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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**

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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.

Girls' Basketball at Sisseton: C game at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by the varsity game.

Friday, Jan. 27

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, apricots, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Meatballs, tea bun, baked tiny potato, carrots and dip, fruit.

Debate at Yankton

Basketball Doubleheader at Clark: Girls JV and boys JV both at 5 p.m., Girls varsity at 6:30 p.m. followed by the boys varsity game.



Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

Webster Area girls run past Groton Area

Webster Area snatched the early lead away from Groton Area with a nine-point run to pave the way to a 47-30 win in girls' basketball action played Tuesday in Groton. 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, Greg Johnson Construction and Ken's Food Fair.

Groton Area held a 10-8 first quarter lead, and fell behind at half time, 24-14, and trailed after three quarters, 40-19.

Miranda Hanson led the Tigers with six points followed by Audrey Wanner with five, Taylor Holm had four, Payton Maine, Katie Koehler and Gia Gengerke each had three and Jessica Bjerke and Jennie Doeden each had two points.

The Bearcats were led by Haley Rithmiller with 13 points followed by Lindsey Schoenbeck with 10, McKenzie Volesky and Olivia Breske each had nine, Mariah Volesky had three, and Alecia Vogel had two and Cara Shoemaker added one free throw.

Groton Area made 11 of 51 field goals for 21 percent, three of eight free throws for 38 percent and had 20 turnovers. Webster Area made 17 of 53 field goals for 32 percent, 11 of 14 free throws for 79 percent and had 12 turnovers. Groton Area had 35 rebounds with Wanner and Holm each having seven, eight steals with Koehler having three, and eight assists with Wanner having three.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 45-25. Scoring for Groton Area: Payton Maine 12, Gia Gengerke 10, Eliza Wanner 6, Tady Glover 5, Taylor Holm 4, Miranda Hanson 3, Portia Kettering 3, Sam Menzia 2.

Webster Area Girls

	2-pt	3-pt	FT	Pts	Rbs	Steals	Assists	TO	Fouls
Audrey Wanner	2-5	0-1	1-4	5	7	0	3	1	3
Katie Koehler	2-7	0-2	1-2	5	5	3	0	2	2
Jessica Bjerke	1-3	0-1	0-2	2	4	0	1	2	3
Harleigh Stange	0-0	0-5	0-0	0	1	1	2	2	0
Jennie Doeden	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	3	1	1	4	3
Taylor Holm	2-6	0-0	0-0	4	7	2	0	0	4
Miranda Hanson	0-3	2-5	0-0	6	3	1	0	6	0
Gia Gengerke	1-2	0-0	1-2	3	3	0	1	2	0
Payton Maine	0-2	1-1	0-0	3	0	0	0	1	0
Sam Menzia	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Madison Sippel	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	9-31	3-15	3-10	30	35	8	8	20	16

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Roncalli Game Stats

Roncalli led at the quarterstops at 21-4, 33-10 and 45-12.

Grace Imbery and Megan Streier led the Cavaliers with 15 points each.

Roncalli won the C game, 29-10. Scoring for Groton were Sam Menzia with four points and Caitlyn Barse with six points.

Roncalli won the JV game, 32-26. Scoring for Groton were Taylor Holm with 11, Payton Maine six, Miranda Hanson four, Sam Menzia three and Kaycie Hawkins two.

Roncalli Girls

	2-pt	3-pt	FT	Pts	Rbs	Steals	Assists	TO	Fouls
Audrey Wanner	2-9	0-0	1-4	5	3	2	1	4	2
Katie Koehler	0-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	2	2	1
Jessica Bjerke	2-5	0-1	1-2	5	7	1	0	5	3
Jennie Doeden	1-1	0-0	2-2	4	2	1	0	2	4
Taylor Holm	2-4	0-0	1-3	5	3	0	1	0	1
Alex Stange	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Miranda Hanson	1-4	1-4	0-0	5	2	1	1	2	1
Payton Maine	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	1	0	0
TOTALS	8-29	1-5	5-11	24	21	5	6	16	13

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Groton FCCLA News

In January 2017, Groton FCCLA chapter met for the January meeting in the FACS Room at 1:06p.m. There was an opening ceremony led by Madison Sippel. Lexi Harder read treasurer's report. New business includes FCCLA bake sale. January 20, at state meeting, members have to pay for some of the cost to go. Pizza party is on January 27, each member will have to have 50 points to attend the party. Members that attended the region meeting have to return the polo's to Mrs. Tietz. If members did not turn in the polos they are not able to attend the pizza party. Members have to sign up for lunch committee. FCCLA week is February 12 through the 18. Unfinished business included congratulations to members that went to the Region meeting. Payton Colestock and Kaycie Hawkins for silver and Kaylin Kucker and Nicole Marzahn for gold, Miguel See for a silver and Rielly and Kayla for a silver. Meeting was closed by President Madison Sippel.

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



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Groton Area 2nd Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Nathan Fjelstad, Thane Henschel, Keri Pappas, Erin Smith, Landon Marzahn, Trey Wright, Whitney Voss, Megan Malsam, Patrick Gengerke, Jessica Adler, Alexis Harder

3.99-3.50: Macy Knecht, Heather Lone, Sean Schuring, Paityn Bonn, Halie Yarborough, Shane Simon, Kate Helmer, Katelyn Koehler, Emily Locke, Tevin Abeln, Trevor Pray

3.49-3.00: Tage Taylor, Bennett Shabazz, Emmalea Watje, Katlyn Idt, McClain Lone, Kellyn Fluke, Hai Ku, Nicklos Menzia, Dillon Freeman, Willow Seuer, Tate Carda, Amber McKay, Nicole Fey

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Jenifer Fjelstad, Marshall Lane, Madilyn Wright, Alexis Gustafson, Madison Sippel

3.99-3.50: Hattie Weismantel, Jackson Oliver

3.49-3.00: Emilie Crosby, Insa Deden, Gia Gengerke, Brandon Keith, Hunter Monson, Erika Herr, Anthony Sippel, Alexandra Stange, Harleigh Stange, Jessica Bjerke, Brenna Johnson

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Taylor Holm, Shyla Larson, AnneMarie Smith, Emily Thompson

3.99-3.50: Tylan Glover, Cassandra Townsend, Kylie Kassube, Alexis Simon, Kaitlyn Anderson, Jillian Barton, Samantha Menzia, Ashley Garduno, Jennie Doeden, Payton Maine, Kaitlyn Kassube, Mitchell Koens, Micah Poor

3.49-3.00: Shannon Wiedrick, Korbin Blackmun, Alexa Hickenbotham

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Kaycie Hawkins

3.99-3.50: Kayla Jensen, Nicole Marzahn, KaSandra Pappas, Payton Colestock, Indigo Rogers, Tady Glover, Katlyn Kyar, Kya Jandel, Madeline Schuelke, Caitlynn Barse

3.49-3.00: Kaylin Kucker, Noah Poor, Peyton Johnson, Rylee Rosenau

Eighth Grade

4.0 GPA: Erin Unzen, Grace Wambach

3.99-3.50: Alexis Hanten, Sage Mortenson, Isaac Smith, Jasmine Gengerke, Alexa Herr, Tanae Lipp, Samantha Pappas, Trey Gengerke, Brooklyn Gilbert, Kenzie McInerney, Hailey Monson, Regan Leicht, Gabriella Merkel, Kale Pharis, Tessa Erdmann, Paxton Bonn, Alyssa Fordham, Chandler Larson, Kaden Carda, Hunter Kassube, Dragr Monson, Alex Morris, Steven Paulson, Grace Wiedrick

3.49-3.00: Tiara DeHoet, Lucas Simon, Sarah Sippel, Chloe Crosby, Eh Tha You Say, Austin Anderson, Braden Freeman, Connor Lehman, Lee Iverson

Seventh Grade

4.0 GPA: Pierce Kettering

3.99-3.50: Trista Keith, Julianna Kosel, Stella Meier, Jordan Bjerke, Madisen Bjerke, Jackson Cogley, Madeline Fliehs, Kansas Kroll, Lane Krueger, Allyssa Locke, Kennedy Anderson, Travis Townsend, Hannah Gustafson, Rease Jandel, Seth Johnson, Kaden Kurtz

3.49-3.00: Riley Gengerke, Jayden Zak, Megan Fliehs, Jackson Becker, Trey Johnson, Andrea Davidson, River Pardick, Jace Kroll, Macine McGannon, Al-Isaiah Williams

Sixth Grade


4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Andrew Marzahn, Jackson Bahr, Caleb Hanten, Kaleb Antonsen, Cole Bisbee, Kamryn Fliehs, Carter Barse, Jacob Lewandowski

3.49-3.00: Cade Larson, Brenna Carda, Brooke Gengerke, Ava Tunheim, Cadance Tullis, Elliana Weismantel, Cole Simon, Aspen Johnson, Shallyn Foertsch, Aeydon Johnson, Tannor McGannon, Michael Aalseth, Dylan Anderson, Tate Larson

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**All new
T4r**

Life-changing Results - Low impact, inclusive, total body workout

Coming Soon to the GDI Living Fitness

25 Main St., Downtown Groton

2 NuSteps

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

The T4r provides a smooth and natural motion that delivers a low impact, inclusive, total-body cardiovascular and strengthening workout for virtually all users. Get a low impact workout with high impact results.



livestream

Upcoming Events

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

Friday, Jan. 27
Double header at Clark

gdilive.com

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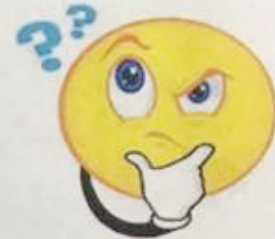
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Leave all your money and worries at home as we have you covered unless you see something on the side of the road you just can't live without then your on your own. Pack your overnight bag and your ready to enjoy



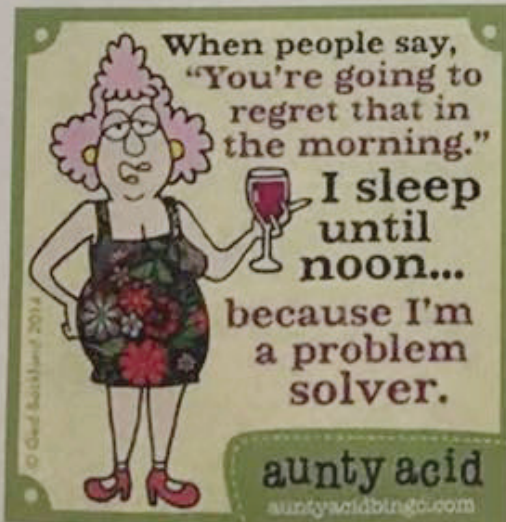
Like Adventure and Fun? Then join Duenwald Transportation on our Two Day Mystery Tour, March 1st and 2nd. Cost is \$225 per person based on double occupancy \$290 for single. For information on how to get signed up for this exciting



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

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

bus will be taking me today and tomorrow.



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Today in Weather History

January 25, 2010: A large upper level low pressure area combined with a cold surface high pressure area building in from the north brought light snow and very strong winds creating widespread blizzard conditions across north central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 1 to 4 inches combined with north winds of 25 to 40 mph gusting up to 55 mph created frequent whiteout conditions across the area. Travel was significantly affected or halted and several schools were closed. Interstate-29 was closed from the North Dakota border and south on the 25th until the morning of the 26th. The blizzard hampered efforts to restore power to the thousands of customers from the previous winter storm. The snowfall began in the morning hours from 6 to 10 am and ended around the time the blizzard conditions subsided.

1821 - The Hudson River was frozen solid during the midst of the coldest winter in forty-one years. Thousands of persons crossed the ice from New York City to New Jersey, and refreshment taverns were set up in the middle of the river to warm pedestrians. (David Ludlum)

1837 - At 7 PM a display of the Northern Lights danced above Burlington, VT. Its light was equal to the full moon. Snow and other objects reflecting the light were deeply tinged with a blood red hue. Blue, yellow and white streamers were also noted. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - Alta, UT, was in the midst of a storm that left the town buried under 105 inches of snow establishing a record for the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 - The second major storm in three days hit the Eastern Seaboard producing up to 15 inches of snow in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. Up to 30 inches of snow covered the ground in Virginia following the two storms. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - High winds created blizzard conditions in the mountains of Colorado. Winds gusted to 109 mph at Echo Lake, and a wind gust to 193 mph was reported atop Mount Evans. A "nor'easter" moving up the Atlantic Coast spread heavy snow from the Carolinas to New England, with as much as 16 inches reported in the Poconos of eastern Pennsylvania. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Bitter cold air, coming down from Alaska, settled over the Northern Rockies. Wilson WY reported a morning low of 48 degrees below zero. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. One thunderstorm in north central Texas spawned a tornado which injured three persons at Troy. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Low pressure developed explosively over east central Missouri and moved into Lower Michigan producing high winds and heavy snow across parts of Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Wind gusts to 60 mph and up to a foot of snow created near blizzard conditions in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Wind gusts in Indiana reached 76 mph at Wabash. Thunderstorms associated with the storm produced wind gusts to 54 mph at Fort Madison IA. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2000 - Heavy snow fell from the Carolinas to New England, with up to 20 inches of snow and five deaths reported. (NCDC)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
 40%						
Chance Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Chance Flurries	Chance Flurries	Decreasing Clouds	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 26 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 21 °F	Low: 11 °F	High: 29 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 31 °F

Snow Ending - Breezy - Cloudy - Seasonal Temperatures

We LOVE Your Winter Weather Reports!

WHY?

- ✓ They help us verify our forecasts & warnings
- ✓ Help fill in our observation gaps

WHAT?

- ✓ Snow Amounts (during + after storm)
- ✓ Icy roads, reduced visibility, or any other hazards you are observing

WHO?

- We love hearing from our Trained Spotters, but anyone can report!

WHEN?

- As soon as safely possible



HOW?

When measuring snow, try finding a patch of snow undisturbed by buildings, trees, etc. Take several measurements and average if possible.

- ✓ Post a report on our Facebook page -- Pictures are always welcome!
- ✓ Tweet us a report by mentioning @NWSAberdeen in your tweet
- ✓ Use the mPING app (available on iPhone, iPad, and Android)



Thursday
Clouds & Flurries
Highs: 20s

Friday
Sunshine?
Highs: Upper 20s/Low 30s

National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen

National Weather Service Aberdeen

@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 1/25/2017 4:52 AM Central

Published on: 01/25/2017 at 5:00AM

Light snow lingers across parts of the forecast area this morning however there will be little additional accumulation. Clouds will stick around however - probably through much of Thursday - though its looking like we could see some breaks with sunshine for Friday!

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 30.0 F at 11:40 AM

Low Outside Temp: 23.1 F at 10:44 PM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 9:08 PM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 54° in 1942

Record Low: -33 in 1904

Average High: 23°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.39

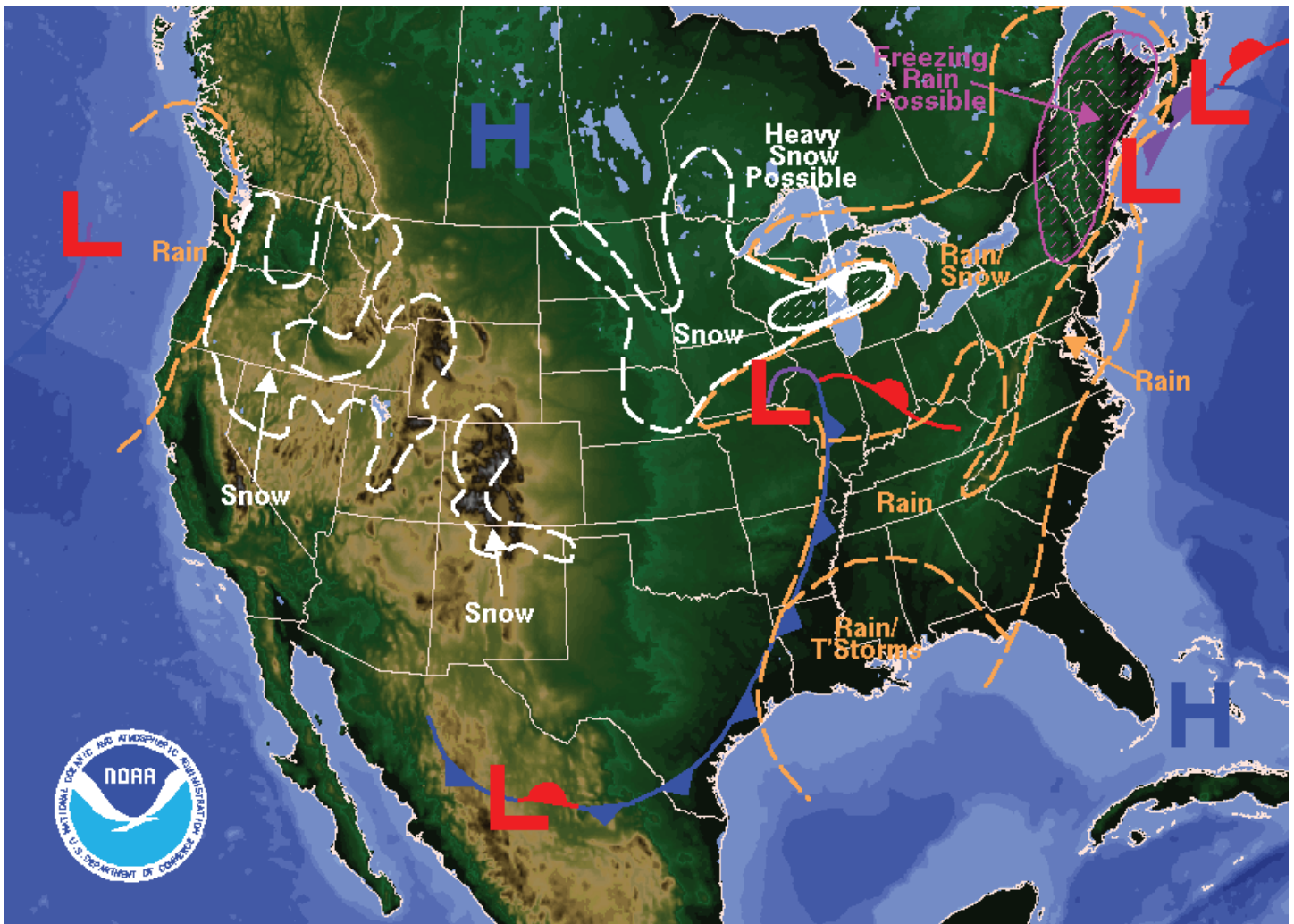
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.39

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:30 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:00 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Jan 25, 2017, issued 3:56 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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HELP NEEDED!

One of the great American authors, Alex Haley, had a picture on a wall in his office that attracted much attention. It always aroused the interest of his visitors because no one could understand its significance to the writer.

On one occasion a visitor with a perplexed look on his face asked, "Alex, why do you have a picture of a turtle sitting on the top of a fence post?"

Haley replied, "Anytime I start to thinking, 'Isn't it marvelous what I've done,' I look at that picture and remember how this turtle – me – got on that post."

Sometimes, perhaps most of the time for some of us, it is difficult to admit that if it were not for the help of others we would not be where we are. From our earliest moments until this present hour we are encouraged by nearly everyone to believe that we can do it all without the help of others.

God, speaking through Isaiah said, "...encourage one another with the words, 'Be strong!'" What great advice!

Each day God brings into our lives individuals who need help, encouragement, inspiration, words of sympathy, a look of empathy or a smile of acceptance.

A Christian is a life through which Christ lives, a voice through which He speaks and a hand through which He helps.

Blessed is the Christian who encourages others.

Prayer: Father, may we take seriously the fact that You expect us to reach up to You for guidance and then out to others in love to show Your grace and mercy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Isaiah 41:6 They help each other and say to their companions, "Be strong!"

News from the Associated Press

A timeline of the Dakota Access oil pipeline

By The Associated Press

Notable events in the dispute over the four-state, \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline.

December 2014 — Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners applies to the federal government to build the 1,700-mile Dakota Access pipeline to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Illinois. The pipeline is projected to carry half a million barrels of oil daily. The proposed route skirts the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's reservation and crosses under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota that serves as the tribe's drinking water source.

March 2016 — Iowa regulators approve the pipeline, making it the fourth and final state to grant permission.

April 2016 — Opponents establish a camp at the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri rivers in southern North Dakota for peaceful protest. Camps in the area would later swell to thousands of people.

July 2016 — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers grants pipeline permits at more than 200 water crossings. The Standing Rock Sioux sues a day later. The Cheyenne River Sioux later join the lawsuit as plaintiffs.

Aug. 10 — North Dakota authorities make the first arrests of protesters. The total has since surpassed 600, including actress Shailene Woodley and Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein.

Sept. 9 — U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg denies an attempt by the Standing Rock Sioux to halt pipeline construction. The same day, the Army, the Department of Justice and the Interior Department declare that construction bordering or under Lake Oahe won't go forward pending further review.

Nov. 20, 21 — Authorities use tear gas, rubber bullets and water sprays on protesters who they say assaulted officers with rocks and burning logs at a blockaded bridge, in one of the most violent clashes of the protest. At least 17 protesters are taken to hospitals. One officer was injured when struck in the head with a rock.

Dec. 4 — Assistant Army Secretary for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy declines to allow the pipeline to be built under Lake Oahe in part because she says alternate routes need to be considered. Energy Transfer Partners calls the decision politically motivated and accuses President Barack Obama's administration of delaying the matter until he leaves office.

Jan. 18, 2017 — The Army Corps launches a full environmental study of the pipeline's disputed Lake Oahe crossing, a study that could take up to two years. Boasberg, the federal judge, rejects an ETP request to stop the study.

Jan. 24 — President Donald Trump signs executive actions to advance the construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, along with the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

A timeline of the Keystone XL oil pipeline

By The Associated Press

Notable events in the dispute over the Keystone XL oil pipeline, which is slated to run from Canada to U.S. refineries in the Gulf Coast.

March 2008 — The U.S. State Department issues a presidential permit for a \$5.2 billion Keystone pipeline to transport crude oil.

September 2008 — TransCanada files paperwork to expand the existing Keystone pipeline with a new Keystone XL route. The pipeline would extend from Canada's tar sands through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, where it would connect with the existing Keystone pipeline route to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to specialized refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

The original Keystone pipeline route runs through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Because the Keystone XL would cross the U.S. border, the State Department must

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determine whether the project is in the national interest.

June 2010 — First Keystone pipeline goes into operation.

August 2011 — Then-Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman sends a letter to President Barack Obama asking that the proposed Keystone XL pipeline avoid the Sandhills, an area consisting of fragile, grass-covered sand dunes in western Nebraska.

Aug. 26, 2011 — The U.S. State Department issues its final environmental impact statement determining "there would be no significant impacts to most resources along the proposed project corridor."

Oct. 15, 2010 — As the permit is reviewed, then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says the department is "inclined" to approve project. The project begins to galvanize the environmental movement to pressure the Obama administration to act on climate change. Republicans and other project supporters argue the project will create jobs and help the economy.

November 2011 — Amid growing public resistance to the Keystone XL, Heineman calls lawmakers into a special session to address environmental concerns in Nebraska. Lawmakers approve a pipeline siting law that requires companies to apply through an independent state commission. Obama announces a delay, pushing off the decision until after his re-election campaign. His administration says other potential routes through Nebraska need to be studied.

Dec. 23, 2011 — Congress tries to force Obama's hand by passing legislation requiring approval of the Keystone XL pipeline within 60 days unless the president determines the project does not serve the national interest. Weeks later, Obama rejected the application but allowed TransCanada to re-apply.

April 2012 — Nebraska lawmakers rewrite the pipeline law to give the governor the power to approve the Keystone XL route through the state.

May 4, 2012 — TransCanada reapplies and restarts the federal review process.

March 1, 2013 — The State Department issues an environmental review that raises no major objections to the Keystone XL oil pipeline and says other options to get oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries are worse for climate change.

June 25, 2013 — Obama declares he will only approve the project if it doesn't worsen carbon pollution. "Our national interest would be served only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution," Obama says in a speech declaring that fighting climate change will be a major priority his second term.

Jan. 31, 2014 — The State Department releases another final environmental impact statement, again voicing no major environmental objections to the project.

Feb. 19, 2014 — A Nebraska judge overturns the state law that allowed the pipeline, throwing the project into legal limbo.

April 18, 2014 — The State Department announces it is again delaying its review, citing the legal dispute over the Nebraska route.

January 2015 — TransCanada files legal papers in nine Nebraska counties to invoke eminent domain for the land that's needed to construct, operate and maintain the pipeline.

Feb. 11, 2015 — Congress again tries to push the Obama administration to decide on the permit by passing legislation forcing the decision and sending it to the White House. Obama vetoes the bill days later.

Sept. 22, 2015 — Clinton, now seeking the Democratic nomination for president, says she opposes construction of the Keystone pipeline.

Nov. 2, 2015 — As it appears increasingly likely that Obama will reject the pipeline, TransCanada asks the administration to suspend the company's application. The State Department reviews the request for a day, and then rejects it.

Nov. 6, 2015 — Obama announces he is rejecting the permit to build the Keystone pipeline. The project is not in the national interest, he says. "America is now a global leader when it comes to taking serious action to fight climate change. And frankly, approving this project would have undercut that global leadership," he says.

June 2016 — TransCanada seeks \$15 billion in damages from the federal government in response to the Obama administration rejecting the Keystone XL pipeline.

Jan. 24, 2017 — President Donald Trump signs executive actions to advance the construction of the

Keystone XL pipeline, along with the four-state Dakota Access oil pipeline.

What's next for the Dakota Access, Keystone XL pipelines?

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — President Donald Trump's executive actions on the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines are aimed at turning the much-protested pipelines into reality. Here's a look at what may be next for the two pipelines:

WHAT THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY STOOD BEFORE TUESDAY

The \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois is nearly complete, except for a stretch underneath Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. Construction is stalled due to a court fight between developer Energy Transfer Partners and the Army Corps of Engineers over permission for the pipeline to cross under the lake amid objections from the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, which gets its drinking water from the lake.

The \$8 billion Keystone XL project was to bring oil from Canada's oil sands to Nebraska, where it would join other lines already leading to refineries along the Gulf Coast. Former President Barack Obama halted it in late 2015, declaring it would undercut U.S. efforts to clinch a global climate change deal that was a centerpiece of his environmental agenda.

WHAT THE ORDERS MEAN

Trump's move on Dakota Access didn't immediately clear the way for construction to resume, but it did order the Corps to quickly consider whether to approve the Lake Oahe crossing.

Tribal attorney Jan Hasselman said what happens next will depend on how the Corps interprets the language. He said the tribe will fight in court any reversal of the Corps' recent decision to conduct a full environmental study of the crossing — a process that could take up to two years.

Not completing a study "would be a gross violation of the tribe's treaty rights," he said.

The Corps' Northwestern Division didn't immediately comment, saying it was still studying Trump's action.

Trump's nominee for Army secretary hasn't yet been confirmed. But U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer, a North Dakota Republican who has advised Trump on energy issues, said he doesn't think that needs to happen for the Army to consider Trump's message.

On Keystone XL, Trump invited TransCanada to reapply to the State Department for a presidential permit to build and operate the pipeline. State Department approval is needed because the pipeline would cross the northern U.S. border.

Trump directed the State Department and other agencies to make a decision within 60 days of a final application and declared that a 2014 State Department environmental study satisfies required reviews under environmental and endangered species laws. Environmental groups promised a legal challenge, arguing a new application requires a new review.

WILL PROTESTERS RETURN?

Opposition to Dakota Access resulted in hundreds and sometimes thousands of people camping on federal land along the pipeline route in North Dakota. The area since August has been the site of numerous, sometimes violent clashes between protesters and police, with nearly 625 arrests.

The camp has dwindled to fewer than 300 people after the Tribal Council recently told protesters to leave due to harsh winter weather and the need to get the area cleaned up before spring flooding.

Trump's action could re-ignite protests, but "to what degree, we don't know," said Dallas Goldtooth of the Indigenous Environmental Network, which had been one of the main camp organizers before heeding the tribe's call to leave last month. That group and other organizers have since called on Dakota Access opponents to spread out around the country rather than concentrate in southern North Dakota.

Aaron Dorn, 32, from Utica, New York, said he has no plans to leave the camp.

"I'm glad Trump got elected — it wakes people up to government-controlled capitalism," he said.

Keystone XL sparked several big protests across the country, including some at the White House that ended with hundreds of arrests, as well as an encampment on South Dakota's Rosebud Reservation that lasted for several months in 2014.

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Jane Kleeb, founder and president of the Nebraska-based Bold Alliance, which fought Keystone XL, said the renewed fight to stop Keystone XL will take place on several fronts. The route still needs approval from the Nebraska Public Service Commission, which she said normally takes eight months to a year. Keystone's developers can't use eminent domain to acquire the land they need until the PSC approves the route, she said, and affected farmers and ranchers have already dug in against it. She said that will mean more fights in court — and more protests on the land.

"You'll see tepees, you'll see tractors," Kleeb said. "You'll see lots of people who are directly at risk, then all of our allies who support us. ... Now everybody's awareness level is a hundred times more because of Dakota Access."

WHAT DO THE DEVELOPERS SAY?

Dakota Access developer Energy Transfer Partners didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump's action. But a recent court filing indicates the company is ready to drill under Lake Oahe if it gets permission from the Corps. The company has entry and exit holes drilled on either side and has already put oil in the pipeline leading up to the lake in anticipation of finishing the project.

Keystone XL developer TransCanada said it will take up Trump on his invitation to reapply for a permit.

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly and Ken Thomas contributed to this story from Washington. AP writer Steve Karnowski contributed from Minneapolis.

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Avon vs. Bridgewater-Emery, ppd.

Beresford vs. Bon Homme, ppd. to Feb 6.

Lawton-Bronson, Iowa vs. Elk Point-Jefferson, ppd.

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton vs. Wagner, ppd. to Feb 3.

Brookings vs. Yankton, ppd. to Feb 9.

Freeman Academy/Marion vs. Ethan, ppd.

Parkston vs. Platte-Geddes, ppd. to Jan 28.

Viborg-Hurley vs. Alcester-Hudson, ppd. to Feb 20.

Irene-Wakonda vs. Centerville, ppd. to Jan 30.

Gayville-Volin vs. Menno, ppd. to Feb 2.

Howard vs. Parker, ppd.

South Sioux City, Neb. vs. Sioux Falls Lincoln, ppd. to Feb 20.

Vermillion vs. West Central, ppd. to Jan 28.

Freeman vs. McCook Central/Montrose, ppd. to Jan 26.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Sioux Falls Lincoln vs. South Sioux City, Neb., ppd. to Jan 26.

Yankton vs. Brookings, ppd. to Feb 13.

Parkston vs. Platte-Geddes, ppd.

Gregory vs. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, ppd.

Howard vs. Parker, ppd.

Burke/South Central vs. Avon, ppd.

Beresford vs. Bon Homme, ppd. to Feb 6.

Lawton-Bronson, Iowa vs. Elk Point-Jefferson, ppd.

Brookings vs. Yankton, ppd. to Feb 13.

Wagner vs. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, ppd. to Feb 3.

House panel ends investigation into lawmaker who resigned

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota legislative panel ended an investigation Tuesday into the conduct of a state representative who resigned after admitting to sexual contact with two interns.

But, the House Select Committee on Discipline and Expulsion voted unanimously that sexual contact between a legislator and an intern is a violation of the Legislature's joint rules. The panel met a day after the resignation of 26-year-old former Republican Rep. Mathew Wollmann.

"It certainly established that if you engage in any type of sexual contact with any legislative intern or page, that's a violation of the rules," said Republican Rep. Timothy Johns, chairman of the committee. "That's the bottom line."

In South Dakota, legislative interns are college students, some 21 or older. Legislative rules prohibit sexual harassment and call on lawmakers to maintain "the highest of moral and ethical standards."

Wollmann said last week that both interns were over age 21 and that the contact during the 2015 and 2016 sessions was consensual. Had he remained, lawmakers could have decided to expel, censure, discipline or exonerate Wollmann.

The panel had a letter sent to 2015 and 2016 legislative interns asking if they wished to make a complaint about Wollmann. Rep. Mike Stevens, a member of the panel, said the committee didn't receive any such complaints. They also pursued video from KSFY-TV of a former legislative intern that may contain allegations about Wollmann's conduct, but the station declined to provide it, Johns said.

Wollmann's public admission came shortly after a legislative committee voted down a new rule that would have added language saying, "No legislator or legislative employee may have sexual contact with any legislative intern or page."

Republican Sen. Stace Nelson proposed the rule change in the committee and unsuccessfully pushed for similar language on the Senate floor. He said he's putting forward a "more aggressive" proposal that would require mandatory reporting to ensure that such conduct doesn't go unreported again.

Wollmann didn't immediately respond to a telephone message requesting comment from The Associated Press. Wollmann, of Madison, was first elected to the House in 2014.

State House votes to cast aside government ethics overhaul

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Republican-backed bill that would dismantle a voter-approved government ethics overhaul passed Tuesday through the House, where GOP lawmakers decried the ballot measure campaign as deceptive and said the initiative is likely unconstitutional.

The chamber voted 54-13 for the repeal bill, which would remove from law 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 ballot measure, called Initiated Measure 22, and backers have criticized the Legislature for working to overturn the result of the November election.

Democrats in the minority urged Republicans controlling the House not to sweep away the initiative.

"The perception is that this legislature is running head over heels, just as fast they can, to get repealed what the voters voted on," Democratic Rep. Susan Wismer said.

The repeal bill, which is sponsored by nearly 50 of 70 representatives and 27 out of 35 senators, is barreling through the Legislature. It now heads to the Senate, where a Wednesday hearing was scheduled before it had passed out of the House. Senate President Pro Tempore Brock Greenfield, the bill's main sponsor in that chamber, said he hopes it's on Gov. Dennis Daugaard's desk by the end of the week.

"People knew the political nature of the bill and would just as soon deal with it," Greenfield said.

The bill requires a two-thirds margin in each chamber to pass. An emergency provision means it would take effect immediately, and foes say that would also block voters from referring it to the ballot.

Initiated Measure 22 has been in the crosshairs since before the session started. A group of two dozen GOP legislators and others filed a lawsuit in November challenging the measure's constitutionality in state

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court. A judge put the initiative on hold while the lawsuit moves forward.

Republican Rep. Larry Rhoden, the repeal bill's prime sponsor, said the top reason to remove the law is that it's "simply unconstitutional." Dismantling it would clear the way for discussions on how to replace the initiative, he said.

Daugaard has said he will support efforts to repeal and supplant the initiative. Lawmakers have filed several potential replacement proposals, including a measure that would tighten restrictions on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers and a bill that would establish a state government accountability board.

The board, which would be attached to the attorney general's office, would review and investigate issues ranging from bribery to theft of public funds. Republican House Speaker Mark Mickelson, a sponsor of both bills, said lawmakers are pursuing replacements that are constitutional and that don't come with the unintended consequences attached to Initiated Measure 22.

Doug Kronaizl, a spokesman for pro-initiative group Represent South Dakota, said lawmakers should work with the initiative, since it was passed by the voters.

"We're focusing right now on fighting the repeal," he said. "If legislators choose to repeal a voter-enacted law with an emergency clause, then we'll start taking a look at what comes next."

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

The group has spent over \$23,000 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.

Rapid City volunteers look to expand bird rehab services

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two volunteers who take care of birds out of their own homes are hoping to bring to life a Raptor Center campus to provide rehabilitation and education.

John Halverson and Maggie Engler have purchased about 13 acres outside of Rapid City to build the Black Hills Raptor Center, The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2jhoeGU>) reported.

Halverson and Engler's plans include four main buildings that'll include office space, a food preparation kitchen, spaces for veterinary services, housing for the birds and an education center.

The center's new space will also allow it to participate in ongoing studies furthering the understanding of the birds by teaming up with other raptor centers, state and federal agencies, and universities.

The center's rehabilitation services will be available for birds in a four-state region, including western South Dakota, northwestern Nebraska, eastern Wyoming and western North Dakota.

The volunteers with the center currently care for six birds and have never had the chance to rehabilitate birds because they don't have the facilities to do so. Engler said the federal government applies strict rules to their operations.

Federal rules prevent Halverson and Engler from rehabilitating birds in their homes, so they only care for birds that can't return to the wild.

"We've had great people step up and help cover the costs of feed and great number of local people local businesses that support us to defray the cost of insurance and upkeep," Halverson said.

Engler said she is thrilled to have the center's hard work since its creation in 2010 finally coming to fruition. "It is all finally coming together," Engler said. "It's very, very exciting."

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Rebuking Obama, Trump boosts Keystone XL, Dakota pipelines

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **KEN THOMAS**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump moved swiftly Tuesday to advance the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines, signing executive actions to aggressively overhaul America's energy policy and deal a sharp blow to Barack Obama's legacy on climate change.

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Obama had personally halted the Keystone XL project, which was to bring oil from Canada to the U.S., and major protest demonstrations have frozen work on the Dakota pipeline.

Trump, in his continuing effort to undo the past eight years of a Democratic president, invited the Keystone builder, TransCanada, to resubmit its application to the State Department for a presidential permit to construct and operate the pipeline. The company said it would reapply.

Obama halted the proposed pipeline in late 2015, declaring it would undercut U.S. efforts to clinch a global climate change deal that was a centerpiece of his environmental agenda.

Trump also ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to quickly review and approve construction and easement requests for the Dakota Access pipeline, a project that has led to major protests by American Indian groups and their supporters.

"From now on we are going to start making pipelines in the United States," Trump said from the Oval Office, where he also vowed to require the actual pipe for Keystone to be manufactured in America.

Trump's actions four days after he took office came on the heels of his decision to withdraw from a major trade agreement as he upends Obama's policies, winning praise from congressional Republicans. Democrats in energy-producing state also hailed Trump's actions on the pipelines as long-awaited steps to boost jobs and move the country toward energy independence.

But environmental groups and Native American tribes who have fought both projects for years pledged to defy Trump.

"President Trump will live to regret his actions today," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club. "Unwittingly he is beginning to build a wall — a wall of resistance. This fight is far from over."

The 1,179-mile Keystone XL pipeline would run from Canada to Nebraska, where it would join other lines already leading to refineries along the Gulf Coast.

Trump directed the State Department and other agencies to make a decision within 60 days of a final application and declared that a 2014 State Department environmental study satisfies required reviews under environmental and endangered species laws. Environmental groups promised a legal challenge, arguing a new application requires a new review.

State Department approval is needed because the pipeline would cross the northern U.S. border.

As a practical matter, the Dakota Access project is likely to be completed first. The company building it says it is complete except for a section that would pass under the Missouri River near a camp in North Dakota where pipeline opponents are demonstrating.

The 1,200-mile pipeline would carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Illinois. The proposed route skirts the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's reservation and crosses under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota that serves as the tribe's drinking water source.

The tribe's chairman accused Trump of breaking the law, citing treaty rights with the United States, and promised to fight the action in court.

"Americans know this pipeline was unfairly rerouted toward our nation and without our consent," Dave Archambault said.

The Army decided last year to explore alternate routes for the Dakota pipeline after the tribe and its supporters said it threatened drinking water and Native American cultural sites. The company developing the pipeline, Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners, says it will be safe.

"Today's news is a breath of fresh air, and proof that President Trump won't let radical special-interest groups stand in the way of doing what's best for American workers," said Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the second-ranking Republican in the Senate.

In July, the Army Corps of Engineers granted the company needed permits, but in September the agency said further analysis was needed. On Dec. 4, the assistant Army secretary for civil works, Jo-Ellen Darcy, said alternate routes needed to be considered.

About 600 pipeline opponents have been arrested in North Dakota since last year. An encampment on Corps land along the pipeline route that once hosted thousands of protesters has dwindled to fewer than 300 after the Tribal Council recently urged people to leave due to harsh winter weather. Much of the camp is buried in two feet of snow and many of the teepee tarps have been taken down, leaving only the

frames. Law enforcement continues a presence on nearby bluffs.

Trump's action could re-ignite large-scale protests, said Dallas Goldtooth of the Indigenous Environmental Network, one of the main camp organizers.

"Standing Rock has ignited a fire in all of us," Goldtooth said. "We hope to see those fires continue to burn."

Trump hailed the Keystone project during a late October campaign swing through Florida, saying, "We're going to approve energy infrastructure projects like the Keystone pipeline and many more." He said it could provide "a lot of jobs, a lot of good things."

Until last year, Trump owned a small amount of stock in Energy Transfer Partners and at least \$100,000 in Phillips 66, an energy company that owns one-quarter of the Dakota pipeline. Trump sold the shares last year as part of a wide-ranging stock divestment, a spokesman said.

Environmental groups blasted Tuesday's order as a bid by Trump to serve the oil industry. Trump's nominee for secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, is a former Exxon Mobil CEO, and his pick for energy secretary, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, owns stock in Energy Transfers and served on its board until his nomination for the energy post.

"Donald Trump is a con man and this is a con on a massive scale," said Bill McKibben, co-founder of the environmental group 350.org.

Associated Press writer James MacPherson in Cannon Ball, North Dakota, contributed to this story.

Prosecutors charge 2 in pipeline protest at Vikings stadium

Eds: APNewsNow.

Prosecutors have charged two protesters with misdemeanors for hanging from the rafters during a Vikings game at U.S. Bank Stadium and unfurling a banner protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline. Thirty-three-year-old Karl Zimmermann Mayo of Minneapolis and 26-year-old Sen Holiday of St. Paul were charged Tuesday with burglary, disorderly conduct and trespass. They were arrested Jan. 1 after authorities say they unfurled a banner urging Minneapolis-based U.S. Bank to divest from the pipeline.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Prosecutors have charged two people with misdemeanors for hanging from the rafters during a Minnesota Vikings game at U.S. Bank Stadium and unfurling a banner protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Thirty-three-year-old Karl Zimmermann Mayo of Minneapolis and 26-year-old Sen Holiday of St. Paul were charged Tuesday with burglary, disorderly conduct and trespass. Their first appearance is Feb. 17.

Zimmermann Mayo and Holiday were arrested Jan. 1 after authorities say they unfurled a banner urging Minneapolis-based U.S. Bank to divest from the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline. Fans seated below were evacuated.

Defense attorney Tim Phillips says Zimmermann Mayo and Holiday were acting in solidarity with opponents who contend the pipeline could affect drinking water and Native American artifacts. Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners says the pipeline will be safe.

South Dakota lawmakers decry pornography as health risk

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota senators have unanimously passed a resolution calling pornography a public health crisis that warrants the attention given to other statewide epidemics.

Republican Sen. Jenna Netherton of Sioux Falls says South Dakota should join other states in trying to educate the public about the harms of porn and prevent children from watching it.

Netherton sponsored the resolution. She says porn "harms men, women and children" and has gained a broader influence due to the increased use of smartphones and the internet in younger generations.

The resolution says porn leads to risky sexual activity, eating disorders and low self-esteem.

A Virginia lawmaker has proposed a similar resolution this year and Utah state legislators did the same last year, declaring it ruins marriages and the innocence of children.

Hiring picked up in just 3 states last month, fell in 5

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Employers significantly increased hiring in just three U.S. states last month, while five states reported large cuts.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that job totals were little changed in the other 42. Unemployment rates fell noticeably in 10 states and rose in just one.

The weak gains in most states partly reflect a downshift in hiring nationwide. Employers added 156,000 jobs last month, down from 204,000 in November, and the U.S. unemployment rate ticked up to 4.7 percent from 4.6 percent. In the final three months of last year, hiring averaged 165,000 a month, down from 282,000 a year earlier.

In all of last year, half the states reported large job gains, while only two — Wyoming and North Dakota — lost a significant number of positions.

Oregon reported the biggest gain in 2016, adding 3.3 percent more jobs. Florida followed, with a 3.1 percent gain, and Nevada and Washington both reported 3 percent increases.

California added the largest number of jobs, adding 332,500, followed by Florida with 251,400 and Texas with 210,200. Those increases partly reflect their larger populations.

Steady, if modest, hiring during the seven-year old recovery has pushed many states' unemployment rates to rock-bottom levels. New Hampshire has the nation's lowest rate, at 2.6 percent. Massachusetts and South Dakota follow at 2.8 percent each.

Alaska reported the nation's highest rate, at 6.7 percent. New Mexico has the second-highest, at 6.6 percent.

A woman was arrested in Black Hills after abducting her kids

HILL CITY, S.D. (AP) — A woman wanted for abducting her two children from their home in Wisconsin has been arrested in South Dakota.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office says in a social media post that Cathy Jo Brown was wanted for interfering with a custody order, a felony.

KOTA-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2jVNNOF>) that deputies received a tip Monday that a red pickup truck matching the description of Brown's vehicle was seen broken down in the Black Hills National Forest.

Deputies caught up with Brown at a Hill City hotel and arrested her.

Federal authorities had been searching the Black Hills area for Brown and her children — 9-year-old Dalton Brown and 11-year-old Averie Brown — along with another woman thought to be with them.

The children were taken into custody and are in good condition.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

South Dakota Senate panel approves science instruction bill

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Senate panel has approved a bill that says teachers can't be prohibited from discussing the strengths and weaknesses of scientific information on issues such as climate change and evolution during classes.

The Senate Education Committee on Tuesday voted 4-3 to send the measure to the chamber's floor. Republican Sen. Jeff Monroe, the bill's prime sponsor, says teachers should be able to talk about weaknesses in scientific theories.

He says he's heard from concerned teachers including one who was forced to teach climate change as a fact.

Several education organizations opposed the bill. Wade Pogany is executive director of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. He says the measure is a solution in search of a problem and could open school districts up to litigation.

Trump to take executive action advancing oil pipelines

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is expected to take executive action to advance construction of the Dakota Access and Keystone XL oil pipelines.

That's according to a person with knowledge of the action. The president is scheduled to sign orders at the White House late Tuesday morning.

The Army decided last year to explore alternate routes for the Dakota Access pipeline after the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its supporters said the pipeline threatened drinking water and Native American cultural sites. The pipeline is to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois.

Former President Barack Obama killed the proposed Keystone XL pipeline in late 2015, declaring it would have undercut U.S. efforts to clinch a global climate change deal. The pipeline would run from Canada to U.S. refineries in the Gulf Coast. The U.S. government needed to approve the pipeline because it crossed U.S. border.

The person with knowledge of the decisions insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to confirm the moves ahead of a formal announcement.

Associated Press writer Julie Pace contributed to this report.

Charges stand in South Dakota explosives case

BURKE, S.D. (AP) — A judge has refused to dismiss charges against a South Dakota man accused of making explosives at his home and threatening a veterans hospital.

Sixty-one-year-old Martin Rezac appeared in Gregory County court Monday where the defense argued the case should be dismissed because a trial was not scheduled within 180 days of his initial appearance.

The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2kdSPDI>) reports Judge John Brown decided there was good cause for the delay due to other high-profile cases and availability of evidence.

The Dallas, South Dakota man is accused of having chemicals and explosives at his home. Authorities also allege he had made comments about blowing up Veterans Affairs hospitals.

Police responded to his home on Thanksgiving 2015 after an explosion that sent him to the hospital.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Restaurants: The next front for the immigration debate?

By SOPHIA TAREEN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The national debate over immigration policy could be coming to a diner near you.

From down-home delis to upscale bistros, dozens of restaurants nationwide are seeking "sanctuary" status, a designation owners hope will help protect employees in an immigrant-heavy industry and tone down fiery rhetoric sparked by the presidential campaign. First inspired by churches, the label is something cities and other public entities have sought to offer local protections to immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, whether it's barring police from asking citizens about immigration status or refusing to cooperate with federal agents.

Roughly 80 restaurants are participating, in locations including New York, Minneapolis, Detroit, Boston, Oakland, California, and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The restaurants agree to anti-discrimination policies, put up signs on windows that pronounce their sanctuary status and receive know-your-rights training, such as webinars on how to ask federal immigration agents for proper paperwork if there's an attempted raid. Some will also offer a text line for customers or employees to report any incidents of harassment.

At Detroit's Russell Street Deli, customers walking in the front door of the racially diverse restaurant see a sign that reads: "SANCTUARY RESTAURANT, a place at the table for everyone."

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"I have this one little place where I get to decide how people treat each other," said owner Ben Hall, who is biracial and was moved to sign up after a few customers' racially tinged comments. "If someone has the need to insult someone ... then they don't get to participate. I've told them, 'There's another diner next door.'"

The movement is loosely defined and largely symbolic. Restaurants are private businesses subject to workplace law and regulations, and a sanctuary designation will do nothing to prevent federal agents from arresting any workers in the country illegally.

But organizers of the sanctuary restaurants movement say it's a response to the uncertainty surrounding President Donald Trump, whose campaign cornerstones included stepped-up deportations and a wall along the Mexican border, though he has not given details on how either would be carried out. They argue the restaurant industry is more vulnerable than others, given its heavy reliance on immigrant labor.

Not all restaurant industry groups agree with the tactic.

The National Restaurant Association, which represents roughly 500,000 businesses, is instead pushing for an immigration overhaul, including an updated verification system that confirms employees' eligibility to work in the country legally. Association Senior Vice President Steve Danon said the organization "is looking forward to working with the Trump administration" on ways to make verification "easier and more cost-efficient."

Roughly 12 million workers are in the restaurant industry and immigrants make up the majority, including up to 70 percent in big cities such as New York and Chicago. An estimated 1.3 million in the industry are immigrants living in the country without legal permission, according to Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, which launched the campaign and works to improve industry conditions.

They pitched the program with an economic argument, saying restaurants need a "robust pool of workers." In a recent letter, they appealed to Trump as a businessman and urged him to "speak out to alleviate the fear of deportation and other harassment."

"This is not about a restaurant harboring people in a closet. This is about creating a safe space," said Saru Jayaraman, a co-founder of ROC United. "Employers have a responsibility to protect their workers."

In Chicago, the general manager at the rustic French restaurant Campagne Bistro said he applied to become a sanctuary restaurant because he wanted his employees to feel supported. Half the employees at his neighborhood bistro are immigrants, including from Romania, Ecuador and Mexico.

"Restaurants are part of embracing other cultures," said Todd Feinberg. "We are all an immigrant culture. The idea that we might not accept that disturbs me a bit."

At Brightwok Kitchen, an Asian inspired build-a-bowl restaurant in downtown Chicago, owner Jeremy Klaben said he sought sanctuary status because he wants employees and customers to feel included. The restaurant draws a busy lunchtime crowd of college students, corporate employees and tourists.

Employee Iris Quijano, 22, said it's an extension of how she and colleagues feel. The Chicago native who has family in Mexico was drawn to the restaurant after she graduated from college.

"In terms of all the negativity and the hatred we have in social media and in general ... it'll be good to be known as a sanctuary restaurant," she said. "All our co-workers stand for the same things. It's really important for others to feel the same vibes in the restaurant and have a good meal without having to worry about anything negative."

Follow Sophia Tareen on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/sophiatareen>

Trump dogged by insecurity over popular vote, media coverage

By JULIE PACE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump holds the most powerful office in the world. But he's dogged by insecurity over his loss of the popular vote in the election and a persistent frustration that the legitimacy of his presidency is being challenged by Democrats and the media, aides and associates say.

Trump's fixation has been a drag on the momentum of his opening days in office, with his exaggerations

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about inauguration crowds and false assertions about illegal balloting intruding on advisers' plans to launch his presidency with a flurry of actions on the economy. His spokesman Sean Spicer has twice stepped into the fray himself, including on Tuesday, when he doubled down on Trump's false claim that he lost the popular vote because 3 million to 5 million people living in the U.S. illegally cast ballots.

On Wednesday, the president took to Twitter to announce that he will ask for "a major investigation into VOTER FRAUD, including those registered to vote in two states, those who are illegal and...even, those registered to vote who are dead (and many for a long time). Depending on results, we will strengthen up voting procedures!"

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have finalized their election results with no reports of the kind of widespread fraud that Trump is alleging.

"He believes what he believes based on the information he was provided," said Spicer, who provided no evidence to back up the president's statements.

If the president's claim were true it would mark the most significant election fraud in U.S. history — and ironically, would raise the same questions about Trump's legitimacy that he's trying to avoid. Yet Spicer repeatedly sidestepped questions about whether the Trump administration would investigate the allegations pushed by the president.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, ranking Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said Wednesday his panel has already sent letters to the attorneys general in all 50 states asking for reports of any election irregularities.

"The president can join me and my staff," Cummings said on MSNBC. He also said he wants Congress to restore voting protections, citing a Supreme Court ruling that "gutted" key sections of the Voting Rights Act, particularly the provision requiring southern states to get clearance in advance from the Justice Department before legislating changes in voting laws and procedures.

Some Trump allies say Trump is justified in using his platform to defend his standing. They point to Georgia Democratic Rep. John Lewis' pre-inauguration statement that he did not see Trump as a legitimate president, as well as U.S. intelligence agencies' assessment that Russia meddled in the election in order to help Trump win.

"Segments of his own government keep driving this narrative," said Roger Stone, a longtime confidant. "I don't think it hurts to point it out."

Key advisers in Trump's inner circle concede the focus on crowd claims and alleged voter fraud have been a distraction. But who's going to stop him from airing his complaints?

After relishing in Friday's inaugural festivities, the new president grew increasingly upset the next day by what he felt was "biased" media coverage of women's marches across the globe protesting his election, according to a person familiar with his thinking. Trump was particularly enraged with CNN, which he thought was "gloating" by continually running photos of the women's march alongside the smaller crowds that attended his inauguration the day before, according to this person, one of several White House aides and associates who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Tuesday night on Twitter, Trump slammed CNN again, referring to the network as "FAKE NEWS @CNN" while praising rival Fox News Channel.

Trump has had a tumultuous relationship with the press, frequently calling the media dishonest and insulting individual reporters by name at his rallies and on Twitter. Still, two people close to Trump said he expected his coverage to turn more favorable once he took office. Instead, he's told people he believes it's gotten worse.

The bad press over the weekend has not allowed Trump to "enjoy" the White House as he feels he deserves, according to one person who has spoken with him.

The result has been a full display of Trump's propensity for exaggeration and more. During an appearance at the CIA Saturday, he wrongly said the inaugural crowds gathered on the National Mall stretched to the Washington Monument, despite clear photo evidence to the contrary. And during a reception with

lawmakers from both parties Monday night, he repeated his false assertion that millions of illegal immigrants provided Hillary Clinton's margin in the popular vote.

It's not the first time that Trump, who is known to be both thin-skinned and dedicated to polishing his public image, has become fixated on details that challenge his success. When journalist Timothy O'Brien wrote in a 2005 book that Trump was a multimillionaire, not a billionaire, the real estate mogul sued him for \$5 billion. The case was dismissed. Trump appealed, accusing the journalist of libel. He lost that, too.

Spicer hinted at Trump's feelings during his maiden press briefing on Monday.

"There is this constant theme to undercut the enormous support that he has," Spicer said. "And I think that it's just unbelievably frustrating when you're continually told it's not big enough, it's not good enough, you can't win."

AP writer Stephen Ohlemacher contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Jonathan Lemire at <http://twitter.com/jonlemire>

Sexist, vulgar posts on women's marches rebound on officials

By BRIAN SLODYSKO, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A school board member in Hillary Clinton's hometown resigned after making a derogatory reference on Twitter to the female anatomy in describing women marching against President Donald Trump. An Illinois teacher was pulled from the classroom for a tweet deemed sexist. And a freshman Indiana lawmaker was inundated with criticism over a Facebook post mocking "fat women."

These are a handful of examples from across the U.S. of mostly male public officials who have been reprimanded, called out or disciplined over social media postings about the women's marches around the globe last weekend.

The rash of incidents, which range from boorish to downright vulgar, highlight how nasty political discourse has become since the divisive presidential election. But in an era when Trump made lashing out against "political correctness" central to his appeal, the consequences these officials face for unfiltered use of social media once again demonstrate that what you say on the internet still can hurt you.

"Very few people in public life, even today, get away with what Trump was able to get away with," said Michael Cornfield, a George Washington University professor who studies politics in the internet age. "I wonder what these gentlemen were thinking."

It's not the first time rantings on social media have sparked backlash. Public officials for years have found themselves in trouble, and even resigned from office, over comments that were impolitic, distasteful and sometimes even racist. It's also not strictly a partisan issue. A writer for "Saturday Night Live" was suspended this week after writing an offensive tweet about Trump's 10-year-old son Barron. The writer, Katie Rich, deleted the tweet, briefly deactivated her account and then apologized after a social media outcry led to calls for a boycott of the show.

Still, the number of incidents following the women's marches, which packed public squares in blue states and some red as well, has put a few elected officials and supervisors in an awkward spot. And it's not clear where to draw the line.

In Indiana, Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma says he's conducting social media tutorials after posts from at least two state lawmakers.

A weekend Facebook post by Indiana state Rep. Jim Lucas, a Republican, showed a photo of a woman sprayed in the face with pepper spray with a caption that read: "PARTICIPATION TROPHIES. NOW IN LIQUID FORM."

Another post by newly elected Indiana state Sen. Jack Sandlin, also a Republican, credited Donald Trump with getting "more fat women out walking than (former first lady) Michelle Obama did in 8 years."

Sandlin, who says he didn't knowingly share the since-deleted post, was inundated with criticism on his Facebook page and has apologized. He says the incident was a powerful lesson on the "unintended

consequences" of opening up "your social media to try to get it out as broadly as you can."

Bosma partially blamed "the Twitter storm created by our president" which he said "makes people feel this is an appropriate vehicle to communicate." He added: "We're elected officials, we're held to a higher standard."

On Monday, Dathan Paterno, a school board member in Park Ridge, Illinois, where Hillary Clinton grew up, abruptly resigned after he called the protests a "farce" by "vagina screechers" on Twitter.

Paterno, who did not respond to a request for comment, later deleted his social media accounts, said district Superintendent Laurie Heinz. He wrote in his letter of resignation that the tweets were "understandably misinterpreted."

In the Quad Cities, along Illinois' western border, a teacher was "removed from the classroom" for posting a view of women that "does not reflect the values" of the school, district officials said in a statement.

The teacher, Mark Kaczmarek, tweeted a photo of a 1950s housewife, and commented that the protesters "all went home to make dinner."

One online petition called his tweet "unacceptable" while a rival petition said there is "no proof" that he "ever engaged in any kind of sexist, racist or even homophobic hate speeches in his classroom."

A person who answered the phone at a number listed to Kaczmarek declined to comment.

In Nebraska, a retweet of an offensive joke may be the final straw for state Sen. Bill Kintner, who admitted last year to having cybersex on a state computer with a woman who later tried to blackmail him. The Republican's colleagues on Wednesday will debate whether to expel him after he retweeted a joke implying that three women's march demonstrators were too unattractive to sexually assault.

Other incidents were reported in Mississippi, Rhode Island and New Mexico.

Cornfield, the political science professor, said that he thought most people learned the lesson about crossing the line in social media posts years ago during the early days of email.

"I guess now that we've elected the real Donald Trump some people need reminders," he said.

Associated Press Writer Darcy Costello contributed to this report.

Extremist gunmen storm hotel in Somali capital, 8 killed

By FARAH ABDI WARSAMEH and ABDI GULED, Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — At least eight people were dead and 14 injured Wednesday as Somali security forces ended a siege by extremist fighters who stormed a hotel in the capital, police said.

Four al-Shabab attackers were also killed in the attack on Dayah hotel, which is often frequented by government officials, said Col. Mohamoud Abdi, a senior police officer.

Survivors described chaotic scenes in which hotel residents hid under beds and others jumped out of windows of the four-story building to escape the attackers.

"They kicked down room doors and at some point posed themselves as rescue teams by telling those inside to come out (only) to kill them," said Hassan Nur, a traditional Somali elder.

He said two well-known clan elders were among those killed.

The assault on the hotel started when a suicide car bomb exploded at its gates. A second explosion soon followed.

Dozens of people, including lawmakers, were thought to have been staying at the hotel at the time of the morning attack, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein.

A nearby shopping center caught fire and dozens of people helped save goods from the flames.

Somalia's homegrown Islamic extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack via its online radio, Andalus, saying its fighters succeeded in entering the hotel.

Al-Shabab frequently targets hotels and other public places often visited by government officials and foreigners. Al-Qaida's East African affiliate is fighting to impose a strict version of Islam in this Horn of Africa nation.

In June, gunmen stormed the Nasa-Hablod hotel, killing at least 14 people. Two weeks before that, gunmen killed 15, including two members of parliament, at the Ambassador hotel.

Despite being ousted from most of its key strongholds, al-Shabab continues to carry out deadly guerrilla attacks across large parts of south and central Somalia.

Earlier this month, a bomb explosion at a restaurant in Mogadishu killed three, and a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at a security checkpoint near the international airport, killing at least three. That blast occurred a few hundred meters (yards) from the main base of the African Union peacekeeping mission.

Al-Shabab's assaults have threatened this nation's attempts to rebuild from decades of chaos. The presidential election, a key step toward recovery, already has been delayed several times because of security and other concerns.

Guled contributed from Hargeisa, Somalia.

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. TRUMP ROLLING OUT EXECUTIVE ACTIONS ON IMMIGRATION

It'll begin with steps to build his proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He's also expected to target "sanctuary cities" and try to restrict the flow of refugees to the U.S.

2. WHILE TRUMP STRESSES MILITARY, ASIAN ALLIES SEEK TRADE, TOO

The president's plan to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership could diminish American influence in a region where economic power is as important as military muscle.

3. WHY REFUGEE OFFER WAS REJECTED

Portugal sought to take in several hundred Yazidi refugees living in Greece, but Athens worried that other countries might start cherry-picking asylum applications based on religion or ethnicity.

4. PAKISTAN'S BLASPHEMY LAW FACES LITTLE CHANCE OF REPEAL

The measure made a saint of a man hanged for killing a politician who defended a Christian accused of blasphemy and inspired clerics to demand death for five liberal-leaning bloggers.

5. RESTAURANTS NATIONWIDE SEEKING 'SANCTUARY' STATUS

The label seeks to offer local protections to immigrants living in the U.S. illegally as owners hope it will help protect employees in an immigrant-heavy industry.

6. PIPELINE SAGA TAKES A TURN

Trump's executive action on the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines don't immediately clear the way for construction, and opponents of the projects are likely to fight in court.

7. INSTEAD OF CHASING STORMS, ICE RESEARCHERS CREATE THEM

Scientists turn firehoses on forest in New Hampshire to create conditions like an ice storm in an effort to better understand their impact.

8. WATCHDOG: CORRUPTION WORSENS UNDER POPULIST LEADERS

Transparency International cites Hungary and Turkey as countries that have worsened in recent years under leaders with authoritarian leanings.

9. WHAT IS LATEST FASHION FAD IN RIO

Some Brazilian women are sunbathing in bikinis made of black tape in search of perfect tan lines.

10. NOT A GOOD NIGHT TO BE AT TOP OF AP TOP 25

Three of the top four teams in the college basketball poll lost on the same day for the first time in five years.

Italy premier admits delays in avalanche response

By PIETRO DECRISTOFARO and NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

PENNE, Italy (AP) — Premier Paolo Gentiloni acknowledged delays and “malfunctioning” in Italy’s response to the avalanche that buried a mountain hotel, as the death toll climbed Wednesday to 24 and rescue workers all but ruled out finding any of the five people still missing alive.

In a briefing to parliament, Gentiloni stressed the unprecedented perfect storm that unfolded last week as more than two meters (six feet) of snow fell within 72 hours on the isolated Hotel Rigopiano, followed by four powerful earthquakes that shook all of central Italy.

The ensuing landslide and avalanche dumped upwards of 60,000 tons of snow, rocks and uprooted trees on top of the resort, burying the 40 people inside. Nine were pulled out alive, including all four children. Two people escaped and called for help, but the Pescara prefect’s office brushed off the alarm thinking it was a joke and that the hotel was safe.

The rescue operation only got underway an hour or two later, and it took some eight hours for the first crews to reach the site, on foot, because the roads were impassable.

Gentiloni told lawmakers a criminal investigation under way would ascertain responsibilities.

“There were delays, or malfunctionings in specific points of this system,” he said. “Investigations will clarify this point. The government certainly doesn’t fear the truth.”

But he stressed that the search for the truth “serves to do better, not to poison the well.”

He said it was wrong to find scapegoats now, especially since the emergency is still unfolding and the Abruzzo region is still coping with the fallout of the snow and earthquakes that left thousands of people without power for over a week.

Avalanche recovery crews reported the toll from the Jan. 18 disaster stood at 24 dead, with five people unaccounted for under the tons of snow and rubble. The body count has more than tripled since rescue crews reached the center communal areas of the hotel on Tuesday.

“We cannot lose hope completely yet but it is really reduced to a minimum,” firefighter spokesman Luca Cari said Wednesday.

Winfield reported from Rome.

While Trump stresses military, Asian allies seek trade, too

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON and BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump’s “peace through strength” could mean more U.S. military power in Asia, reassuring allies about America’s resolve to counter China. That is, if they’re still looking to Washington for reassurance.

Trump called his speedy withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership a victory for American workers hurt by multilateral trade pacts. But his reversal of years of U.S.-led efforts may mean the loss of Asian nations’ trust and support in confronting an increasingly assertive Beijing after many of them, under Washington’s pressure, barreled through similar domestic concerns over jobs and competition.

And a weakened partnership with East Asia’s key commercial powers could have wide-ranging consequences for Americans, beyond them missing out on the trade pact’s potential for lower prices and additional jobs.

“It’s not as if we can send a bunch of ships and be protectionist at the same time,” said Sheila Smith, an expert on Japan at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Asians don’t see economics and military power as separate, she said, and flexing U.S. muscles with Navy boats and other assets while retrenching on free trade “just won’t translate into American influence.”

The 12-nation trade agreement was the centerpiece of President Barack Obama’s outreach to Asia, cutting tariffs and setting new environmental and labor standards in countries representing about 40 percent of the global economy. While Trump said he wants to pursue bilateral trade deals instead, he may find U.S. credibility significantly dented after pulling out of a deal that took years to negotiate.

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"Losing the United States from the TPP is a big loss, there is no question about that," Australian Prime Minister Turnbull told reporters, trying to salvage the deal without Washington. "But we are not about to walk away from our commitment to Australian jobs."

On bilateral deals replacing TPP, New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English said, "there's a pretty low chance of that happening in a form that we'd find satisfactory."

Governments' calculus would be different in a one-on-one negotiation. Japan, for example, may have less interest in opening up its agriculture and automobile sectors to American competition. Vietnam may balk at demands to allow independent trade unions. And instead of new deals that better advantage American workers, as Trump has vowed, the result could be a regional shift to an alternative, Chinese-backed trade pact promising more access to the world's biggest consumer market.

"Every country that went through the process of TPP had to do politically difficult things at home," said Vikram Singh at the Center for American Progress.

Trump's withdrawal "shows he cares not a whit about what counterparts in the Asia-Pacific have done to push forward with what was a top U.S. political priority," added Singh, a former Obama administration official.

For Asia, the U.S. turn inward is not without irony.

For decades, Washington was the prime purveyor of free markets, pressuring U.S. friends and foes alike to set aside regional rivalries and ideological incompatibilities for the mutual benefit of enhanced economic integration. This vision guided Democratic and Republican administrations, helping spur Japan's post-World War II redevelopment, the high growth rates of liberalized economies like Singapore and South Korea, and communist China's eventual absorption into the world capitalist order.

Under Obama and President George W. Bush, his predecessor, the American goal for Asia shifted somewhat to creating a fairer trading system that regulated China and didn't let it write the rules for global commerce.

But Trump and his top aides have emphasized military containment, with plans to increase the Navy by more than 20 percent and curbing China's dominance of resource-rich maritime areas also claimed by neighbors.

Walter Lohman, director of Asian studies at the conservative-oriented Heritage Foundation, said the U.S. must be a "full-spectrum power."

"It's great he wants to rebuild the U.S. military and get us up to 350 ships, but we have got to be there in other ways too — economically and diplomatically," Lohman said.

Details of Trump's policy in Asia are unclear beyond the desire to take a tougher stand on China, which enjoys a large trade surplus with the U.S. and has increasingly militarized its hold over parts of the disputed South China Sea. On Monday, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said, "We are going to make sure that we defend international territories from being taken over by one country."

Trump has tried to galvanize Asian allies. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was Trump's first post-election meeting with a foreign leader. On Tuesday, Trump spoke by phone with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who shares concerns about China, and invited him to visit the United States later this year.

As much as they need Trump, he needs them as well.

"If the administration tries to develop a strategy for pushing back against China," said Michael Green, a former senior Asia adviser to George W. Bush, "they're going to find that they have no strategy without allies."

Trump moving forward with border wall, weighs refugee cuts

By JULIE PACE, VIVIAN SALAMA and RACHEL ZOLL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will begin rolling out executive actions on immigration Wednesday, beginning with steps to build his proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, according to two administration officials. He's also expected to target so-called sanctuary cities and is reviewing proposals that would restrict the flow of refugees to the United States.

The president is expected to sign the first actions — including the measure to jumpstart construction of

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the wall — Wednesday during a trip to the Department of Homeland Security. Additional actions will be announced out over the next few days, according to one official.

Trump is said to still be weighing the details of plans to restrict refugees coming to the U.S. The current proposal includes at least a four-month halt on all refugee admissions, as well as temporary ban on people coming from some Muslim majority countries, according to a representative of a public policy organization that monitors refugee issues. The person was briefed on the details of that proposed action by a government official and outlined the expected steps for The Associated Press.

The officials and the public policy organization's representative insisted on anonymity in order to outline the plans ahead of Trump's official announcements.

On his personal Twitter account Tuesday night, Trump tweeted: "Big day planned on NATIONAL SECURITY tomorrow. Among many other things, we will build the wall!"

Trump campaigned on pledges to tighten U.S. immigration policies, including strengthening border security and stemming the flow of refugees. He also called for halting entry to the U.S. from Muslim countries, but later shifted the policy to a focus on what he called "extreme vetting" for those coming from countries with terrorism ties.

While the specific of Trump's orders were unclear, both administration officials said Wednesday's actions would focus in part on the president's plans to construct a wall along the southern border with Mexico. He's also expected to move forward with plans to curb funding of cities that don't arrest or detain immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, — localities dubbed "sanctuary" cities — which could cost individual jurisdictions millions of dollars.

Trump's insistence that Mexico would pay for the wall was among his most popular proposals on the campaign trail, sparking enthusiastic cheers at his raucous rallies. Mexico has repeatedly said it will not pay for any border wall.

Earlier this month, Trump said the building project would initially be paid for with a congressionally approved spending bill and Mexico would eventually reimburse the U.S., though he has not specified how he would guarantee payments.

Trump will meet with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto at the White House next week.

In claiming authority to build a wall, Trump may rely on a 2006 law that authorized several hundred miles of fencing along the 2,000-mile frontier. That bill led to the construction of about 700 miles of various kinds of fencing designed to block both vehicles and pedestrians.

The Secure Fence Act was signed by then-President George W. Bush and the majority of the fencing in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California was built before he left office. The last remnants were completed after President Barack Obama took office in 2009.

The Trump administration also must adhere to a decades-old border treaty with Mexico that limits where and how structures can be built along the border. The 1970 treaty requires that structures cannot disrupt the flow of the rivers, which define the U.S.-Mexican border along Texas and 24 miles in Arizona, according to The International Boundary and Water Commission, a joint U.S.-Mexican agency that administers the treaty.

It appeared as though the refugee restrictions were still to be finalized. The person briefed on the proposals said they included a ban on entry to the U.S. for at least 30 days from countries including Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, though the person cautioned the details could still change.

There is also likely to be an exception in the refugee stoppage for those fleeing religious persecution if their religion is a minority in their country. That exception could cover Christians fleeing Muslim-majority nations.

As president, Trump can use an executive order to halt refugee processing. President George W. Bush used that same power in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S. homeland. Refugee security vetting was reviewed and the process was restarted several months later.

Other executive actions expected Wednesday include bolstering border patrol agents and ending what Republicans have argued is a catch-and-release system at the border. Currently, some immigrants caught crossing the border illegally are given notices to report back to immigration officials at a later date.

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If Trump's actions would result in those caught being immediately jailed, the administration would have to grapple with how to pay for jail space to detain everyone and what to do with children caught crossing the border with their parents.

Zoll reported from New York. AP writer Alicia A. Caldwell in Washington contributed to this report.

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3 of top 4 teams in college hoops poll lose on same night

By JIM O'CONNELL, AP Basketball Writer

It was not a good night to be at the top of the AP Top 25.

For the first time in five years, three of the top four teams in the poll lost on the same day.

No. 1 Villanova was beaten 74-72 at Marquette on Tuesday, No. 2 Kansas fell 85-69 at No. 18 West Virginia, and No. 4 Kentucky lost 82-80 at Tennessee.

That left No. 3 Gonzaga with a good chance to move up to No. 1 next week. The only undefeated team in Division I, the Zags (20-0) still face San Diego and Pepperdine this week.

It was on Jan. 21, 2012, that No. 1 Syracuse lost 67-58 to Notre Dame, No. 3 Baylor fell 89-88 to No. 5 Missouri and No. 4 Duke was beaten 76-73 by Florida State.

Kentucky was No. 2 that day and, after beating Alabama 77-71 on the night of upsets, the Wildcats ascended to No. 1.

Syracuse fell to third after the loss, Baylor dropped to sixth and Duke plunged to eighth.

On Tuesday, Marquette (14-6, 5-3 Big East) rallied from a 17-point deficit for the win over the Wildcats (19-2, 7-2).

It was the second time Marquette defeated a No. 1-ranked team. The Golden Eagles beat Kentucky in the 2003 Final Four.

Their fans partied at the Bradley Center in a court-storming frenzy, celebrating as if coach Al McGuire was still pacing the Marquette sideline.

"I don't even know what to say," said Katin Reinhardt, who made two free throws with 11.6 seconds to play. "You dream of these types of moments."

Villanova's Jay Wright, the coach of the defending national champions, said: "You've got to put a whole 40 minutes together. Sometimes you get on the road and a team gets hot. If you don't finish the 40 minutes, they'll get you."

West Virginia pulled away to a victory that snapped Kansas' 18-game winning streak.

Esa Ahmad scored a career-high 27 points for the Mountaineers (16-4, 5-3 Big 12), who broke a two-game losing streak that dropped them 11 spots in the AP Top 25.

Josh Jackson matched his season high with 22 points for Kansas (18-2, 7-1).

West Virginia limited its turnovers to eight and went 19 of 23 from the free throw line, making nine of its final 10.

"We did both of those things today," coach Bob Huggins said. "And when we do, we're pretty good."

Robert Hubbs III scored 25 points as Tennessee snapped Kentucky's seven-game winning streak.

Tennessee (11-9, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) beat Kentucky (17-3, 7-1) in Knoxville for the second straight season and earned its first victory over a top-five team since an 83-76 triumph over No. 3 Pittsburgh on Dec. 11, 2010.

"We just wanted to go out and make a statement," Hubbs said. "I think we did that tonight."

Kentucky coach John Calipari said: "Tennessee was better than us tonight. They deserved to win the game. It would have been a shame if we'd made a 3 or something crazy and had won the game. ... From the start, they deserved to win."

Blasphemy law exalts killer; threatens missing bloggers

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

BARAKHAO, Pakistan (AP) — Two ornate minarets pierce the evening sky. They frame the emerald green colored dome of an ornate shrine erected to honor Mumtaz Qadri, an assassin hanged for gunning down a politician who criticized Pakistan's controversial blasphemy law and defended a Christian woman sentenced to death for allegedly insulting Islam.

Qadri's body lies in a marble-encased tomb inside the shrine. He had been a member of an elite police unit charged with protecting Punjab provincial governor Salman Taseer. Instead, he turned his AK-47 assault rifle on the politician killing him in a hail of bullets. With an eerie smile on his face he then laid down his weapon and was arrested, tried and later hanged.

The shrine, which is being built on the outskirts of the federal capital, is worrisome for those in Pakistan who fear a growing tide of extremism in the country marked by brutal sectarian killings, violent protests by clerics in favor of the blasphemy law, and frightening threats to anyone who would dare to challenge it.

Five liberal-leaning bloggers who disappeared earlier this month, and the Pakistanis who are protesting their disappearance, have become the latest target of radical clerics and their followers. The clerics have accused the missing writers of blasphemy after a social media campaign linked them to allegations of blasphemy without any evidence. A simple accusation of blasphemy in Pakistan can be tantamount to a death sentence.

The government has tried to quell the allegations, saying there is no evidence that the bloggers said or did anything that could be considered blasphemous and no suggestion of any of them being charged with blasphemy once they are found.

The bloggers, whose disappearances have been decried nationally and internationally, have been critical of the military and have bemoaned the presence of radical religious militant groups in their country. No one has taken responsibility for their disappearances.

Supporters of the bloggers say that Qadri's shrine exalts those who kill in the name of religion and makes even amending the blasphemy law to make it more difficult to abuse, a dangerous proposition.

"This is very, very unfortunate . . . that a person who has been adjudged by the highest constitutional court of Pakistan, the Supreme Court of Pakistan, as a terrorist (yet) these clerics and the innocent people of this country, they're trying to paint him as a saint," said attorney Saif-ul-Mulk. "I can assure you that in the coming 10 to 20 years, he will be a saint of very high profile and billions of rupees will be coming to his shrine."

Mulk is defending Asiya Bibi, the Christian woman who has been on death row for the last six years, and has launched a final appeal on her behalf in the Supreme Court. Bibi was charged with blasphemy after a group of women with whom she worked in the field berated her for drinking the same water as them. They argued and the women accused Bibi of insulting Islam's prophet, a charge she flatly denies.

Mulk also prosecuted Qadri, securing a guilty verdict and death sentence that was carried out last year. He travels with security and police are stationed outside his home in the eastern Punjab city of Lahore.

In an interview, Mulk also warned that the financial windfall that has come with Qadri's death risks encouraging would-be "martyrs."

"If one person is not able to feed his parents and family, he gives his life, kills somebody big and the whole family becomes richer than they could ever dream," he said.

For some in Pakistan, the shrine is seen as yet another tool in the arsenal of radical Sunni Muslim groups seeking to consolidate their hold over Pakistan's 180 million people.

Ayesha Siddiq, a defense analyst who has written extensively on Pakistan's military complex, warned in a recent column that Qadri's shrine will emerge as a rallying cry for the preservation of the blasphemy law, which some liberal lawmakers would like to see at least amended to make it more difficult to abuse.

"The blasphemy law is their big ticket to support amongst the masses which they would like to con-

solidate further with the symbol they have now erected in the form of Mumtaz Qadri's shrine near the capital city," Siddiqa wrote. "Last year, his family had buried him strategically in an open ground and sort of wilderness (area) to ensure that a structure could be built on top."

Qadri's brother, Amir Sajjad, speaking at the shrine where he spends every afternoon and evening collecting donations, said the shrine was his brother's final wish. Sajjad said Qadri told his family he wanted a shrine built at his grave as well as a mosque and a madrassah, or religious school.

Construction has already begun on the mosque and preparations are under way for the school. Millions of rupees in donations have been collected, said Sajjad.

The roof of the shrine shimmers from the thousands of tiny mirrors inlaid throughout. A crystal chandelier revolves atop Qadri's ornate marble grave embellished with verses from Islam's holy book, The Quran.

Despite the construction, adherents lay their prayer mats and offer prayer. Those coming to pay homage to Qadri are a mix of men, women enveloped in large shawls, children and a handful of young students from Pakistan's financial hub Karachi, a cosmopolitan city of 20 million people on the Arabian Sea.

They are educated and speak English but their views are hardline.

Bilal Fazl, 18, who attends university in Karachi, was filled with admiration for Qadri.

"He said the blasphemy law was a black law. It was OK to kill him," he said of Taseer.

Fazl called Qadri a "hero of Islam."

Follow Kathy Gannon on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kathygannon .

China faces political conflicts in moves to cut debt burden

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Drowning in debt, metals trader Sinosteel Corp. got an unprecedented lifeline last month from the Chinese government — a multibillion-dollar debt-for-equity rescue that could be the first of many for struggling state-owned companies.

China's economy is still growing relatively quickly, but a prolonged slowdown is raising fears that companies in many industries have borrowed and invested too much, too fast, posing a serious risk for the world's second-largest economy.

The government hailed the Sinosteel deal, in which state-owned banks agreed to accept shares in the company to repay half the 60 billion yuan (\$9 billion) it owes, as a model for debt reduction. Analysts are more skeptical. They say such maneuvers are typical of the ruling Communist Party's tendency to avoid bold action and support politically favored state industry.

"They are still tinkering at the edge of the problem instead of tackling it head on," said Mark Williams, chief Asia economist for Capital Economics.

Total debt owed by companies and households in China is estimated by private sector analysts to amount to 270 percent of annual economic output — high for a developing country and close to the levels of the United States and the European Union before the 2008 crisis.

Debt has risen at double-digit annual rates since the crisis as Beijing repeatedly used infusions of credit to shore up economic growth and avoid politically risky job losses.

In 2016, lending grew by 17 to 18 percent, outpacing the rise in savings by China's famously thrifty households, according to Standard & Poor's. It said that leaves banks with slimmer "funding buffers."

Explosive economic growth that peaked at 14.2 percent in 2007 helped China power its way out of previous financial quandaries. That is no longer assured now that growth has tumbled to less than half that level — at 6.7 percent for the first nine months of last year the weakest since 1990.

The bank regulator reported in October that loans on which borrowers have made no payments in 90 days had passed 2 trillion yuan (\$300 billion).

That is equivalent to a relatively modest 2.15 percent of total lending, but private sector analysts say the true level is far higher at up to 19 percent, or nearly 18 trillion yuan (\$2.5 trillion). They say banks fail to include loans to state companies in their count because they assume the government will bail them out.

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A banking crisis like those that hit Japan and South Korea in the 1990s is unlikely because both Chinese lenders and major borrowers are state-owned, so as a last resort, the government could order creditors to keep lending and then replenish their balance sheets, economists say.

That would keep banks solvent, but might divert money from investment in productive companies or from paying for schools, health care and other public services needed in China's rapidly aging society.

"You can get away without a crisis over the next few years, but you won't be able to avoid slower growth," Williams said.

The latest plan for Sinosteel calls for transforming some of its debt into "convertible bonds" that creditors can redeem later for stock, according to Bank of China Ltd., which led a consortium of lenders. It said regulators would press the company for "internal reform."

The business magazine Caixin reported that half of Sinosteel's debt would be turned into such bonds.

Lenders that accept Sinosteel stock still can lose money if its finances fail to improve, said Sheng Hong, director of the Unirule Institute in Beijing, an independent economic research group.

"Banks should have refused the deal right from the start," he said.

The debt dilemma reflects the leadership's conflicting desires for the prosperity that comes from free-market competition and for ensuring state companies will still dominate the economy.

Under President Xi Jinping, the Communist Party has pledged to clear up debt and get banks to finance productive activity instead of subsidizing state companies. But the debt burden has kept rising as Beijing avoided taking painful, decisive action.

Regulators say they will use market forces to force state companies that control industries including steel, utilities, telecoms, airlines, banking and insurance to become more efficient. But they have ruled out allowing any to go bankrupt: The ruling party's latest economic blueprint for 2017 promises "financial stability," which suggests Chinese leaders might be leery of pushing companies so hard they might collapse.

Bailing out companies such as Sinosteel that are deemed strategically important could set back efforts to shrink bloated heavy industries.

A glut of production in steel, aluminum and other industries where supply exceeds demand has led to price-cutting wars and complaints that low-cost Chinese exports are threatening jobs in the United States and Europe.

Instead of state-engineered bailouts, the companies could just sell off equity stakes and use the proceeds to pay debts, Citigroup economists Li-Gang Liu and Xiaowen Jin said in a report.

Sinosteel has operations in mining, steel trading and engineering. It came close to defaulting on a 2 billion yuan (\$315 million) bond payment in 2015 before regulators intervened and persuaded creditors to wait.

Bank of China described the Sinosteel debt-for-equity deal as a model for future debt restructuring.

But some companies that get such relief might "lose motivation to improve," said Zhang Yingjie, research director for China Chengxin International Credit Rating Co. "The key lies in how to select the enterprises."

"They are selling this as dealing with the debt problem and creating viable businesses," said Williams, "but it seems to me it is aimed at making sure state-owned firms can continue to dominate."

AP researcher Yu Bing contributed.

Watchdog group: Corruption worsens under populist leaders

By DAVID RISING, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — People who turn to populist politicians promising to upset the status quo and end corruption may only be feeding the problem, an anti-corruption watchdog group warned Wednesday.

Transparency International said in its annual Corruption Perceptions Index for 2016 that in countries with populist or autocratic leaders, "instead of tackling crony capitalism, those leaders usually install even worse forms of corrupt systems."

The group's board chairman, Jose Ugaz, cited Hungary and Turkey as examples. Their scores have worsened in recent years under leaders with authoritarian leanings, while Argentina, which ousted a populist

government, has improved in the rankings, he said.

Based on expert opinions of public sector corruption, the annual report rated Denmark and New Zealand as the least-corrupt countries, followed by Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Norway. Somalia was ranked most corrupt, followed by South Sudan, North Korea, and Syria.

Rounding out the Top 10 least corrupt were Singapore, the Netherlands, Canada, and the tie-placing trio of Germany, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom in the No. 10 spot. The United States placed 18th, down from 16th in 2015.

Transparency International research director Finn Heinrich told The Associated Press that the organization was taking a wait-and-see approach to Donald Trump's presidency, but that already it had "serious concerns."

"Donald Trump came on board as the people in Hungary and Turkey, on an anti-corruption ticket. He said, 'We're going to drain this swamp,'" Heinrich said. "But if you look at his action so far, there is nepotism.... The people in his Cabinet have many conflicts of interest. They are not people who stand for transparency."

The index scores countries on a range of factors, such as whether government officials are held to account or go unpunished for corruption; the perceived prevalence of bribery; and whether public institutions respond to citizens' needs.

Nearly 70 percent of the 176 countries scored below 50 on the 100-point scale, with a zero meaning a country is perceived to be highly corrupt and 100 indicating it's perceived to be very clean.

"This year, more countries declined in the index than improved, showing the need for urgent action," the report said.

The country that dropped most sharply in the rankings was Qatar, which has faced criticism over alleged human rights abuses involving migrant construction workers since it was chosen to host the 2022 World Cup of soccer. It dropped 10 points, falling to 31st on the list from 22nd last year.

Still, Heinrich said Qatar's government has in the past shown itself "willing and keen" to fight corruption, and that Transparency would appeal to them for more fundamental reforms to ensure better freedom of speech and more media freedom, among other things.

"You can't fight corruption without having accountability and transparency in the entire public process," he said.

Afghanistan, a perennial fixture near the bottom of the list, improved the most in 2016. Its score on the Transparency International index rose four points, but still was ranked 169th, just ahead of Libya, Sudan and Yemen.

Sexist, vulgar posts on women's marches rebound on officials

By BRIAN SLODYSKO, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A school board member in Hillary Clinton's hometown resigned after making a derogatory reference on Twitter to the female anatomy in describing women marching against President Donald Trump. An Illinois teacher was pulled from the classroom for a tweet deemed sexist. And a freshman Indiana lawmaker was inundated with criticism over a Facebook post mocking "fat women."

These are a handful of examples from across the U.S. of mostly male public officials who have been reprimanded, called out or disciplined over social media postings about the women's marches around the globe last weekend.

The rash of incidents, which range from boorish to downright vulgar, highlight how nasty political discourse has become since the divisive presidential election. But in an era when Trump made lashing out against "political correctness" central to his appeal, the consequences these officials face for unfiltered use of social media once again demonstrate that what you say on the internet still can hurt you.

"Very few people in public life, even today, get away with what Trump was able to get away with," said Michael Cornfield, a George Washington University professor who studies politics in the internet age. "I wonder what these gentlemen were thinking."

It's not the first time rantings on social media have sparked backlash. Public officials for years have found

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themselves in trouble, and even resigned from office, over comments that were impolitic, distasteful and sometimes even racist. It's also not strictly a partisan issue. A writer for "Saturday Night Live" was suspended this week after writing an offensive tweet about Trump's 10-year-old son Barron. The writer, Katie Rich, deleted the tweet, briefly deactivated her account and then apologized after a social media outcry led to calls for a boycott of the show.

Still, the number of incidents following the women's marches, which packed public squares in blue states and some red as well, has put a few elected officials and supervisors in an awkward spot. And it's not clear where to draw the line.

In Indiana, Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma says he's conducting social media tutorials after posts from at least two state lawmakers.

A weekend Facebook post by Indiana state Rep. Jim Lucas, a Republican, showed a photo of a woman sprayed in the face with pepper spray with a caption that read: "PARTICIPATION TROPHIES. NOW IN LIQUID FORM."

Another post by newly elected Indiana state Sen. Jack Sandlin, also a Republican, credited Donald Trump with getting "more fat women out walking than (former first lady) Michelle Obama did in 8 years."

Sandlin, who says he didn't knowingly share the since-deleted post, was inundated with criticism on his Facebook page and has apologized. He says the incident was a powerful lesson on the "unintended consequences" of opening up "your social media to try to get it out as broadly as you can."

Bosma partially blamed "the Twitter storm created by our president" which he said "makes people feel this is an appropriate vehicle to communicate." He added: "We're elected officials, we're held to a higher standard."

On Monday, Dathan Paterno, a school board member in Park Ridge, Illinois, where Hillary Clinton grew up, abruptly resigned after he called the protests a "farce" by "vagina screechers" on Twitter.

Paterno, who did not respond to a request for comment, later deleted his social media accounts, said district Superintendent Laurie Heinz. He wrote in his letter of resignation that the tweets were "understandably misinterpreted."

In the Quad Cities, along Illinois' western border, a teacher was "removed from the classroom" for posting a view of women that "does not reflect the values" of the school, district officials said in a statement.

The teacher, Mark Kaczmarek, tweeted a photo of a 1950s housewife, and commented that the protesters "all went home to make dinner."

One online petition called his tweet "unacceptable" while a rival petition said there is "no proof" that he "ever engaged in any kind of sexist, racist or even homophobic hate speeches in his classroom."

A person who answered the phone at a number listed to Kaczmarek declined to comment.

In Nebraska, a retweet of an offensive joke may be the final straw for state Sen. Bill Kintner, who admitted last year to having cybersex on a state computer with a woman who later tried to blackmail him. The Republican's colleagues on Wednesday will debate whether to expel him after he retweeted a joke implying that three women's march demonstrators were too unattractive to sexually assault.

Other incidents were reported in Mississippi, Rhode Island and New Mexico.

Cornfield, the political science professor, said that he thought most people learned the lesson about crossing the line in social media posts years ago during the early days of email.

"I guess now that we've elected the @realDonaldTrump some people need reminders," he said.

Associated Press Writer Darcy Costello contributed to this report.

Trump admin orders EPA contract freeze and media blackout

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and JOHN FLESHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has instituted a media blackout at the Environmental Protection Agency and barred staff from awarding any new contracts or grants, part of a broader communications clampdown within the executive branch.

The prohibitions came to light Tuesday as the agency moved to delay implementation of at least 30 en-

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Environmental rules finalized in the closing months of President Barack Obama's term, a potential first step to seeking to kill the regulations.

A summary of the actions posted in the Federal Register includes a long list of regulations that include updated air pollution rulings for several states, renewable fuel standards and limits on the amount of formaldehyde that can leach from wood products. President Donald Trump signed a directive shortly after his inauguration on Friday ordering a "regulatory freeze pending review" for all federal agency rules that had been finalized that have not yet taken effect.

Emails sent to EPA staff and reviewed by The Associated Press also detailed specific prohibitions banning press releases, blog updates or posts to the agency's social media accounts.

The Trump administration has also ordered what it called a temporary suspension of all new business activities at the department, including issuing task orders or work assignments to EPA contractors. The orders were expected to have a significant and immediate impact on EPA activities nationwide. EPA contracts with outside vendors for a wide array of services, from engineering and research science to janitorial supplies.

Similar orders barring external communications have been issued in recent days by the Trump administration at other federal agencies, including the departments of Transportation, Agriculture and Interior.

Staffers in EPA's public affairs office are instructed to forward all inquiries from reporters to the Office of Administration and Resources Management.

"Incoming media requests will be carefully screened," one directive said. "Only send out critical messages, as messages can be shared broadly and end up in the press."

A review of EPA websites and social media accounts, which typically include numerous new posts each day, showed no new activity since Friday.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Tuesday he had no specific information on the blackout.

"I don't think it's any surprise that when there's an administration turnover, that we're going to review the policies," Spicer said.

Doug Ericksen, the communications director for Trump's transition team at EPA, said he expects the communications ban to be lifted by the end of this week.

"We're just trying to get a handle on everything and make sure what goes out reflects the priorities of the new administration," Ericksen said.

Beyond what was stated in the internal email, Ericksen clarified that the freeze on EPA contracts and grants won't apply to pollution cleanup efforts or infrastructure construction activities. The agency later said it would also seek to complete that review by Friday.

State agencies that rely on EPA for funding were left in the dark, with both Democratic and Republican officials saying they had received no information from EPA about the freeze.

"We are actively seeking additional information so we can understand the impact of this action on our ability to administer critical programs," said Alan Matheson, executive director of Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer of New York said the Trump administration should immediately reverse the media blackout and contracting freeze.

"This decision could have damaging implications for communities across New York state and the country, from delaying testing for lead in schools to restricting efforts to keep drinking water clean to holding up much-needed funding to revitalize toxic brownfield sites," Schumer said.

The executive director for the advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Jeff Ruch, said the orders go beyond what has occurred in prior presidential transitions.

"We're watching the dark cloud of Mordor extend over federal service," Ruch said Tuesday, referring to the evil kingdom in the epic fantasy "The Lord of the Rings."

Ruch noted that key posts at EPA have not yet been filled with Republican appointees, including Trump's nominee for EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt. That means there are not yet the new senior personnel in place to make decisions.

Environmentalists said the orders were having a chilling effect on EPA staff already suffering from low morale. Trump and Pruitt have both been frequent critics of the agency and have questioned the valid-

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ity of climate science showing that the Earth is warming and man-made carbon emissions are to blame.

Staff at the Agriculture Department's Agricultural Research Service also received orders not to issue any news releases, photos, fact sheets and social media posts. After an email of the order leaked to the media, USDA's acting deputy secretary said he would ask agency officials to rescind the memo.

Spokespersons at agencies within the Transportation Department who are career employees received an email Monday morning telling them: "There will be no releases or social media until we hear from new leadership." The one-sentence email, which was obtained by The Associated Press, came from the department's top career spokeswoman, rather than a political appointee.

The department said in a statement that transportation officials didn't receive any guidance on press releases and social media from the White House.

"Everybody's being very cautious" and erring on the side of not releasing information, one DOT employee said. The employee didn't have permission to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The AP reported over the weekend that staff employees at the Interior Department were temporarily ordered to stop making posts to its Twitter account after the official account of the National Park Service retweeted a pair of photos that compared those gathered for Trump's inauguration with the much larger crowd that attended Obama's swearing-in.

Trump later falsely claimed that more than 1 million people attended his inauguration, which Spicer insisted was the most watched in history.

In a test of what the new administration will tolerate, the official Twitter account of the Badlands National Park published a series of posts Tuesday accurately quoting climate science data that included the current record-setting high concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The tweets were soon deleted.

Flesher reported from Traverse City, Michigan. Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Joan Lowy and Darlene Superville in Washington, and Dan Elliott in Denver contributed to this report.

Follow AP environmental reporter Biesecker at [Twitter.com/mbieseck](https://twitter.com/mbieseck)

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2017. There are 340 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 25, 1947, gangster Al Capone died in Miami Beach, Florida, at age 48.

On this date:

In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the New York World completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes. The United Mine Workers of America was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1915, America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph.

In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (SHAH'-moh-nee), France.

In 1936, former Gov. Al Smith, D-N.Y., delivered a radio address titled "Betrayal of the Democratic Party" in which he fiercely criticized the New Deal policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1945, the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as German forces were pushed back to their original positions. Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply.

In 1955, the Soviet Union formally ended its state of war with Germany.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be carried live on radio and television.

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In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate. Idi Amin seized power in Uganda by ousting President Milton Obote (oh-BOH'tay) in a military coup.

In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

In 1990, an Avianca Boeing 707 ran out of fuel and crashed in Cove Neck, Long Island, New York; 73 of the 158 people aboard were killed. Actress Ava Gardner died in London at age 67.

In 1997, astrologer Jeane Dixon died in Washington, D.C.

Ten years ago: Ford Motor Co. said it had lost a staggering \$12.7 billion in 2006, at that time the worst loss in the company's 103-year history. (Ford later reported a loss of \$14.6 billion for 2008.)

Five years ago: U.S. military forces flew into Somalia in a nighttime helicopter raid, freeing an American and a Danish hostage and killing nine pirates. U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona returned to Congress to officially tender her resignation a year after she was shot and severely wounded in her home district. First lady Michelle Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, along with celebrity chef Rachael Ray, announced new guidelines for more healthful school meals during a visit with elementary students in Alexandria, Virginia.

One year ago: President Barack Obama said he would ban the use of solitary confinement for juvenile and low-level offenders in federal prisons, citing the potential for "devastating, lasting psychological consequences" from the use of the isolation as punishment. A Houston grand jury investigating undercover footage of Planned Parenthood found no wrongdoing by the abortion provider, and instead indicted anti-abortion activists for using fake driver's licenses when making the videos that targeted the handling of fetal tissue in clinics. (The charges were later dropped.) The Russian Olympic Committee banned four track and field athletes for doping.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Claude Gray is 85. Movie director Tobe Hooper is 74. Actress Leigh Taylor-Young is 72. Actress Jenifer (cq) Lewis is 60. Actress Dinah Manoff is 59. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kina is 48. Actress China Kantner is 46. Actress Ana Ortiz is 46. Drummer Joe Sirois (sih-ROYS') (Mighty Mighty Bosstones) is 45. Musician Matt Odmark (OHD'mark) (Jars of Clay) is 43. Actress Mia Kirshner is 42. Actress Christine Lakin is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Alicia (ah-LEE'shuh) Keys is 36. Actor Michael Trevino is 32. Pop musician Calum Hood (5 Seconds to Summer) is 21. Actress Olivia Edward (TV: "Better Things") is 10.

Thought for Today: "There is no such uncertainty as a sure thing." — Robert Burns, Scottish poet (1759-1796).