

Groton Daily Independent

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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 **OPEN**

Tuesday, Jan. 24

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, lemon tart bar, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hot ham and cheese, wedge fries, carrots and dip, fruit.

Girls' Basketball hosts Webster Area: C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by the varsity game.

JH Boys at Warner: 7th grade at 5:30 p.m., 8th grade at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 25

Senior Menu: Chili, corn bread, coleslaw, Lime pear Jell-O.

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, sweet tots, muffin, broccoli and dip, fruit.

St. John's Lutheran, Groton: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran, Groton: League at 6:30 p.m., Confirmation at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 26

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, cake, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg sausage biscuit, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Cheese stick, mixed vegetables, Romaine salad, fruit.

Northeast Conference Wrestling in Groton: Weigh-ins at 5 p.m., tourney starts at 5 p.m.



Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping
Simple Solutions for YOU
605/216-4474 ~ peterson4@nvc.net

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VISITOR: Northwestern ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
3 Peterson,	*	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	6	7	2	4	1	1	0	0	32:00
10 Toennies,	*	2	8	2	7	1	5	2	2	4	0	7	0	4	0	0	32:00
12 Haven,	*	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	3	0	1	24:00
21 Orr,	*	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	24:00
32 Duncan,	*	1	5	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	3	0	1	32:00
2 Haven,		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	8:00
4 Schipke,		0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	8:00
10 Groft,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								1	3	4				0			
Team Totals		5	23	2	11	1	5	6	16	22	3	13	3	20	0	2	160

Total FG% - 1st: 1/7 0.143 2nd: 4/16 0.250 Game: 0.217 Deadball Rebounds (3,0)
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/4 0.250 2nd: 1/7 0.143 Game: 0.182
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/5 0.200 2nd: 0/0 0.000 Game: 0.200

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	8	2	6	1	2	2	2	4	0	9	0	1	0	1	16:00
10 Lane, Marshall	*	3	5	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	6	2	0	0	2	24:00
14 Diegel, Treyton	*	5	12	2	4	0	0	1	2	3	2	12	1	1	0	3	32:00
34 Jones, Austin	*	1	7	0	0	1	2	4	1	5	1	3	1	0	0	2	24:00
40 Johnson, Peyton	*	3	7	0	2	0	0	5	1	6	2	6	0	1	0	1	0:00
3 Schinkel, Anthony		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0:00
4 DeHoet, Cyrus		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
10 Larson, Chandler		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
12 Thurston, Ryley		1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0:00
20 Schaller, Hunter		0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	8:00
32 Thurston, Mitchell		0	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	24:00
42 Morris, Alex		0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	24:00
50 Thorson, Luke		1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								2	3	5				2			
Team Totals		18	51	5	18	3	6	19	13	32	8	44	6	5	0	10	160

Total FG% - 1st: 12/24 0.500 2nd: 6/27 0.222 Game: 0.353 Deadball Rebounds (1,0)
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/7 0.429 2nd: 2/11 0.182 Game: 0.278
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/4 0.500 2nd: 1/2 0.500 Game: 0.500

Technical Fouls: North (0)
 : groto (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Northwestern	3	1	3	6	13
Groton	16	13	5	10	44

Last FG: Northwestern 4th-08:00, Groton 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Northwestern NONE, Groton by 31 4th-08:00
 Score tied: 0 times, Lead changed: 0 times

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VISITOR: Northwestern ()

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	<u>Lefforge,</u>	*	2	4	2	4	0	1	0	5	5	4	6	1	2	0	1	24:00
1	<u>Clewens,</u>	*	3	6	1	1	0	1	2	3	5	1	7	2	2	0	1	24:00
2	<u>Schentzel,</u>	*	3	8	0	2	2	7	1	11	12	0	8	1	1	0	1	32:00
3	<u>Bauer,</u>	*	2	5	0	3	0	0	0	3	3	2	4	0	4	0	0	24:00
12	<u>Boekehede,</u>	*	3	10	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	3	6	1	8	0	1	16:00
5	<u>Bohl,</u>		2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	16:00
10	<u>Toennies,</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
40	<u>Haven,</u>		1	5	0	1	12	14	3	1	4	3	14	0	4	0	0	24:00
42	<u>Duncan,</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									1	5	6							
Team Totals			16	40	3	14	14	25	7	31	38	14	49	5	21	0	4	160

Total FG% - 1st: 5/20 0.250 2nd: 11/20 0.550 Game: 0.400 Deadball Rebounds
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/8 0.250 2nd: 1/6 0.167 Game: 0.214 (5,0)
 Total FT% - 1st: 7/10 0.700 2nd: 7/15 0.467 Game: 0.560

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							
3	<u>Sippel, Anthony</u>	*	2	4	1	3	0	0	2	2	4	1	5	4	0	0	0	24:00
4	<u>Shabazz, Bennett</u>	*	9	16	5	8	2	4	1	2	3	3	25	5	3	1	3	16:00
12	<u>Schuring, Sean</u>	*	6	18	0	7	2	3	0	7	7	4	14	2	0	0	3	0:00
20	<u>Keith, Brandon</u>	*	2	5	0	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	6	1	0	0	3	16:00
42	<u>Shabazz, Seric</u>	*	6	13	3	8	0	0	0	2	2	3	15	2	2	0	4	24:00
10	<u>Lane, Marshall</u>		0	0	0	0	1	4	1	3	4	2	1	2	1	0	1	24:00
11	<u>Shabazz, Darien</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
14	<u>Diegel, Treyton</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	16:00
24	<u>Wuestewald, Frankie</u>		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
32	<u>Thurston, Mitch</u>		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
40	<u>Johnson, Peyton</u>		1	4	0	0	1	3	4	2	6	2	3	0	1	0	0	8:00
50	<u>Thorson, Luke</u>		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	16:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									3	4	7							
Team Totals			27	64	9	27	8	16	13	23	36	20	71	16	8	1	14	160

Total FG% - 1st: 15/34 0.441 2nd: 12/30 0.400 Game: 0.422 Deadball Rebounds
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 7/18 0.389 2nd: 2/9 0.222 Game: 0.333 (1,0)
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/2 0.500 2nd: 7/14 0.500 Game: 0.500

Technical Fouls: North (0)
 : groto (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Northwestern	8	11	16	14	49
Groton	22	16	13	20	71

Last FG: Northwestern 4th-08:00, Groton 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Northwestern by 2 1st-08:00, Groton by 22 2nd-08:00
 Score tied: 2 times, Lead changed: 1 times

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Groton Area boys beat Wildcats, 71-49

Groton Area's boys basketball team defeated Northwestern Area Monday night in Groton, 71-49. 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.

Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 22-8, 38-19 and 53-34.

Bennett Shabazz led the Tigers with 25, had five of the team's 16 assists, one block and three of the team's 14 steals. Seric Shabazz had 15 points and four steals, Sean Schuring added 14 points and had seven of the team's 36 rebounds, Brandon Keith had six points, Anthony Sippel five, Peyton Johnson three, Luke Thorson two and Marshall Lane 1.

Northwestern was led by Jarrett Haven with 14 points followed by Caleb Schentzel with eight, Zech Clemens had seven, Andrew Lefforge six, Derek Boekelheide six, and Issac Bauer and Gavin Bohl each had four.

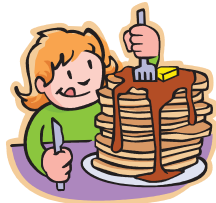
Northwestern Area made 16 of 40 field goals for 40 percent, three of 14 three-pointers for 21 percent, made 14 of 25 free throws for 56 percent off of Groton's 20 team fouls and had 38 rebounds. Groton Area made 27 of 64 field goals for 42 percent, nine of 27 three-pointers for 33 percent, eight of 16 free throws for 50 percent off of Northwestern's 14 team fouls, and had 36 rebounds.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 44-13. The Tigers were led by Treyton Diegel with 12 points followed by Darien Shabazz with eight, Peyton Johnson seven, Marshall Lane six, Austin Jones and Riley Thurston each had three points and Anthony Schinkel and Luke Thorson each had two points.

Scoring for Northwestern were Sebastian Beckwith with seven, Dalton Peterson with four and Zeke Duncan with two.

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



Sanford
Underground
Research
Facility



Subscribe at: Sanfordlab.org/newsletters

Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Monday, January 23, 2017

Science in a vacuum



Photo by Matt Kapust

Accelerators rely on an ion or plasma source to produce charged particles. CASPAR uses radio-frequency energy to produce a beam of protons or alpha particles from hydrogen or helium gas. The electric field speeds up the beam of particles, which are steered and focused with magnets through the beam pipe in a vacuum. A 25-degree bending magnet ensures that only particles with the right energy are directed to the target.

Life may not operate in a vacuum, but particle accelerators certainly do.

Whether a cathode ray tube built in the late 19th Century, a cyclotron invented at Berkeley in the 1930s by South Dakota native Earnest Lawrence, or CERN's 27-kilometer Large Hadron Collider, particle accelerators have one critical thing in common: a vacuum system.

"If you shoot a beam without a vacuum system, it will travel a very short distance—maybe one foot," said Frank Strieder, principal investigator for CASPAR (Compact Accelerator System for Performing Astrophysical Research).

Particle accelerators use electric fields to speed up a beam of particles, which are steered and focused by magnetic fields to ensure they hit the target. The beam travels through the beam pipe in a vacuum, which removes any obstacles that can cause friction. "That allows the beam to travel much longer distances," said Strieder, professor of physics at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Accelerators are most commonly associated with fundamental research as is the case with CERN,

Fermilab and CASPAR, Strieder said, but they have a wide range of applications in other areas. "For example, they are used in carbon dating and the authentication of paintings, as well as cancer treatment."

Modeled on the Van de Graaff accelerator, CASPAR uses a motorized insulated rotating belt to transport a positive charge from ground to a high-voltage terminal to help accelerate charged particles up to 1 million Volts (the LHC can accelerate particles up to almost 7 trillion Volts). A combination of mechanical pumps remove air from the beamline tubes and a vacuum gauge measures pressure per unit, or Torr. The low-energy accelerator will allow researchers to study nuclear fusion in stars.

The CASPAR collaboration, which also includes researchers from Notre Dame and the Colorado School of Mines, began installing the accelerator on the 4850 Level of Sanford Lab in 2015. The team is now testing different beam components.

"We've completed the vacuum system and the pumps are running," Strieder said. Currently, the vacuum/

pressure is less than 10^{-7} torr, which is sufficient enough to allow the accelerated particles to travel more than 50 feet, the length of CASPAR. (For comparison, atmospheric pressure is approximately 760 torr, while accelerators that are several miles in length require a vacuum of 10^{-12} torr. In outer space, the vacuum is up to 10^{-17} torr.)

"Things are looking very good for the CASPAR team as we move into the accelerator testing phase," said Dan Robertson, a member of CASPAR and researcher with the Nuclear Science Laboratory Institute for Structure and Nuclear Astrophysics at Notre Dame. "Very soon we will be firing up the control system and components in the accelerator. With the completion of the vacuum test, we are mechanically ready to produce particle beams into the evacuated beamline."

CASPAR collaborators hope to begin operating in earnest by late spring/early summer. "We would have loved to be further along and taking data already," Robertson said. "But we are assuming the secrets of the stellar environments will wait for us."

*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



livestream

Upcoming Events

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

**Thursday, Jan. 26:
JV girls game at 6 p.m. followed by the varsity game**

**Friday, Jan. 27
Double header at Clark**

gdilive.com

Groton Daily Independent

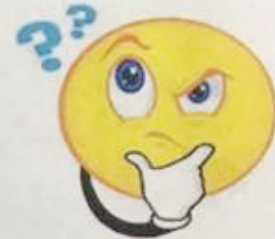
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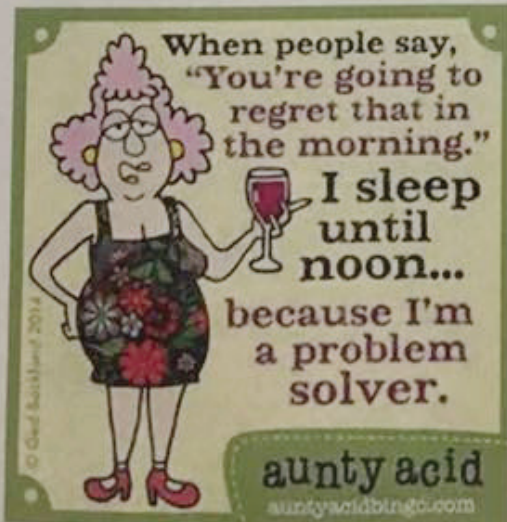
Leave all your money and worries at home as we have you covered unless you see something on the side of the road you just can't live without then your on your own. Pack your overnight bag and your ready to enjoy



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 23, 1969: Intermittent freezing rain on the 20th to the 22nd changed to snow on the 22nd which continued through the 24th. Snowfall of 2 to 6 inches fell across Minnesota and far northeast South Dakota. Blizzard conditions developed on the 23rd and 24th with 30 to 45 mph winds and temperatures dropping to below zero by the 24th. Most of the traffic was halted with many roads blocked from snow drifting. Some rural roads had been blocked for 3 to 4 weeks. Stranded motorists were common in the area. Some snowfall amounts included, 2 inches at Wilmot and Victor, 3 inches at Milbank and Artichoke Lake, and 4 inches at Clear Lake.

1556: An earthquake in Shaanxi, China kills an estimated 830,000 people. This estimated 8.0 to 8.3 magnitude earthquake struck in the middle of a densely populated area where many of the homes were a form of an earth shelter dwelling known as a yaodong. Much is known about this disaster as a scholar named Qin Keda survived the earthquake and recorded the details. Click [HERE](#) for more information about Qin Keda from the Science Museum of China.

1812: A second major series of earthquakes was felt as part of the New Madrid Shocks of the winter of 1811-1812. Many observers reported that the January 23 shocks were as strong as the main earthquake on December 16th of the preceding year.

1916: Browning, Montana, saw the temperature plummet 100 degrees in 24 hours on January 23-24, from a relatively mild 44 to a bone-chilling 56 degrees below zero.

1780 - The coldest day of the coldest month of record in the northeastern U.S. A British Army thermometer in New York City registered a reading of 16 degrees below zero. During that infamous hard winter the harbor was frozen solid for five weeks, and the port was cut off from sea supply. (David Ludlum)

1971 - The temperature at Prospect Creek, AK, plunged to 80 degrees below zero, the coldest reading of record for the United States. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Strong winds ushered bitterly cold air into the north central U.S., and produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region. Snowfall totals in northwest Lower Michigan ranged up to 17 inches in Leelanau County. Wind chill temperatures reached 70 degrees below zero at Sault Ste Marie MI and Hibbing MN. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Northeastern Colorado experienced its most severe windstorm in years. A wind gust to 92 mph was recorded at Boulder CO before the anemometer blew away, and in the mountains, a wind gust to 120 mph was reported at Mines Peak. The high winds blew down a partially constructed viaduct east of Boulder, as nine unanchored concrete girders, each weighing forty-five tons, were blown off their supports. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure brought heavy snow to Wyoming, with 18 inches reported at the Shoshone National Forest, and 17 inches in the Yellowstone Park area. Gunnison CO, with a low of 19 degrees below zero, was the cold spot in the nation for the twelfth day in a row. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

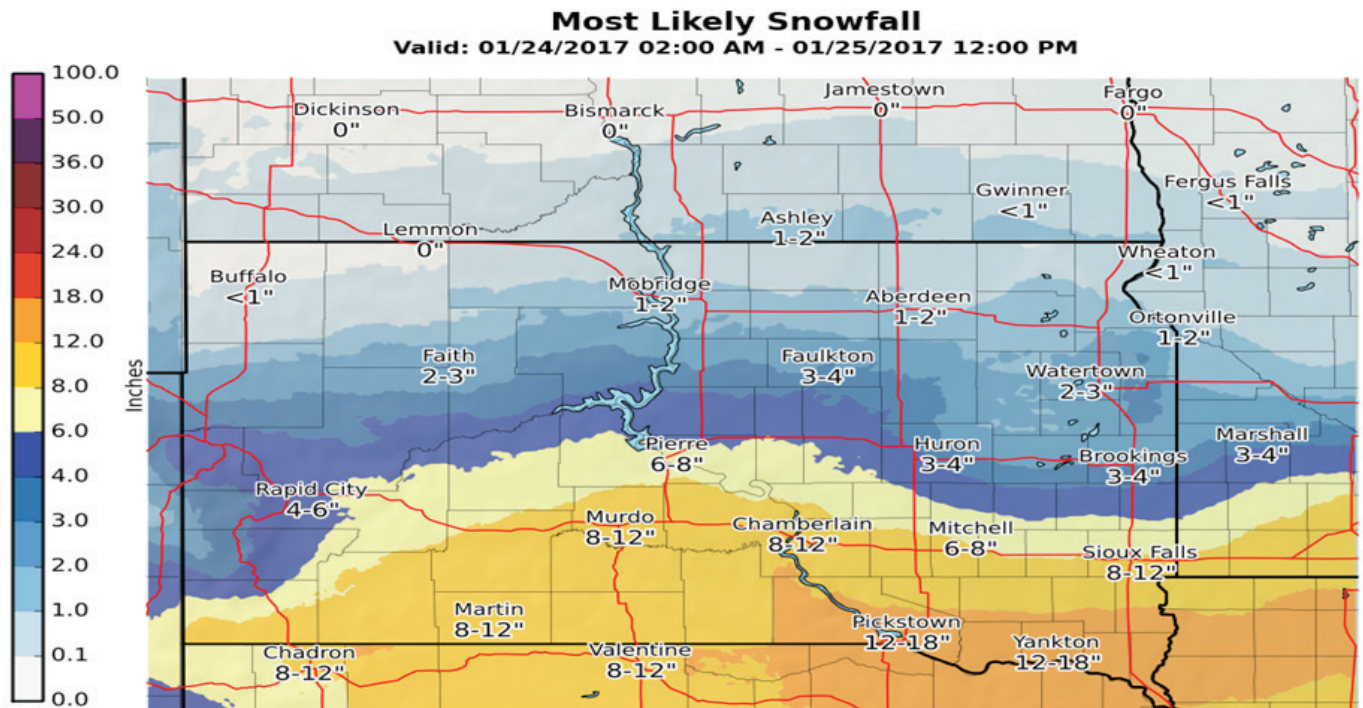
1990 - A Pacific cold front brought strong and gusty winds to the northwestern U.S. Winds in southeastern Idaho gusted to 62 mph at Burley. Strong winds also prevailed along the eastern slopes of the northern and central Rockies. Winds in Wyoming gusted to 74 mph in Goshen County. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
 60%	 40%	 20%				
Snow Likely	Chance Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Slight Chance Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 29 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 26 °F	Low: 13 °F	High: 20 °F	Low: 10 °F	High: 26 °F

Snow Becoming More Widespread Today Heaviest Snowfall Along/South Of I90



National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen

National Weather Service Aberdeen

@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 1/24/2017 4:31 AM Central

Published on: 01/24/2017 at 4:37AM

A system will rapidly develop to our south today, spreading heavy snow into southern South Dakota and northern Nebraska. Snow will continue through the afternoon and evening before beginning to ship off into Minnesota. A wide range of snow accumulations are anticipated from upwards of a foot across South Central South Dakota - to less than an inch along the ND/SD state line. Breezy conditions will follow into Wednesday, however visibilities are not expected to be significantly impacted by the winds.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 32.3 F at 12:05 AM

Low Outside Temp: 29.8 F at 11:39 PM

High Gust: 12.0 Mph at 2:55 AM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1981

Record Low: -35 in 1915

Average High: 23°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.38

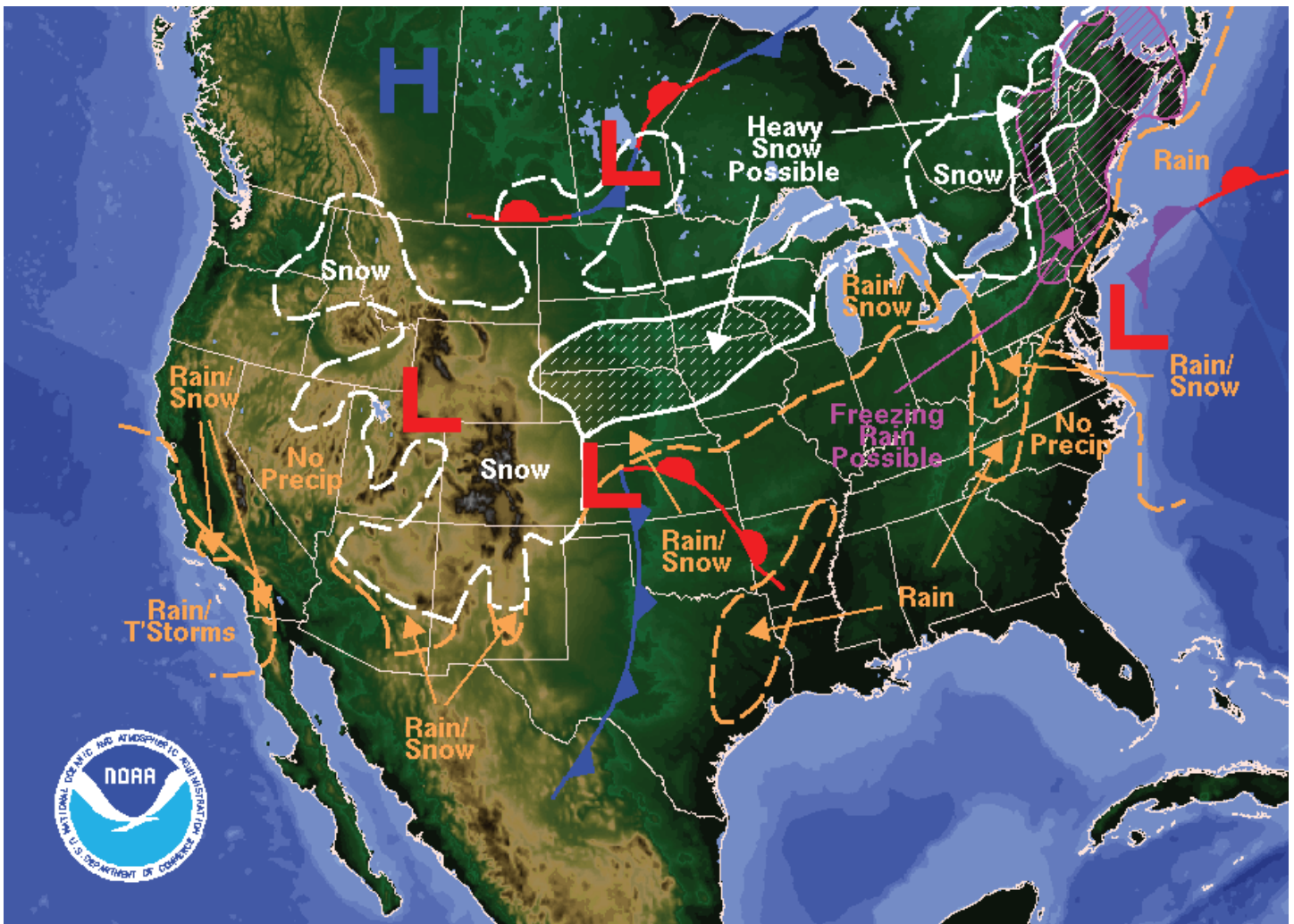
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.38

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:29 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:01 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jan 24, 2017, issued 4:36 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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GOD'S MASTER PLAN

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle studied to be a physician. After completing his studies he established a medical partnership with a friend. It did not go well and they soon parted ways.

Shortly afterward, he opened his own practice. Initially he had very few patients and to pass away the long, boring days he began to write factious crime stories. His first writings were not well received. But since he had empty hours to fill, he continued to write.

Two of his characters were Sherlock Holmes and Watson. His stories were framed around much of the information he learned while a medical student, and it was his use of "differential diagnosis" in his writings that brought much of the intrigue to his works. It did not take long before his stories gained much attention and his writing career was established.

It may be intriguing for some to wonder why he did not go directly into writing crime stories rather than the field of medicine. Certainly that was an option. But it was his understanding of "differential diagnosis" that made his crime stories different and brought him success.

Often we wonder why we are sometimes called to go through "things" that seem foolish and worthless, boring and frustrating. But God has a plan for each of us and we must be patient with Him until He reveals it.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to be patient and open while You are preparing us for our life's work. May we do our best to develop our talents carefully and wisely for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

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News from the Associated Press

Panel to discuss legislator's conduct despite resignation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A special legislative panel is set to discuss the conduct of a state representative who has resigned after admitting to sexual contact with two interns.

House Select Committee on Discipline and Expulsion Vice Chairman Spencer Hawley said the panel will meet Tuesday even though Rep. Mathew Wollmann resigned from the Legislature the day before.

Wollmann said last week that both interns were over age 21 and that the contact during the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions was consensual. But his colleagues voted to set up the committee to investigate his actions.

Wollmann, from the eastern South Dakota city of Madison, first won his seat in 2014. In his resignation letter, Wollmann expressed regret, writing that he hoped to return to the Legislature in the future.

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 59, Wessington Springs 39

Chester 51, Colman-Egan 44

Clark/Willow Lake 65, Great Plains Lutheran 21

Gordon/Rushville, Neb. 51, Bennett County 46

Hamlin 66, Tiospa Zina Tribal 56

Heart River, N.D. 60, Harding County 44

Luverne, Minn. 74, Flandreau Indian 61

Mitchell Christian 65, Howard 42

Scotland 62, Alcester-Hudson 50

Sioux Valley 96, DeSmet 53

Sisseton 63, Wheaton/Herman-Norcross, Minn. 32

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 40, Wessington Springs 22

Baltic 44, Dell Rapids St. Mary 35

Bridgewater-Emery 51, Freeman Academy/Marion 41

Corsica/Stickney 43, Viborg-Hurley 38

Dupree 42, Bison 40

Ethan 73, Canistota 14

Eureka/Bowdle 59, South Border, N.D. 47

Florence/Henry 63, Lake Preston 50

Hamlin 62, Tiospa Zina Tribal 30

Herreid/Selby Area 56, Linton-HMB, N.D. 40

Lennox 54, Madison 52

Luverne, Minn. 62, Flandreau Indian 38

McCook Central/Montrose 51, Freeman 44

Mobridge-Pollock 44, Potter County 41

Scotland 46, Alcester-Hudson 43

Sully Buttes 59, Philip 33

Waubay/Summit 46, Sisseton 42

Wilmot 61, Britton-Hecla 32

Winner 77, Miller 76, 2OT

House panel passes bill to repeal government ethics measure

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers took the first step Monday to repeal an embattled government ethics overhaul approved by voters in November.

The House and Senate State Affairs committees held a joint hearing on the proposal, which the House panel voted to send to the chamber's floor. The bill would dismantle the initiative that created an ethics commission, public campaign funding and limitations on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers.

A little over 51 percent of voters supported the initiative, and backers have criticized the Legislature for working to overturn the result of the election. The bill is a "one-sided attempt to thwart the will of the voters," said Mitch Richter, a lobbyist for supporters of the ballot measure.

Before the legislative session, a group of two dozen GOP legislators and others challenged the measure's constitutionality in state court, which put the initiative on hold while the lawsuit moves forward. South Dakotans for Integrity, a political committee that supported the initiative, is asking the state Supreme Court to allow them to join the lawsuit.

"It didn't take very long for the judge to determine that this is likely unconstitutional," said Republican House Speaker Mark Mickelson, a bill supporter and plaintiff in the case.

House State Affairs Committee Chairman Larry Rhoden, the bill's prime sponsor, said it's important to remember that the citizens of South Dakota have no more right to pass an unconstitutional law than lawmakers do in the Legislature. House Majority Leader Lee Qualm said lawmakers took an oath to uphold the constitution.

"We need to get rid of this as quickly as possible," he said.

Doug Kronaizl, a spokesman for pro-initiative group Represent South Dakota, said it's "abundantly clear" voters are opposed to legislative tampering.

The group is a local chapter of Represent.Us. The Massachusetts-based organization works to reduce the influence of money in politics and pumped funding into the South Dakota ballot measure campaign.

The group has spent over \$21,000 so far in January. Their efforts include newspaper, radio and online advertisements, mail pieces and telephone calls, according to secretary of state's office records.

Roxanne Weber, a Pierre resident who supports the measure, said during the hearing that it appears there's no accountability for lawmakers.

"I won't forget that, and I know the 180,580 people who voted this measure in, they're not going to forget that either," she said.

The bill, which is sponsored by nearly 50 of 70 representatives and 27 out of 35 senators, requires a two-thirds margin in each chamber to pass. Bill opponents say the emergency provisions in the bill would also block it from being referred to the ballot.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has criticized the campaign to pass the measure as deceptive and said voters were "hoodwinked." An aide to Daugaard said he supports the bill, which would go into effect immediately if it's signed into law. Chief of Staff Tony Venhuizen said the governor wants to work with lawmakers this session to come up with a replacement for the initiative.

South Dakota museum awarded ownership of Presley guitar

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge ruled Monday that a South Dakota museum is the legal owner of a guitar played by Elvis Presley.

The Martin D-35 guitar has been on display at the National Music Museum in Vermillion since 2013. It had been donated by collector and musician Robert Johnson (not the legendary blues artist). But months later, Tennessee-based collector Larry Moss contacted the museum saying he was the rightful owner and the donor was not in a position to give away the guitar.

The National Music Museum asked a judge in July 2014 to declare it the legal owner of the guitar.

A judge ruled Monday that Moss never owned the title, never possessed the guitar and never paid for it, and didn't take legal action during his three-year wait for the instrument. The museum received the guitar's title in 2013 and is the legal owner, the court found.

Presley played the guitar during his 1977 tour and gave it to a fan in St. Petersburg, Florida, when it was damaged. Presley died six months later.

"We are elated to receive this judgment on the guitar," National Music Museum Director Cleveland Johnson said in a statement. "We're thrilled that our passionate commitment to it will ensure that it stays at the NMM for the enjoyment of our future visitors. We are the most suited to the guitar's safeguarding and physical preservation. It's in the best hands."

Hundreds of buffalo quarantined because of poison

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Hundreds of buffalo are under quarantine in North Dakota and South Dakota after a poison was illegally used to kill prairie dogs.

An Environmental Protection Agency investigation earlier found 40,000 pounds of Rozol poison had been distributed across 5,400 acres on the former Cannonball Ranch near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the Wilder Ranch, which straddles both states to the south.

The EPA-led investigation began last year after six bald eagles and bison were found dead at the Wilder Ranch, The Bismarck Tribune (<http://bit.ly/2khTCTq>) reported.

David Meyer sold the Cannonball Ranch to Dakota Access Pipeline five months after the Rozol incident. The company bought the ranch to build the pipeline that has attracted thousands of protesters.

The approximately 900 buffalo are under quarantine until September, though 1-year-olds were released from the hold Jan. 1.

Gregg Ryken, an auctioneer who sold 400 bison at a sale in nearby Selfridge on Jan. 7, said he believes none of the animals belonged to Meyer, but that one potential buyer said he held back from bidding because he couldn't be sure.

The sale was listed by Selfridge residents Ernie and Beverly Fischer, who have previously leased Meyer's Cannonball Ranch for buffalo grazing and held a sale there a year ago. The Fischers told authorities as recently as November that 14 bison were missing or dead at the Cannonball Ranch.

North Dakota Stockmen's Association field man Steve Bay is investigating those deaths. He said all of the animals were likely butchered and their remains were found in the Cannonball Ranch pastures adjacent to the protest area.

He said the dead bison belonged to both the Fischers and Meyer. Beverly Fischer said all the bison sold at the recent auction belonged to them or their co-signers, but not to Meyer.

Meyer didn't return the newspaper's requests for comment.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

South Dakota school officials consider 6-man football

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Dwindling enrollment and geographic challenges are forcing schools such as Centerville High School to think outside the box when it comes to their sports programs.

The declining enrollment at rural schools is creating challenges for sports programs to sustain, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2jjaafV>) reported. During the last two-year cycle, the Centerville High School football team has had to play a junior varsity schedule.

However, Faith School activities director Doug Schauer is proposing that six-man football might help resolve the problem.

"We're just looking down the road with our numbers going down," he explained. "We're trying to be proactive."

Schauer's idea was discussed during a football advisory committee meeting in November.

South Dakota High School Activities Association staff will be assessing interest for six-man football at a statewide athletic convention in March through a confidential survey. A formal proposal for six-man football in 2019 could reach the board of directors by next spring if the survey results show interest.

"There are really some unique situations in South Dakota where the co-op or consolidation options just

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aren't there," SDHSAA assistant executive director John Krogstrand said. "There are teams that have played non-varsity football for a couple of years because they simply didn't have the kids to do it. Maybe six-man football allows those kids the opportunity to continue to play, to allow some of those smaller schools an option."

Schauer's proposal to switch to a six-man game from its 11- and nine-man counterparts is fairly radical, but it's not entirely uncommon.

Five states had sanctioned six-man high school football in 2016, including Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Texas and Wyoming. The Nebraska School Activities Association also decided in December to re-adopt the sport for 2018.

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

Senate approves resolution inviting Trump to South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Senate has approved a resolution inviting President Donald Trump to visit South Dakota and its most famous sites.

The chamber voted unanimously Monday to approve the resolution, which "most especially" invites the Republican president to visit Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the Crazy Horse Memorial.

Sponsor Sen. Jim Bolin, a Republican, says a presidential visit would be an asset to South Dakota. He says it would gain the state publicity and be a boon for tourism.

The resolution also encourages Gov. Dennis Daugaard and South Dakota's congressional delegation to promote such a visit. It says the trip would be particularly appropriate on or near the Fourth of July.

School of Mines' Wilson nominated as Air Force secretary

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — President Donald Trump is planning to nominate Heather Wilson as secretary of the Air Force.

A White House statement said Monday that Wilson, a former New Mexico congresswoman and president of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, would be the first Air Force Academy graduate to hold the position, if confirmed.

Wilson served in Congress from 1998 to 2009, where she was a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and chaired the House Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence.

Wilson, 56, also served on the House Armed Services Committee.

"South Dakota's loss will be the nation's gain," Randy Schaefer, president of the South Dakota Board of Regents, said in a statement. "During her four years at Mines, Heather Wilson has found money for new buildings, established new programs, increased research, grown enrollment, deepened the connection between the university and the community, and improved financial management. She's been a great university leader."

"America and our vital national interests continue to be threatened," Wilson said in a statement. "I will do my best, working with our men and women in the military, to strengthen American air and space power to keep the country safe."

South Dakota lawmaker quits over sexual contact with interns

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota legislator who admitted having sexual contact with two interns resigned on Monday, saying he regretted his actions during the past two legislative sessions.

Republican Rep. Mathew Wollmann, 26, said last week that both interns were over age 21 and that the contact during the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions was consensual. But his colleagues voted to set up a committee to investigate his actions, and they were scheduled to meet Tuesday.

Wollmann announced his resignation in a letter first reported by the Mitchell Daily Republic newspaper. The former Marine didn't immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press, but the Legislative

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Research Council provided a copy of his letter.

The meeting on Wollmann's conduct is still planned, said Republican Rep. Timothy Johns, chairman of the House Select Committee on Discipline and Expulsion.

In South Dakota, legislative interns are college students, some 21 or older. Legislative rules 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, from the eastern South Dakota city of Madison, first won the seat in 2014. In the letter, Wollmann expressed his regret, writing that he hoped to return to the Legislature in the future.

"I have nothing but the greatest respect for those that I have grown so close to these past two years, and even in these early days of the 92nd legislative session," Wollmann wrote. "Those that read this should know that it is my wrongdoing that has put this institution in a sour light. Those responsible for me have displayed nothing but the highest honor for this establishment."

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, House Speaker Mark Mickelson and Minority Leader Spencer Hawley said in a statement that Wollmann decided "this was best for him, his fiancé, his family and the young ladies involved."

"Every legislator has an obligation to refrain from behavior unbecoming to the Legislature and inconsistent with maintaining the public's trust," the House leaders said.

Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in a statement that he thinks Wollmann made the right decision. Daugaard said he will act quickly to name a replacement.

Wollmann's public admission came shortly after a legislative committee voted down a new rule 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.

The House leaders said they will meet with lawmakers, interns and staff to discuss potential improvements that could be made to legislator and employee training and any updates to legislative rules. Hawley told the AP that he supports discussing new rules.

Wollmann is the second South Dakota lawmaker in roughly a decade to be investigated by lawmakers 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.

Follow James Nord on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/Jvnord>

The Latest: Oscar nominations announcement just moments away

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The latest on the 89th annual Oscar nominations announced Tuesday by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences from Beverly Hills, California (all times local):

5 a.m.

Final preparations are underway for the announcement of this year's Oscar nominees, which are expected to offer more diversity after two years of the "Oscars So White" backlash.

Jennifer Hudson and Brie Larson are among the previous Oscar winners who will announce this year's slate of nominees around 5:20 a.m. The films "La La Land," "Moonlight" and "Manchester by the Sea" are among this season's front-runners, including for best picture.

Departing from a decades-old practice, the nominations won't be announced before a live audience of reporters, publicists and academy officials. Instead, the reveal will come during a closed program fed live to Oscars.org and "Good Morning America."

The 89th Annual Academy Awards will be presented in a Feb. 26 ceremony hosted by comedian Jimmy Kimmel and aired live on ABC.

4:45 a.m.

After two straight years of all-white acting nominees and an overhauling of the motion picture academy, the Oscars are poised to trend in a different direction Tuesday.

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Barry Jenkin's luminous coming-of-age tale "Moonlight," the crowd-pleasing African-American mathematician drama "Hidden Figures" and Denzel Washington's fiery August Wilson adaption "Fences" are set to lead a notably more diverse group of contenders when nominations to the 89th Academy Awards are announced Tuesday morning beginning at 8:18 a.m. EST.

One of the morning's big questions is just how many nominations "La La Land" will land. Damien Chazelle's exuberant love letter to musicals is expected to lead all films and could rival the record 14 nods received by "All About Eve" and "Titanic."

Toll from Italy avalanche climbs to 15 as hopes diminish

By PIETRO DECRISTOFARO and PAOLO SANTALUCIA, Associated Press

FARINDOLA, Italy (AP) — Hopes began to fade Tuesday that any more survivors would be found from a devastating avalanche, as the death toll climbed to 15 and rescue crews were hit with another tragedy nearby: reports of a downed helicopter ferrying an injured skier off the slopes.

Civil protection officials said they were checking an incident involving the helicopter near Campo Felice, a popular ski area in the Apennine Mountains. The ANSA news agency said six people were aboard the helicopter.

The incident was another blow to Central Italy's Abruzzo region, which has been slammed by a series of powerful earthquakes and meters (yards) of snowfall that triggered the Jan. 18 avalanche at the Hotel Rigopiano.

The death toll from the avalanche climbed to 15 on Tuesday with the discovery of more bodies, leaving 14 people still unaccounted for.

Firefighter spokesman Alberto Maiolo said search crews aided by excavators were finally able to penetrate the snow-covered central part of the hotel for the first time — the bar and kitchen area — and found the bodies. He said there were no signs of life.

"Logically, hopes fade as time passes, but we are continuing to search and trying to do it as quickly as possible," he said.

The first funerals were held Tuesday, with crowds gathering under a steady rain outside the hilltop church in Farindola to pay their respects to Alessandro Giancaterino.

The chief waiter, one of the first victims pulled from the rubble, had offered to stay for a double shift on Jan. 18 to spare a colleague from having to make his way to the hotel through the snow, which was two to three meters (six to 10 feet) high in some places.

"He was a great hard worker. He was very professional," said his brother, Massimiliano Giancaterino. "This is the memory that I want to keep of my brother, beyond obviously the private ones that I keep in my heart."

Prosecutors are investigating whether a series of missed communications, underestimations of risks and delays in responding to days of heavy snowfall contributed to the toll from the avalanche. In addition, they are looking into the original construction of the isolated resort and whether it should have been open for business at all in such conditions.

Giancaterino, who is also a former mayor of Farindola, said it was useless to speculate now, while an investigation was just beginning, about whether the tragedy could have been avoided.

"Now it is not the time for hypothesis," he said. "It is the time of pain and above all my thoughts go to the friends and relatives of those who are still missing," he said.

Nine people have been pulled out alive from the rubble, three of whom remained hospitalized in nearby Pescara.

Trump undercuts bipartisan effort with voter fraud claim

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as President Donald Trump starts reaching out to lawmakers and business and union leaders to sell his policies, he's still making false claims about election fraud.

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During a bipartisan reception with lawmakers at the White House Monday evening, Trump claimed the reason he'd lost the popular vote to his Democratic rival was that 3 million to 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally had voted. That's according to a Democratic aide familiar with the exchange who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

There is no evidence to support Trump's claim.

The assertion appeared to be part of a developing pattern for Trump and his new administration in which falsehoods overshadow outreach efforts.

After a contentious weekend, Trump began his first full week as president bounding from one ornate room of the White House to another as he played host to business, labor and Congressional leaders. Again and again, he ordered aides to summon journalists from their West Wing workspace at a moment's notice for unscheduled statements and photo opportunities.

Among those meetings: a reception at the White House for congressional leaders of both parties, with plenty of meatballs and small talk.

Trump on Tuesday will continue his outreach efforts as he meets with executives from the auto industry.

Trump tweeted early in the morning that his focus will be creating and keeping jobs.

"I want new plants to be built here for cars sold here," he wrote.

Also on Tuesday, Trump is expected to speak by phone with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and meet with his newly sworn-in CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

Trump's comments on the popular vote were similar to claims he made on Twitter in late November that he had won the electoral college in a "landslide" and "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally." Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by nearly 2.9 million votes despite losing the electoral college. There is no evidence that voter fraud significantly affected the vote.

Earlier Monday, Trump charted a new American course abroad, withdrawing the United States from the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership, using one of his first actions in office to reject a centerpiece of Barack Obama's attempts to counter China and deepen U.S. ties in Asia.

For Trump, the move was a fulfillment of a central campaign promise. He has repeatedly cast the 12-nation trade pact — which was eagerly sought by U.S. allies in Asia — as detrimental to American businesses.

"Great thing for the American worker what we just did," Trump said in brief remarks as he signed a notice in the Oval Office.

The Obama administration spent years negotiating the Pacific Rim pact, though the mood in Washington on trade soured over time. Obama never sent the accord to Congress for ratification, making Trump's actions Monday largely symbolic.

The start of Trump's first full week in office had begun as a reset after a tumultuous weekend dominated by his and his spokesman's false statements about inauguration crowds and their vigorous complaints about media coverage of the celebrations. While Trump's advisers have long accepted his tendency to become fixated on seemingly insignificant issues, some privately conceded that his focus on inauguration crowds was unhelpful on the opening weekend of his presidency.

In addition to his executive action on TPP, Trump signed memorandums freezing most federal government hiring — though he noted an exception for the military — and reinstating a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option. The regulation, known as the "Mexico City Policy," has been a political volleyball, instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984.

The actions were among the long list of steps candidate Trump pledged to take on his opening day as president. But other "Day One" promises were going unfulfilled, including plans to propose a constitutional amendment imposing term limits on members of Congress and terminating Obama's executive actions deferring deportations for some people living in the U.S. illegally.

Spokesman Sean Spicer said Monday that Trump intended to follow through on his proposals, though on a more extended timeframe to ensure maximum attention for each move.

Yet he appeared to suggest that Trump would not move quickly — or perhaps at all — to reinstate deportations for young immigrants protected from deportation under the Obama administration.

Spicer said Trump's focus would be on people in the U.S. illegally who have criminal records or who pose a threat.

"That's where the priority's going to be, and then we're going to continue to work through the entire number of folks that are here illegally," he said.

Spicer — making his first appearance at the briefing room podium since his angry tirade against the press on Saturday — also appeared to back away from Trump's assertion that he could move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. While presidential candidates have long made similar pledges, all have abandoned the idea over concerns that following through would further inflame tensions in the volatile region.

"We are at the early stages in this decision-making process," Spicer said of the possible embassy relocation. "If it was already a decision, then we wouldn't be going through a process."

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas, Erica Werner, Jonathan Lemire and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Senate Democrats to propose \$1 trillion infrastructure plan

By JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats on Tuesday will propose spending \$1 trillion on transportation and other infrastructure projects over 10 years in an attempt to engage President Donald Trump on an issue where they hope to find common ground.

Details of the plan provided to The Associated Press include \$200 billion for a "vital infrastructure fund." An example of the types of projects that could be eligible for financing from the fund is the Gateway Program to repair and replace rail lines and tunnels between New York and New Jersey, some of which are over 100 years old and were damaged in Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The project, which would double the number of trains per hour using the tunnels and help enable high-speed Amtrak service, is estimated to cost about \$20 billion.

Republican leaders, who have said previously that they're waiting for Trump to offer his own proposal, are unlikely to embrace the Democratic plan. It's not clear where Democrats would get the money for their proposal.

Infrastructure was raised at a meeting Monday between Trump and lawmakers from both parties. "They thought that was an area maybe to find common ground, and then Sen McConnell made the important point it needs to be paid for because we've got \$20 trillion in debt," Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Senate Republican leader.

Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said he doesn't want another infrastructure plan that is effectively an economic stimulus program like the one Congress passed in 2009 at former President Barack Obama's behest.

Trump bemoaned the state of America's roads, bridges, airports and railways during the presidential campaign and promised to generate \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment, putting people to work in the process. But Trump has offered few specifics. Administration officials have indicated they expect Trump to offer details this spring.

"Senate Democrats are walking the walk on repairing and rebuilding our nation's crumbling infrastructure," Senate Minority leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said. "We ask President Trump to support this common sense, comprehensive approach."

Democrats estimate their plan would create 15 million jobs.

A proposal by two of Trump's financial advisers circulated just after the election calls for using \$137 billion in tax credits to generate \$1 trillion in private investment in infrastructure projects over 10 years. But investors are typically interested only in projects that have a revenue stream like tolls to produce a profit.

Charging tolls for roads and bridges is often unpopular. A recent Washington Post poll found that 66 percent of the public opposes granting tax credits to investors who put their money into transportation

projects in exchange for the right to charge tolls.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and transportation industry lobbying groups want a hike in direct federal spending instead of tax credits. What is needed most, they say, is money to address the growing backlog of maintenance and repair projects, most of which are unsuitable for tolling.

— This version corrects the amount for the infrastructure fund to \$200 billion.

— AP Congressional Correspondent Erica Werner contributed to this report.

— Follow Joan Lowy at http://twitter.com/AP_Joan_Lowy. Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/joan-lowy>

UK government loses Brexit case, must consult Parliament

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's government must get parliamentary approval before starting the process of leaving the European Union, the Supreme Court ruled Tuesday, potentially delaying Prime Minister Theresa May's plans to trigger negotiations by the end of March.

The 8-3 ruling forces the government to put a bill before Parliament, giving pro-EU politicians a chance to soften the terms of Brexit — Britain's exit from the EU. "Leave" campaigners had objected, saying Parliament shouldn't have the power to overrule the electorate, which voted to leave the bloc in a June 23 referendum.

The Supreme Court's decision doesn't mean that Britain will remain in the EU. But it could delay the process — though May's Downing Street office said its timetable remained on track.

May had said she would use centuries-old powers known as royal prerogative to invoke Article 50 of the EU treaty and launch two years of exit talks. The powers — traditionally held by the monarch — permit decisions about treaties and other issues to be made without a vote of Parliament.

"The referendum is of great political significance, but the act of Parliament which established it did not say what should happen as a result, so any change in the law to give effect to the referendum must be made in the only way permitted by the U.K. Constitution, namely by an act of Parliament," the president of the Supreme Court David Neuberger said in reading the judgment.

"To proceed otherwise would be a breach of settled constitutional principles stretching back many centuries," he said.

The case was considered the most important constitutional issue in a generation, clarifying who ultimately wields power in Britain's system of government: the prime minister and her Cabinet, or Parliament.

Financial entrepreneur Gina Miller sued to force the government to seek Parliamentary approval before invoking Article 50. Leaving the EU will change the fundamental rights of citizens and this can't be done without a vote of lawmakers, she argued.

May had argued the referendum gave her a mandate to take Britain out of the 28-nation bloc and that discussing the details of her strategy with Parliament would weaken the government's negotiating position.

Significantly, the court also ruled that parts of the United Kingdom — Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — do not need to be consulted. Had the court ruled that the "devolved" Parliaments needed a say, a significant delay to the process would have been likely as lawmakers from the regions piled in with concerns.

The government moved quickly to say it would offer its plans in detail to the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon. Legal experts suggest that May will try to keep the scope of the legislation narrow — focusing solely on triggering Article 50 — in order to limit the chance for amendments that could delay a vote.

But opposition became evident immediately. Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said the party

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would seek to amend the legislation to make sure the government is "accountable." The Scottish National Party, the third largest party in the House of Commons, promised to offer 50 amendments.

"Today's result comes as a surprise to no one. Unfortunately for businesses and other institutions, Brexit still means uncertainty," said Phillip Souta, head of U.K. public policy at law firm Clifford Chance. "Parliament remains divided and the outcome of the negotiations remain unknown."

The bill could also be subject to delay in the unelected House of Lords.

"Defeat in the House of Lords would not stop Brexit from happening, but it could delay it until mid-2020," Souta said.

Miller, an online investment manager, had argued the case wasn't about blocking Brexit. Instead, she said, it was about "democracy" and the "dangerous precedent" that a government can overrule Parliament.

For Miller, who brought the case with hairdresser Deir Dos Santos, the Supreme Court judges brought vindication after months of threats to her security that followed her involvement in the case.

"No prime minister, no government can expect to be unanswerable or unchallenged," she said. "Parliament alone is sovereign."

The case revolved around an argument that dates back almost 400 years to the English Civil War as to whether power ultimately rests in the executive or Parliament.

Underscoring the importance of the case, May put Attorney General Jeremy Wright in charge of the legal team fighting the suit. Wright had argued the suit is an attempt to put a legal obstacle in the way of enacting the referendum result.

The decision is a bad defeat for the government and means that the government "still does not have control of the Brexit timetable," said David Allen Green, lawyer at London legal firm Preiskel & Co.

"The appeal decision is, however, a victory for the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty and a vindication of an independent judiciary," Green said. "The Supreme Court has told the government to get back into its box: A proper process has to be followed."

'Get up. We've got to get out': Storms kill 20 in the South

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON and JAY REEVES, Associated Press**

ADEL, Ga. (AP) — Bonnie and Wayne Collier were jolted awake in their mobile home by a cellphone weather alert early Sunday. They jumped up, turned on the TV, saw a tornado warning and decided to run.

"We heard the Code Red," said Bonnie Collier, 65. "He told me, 'Get up. We've got to get out.'"

Quickly, they headed to a friend's nearby building just down the road from their mobile home near Cecil, Georgia. There they met up with their son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren — ages 5, 7 and 9.

They arrived just ahead of a tornado, part of an unusual midwinter barrage of tornadoes and thunderstorms that killed at least 20 across the Deep South over the weekend.

"My husband yelled, 'Get under the tables!' and then it just came right over the top of us like a freight train."

When they emerged, the home they had been sleeping in was blown clear across the street, flattened and shattered to pieces. Her car and his pickup truck were buried under debris.

"If we had been five minutes later, they probably would have found us out here somewhere dead."

Collier returned Monday to pick through the wreckage, pulling out clothes and family photos with a mix of smiles and tears.

She laughed as 5-year-old granddaughter Rylee ran up, holding a photo and excitedly shouting "Mimi! This one's of you." But moments earlier, she choked back sobs talking about how she could have lost much more than her home.

"Material things can be put back and replaced and family can't. And I'm just glad we got out OK," she said, wiping away a tear.

Mobile homes were especially vulnerable to the storms, with seven people alone killed early Sunday in one trailer park community a few miles away — Sunshine Acres — in the community of Adel.

Just the day after Devocheo Williams moved into Sunshine Acres, his mobile home — and many of those around him — were demolished as the winds descended before dawn with terrifying swiftness.

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"The whole trailer park was gone in 15 seconds," Williams said, describing a funnel cloud that appeared to loop back around and hit the place a second time. "It looked like a ball of fire was going 100 mph."

Williams said Monday he saw a little girl picked up by the winds and tossed into a ditch. Nearby, the girl's mother and a baby were trapped in rubble. He said he helped dig them out.

Not everyone could be saved.

"I was walking by dead bodies of little kids and grown people," Williams said.

Georgia reported 15 deaths Sunday, and four people died Saturday in Mississippi. In northern Florida, a woman died after a tree crashed into her home in Lake City as a storm swept through.

The National Weather Service said 39 possible tornadoes were reported over the weekend. The agency sent out teams to examine the damage and confirm how many of the storms were twisters, which can happen any time of year but are far more common in the spring and early summer.

Elsewhere in southern Georgia, a tornado slammed into Albany, a city of 76,000 people, Sunday afternoon and carved a path of destruction a half mile wide in places. The National Weather Service rated the twister as at least an EF-2, meaning it packed winds of 111 to 135 mph, if not greater.

Anthony Mitchell of Albany was home with his pregnant wife and three children when a tornado warning on TV sent them scrambling. They crouched in a hallway as the twister started taking their home apart.

"The windows exploded, the doors flew off the hinges, the sheet rock started to rip off the walls and fly out the windows," Mitchell said. "The trailer started to lift up. And about that time a tree fell on the trailer, and I think that's what held the trailer in place from flying away."

Three people were later found dead at Big Pine Estates, where Mitchell's family lives. A fourth body was discovered at a home just outside the trailer park.

Mitchell lost his home and marveled that he didn't lose his life, too.

A day later, Aretha Allen prayed aloud in front of the First Baptist Church where a shelter was set up for the survivors of Sunshine Park.

Allen said her niece and the niece's brother both lived in a mobile home there, and she drove out to try to help them after hearing the park had been hit.

"We were looking, looking," Allen said, "but couldn't find them."

Authorities late Monday confirmed seven people were found dead at Sunshine Acres, her relatives included.

"They died in the storm trying to save her grandchildren," she said, adding that the children had survived. "I know they've gone on to Jesus."

Reeves reported from Albany, Georgia. Associated Press writer Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia, contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. BUSY SLATE FOR TRUMP ON SECOND FULL DAY

The president will meet with executives from the auto industry. He'll also speak by phone with India's prime minister and meet with his newly sworn-in CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

2. WHY FEDERAL WORKERS SEE PROBLEMS WITH HIRING FREEZE

The president of the National Federation of Federal Employees says the government will end up relying on contractors who end up costing even more.

3. HIGH COURT RULES ON BREXIT TERMS

Britain's Supreme Court rules that the government cannot trigger the process of taking the U.K. out of the European Union without an act of parliament.

4. UN ENVOY FOR SYRIA PROMISES 'OUTCOME'

Talks between Damascus and rebel factions enter a second day in Kazakhstan despite a rocky start and only a brief face-to-face meeting between the warring parties.

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5. WHAT 'DREAMERS' HOPE DOESN'T BECOME A NIGHTMARE

Some 700,000-plus migrants protected from deportation under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals face an uncertain future in a Trump administration.

6. PHILADELPHIA BARS EMPLOYERS FROM REQUESTING SALARY HISTORY

Comcast Corp. is vowing to challenge the measure in court, saying it goes too far in dictating how employers can interact with potential workers.

7. ROHINGYA NOW FISHING ON RAFTS OF JUNK

Their usual, sturdy fishing boats were banned three months ago when Myanmar authorities launched a counter-insurgency campaign against the country's Muslim minority.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTIONS BY ISRAEL CONTESTED

Thousands of Palestinians have been held without charges or trial, for periods from a few months to several years, during half a century of military occupation.

9. DEADLY TWISTERS, CHILLING AFTERMATH

Survivors of deadly midwinter tornadoes and thunderstorms that swept southern Georgia give harrowing accounts of witnessing death and destruction.

10. OSCARS POISED TO TREND IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION

After two straight years of all-white acting nominees and an overhauling of the motion picture academy, nominations may reflect a new diversity.

Trump in Asia: Region poised for change as new era dawns

By LOUISE WATT, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — People across Asia are poised for a potentially dramatic change in relations with Washington under President Donald Trump after decades with the United States as a major military and economic presence.

The clues Trump has given about his foreign policy are a break with former President Barack Obama's "pivot to Asia," which re-emphasized American engagement in the region.

In one of his first actions in office, Trump withdrew the United States from the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement negotiated by the Obama administration and 11 Pacific Rim countries. He has talked about requiring allies Japan and South Korea to pay more for U.S. troops stationed on their soil.

Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on Chinese goods to 45 percent and upended four decades of diplomatic protocol by taking a phone call from President Tsai Ing-wen of self-governing Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory.

"From this moment on, it's going to be America first," Trump said at his inauguration Friday. Here's how people across the Asia-Pacific region think his presidency could affect their lives:

INDIA

Amol Sharma, owner of a pet services startup, said Trump's presidency "might be a boon for India." "It doesn't seem like Trump's going to have a great relationship with China. And if he is going to fall out with China, he would need a backup from a developing, emerging power, and I think India seems to be his best bet," said Sharma, 36, from Jaipur, in the state of Rajasthan.

JAPAN

Nurse Hitoshi Shiraishi worries about what Trump's "America first" policy will mean for cooperation and agreements with Japan and other countries.

With Trump abandoning the TPP, "the relations and other things that were built over time with (President Barack) Obama have all at once reversed course," he said in Tokyo.

Add long-simmering opposition to the stationing of U.S. troops on the Japanese island of Okinawa, and "I'm worried things could get worse," said Shiraishi, 30. "It feels like what has been built over time until

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now could come crumbling down, so I'm afraid."

SOUTH KOREA

"Trump wants to keep China in check and that would escalate conflict, which can also affect our country," said student Kim Eun-sol, 19.

A demand for South Korea to pay more for U.S. forces in the country, or pressure to renegotiate a free-trade agreement "would cause a crack in the South Korea-U.S. alliance," said Kim, who is from the southern city of Jinju.

"Trump also has mentioned using the military to deal with North Korea's development of nuclear weapons," which would add to tension on the Korean Peninsula, she said.

CHINA

"Once he won the election, he tried to use Taiwan to suppress China. That was really despicable," said Ma Rui, a retired teacher in Beijing.

"The key is how China will treat him. He is a double-dealer and he tries to boost the economy" by using "Taiwan as a tool to bargain with China," said Ma, 82. "I don't think he will succeed in this regard and China has its own ways to deal with him."

Ma doesn't foresee any big changes in Sino-U.S. relations. "China will be able to handle him. The relationship won't go bad, because that is not good for the U.S., either," said Ma.

TAIWAN

Given Trump's business background, some Taiwanese foresee a friendly relationship based on longstanding U.S. sales of military equipment to Taiwan and an upgrade in the self-governing island's military defense.

"He will consider things with a business mindset," said Manhua Chen, 37, from Taipei. "For example, the phone call with President Tsai was just because there is a great amount of trade between us in military weapons."

Yet Chen, a former Pfizer employee turned Spanish-language tour guide, said she was worried Trump would refuse to discuss "universal values, such as human rights, or climate change."

"If he does not care enough about these universal values, I really don't know what will define the United States as a great country," said Chen. "Then each country could also close their doors and do their own thing."

INDONESIA

Unggul Hermanto, 34, thinks Indonesian politicians will find Trump easier to work with than his predecessors.

"They know that if they play to his ego — and Indonesian politicians are very good at doing this — they can get what they want from him," said Hermanto, publisher of a lifestyle magazine.

If Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo meets Trump, "will Trump like Jokowi?" said Hermanto, from Lombok island. "Yeah, of course, he's one of the most polite persons in the world and Trump will come out and say 'I love him, he's great,' blah blah blah. But it's just Jokowi being nice, and that's how he's going to get things from Trump."

MALAYSIA

Student Adib Iliya Azlan, 19, said Malaysians previously viewed the U.S. president as a "representative of democracy and fairness" who would "try to pressure our local political process into becoming slightly more transparent and open."

"Unfortunately with Trump, I don't expect him to show up in Malaysia in a few years talking about open elections and transparency," said Adib. "I don't see him taking that much of an interest certainly in foreign policy in general and almost certainly not ASEAN" — the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

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Adib said Trump's dealings with China, an important economic partner, could determine Malaysia's relations with the United States.

"If Trump upsets the Chinese or vice versa, that may force Malaysia's hand in some way," said Adib, from Petaling Jaya town in central Selangor state. "My concern will be if Trump ends up going on a tirade against the Chinese and putting us in sticky situation, because I think it's always good as a developing country to sort of have the ear of both the East and the West."

NEW ZEALAND

Wynton Moore, a data scientist who spent seven years in Chicago studying physics, said the only thing Trump has said that would directly affect New Zealand is his actions on dropping the TPP talks.

"I think that the majority of people in New Zealand would probably be happy about that," said Moore, who lives in Wellington. "It seems like a lot of people here have got very strong reservations."

Moore, 29, said he thought New Zealand would continue its "very strong cooperative relationship" with the U.S. because of "the history of New Zealand and U.S. leaders, for the most part, putting politics to one side when it comes to their bilateral relationship."

AP journalists Shonal Ganguly and Rishabh Jain in New Delhi; Yong Jun Chang in Seoul, South Korea; Peng Peng in Beijing; Nick Perry in Wellington, New Zealand; Emily Wang in Tokyo; Stephen Wright in Jakarta, Indonesia; Taijing Wu in Taipei, Taiwan; and Eileen Ng and Syawalludin Zain in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, contributed.

Trump courts business, labor in delicate balancing act

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's opening work day offered a look at his tricky balancing act between American businesses and the working-class voters who propelled his march to the White House.

The name of the game, Trump tweeted before dawn: "Jobs." He then met with American business executives to both charm and threaten them into doing business in the U.S. The real estate titan later served notice he was pulling the U.S. out of participating in a proposed Pacific trade pact and promised to renegotiate a 23-year-old agreement with Canada and Mexico — both of which, Trump has said, are bad for jobs. Trump also bore down on the one sector of the American economy he says has too many jobs: The federal government, whose hiring and wages he froze with the stroke of an executive order pen.

Before the day was out, Trump had gathered union leaders — from those representing sheet metal workers to carpenters — to listen to their concerns and hear their applause over his assault on what he called "ridiculous" trade deals. It's all part of an audacious plan to grow the economy by 4 percent a year while shrinking the trade gap and creating 25 million jobs over the next decade — despite obstacles that have vexed presidents of both parties for decades.

"We're going to put a lot of people back to work; we're going to use common sense," Trump insisted Monday. At one point, he called reporters back into his meeting with labor leaders to hear Doug McCarron of the United Brotherhood of Carpenter praise Trump's inaugural address. The speech "hit home for the people who have been hurting," said McCarron, who had endorsed Hillary Clinton in the presidential race.

Trump's approach tracks with exit polls that showed two-thirds of white voters without a college degree chose him over Clinton. These voters comprised nearly half of all of Trump's voters, according to the survey conducted for The Associated Press and television networks by Edison Research.

In an AP-NORC poll last January, 82 percent of non-college educated white voters called reducing unemployment a very or extremely important issue for the next president, putting it among their top economic issues.

There was ample evidence, too, that those voters were not recovering economically from the recession with the rest of the nation. In an April 2016 AP-NORC poll, 7 in 10 non-college whites said their pay had stayed the same or lost ground in previous years.

Trump seemed well-aware of his constituency — promising during the campaign that bringing American

jobs back was a top priority for him, too.

After the election, he boasted several times of persuading the heads of American companies to cancel plans to move. In one notable case, Trump took credit in December for keeping what he said were 1,100 jobs at the Carrier Corp. factory in Indianapolis from being outsourced to Mexico. The number was closer to 800. United Steelworkers Local 1999 President Chuck Jones accused the president-elect of exaggerating, and a Twitter war erupted. Trump fumed that Jones had done "a terrible job representing American workers."

Trump spent Monday trying to make the case that he can do better. But on workplace issues, it remains unclear how strong a friend Trump is to labor and the working class Americans who powered his victory.

Some of the new president's actions on Monday were symbolic: The U.S.'s participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, for example, was already dead due to withering enthusiasm among Republicans, Democrats and labor unions, among others. Business leaders have long been under pressure to operate inside the nation's borders. And he wouldn't say when he'd start renegotiating NAFTA, the 1994 free trade agreement blamed by many for inspiring American businesses to send good-paying jobs to less expensive shores.

It was enough to win some plaudits from the Twittersphere — AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka called the move on TPP "an important first step toward a trade policy that works for working people," but did not mention Trump's name in the statement.

In fact, other parts of Trump's agenda conflict with labor's wish list, a conflict personified by his choice to lead the department charged with enforcing workplace rules.

Fast food executive Andrew Puzder, CEO of the parent company of Hardees, Carl's Jr., and other chains, has said that large increases in the minimum wage — one of labor's top priorities — would lead to job losses. He wrote in a May 2016 op-ed that President Barack Obama's overtime rule would be "another barrier to the middle class rather than a springboard" for workers.

A pair of pro-labor interest groups, Jobs for Justice and the Economic Policy Institute, have set up a web site and Twitter hashtag devoted to Puzder's nomination called, "#antilaborsecretary."

And 22 Senate Democrats are calling for Puzder's confirmation hearing Feb. 2 to include current and former workers who have complained of poor or illegal treatment at his restaurants.

The workers' stories, the senators wrote, raise concerns about Puzder's "commitment to enforcing federal labor laws — the secretary of labor's chief responsibility."

For his part, Puzder tweeted Jan. 16: "I am looking forward to my hearing."

Associated Press Writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

Trump's pick for health secretary faces new Senate hearing

By **ALAN FRAM** and **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A second Senate committee is ready to interrogate President Donald Trump's pick for health secretary, a nominee who's backed by Republicans but under fire from Democrats for his support for tearing down President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and his past stock trades.

Trump's selection, Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., 62, is a veteran conservative congressman and orthopedic surgeon from Atlanta's suburbs who has long favored voiding Obama's 2010 law and wrote his own proposed substitute for it. Chairman of the House Budget Committee until recently, he's also favored revamping Medicare and Medicaid, which Democrats vehemently resist and Trump as a presidential candidate said he opposed changing.

Tuesday's Senate Finance Committee hearing comes as GOP lawmakers intent on repealing Obama's law continue trying to figure out how they would replace it. That remains a top priority for Trump and congressional Republicans, and GOP lawmakers plan a retreat in Philadelphia later this week to discuss what to do.

Trump has been pressuring Republicans to move quickly on legislation scuttling Obama's law and replacing it.

The hearing also follows an executive order Trump issued Friday, his first day in office, that vaguely em-

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powers federal officials to curb fiscal burdens Obama's overhaul imposes and give states more flexibility to interpret it. That could let agencies take steps like stopping fines of people who don't buy coverage or easing the law's requirement that insurers cover birth control, but there could be procedural and political pitfalls to exercising those powers.

In prepared remarks, committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, praised Price for having "the experience and qualifications" needed for the post. He accused Democrats of a "level of partisan rancor" he said he'd not seen before in trying to derail Price and other Trump nominees.

Top panel Democrat Ron Wyden of Oregon called Price "the architect of repeal and ruin" in prepared remarks. He said Price's plan would "tell vulnerable Americans that their health care will go only as far as their bank accounts will take them."

As head of the huge Health and Human Services Department, Price would have enormous power to decide how Obama's law is interpreted and enforced. For example, he could weaken the statute's requirements that people buy insurance and larger employers provide it to workers by granting broader exemptions, or reduce the extent of coverage insurers must provide for 10 types of mandated health services.

Trump has offered few details on how he'd reshape the law.

He's said he wants to provide "insurance for everybody" and force pharmaceutical companies to negotiate prices with the federal government, proposals that appeal to many Democrats. He also wants to rely more on health savings accounts for people's medical expenses and let states decide how to spend federal Medicaid dollars for low-income people, GOP ideas that Democrats oppose.

Obama's law has provided coverage to 20 million people by creating online marketplaces for those without employer-provided coverage and subsidizing many of them, and expanding Medicaid to more lower-income people.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated last week that repeal without a replacement would cost 18 million people their insurance in the first year and spike premiums for individual coverage — not provided by companies — by up to 25 percent.

The Wall Street Journal reported last month that over the past four years, Price traded more than \$300,000 worth of shares in around 40 health-related companies, even as he pushed legislation that could affect the firms' values.

Price has signed a government ethics agreement to sell his stock, but Democrats have suggested he's gotten special deals and inside information for some purchases. Price has said he's done nothing wrong.

A bipartisan Finance panel staff memo obtained by The Associated Press said that in disclosure forms he's filed, Price undervalued around 400,000 shares of stock he purchased last August in an Australian drug company.

The memo said Price reported the shares were worth \$50,000 to \$100,000, based on the purchase price then. Those shares were worth up to \$250,000 when he filed his forms to the Finance committee, the report said. Price said his figures were a "good faith valuation" but agreed to recalculate the value, the memo said.

The shares are in Innate Immunotherapeutics Ltd., which Democrats have accused Price of purchasing based on insider information. Price has denied that.

The Senate Health committee held an initial hearing on Price last Tuesday, but only the Finance Committee has the jurisdiction to vote on his nomination. The full Senate would then vote on confirmation.

Diversity and 'La La Land' ready for their Oscar close-ups

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

After two straight years of all-white acting nominees and an overhauling of the motion picture academy, the Oscars were poised to trend in a different direction Tuesday.

Barry Jenkin's luminous coming-of-age tale "Moonlight," the crowd-pleasing African-American mathematician drama "Hidden Figures" and Denzel Washington's fiery August Wilson adaption "Fences" are set to lead a notably more diverse group of contenders when nominations for the 89th annual Academy Awards

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are announced Tuesday morning, beginning at 8:18 a.m. EST.

Whether fairly or not, the nominations will be seen as a test for the revamped film academy. It will be the first Oscars voted on since academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs ushered in new membership rules and added 683 new members as a way to diversify a predominantly white, male and elderly group, which now numbers 6,687.

Change will be in the air Tuesday morning, regardless of the outcome. Gone will be the traditional pre-dawn reading of nominations before a throng of bleary-eyed reporters and publicists. Instead, the academy has digitized the process and will now stream the nominations on Oscars.com or Oscars.org in a pre-produced program featuring Isaacs, Jennifer Hudson, Brie Larson, Emmanuel Lubezki, Jason Reitman and Ken Watanabe.

One of the morning's big questions is just how many nominations "La La Land" will land. Damien Chazelle's exuberant love letter to musicals is expected to lead all films and could rival the record 14 nods received by "All About Eve" and "Titanic." It has already set a Golden Globes record with seven wins.

Though "La La Land" and other likely best-picture nominees such as "Arrival" and (less certainly) "Hidden Figures" are knocking on the door of \$100 million at the North American box office, it's possible that none of the best picture nominees will have grossed more than \$100 million.

After an unlikely awards season run, the smart-aleck superhero "Deadpool" (\$363.1 million) has an outside shot at crashing the party, but, otherwise, this year's top Oscar films appear set to be one of the lowest grossing bunch ever.

The regular business of today's corporate-driven Hollywood is increasingly set apart from the industry's awards season, where smaller, critically adored films like "12 Years a Slave," "Birdman," "Boyhood" and "Spotlight" have recently dominated. Only one major studio — Paramount, which distributed "Arrival," "Fences" and "Silence" — is even in the running for a best picture nomination. Amazon, however, is all but certain to land its first best picture nomination for Kenneth Lonergan's "Manchester by the Sea," which the streaming retailer partnered with Roadside Attractions to distribute.

The dearth of blockbusters will pose a test for host Jimmy Kimmel, who'll be presiding over the Feb. 26 Oscarcast for the first time. While the Academy Awards are still among the most-watched TV programs of the year, ratings have been in decline the last two years. Last year's broadcast, hosted by Chris Rock, drew 34.4 million viewers, an eight-year-low.

Rock's show, which he introduced as "the White People's Choice Awards," was rife with Hollywood's diversity debate. This year's — where politics may take over the spotlight — will surely be seen as an improvement. But many have always held that the industry's inclusivity problems are rooted not in its award shows but in its power brokers: executives, agents and producers. Latinos will likely be on the outside of this year's Oscars. And no woman is considered in the running for best director.

Yet this year's most competitive category is best actress, where Emma Stone ("La La Land"), Natalie Portman ("Jackie"), Amy Adams ("Arrival"), Meryl Streep ("Florence Foster Jenkins"), Annette Bening ("20th Century Women"), Isabelle Huppert ("Elle"), Ruth Negga ("Loving") and Taraji P. Henson ("Hidden Figures") will be whittled down to five.

While once seen as a sure-thing, Nate Parker's Nat Turner drama "The Birth of a Nation" saw its Oscar fortunes collapse when rape allegations from 1999 against Parker resurfaced. And yet the fortunes of another actor-director previously shunned by Hollywood may be turning. Mel Gibson's World War II drama "Hacksaw Ridge" is hoping for a best picture nomination.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

Strong January storms stir destruction from coast-to-coast

NEW YORK (AP) — From California to the Deep South to the Northeast, millions of Americans were contending with death and destruction from damaging January weather. Flooding, high winds and suspected tornadoes have roused people from their homes. A deadly storm system tore across the Deep South, a nor'easter lashed the East Coast and rainfall records fell in California.

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Some more details on the wild weather:

DEEP SOUTH DEVASTATION

A powerful storm system that tore across the Deep South over the weekend killed 20 people, including 15 in south Georgia. Rescuers were going through stricken areas Monday, searching for possible survivors.

Patrick Marsh of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, said 39 possible tornadoes were reported across the Southeast from early Saturday into Sunday evening.

Marsh said while the risk of tornadoes is strongest in the spring in the central U.S., it "never really goes to zero" for most of the year in the Southeast.

Data from the Storm Prediction Center shows that, over the past decade, the nation has seen an average of 38 tornadoes in January, ranging from a high of 84 in 2008 to just four in 2014.

NOR'EASTER

Millions of people from the mid-Atlantic through New England were being advised to hunker down as a nor'easter moved up the coast.

High wind warnings and advisories were in effect throughout the region. Some wind gusts were expected to approach 60 mph, while offshore winds could reach hurricane levels of 74 mph or higher.

Train service was interrupted by downed power lines. Amtrak suspended service for Northeast Regional and Acela Express trains traveling in New Jersey, and NJ Transit halted service between Trenton and New York City. Other railroads also were also contending with downed trees and utility poles on tracks.

Flooding and beach erosion was expected Monday and Tuesday. Downed power lines were also expected.

In Philadelphia, police say a man was killed when he was struck at a car lot by a sign knocked off a wall, and panels from a multistory mural blew off another wall and hit two parked cars.

In New Jersey, strong winds blew part of the roof off an oceanfront condo building in Long Branch. Debris fell onto several parked cars below.

In upstate New York and into northern New England, forecasts were calling for possibly as much as six inches of snow and sleet.

WILD AND WET WEST

California finally got a break Monday from a three-day winter storm that broke rainfall records, washed out roads and churned up tremendous waves. Sunshine and rainbows alternated with thunderclaps, downpours, snow and hail as the last of the storm system broke up.

Authorities reported at least four people dead and several missing. Hail was reported northwest of Los Angeles, nearly 4 inches of rain fell south of the city and wind gusts topped 60 mph in some areas.

Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday declared a state of emergency for 50 California counties that were drenched by December and January storms that caused tens of millions of dollars in damage.

Further north, an avalanche shut down a highway in the Sierra Nevada mountains, and nearly 3 feet of snow fell on ski resorts. Avalanche warnings were issued for northern Utah. Forecasters predicted up to a foot of snow and winds gusting to near 50 mph.

The wet winter weather follows years of drought.

Push to save Pacific Rim trade deal after US exits TPP pact

By KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Several countries expressed hope Tuesday that the Trans-Pacific Partnership could be salvaged, after President Donald Trump's decision on a U.S. withdrawal from the trade pact left its future in serious jeopardy.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull acknowledged Trump's move was a massive blow to the 12-nation agreement, but suggested other countries, such as China, may help fill the void left by the U.S.

"Losing the United States from the TPP is a big loss, there is no question about that," Turnbull told reporters. "But we are not about to walk away from our commitment to Australian jobs."

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As expected, Trump used one of his first actions in office to officially abandon the trade deal on Monday, dubbing it a detriment to American businesses. He favors one-on-one agreements with other nations over multinational pacts.

Leaders of some of the 11 other nations involved in the initiative earlier said they would move forward with the agreement in some form, with or without the U.S.

Turnbull said he had discussed the pact's future recently with the prime ministers of Japan, Singapore and New Zealand, all TPP members, and believed the pact could survive without the U.S.

Other TPP members are Canada, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei.

"All of us are working to see how we can ensure we maintain this momentum toward open markets and free trade," Turnbull said. "Believe me, protectionism is not a ladder to get you out of the low growth trap. It is a shovel to dig it deeper."

The U.S. about-face on the deal is a setback for leaders of other TPP countries who invested political capital in fighting to get it ratified.

That includes Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who told lawmakers during parliamentary debate that he hoped to gain Trump's "understanding" on the TPP's importance. Abe has said he hopes to meet with Trump as soon as possible.

Japan completed the TPP ratification process last week, well aware Trump planned to drop out. Abe said its goals were still important for Japan and the TPP could be a model for trade deals with other nations, including those in Europe.

Malaysia's Second Trade Minister Ong Ka Chuan said that the remaining 11 TPP members will meet to discuss the next steps.

"Twelve countries signed the (TPP), but now one wants out. The other 11 can continue by making change to the clauses. There are many possibilities that these 11 countries can still proceed with," the Bernama news agency quoted him as saying. He didn't elaborate.

Turnbull said that in theory China could join the pact following the U.S. departure. But that would require a revamp of the deal. In its current form, the TPP can only take effect after it is ratified by six countries that account for 85 percent of its members' combined gross domestic product. The U.S. made up 60 percent of the TPP's combined GDP, so it could not be implemented as it stands now.

Though he didn't suggest Trump himself would reverse his position, Turnbull did say the U.S. eventually might.

"You have to recognize that his secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, has been a longtime advocate for it," Turnbull said, referring to Trump's nominee. "The Republican Party in the Congress have been strong supporters of the TPP. It is possible that U.S. policy could change over time on this, as it has done on other trade deals."

New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English showed little enthusiasm for a "one-on-one" bilateral trade deal with the U.S.

"If you ask me today, I'd say there's a pretty low chance of that happening in a form that we'd find satisfactory," Prime Minister Bill English told reporters in Wellington. "But we wouldn't want to rule it out, any more than we'd want to rule out other versions of progress on free trade, with TPP or not."

English said he agrees with his predecessor John Key's view that the U.S. risks ceding some influence to China in the Pacific without the TPP.

"That's why I've indicated we'd be interested in preserving the option or of finding other ways of encouraging the engagement of the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific," English said.

Although losing the U.S. as part of the pact means losing nearly two-thirds of its market, English said the initiative was still advantageous for New Zealand and therefore worth pursuing.

Whatever the deal's fate, the region shows no sign of retreating from the market-opening trend that helped transform its many developing nations into a relatively stable zone of affluent, middle-income economies.

The greater concern is the uncertainty generated by Trump's threats to impose tariffs of up to 45 percent on some imports. The U.S. is the largest single market for China and Japan, and indirectly a huge source

of demand for many of the commodities and goods produced across the region.

Closing U.S. doors to trade may well backfire, said Ong.

"The U.S. was the one encouraging free trade," Ong said. "Suddenly, it is now trying to stop it. There's a possibility this would trigger retaliation by a number of other countries."

Associated Press writers Nick Perry in Wellington, New Zealand; Elaine Kurtenbach and Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo; and Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, contributed to this report.

Trump moves to pull US out of big Asia trade deal

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Charting a new American course abroad, President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership on Monday, using one of his first actions in office to reject a centerpiece of Barack Obama's attempts to counter China and deepen U.S. ties in Asia.

Trump's move on trade aimed to fulfill a central campaign promise even as he appeared to be fixated on re-litigating the 2016 election.

In a meeting with congressional leaders on Monday night, Trump claimed that 3 to 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally voted in the election, costing him the popular vote, according to a Democratic aide familiar with the exchange who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting. There has been no evidence to back up that claim.

Trump's assertions came in a White House meeting with Democratic and Republican congressional leaders. They were similar to claims he made on Twitter in late November that he had won the electoral college in a "landslide" and "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally." Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by nearly 2.9 million votes despite losing the electoral college.

Trump aimed to make jobs and the economy the focal point of his first few days in office. He has repeatedly cast the 12-nation trade pact — which was eagerly sought by U.S. allies in Asia — as detrimental to American businesses.

"Great thing for the American worker that we just did," Trump said in brief remarks as he signed a notice in the Oval Office.

The Obama administration spent years negotiating the Pacific Rim pact, though the mood in Washington on trade soured over time. Obama never sent the accord to Congress for ratification, making Trump's actions Monday largely symbolic.

For Trump, the start of his first full week in office amounted to a reset after a tumultuous weekend dominated by his and his spokesman's false statements about inauguration crowds and their vigorous complaints about media coverage of the celebrations. While Trump's advisers have long accepted his tendency to become preoccupied by seemingly insignificant issues, some privately conceded that his focus on inauguration crowds was unhelpful on the opening weekend of his presidency.

On Monday, the new president tried to regroup. He spent the day bounding from one ornate room of the White House to another for meetings, often ordering aides to summon journalists from their West Wing workspace at a moment's notice for unscheduled statements and photo opportunities.

In addition to his executive action on TPP, Trump signed memorandums freezing most federal government hiring — though he noted an exception for the military — and reinstating a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option. The regulation, known as the "Mexico City Policy," has been a political volleyball, instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984.

The actions were among the long list of steps candidate Trump pledged to take on his opening day as president. But other "Day One" promises were going unfulfilled Monday, including plans to propose a constitutional amendment imposing term limits on members of Congress and terminating Obama's executive actions deferring deportations for some people living in the U.S. illegally.

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Spokesman Sean Spicer said Monday that Trump intended to follow through on his proposals, though on a more extended timeframe to ensure maximum attention for each move.

Yet he appeared to suggest that Trump would not move quickly — or perhaps at all — to reinstate deportations for young immigrants protected from deportation under the Obama administration.

Spicer said Trump's focus would be on people in the U.S. illegally who have criminal records or who pose a threat.

"That's where the priority's going to be, and then we're going to continue to work through the entire number of folks that are here illegally," he said.

Spicer — making his first appearance at the briefing room podium since his angry tirade against the press on Saturday — also appeared to back away from Trump's assertion that he could move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. While presidential candidates have long made similar pledges, all have abandoned the idea over concerns that following through would further inflame tensions in the volatile region.

"We are at the early stages in this decision-making process," Spicer said of the possible embassy relocation. "If it was already a decision, then we wouldn't be going through a process."

Spicer struck a far more conciliatory tone with reporters in Monday's briefing and attempted to make light of his weekend appearance, which included multiple inaccurate statements about the inauguration. He conceded that he was relying on incomplete information when he used public transportation figures to boast about the crowd size, but stood by his unverifiable claim that Trump's swearing-in was the most watched in history, counting internet views as well as TV.

The crowd actually in attendance was clearly smaller than for Obama's 2009 inauguration, though Trump denied that fact.

Monday was mostly a business day for Trump. The new president, who prefers to solicit opinions from numerous people before making decisions, huddled with corporate leaders, including Tesla's Elon Musk and Marillyn Hewson, and union heads. Eager to show off his new digs, Trump ended both meetings by bringing his guests in to see the Oval Office.

In his discussions with executives, Trump warned that he would impose a "substantial border tax" on companies that move their manufacturing out of the United States. He reiterated his campaign pledge to lower taxes for companies that stay in the U.S., as well as for the middle class, "anywhere from 15 to 25 percent," although he has not been clear on how he intends to make up for lost tax revenue.

He said of his incentives for businesses, "All you have to do is stay."

In the evening, Trump hosted a White House reception for lawmakers from both parties and a separate private meeting with House Speaker Paul Ryan to discuss Republicans' legislative priorities. His choice for CIA director, Mike Pompeo, was sworn in by Vice President Mike Pence on Monday night.

As Trump pressed forward with executive actions, a legal watchdog group filed a lawsuit alleging he is violating the so-called emoluments clause in the Constitution by allowing his business to accept payments from foreign governments. The liberal-funded watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics says the clause prohibits Trump from receiving money from diplomats for stays at his hotels or from foreign governments for leases of office space in his buildings.

Asked about the suit, Trump said it was "totally without merit."

Later Monday, spokesman Spicer said Trump has left his businesses as promised, handing over control to his two adult sons.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire, Jill Colvin, Erica Werner and Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Senate panel narrowly backs Trump's choice for top diplomat

By **RICHARD LARDNER** and **ERICA WERNER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rex Tillerson's bid to be secretary of state narrowly won approval Monday from the Republican-led Foreign Relations Committee, a move that all but assures the full Senate will confirm President Donald Trump's pick for the key Cabinet post.

Members of the panel voted along party lines, 11-10, to back Tillerson following a contentious confirmation hearing nearly two weeks ago that stoked concerns he might not win the panel's recommendation. But just hours before members cast their votes, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., declared his support for Tillerson, backing off from a challenge to the new president.

Rubio said that despite serious reservations about Tillerson, particularly over his views on Russia, he believed a president was entitled to significant deference in assembling his Cabinet.

None of the committee's 10 Democrats voted for Tillerson. They cited concerns Tillerson would continue to view the world through the lens of a corporate executive and not the nation's chief diplomat.

Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, the panel's top Democrat, said Tillerson "equivocated" during his confirmation hearing on questions about human rights, civil society and press and religious freedoms, and repeatedly prioritized "narrow business interests ahead of these core national security interests."

Every nominee for the job going back at least four decades has been approved by overwhelming votes from both sides in the Foreign Relations Committee, as senators have traditionally wanted to deliver a bipartisan display of confidence to the nation's top diplomat. No other nominee since 1977 has received more than two "no" votes from the committee.

Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the committee's Republican chairman, said he has "no doubt" Tillerson is well-qualified, citing his leadership of the energy giant. Corker chided his colleagues who had demanded information about Tillerson's personal taxes, saying the material had been used to ask "silly, silly questions."

Corker also criticized unnamed lawmakers who held Tillerson responsible for comments Trump made during the presidential campaign or during his inauguration speech.

"To me, Mr. Tillerson is an adult who's been around," said Corker, adding that Tillerson can be a "very good anchor" on issues that Congress cares about.

Rubio announced he would vote for Tillerson in a statement posted on Facebook. "Despite my reservations, I will support Mr. Tillerson's nomination in committee and in the full Senate," said Rubio, who'd come under strong pressure from fellow Republicans to back the nomination and avoid dealing Trump an embarrassing setback in the early days of his presidency.

Rubio had clashed with Tillerson at a committee hearing earlier this month, bristling at his refusal to label Russian President Vladimir Putin a "war criminal" and his failure to condemn human rights violations in Saudi Arabia and the Philippines in strong enough terms. He chided Tillerson over the need for "moral clarity." But in the end, after unsuccessfully opposing Trump for the GOP nomination last year before coming around to support him, Rubio decided to fall in line this time, too.

His statement came after the nomination got a boost Sunday from two influential Republican senators, John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who also offered tepid endorsements for Tillerson. Like Rubio, McCain and Graham had voiced concerns in light of Tillerson's long history of personal dealings with Putin, his record of doing oil deals in Russia and his questioning of the U.S. sanctions on that country.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said he was encouraged by several of Tillerson's public stances, including "his clear-eyed understanding of the threat posed by Putin's Russia" and his commitment to NATO. But Coons said the differences on key issues between himself and Tillerson outweighed the similarities.

"I believe that climate change is a pressing national security threat," Coons said. "I believe that advocating for human rights, a free press, and democracy around the world advances our own security and economic interests here at home."

Further roiling the debate is U.S. intelligence's assessment that Russia meddled in the presidential election to help Trump defeat Hillary Clinton.

Even while announcing his support for Tillerson, Rubio laid out a series of concerns in his statement Monday.

"Despite his extensive experience in Russia and his personal relationship with many of its leaders, he claimed he did not have sufficient information to determine whether Putin and his cronies were responsible for ordering the murder of countless dissidents, journalists and political opponents," Rubio said of Tillerson. "He indicated he would support sanctions on Putin for meddling in our elections only if they met the impossible condition that they not affect U.S. businesses operating in Russia."

Associated Press researcher Monika Mathur contributed to this report.

Follow Richard Lardner on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

Police: 'Good Samaritan' shot robber who had killed man

By JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A "good Samaritan" shot and wounded an armed robber at a San Antonio mall after another man was killed while confronting two people who had just held up a jewelry store, a police spokesman said Monday.

The licensed concealed handgun holder, whose name has not been released by authorities, believed other people were in danger and was within his rights to use his gun following the Sunday robbery, said San Antonio police spokesman Officer Doug Greene. The wounded suspect was hospitalized in critical condition Monday; the second suspect, who shot and wounded two people in the Rolling Oaks Mall while running away, was captured later Sunday.

"It was obvious it was a very dangerous situation and that lives were being threatened and (the two robbers) were armed with weapons and ... the good Samaritan with the (concealed handgun) license could have been injured as well," Greene said. "We just ask people to use their best judgment when they get into situations like this."

Police described both men who tried to intervene as "good Samaritans." Greene said the men did not know each other.

The man who was killed was identified by the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office as 42-year-old Jonathan Murphy. He was unarmed but nonetheless tried to stop the robbers outside the jewelry store, according to Greene, who didn't immediately know how Murphy tried to stop them or whether there was a physical altercation before Murphy was shot.

The man with the concealed handgun saw the shooting and fired multiple times at the robber who had shot Murphy, Greene said. He did not know how many people were in the mall at the time.

Murphy had been at the jewelry store with his wife to get their wedding rings cleaned, said family friend Chris Cercone. He believes Murphy, who managed sales at a local car dealership and lived in nearby Cibolo, was looking out for the safety of his wife and others at the store when he confronted the robbers.

"John always looked out for his family and he'd do anything to protect his family and others. And I believe that cost him his life," said Cercone, who is an attorney in San Francisco and is dating Murphy's stepdaughter.

Murphy "was a protector in every sense of the word," said Cercone, who has set up a GoFundMe page (<http://bit.ly/2jHmpt>) for Murphy's family.

Police Chief William McManus called Murphy's death senseless "because it seems like the gentleman was trying to do the right thing," Greene said.

Asked whether people with concealed weapons should intervene in such situations, Greene said, "It really depends on that concealed handgun license holder, on how comfortable they feel, at what level do they think they need to respond."

Authorities said both robbery suspects face preliminary charges of capital murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

The two people who were wounded were hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries. Two other people — a woman who complained of chest pains and a pregnant woman who had labor pains — were also taken to hospitals.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter at www.twitter.com/juanlozano70

Bush ready to leave intensive care; wife Barbara goes home

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush is still suffering from pneumonia, but is well enough to leave the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital, doctors said Monday. His wife, Barbara, has been discharged from the same facility after completing treatment for bronchitis.

The 92-year-old former president was struggling to breathe when he was admitted to the Houston Methodist Hospital Jan. 14. Last week, he was breathing with the aid of a ventilator in the ICU, but doctors removed the breathing tube on Friday and by Monday were talking about the possibility that he could return home soon.

Dr. Amy Mynderse said at a news conference that the former president is "sitting up, watching TV and is waiting anxiously for his favorite oyster stew for lunch."

"He's on minimal oxygen, joking and laughing with the nurses and doctors," she said.

Dr. Clint Doerr said Bush was still coughing "a fair amount" but that if he continues to improve, he could be discharged from the hospital by Friday or over the weekend.

"He's excited to get home and he's feeling well," Mynderse said, describing Bush as "not your average 92-year-old."

Mynderse said when she told Bush he was being released from intensive care, he asked her: "Can I just go home?"

Meanwhile, former first lady Barbara Bush, 91, who was admitted to the facility for treatment of bronchitis on Wednesday, is "back to her normal self," Mynderse said. Mrs. Bush was told she could return home Sunday, but she opted to stay one more night to fully recover and remain close to her husband, according to family spokesman Jim McGrath.

The couple's 72-year marriage is the longest of any presidential couple in U.S. history, and the doctors said they have been a great support to each other.

"They truly do have just such an amazing love for each other and that really came across here," Mynderse said, adding that Barbara Bush spent much her hospital stay by her husband's side.

"Part of why she ended up, I think, in the hospital was because even though she was ill, she was trying to be by his bedside all the time."

Doerr said: "They're essentially therapy for each other. They help and are compliant in terms of when one of them doesn't want to take a breathing treatment, the other says, 'Get on that.' It helps our cause."

Bush, who served as president from 1989 to 1993, has a form of Parkinson's disease and uses a motorized scooter or a wheelchair for mobility. He was hospitalized in 2015 in Maine after falling at his summer home and breaking a bone in his neck. He was also hospitalized in Houston the previous December for about a week for shortness of breath. He spent Christmas 2012 in intensive care for a bronchitis-related cough and other issues.

The former president and his wife appear to have touched the medical staff with their humility.

Mynderse told reporters that when she informed the former president she would be speaking at a news conference Monday, he replied: "About what?"

"I said, 'About you!' And he said, 'People want to know about me?'" she said.

"They're so humble. They truly are the most humble people," Mynderse said.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2017. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 24, 1942, the Roberts Commission placed much of the blame for America's lack of preparedness for Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, the Navy and Army commanders.

On this date:

In 1742, Charles VII was elected Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession.

In 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

In 1908, the Boy Scouts movement began in England under the aegis of Robert Baden-Powell.

In 1924, the Russian city of Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg) was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader. (However, it has since been renamed St. Petersburg.)

In 1939, at least 28,000 people were killed by an earthquake that devastated the city of Chillan in Chile.

In 1945, Associated Press war correspondent Joseph Morton was among a group of captives executed by the Germans at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria.

In 1961, a U.S. Air Force B-52 crashed near Goldsboro, North Carolina, dropping its payload of two nuclear bombs, neither of which went off; three crew members were killed.

In 1963, a U.S. Air Force B-52 on a training mission crashed into Elephant Mountain in Maine; seven of the nine crew members were killed.

In 1965, British statesman Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

In 1975, the extremist group FALN bombed Fraunces Tavern in New York City, killing four people.

In 1989, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was executed in Florida's electric chair.

In 1992, a judge in El Salvador sentenced an army colonel and a lieutenant to 30 years in prison for their part in the 1989 massacre of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter. (However, Col. Guillermo Alfredo Benavides and Lt. Yushy Mendoza were freed in April 1993 under an amnesty law.)

Ten years ago: The Democratic-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a nonbinding measure, 12-9, dismissing President George W. Bush's plans for a troop buildup in Iraq as "not in the national interest" of the United States. Colorado's Joe Sakic (SAK'-ihk) had four assists to lead the Western Conference to a 12-9 victory in the NHL All-Star game.

Five years ago: Declaring the American dream under siege, President Barack Obama used his State of the Union address to deliver a populist challenge to shrink the gap between rich and poor, promising to tax the wealthy more and help jobless Americans get work and hang onto their homes. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney released his 2010 tax returns, showing that his annual income topped \$20 million and that he had paid about \$3 million in federal income taxes.

One year ago: A magnitude-7.1 quake knocked items off shelves and walls in Alaska, jolting the nerves of residents in the earthquake-prone region. The Denver Broncos defeated the New England Patriots, 20-18, to win the AFC Championship; the Carolina Panthers claimed the NFC Championship with a 49-15 victory over the Arizona Cardinals. Adam Rippon won his first U.S. figure skating title at the championship in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jerry Maren (Film: "The Wizard of Oz") is 98. Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 81. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 78. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 76. Singer Aaron Neville is 76. Actor Michael Ontkean is 71. Actor Daniel Auteuil is 67. Country singer-songwriter Becky Hobbs is 67. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 66. Actor William Allen Young is 63. Bandleader-musician Jools Holland is 59. Actress Nastassja Kinski is 58. Rhythm-and-blues singer Theo Peoples is 56. Country musician Keech Rainwater (Lonestar) is 54. Obama White House budget director Shaun Donovan is 51. Comedian Phil LaMarr is 50. Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sleepy Brown (Society of Soul) is 47. Actor Matthew Lillard is 47. Actress Merrilee McCommas is 46. Blues/rock singer Beth Hart

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is 45. Actor Ed Helms is 43. Actor Mark Hildreth is 39. Actress Tatyana Ali is 38. Rock musician Mitchell Marlow (Filter) is 38. Actress Carrie Coon (Film: "Gone Girl") is 36. Actor Daveed Diggs (TV: "black-ish") is 35. Actor Justin Baldoni is 33. Actress Mischa Barton is 31.

Thought for Today: "All men wish to have truth on their side; but few to be on the side of truth." — Richard Whately, British theologian (1787-1863).