ministry said it was told 54 passengers and two drivers were on the bus, but said it believes the actual number was higher. The numbers given by Italian officials added up to 55 people.

According to Szijarto, the bus driver lost control of the vehicle, which hit a guard rail before the overpass support and then exploded. Investigators found no brake marks at the scene, he said.

Timaffy said investigators were looking into the possibility the driver fell asleep at the wheel.

RAI state radio said a Slovenian truck driver traveling behind the bus had noticed a problem with one of its wheels and tried to alert the driver. But the driver didn't react quickly enough, RAI said. The Slovenian truck driver stayed at the scene to help until investigators arrived.

By Saturday afternoon, the survivors had been taken to a nearby hotel and were being interviewed by investigators, the ANSA news agency reported. The parents of some of the students were heading there to bring them home.

Condolences to Hungary came in from Italy's president and its foreign minister, as well as the German chancellor.

Winfield reported from Rome. Gorondi reported from Budapest. AP writer Colleen Barry contributed from Pescara, Italy.

This corrects spelling of Girolamo Lacquaniti in earlier copy.

European nationalists flaunt strength, buoyed by Trump win

By GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

KOBLENZ, Germany (AP) — European nationalist leaders came together Saturday in a show of strength at the start of a year of big election tests, celebrating Donald Trump's inauguration as U.S. president and declaring themselves a realistic alternative to the continent's governments.

Right-wing populist leaders from France, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and elsewhere strode confidently into the Koblenz congress hall on the banks of the Rhine River ahead of a flag-waving escort, setting the tone for a gathering whose mood was buoyed by Trump's swearing-in. The European parties hope for similar success in tapping anti-establishment and protectionist sentiment in elections this year.

"I believe we are witnessing historic times," Dutch anti-Islam leader Geert Wilders told reporters. "The world is changing. America is changing. Europe is changing. And the people start getting in charge again."

Wilders, speaking in English, declared that "the genie will not go back into the bottle again, whether you like it or not."

The Netherlands will provide the next major test for populist parties' support. Wilders' Party of Freedom could win the largest percentage of votes in the March 15 Dutch parliamentary election, even though it is shunned by other parties and unlikely to get a share of power.

Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front, is among the top contenders in France's April-

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May presidential vote. In September, Frauke Petry's four-year-old Alternative for Germany party hopes to enter the German parliament in a national election, riding sentiment against German Chancellor Angela Merkel's welcoming policy toward refugees. Other German parties say they won't work with the anti-immigrant group.

Those at the Koblenz conference Saturday are part of the Europe of Nations and Freedom group in the European Parliament, which was launched in 2015. The gathering also featured Matteo Salvini of Italy's anti-migrant Northern League and Harald Vilimsky, the general secretary of Austria's right-wing Freedom Party, which last year narrowly failed to win the country's presidency.

Trump "is a winner, we are winners: Frauke Petry, Marine Le Pen, Geert Wilders, all of us here are winners," Vilimsky told an audience of around 1,000.

Speakers also denounced "political Islam" and Europe's common currency, the euro, which Salvini labeled "a failed, criminal experiment."

Le Pen reveled in Trump taking power in the U.S., months after Britain voted to leave the 28-nation European Union in a referendum that she hopes to emulate.

"2016 was the year when the Anglo-Saxon world woke up. And 2017, I am sure, will be the year of the awakening of the people of continental Europe," she said.

She denounced the EU as "a force of sterilization" and assailed Merkel — whose name was booed loudly — for allowing in large numbers of asylum-seekers last year.

Le Pen praised Trump for what she said was a clear position on Europe: "He will not support a system of oppression of the people."

"We are experiencing the end of one world and the birth of another," she said. "We are experiencing the return of nation states."

Petry said "just as Donald Trump in America shows the way out of a dead end, with new prospects — including for (resolving) international conflicts — we want to do that in the coming months and years for Europe."

The leaders sought to portray their focus on nationalist priorities that don't necessarily converge as a virtue rather than a weakness. Le Pen lauded "the coherence that we have, above and beyond our differences, which we like."

"By definition, each of us wants to be the master at home. We want our people to be masters at home, so we don't want to align ourselves on a single policy for everyone," she said. "That is exactly what unites us — that is why we are fighting against a European Union that wants to squash us, that wants to eat us all in the same sauce."

Le Pen added that Trump was elected on the back of many of the ideas the European nationalists hold dear, pointing to "common accents" with what they have long said in his inauguration speech on Friday.

"We have fought, at first separately in each of our countries and now united, together, a whole series of great values: the nation, control of our borders, the defense of our people, patriotism, sovereignty, the defense of our national identities," she said.

Despite the talk of unity, there is unease among some in the Alternative for Germany party about aligning with Le Pen's National Front due to her protectionist economic policies, Joerg Meuthen, the AfD's co-leader, told the Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland newspaper group.

Some 5,000 demonstrators gathered outside the congress center in Koblenz, singing the European anthem "Ode to Joy."

Elsewhere in Koblenz, demonstrators from the global AVAAZ activist group placed statues of Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Josef Stalin, among others, in front of a landmark statue of German Kaiser Wilhelm.

AVAAZ organizer Pascal Vollenweider said the statues of the dictators were meant to send a "strong message" to the nationalist politicians' meeting that "global citizens are rejecting their old dangerous ideas."

"They are not fascists in jackboots, it's a different type of fascism, of course. But if you look at the ideas ... it's very dangerous, and we have to face it," he said.

AP INTERVIEW: New Gambia leader to set up truth commission

By KRISTA LARSON, Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Gambia's new president Adama Barrow said Saturday that he will launch a truth and reconciliation commission to investigate the alleged human rights abuses of Yahya Jammeh's 22-year regime.

In an interview with The Associated Press just hours after Jammeh finally acquiesced to political exile, Barrow, 51, said it is too soon to tell whether the former president could face trial at the International Criminal Court or elsewhere.

"We aren't talking about prosecution here. We are talking about getting a truth and reconciliation commission," he said. "Before you can act, you have to get the truth, to get the facts together."

The exact terms of Jammeh's departure remained under wraps Saturday apart from his destination: Guinea.

"What is fundamental here is he will live in a foreign country as of now," said Barrow, visibly tired and wearing a powder blue traditional West African boubou robe and white leather slip-on shoes.

It's been a chaotic and tragic week for the new Gambian leader, who is being protected by heavily armed guards at a private residence in an upscale Dakar neighborhood equipped with its own metal detector.

A funeral was held Monday for Barrow's 7-year-old son, Habib, who was fatally mauled by a dog. Barrow did not attend because he was advised not to return to Banjul for fear that the Jammeh regime would threaten him. On Thursday, Barrow, a former businessman and real estate developer, was sworn into office at the Gambian Embassy in Dakar as hundreds of exiled Gambians cheered and waved flags outside.

In his inaugural address, Barrow vowed "a new start" for Gambia promised to expand the country's democratic gains. Although officially elected to a five-year term, Barrow has said would serve only three years with a goal of repairing Gambia's democracy before making the way for new leadership. That is in pointed contrast to Jammeh's long rule, and the many other African leaders who stay in office for lengthy periods.

Barrow also has said he would prioritize reviving the stagnant economy of the tiny West African country, which has a population of 1.9 million. He also said he would improve Gambia's relationships with the international community, rejoin the Commonwealth of former British-ruled states and the International Criminal Court.

Barrow has stayed in Senegal throughout the prolonged negotiations needed to arrange Jammeh's departure. He attended Friday prayers at a mosque with Senegalese President Macky Sall.

The fears for Barrow's security were because Jammeh has long been accused by human rights groups of heading a government that tortured opponents and silenced dissent. Many Gambians have been arbitrarily detained for years, often without access to family members or lawyers. Some people have effectively disappeared, but families cling to hope that they may still be alive, say human rights activists.

Senegal has welcomed tens of thousands of fleeing Gambians over the years. Barrow has vowed to free all political prisoners and is urging those here in Dakar and elsewhere to return to Gambia and help him reform the country long beset by dictatorship and corruption.

He already has issued a message that "the rule of fear has been vanished from the Gambia for good."

"Today is a very, very important day for Gambia," he said Saturday. "Twenty-two years is a long period, and Gambians this time they are united to make this change."

Trump's cabinet: Eight essential reads

Danielle Douez, The Conversation

Danielle Douez, The Conversation and Emily Costello, The Conversation

Editor's note: The following is a roundup of archival stories.

The members of President Donald Trump's cabinet will hold power over policies that determine many aspects of life in the U.S., touching citizens and immigrants, America's relations with foreign governments and our nation's use of natural resources.

The task of approving the president's nominees falls to the Senate, which acted quickly to confirm re-

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tired Gen. James Mattis just hours after Trump was sworn in. The Senate's vetting and voting will pick up pace over the next few weeks.

Our experts have written about some of the most important – and some of the most controversial – of Trump's cabinet picks. Read on to learn more about what the nation can expect from them if confirmed.

Secretary of State Trump's pick as Secretary of State is Exxon Oil executive Rex Tillerson. Brian Black of Penn State University sees the origin of the pick in the Teapot Dome scandal of the 1920s.

"With Tillerson, the political influence of the energy sector has reached a high point," Black notes, "particularly because it strikes the president-elect and other observers as a sensible, mainstream selection."

If confirmed as Secretary of State, Tillerson will face huge challenges around the world, but especially in the Middle East, according to analysis by David Mendicoff of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

And yet, Mendicoff notes, Trump's oft-repeated message that bloated government had failed to support many Americans is one that could resonate with the people of the Middle East. That point of connection could actually improve the U.S.'s standing in this volatile region.

"If the new U.S. leader works with his pragmatic, deal-oriented nominee for secretary of state," Mednicoff writes, "he might apply his affinities for business and construction to policies and projects that could address the region's predominantly sociopolitical grievances. This is admittedly a huge 'if.'"

Department of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, Trump's choice for secretary of agriculture, will direct an agency most associate with rural America, a part of the country that helped tip the election in Trump's favor, Jennifer Zwagerman of Drake University writes. While Perdue has strong rural roots as the former governor of Georgia, understanding the complexity of the nation's rural places will be his first challenge.

"There's not just one 'rural voice,' unified on all issues," Zwagerman points out. "Rural communities relying on recreation tourism may support increased environmental regulations while those relying on farming or manufacturing may be opposed. Farmers may support international trade agreements that open markets to crops, while those in manufacturing fear the loss of jobs."

Department of Energy Another former governor, Rick Perry of Texas, is Trump's nominee to lead the Department of Energy. While Perry's background leading an oil-rich state may appear a good fit at first blush, the department's primary responsibilities have little to do with producing energy.

Rather, "Physical science is at the heart of everything DOE does," writes Harvard's William Tobey. "Indeed, it could as accurately be called the Department of Physical Science... The Energy Department's 17 national laboratories focus on physics, chemistry, and materials and other sciences."

Tobey writes that nearly half of the department's US\$30 billion budget goes to the National Nuclear Security Administration which produces nuclear weapons, naval reactors and works to prevent nuclear proliferation. Past leaders of DOE have come from Navy, industry and academia. As a politician, Perry would be an outlier.

Department of Education Trump's pick to head the Department of Education is Betsy DeVos, a billionaire heiress who has promoted school choice in her home state of Michigan.

DeVos would oversee a federal agency that has ballooned in size since 1980. Dustin Hornbeck of Miami University writes that if DeVos is confirmed, public school advocates will be following the money to predict what's next.

"The education portion of his budget will reveal the intentions of the coming policies of the DeVos era and subsequent potential for 'school choice,'" Hornbeck writes.

Secretary of Interior John Freemuth and Mackenzie Case of Boise State University explored two big issues that will confront U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke of Montana if he is confirmed as Secretary of the Interior – energy development on federal lands and transfer of some of those lands to state control.

"The question is not whether there will be a renewed push for energy development on western public lands, but how and where," Freemuth and Case write.

On public land transfers, a perennial issue in western states, the pair sees mixed signals from Zinke, although the congressman has a history of opposing of land transfers.

Environmental Protection Agency Trump's choice of Scott Pruitt, Oklahoma's attorney general, to head the Environmental Protection Agency is one of his more controversial picks. The Sierra Club called it like

putting "an arsonist in charge of fighting fires."

Robert Percival, a professor of Environmental Law at the University of Maryland, Baltimore explains how Pruitt's history of legal actions against the EPA and the federal government make him a lightning rod for environmentalists.

"Pruitt wants to repeal the Clean Power Plan and EPA's "Waters of the United States" rule, which seeks to clarify the limits of federal jurisdiction to protect wetlands," Percival writes.

A position leading the EPA could put Pruitt into a more powerful positions, making it easier for him to achieve those goals.

Health and Human Services Unlike other Republican critics of the Affordable Care Act, U.S. Rep. Tom Price of Georgia, Trump's pick to run Health and Human Services, has offered many detailed replacement plans.

Miranda Yaver of Yale University unpacks the details of Price's proposed plans.

According to Yaver, the following groups could be negatively impacted by the repeal of Obamacare: "People who have preexisting conditions and those who rely on Medicaid, the federal-state program that provides insurance to poor children, pregnant women of a certain income level as well as the disabled and blind under 65. Price's policies could also limit access to care for children, women and for many people of all ages with chronic and mental illnesses."

The American Medical Association has endorsed Price. However, over 5,000 physicians signed a letter challenging that endorsement.

This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the original article.

Defiant women to Trump: Your agenda won't go unchallenged

By NANCY BENAC and BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a global exclamation of defiance and solidarity, more than 1 million people rallied at women's marches in the nation's capital and cities around the world Saturday to send President Donald Trump an emphatic message on his first full day in office that they won't let his agenda go unchallenged.

"Welcome to your first day, we will not go away!" marchers in Washington chanted.

Many of the women came wearing pink, pointy-eared "pussyhats" to mock the new president. Plenty of men joined in, too, contributing to surprising numbers everywhere from New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles to Mexico City, Paris, Berlin, London, Prague and Sydney.

The Washington rally alone attracted over 500,000 people according to city officials — apparently more than Trump's inauguration drew on Friday. It was easily one of the biggest demonstrations in the city's history, and as night fell, not a single arrest was reported.

The international outpouring served to underscore the degree to which Trump has unsettled people in both hemispheres.

"We march today for the moral core of this nation, against which our new president is waging a war," actress America Ferrera told the Washington crowd. "Our dignity, our character, our rights have all been under attack, and a platform of hate and division assumed power yesterday. But the president is not America. ... We are America, and we are here to stay."

Turnout in the capital was so heavy that the designated march route alongside the National Mall was impassable. Protesters were told to make their way to the Ellipse near the White House by way of other streets, triggering a chaotic scene that snarled downtown Washington. Long after the program had ended, groups of demonstrators were still marching and chanting in different parts of the city.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer had no comment on the march except to note that there were no firm numbers for turnout because the National Park Service no longer provides crowd estimates.

Around the world, women brandished signs with slogans such as "Women won't back down" and "Less fear more love." They decried Trump's stand on such issues as abortion, health care, diversity and climate change. And they branded him a sexist, a bully, a bigot and more.

"We want a leader, not a creepy tweeter," some marchers chanted in Washington.

In Chicago, organizers canceled the march portion of their event for safety reasons because of an overflow crowd that reached an estimated 250,000. People made their way through the streets on their

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own anyway. In New York, well over 100,000 marched past Trump's home at glittering Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue. More than 100,000 also gathered on Boston Common, and a similar number demonstrated in Los Angeles.

In Miami, real estate agent Regina Vasquez, 51, brought a sign saying "Repeal and Replace Trump."

"I believe that strength is in the numbers, and that we should all come out and not make Trump the new normal," she said.

All told, more than 600 "sister marches" were planned worldwide. Crowd estimates from police and organizers around the globe added up to well over a million.

"I feel very optimistic even though it's a miserable moment," said Madeline Schwartzman of New York City, who brought her twin 13-year-old daughters to the Washington rally. "I feel power."

Retired teacher Linda Lastella, 69, who came to Washington from Metuchen, New Jersey, said she had never marched before but felt the need to speak out when "many nations are experiencing this same kind of pullback and hateful, hateful attitudes."

"It just seemed like we needed to make a very firm stand of where we were," she said.

As the demonstrators rallied alongside the National Mall, Trump opened his first full day as president by attending a prayer service at the Washington National Cathedral, a tradition for the day after inauguration, and later visited the CIA. As he traveled around town, his motorcade passed large groups of protesters that would have been hard to miss.

The Women's March on Washington appeared to accomplish the historic feat of drawing more people to protest the inauguration than the ceremony itself attracted.

It far surpassed the 60,000 people who protested the Vietnam War at Richard Nixon's inauguration in 1973. Before Saturday, that was thought to be the largest such demonstration in inaugural history.

Christopher Geldart, Washington's homeland security director, said the crowd exceeded the 500,000 that organizers told city officials to expect. The largest-ever demonstration in Washington, according to National Park Service crowd estimates, was an anti-Vietnam protest in 1969 that drew 600,000.

The Million Man March in 1995 drew 400,000, according to the park service, which no longer estimates crowd sizes, in part because the organizers of that event accused the agency of lowballing the number and threatened to sue.

The Washington rally was a peaceful counterpoint to the window-smashing unrest that unfolded on Friday when self-described anarchists tried to disrupt the inauguration. Police used pepper spray and stun grenades against the demonstrators. More than 200 people were arrested.

Marlita Gogan, who came to Washington from Houston for the inauguration, said police advised her family not to wear their "Make America Great Again Hats" as they walked through crowds of protesters while playing tourist on Saturday.

"I think it's very oppressive," she said of the march atmosphere. "They can have their day, but I don't get it."

Hillary Clinton, who lost to Trump, took to Twitter to thank the participants for "standing, speaking and marching for our values."

The marches displayed a level of enthusiasm that Clinton herself was largely unable to generate during her campaign against Trump, when she won the popular vote but was outdistanced in the Electoral College that decides the White House.

The hand-knit "pussyhats" worn by many women served as a message of female empowerment, inspired by Trump's crude boast about grabbing women's genitals. They "ain't for grabbing," actress Ashley Judd told the Washington crowd.

The marches were a magnet for A-list celebrities, unlike Trump's inauguration, which had a deficit of top performers.

Alicia Keys sang "Girl on Fire" for the Washington crowd. Madonna gave a fiery, profanity-laced address to the gathering. Cher, also in the nation's capital, said Trump's ascendance has people "more frightened maybe than they've ever been."

In Park City, Utah, it was Charlize Theron leading demonstrators in a chant of "Love, not hate, makes America great." Actresses Helen Mirren and Cynthia Nixon and Whoopi Goldberg joined the crowd of protesters in New York.

Tens of thousands of protesters squeezed into London's Trafalgar Square. In Paris, thousands rallied in the Eiffel Tower neighborhood in a joyful atmosphere, singing and carrying posters reading "We have our eyes on you Mr. Trump" and "With our sisters in Washington." Hundreds gathered in Prague's Wenceslas Square in freezing weather, mockingly waving portraits of Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

In Sydney, thousands of Australians gathered in solidarity in Hyde Park. One organizer said hatred, bigotry and racism are not only America's problems.

Associated Press Writers Alanna Durkin Richer, Tami Abdollah, Juliet Linderman, Brian Witte, Matthew Barakat, and David Dishneau in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Nancy Benac and Ben Nuckols on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/nbenac> and <http://twitter.com/APBenNuckols>

Suspected US drone strike kills 3 alleged al-Qaida in Yemen

By AHMED AL-HAJ and BRIAN ROHAN, Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Suspected U.S. drone strikes have killed three alleged al-Qaida operatives in Yemen's southwestern Bayda province, security and tribal officials said, the first such killings reported in the country since Donald Trump assumed the U.S. presidency Friday.

The two Saturday strikes killed Abu Anis al-Abi, an area field commander, and two others, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release the information to journalists.

U.S. drone strikes against suspected al-Qaida targets have been commonplace in the years since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, as a retaliatory measure against the group. The use of unmanned aircraft as well as air strikes in the Arab world's poorest country rose dramatically under President Barack Obama, with data from the Britain-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism showing spikes in attacks, especially in 2012 and 2016.

On Thursday, U.S. intelligence officials said as many as 117 civilians had been killed in drone and other counterterror attacks in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere during Obama's presidency. It was the second public assessment issued in response to mounting pressure for more information about lethal U.S. operations overseas.

Human rights and other groups have criticized the Obama administration, saying it has undercounted civilian casualties. They also worry that President Trump will more aggressively conduct drone strikes, which are subject to little oversight from Congress or the judiciary.

In the years since the drone program began, Yemen has fallen ever deeper into chaos. A two-year-old civil war began after Shiite Houthis rebels seized the capital Sanaa and forced the President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee the country, prompting the launch of an extensive air campaign by a Saudi-led coalition that began in March 2015 aimed at restoring Hadi's government.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, long seen by Washington as among the most dangerous branches of the global terror network, exploited the chaos, seizing territory in the country's south and east, and the Islamic State group has also claimed attacks. The northern region remains under Houthi control.

On Sunday, Mwatana, one of Yemen's top human rights groups, released a documentary on civilian victims of drone strikes, interviewing family members who say their relatives were innocent and have had no compensation from the U.S. despite their wrongful deaths.

It cited much higher civilian death tolls than the U.S. intelligence report, saying that hundreds of innocents had been killed by the U.S. strikes across the country since at least 2002.

In one segment from Bayda, the same province where Saturday's drone strikes hit, Ali Abedrabbo Ahmed said his 17-year old son was only a simple construction worker killed while he was going to work in a pickup truck with colleagues in 2014, an incident other witnesses corroborated in the video.

"Who do we talk to? America? Where is America?" said Nasser Mohammed Nasser, a survivor from the targeted convoy. "They would kill two or three from al-Qaida on one hand and 10 or 15 civilians on the other hand. Where is this al-Qaida they claim to be killing? ... There are many other incidents like ours due to drones."

Rohan reported from Cairo.

Trump's children revel in first 24 hours in White House

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Backstage photos from the black-tie inaugural balls. A quick peek out the Truman Balcony to admire the view of Washington. A visit to the basement White House bowling alley.

President Donald Trump's grown children and their families have reveled in the first hours as the first family and have enthusiastically documented it all on social media.

The Trumps' Twitter and Instagram accounts reveal much of the Trump clan is as comfortable with social media as its patriarch. Each of the grown children tracked their historic day as many Americans would — one post at a time.

The build-up to the inauguration began days ago as daughter Tiffany Trump and Lara Trump, who is married to Trump's son Eric, posted photos of themselves prepping for some of the week's black tie-events. Lara Trump included a caption that read "Dinner date" and a smiling face emoji.

Donald Trump Jr., the president's eldest child, documented much of his Inauguration Day on Instagram. He first posted a photo of his family riding in a presidential limousine on the way to the U.S. Capitol on Friday. Later, he posted a video of him dancing with his wife, Vanessa, at a ball, and then for his nightcap, an encounter at the family's new Washington hotel with the cast of the reality show "Duck Dynasty" and a slightly disheveled Fox News personality Sean Hannity.

Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, a senior adviser to the president, chronicled her family's ride to the inaugural parade with an Instagram of the two of the couple's children secure in car seats rolling to the viewing stand. Each held a distraction in hand — one a tablet, the other a smartphone — a detail likely to earn knowing nods from many parents.

The Trump clan spent Friday night at the White House, as Trump himself had promised in the days before. Ivanka and Jared were spotted snapping photos Saturday morning on the Truman Balcony.

Later, the Trumps tested out the bowling alley.

Donald Trump Jr. posted a video of his wife and children bowling in the lanes installed in the basement of the White House by President Richard Nixon in 1969.

Reach Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Cautious welcome from congressional Republicans to Trump era

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans anxiously monitor President Donald Trump's Twitter feed, parse his pronouncements, and brace for potential controversy each time he gives an interview.

But GOP lawmakers also say they're growing increasingly accustomed to expecting the unexpected from Trump, and they're learning to take his abrupt pivots in stride, even when what he says stirs divisions or casts doubt on key Republican goals.

So at the dawn of the Trump presidency, the most optimistic Republicans on Capitol Hill have high hopes they can learn to work with the new chief executive to bring about positive change for a bitterly divided nation. The GOP has monopoly control over Washington for the first time in a decade, and Republicans are keenly aware that voters expect them to deliver.

"It's what the American people want. It's refreshing," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.

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"You'll see the House and Trump working closely together. We have the same priorities."

Many congressional Republicans, from Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., on down, were slow to embrace Trump's candidacy, and some of those concerns linger. Several lawmakers are wary of Trump's foreign policy stances, such as his skepticism toward NATO. Trump's fickleness, his tendency to embrace a position one day before seeming to abandon it the next, confounds some in his party.

That happened recently on health care and taxes, the two domestic issues for Congress this year. In a pair of high-profile interviews this month, Trump made a surprise call for health insurance for everyone and cast doubt on a core plank of the House GOP tax plan, before softening both stances in subsequent interviews.

GOP Rep. Mark Sanford of South Carolina, his state's governor for eight years before coming to Congress, said a chief executive needs to take a stand.

"It's OK in a campaign world to cause people to not be sure of how you're going to react, it keeps them on edge and maybe not on their full game," Sanford said. "In the world of governance, it can be disastrous."

Trump himself disclosed that Ryan called him up and asked him to stop talking about taxes, because "it's very complicated stuff." But in general, Ryan and other members of GOP leadership, who are in frequent contact with Trump and his top aides, tend to be sanguine about Trump's erratic public pronouncements. They say that as rank-and-file lawmakers get to know Trump better their concerns will be quieted, too.

President Barack Obama came under criticism from lawmakers of both parties for his hands-off approach to Congress, his apparent disinterest in schmoozing with lawmakers or using the trappings of his office to woo them. Top lawmakers and aides say they've already impressed upon Trump's lieutenants the importance of care and feeding of lawmakers, and they predict Trump will have better congressional relations than Obama.

"There's an inclination this president has toward personal relationships, meaningful personal relationships," said Rep. Patrick McHenry of North Carolina, a member of the House GOP leadership. "So day by day, members get more comfortable with how this president expresses his power and utilizes his power. Even if they don't fully grasp it, they're gaining comfort with his approach."

Some Trump supporters have said they learned to take the new president seriously, but not literally, over the course of the campaign, and GOP lawmakers are learning to do the same. After Trump made his comment about everyone having insurance once Obama's health care plan is repealed, lawmakers quickly decided that what Trump actually meant was that everyone should have "access" to insurance, which is the standard GOP talking point.

"I guess you'd probably have to ask him what exactly he means by that, but my assumption is that it's a reference to what most of us have been talking about," said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D. "And that is we want to make sure that everybody in the country has access to a health insurance plan that works for them and is affordable."

Similarly, Trump surprised some lawmakers by declaring he had his own health care plan on the verge of completion; if so, no one has seen it. But others shrugged it off, concluding that Trump was probably really just talking about the proposals under development between Trump's transition team and GOP leadership.

Lawmakers got an early taste of the power of Trump's Twitter feed as the 115th Congress came into session at the beginning of January. As their first act, House Republicans decided behind closed doors to gut an independent ethics office. But when Trump tweeted his disapproval amid a public backlash, the GOP immediately reversed course.

Now the hope among Republican lawmakers is that Trump will spare them his Twitter fire and focus instead on recalcitrant Senate Democrats, nudging them into helping the GOP replace Obama's health law and overhaul tax laws. But as Trump begins governing, even supporters on Capitol Hill say they can't predict what will happen next.

"It's Donald Trump, you should expect the unexpected," former Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said Friday as Trump prepared to take the oath. "If you think the last 12 months have been pretty crazy, wait till you see the next 12 months."

Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

How student loan servicers affect tens of millions of people

By **MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — They aren't well-known. Their names are odd. And what they do — well, it's complicated.

Yet student loan servicers — with names like AES-PHEAA and Nelnet — play a key role in the lives of the 44 million Americans who, combined, have amassed a \$1.4 trillion mountain of student debt.

And this week, regulators accused the largest of them, Navient, of making it harder for borrowers to repay loans by giving them flawed information, processing payments incorrectly and failing to act on complaints.

In its lawsuit, the government's Consumer Financial Protection Bureau demands restitution for affected borrowers and financial penalties from Navient, which manages \$300 billion in loans. Navient disputes the allegations.

Here's a look at student loan servicers and what they do.

Q: What function do these loan servicers provide?

A: Think of them as a liaison between a borrower and the bank or institution that extended a student loan, such as the U.S. Education Department. They manage borrowers' loan accounts, and they process monthly payments.

The servicers communicate with borrowers and provide information to them. And they handle any complications that arise. Say a borrower loses her job or encounters some other financial hardship. She would contact her loan servicer to seek an alternative repayment plan — one that might be based on the borrower's income — or request a deferral of payments or modification of the loan terms.

Student loans can be complex, and servicers manage those complications. Many borrowers juggle multiple loans, with different interest rates that can change periodically.

Q: From the standpoint of student borrowers, how have the servicer companies performed?

A: A report that the CFPB issued in September 2015 outlined widespread servicing failures reported by borrowers with both federal and private-market student loans. The report cited troubles with payment processing, paperwork, resolution of account errors and access to alternative repayment plans.

The result was that borrowers faced the possibility of being hit with higher interest rates, "payment shock," damage to their credit records and even default, the report says.

Q: How widespread are these troubles?

A: Consider this: Every 28 seconds, someone defaults on a student loan in this country. That figure comes from Rohit Chopra, a former CFPB assistant director and student loan ombudsman, who based it on Education Department data.

The CFPB estimates that one in four student loan borrowers are delinquent and struggling to repay or already in default — a problem the agency says might be fueled by failures of the loan servicers.

Borrowers normally can't choose which loan servicer manages their loan. If you're unhappy with the service in a restaurant, you just don't return there, notes Chopra, now a senior fellow at Consumer Federation of America.

"But when it comes to servicing student loans, borrowers cannot fire them; they're stuck with them," he says.

Employees in call centers operated by servicer companies often rush borrowers off the phone without giving them the appropriate remedies, Chopra says.

Q: Is there a broader impact on Americans?

A: The roughly \$1.4 trillion in student debt carried by 44 million people causes delays in home owner-

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ship and limits how much people can save. One of the results can be a decline in college savings for the borrower's children, thereby creating a multigenerational debt cycle.

What's more, among the 44 million student-debt holders, 8 million are in default on loans totaling about \$130 billion, the CFPB has found.

Q: What options for repayment plans exist for struggling borrowers?

A: Most borrowers with federal student loans — in contrast to private-market loans — are entitled by law to make payments based on how much they earn through so-called income-driven repayment plans. For the first three years after enrollment, the government may pay part of the interest if the borrower can't keep up. After 20 or 25 years of monthly payments, borrowers in the plans may be eligible for loan forgiveness.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2017. There are 343 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 22, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson, in an address to Congress, pleaded for an end to the war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory." (By April, however, America also was at war.)

On this date:

In 1498, during his third voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus arrived at the present-day Caribbean island of St. Vincent.

In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81 after a reign of 63 years; she was succeeded by her eldest son, Edward VII.

In 1922, Pope Benedict XV died; he was succeeded by Pius XI.

In 1938, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" was performed publicly for the first time in Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1947, America's first commercially licensed television station west of the Mississippi, KTLA-TV in Los Angeles, made its official debut.

In 1957, George P. Metesky, suspected of being the "Mad Bomber" who injured 15 people over a 16-year period, was arrested in Waterbury, Connecticut. (Metesky was later found mentally ill and committed until 1973; he died in 1994.)

In 1968, "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1970, the first regularly scheduled commercial flight of the Boeing 747 began in New York and ended in London some 6 1/2 hours later.

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at his Texas ranch at age 64.

In 1987, Pennsylvania treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, convicted of defrauding the state, proclaimed his innocence at a news conference before pulling out a gun and shooting himself to death in front of horrified onlookers.

In 1997, the Senate unanimously confirmed Madeleine Albright as the nation's first female secretary of state.

In 2008, actor Heath Ledger was found dead of an accidental prescription overdose in New York City; he was 28.

Ten years ago: A double car bombing of a predominantly Shiite commercial area in Baghdad killed 88 people. Iran announced it had barred 38 nuclear inspectors on a United Nations list from entering the country in apparent retaliation for U.N. sanctions imposed the previous month.

Five years ago: Longtime Penn State coach Joe Paterno, who'd won more games than anyone in major college football but was fired amid a child sex abuse scandal that scarred his reputation, died at age 85. The New England Patriots beat the Baltimore Ravens 23-20 in the AFC championship game. The New York

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Giants defeated the San Francisco 49ers 20-17 in the NFC championship game.

One year ago: North Korea said it had detained Otto Warmbier, a university student from Ohio, for what it called a "hostile act." (Warmbier was later sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labor; the 21-year-old University of Virginia undergraduate said before the trial that he had tried to steal a propaganda banner as a trophy for an acquaintance.) A gunman opened fire at a high school and a home in northern Saskatchewan, leaving four dead; a 17-year-old was charged the following day with first-degree murder and attempted murder. Three inmates escaped from a Southern California maximum-security jail by cutting through half-inch steel bars and rappelling from the roof by a makeshift rope. (Within days, one of the inmates surrendered and the other two were captured.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., is 89. Actress Piper Laurie is 85. Actor Seymour Cassel is 82. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 80. Actor John Hurt is 77. Singer Steve Perry is 68. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 65. Movie director Jim Jarmusch is 64. Actor John Wesley Shipp is 62. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Mike Bossy is 60. Actress Linda Blair is 58. Actress Diane Lane is 52. Actor-rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 52. Country singer Regina Nicks (Regina Regina) is 52. Celebrity chef Guy Fieri is 49. Actress Olivia d'Abo is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gay (Shai) is 48. Actress Katie Finneran is 46. Actor Gabriel Macht is 45. Actor Balthazar Getty is 42. Actor Christopher Kennedy Masterson is 37. Jazz singer Lizz Wright is 37. Pop singer Willa Ford is 36. Actress Beverley (cq) Mitchell is 36. Rock singer-musician Ben Moody is 36. Actor Kevin Sheridan is 35. Actress-singer Phoebe Strole is 34. Actress Sami Gayle is 21.

Thought for Today: "Advertising has done more to cause the social unrest of the 20th century than any other single factor." — Clare Boothe Luce, American author, politician and diplomat (1903-1987).