

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Apts for Rent

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

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

**The cardboard/paper**  
recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

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## Sunday, Jan. 29

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

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

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

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

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m.

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

2 p.m.: Carnival of Silver Skates

6:30 p.m.: Carnival of Silver Skates

## Monday, Jan. 30

**School Breakfast:** Cheese omelette, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Chicken strip, wedge fries, breadsticks, fruit, romaine salad.

**Senior Menu:** Turkey Tetrazzine, green beans, honey fruit salad, vanilla pudding, whole wheat bread.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study** at 6:30 a.m.

5:00 pm: JHBBB at Redfield (7th grade at 5 p.m., 8th grade at 6 p.m.)

GBB hosts Northwestern (C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity)

## Tuesday, Jan. 31

**School Breakfast:** Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Hot dogs, baked beans, romaine salad, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Meatloaf, baked potato with

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

**605-725-WOOD**

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE  
COMPANY**

## **Northern Electric Board Signs Letter Of Intent To Sell Northern Wireless Communications To James Valley Telecommunications**

On Wednesday, January 25, 2017, the Northern Electric Cooperative Board of Directors signed a non-binding letter of intent to sell Northern Wireless Communications, its wholly-owned broadband wireless subsidiary, to James Valley Telecommunications.

If the sale is approved by the directors of both cooperatives, James Valley Telecommunications intends to purchase Northern Wireless Communications and begin serving its customers under the James Valley Telecommunications and Northern Valley Communications names with their suite of high-speed internet, cable, home phone, cell phone, and web-hosting services. Northern Wireless currently has nearly 1,600 high-speed internet customers in ten different counties in northeast South Dakota.

"We are excited to explore this opportunity with Northern Wireless and to secure the benefits that it can bring to both cooperatives," James Valley Telecommunications and Northern Valley Communications CEO James Groft said.

Should the sale be finalized, James Valley will transition Northern Wireless customers from their current wireless broadband internet service to a new wired or fixed wireless internet connection.

## **Thune's Office Accepting Summer Internship Applications**

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) is currently seeking college students to serve as summer interns in his office in Washington, D.C., as well as in his offices in Aberdeen, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls.

Interns in Thune's state offices will participate in constituent service and state outreach activities, while students in the Washington, D.C., office will have the opportunity to witness the legislative process, give Capitol building tours, and attend Senate votes and hearings. Both in-state and Washington, D.C., internships will allow students to work closely with constituents, hone their research and writing skills, and learn a multitude of valuable office skills.

"The opportunity to intern in a Senate office is one of the best ways to learn how our federal government works," said Thune. "Interns in my office will experience the inner workings of a Senate office firsthand, while improving their legislative knowledge and communication skills. I encourage all college students to consider applying for this rewarding experience."

Thune is chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; and the Senate Committee on Finance.

College students who are interested in interning in Senator Thune's Washington, D.C., office should submit a resume and cover letter by February 24, 2017, to:

Senator John Thune  
Attn: Angela Merkle  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
By email to: [angela\\_merkle@thune.senate.gov](mailto:angela_merkle@thune.senate.gov)  
Or by fax to: 202-228-5429

College students who are interested in interning in Senator Thune's Sioux Falls, Rapid City, or Aberdeen offices should submit a resume and cover letter, by February 24, 2017, to:

Senator John Thune  
Attn: Robin Long  
5015 South Bur Oak  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
By email to: [robin\\_long@thune.senate.gov](mailto:robin_long@thune.senate.gov)

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## Four grapplers place at Groton Invite

Four Groton Area wrestlers made it to the final round at the Groton Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Trevor Pray placed first at 126 pounds, Brandyn Anderson placed first at 285 pounds, Wyatt Locke placed second at 220 pounds and Grady O'Neill placed fourth at 182 pounds.

Canton JV won the team title with 177 points followed by Ellendale/Edgeley/Klum with 168.5, Watertown JV with 155, Groton Area with 87.5, Britton/Hecla with 73, Huron JV 64.5, Webster Area 59, Warner/Northwestern 58, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 47, Milbank JV 37, Wolsey/Wessington 26, Ipswich/Leola 22 and Clark/Willow Lake 8.

The Glenn Sperry Pinner Award was presented to Seth Peterson, Canton JV, with 4 pins in 6:48.

### 113 - Dragr Monson (6-13) scored 6.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 6-13 won by decision over Mason Jones (Britton/Hecla) 9-21 (Dec 9-2)

Quarterfinal - Mac Young (Watertown JV) 3-1 won by fall over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 6-13 (Fall 2:49)

Cons. Round 2 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 6-13 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 6-13 won by fall over Ryan Vinsant (Canton JV) 9-6 (Fall 1:45)

Cons. Semi - Zack Strong (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 12-18 won by decision over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 6-13 (Dec 7-1)

### 120 - Hunter McClean (0-11)

Champ. Round 1 - Hunter McClean (Groton Area) 0-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Colton Borah (Wolsey/Wessington) 11-10 won by fall over Hunter McClean (Groton Area) 0-11 (Fall 1:47)

Cons. Round 2 - Jude Taylor (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 1-7 won by tech fall over Hunter McClean (Groton Area) 0-11 (TF-1.5 4:14 (17-0))

### 126 - Trevor Pray (20-2) placed 1st and scored 26.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 20-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Chris Andrews (Watertown JV) 0-2 (Fall 0:33)

Semifinal - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Kaden Krause (Milbank JV) 2-4 (Fall 1:32)

1st Place Match - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 20-2 won by fall over Mason Maag (Watertown JV) 3-1 (Fall 2:23)

### 138 - Wyatt Kurtz (13-10) scored 5.50 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 13-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Grant Wirkus (Watertown JV) 4-1 won by fall over Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 13-10 (Fall 2:00)

Cons. Round 2 - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 13-10 won by tech fall over Nick Seefeld (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 3-8 (TF-1.5 2:12 (15-0))

Cons. Round 3 - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 13-10 won by fall over Tynan Fogarty (SF O'Gorman JV) 5-8 (Fall 0:31)

Cons. Semi - Marbel Lopez-Bartolon (Huron JV) 7-7 won by fall over Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 13-10 (Fall 4:37)

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## 152 - Lane Krueger (0-14)

Champ. Round 1 - Alex Mastalir (Canton JV) 10-5 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-14 (Fall 1:27)

Cons. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Rhett Moch (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 4-4 won by decision over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-14 (Dec 4-2)

## 182 - Grady O`NEILL (2-14) placed 4th and scored 10.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Grady O`NEILL (Groton Area) 2-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Grady O`NEILL (Groton Area) 2-14 won by fall over Victor Valencia (SF O`Gorman JV) 2-12 (Fall 0:48)

Semifinal - Westen Ellingson (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 21-8 won by fall over Grady O`NEILL (Groton Area) 2-14 (Fall 0:59)

Cons. Semi - Grady O`NEILL (Groton Area) 2-14 received a bye () (Bye)

3rd Place Match - Nick Hillberg (SF O`Gorman JV) 7-9 won by decision over Grady O`NEILL (Groton Area) 2-14 (Dec 7-0)

## 220 - Wyatt Locke (11-10) placed 2nd and scored 16.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 11-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 11-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 11-10 won by decision over Marshall Baldwin (Canton JV) 24-2 (Dec 8-2)

1st Place Match - Wyatt Nitschke (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 21-6 won by decision over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 11-10 (Dec 3-2)

## 285 - Brandyn Anderson (18-2) placed 1st and scored 24.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 18-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 18-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 18-2 won by fall over Lars Andersen (Milbank JV) 2-6 (Fall 0:27)

1st Place Match - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 18-2 won by fall over Josh Fastnacht (Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm) 20-10 (Fall 0:49)

## 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 29<sup>th</sup>

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

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



## Five grapplers place at Northeast Conference Tourney

Five wrestlers placed at the Northeast Conference Tournament held Thursday in Groton.

Trevor Pray placed first at 126 pounds, Brandyn Anderson placed first at 220 pounds, Wyatt Locke was second at 220 pounds, Wyatt Kurtz placed third at 138 pounds and Grady O'Neill placed fourth at 182 pounds.

Sisseton placed first with 153 points followed by Redfield/Doland with 137, Webster Area was third with 131.5 points, Milbank Area was fourth with 104 points, Clark/Willow Lake was fifth with 97, Groton Area was sixth with 75, Deuel was seventh with 53 and Britton/Hecla was eighth with 30.

### **113 - Dragr Monson (4-11) scored 1.00 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Tyler Krause (Milbank) 22-14 won by fall over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 4-11 (Fall 5:42)

Cons. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 4-11 won by decision over Mason Jones (Britton/Hecla) 8-21 (Dec 5-2)

Cons. Semi - Hunter Rucktaeschel (Webster Area) 11-12 won by fall over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 4-11 (Fall 0:21)

### **120 - Hunter McClean (0-9)**

Quarterfinal - Toby Schneck (Milbank) 13-13 won by injury default over Hunter McClean (Groton Area) 0-9 (Inj. 0:00)

Cons. Round 1 - Hunter McClean (Groton Area) 0-9 received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Hunter Kloos (Deuel) 14-7 won by fall over Hunter McClean (Groton Area) 0-9 (Fall 1:51)

### **126 - Trevor Pray (17-2) placed 1st and scored 22.00 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 17-2 won by fall over Kaden Krause (Milbank) 0-2 (Fall 0:46)

Semifinal - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 17-2 won by fall over Logan Eide (Deuel) 4-7 (Fall 2:25)

1st Place Match - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 17-2 won by decision over Sterling Rausch (Webster Area) 17-7 (Dec 8-3)

### **138 - Wyatt Kurtz (11-8) placed 3rd and scored 10.00 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 11-8 received a bye ( ) (Bye)

Semifinal - Riley Binger (Redfield/Doland) 15-12 won by fall over Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 11-8 (Fall 2:37)

Cons. Semi - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 11-8 received a bye ( ) (Bye)

3rd Place Match - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 11-8 won by fall over Norvin Moreno (Sisseton) 2-9 (Fall 2:51)



**Here are the 126 pound place winners at the Northeast Conference wrestling tournament. From top, they are Trevor Pray, Groton Area, first place; Sterling Rausch, Webster Area, second; Dane Christopherson, Sisseton, third; and Logan Eide, Deuel, fourth.**

(Courtesy photo)

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## **145 - Thomas Cranford (1-10)**

Quarterfinal - Cade Shoemaker (Webster Area) 25-11 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 1-10 (Fall 1:37)

Cons. Round 1 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 1-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Carter Wegner (Redfield/Doland) 17-8 won by decision over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 1-10 (Dec 6-0)

## **152 - Lane Krueger (0-12)**

Quarterfinal - Carter Shoemaker (Webster Area) 20-10 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-12 (Fall 0:32)

Cons. Round 1 - Isaiah Harrison (Sisseton) 2-6 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-12 (Fall 1:32)

## **182 - Grady O`Neill (1-12) placed 4th and scored 4.00 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 1-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Cooper Baloun (Redfield/Doland) 18-0 won by fall over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 1-12 (Fall 0:35)

Cons. Semi - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 1-12 received a bye () (Bye)

3rd Place Match - Vincent Herberg (Sisseton) 13-14 won by fall over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) 1-12 (Fall 0:28)

## **220 - Wyatt Locke (10-9) placed 2nd and scored 16.00 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 10-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 10-9 won by fall over Ben Nelson (Milbank) 8-17 (Fall 1:48)

1st Place Match - Josh Currence (Sisseton) 20-11 won by decision over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 10-9 (Dec 5-0)

## **285 - Brandyn Anderson (16-2) placed 1st and scored 22.00 team points.**

Quarterfinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 16-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 16-2 won by fall over Kaeden Metz (Sisseton) 20-14 (Fall 0:57)

1st Place Match - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 16-2 won by injury default over Chase Sigdestad (Webster Area) 16-12 (Inj. 0:00)

## **Noem Accepting Applications for Summer Interns**

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Kristi Noem is accepting applications for summer internships in her Washington, D.C.; Sioux Falls; Rapid City; and Watertown offices.

Student interns will work with staff on various constituent service and communications projects, as well as assist with legislative research. Both South Dakota and Washington, D.C. internships provide students with first-hand knowledge of the legislative process and the countless other functions of a congressional office.

College students who are interested in interning in any of Representative Noem’s offices should submit a cover letter and resume to [Michael.Maloof@mail.house.gov](mailto:Michael.Maloof@mail.house.gov) by Friday, March 31.

For more information, contact Michael Maloof at 202-225-2801.

## Thinking About Health

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

### Major Changes May Be Coming to Medicare

What's going to happen to Medicare?

That's not an insignificant question given the political shift in Washington. Now, with Republicans controlling the presidency and both houses of Congress, some ideas they've been pushing for years have a chance of passing. Those ideas would drastically change the way Medicare works for those already on it and those joining in the next few years.

Medicare is wildly popular, but that popularity doesn't necessarily translate into understanding of a very complex program, what's happened to it, and what may happen. Writing about Medicare for nearly 30 years and watching it evolve, I've seen how easily Congress has already made big changes with hardly a peep from the press or the public. The same could happen again. In this column I discuss a few of those possible changes gleaned from my decades of experience covering the program.

Since the election, there's been talk of "voucherizing" or privatizing Medicare, an idea Republicans have been pushing for 20 years. Under a fully privatized arrangement Medicare would no longer be social insurance like Social Security but more like Obamacare with everyone eventually buying their coverage from private insurance companies.

Beneficiaries would receive a sum of money, likely to be called "premium support" instead of the more dire-sounding "voucher," to help buy their coverage. The amount of support and how well it would keep pace with medical inflation would be buried in the details Congress would hash out.

Today, the government provides the benefits for hospital and physician care for most Medicare beneficiaries, but that could change with more privatization. There already is a lot of privatization in Medicare, and it came about step-by-step - usually with both political parties in agreement and lots of buzz words like "consumer choice" to sell changes to the public.

The long steady march toward Medicare Advantage (MA) plans now used by about one-third of all beneficiaries and the prescription drug benefit are privatized insurance programs within Medicare. Seniors in MA plans give up their traditional, standardized Medicare benefits for doctor and hospital services and buy them from insurers that receive subsidies from the government.

In a totally privatized arrangement, there may be no standardized benefits, and seniors would choose from a menu of insurance company options much the way drug plans are sold today.

It's too early to say whether Congress will push for premium support this year. Democrats have already signaled they will fight back. It's more likely that other changes could slip through that would radically alter Medicare and force beneficiaries to pay a lot more for their care.

One of them is a change in the rules on balance billing: physicians charging seniors and disabled people on the program more than what Medicare will pay. Most doctors accept Medicare's payment as payment in full. Those who don't can charge patients only 15 percent more than Medicare's payment. This limit offers protection against the high balance billing charges patients with other kinds of insurance are facing.

The nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price is no fan of the 15 percent rule and once proposed eliminating it, which may explain why he has gotten such a strong endorsement from the American Medical Association. The AMA has called Price a leader in developing public policy to advance patient choice and "reduce excessive regulatory burdens." Many doctors who work with Medicare patients would like to charge as much as they want.

Congress may try to shift costs another way. The objective is to reduce what the government pays for beneficiaries' care by making them pay more themselves. One solution is to combine the deductibles for hospital and physician care into one, and impose an out-of-pocket spending cap for beneficiaries still enrolled in traditional Medicare. Two-thirds of beneficiaries are. Currently no such cap exists. (Seniors in MA plans do face such caps - last year as high as \$6,700.)

If seniors in the traditional program also buy a Medigap plan, it's possible they have what's called "first dollar coverage." That means medical expenses are covered from the beginning.


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Congress has already begun to take that protection away. Beginning in 2020 insurers can no longer sell certain Medigap plans that provide for the first dollar coverage beneficiaries want. However, if you have such a policy, you can keep it.

Medicare does face some long-term funding shortfalls, and so far the acceptable solution is to require that seniors pay more rather than raise taxes for everyone or impose cost controls with teeth, which doctors, hospitals, drug companies, and other healthcare providers don't want. I will explore all that, including negotiating pharmaceutical prices, in a future column.

How do you think Medicare should change? Write to Trudy at [trudy.lieberman@gmail.com](mailto:trudy.lieberman@gmail.com).



**All new T4r**

**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

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 29  
2 p.m. Performance of the  
79th Annual  
Carnival of Silver Skates

**gdilive.com**



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VISITOR: Groton ( )

## Varsity Stats

NO	PLAYER	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN	
		P	FG	FGA	FG			FGA	OFF	DEF								TOT
3	Sippel, Anthony	*	0	1	0	0	1	4	1	2	3	3	1	0	2	0	1	16:00
4	Shabazz, Bennett	*	1	6	0	1	2	2	1	2	3	5	4	3	3	0	0	0:00
12	Schuring, Sean	*	3	9	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	0	3	0	3	8:00
20	Keith, Brandon	*	4	10	2	8	2	2	3	3	6	5	12	5	4	0	1	16:00
42	Shabazz, Seric	*	2	11	2	8	6	10	1	5	6	4	12	0	0	2	8:00	
10	Lane, Marshall		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	16:00
11	Shabazz, Darien		0	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	8:00
14	Diegel, Treyton		0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
22	Guthmiller, Cade		0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
24	Wuestewald, Frankie		0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	8:00
30	Doeden, Jonny		2	4	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	5	0	1	0	1	16:00
32	Thurston, Mitch		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
34	Jones, Austin		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
40	Johnson, Peyton		1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	24:00
50	Thorson, Luke		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									1	3	4							
Team Totals			13	46	6	27	16	26	12	19	31	25	48	9	14	0	8	160

Total FG% - 1st: 6/19 0.316 2nd: 7/27 0.259 Game: 0.283 Deadball  
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/10 0.300 2nd: 3/17 0.176 Game: 0.222 Rebounds  
 Total FT% - 1st: 6/9 0.667 2nd: 10/17 0.588 Game: 0.615 (5,0)

HOME: Clark/Willow Lake ( )

NO	PLAYER	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN	
		P	FG	FGA	FG			FGA	OFF	DEF								TOT
3	Florey,	*	3	5	3	4	1	1	2	0	2	5	10	1	0	0	0	8:00
5	Stevens,	*	0	5	0	2	1	2	0	7	7	5	1	5	7	0	2	16:00
13	Rusher,	*	4	9	2	6	3	4	1	2	3	2	13	2	3	0	1	24:00
21	Prouty,	*	7	12	4	6	6	11	1	8	9	3	24	3	1	0	1	24:00
42	Burke,	*	4	7	0	0	10	9	2	3	5	0	18	2	2	0	0	16:00
10	Shult,		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
15	Paulson,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
24	Streff,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	16:00
30	Add New Player, O'Nei		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	24:00
32	Burke,		0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	8:00
40	Michalski,		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									1	5	6							
Team Totals			18	41	9	19	23	29	7	26	33	19	68	14	13	0	4	160

Total FG% - 1st: 11/26 0.423 2nd: 7/15 0.467 Game: 0.439 Deadball  
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 5/11 0.455 2nd: 4/8 0.500 Game: 0.474 Rebounds  
 Total FT% - 1st: 5/7 0.714 2nd: 18/22 0.818 Game: 0.793 (4,0)

Technical Fouls: groto (1) 2nd 08:00 4 Bennett Shabazz  
 : ClWi (0)

OFFICIALS :  
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	10	11	8	19	48
Clark/Willow Lake	18	14	19	17	68

Last FG: Groton 4th-08:00, Clark/Willow Lake 4th-08:00  
 Largest lead: Groton by 1 1st-08:00, Clark/Willow Lake by 25 4th-08:00  
 Score tied: 0 times, Lead changed: 2 times

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## Junior Varsity Stats

VISITOR: Groton ( )

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
5 <u>Shabazz, Darien</u>	*	1	3	0	2	1	3	1	3	4	1	3	0	1	0	1	32:00
10 Lane, Marshall	*	2	5	0	2	0	0	1	2	3	1	4	0	2	0	0	8:00
14 <u>Diegel, Treyton</u>	*	1	7	1	4	0	1	0	1	1	2	3	0	2	0	1	24:00
30 Doeden, Jonny	*	2	9	0	4	4	4	2	2	4	4	8	2	3	0	1	32:00
40 <u>Guthmiller, Peyton</u>	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0:00
22 <u>Guthmiller, Cade</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
32 <u>Thurston, Mitchell</u>		4	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	1	0	0	8:00
34 Jones, Austin		0	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	32:00
42 Morris, Alex		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00
50 Thorson, Luke		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								1	1	2				0			
Team Totals		10	33	3	16	5	8	8	15	23	12	28	3	11	0	3	160

Total FG% - 1st: 6/16 0.375 2nd: 4/17 0.235 Game: 0.303  
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/6 0.167 2nd: 2/10 0.200 Game: 0.188  
 Total FT% - 1st: 0/1 0.000 2nd: 5/7 0.714 Game: 0.625

Deadball  
Rebounds  
(1,1)

HOME: Clark/Willow Lake ( )

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
10 Garcia Jr,	*	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	16:00
15 Paulson,	*	2	4	0	1	3	6	0	1	1	1	7	1	2	0	3	32:00
30 O'Neill,	*	5	15	0	4	0	0	1	3	4	1	10	1	1	0	0	32:00
32 Burke,	*	5	8	0	0	0	0	2	9	11	2	10	0	1	0	3	32:00
40 <u>Michalski,</u>	*	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	8:00
10 Schult,		0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	8:00
20 Schmidt,		0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
33 Bratland,		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	16:00
34 <u>Steff,</u>		1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								2	3	5				1			
Team Totals		15	34	0	7	3	8	7	17	24	8	33	3	7	0	8	160

Total FG% - 1st: 7/18 0.389 2nd: 8/16 0.500 Game: 0.441  
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/5 0.000 2nd: 0/2 0.000 Game: 0.000  
 Total FT% - 1st: 0/0 0.000 2nd: 3/8 0.375 Game: 0.375

Deadball  
Rebounds  
(1,0)

Technical Fouls: groto (0)  
 : Clwi (0)

OFFICIALS :  
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	6	7	4	11	28
Clark/Willow Lake	6	8	8	11	33

Last FG: Groton 4th-08:00, Clark/Willow Lake 4th-08:00  
 Largest lead: Groton by 4 1st-08:00, Clark/Willow Lake by 9 4th-08:00  
 Score tied: 3 times, Lead changed: 3 times

## Cyclone boys whirl past Tigers



**Luke Thorson**



**Brandon Keith**



**Cade Guthmiller**



**Treyton Diegel**

**Photos by  
Jeslyn Kosel**

Clark-Willow Lake boys proved to be physical and quick from start to finish as the Cyclones whirled past the Tigers, 66-46.

Clark-Willow held an 18-10 first quarter lead, a 32-21 lead at half time and 51-29 lead at the end of the third quarter.

The game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Groton Ford, Ken's Food Fair of Groton, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgensen, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, Northern Plains Psychological Associates, Krueger Brother Gravel and Dirt and Hefty Seed with Kalen Kjellsen and Justin Hanson.

Groton Area made 23 percent of its field goals in the first quarter compared to 46 percent for Clark-Willow Lake. In the second quarter, Groton warmed up to 30 percent and the Cyclones cooled off to 27 percent. Clark-Willow Lake warmed up in the third period to 50 percent and Groton Area cooled down to 25 percent.

Brandon Keith and Seric Shabazz each had 12 points followed by Sean Schuring with eight, Jonny Doeden had five, Bennett Shabazz four, Frankie Wuestewald and Peyton Johnson each had two and Anthony Sippel, Daien Shabazz and Cade Guthmiller each had one free throw.

Four players hit double figures for Clark-Willow Lake with Jacob Prouty leading the way with 24 points followed by Micah Burke with 18, Bradyn Rusher had 13, Grayson Florey 10, Stone Burke two and Ntai Stevens added one free throw.

Bennett Shabazz and Brandon Keith both fouled out for Groton

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**Jonny Doeden**



**Anthony Schinkel**



**Sean Schuring**



**Jonny Doeden hands off to Brandon Keith.**

Area and Grayson Florey and Ntai Stevens both fouled out for Clark-Willow Lake.

For the game, Groton Area made 13 of 46 field goals for 28 percent, 16 of 26 free throws for 62 percent off of Clark-Willow Lake's 19 team fouls, had 31 rebounds with Brandon Keith and Seric Shabazz each having six, nine assists with Brandon Keith having five, and 14 turnovers with four of them being steals.

Clark-Willow Lake made 18 of 41 field goals for 44 percent, 19 of 23 free throws for 79 percent off of Groton Area's 25 team fouls, had 33 rebounds with Prouty having nine, 14 assists with Stevens having five and 13 turnovers with eight being steals as Schuring had three and Seric Shabazz had two.

In three-pointers, Clark-Willow Lake made nine of 19 for 47 percent and Groton Area made six of 27 for 22 percent.

Clark-Willow Lake won the junior varsity game, 33-28. Scoring for Groton Area: Mitchell Thurston 10, Jonny Doeden 8, Marshall Lane 4, Treyton Diegel 3 and Darien Shabazz 3.

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**Marshall Lane**



**Frankie Wuestewald**



**Peyton Johnson**



**Seric Shabazz**



**Bennett Shabazz**



**Darien Shabazz**



**Mitchell Thurston**

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## Lana's Annals

Lana  
Greenfield  
District 2  
State  
Representative

Greetings to you all. The weather this week in the capitol city was less than ideal. Winter is still in force!!

IM22 had a lengthy hearing before our joint judiciary committee. Both opponents and proponents testified. So far 1.73 million dollars has been spent on getting this measure through with 26,268 dollars of this money coming from only 17 South Dakota donors. The rest is out of state money so the agenda is NOT being pushed by people around here. What is wrong with IM22? It is 70 pages long and contains several subject matters. The drafters were warned that constitutionality problems would ensue if put on the ballot, but they chose to do it anyway. What is unconstitutional? Democracy credits (voters are given 2 fifty dollar credits to funnel money to their favorite candidates from our taxpayer dollars) is not legal. Only the legislature can appropriate money for programs. This piece of legislation takes between 5-12 million dollars from our state general fund and would give it to candidate campaigns. I do not think state money should

fund private campaigns.

Another major flaw is that this is NOT an anti-corruption measure as many thought. It does nothing to address EB-5 nor Gear Up. We legislators, neither Democrat or Republican, had a thing to do with these federally funded programs. Of the people misusing the money none were legislators. Another part of the bill is this: if you are a person who is employed by a company or group who has a lobbyist in place, you have a conflict of interest and should not be in the legislature. Examples: Doctors, lawyers, dentists, teachers, retail and wholesale people, retired state employees, farmers etc. would need to resign as all have a lobbyist in Pierre (American Dental, South Dakota Medical Association, SDEA, South Dakota Retailers and Wholesalers, SD Farm organizations, S.D Retirement etc.). It is a total fallacy that we legislators get bags of money and gold watches and trips from lobbyists. They are out there presenting information to us about bills their organizations think are important. Certainly lobbyists do not strong arm us or bribe us (this is against the oath we take). We cast our votes by being informed as to what is best for our areas.

IM22 was several thousand words in entirety. The voter had about 200 words to read on the ballot. Therefore, if you did not read the bill online in entirety, you had no idea what it entailed.

One last thing about IM22: 378,995 votes were cast in our state's 2016 election. Of that number 349,800 voted on IM22. That leaves 29,190 that did not even cast a vote on it. Why not? Perhaps they did not understand or feel comfortable about casting a vote on this issue.

Now all of that being said, I understand that if someone comes to us and says "Will you sign this anti-corruption petition" and associate it with EB-5 or Gear Up, of course, people think they are doing what is good and right. In Pierre, Democrats and Republican legislators all know that this measure needs fixing, and it will be bi-partisan legislation to clean up this mess. The only thing there is some difference of opinion on is the emergency clause. I voted for it to stop the flow of out of state money coming in to bludgeon our legislators in the form of negative ads and false statements. I also voted for it to stop the litigation money wasted on trying to defend a measure that will likely be found unconstitutional.

I hope that this explains some of the points about this measure. I want to, in closing, also point out that the major drafters and lobbyists who pushed for this measure to pass in our state were not even at the hearing. They KNEW it was unconstitutional and was designed, in my opinion, to create unrest and pandemonium. Mission accomplished. I am grateful to those of you who you who have been in touch. I love this state and want to protect outside forces from coming in and interrupting our way of life. They are never here for us in times of floods, winter storms, or other devastating effects; therefore, it is unfair for them to push unfair, untruthful political propaganda. We are citizen legislators who have chosen to work for 6000 dollars per year. That in itself should show our earnest endeavors in public service.

On a lighter note: it was great to get to meet Lee Sanderson (Conde) and Jason Warrington (Groton) who were new inductees in SDRL (South Dakota Rural Leadership). Thank you for inviting us to your ceremony. You definitely were well-chosen as tomorrow's future ag leader. Also a thanks to Bill Krickac of Clark who invited us to attend SDNA (South Dakota Newspaper Association) meeting.

If you need to contact me, I can be reached at [Lana.Greenfield@sdlegislature.gov](mailto:Lana.Greenfield@sdlegislature.gov) or [lane.greenfield@gmail.com](mailto:lane.greenfield@gmail.com) or 635-6932. You may also call the House Lobby. High school and college students answer the phone, so please state who you are, your district, and who you want the message directed to. Have a great week!

Sincere regards, Rep. Lana Greenfield



## Internships Offer Behind-the-Scenes Look at Capitol Hill

For students interested in a career crafting public policy, an internship in a Senate office can be an excellent opportunity to see firsthand how our federal government functions. My office offers internships year-round in both my Washington, D.C., and South Dakota offices for college students and recent graduates.

Interns have an important job in the overall functioning of a Senate office. They help all our staff do their jobs more efficiently by assisting with legislative research, circulating letters to be signed by other senators and, perhaps most importantly, listening to the folks in South Dakota who call or visit us so they can share their messages directly with me. Interns in each of my offices are oftentimes the first people South Dakotans see when they come to visit, and the individuals answering the phones in our offices.

Interns in the Washington office may work on a number of varying tasks over the course of a day. The life of a Capitol Hill intern is different each day, which gives interns the opportunity to explore various interest areas during their time in our office so they can find what they're passionate about doing. Some of the jobs in our Washington office may include tracking legislation, researching bills, attending committee hearings and briefings, leading tours of the U.S. Capitol building, handling constituent phone calls, sorting mail and providing legislative support. Additionally, interns in our D.C. office have the opportunity to participate in the Senate Intern Lecture Series, where they can speak with Members of Congress, military leaders and others in top positions of government.

South Dakota office interns also have ample opportunity to assist staff with different jobs, but the duties are more constituent-focused. Our interns in the South Dakota offices will work on researching constituent inquiries and requests, participating in outreach activities, assisting staff on special projects, handling phone calls and constituent requests and sorting mail.

In all offices, students will work closely with constituents and staff, polish their research and writing skills and gain an in-depth understanding of a Senate office. We are able to offer college credit, as well. Most of our interns spend an entire semester working in our offices, and some take evening or online classes to work on their degrees while interning. We are able to offer our Washington interns a stipend to help cover their housing expenses while they are in D.C.

South Dakotans interested in applying for an internship in my office are encouraged to visit my website at [www.rounds.senate.gov/internships](http://www.rounds.senate.gov/internships) to learn more about the program. Additionally, feel free to call any of our offices with questions about being an intern. Internships are available in my Washington, D.C., Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City offices.

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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



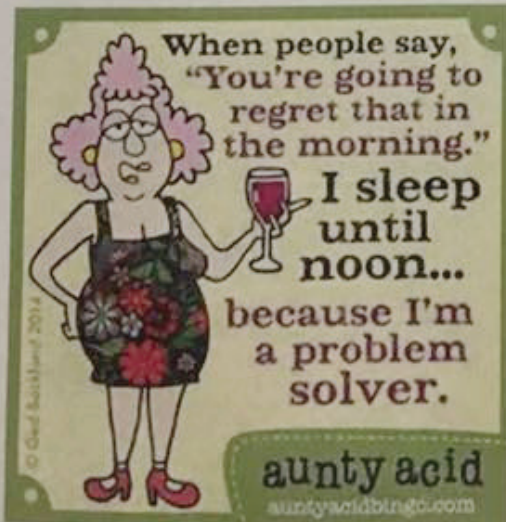
Like Adventure and Fun? Then join Duenwald Transportation on our Two Day Mystery Tour, March 1st and 2nd. Cost is \$225 per person based on double occupancy \$290 for single. For information on how to get signed up for this exciting



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

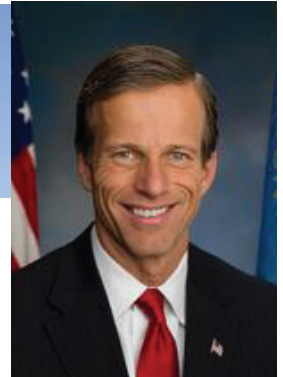
Bus will depart Clark at 8:30am and Watertown at 9:15am on Wednesday March 1st. It's going to be a trip of a lifetime and you will be doing things you have never done before???? So jump on the bus sit back and wonder where this

bus will be taking me today and tomorrow.





**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## It's Time to Bury the Death Tax

Benjamin Franklin once famously quipped that "in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." While there's some truth to what Franklin said, we certainly don't need a system where Americans are taxed at death. The idea that death could be a taxable event might come as a surprise to some people, but believe it or not, the IRS sometimes and unfairly views death as a final chance to help fill its coffers. I strongly disagree, which is why I'm continuing my years-long fight to permanently repeal the estate tax – or the death tax, which is a far more accurate characterization.

The reality of the death tax hits families at the worst possible moment. The last thing families need to worry about when they're grieving the loss of a loved one is how and when they'll deal with the long arm of the IRS. The underlying premise of the death tax, which is re-taxing wealth that has already been taxed, is fundamentally unfair. It also hits every family differently. In South Dakota, for example, family-owned farms and ranches are often land rich and cash poor. On paper, a family with a several-thousand acre farm might seem far wealthier than what's reflected in the family checkbook or savings account.

Anyone who has run a farm or ranch knows that land alone doesn't pay the bills. The land represents an opportunity to earn a living, put food on the table, send kids to school, and keep the operation running from one day to the next. Without it, the farm doesn't exist. The IRS takes the opposite approach. It only sees lines on a balance sheet. The IRS lumps land value with other assets, like cash in bank accounts and the owner's home. In too many cases, the land and other assets can put the farm owner and his or her family directly in the crosshairs of death tax.

Some people argue that with smart lawyers and accountants and complicated estate planning, individuals can avoid having to pay the death tax at all. While that might be true for some of the wealthiest people who can afford both the ongoing time and financial burden of effective estate planning, that's not the case for everyone. Estate planning comes at a cost, and every dollar spent on a lawyer or accountant is a dollar that isn't reinvested into growing a business, hiring new employees, or boosting paychecks. That money isn't used as effectively as possible while the individual is alive, long before the death tax may even apply.

Abolishing the death tax would give Americans greater peace of mind so they can focus on what really matters, and that's why I'm committed to this fight. According to the American Farm Bureau, thousands of farms in South Dakota would exceed the death tax's exemption level today, just based on the value of their land. My primary interest in taking up this cause has always been to protect those farmers and ranchers and to put this onerous tax six feet under once and for all.



## Repealing the Death Tax

My dad woke up at the crack of dawn almost every day in pursuit of his American Dream: to build a farm large enough that his kids could grow up and farm together, if we wanted to. It's the same reason most parents get up and go to work every morning; they're trying to give their kids something they didn't have.

For the better part of my 20s, however, I didn't know if my dad's dream would be seen through. As many reading this now know, we lost my dad unexpectedly in a farm accident. I was pretty young – recently married, working on my college degree, getting ready to have our first baby. It changed our whole life.

While we were still trying to pick up the pieces after my dad died, our family received a letter from the IRS. Because of this tragedy that had undermined our sense of security, the Death Tax was now about to undermine our financial security.

Although we had cattle, machinery and land, we didn't have the money to pay what the IRS was asking for. Selling land didn't seem to be a good option. After all, it was my dad who had warned me, "Don't get rid of land. God isn't making any more of it." Selling the cattle and machinery would basically shut the farm down, so that wasn't an option either.

Eventually, we were able to secure a loan. While this kept the farm up and running, it impacted operations for about a decade and forced us to make some pretty difficult executive decisions so we could make ends meet.

Because no family should have to go through what ours did, I introduced legislation earlier this Congress to fully and permanently repeal the Death Tax.

Of course my own family's story is wrapped around this issue, but at the core of it all, I reject the Death Tax on the principle that it is a double tax. Families asked to pay the Death Tax have already paid taxes when they bought the land, machinery, or inventory (in the case of a small business). They shouldn't be taxed on it again simply because a loved one has passed away.

Additionally, this tax disproportionately impacts farmers, ranchers and small businesses, who may have a large number of assets, but not necessarily cash in the bank. Some may be forced to close the doors altogether just to pay this tax. It's not right.

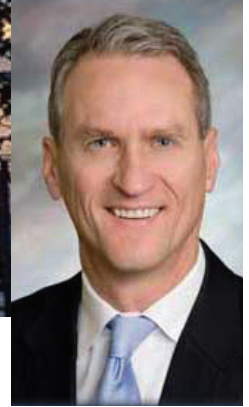
With broad support for repeal within the Trump administration and Congress, I'm hopeful we'll finally be able to repeal this unfair and immoral double tax. Simply put, a lifetime of hard work shouldn't be undermined because of a greedy federal Death Tax policy.

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South Dakota Governor  
Dennis Daugaard



## Washington Looking To The States

On Friday, Jan. 20, I was in Washington, D.C., among the many who attended the inaugural ceremonies for our 45th President. As governor, I was provided a seat on the platform, among other governors, former presidents, Supreme Court justices, senators and members of Congress. For someone like me, who grew up on a small farm, and attended a one-room school, being among those seated behind President Trump was both surreal and humbling.

In recent years, the regulations and unfunded mandates imposed by the federal government have been a concern. Under the EPA alone, the last eight years have seen 4,000 new rules, requiring an estimated 33 million hours of paperwork and a price tag of \$334 billion in compliance costs. Under the Affordable Care Act, another 3,852 new federal regulations were adopted, with an annual price tag of more than \$116 billion.

Some of these regulations are overly burdensome to the states, and nonsensical. For instance, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, requires state Medicaid and health program agencies to post notices in the state's top 15 languages. Even though South Dakota has only about 200 residents who speak French, we are still required to print all significant publications in French.

With President Trump's inauguration, I am hopeful many of these unreasonable regulations will be repealed. I look forward to an administration that respects limited government, is committed to reining in the federal bureaucracy and understands the role of the states in a federal system. Both the Trump Administration and leaders in Congress have been reaching out to governors, asking for ways to eliminate red tape and return flexibility to the states.

While I was in Washington, D.C., for the inaugural, I was invited to speak with members of the Senate Finance Committee about South Dakota's recommendations concerning Medicaid reform.

I cautioned the senators against a "one-size-fits-all" approach to funding state Medicaid programs, and urged them to pass reforms that are equitable to rural states and also to states that have not expanded Medicaid. State governments should have the option of establishing work requirements or requiring wellness activities or performance benchmarks for Medicaid enrollees. These approaches could help keep costs down and improve health outcomes for individuals.

I also identified the Medicaid/Indian Health Services reimbursement issue as South Dakota's number one priority and urged the senators to consider this issue when repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. The federal government needs to live up to its obligation to provide health care for Native Americans.

I am encouraged that the Trump Administration and federal lawmakers are asking for state input. My meeting with Senate Finance Committee members marked the first time since my election in 2010 that governors have been asked by members of Congress to come to Washington to give our state's perspective on federal reforms. I am hopeful they will take South Dakota's priorities under serious consideration and, in the coming years, continue to look to the states.

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## Q4 BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY

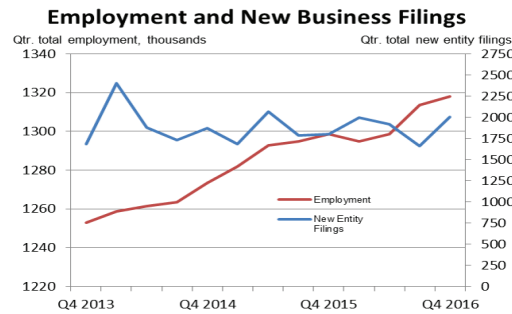
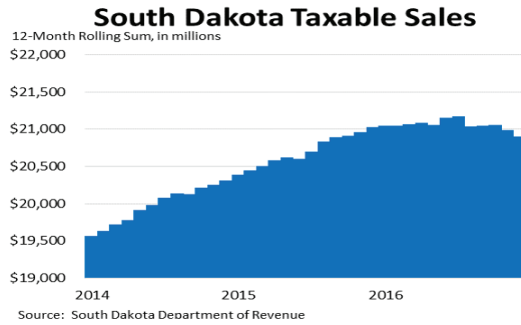
**SOUTH DAKOTA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
SHANTEL KREBS**

In partnership with



### Fourth Quarter 2016

**Secretary's Minute:** The new business entity online filing system has been up and running since November 14th. Our office filed formation documents for 941 limited liability companies in the last 45 days of 2016, with the majority (68%) of those formed online with the new system. In a push towards greater transparency, we have also made more historical business records available to the public. We now have almost 5,000,000 corporate and uniform commercial code documents available to view online. By the time this report is issued you'll be able to form a new business corporation online with our system starting in February. Please check out our new online system through which you are able to file your business documents in less than five minutes at [www.sdsos.gov](http://www.sdsos.gov).



### Fourth Quarter 2016 Economic Highlights

- SD shares the lowest unemployment rate in the U.S. at 2.7% with New Hampshire.
- Personal income increased in Q4 by 1.8%.
- Building Permits increased in Q4 by 4.9%.
- Employment growth has continued in Q4.
- Many national economic indicators improved in Q4.

SOUTH DAKOTA	Current Period	3 Months Prior	Percent Change over Prior Period	Annual Percent Change	5 Year CAGR*
<b>Wealth</b>					
Personal Income (millions of dollars)	41,818	41,082	1.8%	2.1%	2.4%
Total Sales, 12 mo. trailing (millions of dollars)	67,584	68,128	-0.8%	-1.1%	1.7%
Taxable Sales, 12 mo. trailing (millions of dollars)	20,901	21,045	-0.7%	-0.6%	3.4%
<b>Business Outlays</b>					
Average Weekly Wage per Employee	760	771	-1.4%	2.7%	3.0%
Retail Gasoline Price (dollars per gallon)	2.37	2.24	5.8%	20.9%	-6.2%
<b>Economic Overview</b>					
Employment	440,000	438,800	0.3%	2.4%	1.4%
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.9%	-6.9%	-10.0%	-9.3%
Initial Jobless Claims	365	239	52.7%	-12.0%	-6.9%
Continuing Jobless Claims	3,335	1,046	218.8%	15.3%	-5.0%
Building Permits, Number of Units, 12 mo. trailing	5,502	5,206	5.7%	22.2%	13.8%
Valuation (thousands of dollars), 12 mo. trailing	839,309	800,202	4.9%	24.6%	14.6%
FHFA Purchase-Only Home Price Index	268	265	1.1%	5.1%	4.1%
Total Business Bankruptcy Filings	16	10	60.0%	23.1%	-10.6%
Chapter 7	10	5	100.0%	233.3%	-9.0%
Chapter 11	-	-	-	-	-
Chapter 13	5	4	25.0%	66.7%	10.8%

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Quarterly Personal Income (SA)(Q3/16); South Dakota Department of Revenue (NSA) (12/16); South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (SA) (Q2/16); US Energy Information Administration, Weekly Retail Gasoline and Diesel Prices, Midwest (12/26/16); Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES (SA) (1/16); US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (NSA) (12/31/16); Census Bureau, New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized (NSA) (1/16); FHFA Purchase-Only Home Price Index (SA) (Q3/16); Administrative Office of the US Courts (Q3/16). \*Compound Annual Growth Rate.

For full report, please visit <https://sdsos.gov/general-information/publications/default.aspx>

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## GROTON AREA ELEMENTARY TO HOST SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR EVENT FEBRUARY 9, 2017

### What:

Groton Area Elementary will host a Scholastic Book Fair on Thursday, February, 9, 2017, from 1:30 to 8:00 pm. Funds raised will help purchase books to expand the elementary library. Families, faculty, and the community are invited to attend this fun reading event that helps inspire children to become lifelong readers.

Mr. Brett Schwan, Elementary Principal, will preview books with the students by reading books or selections from books throughout the week of February 6th.

### When:

The Book Fair will be open daily during school hours for the students to preview books. Purchases may be made on Thursday afternoon from 1:30 until 8 pm. Online shopping will be available February 8-28. An app is also available that will give book levels, price and a synopsis. All you do is scan the book with your cell phone and the information is at your fingertips.

### Where:

Groton Area Elementary is located at 810 N 1st.

### More:

The Book Fair offers specially priced books and educational products, including popular series, award-winning titles, new releases, adult bestsellers, and other great reads from dozens of publishers.

The Book Fair will feature the All for Books™ program, where students can share the thrill of reading with others by donating loose change to purchase books from the Book Fair for expanding the title selection at the elementary library. The All for Books box will also be at Ken's C-Store before the fair. Scholastic Book Fairs® then matches those monetary donations with a donation of up to one million dollars in books from The Scholastic Possible Fund, which distributes books to children in need through organizations, such as Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc. and the Kids In Need Foundation.

If you are interested in helping with the book fair – helping students select books and cashiering (Feb 9), packing up (Feb 10) – please contact Julie Milbrandt at [julie.milbrandt@k12.sd.us](mailto:julie.milbrandt@k12.sd.us).

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Chipmunks 17, Cheetahs 14, Foxes 12, Coyotes 11, Shih Tzus 10, Jackelopes 8

**Men's High Games:** Roger Spanier 222, Brad Larson 204, Lance Frohling 197

**Women's High Games:** Karen Spanier 174, Dar Larson 174, Nancy Radke 167, Vicki Jorgensen 167, Sue Stanley 165

**Men's High Series:** Roger Spanier 562, Brad Larson 560, Lance Frohling 541

**Women's High Series:** Sue Stanley 474, Vicki Jorgensen 467, Nancy Radke 448

# Carnival of Silver Skates



79th Annual Performance  
January 29, 2017

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 2016 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen Aubray Harry

Aubray is a Freshman at Minnesota State University in Mankota, where she is studying Dental Hygiene. She is the daughter of Shonna and Joey Harry and has one sibling, Trevor. Aubray is also an ice skating cheerleader for the Division I Men's Hockey Team at Minnesota State. Aubray was in the Carnival of Silver Skates for 14 years and said "it was an honor being chosen as the 2016 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen. Being in the Carnival was always something I looked forward to, as well as something I enjoyed helping with the past few years." Aubray said she feels very proud coming from such a great community and being able to call it home. She is thankful for everyone who keeps the special tradition of the Carnival of Silver Skates going.

## Queen Candidates

### Seniors



Katie Kohler



Gabrielle Kramer

### Juniors



Hannah Lewandowski



Jasmine Schinkel



Madison Sippel

## 2017 Carnival of Silver Skates

### A few reminders - please:

- Have your children stay in/by your vehicle – **no** skating behind the scenery or in front of vehicles at any time for the safety of everyone
- Have your children report to the warming house 3 acts before their group performs
- (6:30 performance) check your headlights, including automatic lights, and make sure they are off so as not to distract the performers.

### Tune your vehicle radio to station FM 89.1!

Enjoy and stay warm without having to roll down your windows.

### Order of Program

**National Anthem** - performed by Gabrielle Kramer

**Introduction of the 2016 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen**

Aubray Harry

**Introduction of 2016 Snow Queens**

Heather Lone (Senior) and Kaylin Kucker (Junior)

**Coronation of the 2017 Queen of Silver Skates** (afternoon performance only)

**Queen Candidates: Seniors:** Katie Koehler, Gabrielle Kramer. **Juniors:** Hannah Lewandowski, Jasmine Schinkel & Madison Sippel.

### "Broadway on Ice"

#### 1. Kindergarten

Abby Fjeldheim, Tenley Frost, and Aurora Washenberger

Instructors: Nicole Marzahn and Madeline Schuelke

"When I Grow Up"

#### 2. 3rd Grade

Mia Crank, Emma Davies, Rylee Dunker, Breslyn Jeschke, Jerica Locke, Paisley Mitchell, Jaedyn Penning, and Cali Tollifson

Instructors: Tasha Dunker and Alexa Schuring

"It's a Hard Knock Life"

#### 3. 8th Grade

Tessa Erdmann, Alexis Hanten, Tanae Lipp, Hailey Monson, Erin Unzen, Grace Wambach, and Grace Wiedrick

Instructor: Kami Lipp

"One"

#### 4. Specialty Act

Guest Skater, Rachel Scheidt - Watertown Figure Skate Club

"True Colors"



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## 5. 5th Grade

"Let's Hang On"

Cadence Feist, Anna Fjeldheim, Carly Guthmiller, Sydney Leicht, Sara Menzia, Hannah Monson, Kate Profeta, Emma Schinkel, and Ashlyn Sperry  
Instructor: Jasmine Schaller

## 6. 4th Grade

"Good Morning Baltimore"

Emma Bahr, Elizabeth Flihs, Ashley Johnson, Jeslyn Kosel, Emma Kutter, Karlie McKane, Nicolette Nickeson, Emily Overacker, and Laila Roberts  
Instructor: Shonna Harry

## 7. 2nd Grade

"My Favorite Things"

Caroline Bahr, Avery Crank, Teagan Hanten, Addison Hoffman, Brenna Imrie, Emerlee Jones, Claire Schuelke, and McKenna Tietz.  
Instructor: Lindsey Tietz

## 8. 7th Grade

"Popular"

Kennedy Anderson, Megan Flihs, Brooklyn Imrie, Julianna Kosel, and Tina Zoellner  
Instructor: Breanna Marzahn

## Intermission

## 9. 1st Grade

"Dancing Queen"

Raelynn Feist, Ella Kettner, and Sydney Locke  
Instructors: Hannah Lewandowski and Jasmine Schinkel

## 10. Specialty Act

"All That Jazz"

Guest Skater, Courtney Heath - Watertown Figure Skate Club

## 11. 9th Grade

"Seasons of Love"

Caitlynn Barse, Ashley Flihs, Nicole Marzahn, Jenny Pigors, and Madeline Schuelke  
Instructors: Coralea Wolter and Katie Anderson

## 12. 6th Grade

"When Will I Be Loved"

Brenna Carda, Sierra Ehresmann, Kamryn Flihs, Shallyn Foertsch, Aspen Johnson, Ava Kramer, KayLynn Overacker, Marlee Tollifson, and Ellie Weismantel  
Instructors: Merisa Weigel and Jodi Weigel

## 13. 10th Grade

"Sunshine of Your Love"

Kaitlyn Anderson, Taylor Holm, Shyla Larson, Sam Menzia, AnneMarie Smith, Emily Thompson, and Shannon Wiedrick  
Instructors: Merisa Weigel and Jodi Weigel

## 14. Specialty Act

"You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile"

Duet - Alexis and Teagan Hanten

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## 15. Boys Group

Sam Crank, Karsten Fliehs, Korbin McKane, Kamryn McKane, and Owen Sperry  
Instructor: Naomi McKiver

"If I Were a Rich Man"

## 16. 11th & 12th Grades

Hannah Lewandowski, Jasmine Schinkel, Madison Sippel, Katie Koehler, and Gabrielle Kramer  
Instructors: Coralea Wolter and Katie Anderson

"Chim Chim Cher - ee"

## 17. Finale

All Groups and Instructors

"On Broadway"



A special thank you to this year's guest skaters...



### Rachel Scheidt

Rachel Scheidt is a seventh grader attending school in Watertown.. She has been skating for six years, competing in 4-5 competitions each year in South Dakota, Minnesota, and North Dakota. She is also an apprentice coach for the Watertown Learn to Skate program, and dreams of being a full-time skating coach someday. When she's not skating, she loves spending time with friends and doing crafts.

### Courtney Heath

Courtney Heath has been skating for eight years and competing for seven years at various locations in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. She is also an associate member of the Southern Valley Figure Skate Club in Wahpeton, North Dakota. Courtney has also been performing in the Lions Ice Show in Watertown for six years. In addition to competing, Courtney coaches group and private lessons. She has even started judging this year and is excited to continue judging Basic Skills Competitions. Courtney is a sophomore at Sisseton High School and also enjoys dance and golf. She participates in FCCLA and is Sophomore Class President. Courtney is the daughter of Eric and Jen Heath and has two sisters, Kelsey and Kenzley, who are also figure skaters.



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## Acknowledgements

Thank you for attending the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnival of Silver Skates performance! This wonderful Groton area program continues to grow, thanks to the great cooperation of many community members, including:

Those volunteers serving on the 2017 Carnival of Silver Skates Executive Board:

Rachael Crank, Chairperson; Tina Kosel, Co-chairperson; Kristie Flihs, Secretary; Dawn Imrie, Treasurer; Pam Barse, Costume Chair; Coralea Wolter, Skate Instruction Chair; Deb Schuelke and Sarah Hanten, Communications Chairs; and Tasha Dunker, City Relations Chair.

Instructors for this year's Carnival: Coralea Wolter, Katie Anderson, Merisa Weigel, Jodi Weigel, Kami Lipp, Breanna Marzahn, Jasmine Schaller, Shonna Harry, Tasha Dunker, Alexa Schuring, Lyndsey Tietz, Hannah Lewandowski, Jasmine Schinkel, Nicole Marzahn, and Madeline Schuelke.

Costume Seamstresses: Karen Wolter, Laurie LaMee, & Joy Larson.

The countless others who have helped make "Broadway on Ice" a reality.

## Special Thanks to:

Emcee	Adam Franken
Presenting of the US Flag	2017 Senior Skaters
Soloist	Gabrielle Kramer
Sound system & radio transmission technical assistance	Justin Olson
Parking coordinators	Joe Foertsch, Joel Guthmiller
Admission Collectors	Cody Hanten, Jason Wambach, Matt Locke, Fred Johnson
Spotlight Operators	Chris Barse, Jesse Overacker, Cory Mitchell
Costume Donations	Paula/Kianna Kokales
Queen's Gift	Lori's Pharmacy
Distributing notes to students & use of school for photo day	Groton Area Schools
Queen Photo	Hardin's Photography
Use of facilities for costume hand-out	Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Emergency Services	Groton Rescue Squad
2017 Business of the Year	Groton Daily Independent
Announcements on local TV channel	James Valley Telecommunications
Rink & facility maintenance, Snow Removal, etc.	City of Groton
2017 Photographer	Hardin's Photography
Warming House Supervisors	Tina Kosel, Joy Larson
Skating Clinic Instructors	Tasha Dunker, Rachael Crank, Alexis Hanten, Nicole Marzahn, Caitlynn Barse
Publicity Promoters	Groton Daily Independent, Dakota Press, Hub City Radio, James Valley Telecommunications, Aberdeen American News
Program Printing	Tina and Paul Kosel

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## Admission Costs:

Volunteers will be coming around during the performances today to collect admission fees:

\$3.00 for those 13 and older

\$2.00 for those six to twelve

Free for children five and under

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## Looking ahead to future Carnivals...

### Skaters, we want you!

Do you want to be involved in this exciting event next year? Great! Please watch for registration information to come out early next Fall, shortly after the new school year starts. Registration forms are due the beginning of September. Also, watch the Carnival of Silver Skates Facebook page. If you were not involved this year, but would like to receive registration information by mail or e-mail next Fall, please contact Tina Kosel at 397-7285 or [tina@grotonsd.net](mailto:tina@grotonsd.net). You can also reach Tina by friending the Carnival of Silver Skates Facebook page (Silver Skates). Skaters from four years old (must have turned four by August 31<sup>st</sup>) through high school are welcome!

## Let's make next year's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnival EXTRA SPECIAL...

### Parents & Other Volunteers - we NEED you!

The Carnival of Silver Skates Annual Meeting will be  
Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at the Warming House.

Parents of all skaters are encouraged to attend. An election of officers for the 2018 Carnival will be held. The Carnival of Silver Skates Executive Board includes: co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, costume chair, skating instruction chair, communications chair, and city relations chair. Volunteers in these positions ensure that a successful Carnival is to continue.

Watch for upcoming descriptions of positions to see which one would be right for you!

Contact Rachael (881-4853) with any questions.

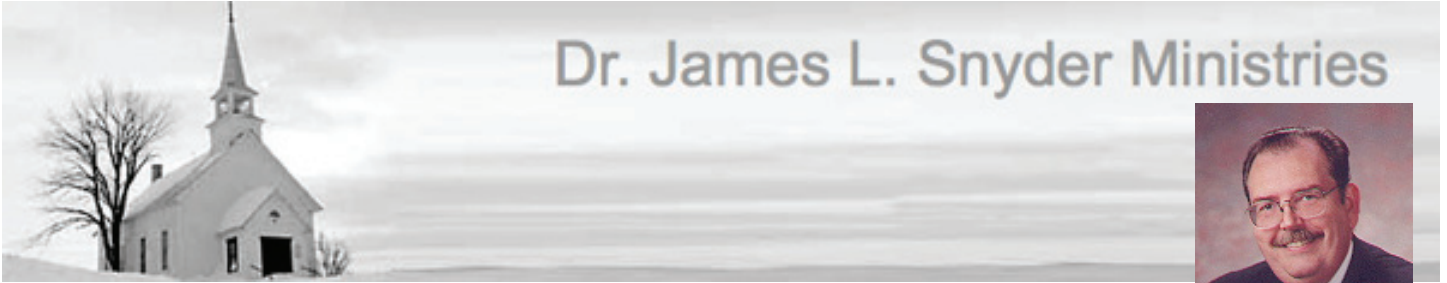
Please plan to attend the meeting and get involved this year!

## Don't forget costume turn-in!!

Options for **costume turn-in** are **TODAY following the evening performance or Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 6:00 PM at the Warming House.** Please do NOT wash any part of the costume. Please return your entire costume, including the hanger, in its original condition. If you absolutely cannot turn in your costume at one of these scheduled times we've arranged, you **MUST** contact Rachael Crank (881-4853) **PRIOR to the costume turn-in** to make other arrangements for a timely costume hand-in. Failure to do so, or to deliver the costume by the alternative date and time, will result in a forfeiture of your costume deposit.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



## Why Did God Give Us Winter?

Living in Florida my idea of winter is anytime the temperature drops below 60°. At that point, I do the shiver-me-timbers dance. You don't want to know!

I have a rare disease called Coldaphobia. As far as I know, there is no cure for this except escaping to Florida. Even here, cold will manage to sometimes poke its nose into my business. All I can do at the time is sneeze, hoping it will scare the cold away.

Experiencing a rather cold afternoon this past week, I queried the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage on this subject.

"Why," I asked rather philosophically, "did God give us winter?"

There are times when I do muse philosophically with a far-off look.

In this mode, I sometimes think about that philosophical question, "How many angels can dance on the point of a needle?" I've often mused on this question, but the problem is I do not know how big angels are and if they really can dance.

I guess it is in the same category as the question, "If a tree fell in the middle of a forest and nobody's around, does it make a sound?"

I like to think along those lines because there is no correct answer to any of them. So, my answer is right, which makes me feel good about myself. If there is anything I want to do, it is to feel good about myself. After all, nobody else feels good about me so it might as well be me.

With all that in mind, the question that I posed to my wife deserved an answer. "Why did God give us winter?"

My wife was busy in the kitchen at the time, but she turned around, put both hands on her hips and said, "So you could go out and buy a new sweater." Then she went back to her kitchen activity.

Of course, it did not really answer my question. Why is God interested in my sweaters? Why can't he allow me to have a climate that eliminates the use of sweaters? I could handle that.

Then my wife interrupted my muse session and said, "God gave us winter so that we would appreciate summer when it came." Then she went back to her kitchen work.

As I thought about that, I had to admit that she is right.

That happens all the time. God gives us something that is not very comfortable at the time and then when it goes away we appreciate the quiet time.

Just like the neighbors when they are playing their music so loud it is thumping in my head, when they turn it off I appreciate the silence. But when all I have is silence, I fail to really value it.

Getting back to winter. Of course, from my perspective, I cannot see any real value in winter. Sure, some people like snow. The only snow I like is on postcards. I have had enough of snow in my life that I do not want any more of it.

Some people enjoy the snow; sledding, skiing, making snow angels. All of these things I can do without, thank you very much.

However, as I was shivering this terrible winter afternoon, I got to thinking about how wonderful summer really is. In the middle of summer, I do not really appreciate it, as I should. Once it has gone, I sure do miss it.

As I was shivering, I was thinking about all of the positive things about summer. And boy, are there many positive things about summer.

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For me, the most positive thing about summer is the fact that I am not dealing with cold. I love the heat and it cannot get too hot for me.

As I was thinking along this line, I remembered one summer afternoon that was so stinking hot that could hardly breathe. My wife was sitting across the porch, she happened to sigh very deeply and say, "I'm tired of this hot weather."

Of course, I love my wife and who wouldn't, but I cannot identify with being tired of hot weather. How can you be tired of hot weather?

For me, I enjoy hot weather and the hotter the better for me. I do not mind sweating. One of the best things about summer is when I can say, "Honey, I would love to do that or go there but it's really too hot." She will smile at me and say, "Yes, I think you're right. It is too hot."

Enough said.

So why did God really create winter? It is in the winter when I am shivering so much, coughing and sneezing that I really begin to appreciate the significance of summer.

In order to get us to appreciate something God takes it away from us temporarily until we come to the point of full appreciation. I believe God knows what he is doing. Going through a trial with all kinds of frustration and aggravation, I begin to appreciate those quiet times of waiting upon God.

I wonder if that's what Peter had in mind when he wrote, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" (1 Peter 1:7).

All those trials of winter lead me to praise God for the glory of summer.

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## Today in Weather History

January 29, 2008: Arctic air combined with strong northwest winds of 20 to 40 mph to bring extreme wind chills to much of north central and northeast South Dakota. The extreme wind chills began in the morning hours of January 29th across all of the area. The wind chills improved across north central South Dakota by the evening and improved across northeast South Dakota during the morning hours of January 30th. The extreme wind chills ranged from 35 to 50 degrees below zero across the area. The extreme cold caused school delays and activity cancellations along with much discomfort to people and livestock. On Monday January 28th, the day before the extreme cold, a southerly flow brought very mild temperatures with some record highs set at several locations. Highs were in the 40s to the mid-50s across central and northeast South Dakota. When the Arctic front came through on January 28th, temperatures fell dramatically through the evening and early morning with below zero temperatures by Tuesday morning, January 29th. In fact, most locations across the area had a 40 to 55 degree temperature change from the 28th to the 29th.

1780 - On the coldest morning of a severe winter the mercury dipped to 16 degrees below zero at New York City, and reached 20 degrees below zero at Hartford CT. New York Harbor was frozen for five weeks, allowing a heavy cannon to be taken across the ice to fortify the British on Staten Island. (The Weather Channel)

1921: A small but intense windstorm resulted in the "Great Olympic Blowdown" in the Pacific Northwest. Hurricane force winds, funneled along the mountains, downed vast expanses of Douglas fir trees, and the storm destroyed eight billion board feet of timber. Winds at North Head WA gusted to 113 mph. On January 31, 1921, the International News Services reported from Aberdeen, Washington, "It is reported that thousands of dollars in damage was done to buildings and storms in Aberdeen and Hoquiam. The wind velocity was estimated at from 125 to 150 miles an hour. Four steel smokestack reaching almost 200 feet into the air were the first to collapse before the terrific onslaught of the gale. The giant chimneys crashed down on dwellings crushing them like houses of cardboard."

1983 - A series of Pacific coast storms finally came to an end. The storms, attributed in part to the ocean current, "El Nino," produced ocean swells 15 to 20 feet high which ravaged the beaches of southern California. Much of the damage was to homes of movies stars in the exclusive Malibu Colony. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A strong storm moving out of the Central Rockies spread snow across the north central states, with up to eight inches of snow in Wisconsin, and produced wind gusts to 64 mph at Goodland KS. A thunderstorm produced three inches of snow in forty-five minutes at Owing Mills MD. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

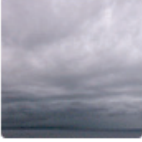






1988 - Rain and snow were primarily confined to the northwestern U.S. An afternoon reading of 34 degrees at International Falls MN was a record high for the date. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

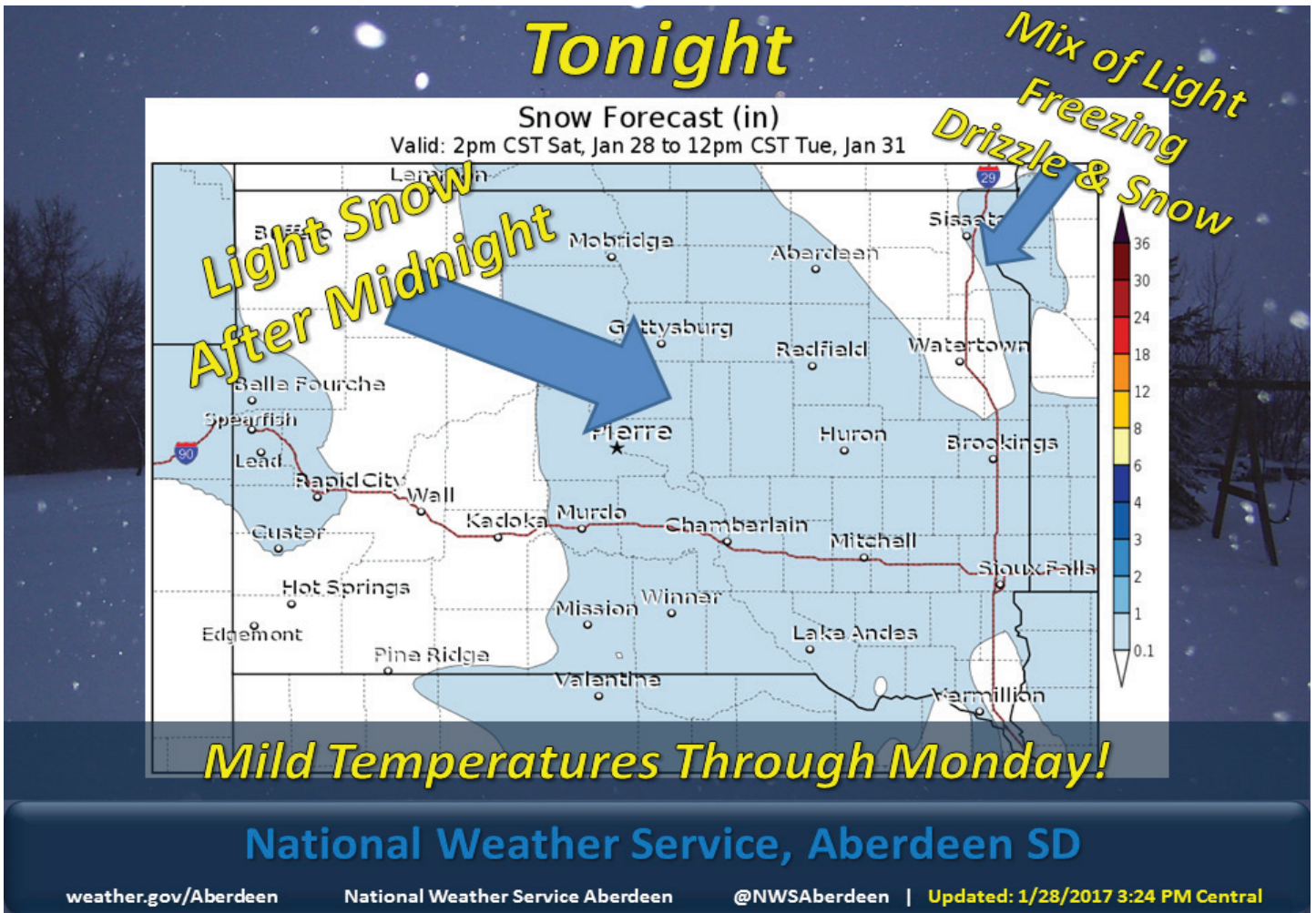
1989 - Bitter cold air continued to pour into Alaska. At McGrath, temperature dipped to 63 degrees below zero. Strong winds blowing through the Alaska Range between Fairbanks and Anchorage produced a wind chill reading of 120 degrees below zero at Cantwell. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - Severe thunderstorms in the southeastern U.S. spawned a tornado which destroyed three mobile homes near Blythe GA injuring six persons. A fast moving cold front produced high winds in the western U.S. Winds along the coast of Oregon gusted to 65 mph at Portland, and high winds generated 22 to 26 foot seas which battered the coast. Winds near Reno NV gusted to 78 mph. High winds also buffeted the Central High Plains, with gusts to 94 mph reported at La Mesa CO. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Chance Flurries	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 35 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 39 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 27 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 21 °F



Light freezing drizzle or light snow is possible across parts of northeast South Dakota this evening and overnight. Very little accumulation is expected. Further west, across parts of central South Dakota, light snow will develop after midnight and move east. Less than an inch of snow is expected. Winds should remain in the 10 to 15 mph range tonight through Sunday. Mild temperatures remain in the forecast through Monday!



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 34.4 F at 5:16 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 19.1 F at 6:08 AM**

**High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 5:12 PM**

Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 58° in 1931**

**Record Low: -32 in 1951**

**Average High: 24°F**

**Average Low: 2°F**

**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.44**

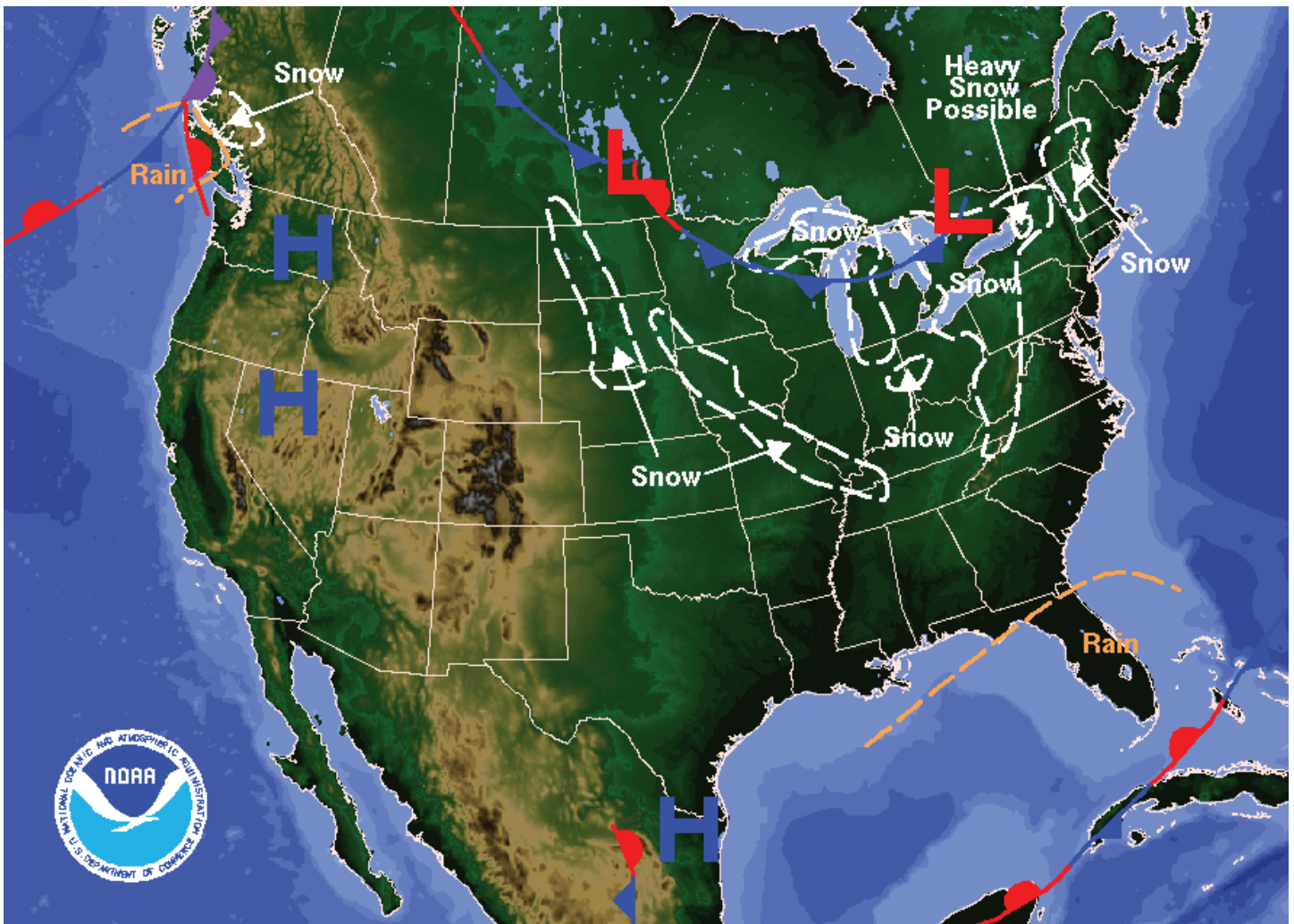
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.44**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:36 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:56 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Sat, Jan 28, 2017, issued 3:39 PM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Tate based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## THE WILL TO WIN!

It was the first practice of the football season. The captain of the team was trying to impress his fellow teammates with his leadership skills. Pacing back and forth in front of the team he was doing his best to get them excited. Finally, as his voice reached a level of great intensity, he shouted, "We'll win because we have the will to win!"

The coach, looking rather amused said, "Don't fool yourself, son. The will to win is important. But more important than the will to win is the importance to surrender to hard work, sore muscles, aching joints, sweat running into your eyes and long hours of studying our plays." In other words, it requires hard work plus the will to work.

What is required of athletes who want to be victorious on a football field is true of the Christian who is called to live a victorious life for Christ. Paul said, "Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value but spiritual exercise is much more important for it promises a reward in this life and the life to come."

Spiritual exercise – studying God's Word, praying and serving Him - and the discipline required to achieve success for the Christian does not come easy. It requires a life of discipline and surrender to the will of God. Paul reminds us, however, that we will be rewarded in this life and the life to come – if we endure.

Prayer: Lord, You never promised us a life of ease. But for Your sake we ask for Your strength and power to live a life that is worthy of You and victorious over sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Timothy 4:7-8 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

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News from the  Associated Press

## Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 62, Great Plains Lutheran 53  
Brandon Valley 67, Pierre 50  
Britton-Hecla 57, Waverly-South Shore 55, OT  
Castlewood 58, Deubrook 24  
Douglas 67, Chadron, Neb. 50  
Hemingford, Neb. 67, Edgemont 30  
Huron 67, Harrisburg 55  
James Valley Christian 78, Lake Preston 66  
Parkston 48, Platte-Geddes 40, OT  
Potter County 59, Eureka/Bowdle 40  
Rapid City Stevens 72, Scottsbluff, Neb. 57  
Sioux Falls Christian 74, Chamberlain 67  
South Border, N.D. 80, Leola/Frederick 74, OT  
Warner 59, Sully Buttes 52  
Wyndmere-Lidgerwood, N.D. 70, Wilmot 30  
Dakota Oyate Challenge  
Seventh Place  
Tiospaye Topa 63, Takini 62  
Fifth Place  
Omaha Nation, Neb. 70, Crazy Horse 66  
DSU Classic

Gayville-Volin 53, Mitchell Christian 51  
Irene-Wakonda 74, Turtle Mountain, N.D. 72  
Little Wound 103, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 98  
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 72, Colman-Egan 66  
St. Francis Indian 67, GHEC/Truman/Martin Luther, Minn. 56  
Viborg-Hurley 69, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 63  
Wolsey-Wessington 69, Richland, N.D. 65

### POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Alliance, Neb. vs. Hot Springs, ppd.  
Aberdeen Central vs. Rapid City Central, ccd.  
Miller vs. Aberdeen Roncalli, ppd.  
DSU Classic  
Colome vs. Bon Homme, ccd.

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 76, Chamberlain 33  
Brandon Valley 65, Pierre 55  
Britton-Hecla 51, Wyndmere-Lidgerwood, N.D. 49  
Canistota 61, Iroquois 28  
Canistota 61, Iroquois 28  
Chadron, Neb. 47, Douglas 33  
Great Plains Lutheran 55, Aberdeen Christian 16  
Harrisburg 59, Huron 31  
Hemingford, Neb. 61, Edgemont 10

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Lake Preston 62, James Valley Christian 43  
Rapid City Stevens 83, Scottsbluff, Neb. 43  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 44, Watertown 31  
South Border, N.D. 60, Leola/Frederick 58  
Sully Buttes 54, Warner 24  
Big East Conference Tournament  
Seventh Place  
Chester 42, Garretson 37  
Fifth Place  
Sioux Valley 56, Baltic 41  
Third Place  
Parker 53, Howard 51  
Championship  
McCook Central/Montrose 56, Flandreau 51  
Dakota Oyate Challenge  
Seventh Place  
Crazy Horse 76, Takini 38  
Fifth Place  
Marty Indian 59, Tiospaye Topa 51  
Third Place  
Lower Brule 67, Flandreau Indian 52  
Championship  
Omaha Nation, Neb. 83, Tiospa Zina Tribal 57  
Dakota XII Conference Classic  
Beresford 51, Canton 20  
Dell Rapids 53, West Central 45  
Elk Point-Jefferson 48, Tri-Valley 36  
Lennox 66, Dakota Valley 58  
Sioux Falls Christian 61, Tea Area 52  
Vermillion 56, Madison 37  
Tri-Valley Conference Classic  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 50, Gayville-Volin 45  
Bridgewater-Emery 41, Alcester-Hudson 25  
Freeman Academy/Marion 35, Scotland 28  
Platte-Geddes 45, Viborg-Hurley 37  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS  
Aberdeen Central vs. Yankton, ppd.  
Bison vs. Beach, N.D., ccd.  
Mitchell vs. Rapid City Central, ppd. to Feb 17.

## Daum's 33 lifts S. Dakota State past Nebraska-Omaha, 88-84

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Mike Daum's layup with over a minute to go gave South Dakota State a four-point lead and the Jackrabbits made it stick to earn an 88-84 win over Nebraska-Omaha in a Summit League battle Saturday night.

Daum missed a layup with 1:25 left, grabbed the offensive rebound but missed the put-back, then had his layup blocked by Tra-Deon Hollins before finally scoring with 1:12 left to give South Dakota State an 85-81 advantage.

Mitchell Hahn hit the second of two free throws to get Omaha within three, 85-82. Daum made the second of two free throws to make it a four-point game.

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Daum finished with 33 points on 11-of-18 shooting from the field, including 4 of 8 from long distance, and grabbed nine rebounds for South Dakota State (10-14, 3-6).

Omaha (11-11, 4-5), which won the first meeting between the teams 101-93, got 20 points from Marcus Tyus.

## Mooney scores 27, S Dakota beats Denver 88-83

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Matt Mooney scored 27 points, including four amid a game-breaking run late in the second half, and South Dakota beat Denver 88-83 on Saturday to remain in second place in the Summit League.

Trey Dickerson and Mooney each hit 3s and the Pioneers led 48-42 early in the second half, but Denver tied it at 53 on Joe Rosga's 3-pointer, then tied it again at 60, 64, 67 and 69.

Daniel Amigos' jumper put Denver up 79-76, but Mooney made two layups during a 9-0 run and the Coyotes pulled away 85-79 with 40 seconds left and Denver got no closer.

Tyler Flack scored 19 and Trey Burch-Manning and Tyler Peterson added 10 apiece for the Coyotes (15-9, 6-3).

The lead flip-flopped until Mooney's free throw broke a 36-tie and the Coyotes led 42-38 at halftime after Peterson's layup and Mooney's 3-pointer.

Rosga scored 20 for the Pioneers (13-9, 5-4), who saw their two-game win streak end.

## Man gets 10-year prison term for Rapid City casino robberies

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Hot Springs man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for a string of casino robberies in Rapid City in 2015.

Fifty-one-year-old Ronald Swallow also was recently ordered to serve five years of supervised release and pay more than \$27,000 in restitution. The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2jq1h3q>) reports Swallow also must pay a \$200 special assessment to the Federal Crime Victims Fund.

Authorities say Swallow used a gun to threaten casino employees into giving him cash. The three casinos were held up over a six-week span.

Swallow eventually was caught in North Carolina and extradited to South Dakota to face charges.

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

## Sioux Falls nonprofit to help homeless youth

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls community leaders have formed a new nonprofit to build a cradle-to-career approach to education for homeless children.

Sioux Falls Thrive Inc., which formed this month, is made up of local government officials, churches and social service groups.

"There are all kinds of obstacles that kids and families living at or below the poverty level face," Thrive President Candy Hanson said. "Thrive is going to start with one of the most basic. The first thing any child needs to succeed is a roof over his or her head."

The group published a 227-page report outlining a number of problems Sioux Falls families face in finding affordable housing, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2jG8tXU>) reported. Pam Homan, executive director of Augustana's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said the report is a "wake-up call."

Report author Suzanne Smith said most of the demand for affordable housing comes down to rentals. But even with an apartment surge in the city, vulnerable families aren't able to participate.

"There's strong demand to build these luxury apartments," Smith said. "Developers aren't going to build an apartment that rents for \$500 a month or less."

Thrive organizers hope to next form a council of local leaders to consider the report's findings and find potential solutions.

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

## Tea-based nonprofit names school after Mitchell coach

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A Tea-based nonprofit working to build a school in Haiti plans to name it after a longtime director of the Mitchell Recreation Center and Mitchell High School girls' golf coach.

Co-founder Bruce Blumer told The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2iyI5xu>) that the soon-to-be school will be named after Rob Marchand because of his love for people. Marchand died in August 2014 after a battle with prostate cancer.

"Rob was my best friend," Blumer said. "He was a great guy so it's really been an honor for me ... It was very heartwarming and it's a great way for us to honor his legacy."

The nonprofit LaGonave Alive was formed after a Haiti outreach program through Mitchell First United Methodist Church grew beyond the group's abilities.

Blumer, former director of the foundation, said the school is expected to open in September. He said the school will start small, and will serve three or four grade levels.

"As we get more funds, we'll continue to add and eventually we'll hopefully add a second level for a lunch area and administration area," Blumer said. "The ultimate goal is to become a place to have a school and have a safe place for kids to learn."

He estimated the total cost of the project will be around \$30,000.

The school will have room for 25 students each year, and will have the potential to reach 200 children a year.

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

## First confirmed female mountain lion in Missouri since 1994

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — State conservation officials reported the first confirmed presence of a first female mountain lion in the state since 1994.

Tests on saliva found on a partially eaten elk in Shannon County in February 2016 confirmed the female cat was in the area, The Missouri Conservation Department said Friday.

The elk had brain worms and evidence suggests the mountain lion killed it, said Laura Conlee, furbearer biologist with the conservation department.

DNA from the saliva indicated the cat originated from the Wyoming, South Dakota or northwest Nebraska, which is significant because female lions, unlike males, don't typically travel long distances, Conlee said. All previous confirmed mountain lions in Missouri have been males.

No evidence exists to indicate the female stayed in Shannon County or that the state has a breeding population of lions, Conlee said.

The last confirmed female mountain lion came when a cat was shot in 1994. Since then, the department has recorded 68 confirmed mountain lion sightings in the state, with more confirmations in recent years. The department established a specially trained team in 1996 to investigate reports of mountain lions in the state.

Several factors likely contributed to the increased sightings in recent years, including an expanding mountain lion population in western states, better technology for finding the animals and more efficient means of reporting and investigating sightings, the conservation department said.

No mountain lion attacks on humans have ever been recorded in Missouri and the risk remains small, the department said.

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Information from: Springfield News-Leader, <http://www.news-leader.com>

## Lake Placid arena's 'Miracle on Ice' scoreboard coming down

The scoreboard that flashed the scores during the 1980 U.S. men's hockey team's "Miracle on Ice" run to Olympic glory is being replaced. The 37-year-old scoreboard hanging over center ice at the Lake Placid Olympic Center will be taken down on Feb. 6 to make way for a new state-of-the-art video board made

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by Brookings, South Dakota-based Daktronics, which designed and built the original scoreboard.

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (AP) — The scoreboard flashing results during the 1980 U.S. men's hockey team's "Miracle on Ice" run to Olympic glory is being replaced.

The 37-year-old board hanging over center ice at the Lake Placid Olympic Center will be removed on Feb. 6 to make way for a state-of-the-art video display.

The Olympic Regional Development Authority, which operates Lake Placid's state-owned sports venues, says South Dakota-based Daktronics designed and built the display used for the 1980 Olympic Winter Games. It showed the scores when the U.S. beat Russia in the hockey semifinals, then Sweden for the gold medal.

Daktronics will get one of the scoreboard's four panels, while another will go to the Lake Placid Olympic Museum. Locations for the other two panels haven't been determined.

## Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Beresford 56, West Central 53  
Brandon Valley 59, Mitchell 37  
Bridgewater-Emery 77, Hanson 29  
Britton-Hecla 46, Redfield/Doland 37  
Canistota 71, Dell Rapids St. Mary 35  
Chamberlain 66, Mobridge-Pollock 38  
Clark/Willow Lake 68, Groton Area 48  
Custer 62, Rapid City Christian 46  
Herreid/Selby Area 64, Ipswich 28  
Highmore-Harrold 68, Iroquois 53  
Hill City 47, Hot Springs 26  
Langford 75, Northwestern 40  
Lemmon 69, Grant County, N.D. 56  
Pierre 65, Aberdeen Central 63  
Sioux Falls Christian 77, Dakota Valley 59  
Spearfish 66, Rapid City Central 59  
Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 63, Eureka/Bowdle 51  
Sturgis Brown 61, Belle Fourche 35  
Tri-Valley 63, Elk Point-Jefferson 49  
Warner 76, Waubay/Summit 49  
Watertown 54, Brookings 47  
Wolsey-Wessington 65, Kimball/White Lake 43  
Yankton 63, Harrisburg 53  
Dakota Oyate Challenge  
Consolation Semifinal  
Omaha Nation, Neb. 85, Tiospaye Topa 39  
Semifinal  
Flandreau Indian 54, Tiospa Zina Tribal 49  
Lower Brule 73, Marty Indian 36  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS  
Colome vs. Platte-Geddes, ppd.  
Ethan vs. Freeman Academy/Marion, ppd.  
Menno vs. Corsica/Stickney, ppd.  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton vs. Winner, ppd.  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour vs. Burke/South Central, ppd. to Jan 30.

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Wagner vs. Scotland, ppd.

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 71, Pierre 55

Belle Fourche 48, Sturgis Brown 30

Brookings 44, Watertown 33

Crow Creek 54, Sunshine Bible Academy 38

Custer 66, Rapid City Christian 19

Dakota Valley 68, Sioux Falls Christian 58

DeSmet 69, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 31

Deubrook 43, Colman-Egan 29

Elk Point-Jefferson 52, Tri-Valley 50, OT

Elkton-Lake Benton 39, Estelline 24

Eureka/Bowdle 26, Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 23

Florence/Henry 51, Waverly-South Shore 33

Groton Area 57, Clark/Willow Lake 49

Herreid/Selby Area 51, Ipswich 49

Hill City 58, Hot Springs 32

Lake Preston 58, Arlington 37

Lemmon 45, Bowman County, N.D. 42

Milbank Area 62, Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta, Minn. 52

Northwestern 69, Langford 31

Rapid City Central 64, Spearfish 26

Redfield/Doland 51, Britton-Hecla 36

Sioux Falls Lincoln 55, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 51

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 53, Sioux Falls Washington 42

Sisseton 36, Deuel 29

Webster 63, Aberdeen Roncalli 58

Big East Conference Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

Baltic 35, Chester 24

Sioux Valley 56, Garretson 26

Semifinal

Flandreau 53, Parker 35

McCook Central/Montrose 55, Howard 52

Dakota Oyate Challenge

Semifinal

Omaha Nation, Neb. 59, Lower Brule 41

Tiospa Zina Tribal 61, Flandreau Indian 50

## POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Colome vs. Platte-Geddes, ppd.

Menno vs. Corsica/Stickney, ppd.

Mitchell vs. Rapid City Stevens, ppd. to Feb 4.

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton vs. Winner, ppd.

Parkston vs. Avon, ppd. to Feb 17.

Scotland vs. Wagner, ppd.

Tripp-Delmont/Armour vs. Burke/South Central, ppd. to Jan 30.



## South Dakota lawmakers approve scientific bill

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota parents and educators are concerned that a bill approved this week could bring nonscientific theories into science classes.

State lawmakers approved a bill on Wednesday that would “protect the teaching of certain scientific information in classrooms,” the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2kaQiwE>) reported.

Rachelle Smith, a parent of two children, said she fears her second-grade daughter will not learn the subject properly.

“Really, what we’re doing is robbing our kids of education,” Smith said.

Those in favor of the bill cite the importance of showing the “strengths and weaknesses” of scientific theories.

However, Anne Lewis, spokeswoman of the South Dakota Discovery Center in Pierre, argues that scientists use the terms “probability and uncertainty” when discussing theories, not “strengths and weaknesses.”

“‘Weakness’ says, ‘Hey, this looks like it’s wrong,’” said Lewis.

She noted that the term “uncertainty” calls for further investigation.

“It appears as though this opens the door for whatever you want,” said Jarod Larson, superintendent of the Brandon Valley School District. “Versus the framework and the standards that are provided for our teachers.”

The state senate voted 23-12 to move forward with the bill, despite opposing testimonies from public school groups.

Republican Sen. Jeff Monroe, who has sponsored the bill, has proposed similar statutes annually since 2014.

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

## SD lawmakers seek more transparency for tax-credit program

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A group of South Dakota lawmakers has introduced a bill that would require certain information from the state-subsidized tax credit program for scholarships be made public.

The tax credit scholarship program passed through the Legislature last year and has so far received \$325,000 from insurance companies for students attending private schools. Those companies in turn get substantial tax credits.

Nothing in the original bill forces program leaders to share which companies are receiving tax credits, or how much money schools are getting.

Some of the information has been shared on the program’s website, and several insurance companies announced their involvement, but the proposed bill would require that information.

The bill’s primary sponsor, Republican Rep. Herman Otten of Lennox, says the program should be more open because it uses taxpayer funds.

## Opposition to Spearfish park remains strong even without fee

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Opposition to a proposed state park in Spearfish Canyon remains strong even after Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced that no entrance fees would be charged.

About 400 people gathered Thursday at a public hearing on the idea, which requires the transfer of 1,400 acres of the canyon from federal to state stewardship. Nearly all were opposed.

It was the first public input session hosted by South Dakota’s Game, Fish and Parks, and may have been the most vocal resistance yet to the creation of the state park. Their concerns have been heard by Republican lawmakers in both chambers who said a bill to move the land exchange forward has little support.

“People don’t seem to be clamoring for it,” Senate Majority Leader Blake Curd of Sioux Falls told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2ktr75V>).

At a news conference earlier Thursday to announce that no entrance fees would be charged, Gov. Dennis Daugaard called the fees the biggest objection most people had. But many people voiced other concerns

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at the meeting in Spearfish.

"Let the governor know that it's not true that nobody is opposed to the land exchange," said Rick Hudson of Custer. "Don't believe half of what the state tells you. Just say no. They're counting on us to not stay involved. If they had asked us to begin with, they could have saved a lot of time and money. Why didn't they ask us? They don't care."

Daugaard first proposed the idea last year to turn 1,600 acres of 50,000-acre wilderness into a state park. More than 1,400 acres of that land must come from a land swap between the National Forest Service in return for pieces of state-owned grasslands east of Rapid City. The state is waiting on approval from Congress and the Legislature before moving forward with the exchange.

"I would like to see the process slowed down," said Paul Horsted of Custer. "I feel like the Black Hills National Forest is doing a great job. It's one of those cases of if it's not broke why fix it?"

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

## Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 44, Ipswich 40  
Aberdeen Roncalli 72, Webster 33  
Arlington 49, Lake Preston 45  
Colman-Egan 59, Deubrook 36  
Dell Rapids 72, Vermillion 60  
DeSmet 58, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 42  
Douglas 61, Custer 42  
Elkton-Lake Benton 66, Estelline 17  
Faulkton 55, Leola/Frederick 43  
Flandreau 81, Garretson 49  
Florence/Henry 47, Waverly-South Shore 44  
Hamlin 57, Castlewood 53  
Hill City 50, Wall 40  
Irene-Wakonda 67, Freeman Academy/Marion 27  
Kadoka Area 43, Jones County 38  
Lennox 52, Parkston 48  
Little Wound 82, Bennett County 39  
McCook Central/Montrose 53, Freeman 51, OT  
Mitchell Christian 59, Ethan 47  
Red Cloud 49, Lead-Deadwood 16  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 73, Sioux Falls Washington 63  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 65, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 36  
Sturgis Brown 57, St. Thomas More 49  
Sully Buttes 60, Hitchcock-Tulare 31  
Timber Lake 66, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte JV 30  
Tri-Valley 61, Canton 50  
Viborg-Hurley 66, Centerville 22  
Winner 78, Miller 66  
Dakota Oyate Challenge  
First Round  
Flandreau Indian 79, Tiospaye Topa 25  
Lower Brule 73, Takini 42  
Marty Indian 76, Crazy Horse 72  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 67, Omaha Nation, Neb. 55

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## POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Boyd County, Neb. vs. Burke/South Central, ccd.

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Brandon Valley 61, Mitchell 40  
Clark/Willow Lake 45, Great Plains Lutheran 37  
Custer 51, Douglas 34  
Dell Rapids 54, Vermillion 53  
Ethan 58, Mitchell Christian 13  
Faulkton 58, Leola/Frederick 49  
Freeman 78, Canistota 34  
Groton Area 28, Sisseton 25  
Hamlin 37, Castlewood 32  
Hanson 58, Kimball/White Lake 18  
Harrisburg 49, Yankton 35  
Ipswich 60, Aberdeen Christian 48  
Irene-Wakonda 58, Freeman Academy/Marion 41  
Kadoka Area 46, Jones County 17  
Lennox 64, Beresford 27  
Lyman 51, Highmore-Harrold 47, OT  
McLaughlin 71, Standing Rock, N.D. 42  
New England, N.D. 62, Harding County 44  
Oelrichs 68, St. Francis Indian 64  
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 64, Wessington Springs 34  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 63, South Sioux City, Neb. 58  
St. Thomas More 68, Sturgis Brown 33  
Sully Buttes 89, Hitchcock-Tulare 22  
Tea Area 55, Madison 50  
Todd County 87, Pine Ridge 60  
Warner 52, Langford 19  
Waubay/Summit 34, Wilmot 31  
Big East Conference Tournament  
First Round  
Flandreau 43, Baltic 30  
Howard 68, Sioux Valley 67  
McCook Central/Montrose 53, Garretson 26  
Parker 48, Chester 24  
Dakota Oyate Challenge  
First Round  
Flandreau Indian 54, Crazy Horse 23  
Lower Brule 63, Marty Indian 39  
Omaha Nation, Neb. 75, Takini 32  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 65, Tiospaye Topa 44  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS  
Boyd County, Neb. vs. Burke/South Central, ccd.

## Report: 134 new influenza cases in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Health officials say the influenza virus is ramping up in South Dakota, with 134 new confirmed cases last week, nearly doubling the season's total.

State epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says most flu cases in South Dakota are from the H3 virus that spreads quickly and comes with severe symptoms.

Kightlinger says the virus can't be avoided by "laying low" because catching it is as easy as walking through someone's sneeze at the grocery store. The best way to avoid getting sick is by getting a flu shot.

Kightlinger says health officials keep tabs on the number of flu shots given out, but the number for this season won't be available until May.

## Paramedics Plus dismisses allegations of kickback scheme

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An ambulance company that has served Sioux Falls since 2015 is assuring local officials that the city wasn't involved in any actions the company is being accused of by federal prosecutors in other states.

The federal government has accused Paramedics Plus of paying Oklahoma-based Emergency Medical Services Authority more than \$20 million in gifts, campaign contributions and cash payments to maintain a lucrative contract, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2k7xjDu>) reported. The government is trying to recoup what it says was falsely claimed Medicaid and Medicare dollars.

Paramedics Plus Vice President Mark Postma sent an email to Sioux City officials on Wednesday, dismissing the allegations and assuring them that the city wasn't involved in any of the actions under scrutiny by the federal government.

Alicia Collura, spokeswoman for public health and operations for Sioux Falls, confirmed that the local ambulance service isn't part of the investigation. She said local service will not be impacted.

City officials said they are reserving judgment on the company's future in Sioux Falls.

"They get their day in court," City Councilor Pat Starr said. "They're going to get a chance to respond to these allegations, and at this point they're just charges."

Federal court documents allege that the ambulance service offered "profit-cap" deals to authorities in other states to receive and maintain contracts for service.

"Today, it is common practice for ambulance services, other than Paramedics Plus, to have similar profit-cap arrangements," Postma wrote in his email to Sioux Falls leaders, adding later: "We do not now nor have we ever had any profit cap arrangements in our Sioux Falls contract."

A federal complaint alleges that the term "profit-cap" is an attempt to legitimize a kickback scheme. The government accuses Paramedics Plus of allegedly distributing bribes between 1998 and 2013, and offering a percentage of excess profits to employees of an Oklahoma trust that oversaw ambulance services for Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Federal court documents allege similar "profit cap" deals were offered by Paramedics Plus to authorities in Florida, California and Indiana to get and keep contracts.

The case was initially filed in 2014 by a former Paramedics Plus executive on behalf of the federal government. The U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of Texas later took over the lawsuit. The company is being accused of violating the False Claims Act and the Anti-Kickback Statute.

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

## Sandbox Coworking Space opens in Yankton

By Rob Nielsen, Yankton Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Sandboxes can be a great place for children to interact with each other, "work" and exchange ideas.

On Jan. 5 adults got their own version with the grand opening of the Sandbox Coworking Space in downtown Yankton.

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Owner-operator Mollie Grey had a busy day, speaking at One Million Cups to talk about the sandbox concept and opening the doors to the facility an hour later with an appearance by Sioux Falls mayor Mike Huether.

Coworking spaces are locations where those who work remotely without a set office or other professionals have an opportunity to work in one place together, the Yankton Press and Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2jgQxUd>) reports.

Grey said the space offers a lot of different opportunities to patrons.

"It's basically a shared working space for people to work out of, but we've taken the best elements of your office, the best elements of a coffee shop and pretty much brought it to downtown Yankton," Grey said. "It's a shared working space, but it is so much more than that. It's a place where your business can put on events. It's a place where you can fuel your small business. It's a lot of different things into one, and that's why I've said sometimes that title of 'coworking space' can be misleading."

The location gives freelancers, entrepreneurs and other professionals a location where they can work together with amenities such as bottomless coffee, high-speed internet, workshops, 24/7 access and member events.

Grey said the idea for the space arose from her own experiences working remotely.

"I worked remote for two years," she said. "Working out of your home and having that flexibility is great, but in my situation, I was not performing in my job. There was always laundry, there was always chores and there was always something to do that distracted and disrupted my daily routine. When you're working 100 percent remote, performing is super difficult."

She added that co-working spaces provide an alternative that can help users be more productive.

"What I've found, first-hand, is co-working spaces alleviate that," she said. "You get to sit around and work amongst people that are like-minded individuals that want to perform, wanting to integrate, wanting to collaborate so it has its advantages in that regard."

The concept greatly benefited Grey herself.

"When I was working remote out of Atlanta, I worked out of a co-working space eventually," she said. "I was spending, on average, \$6 per day on Starbucks — not to mention wear and tear on your car to get there, disruptions, the Wi-Fi (wasn't) the best. What I ended up doing was discovering there was rental space near my home in Atlanta and I ended up working out of a co-working space."

In Yankton, Grey said there is already some interest popping up in membership from freelancers, corporate partners who would allow a few employees to utilize the space at a time and entrepreneurs. The goal for the year is to have at least 50 members.

In addition to providing a space for people to work and meet in, Grey said the new space helps contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Yankton.

"I love that I've achieved a goal that I set for myself, which was renovate a building and set a standard for others, hopefully, to follow that you can make a building look really cool and modern in downtown Yankton," she said. "I want to consistently put on events each week. I want to pick up programs like Entrepreneurial Week, Women in Business Week and things like that. I want consistency, I want members and I want to have the look and feel of a modern cool place in downtown Yankton."

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

## Health experts take steps to prolong life span in SD

By Patrick Anderson, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Paralyzed by a stroke, Trevor Jackson heard his doctor tell his ex-wife to plan for the worst.

That was the first time the 47-year-old Hartford resident faced his own mortality. It happened again years later when a heart stress test led to a five-bypass surgery.

He came in for the test on a Tuesday. By Thursday, he was on the table.

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"Making money and having things and striving to climb the corporate ladder doesn't really mean anything to me anymore," Jackson said. "It's mostly my family, my church, my kids and trying to live as long as I can."

Health experts are taking steps to prolong the lifespan of South Dakotans like Jackson. That means going after the state's deadliest killers.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in South Dakota, according to a list kept by the state Health Department. Its terrifying reign as the deadliest force in the state goes back decades, except for a couple of years in 2010 and 2011 when it was replaced by the state's number two killer: Cancer.

Cancer and heart disease are by far the deadliest, killing more than three times as many people than respiratory disease, the next leading cause of death, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2jrM6YW>) reports. Heart disease claimed the lives of 1,712 victims in 2015, as cancer killed 1,695.

The ability to prevent heart disease and its deadliness are a frustrating dichotomy for physicians, said Dr. Tom Stys, medical director of Sanford Heart Hospital.

"The scope of cardiovascular disease as a problem for our society in health care is huge," Stys said.

One way to prevent premature death from heart disease is to get tested, like Jackson did before his 2014 bypass. He makes regular trips to the gym after work to stay healthy. He wants to be able to see his son get married, see his grandchildren.

"I have to do something to make a difference in my life so I can be around," Jackson said.

The American Heart Association is hosting low-cost heart screenings Feb. 3 at the El Riad Shrine, 510 S. Phillips Ave. Education and increased screenings account for some of the drop in heart disease deaths in the past couple of decades, along with laws outlawing smoking in public spaces, said Dr. Tad Jacobs, Chief Medical Officer for Avera Medical Group.

"Patients are more educated," Jacobs said. "We get these folks in for screenings earlier, we identify their risks factors earlier."

Early detection and screenings are key to prevention, but so is access to healthy food and lifestyle. Health experts in Sioux Falls are shifting their focus to environment and what they call "social determinants of health" as they try to improve the quality and length of life of the city's residents.

Different pockets of the same city can have different life expectancies, based on a number of varying factors. That means instead of worrying just about cholesterol numbers, the American Heart Association also pays attention to topics such as bike lanes or tobacco use in city parks.

"You would never expect the American Heart Association to get involved in affordable housing," said Chrissy Meyer, spokeswoman for the association's Midwest affiliate. "Now we see ourselves playing in that sphere."

Sioux Falls city officials are trying to draw attention to the link between lifestyle and lifespan. They teamed up with health groups and both hospitals on the 2016 Community Health Report, with dozens of pages of local health indicators.

Among the findings are dangerously high blood pressure rates for young men, problems with access to fresh food, and near-obscene eating habits. The four-county metro area ranks last in the nation — compared to 180 metros — in the percentage of people who eat at least five fruits or vegetables.

"Health is not just the Health Department's job," said Mary Michaels, public health prevention coordinator for the city. "How do we do this as a community?"

Health experts are expanding the scope of their advocacy when it comes to the fight against South Dakota's heart disease epidemic. Trying to get one person to improve their own cardiovascular health can be challenging, Meyer said.

"Now we're talking about individual behavior, right?" Meyer said. "That's really hard to impact, so that's where as an organization, we kind of took a step back and said maybe this isn't just about advocating for individual behavior change, maybe it's about creating environments and cultures of health."

## Banner sensors used multiple ways in Aberdeen

By Victoria Lusk, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Imagine creating a product so cool that it is literally out of this world. Or at least close to it.

While associate plant manager Tim Hanigan isn't positive products manufactured at Banner Engineering have traveled to Mars, he knows — thanks to an episode of Jay Leno's "Garage" — that its sensors were at least used in the development of the Mars Rover.

Light-indicating sensors can be seen on a test version of the rover in the episode that aired Dec. 21.

"Of the actual parts we can see on the video, one for sure would have been made here," Hanigan said.

The part — referred to as a "K80" by Hanigan — near the back of the rover is an indication sensor, which helps determine what state the rover is in. While he doesn't know its exact use, it could indicate the rover's on/off status or other modes.

On the front of the rover, there are other indicator lights pointing down toward the wheels.

A Banner employee spotted the products and sent the video to Hanigan.

"A lot of times we aren't selling (our products) to the end users, so we don't always know how they are implemented," said Richard Inman, Banner's senior director.

Light-indicating sensors are probably about 15 percent of the Aberdeen plant's products, Hanigan said. They were only about 3 percent back in 2008 when he started at the plant.

The sensors are a "very, very fast growing segment for Banner," he said.

Banner just celebrated its 50th year. It opened its Aberdeen location in September 1989. Since, the product mix has changed, as well as its functionality, Inman said. Other sensors manufactured by Banner Engineering can read things such as temperature, weight, movement and color, the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2jrEbu>) reported.

"We're basically giving sight to automation," Hanigan said, waving his hand over a sensor, causing its light to change colors.

Employees work in different sections of Banner's building in the Industrial Park, creating, testing, customizing and assembling its products. In one part of the building, a machine creates circuit boards at a rate of 8 million per month, Hanigan said.

Two hundred unique products are manufactured between Aberdeen and Banner's Huron locations.

Banner tests all of its products before they get sent to headquarters in Minneapolis, where they are consolidated before shipping. The consolidation means customers get their entire order at once.

Many of Banner's customers approach the company needing some kind of solution, Hanigan said, and nowadays those customers' needs are much more complex. That means that Banner has had to grow with the nature of manufacturing.

The products typically end up in three industries: automotive, food and beverage or gas and oil, Inman said.

In the automotive industry, the sensors might work in a guarding capacity. If a company uses robotic welding, a sensor would tell the robots to shut down if someone walked into the area, thus acting as a safety measure.

Banner sensors can be found at other local manufacturers like 3M and Hub City Manufacturing, as well as within Banner Engineering itself.

"A lot of sensors go to error-proofing," Hanigan said.

Such sensors can be used by pharmacies as pill counters.

The sensors have ties to many items people use on a day-to-day basis. For example, the company makes sensors that alert producers when bags or bottles are full. Those bags and bottles often include items sold at grocery stores.

"If you watch (the TV show) 'How It's Made', 50 percent of the time you can spot a Banner product," Hanigan said.

In the late 1980s, Aberdeen was home to a Control Data facility called Imprimis Technology. In November

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1988, after a series of layoffs, the company announced it would move its operations to Malaysia.

The move meant 800 people would be without jobs.

A task force including many state employees, senators and representatives, as well as Aberdeen city officials, "underwent a huge marketing effort" to keep jobs and manufacturing in Aberdeen, Inman said.

Then-Mayor Tim Rich called Imprimis the "cornerstone of (Aberdeen's) economic development.

"We have to rise up and meet the challenge and find some way to replace that. We're certainly going to do everything humanly possible to accomplish the replacement of these jobs," Rich said at the time.

The Aberdeen Development Corp. then owned two-thirds of the building and purchased the rest for \$450,000.

The state offered \$700,000 in assistance to help secure both Banner and Sheldahl, an electronics manufacturer. The two would each rent their own half of the building.

Banner chose Aberdeen because of the available space and because people had the necessary skills, Inman said.

When Banner opened, its capacity was much smaller — both for products and the number of employees.

Combined, the two new manufactures only offset about 10 percent of the jobs lost when Imprimis left, according to American News archives. But both companies expected to grow their workforces considerably.

Banner planned to start with 40 employees and increase to 150 within three years, according to archived reports.

Fast forward 27 years and Banner employs 288 people.

Inman was one of the first Aberdeen workers.

"I came with the building," he joked.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## More high school students take classes through universities

By Megan Raposa, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota students aren't waiting for graduation to start college.

The number of high school students taking classes through state universities more than tripled since 2014.

The surge is helping state universities pad what otherwise would be declining enrollment numbers. If the rapid growth continues, the program's success could threaten its sustainability.

State leaders are happy to see the dual-credit program succeeding after a multi-million dollar investment. South Dakota started the program in 2014, allowing high school students to take discounted college courses for high school and college credit, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2jQVzWF>) reports. It's aimed at making college more affordable.

Regents say the pool of eligible students would likely run dry before the program becomes a financial burden, but if it doesn't, or if state funding stagnates, regents would need to consider changes.

"We'll continue supporting it for as long as it makes sense to do so," said Randy Schaefer, president of the Board of Regents.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has been a voice of strong support for dual-credit courses, and in his recent budget address he proposed increasing funding for the program.

When the state first began the program, demand overwhelmed initial projections.

"There was far more interest in the program than we ever anticipated," said Paul Turman, vice president for academic affairs for the regents.

Dual-credit costs the state \$2 million, but it brings \$4 million in savings to South Dakota students and families, said Tony Venhuizen, the governor's chief of staff.

Maia Gabrielson, a 17-year-old Roosevelt High School senior, is one of about 80 students in the Sioux Falls School District taking dual-credit courses.

"I wanted to get a head start on my college courses," Gabrielson said.

She completed algebra and composition classes and is enrolled in speech and government during the spring semester. The goal is to get generals out of the way so she can focus on her physical therapy major



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when she enrolls in the University of South Dakota this fall.

Gabrielson maintains a 4.0 GPA, works two jobs and participates in varsity cheerleading. She said many of her friends take dual-credit courses, and all of them are equally involved and hard-working.

"A lot of teachers encourage us to take these classes because they are cheaper and they know we can do it," Gabrielson said.

High school students pay only about \$48 per credit hour, compared with close to \$300 for other students in the state's four-year colleges. The state kicks in another \$105 per credit as part of a special negotiated tuition rate with state universities.

That's money well spent to Schaefer. He said the number one priority for regents is affordability, and the affordability of dual credit "far outweighs" any potential loss or gain in revenue.

So far, the regents haven't lost money on dual-credit courses.

The potential revenue lost through the lower tuition rate nearly balances out the money paid in by the state and dual credit students with a net gain of more than \$35,000, according to a report presented to the Board of Regents in October.

If the program continues to grow at the current rate, though, revenue losses could become a problem.

For now, dual-credit students are filling open seats in existing course sections, meaning that the fixed cost of offering the class isn't changing. If enough students enroll and require schools to offer additional courses, costs would go up.

Dual-credit tuition also doesn't account for general education versus high-level courses. A 100-level sociology course uses fewer materials and expenses than a 300-level chemistry course, but dual-credit tuition doesn't vary to account for those differences.

"We may need to assess whether or not in the future 300- and 400-level courses need to be at a higher rate to pay for themselves," Turman said.

It's too soon to tell how any potential monetary concerns will affect the sustainability of dual-credit classes in the future, he added.

For now, though, the benefits outweigh the costs.

Having high school students participating in college classes benefits the instructors too, said Michael Card, associate provost and dean of distance education at USD.

"By adding high school students to our existing sections of courses," Card said. "We get a degree of enthusiasm in an online course that you ordinarily wouldn't get."

## Gov. Dugaard says he would sign repeal of ethics law

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Dugaard said Thursday that he plans to sign a Republican bill that would dismantle a voter-approved government ethics overhaul if it reaches his desk.

The state Senate was to vote on the bill, but legislators supported a procedural move to postpone more debate until next week. It has already passed through the House.

The measure would repeal the ballot initiative that created an ethics commission, public campaign funding and strict limitations on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers. More than 51 percent of voters supported the ballot measure, and backers have criticized the Legislature for working to overturn the result of the November election.

The embattled law — called Initiated Measure 22 — isn't in effect while a legal challenge from GOP legislators and others moves forward. Republicans have said the initiative is likely unconstitutional.

"Whenever a bill is passed, or whenever a measure is initiated, if it's plainly unconstitutional, I think it's the duty of the Legislature to try to ascertain what was the motivation for this, and is there a constitutional means by which we can create law that responds to that motivation?" Dugaard said.

Senate Majority Leader Blake Curd, a Republican, made the move to delay action because he said the bill is not yet "ripe." Lawmakers will "take the weekend and noodle on some new ideas and concepts" and revisit it next week, he said, declining to offer additional details.

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Democratic lawmakers this week criticized Republicans for their speed in advancing the measure, which had its first hearing Monday. Senate Minority Leader Billie Sutton said legislators will now have to go home and justify the repeal bill to the people who put them into office.

"I'm calling it a victory for our caucus and a victory for 180,000 South Dakotans that want their voice to be heard," he 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.

Represent.Us, a Massachusetts-based organization that pumped funding into the South Dakota ballot measure campaign, has targeted Republican lawmakers with newspaper, radio and online advertisements, mail pieces and telephone calls. The group has spent over \$23,000 so far in January.

Curd said lawmakers have received telephone calls, emails and written messages about the bill, which shows that people have had the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Lawmakers have filed several potential replacement proposals for Initiated Measure 22, though none as sweeping. The proposals include a bill that would tighten restrictions on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers and a measure that would establish a board to review and investigate issues ranging from bribery to theft of public funds. Secretary of State Shantel Krebs has proposed a bill creating a campaign finance ethics commission, which would evaluate and enforce complaints over reported campaign finance violations.

"It is not true in any stretch of the imagination that the Legislature in South Dakota is rejecting the will of the people," Curd told reporters before the bill came up on the floor. "In fact, what it's trying to do is incorporate the will of the people in a constitutionally valid fashion."

## **Daugaard: No entrance fees for proposed Spearfish state park**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Thursday that no entrance fees would be charged in the proposed Spearfish Canyon State Park.

The prospect of fees has been unpopular among people who frequent the canyon and say it would restrict their access to the area, Daugaard said during his weekly press briefing at the state Capitol.

Daugaard proposed the idea during his State of the State address last year, and says most of the negative feedback was over the entrance fees.

A former Department of Game, Fish and Parks secretary promised that fees wouldn't be charged in 2006, when the agency obtained a part of the canyon from mining companies for restoration.

If the proposed park is created, it would be the only state park in South Dakota without an entrance fee. Other fees for things like weddings or special events are still on the table.

Katie Ceroll, division director of parks and recreation for Game, Fish and Parks, said fees aren't the only concern some people have expressed.

"There's a lot of fear that we are going to exploit or commercialize or ruin the authenticity of the canyon," she said. "That's not who we are. That's not what we intend."

A bill in the Legislature would allow the transfer of 1,468 acres of U.S. Forest Service land to state ownership in return for other state lands. Congress would have to sign off on the swap, which could take up to a year, she said.

Another bill would be needed in the Legislature to designate the land as a state park.

## **South Dakota governor opposes transgender locker room bill**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he would veto legislation restricting which locker rooms transgender students can use.

The Republican said Thursday he'd veto the bill if it gets to his desk. He says any concerns about privacy can be met at the local level.

The bill introduced this week would require public school students to use the locker rooms, shower rooms and changing facilities matching their sex at birth. Schools would be allowed under special circumstances to provide other accommodations, like single-occupancy restrooms.

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Daugaard says North Carolina has seen major problems since enacting a similar law. He vetoed legislation last year that also applied to bathrooms. Lawmakers failed to override the veto.

Republican Sen. Lance Russell, the main sponsor of this year's bill, says he's interested in protecting all students. Critics say the legislation is discriminatory.

## North Dakota moving basketball, football to new conferences

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — The University of North Dakota is moving its basketball teams to the Summit League and its football team to the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

The programs currently compete in the Big Sky Conference. UND President Mark Kennedy and Athletics Director Brian Faison say the move to the Summit League in 2018 and to the Missouri Valley Football Conference in 2020 will cut down on travel and renew rivalries, such as with North Dakota State.

The Big Sky issued a statement saying it understands and supports UND's decision.

UND's cross country, track, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis and volleyball programs also will move to the Summit League.

UND's powerhouse men's hockey program will remain in the National Collegiate Hockey Conference.

## Pennington County employee fired for racist comment

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An employee at the Pennington County State Attorney's Office has been fired after making what officials say was a racist comment toward Native Americans.

A statement from State's Attorney Mark Vargo says he first heard the accusation Tuesday night, after a social media post circulated about the comment.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2k89II3>) that Vargo says a citizen overheard the comment while she was visiting the state's attorney's office earlier in the week. A Facebook post by that woman said she heard the employee on the phone saying President Donald Trump should build a wall around the reservations, blocking in Native Americans.

The employee who made the comment, who was not publicly named, no longer works for the county.

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

## US judge bars deportations under Trump travel ban

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge issued an emergency order Saturday night temporarily barring the U.S. from deporting people from nations subject to President Donald Trump's travel ban, saying travelers who had been detained had a strong argument that their legal rights had been violated.

U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly in New York issued the emergency order after lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union filed a court petition on behalf of people from seven predominantly Muslim nations who were detained at airports across the country as the ban took effect.

The judge's order affected only a portion of Trump's executive action. As the decision was announced, cheers broke out in crowds of demonstrators who had gathered at American airports and outside the Brooklyn courthouse where the ruling was issued.

The order barred U.S. border agents from removing anyone who arrived in the U.S. with a valid visa from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. It also covered anyone with an approved refugee application.

It was unclear how quickly the judge's order might affect people in detention, or whether it would allow others to resume flying.

"Realistically, we don't even know if people are going to be allowed onto the planes," said ACLU lawyer Lee Gelernt. "This order would protect people who they allow to come here and reach U.S. soil."

Under Trump's order, it had appeared that an untold number of foreign-born U.S. residents now traveling outside the U.S. could be stuck overseas for at least 90 days even though they held permanent residency

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"green cards" or other visas. However, an official with the Department of Homeland Security said Saturday night that no green-card holders from the seven countries cited in Trump's order had been prevented from entering the U.S.

Some foreign nationals who were allowed to board flights before the order was signed Friday had been detained at U.S. airports, told they were no longer welcome. The DHS official who briefed reporters by phone said 109 people who were in transit on airplanes had been denied entry and 173 had not been allowed to get on their planes overseas.

In her three-page order, Donnelly wrote that without the stay "there will be substantial and irreparable injury to refugees, visa-holders and other individuals from nations subject to the Jan. 27, 2017, executive order."

Trump billed his sweeping executive order as a necessary step to stop "radical Islamic terrorists" from coming to the U.S. It included a 90-day ban on travel to the U.S. by citizens of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen and a 120-day suspension of the U.S. refugee program.

Trump's order singled out Syrians for the most aggressive ban, indefinitely blocking entry for anyone from that country, including those fleeing civil war.

The directive did not do anything to prevent attacks from homegrown extremists who were already in America, a primary concern of federal law enforcement officials. It also omitted Saudi Arabia, home to most of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

As a candidate Trump pledged to temporarily ban Muslims from coming to the U.S., then said he would implement "extreme vetting" for people from countries with significant terror concerns. He told reporters Saturday the order is "not a Muslim ban."

"It's working out very nicely," Trump said of the implementation of his order. "We're going to have a very, very strict ban and we're going to have extreme vetting, which we should have had in this country for many years."

The order sparked protests at several of the nation's international airports, including New York's Kennedy and Chicago's O'Hare and facilities in Minneapolis and Dallas-Forth Worth. In San Francisco, hundreds blocked the street outside the arrival area of the international terminal. Several dozen demonstrated at the airport in Portland, Oregon, briefly disrupting light rail service while hoisting signs that read "Portland Coffee Is From Yemen" and chanting anti-Trump slogans.

U.S. lawmakers and officials around the globe also criticized the move. Sen. Ben Sasse, a Nebraska Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said while Trump is right to focus on border security, the order is "too broad."

"If we send a signal to the Middle East that the U.S. sees all Muslims as jihadis, the terrorist recruiters win by telling kids that America is banning Muslims and that this is America versus one religion," Sasse said. "Our generational fight against jihadism requires wisdom."

In Tehran, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran would stop issuing new visas to U.S. citizens in response to Trump's ban, but that anyone already with a visa to Iran wouldn't be turned away.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took to Twitter Saturday afternoon to say that refugees were welcome in Canada, "regardless of your faith."

Two of the first people blocked from entering the United States were Iraqis with links to the U.S. military. Hameed Khalid Darweesh and Haider Sameer Abdulkhaleq Alshawi were detained by immigration officials after landing at New York's Kennedy airport Friday night. Both had been released by Saturday night after their lawyers intervened.

The government can exempt foreign nationals from the ban if their entry is deemed in the national interest. But it was not immediately clear how that exemption might be applied.

Diplomats from the seven countries singled out by Trump's order would still be allowed into the U.S.

Those already in the U.S. with a visa or green card would be allowed to stay, according to the official, who wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the details of how Trump's order was being put in place and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Trump's order also directed U.S. officials to review information as needed to fully vet foreigners asking

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to come to the U.S. and draft a list of countries that don't provide that information. That left open the possibility that citizens of other countries could also face a travel ban.

The U.S. may still admit refugees on a case-by-case basis during the freeze, and the government would continue to process requests from people claiming religious persecution, "provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion in the individual's country."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations said it would challenge the constitutionality of Trump's order. "There is no evidence that refugees — the most thoroughly vetted of all people entering our nation — are a threat to national security," said Lena F. Masri, the group's national litigation director. "This is an order that is based on bigotry, not reality."

John Cohen, a former Department of Homeland Security counterterrorism official who worked under Democratic and Republican administrations, said the order didn't address America's "primary terrorism-related threat" — people already in the U.S. who become inspired by what they see on the internet.

Trump's order drew support from some Republican lawmakers who have urged more security measures for the refugee vetting program, particularly for those from Syria.

"We are a compassionate nation and a country of immigrants. But as we know, terrorists are dead set on using our immigration and refugee programs as a Trojan Horse to attack us," House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul said in a statement Friday. "With the stroke of a pen, he is doing more to shut down terrorist pathways into this country than the last administration did in eight years."

It is unclear how many people would be immediately impacted by the non-refugee travel ban. According to the statistics maintained by the Homeland Security Department, about 17,000 students from the seven designated countries were allowed into the U.S. for the 2015-2016 school year. In 2015 more than 86,000 people from those countries arrived in the U.S. on other, non-immigrant visas and more than 52,000 others became legal permanent residents.

Last year the U.S. resettled 85,000 people displaced by war, political oppression, hunger and religious prejudice, including more than 12,000 Syrians. Before leaving office President Barack Obama announced that the U.S. would accept 110,000 refugees in the coming year, but Trump's order cut that by more than half to 50,000.

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Eric Tucker in Washington, Ellen Knickmeyer in San Francisco, Jeff Karoub in Detroit, and Karen Matthews, Rachel Zoll, Verena Dobnik and William Mathis in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Alicia A. Caldwell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/acaldwellap](http://www.twitter.com/acaldwellap)

## Despair, confusion reign as Trump's travel ban hits

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and RACHEL ZOLL

An Iraqi pleaded for his life to President Donald Trump. A longtime New Yorker, born in Syria, wondered how he would get home from a trip abroad. Church groups, geared up to welcome refugee families, looked in dismay at homes prepared for families that may never arrive.

Despair and confusion set in Saturday among citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries who found themselves abruptly unable to enter the United States a day after Trump signed an order he billed as a necessary step to stop "radical Islamic terrorists" from coming to the U.S.

Included is a 90-day ban on travel to the U.S. by citizens of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen and a 120-day suspension of the U.S. refugee program.

Travelers from those nations were either barred from getting on their flights or detained at U.S. airports after they landed, including tourists, foreign students and people trying to visit friends and family.

"What's next? What's going to happen next?" asked Mohammed al Rawi, an Iraqi-born American citizen in the Los Angeles area, after his 69-year-old father, coming to visit his grandchildren in California, was

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abruptly detained and sent back to Iraq after 12 hours in custody. "Are they going to create camps for Muslims and put us in it?"

After an appeal from civil liberties lawyers, a federal judge in New York issued an emergency order Saturday night barring the U.S. from summarily deporting people who had arrived with valid visas or an approved refugee application.

U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly said travelers had a strong argument that their legal rights had been violated. Her order, though, only affected a portion of Trump's order.

That ruling came as protests broke out at several U.S. airports where travelers were being held, including a gathering of several hundred people outside San Francisco's main airport and a raucous demonstration of at least 2,000 people at New York's Kennedy International Airport.

Hameed Khalid Darweesh, a translator and assistant for the U.S. military in Iraq for 10 years now fleeing death threats, was among at least a dozen people detained at New York's Kennedy airport their arrivals Friday and Saturday.

He walked free midday Friday after his lawyers and two members of congress went to the airport to try and gain his release.

"This is the soul of America," Darweesh told a crowd of demonstrators and reporters, adding that the U.S. was home to "the greatest people in the world."

Others were less lucky. Parisa Fasihianifard, 24, arrived after a long trip from Tehran, Iran, only to be detained and told she had to go home.

"She was crying and she told me she was banned to come inside and go through the gates," said her husband Mohamad Zandian, 26, an Iranian doctoral student at Ohio State University. He was hoping to get her out of the country on a late night flight to avoid her being jailed until Monday.

Staff at U.S. agencies that resettle refugees were scrambling to analyze the order and girded for the wrenching phone calls that would have to be made to the thousands of refugees just days away from traveling to the U.S. Several staff who spoke to the AP burst into tears as they contemplated the future for people who had waited years to come into the country.

"It's complete chaos," said Melanie Nezer, policy director for HIAS, one of nine refugee resettlement agencies that work with the U.S. State Department.

The International Refugee Assistance Project, which aids foreign nationals targeted for their work for the U.S. government as well as other refugees, was sending the same message to asylum-seekers, most of them who had been waiting for years.

Meathaq Alaunaibi, also a refugee from Iraq, was hoping to soon be reunited with her twin 18-year-old daughters who are in Baghdad. Alaunaibi, her husband, a son and another daughter were settled last August in Tennessee, as the twins completed their government review to enter the U.S. After Trump signed the order, she spoke by phone with her daughters.

"They are so worried and afraid because they're stuck there in Baghdad," Alaunaibi said Saturday. "They are young and they are strong, but I am crying all the time. I miss them."

An Iraqi in Mosul, an Iraqi city where the Islamic State group had seized control, despaired at word that what he had thought was an imminent flight to safety in America was now canceled, indefinitely.

"If you can write to Mr. Trump or find any other way to help me reunite with my family, please, I am dying in Iraq, please," the man, whose identity was withheld because he is still in danger in Iraq, wrote back to his U.S. lawyer by email.

The order also caused confusion for longtime, legal U.S. residents traveling abroad.

Kinan Azmeh, a clarinetist born in Syria who has lived in the U.S. for 16 years, left his home in New York City three weeks ago for a series of concerts that included a date with cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Now, he doesn't know if he will be able to return home.

"I don't know what's going on," Azmeh told The Associated Press by phone Saturday from Lebanon. "It is home as much as Damascus," he said of New York City. "I really don't know how to react."

Before Trump signed the order, more than 67,000 refugees had been approved by the federal government

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to enter the U.S., said Jen Smyers, refugee policy director for Church World Service. More than 6,400 had already been booked on flights, including 15 families that had been expected over the next few weeks in the Chicago area from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iran, Syria and Uganda.

The bulk of refugees entering the U.S. are settled by religious groups, who organize churches, synagogues and mosques to collect furniture, clothes and toys for the refugees and set up volunteer schedules for hosting duties. All that work ground to a halt after Trump signed the order.

In Massachusetts, Jewish Family Service of MetroWest had been coordinating a group of doctors, community leaders, a local mosque and other volunteers to resettle 15 Syrian families, including a 1-year-old and 5-year-old who arrived Tuesday.

Now, two fully outfitted apartments remain empty and it's unclear when, if ever, the other refugees will be allowed to enter, said Marc Jacobs, chief executive of the Jewish service group.

Nour Ulayyet of Valparaiso, Indiana said her sister, a Syrian living in Saudi Arabia, was sent back after arriving from Riyadh at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on Saturday and told she couldn't enter the U.S. to help care for their sick mother. Ulayyet said some officials at the airport were apologizing to her sister, who had a valid visa.

"My mom was already having pain enough to go through this on top of the pain that she's having," Ulayyet said.

Associated Press writers Verena Dobnik and Karen Matthews in New York and Caryn Rousseau in Chicago contributed to this report.

## Trump shuts door on refugees, but will the US be safer?

BY ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says his halt to immigration from seven Muslim-majority nations and ban on refugees is being done in the name of national security. But it's not clear that the measures will help prevent attacks on American soil, and they could wind up emboldening extremists who already view the U.S. as at war with Islam.

Recent high-profile acts of deadly extremist violence have been carried out either by U.S. citizens or by individuals whose families weren't from the nations singled out. And the list of countries doesn't include Saudi Arabia, where most of the Sept. 11 hijackers were from, or other places with a more direct link to terrorism in America.

The admissions ban announced Friday also does not directly address a more urgent law enforcement concern: homegrown violent extremists already in the United States who plot their attacks without any overseas connections or contacts.

"The primary terrorism-related threat facing the U.S. today comes from individuals living here who become inspired by what they see on the internet, who carry out attacks independent of any terrorist organization," said John Cohen, a former Department of Homeland Security counterterrorism official who worked in government under Democratic and Republican administrations and who has been involved in refugee vetting policy.

The FBI has for years been concerned by the prospect of airplane bomb plots and terrorists dispatched from overseas to commit violence in America. But the ascendancy of the Islamic State, and the group's ability through slick and easily accessible propaganda to reach susceptible young Americans in all corners of the country, has been a more immediate challenge — and a more realistic danger — for counterterrorism officials.

"Dealing with that threat should be a top priority for this administration," Cohen said.

The executive order suspends refugee admissions for 120 days and bars all immigration for 90 days from Muslim-majority countries with terrorism concerns: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

It indefinitely bars the processing of refugees from Syria, a country that's been of particular concern to the FBI even though the number of Americans who have looked to travel there to fight with the Islamic

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State has been dwindling.

But the culprits of recent deadly terror attacks aren't linked to the countries singled out by Trump's order. Omar Mateen, the man responsible for the Orlando nightclub shooting, the deadliest terror attack in the U.S. since the Sept. 11 attacks, was born in New York to Afghan parents.

Syed Rizwan Farook, who took part in the December 2015 San Bernardino attack, was born in Chicago. His wife, Tashfeen Malik, had been living in Pakistan and visiting family in Saudi Arabia before she passed the background check and entered the U.S.

The brothers who bombed the Boston Marathon were ethnic Chechens who had been living in the U.S. In general, Islamic extremists have accounted for a minuscule amount of the roughly 240,000 murders since Sept. 11, 2001, said Charles Kurzman, a sociology professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who has studied the issue.

Kurzman said his research shows that people with ancestry from the seven nations in the executive order have accounted for only a small fraction of extremist-related arrests and disrupted plots since Sept. 11.

"I can only conclude that this is whipping up fear and hostility toward Americans who have family background from these countries," Kurzman said.

Still, while refugees are subject to screening — including in-person interviews, checks with law enforcement databases and collection of biometric data, when available — the process is not perfect.

FBI counterterrorism officials have long expressed concern about the lack of background information about refugees from Syria, a home base of the Islamic State, and Director James Comey has said that he could not guarantee a mistake-free vetting process.

There have been isolated incidents of refugees later accused in terror-related plots.

An Iraqi refugee who entered the U.S. in 2009, for instance, pleaded guilty in Houston in October to attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State. Two Iraqi refugees who lived in Kentucky are now in prison after having been convicted in a plot to send sniper rifles, Stinger missiles and money to al-Qaida operatives waging an insurgency back home.

And the man accused in the November car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University was a refugee originally from Somalia who, as an adolescent, moved with his family to the United States in 2014 after living in Pakistan.

Though not immune from lapses, the screening process has improved over the years, Cohen said. He said he was concerned that the refugee ban could deter Muslim-majority countries from cooperating with the U.S. on policy matters and could embolden an extremist already bent on violence.

"That's something," Cohen said, "that law enforcement folks are going to be factoring into their violence prevention efforts."

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

## Trump, Putin discuss 'mutually beneficial' trade, security

By JULIE PACE and VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump had an hourlong discussion Saturday with Russian President Vladimir Putin — the first since Trump assumed office last week — raising questions over the fate of U.S. sanctions against Moscow and whether the two will look to enhance military cooperation against the Islamic State group.

The White House provided a thin readout on the call between the two leaders, saying it was "a significant start to improving the relationship between the United States and Russia that is in need of repair."

The two leaders discussed "a range in topics from mutual cooperation in defeating ISIS to efforts in working together to achieve more peace throughout the world including Syria," the White House statement said, using an acronym for the militant group.

A White House official later said sanctions did not come up in Saturday's call between Trump and Putin. The official said Putin brought up several times that Islamic terrorism was a "common foe" for the U.S. and



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Russia. The official was not authorized to disclose details of the call by name and insisted on anonymity.

Contrary to statements from the White House, the Kremlin said that the two leaders addressed the importance of "restoring mutually beneficial trade and economic ties between business circles of the two countries."

The Kremlin also said that Putin and Trump spoke in particular about international issues, including the fight against terrorism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Iran's nuclear program, the situation on the Korean peninsula and the Ukraine crisis.

Moscow has applauded Trump's promises to rebuild U.S.-Russian relations, which have been pushed to their worst level since the Cold War by the Ukraine crisis, war in Syria and allegations of Russian meddling in U.S. elections. Trump signed a presidential memorandum on the plan to defeat the Islamic State group Saturday, including in it the possibility of teaming up with "new coalition partners," suggesting that pairing up with Russia on counterterrorism issues isn't off the table.

Trump was noncommittal about whether he was considering lifting the economic sanctions ahead of the call, telling reporters Friday: "We'll see what happens. As far as the sanctions, very early to be talking about that."

In 2014, Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea region and backed separatists fighting government forces in eastern Ukraine, drawing widespread condemnation in Europe and the United States.

In response, sanctions were implemented against sectors of Russia's economy, including financial services, energy, mining and defense. The Obama administration also sanctioned people in Putin's inner circle.

Shortly before leaving office, President Barack Obama also ordered sanctions on Russian spy agencies, closed two Russian compounds in the United States and expelled 35 diplomats that he said were really spies. These sanctions followed an assessment by U.S. intelligence that Moscow meddled in the 2016 election to help Trump become president.

Trump's tempered approach to U.S.-Russia relations has already raised concern among several European allies who believe keeping Russia in check is essential to regional security.

British Prime Minister Theresa May, whose country — as part of the European Union — also has punished Russia for its provocations in Ukraine, voiced the view of many in Europe, telling reporters in Washington on Friday: "We believe the sanctions should continue."

Vice President Mike Pence and other senior advisers joined Trump for the call with Putin, including his national security adviser, retired Gen. Michael Flynn, chief of staff Reince Priebus and senior strategist Steve Bannon. Trump also spoke on Saturday with the leaders of Japan, Germany, France and Australia.

Two Republican senators — Arizona's John McCain, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Ohio's Rob Portman, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee —warned the White House about easing any punishments on Moscow and they pledged to turn the sanctions into law.

"I hope President Trump will put an end to this speculation and reject such a reckless course," McCain said in a statement. "If he does not, I will work with my colleagues to codify sanctions against Russia into law."

Portman said lifting the sanctions "for any reason other than a change in the behavior that led to those sanctions in the first place would send a dangerous message to a world already questioning the value of American leadership and the credibility of our commitments after eight years of Obama administration policies."

McCain has emerged as a frequent critic of Trump among Capitol Hill Republicans. He takes a dim view of trying to reset relations with Moscow and says Trump should remember that Putin is "a murderer and a thug who seeks to undermine American national security interests at every turn."

"For our commander in chief to think otherwise would be naive and dangerous," McCain said.

McCain and Portman are part of a bipartisan group of senators who have introduced legislation designed to go beyond the punishments against Russia already levied by Obama and to demonstrate to Trump that forcefully responding to Moscow's meddling isn't a partisan issue.

The bill would impose mandatory visa bans and freeze the financial assets of anyone who carries out cyberattacks against public or private computer systems and democratic institutions.

The legislation also mandates sanctions in Russia's all-important energy sector and on investments in the development of civil nuclear projects to rebuke Moscow for its provocations in eastern Ukraine and military support for Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Associated Press writer Howard Amos in Moscow contributed to this report.

## **May's mission to woo Trump a success, but makes some uneasy**

**By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prime Minister Theresa May went to Washington, and President Donald Trump extended the hand of friendship. Literally.

May left Washington after a 24-hour visit as Saturday's British newspapers splashed front-page photos of the two leaders touching hands as they walked at the White House before a strikingly collegial news conference.

May wanted her meeting, Trump's first as president with a foreign leader, to revitalize the trans-Atlantic "special relationship." She got her wish — delighting those who think Trump's presidency will be good for Britain but alarming others who loathe the brash Republican populist.

She flew home — after a stop in Turkey Saturday to meet President Recep Tayyip Erdogan — with Trump's commitment not to abandon NATO, his praise for what he called "this most special relationship" and — a prize she had eagerly sought — the first steps toward an early trade deal with Britain once it leaves the European Union.

Britain can't begin formal negotiations with other countries until it actually leaves the bloc, likely in 2019 at the earliest. But May's office said Saturday that she and Trump had agreed to start high-level talks and joint working groups immediately to ensure "a seamless transition to a new bilateral relationship."

Trade between the two countries is already worth 150 billion pounds (\$188 billion) a year, and May said a future trade deal "could provide huge benefits to our economic muscle and will give businesses additional certainty and confidence."

Trump did not come away empty handed from the meeting, either. He gets the seal of approval from a generally well-respected British prime minister. And there's an invitation from Queen Elizabeth II to come for a state visit later this year — a treat for a president with Scottish roots and a taste for opulence.

So there was satisfaction from May's team aboard her RAF Voyager jet at how well the hastily arranged trip had gone.

May also praised Trump's "stunning" election victory and declared that they shared a commitment to make government serve "working people." May's embrace of aspects of Trump's policies infuriated her opponents in Britain and could make other European leaders uneasy.

British Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron said May "clearly spent her time with Trump dodging his despicable comments on torture, on women, on Muslims and on Mexicans."

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said May "failed to challenge Trump and stand up for our values" at a joint news conference with the president Friday.

Trump, meanwhile, extolled Britain's vote to leave the EU, saying Brexit would be "a tremendous asset and not a tremendous liability."

Those comments and the warmth of the visit drew approval from the pro-Brexit sections of Britain's press.

"It was one of the most extraordinary days in the long history of U.K.-U.S. relations," said the Daily Mail under the headline "Love-In at the White House" and a picture of the hand-holding moment.

May's office said Trump offered his hand in a chivalrous gesture as the pair approached an unexpected ramp, and she took it.

The trip will provide images for countless future stories about the trans-Atlantic bond. As well as the shoulder-to-shoulder press conference, May got a handshake in the Oval Office beside a bust of Winston Churchill that has become minor obsession for sections of the British press since it was moved to another spot in the White House by President Barack Obama. Trump restored it to a prominent place beside the Oval Office fireplace.

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At times it seemed the visit would be overshadowed by Trump-related headlines that had nothing to do with May, including his feud with Mexico over who would pay for the border wall.

While May was in town the White House announced that Trump would speak by phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin Saturday, amid speculation he could be preparing to lift U.S. sanctions over Ukraine. May said Britain wants to see the sanctions stay in place.

And at the news conference with May, Trump repeated his belief that torture works — though he said he would defer to Defense Secretary James Mattis, who thinks otherwise. Britain, May stressed during the trip, is firmly against torture.

May had scarcely left when Trump issued an executive order barring all refugees from entering the U.S. for four months and imposing a 90-day ban on people from seven Muslim-majority countries.

On the whole, May emerged from the joint appearance looking confident and controlled. Trump, too, was notably calm and measured in her presence.

When May said Trump has assured her he was “100 percent” behind NATO, a body he once called “obsolete,” the president muttered his agreement.

May’s office told reporters that warm conversation had flowed during the pair’s working lunch — and that Trump told an aide to keep the menu card so he could remember the special occasion.

Downing St. said conversation turned to Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, and Trump told May he wanted their relationship to be “even better” than that famously close and productive partnership.

At the press conference, Trump said he was confident the pair were going to get along.

“I am a people person,” Trump said. “I think you are also, Theresa.”

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Follow Jill Lawless on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/JillLawless>

## Key Till witness gave false testimony, historian says

By HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The woman at the center of the trial of Emmett Till’s alleged killers has acknowledged that she falsely testified he made physical and verbal threats, according to a new book.

Historian Timothy B. Tyson told The Associated Press on Saturday that Carolyn Donham broke her long public silence in an interview with him in 2008. His book, “The Blood of Emmett Till,” comes out next week.

“She told me that ‘Nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him,’” said Tyson, a Duke University research scholar whose previous books include “Blood Done Sign My Name” and “Radio Free Dixie.”

Emmett Till was a 14-year-old black tortured and killed in 1955 in Mississippi after allegedly whistling at a white woman, then known as Carolyn Bryant.

His murder became national news, was a galvanizing event in the civil rights movement and has been the subject of numerous books and movies. During the trial, Bryant said that he had grabbed her, and, in profane terms, bragged about his history with white woman. The jury was not present when she testified.

Donham’s then-husband, Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, were acquitted by the all-white jury. Both men, who later told Look magazine they did murder Till, have since died. Milam’s widow, Juanita Milam, would later tell the FBI she believed that Carolyn Bryant had fabricated her story. Juanita Milam died in 2014. The Justice Department re-examined the case a decade ago, but no one was indicted as a murderer or an accomplice.

On Saturday, the maker of a documentary on Till said he had long been sure that Bryant’s story was false.

“His mother had mentioned that Emmett had a speech impediment and that the things Bryant claimed he was saying he could not have said easily,” said Keith Beauchamp, whose “The Untold Story of Emmett Till” came out in 2005.

Tyson said that he spoke with Donham after her daughter-in-law, Marsha Bryant, contacted him. Bryant had read “Blood Done Sign My Name,” about a racist murder during his childhood in Oxford, North Carolina, and invited Tyson to meet with her and Donham.

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Tyson said he and Donham had two conversations, both lasting 2-3 hours, and that he planned at the time to place the material in the archives at the University of North Carolina. Asked why he waited so long to publicize his findings, he responded that historians think in different terms than do journalists.

"I'm more interested in what speaks to the ages than in what is the latest media thing," he said.

He added that he wasn't sure whether Donham knew about the book. He said he had fallen out of touch with the family and that when he last spoke with Bryant, a few years ago, she said Donham was in poor health.

Till was a fun-loving teenager from Chicago visiting the Mississippi Delta and helping out on his great-uncle Mose Wright's farm. On Aug. 24, 1955, Till and some other kids drove to a local store, Bryant's, for refreshments. At Bryant's, some of the kids stayed on the porch, watching a game of checkers, while the others filed inside to buy bubble gum and sodas. Carolyn Bryant, the 21-year-old wife of proprietor Roy Bryant, was behind the counter.

Accounts of what happened next differ.

Mrs. Bryant claimed Emmett bragged about dating white women up north. She said he grabbed her and asked her, "How about a date, baby?" Simeon Wright, his cousin, heard none of this. But there is no doubt about what he heard when they left the store, he told the AP in 2005.

Standing on the front porch, Emmett let out a wolf whistle.

Carolyn Donham's whereabouts have long been a mystery, but North Carolina voter rolls list a Carolyn Holloway Donham. Holloway is her maiden name.

The address is for a green, split-level home in Raleigh at the mouth of a neat cul-de-sac just two turns off a busy four-lane thoroughfare. The well-tended house has burnt-orange shutters and a front-facing brick chimney decorated with a large metal sunburst. Orange flags emblazoned with the word "Google" dot the lawn.

A woman, who appeared to be of late middle age, and a small barking dog appeared at the front door. When a reporter asked if this was the Bryant family home, the woman replied, "Yes."

When asked if Carolyn Donham was at home, the woman replied, "She's not available."

At first, she refused to accept a business card, but relented after hearing about the upcoming book.

The Emmett Till Legacy Foundation has shared news reports about the book on Instagram and asked if Donham would have the "decency and courage" to speak with Till's relatives.

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AP National Writer Allen Breed contributed to this report from North Carolina

## **Diplomatic debut: Trump makes uneven entry onto world stage**

**By JULIE PACE and VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — One week into office, President Donald Trump was trying to clean up his first international incident.

The president shifted a jam-packed schedule Friday to make room for an hourlong phone call with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, who had abruptly snubbed the new president by canceling a visit. Trump's team had appeared to respond by threatening a hefty border tax on Mexican imports.

By the end of the conversation, Trump had tasked his son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner — a real estate executive with no national security experience — with managing the ongoing dispute, according to an administration official with knowledge of the call.

The episode, an uneven diplomatic debut, revealed the earliest signs of how the new president plans to manage world affairs. In a matter of days, he both alarmed and reassured international partners. He picked fights, then quickly backed away from them. He talked tough, and toned it down. And at each step, Trump relied on the small clutch of advisers that guided his norm-breaking campaign, a group with scant foreign policy experience but the trust of the president.

Much of the foreign policy decision-making has rested with Kushner and Steve Bannon, the conservative media executive turned White House adviser, according to administration officials and diplomats. Rex Tillerson, his nominee for secretary of state, is still awaiting confirmation. Officials at the National

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Security Council, an agency Trump has described as bloated, are still seeking marching orders from the new administration.

Some of Trump's early diplomatic moves have followed standard protocols. He scheduled early phone calls with friendly allies, including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who both plan to meet Trump at the White House next month. Additional calls were planned Saturday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande, key European partners.

But Trump also moved swiftly to announce a new era. He declared an end to efforts to pursue multi-nation trade deals and used his first executive action to withdraw the U.S. from a sweeping Pacific Rim pact. He also effectively closed off the United States to refugees, at least temporarily, and risked angering the Arab world by halting visas for people from seven majority Muslim nations for at least three months.

On his first full day as president, he told members of the intelligence community gathered at CIA headquarters that the U.S. should have taken Iraq's oil for "economic reasons," given America's efforts in the country, adding, "But, OK, maybe you'll have another chance."

Some officials at the National Security Council raised concerns over several elements of the refugee measure, as well as other early actions the president took on border security. But administration officials say Trump's inner circle has addressed few of their concerns.

Administration officials and diplomats insisted on anonymity to disclose private dealings with the White House.

Kushner and Bannon have been heavily involved in the Trump administration's early dealings with some European partners, leading during both phone calls and in-person meetings with diplomats and government officials.

In a discussion with British officials, Kushner is said to have angrily denounced the United Kingdom's decision to support a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the expansion of Israeli settlements. The U.S. abstained from the vote before President Barack Obama left office, brushing aside Trump's demands that the U.S. exercise its veto.

Asked about Kushner's involvement on foreign policy, a White House official said he was "particularly well-suited for sensitive negotiations and relationship building."

In contrast with the Trump team's strong views on Israel, European partners have been left largely in the dark about Trump's approach to Russia. Some are on edge over a phone call with Putin on Saturday and fear he may strike a deal that leads to the removal of U.S. sanctions on Russia. The call was said to be arranged by national security adviser Mike Flynn, who has kept a low profile in recent days amid scrutiny over his ties to Russian officials.

Trump did little to ease anxieties Friday when he pointedly refused to say whether he planned to keep in place economic sanctions on Russia as punishment for its provocations in Ukraine.

"We'll see what happens," Trump said during a news conference with British Prime Minister Theresa May.

The prime minister was the first world leader to meet Trump following last week's inauguration, underscoring May's eagerness to get a reading on a man who is a mystery to many world leaders. Trump was measured during their brief joint press conference, but he also showed flashes of charm, joking with May about a British reporter's pointed question about his position on torture and complimenting her for being a "people person."

A visit from Pena Nieto to Washington had been expected to follow May's. But after Trump needled the Mexican president on Twitter, saying it would be better for him not to come if he couldn't commit to paying for Trump's proposed wall along the U.S. southern border, Pena Nieto told the White House he wouldn't be coming.

The White House quickly threatened to slap a 20 percent tax on imports from Mexico to pay for the wall, though officials quickly tried to walk the proposal back, saying it was just one option being considered.

Kushner, who already wields enormous power in the White House, is expected to work through the dispute with Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray. The two men, who know each other from the financial

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circles, also worked together to arrange Trump's surprise visit to Mexico during the presidential campaign.

The readouts released by the two countries after Friday's call pointed to the work to be done. A statement from Mexico said the presidents agreed "to no longer speak publicly" about their dispute over payment for the border wall.

The White House statement made no such promise.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Vivian Salama at <http://twitter.com/vmsalama>

## 10 films vie for Producers Guild Awards on the road to Oscar

By SANDY COHEN, AP Entertainment Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The movies vying for top honors at the Producers Guild Awards are nearly identical to those up for best picture at the Oscars, with the exception of "Deadpool."

Producers included the superhero romp among its 10 nominees for the Darryl F. Zanuck Award, along with "Arrival," "Fences," "Hidden Figures," "Hacksaw Ridge," "Hell or High Water," "Lion," "La La Land," "Manchester By the Sea" and "Moonlight."

The winner will be revealed Saturday night during a ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. Producers have predicted the Oscars' best-picture winner for seven of the eight past years. The groups diverged last year, when the guild picked "The Big Short" and the film academy chose "Spotlight."

The Producers Guild will also present awards in nine other film and TV categories.

## British PM May visits Turkey, reaches \$125M fighter jet deal

By JILL LAWLESS and SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey and Britain signed a deal to jointly build fighter jets during Prime Minister Theresa May's visit to Ankara on Saturday, even as the British leader called on Turkey's government to uphold democracy and abide by human rights standards.

Britain's BAE Systems and Turkish Aerospace industries signed the 100 million-pound (nearly \$125.5 million) agreement establishing a partnership for the development of Turkey's fighter jet program after May met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other Turkish officials about boosting trade between the countries once Britain leaves the European Union.

The two countries agreed to start preparatory work for a future free trade agreement and also talked about increasing cooperation in security and counterterrorism.

"This agreement underlines once again that Britain is a great, global, trading nation and that we are open for business," May said of the fighter jet deal, according to a statement. "It marks the start of a new and deeper trading relationship with Turkey and will potentially secure British and Turkish jobs and prosperity for decades to come."

May flew overnight to Ankara by RAF Voyager jet from the U.S., where she and U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday proclaimed a new chapter in the trans-Atlantic "special relationship."

The visit to Turkey, an important but complicated NATO ally, came amid pressure at home to condemn Turkey's clampdown on civil liberties since the government crushed a coup attempt in July.

"I am proud that the U.K. stood with you on the 15th of July last year in defense of your democracy," May said as she and Erdogan delivered brief statements to the media following their talks.

"And now it is important that Turkey sustains that democracy by maintaining the rule of law and upholding its international human rights obligations — as the government has undertaken to do," she said.

Turkey has detained tens of thousands of people suspected of links to a movement led by U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom the government accuses of orchestrating the failed coup attempt. More than 100,000 others have been dismissed from government jobs.

The crackdown extended to other government opponents. More than a hundred journalists and pro-

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Kurdish party leaders are in jail.

During a joint news conference with May, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim strongly criticized Trump's move to suspend the admission of refugees, saying "you cannot settle this issue by building walls."

"Nobody leaves their homes for nothing," said Yildirim, whose country has admitted some 3 million refugees. "They came here to save their lives and our doors were open. And if the same thing happened again, we would do it again."

Yildirim also complained of insufficient backing for Turkish efforts to support the refugees, saying the expression of "appreciation" to Turkey was "not enough."

May said of Trump's announcement on refugees: "The United States is responsible for the United States' policy on refugees."

May, who was paying her first visit to Turkey since becoming prime minister, arrived for talks with Erdogan to find her image dominating television screens in the presidential palace, which were showing footage of her visit to the White House.

May laughed when Erdogan said her trip to Washington "was well-covered in Turkey."

In his statement, the Turkish leader said the two countries would aim to increase their bilateral trade volume from the current \$15.6 billion to some \$20 billion.

Earlier, May laid a wreath in the red and white colors of the Turkish flag at the tomb of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the modern Turkish Republic, before meeting Erdogan at the vast presidential palace.

She said Britain and Turkey should "renew our efforts to fulfil Ataturk's vision of peace at home and peace in the world."

Turkey has suffered multiple deadly attacks in the past two years, carried out by the Islamic State group or by Kurdish militants, including an IS raid on a nightclub in Istanbul during New Year's celebrations that killed 39 people.

Kate Allen, head of Amnesty International UK, said the visit was a "vital opportunity" for May to ask "probing questions" about allegations of the Turkish government's excessive use of force and ill-treatment of detainees.

May and Erdogan also discussed the conflict in Syria and efforts to reunite Cyprus.

Erdogan said Turkey was seeking a "different concept" in its cooperation with allies, including Britain, in its fight against the Islamic State group in Syria.

Turkey has criticized what it calls insufficient support from the U.S.-led anti-IS coalition in its military drive to liberate a key town in northern Syria from the extremists.

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This version corrects title of Kate Allen to head of Amnesty International UK.

## 23: Serena Williams sets major record with win over Venus

By JOHN PYE, AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Serena Williams held up a Grand Slam winner's trophy for the 23rd time, celebrating her unrivalled place in history, and received a congratulatory letter and a pair of custom-made shoes from Michael Jordan, the name most synonymous with No. 23.

Venus Williams got to watch from close range again, and shed tears more of joy than regret after being beaten in a major final for the seventh time by her record-breaking younger sister.

Serena won the all-Williams final, the ninth in Grand Slam history and the second in Australia, 6-4, 6-4 on Saturday night.

With her record seventh Australian Open title, Serena moved ahead of Steffi Graf for the most major titles in the Open era.

The Williams sisters are close. They started out playing together in Compton, California, hardly a hotbed for tennis, with their father Richard and mother Oracene as coach and mentor. And they still practice and travel together around the world.

They met for the first time at a major at Melbourne Park in 1998 — Venus won that one. In 2003, when

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the younger of the Williams siblings completed her "Serena Slam" of four consecutive titles, Venus was on the other side of the net. She didn't reach another Australian final for 14 years.

When Serena sat on the court, holding both arms up to celebrate on Saturday, Venus walked over to her sister's side of the net for a hug.

"This was a tough one," Serena said. "I really would like to take this moment to congratulate Venus, she's an amazing person — she's my inspiration.

"There's no way I would be at 23 without her — there's no way I would be at one without her. Thank you Venus for inspiring me to be the best player I can be and inspiring me to work hard."

Asked if it felt awkward to be on the receiving end of so many losses to her sister, the 36-year-old Venus didn't flinch.

"No, because I guess I've been here before," she said. "I really enjoy seeing the name Williams on the trophy. This is a beautiful thing."

Venus won the last of her seven majors in 2008 at Wimbledon. She didn't make the second week of a major for a few years as she came to terms with an energy-sapping illness after being diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome in 2011. And she only made it back to the semifinals last year at Wimbledon.

Another shot at a first Australian Open title was a sign of progress, she said.

"That's exactly where I want to be standing during these Grand Slams, is on finals day, having an opportunity," she said. "That's the highlight of all this, is to be in that moment."

Serena Williams, meanwhile, enjoyed the fact she made history in Melbourne. Only Margaret Court, with 24, is in front of her in terms of overall Grand Slam singles titles, although the Australian great won 13 of her Grand Slams before the Open era began in 1968.

"My first Grand Slam started here, and getting to 23 here, but playing Venus, it's stuff that legends are made of," Serena said. "I couldn't have written a better story."

The match didn't live up to its classic billing, with nerves and tension causing uncharacteristic mistakes and unforced errors, with four consecutive service breaks before Venus finally held for a 3-2 lead in the first set. That included a game when Serena had game point but served back-to-back double-faults and three in all to give up the break.

There were six service breaks in total. Both players were relatively subdued, except when Serena smashed her racket in the third game.

After the fourth game, however, Serena Williams didn't face another break point in the 1-hour, 22-minute match.

"Serena Williams, that's my little sister," Venus said. "I have been right there with you. Some of them I have lost right there against you. It's been an awesome thing, your win has always been my win."

In terms of total years, it was the oldest Grand Slam women's final in the Open era —the Williams sisters combining for 71 years, 11 months.

Roger Federer will be aiming to increase his all-time men's record to 18 when he takes on 14-time major winner Rafael Nadal on Sunday, completing the singles finals lineup of all 30-somethings.

Bob and Mike Bryan missed out on a doubles record, losing the final 7-5, 7-5 to Henri Kontinen of Finland and John Peers of Australia.

The third-seeded twins were trying to win their 17th Grand Slam title, which would have tied them with John Newcombe.

Speaking of records, Serena got a little bit superstitious Down Under, and hadn't wanted to talk about the No. 23 until she got it.

Now there's a limited-edition racket — 23 of them to be released — and some custom-made shoes sent by former NBA great Jordan. It had Jordan's usual jersey number No. 23 stamped on the heel, helping to provide some synchronicity for the numbers involved.



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## Top Russian official says Putin-Trump call will be positive

MOSCOW (AP) — Influential Russian security chief Nikolai Patrushev says Moscow has high hopes for a scheduled telephone call between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump. “Everything will be positive,” Patrushev said Saturday, according to Russia’s Interfax news agency. He is the secretary of Russia’s Security Council.

The telephone call between Putin and Trump expected to take place later Saturday will be the first official contact between the two leaders since Trump was sworn in as president. The Kremlin has welcomed Trump’s promises to mend ties with Moscow, which have been badly strained by the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria and allegations of Russian meddling in the U.S. elections.

Putin held a meeting of the Security Council on Friday to discuss U.S.-Russian relations.

## In Iowa, Trump voters cheer changes, dismiss petty fights

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

OTTUMWA, Iowa (AP) — In struggling Wapello County, a swath of southeast Iowa Donald Trump was the first Republican to carry in 44 years, his earliest and most devout supporters cheer the new president’s quick action on health care, trade, energy and immigration, including accelerated construction of the long-promised Mexican border wall.

And yet, even these voters, to whom Trump disproportionately owes his presidency, roll their eyes at his ongoing fixation with his popularity.

“He’s said what needs to be done, and he’s doing it,” said Viki Wilson, a retired trucking company operator from Ottumwa, Wapello County’s seat. “He’s just got to sort the small stuff from the big stuff.”

Far from the cacophony enveloping Washington in Trump’s first week in office, the Iowa voters who helped him capture the state and the presidency last November give the president high marks for reversing eight years of Democrat Barack Obama’s policies. But they shake their heads at his widely debunked claims about the crowd size for his inauguration and voter fraud costing him the popular vote.

Wilson is like hundreds of Trump supporters in this county of about 35,000 people, a former Democrat in a once union-heavy city who embraced Trump’s candidacy out of frustration with the region’s high unemployment.

Like Wapello, working-class counties that were once home to thriving union Democratic precincts, such as Racine County, Wisconsin, and Macomb County, Michigan, voted decidedly for Trump in November, and helped him carry the entire northern arc of states from Iowa to Pennsylvania.

Cherie Westrich of Ottumwa had never been politically active. But the 51-year-old antique car rebuilder had researched the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement between the United States and Asian nations, and concluded the treaty would benefit U.S. corporations, not its workers.

By signing an order withdrawing from the 12-nation treaty brokered by Obama, Trump made good on what he argued was a pledge to protect U.S. workers from competition in low-wage Asian countries.

“No matter if you agree or disagree on this campaign promise, there’s no question he’s jumping right on it,” said Westrich, who became an active volunteer for Trump in Ottumwa last fall.

It’s the kind of promise that drew hundreds of newcomers to Wapello County’s Republican presidential caucuses almost exactly a year ago when Trump finished a surprising second to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. Wilson and Westrich, like thousands of other voters in this onetime coalmining and manufacturing hub, had drifted away from their Democratic roots, emblematic of the region’s shift from labor unions.

For decades, the voters backed Democratic presidential candidates after supporting Richard Nixon in 1972.

Vestiges of Ottumwa’s better days — rows of once-majestic Victorian homes — loom on bluffs overlooking the Des Moines River where barges used to haul coal to the Mississippi. Gone are the mines and dozens of manufacturing plants, replaced by a JBS — formerly Swift — non-union meatpacking plant, the county’s top employer with about 2,400 workers. John Deere’s Ottumwa plant is the city’s lone heavy manufacturer and, while still a union shop, employs about a third as many as the Swift plant.

Making good on his trade promise and immediately giving federal agencies leeway to ignore Obama’s

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health care law have Wapello County Republicans feeling vindicated. It has eased concerns that Trump is too easily distracted by his image and refighting his 18-month campaign.

Westrich was among the 1,200 Wapello voters who attended the county's Republican presidential caucuses, twice as many as party officials had planned. She supported Trump on the hope that the brash billionaire could help revive what was once a thriving manufacturing base.

Trump won her county in the caucuses nearly a year ago. And in November, he won Iowa, which was carried by Obama in 2008 and 2012.

But the election is over, Westrich said.

"He borders on being embarrassing. And I wish he'd stop," she said. "But when it comes to doing things that mean something, he's coming through."

Trump complained last week that news organizations had underreported the size of the crowd assembled on the National Mall for his inauguration. He has repeated the false claim that he lost the popular vote — despite his Electoral College win — because millions of immigrants ineligible to vote cast ballots. Trump wants an investigation.

"I don't like that he wanted to choose crowd-size at his inauguration as a fight to wage on his first day. That's piddly," said Mark Feller, an early Trump devotee from Dennison, in conservative western Iowa. "And you can't tell me he didn't win. C'mon."

Instead, Feller is happy Trump revived plans to construct the Keystone XL petroleum pipeline, which was halted under Obama.

Even Trump's equivocation and uncertainty about deporting children of immigrants in the country illegally is forgivable, in light of the list of other action he's tackling, said Sandy Brus of rural Crawford County near Denison. On Wednesday, Trump signed executive actions to speed construction of his promised U.S.-Mexico border wall and cut federal grants for immigrant-protecting "sanctuary cities."

Brus, a retired teacher, is concerned the influx of immigrant children into Denison, with a roughly 70 percent immigrant enrollment, is overburdening the district and underserving the students, including immigrants.

"He's got people around him that are encouraging him to think things through," Brus said. "Now, they just need to take away his Twitter."

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The story has been corrected to fix the spelling of Denison.

## John Hurt, Oscar nominated for "The Elephant Man" dies at 77

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The versatile actor Sir John Hurt, who could move audiences to tears in "The Elephant Man," terrify them in "Alien," and spoof that very same scene in "Spaceballs," has died. He was 77.

Hurt, who battled pancreatic cancer, died Friday in London according to his agent Charles McDonald. Twice nominated for an Oscar for playing the tortured John Merrick in David Lynch's "The Elephant Man" and for his role as the heroin addict Max in "Midnight Express," Hurt's career spanned over 50 years. After minor television and film appearances, his breakout came in 1966 as Richard Rich in Fred Zinnemann's "A Man For All Seasons," followed by his portrayal of Caligula in the BBC miniseries "I, Claudius" in 1976.

The wiry Hurt brought gravitas to Alan Parker's 1978 film "Midnight Express," for which he received a supporting actor Oscar nomination (he lost to Christopher Walken for "The Deer Hunter") and an uneasy humor to Kane in Ridley Scott's "Alien," immortalized by his disturbing death scene, which Mel Brooks later poked fun at with Hurt's help in "Spaceballs."

"It was terribly sad today to learn of John Hurt's passing," Mel Brooks wrote on Twitter. "He was a truly magnificent talent."

Hurt is unrecognizable in perhaps his most memorable role as the lead in David Lynch's "The Elephant Man." He endured eight hours in the makeup chair daily to transform into John Merrick. The elaborate mask prohibited him from sleeping lying down or even eating while it was on. He would eat his last meal midmorning as the mask was being applied — usually raw eggs mixed in orange juice — and not again

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until after midnight.

"To be quite honest, the film was misery to make because of the physical problems, so if it's working I'm jumping for joy," Hurt said in a 1980 interview. Hurt did score a lead actor Oscar nomination for the role, but lost out to Robert De Niro's performance in "Raging Bull."

Hurt was also a prolific voice actor, appearing as Hazel in the animated "Watership Down," and as Aragorn in Ralph Bakshi's "The Lord of the Rings." He also voiced The Horned King in "The Black Cauldron" and provided the narration for "Dogville."

In the "Harry Potter" films, Hurt played the wand-maker Mr. Ollivander. In recent years, he appeared in notable fare such as "Melancholia," "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," "Only Lovers Left Alive" and "Snowpiercer."

"We're all just passing time, and occupy our chair very briefly," Hurt said in a 2015 interview while undergoing treatments for the early stage cancer.

As prolific as ever, Hurt recently appeared alongside his "V for Vendetta" co-star Natalie Portman in the Oscar-nominated film "Jackie" as a priest who consoles and advises the recently widowed first lady.

Hurt leaves behind a few in production credits, including Joe Wright's "Darkest Hour" which is listed as still filming. Hurt plays Neville Chamberlain in the film about Winston Churchill's charge against Hitler. Gary Oldman plays Churchill.

"I have lots of favorite memories but I can't say that I have a favorite film. I have favorite parts which are not in particularly successful films," Hurt told The Guardian in 2000. "I've worked with people from Fred Zinnemann, John Huston, through to Richard Fleischer, all of those boys from Hollywood and so on and Sam Peckinpah and then the Mike Radfords... I've been incredibly lucky with the directors I've worked with. You don't realize it at the time, it's just in retrospect if you look back you think, 'Jeez, when I saw that CV it nearly frightened the life out of me.' I thought, 'That's not bad for an old drunk.'"

## Trump orders strict new refugee screening, citing terrorists

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday barred all refugees from entering the United States for four months — and those from war-ravaged Syria indefinitely — declaring the ban necessary to prevent "radical Islamic terrorists" from entering the nation.

The order immediately suspended a program that last year resettled to the U.S. roughly 85,000 people displaced by war, political oppression, hunger and religious prejudice. Trump indefinitely blocked all those fleeing Syria, where a civil war has displaced millions of people, and imposed a 90-day ban on entry to the U.S. from seven Muslim majority nations.

"We want to ensure that we are not admitting into our country the very threats our soldiers are fighting overseas," Trump said as he signed the order at the Pentagon. "We only want to admit those into our country who will support our country and love deeply our people."

Trump said the halt in the refugee program was necessary to give government agencies time to develop a stricter vetting system. But the order did spell out what additional steps he wants the Homeland Security and State departments to take.

The U.S. may admit refugees on a case-by-case basis during the freeze, and the government will continue to process requests from people claiming religious persecution, "provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion in the individual's country."

In an interview with CBN News, Trump said persecuted Christians would be given priority in applying for refugee status.

"We are going to help them," Trump said. "They've been horribly treated."

The order was signed on Trump's most robust day of national security and foreign policy at the start of his presidency, marked by a meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May and a lengthy phone call with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto.

As a candidate, Trump called for a temporary ban on all Muslim immigration to the U.S. He later shifted his focus to putting in place "extreme vetting" procedures to screen people coming to the U.S. from

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countries with terrorism ties.

The State Department said the three-month ban in the directive applied to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen — all Muslim-majority nations.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, said it would file a federal lawsuit Monday challenging the constitutionality of the executive order.

"There is no evidence that refugees — the most thoroughly vetted of all people entering our nation — are a threat to national security," said CAIR National Litigation Director Lena F. Masri. "This is an order that is based on bigotry, not reality."

During the past budget year, the U.S. accepted 84,995 refugees, including 12,587 people from Syria. President Barack Obama had set the refugee limit for this budget year at 110,000.

Trump, according to the executive order, plans to cut that to 50,000. Refugee processing was suspended in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks and restarted months later.

The president was applauded by House Speaker Paul Ryan, who said it was "time to re-evaluate and strengthen the visa-vetting process." Many Democrats cast the measures as un-American.

"Tears are running down the cheeks of the Statue of Liberty tonight as a grand tradition of America, welcoming immigrants, that has existed since America was founded has been stomped upon," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

Trump's order was signed on Holocaust Remembrance Day, which brought to mind the global effort to help refugees during World War II and its aftermath.

The order makes no mention of a plan to provide safe zones in Syria and the surrounding area. A draft of the order had directed the Pentagon and the State Department to produce a plan for safe zones in the war-torn Mideast nation.

The president's directive capped a hectic first week for Trump at the White House, giving Americans an initial look at how he intends to position the United States around the globe.

Earlier Friday, he hosted British Prime Minister Theresa May at the White House for his first meeting with a world leader since taking office. Asked about whether he would revert back to Bush-era use of torture, Trump said he would defer to the views of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

"He has stated publicly that he does not necessarily believe in torture or waterboarding, or however you want to define it. ... I don't necessarily agree," Trump said. "But I would tell you that he will override because I'm giving him that power. He's an expert."

The Associated Press and other news organizations have obtained copies of a draft executive order signaling sweeping changes to U.S. interrogation and detention policy. The draft, which the White House said was not official, also requests recommendations on whether the U.S. should reopen CIA detention facilities outside the United States. Critics said the clandestine sites have marred America's image on the world stage.

Trump held firm Friday on another controversy — trade and illegal immigration from Mexico. He told reporters he had a "very good call" with Pena Nieto earlier in the day, but he reaffirmed his belief that Mexico has "outnegotiated and beat us to a pulp" on trade — and that would change.

"We're no longer going to be the country that doesn't know what it's doing," he declared a day after the Mexican leader canceled his visit to Washington in response to Trump's plans to build a border wall and have Mexico pay for it.

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Follow Ken Thomas at <http://twitter.com/kthomasDC>

## Trump's immigration curbs no surprise, those affected say

By ADAM SCHRECK, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Many citizens of Muslim-majority countries affected by President Donald Trump's curbs on travel to the United States say they were hardly surprised the restrictions rank among his first orders of business.

The new commander-in-chief had, after all, once called for a "complete and total shutdown" of Muslim arrivals, and in his inaugural speech vowed to eradicate "radical Islamic terrorism" from the face of the earth.

But that doesn't make news of the clampdown sting any less for those on the receiving end.

"No one is surprised but everyone is disappointed, especially with the height of hope with (Barack) Obama," said Khalid al-Baih, a 36-year-old political cartoonist from Sudan. He fears new American visa restrictions will now have a knock-on effect. "Whatever America does, the rest of the world follows."

Shadi Sabbagh, a 40-year-old resident of Syria's capital, Damascus, who has a sister in the U.S., feels let down too by what he called "unnatural" proposals to restrict the flow of refugees into the U.S.

"America is a nation of immigrants and no one can ever ban immigration," he said. "What is our fault if some Muslims committed some wrong actions? Should we, as Christians, bear the consequences?"

The executive order issued Friday by Trump imposes a 120-day suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and a 90-day ban on all entry to the U.S. from countries with terrorism concerns. The three-month ban applies to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. The order also halts entry by Syrian refugees until the president determines that changes to the refugee program ensure that admitting them won't compromise national security.

Abbas al-Bayati, an Iraqi Shiite member of parliament, said the curbs will send the wrong message to Iraqis at a time when Washington is counting on Iraqi forces to battle Islamic State militants in tough close-quarters combat in the northern city of Mosul.

"The United States and Iraq always stressed that they are allies," al-Bayati said, noting American commitments to support democracy in Iraq. He urged the Trump administration to reconsider its decision "for the good of the two countries."

Fellow Iraqi lawmaker Majid Chenkali, a Kurdish Sunni, was less diplomatic, saying Iraq should respond with similar visa policies for Americans.

"It should be an eye for an eye," he said.

Mohammed ElBaradei, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Egypt's former vice president who now lives in self-imposed exile, posted on Twitter: "Will there be an Arab action to make us feel that we have some dignity?"

It was not immediately clear how Trump's plans would affect Syrians scattered all over the globe.

Close to 5 million Syrians have fled the country's brutal war since 2011, when an uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule erupted in the country's south. Most struggle to survive in tough conditions in neighboring countries, and many have relatives who have settled in the U.S.

Trump said during his campaign that he would suspend arrivals from Syria, portraying them as a potential security threat.

George, a 58-year-old businessman in Damascus, whose wife and two daughters fled the war and have been living in the U.S. for five years, said Americans already treat Syrians very badly, and that security measures greeting Syrians at U.S. airports are terrible.

The man, who declined to give his last name for security concerns, said that although he has U.S. residency, he still suffers every time he travels to America. "If the treatment of Syrians gets worse, we will pack our bags and return home."

Iranian actress Taraneh Alidoosti, star of the Oscar-nominated "The Salesman," said she would boycott the Academy Awards to protest Trump's immigration policies.

"Trump's visa ban for Iranians is racist," she posted on Twitter.

Tehran-based diplomatic analyst Hassan Hanizadeh said Trump's move will do nothing to improve strained

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relations between Washington and Tehran, and will only make things more difficult for ordinary Iranians who travel to the U.S. to visit family. There are believed to be more than one million Iranians and Iranian-Americans living in the U.S.

"As expected, Trump has launched aggressive policies against Islamic countries, including Iran," Hanizadeh said.

On the streets of Tehran, Iranians echoed that sentiment.

"Trump has targeted ordinary Iranians since he cannot do anything against the Iranian government," said car mechanic Borzou Ahmadi, 35.

Simin Ghaderi, a 43-year-old teacher, said the plan shows a lack of knowledge among American decision-makers.

"Just look at passports of those who were involved in terrorist activities in the U.S. and the west. How many of them were Iranian citizens?" he said.

The 9/11 attacks, for example, were mostly carried out by citizens of Saudi Arabia, a U.S. ally and Iran's regional rival. American citizens were responsible for other recent deadly attacks.

Several prominent mass-casualty terrorist attacks on American soil, including the 9/11 terrorist attacks, have been carried out by Sunni militant groups and have not involved Iranian citizens.

The United States has listed Iran a state sponsor of terrorism since 1984 — four years after Washington severed diplomatic relations in the wake of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and storming of the U.S. Embassy. The Islamic Republic backs a number of Middle Eastern militant groups, including Lebanon's Hezbollah and the Palestinian group Hamas.

But Iran also finds common ground with the U.S. in its opposition to the Islamic State militant group, which views the Shiite sect of Islam that most Iranians follow as heretical.

Mohammad Saghafi, an undergraduate electric engineering student in Tehran Azad University, said he is thinking twice about trying to pursue further education in the U.S. because of the ban.

"I may continue my education in Canada or Germany," he said. "Their leaders do not react like teenagers, at least."

For some in the Middle East, the proposed ban won't change much — either because they had no plans to visit the U.S. or couldn't get in when they tried.

"I'd rather go somewhere else like Thailand as a tourist than the U.S.," said Ahmadi, the Iranian mechanic.

Mounir al-Khayat, 31-year-old banker from Syria who was born and raised in Kuwait, said it has always been tough for Syrians to get American visas, even before Trump's election. He has been refused a tourist visa, as have others he knows.

"I was told that because I am Syrian, the authorities there are not sure if I will return," he said.

"It has always been there, this travel ban," he continued. "Trump just made it official."

Advocacy groups for refugees condemned the order in emotional terms, saying the policy exacerbated the suffering of vulnerable people while abandoning American values.

James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, who is Christian, said he was especially upset about the exemption for persecuted religious minorities in the order. The preferential treatment, clearly meant for Christians, would generate resentment of communities already at serious risk, he said.

"It's wrongheaded and dangerous in terms of the Middle East," Zogby said.

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Associated Press writers Fay Abuelgasim in Dubai, Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, Nasser Karimi and Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, Hussain al-Qatari in Kuwait City, Maggie Michael in Cairo and Ahmed Sami in Baghdad contributed to this report.

Follow Adam Schreck on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/adamschreck](http://www.twitter.com/adamschreck)

## Chicago police chief discloses he needs kidney transplant

By CARYN ROUSSEAU and HERBERT G. McCANN

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson disclosed after a public dizzy spell on Friday that he has battled a kidney condition for more than three decades and is on a waiting list for a transplant.

Johnson said his dizziness at a news conference announcing a crime initiative was due to taking blood pressure medication on an empty stomach. He was taken to a suburban Chicago hospital for several hours of evaluation and later released.

"For 32 years I've been treating a kidney condition that hasn't interfered with my ability to lead a normal life or be your police superintendent," he said at a news conference later in the day. "I don't require dialysis nor do I have diabetes."

Johnson said that once a donor is found and the operation takes place he should be back to work after three to five weeks. Johnson said that he informed Emanuel of his kidney condition before he was appointed superintendent in March.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel expressed "absolute confidence" that Johnson can run the department and his deputies can run the department in the event Johnson had to take leave.

Earlier Friday, Johnson appeared dazed and had to sit down while Emanuel was announcing an initiative to reduce homicides and shootings.

While Emanuel was speaking at the podium during the news conference, he stopped suddenly and turned to the police superintendent, asking "Are you OK?"

People then surrounded Johnson and several shouted: "Call 911." Emanuel handed Johnson a bottle of water and the superintendent drank from it after sitting down in seats reserved for reporters.

Dr. Paul Crawford, a nephrologist, said Johnson's test results did not contain anything that would require admission. He also stressed that one of every nine people in the U.S. has high blood pressure.

Johnson and the mayor were announcing technological advances for police at a station on the city's South Side. Chicago police and city officials are under tremendous pressure to curb a rash of homicides and shootings in recent years.

Chicago ended 2016 with 762 homicides — or an average of two people killed per day, a rate that was widely reported at year's end. It was the highest number of homicides in the city in two decades and more than Los Angeles and New York combined. Last year, there were 3,550 shootings, a nearly 50 percent increase over 2015.

Three days ago, President Donald Trump tweeted that he would "send in the Feds" if the city couldn't fix the problem.

Johnson told the Chicago Tribune on Wednesday that Trump's tweet baffled him.

"The statement is so broad. I have no idea what he's talking about," Johnson said.

Johnson replaced former Superintendent Garry McCarthy, who was fired following the release of dashcam footage showing a white police officer fatally shooting an unarmed black teenager 16 times. He didn't apply to be the city's top police officer. Emanuel chose Johnson for the job in March 2016, after rejecting three finalists recommended by the city's police board.

## As Year of the Rooster dawns, 'phoenix claws' grace the menu

By KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Saturday marks the start of the lunar Year of the Rooster and families in China will reunite for festivities, fireworks and food. While tradition calls for feasting on "auspicious" foods, many will also munch on staple snacks like "phoenix claws," the Chinese name for chicken feet.

With reptilian looks and lowly status from scratching around farmyards and coops, humble chicken paws are considered a throwaway in the West, where farmers often grind them into feed for pets and livestock. But across much of Asia, where diners prefer eating meat on the bone, they're a considered a delicacy.

"Not only are they tasty, but it's believed they have a lot of collagen so if you eat them it's good for your

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skin and makes you look beautiful," said Liza Chu, author of a guidebook to Hong Kong dim sum dishes including chicken feet.

At this time of year, Chinese like to eat foods that are considered lucky like dumplings and fish. Chicken feet don't actually have any special meaning for the Year of the Rooster, though that doesn't mean it's not a good excuse to eat them, Chu said.

"We all need some rooster energy. Roosters are energetic. They can be very aggressive. They are not shy," said Chu. Those born in the Year of the Rooster are "very outgoing people."

Chicken feet are of such culinary importance in China that they have even played a role in trade tensions between the U.S. and China, which imports poultry because of production shortfalls. In 2009, the Obama administration slapped tariffs on Chinese tires and Beijing retaliated by imposing taxes of up to 105 percent on U.S. chicken feet.

Two years ago, China banned poultry imports from the U.S. over bird flu, sending chicken-paw producers in other countries racing to fill the gap.

For the uninitiated, chicken feet have a chewy, fatty and succulent texture, bordering on the gelatinous. In Hong Kong, they're served at dim sum teahouses with garlic, chilli and black bean sauce.

Or they can be paired with a beer while watching football matches, said Leung Kin-keung, who runs a chicken feet stall.

"I grew up eating chicken feet," said Leung. "We were not wealthy" so the family used every part of the chicken, he said.

In Manila, Philippines, street vendors grill skewers of them over charcoal.

"They taste different from ordinary chicken parts. I like eating the bony parts," said Jacklyn Sun. "Chicken feet are delicious to eat."

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Associated Press video journalists Josie Wong in Hong Kong and Joael Calupitan in Manila, Philippines contributed to this report.

## A look at Trump's executive order on refugees, immigration

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed an executive order Friday making major changes to America's policies on refugees and immigration.

A look at what Trump ordered:

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### SYRIA

Trump's order directs the State Department to stop issuing visas to Syrian nationals and halts the processing of Syrian refugees. That will remain in effect until Trump determines that enough security changes have been made to ensure that would-be terrorists can't exploit weaknesses in the current vetting system.

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### REFUGEES

Trump ordered a four-month suspension to America's broader refugee program. The suspension is intended to provide time to review how refugees are vetted before they are allowed to resettle in the United States.

Trump's order also cuts the number of refugees the United States plans to accept this budget year by more than half, to 50,000 people from around the world.

During the last budget year the U.S. accepted 84,995 refugees, including 12,587 people from Syria. President Barack Obama had set the current refugee limit at 110,000.

The temporary halt to refugee processing does include exceptions for people claiming religious persecution, so long as their religion is a minority faith in their country. That could apply to Christians from Muslim-majority countries.

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## EXTREME VETTING

Trump's order did not spell out specifically what additional steps he wants to see the Homeland Security and State departments to add to the country's vetting system for refugees. Instead he directed officials to review the refugee application and approval process to find any other security measures that can be added to prevent people who pose a threat from using the refugee program.

During the Obama administration, vetting for refugees included in-person interviews overseas, where they provided biographical details about themselves, including their families, friendships, social or political activities, employment, phone numbers, email accounts and more. They also provided biometric information, including fingerprints. Syrians were subject to additional, classified controls that administration officials at the time declined to describe, and processing for that group routinely took years to complete.

## OTHER IMMIGRATION

Trump's executive order suspends all immigration from countries with terrorism concerns for 90 days. The State Department said the three-month ban in the directive applied to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen — all Muslim-majority nations. The order also calls for Homeland Security and State Department officials, along with the director of national intelligence, to review what information the government needs to fully vet would-be visitors and come up with a list of countries that don't provide it. The order says the government will give countries 60 days to start providing the information or citizens from those countries will be barred from traveling to the United States.

Barring any travel to the U.S. from those seven countries, even temporarily, appears to at least partially fulfill a campaign promise Trump made to ban Muslims from coming to the United States until assurances can be made that visitors are properly vetted.

Follow Alicia A. Caldwell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/acaldwellap](http://www.twitter.com/acaldwellap)

This story deletes mention of proposed safe zones for Syrian refugees. That proposal appeared in an earlier draft of the document but not in the final version.

## Trump, May affirm special relationship between US, UK

By JILL LAWLESS and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May appeared chummy as they faced a curious world together for the first time Friday, pledging allegiance to the special relationship between their countries while trying to mask stark differences on some major issues.

It was Trump's first White House meeting with a foreign head of state, a hastily arranged confab held precisely one week after the businessman and reality TV star, who remains a largely unknown figure to European audiences, was sworn into office as president.

Trump sought to charm May from the outset, showing her the bust of Prime Minister Winston Churchill that he's using to decorate the Oval Office. He then opened a joint news conference by noting that his late mother was born in "Stornoway, which is serious Scotland." Scotland is part of Great Britain.

Trump and May were seen briefly holding hands as they walked along the White House colonnade after leaving the Oval Office. Their talks continued in the State Dining Room over lunch of iceberg wedge salad, braised beef short ribs with potato puree and salted caramel cr me brulee.

For her part, May congratulated Trump on his "stunning election victory," and announced that he had accepted the queen's invitation for a state visit with his wife, first lady Melania Trump, later this year.

But the attempts at mutual flattery didn't completely mask the leaders' differences over some issues, including NATO and Russia.

May tried to push Trump toward positions she supports, noting that he had assured her he was "100 percent" behind NATO, a world body he has dismissed as "obsolete." Trump did not contradict May as they stood together and answered journalists' questions in the White House East Room.

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May also took a tougher stance on sanctions against Russia.

When asked how close the U.S. is to lifting penalties that were imposed on Russia after its incursion into Ukraine, Trump said it was "very early to be talking about that." May said sanctions should remain until a 2015 cease-fire agreement for Ukraine is fully implemented.

Trump has been less critical of Russia and its leader, President Vladimir Putin, than his predecessor and some lawmakers, including fellow Republicans. He has cast doubt on findings by U.S. intelligence officials that Russia interfered in the presidential election to help him win the White House, and has praised Putin's leadership. Trump's stance has fueled speculation that he could ease or remove the sanctions against Russia.

Trump also reiterated his belief that torture works. Britain takes a vocal stand against it.

The appearance alongside May was more amiable than Trump's most recent public appearance with a foreign leader: a joint news conference with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto last August. Trump was more staid and serious then, and read from lengthy prepared remarks.

Coincidentally, Trump and May met a day after Pena Nieto canceled his own trip to Washington next week amid disagreement with Trump over which of their countries will pay for the wall Trump wants to build along the U.S.-Mexico border. Trump says Mexico will pay; Mexico says it won't.

Trump is somewhat of a mystery to world leaders, many of whom expected Democrat Hillary Clinton to win the election. They also don't know his administration's main interlocutors with foreign governments, including son-in-law Jared Kushner and senior adviser Steve Bannon, a conservative media executive.

So May was on a bit of a scouting mission.

She has strong reasons for wanting the relationship to work. Britain is set to leave the European Union and its 500 million-person single market, and is eager for a bilateral trade deal with the U.S. The United States is Britain's biggest export market, and such a trade deal would be a major prize.

Trump has drawn parallels between Britain's choice to leave the EU and his own success, using the Brexit vote last June to bolster his derision of the 28-nation bloc and his preference for striking bilateral agreements.

Often combative in the presence of journalists, Trump seemed relaxed and humorous alongside May. At one point, after a British journalist asked whether people should be alarmed by his past statements, Trump joked: "This was your choice of a question? There goes that relationship."

He backed May's determination to make Britain strong and prosperous once it leaves the European Union, saying he thought Brexit would be "a tremendous asset and not a tremendous liability."

And when asked whether the two very different leaders had found common ground, Trump said they had. "I think we're going to get along very well," he said. "I am a people person. I think you are also, Theresa."

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Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

## Anti-abortion groups hold triumphant rally after Obama years

By BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The politically ascendant anti-abortion movement gathered Friday for a triumphant rally on the National Mall, rejoicing at the end of an eight-year presidency that participants said was dismissive of their views.

Vice President Mike Pence told the crowd at the March for Life that anti-abortion policies were a top priority of the new administration, and President Donald Trump tweeted that the rally had his "full support."

The March for Life is held every year in Washington to mark the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. While no official crowd estimates were available, the turnout was clearly larger than in recent years, when abortion opponents had less political clout. Many thousands huddled in the shadow of the Washington Monument and stood in long lines outside security checkpoints made necessary by Pence's appearance.

"We've come to a historic moment in the cause for life," said Pence, the first vice president to address the rally. "Life is winning in America."

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Pence said ending taxpayer-funded abortion and choosing a Supreme Court justice in the mold of the late Antonin Scalia — a conservative Catholic who opposed abortion — are among the administration's most important goals.

One of Trump's first acts after taking office a week ago was to sign an executive order banning U.S. aid to foreign groups that provide abortions. Pence said more such actions would follow.

A budget provision known as the Hyde Amendment already bans federal funding for Medicaid coverage of most abortions. Conservatives would like to see the rule made into a permanent law.

Majority Republicans in the House and Senate would also like to end federal funding for Planned Parenthood, which provided more than a third of the nation's abortions in 2014. They also hope to ban most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Trump has pledged to sign both measures if they reach his desk.

Many people at the march said they were encouraged by the early days of the Trump administration, even if they did not support him initially or disagreed with him on other issues.

Trump "was elected because of people who did not have a voice before. This past administration did not listen to us and did not even care," said Glenn Miller, 60, a cabinet maker from Coventry, Connecticut, who was attending the march for the fourth time. "I wouldn't say that I was a supporter of Donald Trump. I voted for him because I didn't think I had a choice."

Other participants said they felt the march was important this year because their voices were not represented at last week's Women's March on Washington, an anti-Trump demonstration that drew massive crowds in Washington and cities around the country. The women's march included support for abortion rights in its mission statement and dropped an anti-abortion group as a partner.

Joi Hulecki, 63, a nurse practitioner from Orlando, Florida, said abortion-rights supporters wrongly portray the decision to terminate a pregnancy as empowering for women, when in fact women often feel pressured to have abortions and regret it later.

"We don't want to judge them. We want to help them," she said. "We consider ourselves pro-women too."

The annual event was never expected to attract a crowd on the scale of the women's march, which brought more than half a million people to Washington. Organizers said in their permit application that they expected 50,000 people, though they hoped for more.

"There's been a lot of talk about numbers this past week," said Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life. "It's hard to add up so many numbers after 44 years because there have been a lot of us."

Mancini added that the most important number for marchers was 58 million, an estimate for the number of abortions performed in the United States since 1973.

Americans remain deeply divided on abortion. The latest Gallup survey, released last spring, found that 47 percent of Americans described themselves as pro-abortion rights and 46 percent as anti-abortion. It also found that 79 percent believed abortion should be legal in either some or all circumstances.

Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, said that poll shows why abortion-rights supporters should not despair.

"The vast majority of Americans support Roe v. Wade and support the legal right to abortion," Hogue said.

The March for Life, however, is running ads arguing that a majority of Americans support some restrictions on abortion and don't believe it should be funded by tax dollars.

Kellyanne Conway, a senior adviser to Trump, also addressed the rally and assured the crowd that Trump and Pence were on their side.

"Their decisive actions as president and vice president will further this cause," she said.

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Follow Ben Nuckols on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/APBenNuckols> .

## US-Mexico trade war could hit Mexico economy, spur migration

By PETER ORSI and PAUL WISEMAN, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — If President Donald Trump makes good on threats to gut NAFTA and impose stiff tariffs on Mexican goods, economists say he risks a trade war that could lead to the very thing he is hoping to avoid — a huge surge in Mexican migration to the United States.

The result would be catastrophe for the Mexican economy. Recession. A dramatic weakening of the peso, even below the historic lows it has already set amid Trump's bellicose rhetoric. Soaring inflation, interest rates and unemployment.

"Mexico is smaller than the U.S. and can be harmed by conflict more than the U.S. would be," said Adam Posen, president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a Washington think tank that supports free trade.

A trade war with Mexico "drives down the peso and drives down opportunities for Mexicans to make a living in honest manufacturing jobs," he added. "There will be more desperate Mexicans crossing the border."

And the U.S. would by no means be immune from the fallout.

Mexico is the United States' third-largest trading partner for goods, and the two countries did some \$583.6 billion in total cross-border commerce in 2015, according to the Office of the United States Trade Representative. That included a U.S. goods and services trade deficit of \$49.2 billion. America buys about 80 percent of Mexico's exports, with automobiles, electrical machinery and fuels topping a long list that also includes agricultural goods such as fruit, vegetables, wine and beer.

The Trump administration's proposal this week for a 20 percent tax on imports from Mexico to pay for the promised border wall was quickly walked back by officials as just one of multiple "options."

It could also face stiff opposition in Congress including from Republicans who favor free trade. Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake of the border state of Arizona have publicly come out in support of NAFTA. McCain noted that it has increased his state's exports to Mexico and Canada by \$5.7 billion, or 236 percent, since its enactment in 1994.

The worst case scenario of a trade war is frightening to contemplate, economists say.

If the U.S. were to slap a tax on Mexican imports, it would violate the terms of NAFTA and nullify the pact, said Alfredo Coutino, Latin America director at Moody's Analytics.

Mexico could impose retaliatory tariffs. Uncertainty would spook investors and businesses, including U.S. companies with operations in Mexico that could pull out.

The peso, already sorely weakened at about 21 to the dollar, could fall to 25, 28 or even lower, Coutino continued. Unemployment would rise. Mexicans' real purchasing power would plummet as a result, and inflation could soar to double digits by the end of the year. Interest rates could also top 10 percent. The Mexican government would be forced into fiscal tightening measures, putting additional downward pressure on the economy and throwing it into recession.

America would suffer too, but not as much. Moody's forecasts that a trade war would slightly reduce U.S. economic growth and cost 300,000 American jobs after a year.

Mexico has been here before, most notably when a sharp peso devaluation in 1994 touched off a nearly 6 percent economic contraction.

Hundreds of thousands of Mexican job-seekers poured over the border into the United States, one of the reasons the U.S. organized a \$50 billion International Monetary Fund bailout of its southern neighbor in 1995.

If the U.S. economy keeps improving while Mexico's tanks, experts say, expect more of the same. And bulking up the physical barrier may not keep migrants out, with some estimates saying 40 percent of illegal immigration results from people who come to the U.S. legally and then overstay their visas. Canada does not require visas of Mexican citizens, so there's nothing to stop people from flying to Canada and crossing the United States' porous northern frontier.

Critics say the U.S. president's obsession with illegal migration from Mexico ignores the fact that the

phenomenon has waned in recent years, and point to the irony that his policies could reverse that trend. The Pew Research Center reported in November that the number of unauthorized Mexican immigrants in the U.S. fell from 6.95 million in 2007, to 5.85 million in 2014.

Coutino predicted that economic chaos in Mexico would strengthen the cartels that traffic drugs into the U.S. — another stated target of the border wall — as unemployed people are more vulnerable to recruitment by the gangs.

"You will have a neighbor to the south of your border with unemployment, with social problems, with rising criminality," Coutino said. "Do you want to have a neighbor like that? That's the question that Trump and his team should be asking themselves."

Associated Press writer Peter Orsi reported from Mexico City, and AP writer Paul Wiseman reported from Washington.

Follow Orsi and Wiseman on Twitter at [https://twitter.com/Peter\\_Orsi](https://twitter.com/Peter_Orsi) and <https://twitter.com/PaulWisemanAP>

## AP FACT CHECK: New Trump salvo on voter fraud lacks evidence

By PAUL J. WEBER, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday pressed his widely debunked claims of massive voter fraud by encouraging the work of a Texas man who has offered no evidence to support his claim that millions of people illegally voted in the 2016 election.

Trump tweeted: "Look forward to seeing the final results of VoteStand. Gregg Phillips and crew say at least 3,000,000 votes were illegal. We must do better!"

The tweet came less than an hour after a CNN interview with Phillips, who has refused to substantiate his claims since he made them days after the November election.

Phillips tweeted that a Houston-based group, True the Vote, "will lead the analysis" of widespread voter fraud. But the founder of that group said Friday it has not confirmed that millions voted illegally.

Here's more about the man Trump is cheering on, and about True the Vote.

### WHO IS PHILLIPS?

Phillips is a former Texas state official whose brief stint as deputy executive director at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission drew media scrutiny over privatization efforts. He went on to found AutoGov, a health care software contractor whose clients include state governments, and created a mobile app called VoteStand that allows people to report suspicious voting activity.

Phillips also previously worked as a state health official in Mississippi, resigning under fire from lawmakers. A state panel concluded that he stepped down as executive director of the Mississippi's Department of Human Services on the same day he went to work for a company that he had given a state contract.

"Mr. Phillips's actions create the appearance of impropriety, facilitating an erosion of the public trust," according to the panel's 1995 report.

After the 2016 election, Phillips tweeted that his "completed analysis" of voter registrations concluded that the "number of non-citizen votes exceeded 3 million." He has rebuffed media requests for evidence, saying since Nov. 15 that he would release it broadly to the public, but he hasn't. He suggested Friday that he might do so in a few more months.

Upset that Democrat Hillary Clinton defeated him in the popular vote, Trump has repeatedly blamed that result on illegally cast or counted votes but offered no substantiation. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have completed their election results with no reports of the kind of widespread fraud that Trump alleges.

### WHAT ABOUT TRUE THE VOTE?

Phillips is a board member of True the Vote, a conservative group that has challenged the validity of

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voter rolls in numerous states. Tax records from 2014 show the group reported raising nearly \$1.2 million and having an estimated 50,000 volunteers.

It was founded by Catherine Engelbrecht, who also started the tea party group the King Street Patriots. That organization drew national attention in 2010 after sending hundreds of observers to Houston-area polling stations, spurring complaints of intimidation from minority rights groups.

Engelbrecht said Friday that she believes millions of people illegally voted in the last election but also acknowledged "there is no way to confirm that at this point." She said the group still lacks voter files from many states but hopes to begin releasing findings by late spring.

King Street Patriots is in a legal battle over Democratic efforts to release the identity of its donors. The case is set to go before the Texas Supreme Court next month.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said this week that Trump will take executive action to launch an investigation into voting fraud. The Republican who leads the House Oversight Committee, Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, said he's seen no evidence of fraud in the 2016 election and his committee will not investigate it. Chaffetz, however, said Trump is free to order the Justice Department to investigate the issue.

Follow Paul J. Weber on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/pauljweber](http://www.twitter.com/pauljweber)

## NASA opens exhibit on 50th anniversary of Apollo 1 fire

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA opened an exhibit Friday honoring the astronauts in the Apollo 1 fire — 50 years to the day they died.

The hatch from the burned spacecraft is the main draw. It had been concealed, along with the capsule, for a half-century. On Friday's anniversary, the hatch that trapped Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee inside their capsule at the launch pad finally went on display.

The exhibit at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex also includes the redesigned hatch used on the spacecraft that carried men to the moon. Twenty-four Americans flew to the moon during the late 1960s and early 1970s, and 12 walked its surface.

"It is really fitting for those three wonderful individuals: Roger, Ed and Gus. I knew them well," said Apollo 10's Tom Stafford.

Apollo 1 was America's first space tragedy. It was overshadowed in the decades ahead by two more disasters: the 1986 Challenger and 2003 Columbia shuttle accidents. NASA officials acknowledged at the ceremony it was about time Apollo 1 got properly recognized with its own exhibit.

Families of the Apollo 1 crew were at Friday's opening; they got a private tour Wednesday. They had one last event: an early evening ceremony at the abandoned pad where the flash fire occurred at 6:31 p.m. on Jan. 27, 1967.

The relatives filled four long rows of black-draped chairs in front of the exhibit, along with Stafford and Apollo 16 moonwalker Charlie Duke, and NASA dignitaries. Astronauts from the space shuttle and station era stood on the sidelines, along with space center workers, past and present.

Four tourists from Wisconsin who got on the wrong tour bus ended up at the ceremony.

"You almost can feel their spirits are here," Patty Most said as she gazed up at the large glass painting of the Apollo 1 men in their white spacesuits, their orange launch tower in the background. The three astronauts "got the space program to where it is today," friend Ron Meyer noted.

The exhibit also provides a look at the Apollo 1 astronauts, not just as pilots, but as husbands and fathers, too. It also remembers the launch pad workers who risked their own lives attempting to pry off the three-part hatch and save the crew.

As he joined others in walking through the exhibit, Kennedy's associate director Kelvin Manning said the message still rings true these many decades later, as NASA looks ahead to the commercial space effort and eventual journeys to Mars.

"We want to honor the crew," he said. "We also want people to pause ... we want to understand the

risks so we can ensure our astronauts' safety."

Online:

NASA: <https://www.nasa.gov/>

## **AP-NORC Poll: Broad worries about potential health care loss**

**By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Though "Obamacare" still divides Americans, a majority worry that many will lose coverage if the 2010 law is repealed in the nation's long-running political standoff over health care.

A new poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 56 percent of U.S. adults are "extremely" or "very" concerned that many will lose health insurance if the health overhaul is repealed. That includes more than 8 in 10 Democrats, nearly half of independents, and more than 1 in 5 Republicans. Another 45 percent of Republicans say they're "somewhat" concerned.

"No one should go without health care for even a day," said Wendy Narug of DeMotte, Indiana, a small town south of Gary. A political independent who leans Republican, Narug works caring for people with disabilities. She favors repealing the Obama health law, but not until Congress and President Donald Trump have a replacement ready.

Released Friday, the poll serves as a reality check for Republicans as they try to find a path to repealing and replacing former President Barack Obama's signature legislation. It found that even as few Americans want to keep the health law in its current form, many provisions enjoy broad popularity. The exception: the law's requirement that most Americans carry health insurance or face fines.

"They should come up with something that's a little easier and more affordable for everyone," said Narug. "Some people have to pay hundreds of dollars just to go to their doctors."

The health law offers subsidized private insurance for those who don't have job-based coverage, along with a state option to expand Medicaid for low-income people. About 20 million people have gained coverage since it passed. Employer coverage has also increased, but experts credit the law for the vast majority of the gains. Some 28 million people remain uninsured.

Trump has said he wants to replace "Obamacare" with a plan that provides insurance for everybody and lowers deductibles. But his pick for health secretary recently cast doubt on the notion that a Trump administration replacement is ready to go. Questions remained after Trump attended the GOP congressional retreat in Philadelphia this week.

Overall, Americans remain divided, with 53 percent wanting to keep the law in some form, and 46 percent favoring its repeal.

Most of those who favor repeal say that should happen only when a replacement is ready. And most of those who want to keep the law say changes are needed. Among those who favor keeping it, only 1 in 4 think it should remain unchanged.

"If the Affordable Care Act was affordable, I would have no problems with it," said Kevin Wollersheim, a delivery truck driver from the Minneapolis suburb of Hopkins. "Costs were supposed to go down, or at least not go up at such a high rate."

Wollersheim is uninsured and expects he'll have to pay about \$200 in fines at tax time for failing to comply with the law's coverage requirement. He said he didn't even bother to look this year because premiums on Minnesota's individual insurance market jumped by 50 percent and more.

That coverage requirement — known as the individual mandate — is a top target for Trump and GOP lawmakers.

The poll found that only about 1 in 3 support it, while just over half are opposed. Among Republicans, opposition rises to nearly 3 in 4.

"Don't fine people; just make it affordable," said Madlyen Sharp, a retired factory worker from West Plains, Mo., near the Ozarks.

The requirement was modeled on one that former GOP Gov. Mitt Romney signed into law in Massachusetts in 2006, designed to get healthy people into the insurance pool and help control premiums. At the

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federal level, it narrowly survived a Supreme Court challenge in 2012.

Although the Obama administration argued that the mandate was essential for stable insurance markets, the main insurance industry trade group recently told Congress there are other workable alternatives. Trump's executive order on health care opened the way for broader "hardship" exemptions.

Other major provisions of the health care law fared far better in the poll. They included elimination of out-of-pocket costs for preventive care (favored by 77 percent), allowing young adults to stay on parental plans until age 26 (73 percent), forbidding insurers from denying coverage to people with pre-existing health problems (69 percent), and the Medicaid expansion (66 percent). The first three are favored even by most of those who would get rid of the law.

Although Trump and other Republicans have made it seem like "repeal and replace" would be an easy matter, many Americans seem to question that.

"Obamacare" is like "a 1,500-foot battleship driving along," said Michael Wolski of Lakeland, Fla., who administers a homeless shelter. "The infrastructure has already been changed; it's already in place. (Trump) can't just rescind it. And what's he going to replace it with?"

The AP-NORC poll of 1,036 adults was conducted Jan. 12-16, using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points.

Interviews were conducted online and using landlines and cellphones.

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Associated Press writer Laurie Kellman contributed to this report.

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Online:

AP-NORC: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

## US economic growth slowed in Q4, but there's hope ahead

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy lost momentum in the final three months of 2016 as a downturn in exports temporarily depressed activity. But there were hopeful signs in housing and business investment that the economy will rebound in the coming months.

The gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of just 1.9 percent in the October-December period, a slowdown from 3.5 percent growth in the third quarter, the Commerce Department reported Friday. GDP, the broadest measure of economic health, was held back by a swing in trade with exports of soybeans plunging in the fourth quarter after having surged in the third quarter.

"If you smooth out the volatility in soybeans, you get growth of around 2.5 percent in the two quarters," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Markit. "We really didn't have a slowdown at the end of the year."

For all of 2016, the economy grew 1.6 percent. It was the worst showing in five years since a similar 1.6 percent gain in 2011. GDP grew 2.6 percent in 2015, and since the recession ended in mid-2009, growth has averaged a weak 2.1 percent.

But analysts believe there were signs in Friday's report of a rebound in business spending and housing activity, which could lead to stronger growth in 2017 of around 2.5 percent.

President Donald Trump has set a goal of doubling growth to 4 percent in coming years through an ambitious stimulus program featuring tax cuts, deregulation and higher infrastructure spending.

Private economists believe sustained annual growth rates of 4 percent will be a high hurdle, given underlying trends such as slow growth in the labor market and weak productivity. However, many analysts have been boosting their forecasts believing that Trump will succeed in getting at least a portion of his program approved by a Republican-led Congress.

For the fourth quarter, the biggest factor contributing to the slowdown was a widening in the trade deficit. Exports, which had been temporarily bolstered by a surge in sales of soybeans to Latin America,



retreated in the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, imports surged.

Trade cut 1.7 percentage points from growth in the fourth quarter after adding 0.9 percentage point to growth in the third quarter. A higher trade deficit subtracts from economic growth because it means more production is being supplied from abroad.

Consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic growth, slowed to still-solid growth of 2.5 percent in the fourth quarter from a 3 percent gain in the third quarter. But business investment spending accelerated in the fourth quarter, rising at a 2.4 percent rate, the best showing in more than a year. That's a hopeful sign that a prolonged slowdown in investment spending, reflecting in part big cuts by energy companies, is coming to an end.

Residential construction, which had been falling for two quarters, rebounded in the fourth quarter, rising at an annual rate of 10.2 percent while government spending grew at a 1.2 percent rate as strength in state and local activity offset a drop in activity at the federal level.

Rebuilding of business stockpiles added 1 percentage point to growth in the fourth quarter. The cutbacks in business investment along with efforts by companies to reduce an overhang of unwanted inventories were major reasons growth slowed in 2016.

Economists are forecasting a better performance in 2017, with many raising their forecasts to incorporate the potential impact of Trump's stimulus program. They believe that the prolonged reduction in stockpiles has run its course and business spending on new plants and equipment will begin to rebound.

Economists at the International Monetary Fund last week boosted their outlook for U.S. GDP to 2.3 percent this year and 2.5 percent in 2018, saying the increase reflected expectations that Trump's economic program of tax cuts, regulatory relief and higher infrastructure had boosted growth prospects.

Some private economists are even more optimistic. Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC, said he had pushed his outlook up to growth of 2.4 percent in 2017 and 2.7 percent in 2018.

Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State's Martin Smith School of Business, said there is a lot of uncertainty at the moment about Trump's program since the new administration has yet to put forward its plan for Congress to consider.

"At the moment, we don't know the size, the scale and the timing of the Trump program," Sohn said. "But it is very possible that we will get a significant boost to economic growth in the second half of next year if Trump is successful getting his program through Congress."

Sohn predicted growth rates could jump to 3.5 to 4 percent. GDP growth has averaged a lackluster 2.1 percent in the 7½ years since the recession ended, a point that Trump repeatedly brought up during the campaign.

## Nadal holds off Baby Fed, sets up classic final vs. Federer

By JOHN PYE, AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Rafael Nadal took five sets and almost five hours to fend off "Baby Fed" and revive a classic Grand Slam final against the one-and-only Roger Federer.

Nadal's 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-4 win over Grigor Dimitrov in a grueling, 4-hour, 56-minute semifinal match sets up a championship weekend at the Australian Open like no other, with every singles finalist in their 30s.

The all-Williams women's final Saturday features the record-chasing Serena against Venus — the first decider between the sisters at a major since 2009. The Roger-Rafa final will be Sunday — their first meeting in an Australian Open title match since Nadal won in 2009.

The unexpected pairings already has generated hype that transcends the sport.

"I feel that this rivalry is talked about outside the tennis world, and that is good for our sport," Nadal said of his ninth Grand Slam final against the 17-time major champion.

The 35-year-old Federer and the Williams sisters — Serena is 35, a year younger than Venus — had already clinched their finals spots on Throwback Thursday.

Nadal completed the 30-plus quartet in a match that started in local prime time Friday and finished at

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12:45 a.m. Dimitrov, who had only beaten Nadal once in eight previous matches and was in a Grand Slam semifinal for only the second time, played the match of his life.

He had two break point chances in the eighth game of the fifth set, but Nadal's experience of winning 14 major titles kicked in. He held, then converted his first break point of the set in the next game with a booming backhand winner down the line.

After clinching the win on his third match point, the 30-year-old Nadal dropped to his knees, then onto his stomach and lay face down for several seconds before getting up and embracing Dimitrov at the net.

Nadal held up his arms triumphantly, then pointed toward the 25-year-old Bulgarian, gesturing to the cheering crowd just as a conductor would to acknowledge his orchestra.

"Grigor played great. I played great. So was a great quality of tennis," Nadal said. "So just for me, is amazing to be through to a final of Grand Slam again here in Australia at the first of the year."

Against Dimitrov, dubbed "Baby Fed" for the similarities he has with Federer's style and his seemingly effortless one-handed backhand, Nadal showed signs of the brute strength and determination that carried him to the top of the rankings for 141 weeks in total from 2008 — after spending 160 consecutive weeks at No. 2 behind Federer.

Dimitrov, who won the Brisbane International title earlier in the month, hit 20 aces, moved with precision, broke Nadal's serve four times, and pounded the Spaniard with 79 winners.

Even Nadal wasn't entirely confident he could beat Dimitrov when he was deep into the deciding set.

"Arrive moment ... I say to myself, 'I am giving my best, I am playing very well. If I lose, that's it. Grigor deserves, too,'" he said. "I think both of us deserve to be in that final. Was a great fight. Finally was me. I feel lucky."

With Federer and Nadal both returning from injuries, and neither having won a major since mid-2014, a ninth Grand Slam final between two of the most dominant men in the sport was considered an extreme long shot at Melbourne Park.

Nadal, who had a couple of months off to rest his injured left wrist after an up-and-down 2016 that started with a shocking first-round exit in Australia, was ranked No. 9.

He reached a low point, he admitted, after having to withdraw from the French Open, where he has won nine of his 14 major titles.

"I remember myself crying on the car coming back to hotel," Nadal said. "That was a tough moment."

Federer, off for six months with an injured left knee, was ranked No. 17. He reached the semifinals in Australia and Wimbledon last year, but didn't play the other majors.

He hasn't won a Grand Slam title since Wimbledon in 2012, has an 11-23 record at tour-level against Nadal, and has only won two of the eight major finals he's played against the left-handed Spaniard.

But Federer got the night off Friday while Nadal had to endure it, just as he did in the semifinals in 2009 when he edged Fernando Verdasco in a 5-hour, 14-minute thriller. He went on to beat Federer in the final that year — his only title so far in Australia.

After doing his best to stand in the way of the Roger-Rafa rematch, Dimitrov figured there was a benefit to losing.

"I just know that two of the greatest players of tennis are going to square off, and it's going to be (an) amazing match," the Bulgarian said.

And despite not being able to break up the weekend party reserved for players over 30 — it will be the first major in the Open era where all four singles finalists are 30 or older — Dimitrov plans to see some history being made.

"Of course, everyone is going to see that final now," he said, "including me."

## Trump voters thrilled with promised action on border wall

By ASTRID GALVAN, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — President Donald Trump's announcement that he is taking steps toward building a U.S.-Mexico border wall was welcome news for voters who say they're glad he is following through on one of his biggest campaign promises.

Trump's renewed vow Wednesday to seize control of the border hit close to home for Peggy Davis, whose cattle ranch near Tombstone, Arizona, is about 25 miles north of the border.

She says stretches desperately need more barriers but a wall alone won't stop illegal crossings or drug smuggling.

"We desperately need (Border Patrol) agents closer to the border," Davis said.

Trump vowed to make Mexico pay for the wall along the 1,954-mile border, suggesting a tax on Mexican imports as a funding mechanism.

Mexico opposes the wall and has repeatedly said it won't pay.

Critics in the U.S. say the president lacks a viable financial plan for building the wall.

One-third of the border already has some form of barrier, ranging from tall steel barricades to wire-mesh and livestock fencing.

Jerry Blackburn, a 67-year-old retired county building official from rural Tazewell, Virginia, voted for Trump and supports his calls for cracking down on sanctuary cities and refugees coming to the U.S. Blackburn, a Republican, said illegal immigration "has diluted our workforce and is a heavy burden to our people."

He says the multibillion-dollar price tag of the wall is "not a big number when you look at the whole scope of things," and he's not bothered that vast stretches of the border already have fencing.

"It's not like we're going to start from scratch," he said. "It's not like we're building from the Gulf to the ocean. We're just finishing something that's already been started."

Immigration has long been a unifying issue for conservatives, especially in border states that bear the brunt of immigrant and drug smuggling. The issue has rallied people to vote Republican around the country over the years, including immigrants such as Mercedes B. Izquierdo of Miami.

The retired saleswoman left Cuba 50 years ago and strongly backs Trump's border efforts.

"I think that building a wall is an excellent, perfect idea. There's so much we have to do," she said. "There are so many people coming from South America that are coming to destroy our country. Terrorists and criminals are looking to harm us."

Zachery Henry, a 23-year-old public relations and social media specialist in Houston, doesn't expect an expensive or towering concrete barrier but he says the U.S. does need to do something about drugs smuggled from Mexico.

"I think that would be my primary concern. I'm not too concerned about illegal immigrants," Henry said.

In Arizona, problems with immigration have frequently boiled up as a political issue. The 2010 killing of border rancher Robert Krentz— still unsolved but blamed on drug smugglers — helped galvanize support for SB1070. The state's landmark immigration crackdown required law enforcement to determine the immigration status of someone arrested or detained if there was reasonable suspicion they were in the country illegally.

Six years later, Trump rallied that base again.

Davis says she doesn't see border crossers or smugglers often on her family's cattle ranch, but the issue persists.

Late last year, a smuggler driving a truck filled with drugs fled onto her ranch, leading Border Patrol agents on a chase through her pasture. Davis says the driver of the truck eventually stopped and fled.

"We have evidence that they're back in our area again," she said.

John Barnes, a 60-year-old retiree in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said he likes what he sees so far from Trump regarding the border wall and infrastructure proposals.

"I think we got to do something down there at the border," Barnes said. "It's a shovel-ready project."

Barnes said he wasn't too concerned about the cost of the wall because he believes the federal government has already spent billions of dollars on schooling and health care for immigrants in the country illegally.

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"I wish Obama would have started this," he said.

AP writers Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami, Frank Bajak in Houston, Russell Contreras in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Michael Kunzelman in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, contributed to this report.

## To stand out at Super Bowl 51, ads are going for stunts

By MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lady Gaga is reportedly entertaining an unusual twist on her Super Bowl halftime show, which — though it's not confirmed — she could perform from the roof of the stadium. If that comes to pass, she won't be the only one making a big play for attention this year.

Advertisers from first timer 84 Lumber to veteran Hyundai are ramping up the marketing stunts in order to stand out from the crowd during the big game. Some will air live ads, or at least teasers for their campaigns; one will even shoot its commercial during the game. Others are deliberately courting controversy.

Super Bowl LI, in which the Atlanta Falcons will take on the New England Patriots, is expected to be the biggest live TV event of the year.

### THE WAR FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Every year, more than 30 advertisers vie to create the most-remembered 30 to 90 seconds of the Super Bowl by stuffing commercials with celebrities, slapstick humor and cute animals.

But now that so many ads get pre-released online or teased ahead of the game, advertisers have a harder time making a lasting impression. And with more than 110 million people expected to tune in on Feb. 5 and 30 second spots going for around \$5 million, they need to scramble hard.

So this year, marketers are turning to stunts.

"It used to be, 'We need a Super Bowl spot.' Then, it was, 'We need a Super Bowl spot and program,'" said Mark DiMassimo, CEO of ad agency DiMassimo Goldstein in New York. "Now, it's we need a Super Bowl stunt or event. It needs to be newsworthy, social and surprising — and it needs to be much bigger than 30 seconds."

### GOING LIVE

Snickers said Wednesday it will air a live Super Bowl ad in the third quarter starring Adam Driver ("Star Wars: The Force Awakens"). The Mars brand will also live stream the set of the commercial for 36 hours ahead of the spot.

"The actual ad is only part of the equation," said Allison Miazga-Bedrick, a Snickers brand director, who promises "over 30 hours of original content" streamed live leading up to the game.

Similarly, Wix — an Israeli website hosting service— turned to Facebook Live and YouTube Live on Jan. 17 to debut teasers for its Super Bowl ad. The teaser — which was prerecorded and only streamed live — starred Israeli actress and model Gal Gadot, who plays Wonder Woman in her own film later this year, and the English actor Jason Statham ("The Fast and the Furious").

The company said it's the first time a Super Bowl campaign has been launched live.

### BETTING ON REJECTION

First-time Super Bowl advertiser 84 Lumber pulled a vintage ad stunt when the company went public with claims that Fox rejected its original ad because it was too "controversial."

The Pennsylvania building materials supplier bought a 90 second ad during the game — a huge commitment for a regional brand. But Amy Smiley, the company's director of marketing, said its first ad was rejected because some of its imagery, including a border wall that supposedly prevented people from working in the U.S., steered too close to political rhetoric about the Mexican border from President Donald Trump.

Fox declined to comment, ensuring that 84 Lumber got plenty of press well ahead of the game.

### SHOOTING ON THE FLY

In perhaps the biggest gamble, Hyundai is teaming with director Peter Berg ("Deepwater Horizon") to actually film a 90-second ad while the Super Bowl is underway. Hyundai said the ad will show "off the field" moments captured during the game, and will air right after the contest ends.

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Traditionally, ads that air before or after the Super Bowl itself aren't very successful at drawing eyeballs. But the on-the-fly aspect of this ad could make it hard to ignore.

"The challenge for all of these companies is, 'How do you stand out?'" said Tim Calkins, a marketing professor at Northwestern University. "As a result we're going to see this year people try some very curious approaches."

Dean Evans, Hyundai's chief marketing officer, said the shoot-during-the-game approach is all about buzz. "We wanted to test ourselves," Evans said. "We thought we would have to do it in a new and nontraditional way to really show the U.S. public that we're back in the game."

## Warnings of rising xenophobia on Holocaust remembrance day

By VANESSA GERA, Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Jewish and Christian leaders prayed over the ruins of gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau as some warned on International Holocaust Remembrance Day of rising xenophobic hatred against Jews, Muslims and others.

Camp survivors gathered Friday with political leaders and representatives of Poland's Jewish community at the site where Germany murdered about 1.1 million people during World War II, mostly Jews from across Europe, but also Poles, Roma, Soviet prisoners of war and others.

Poland's Prime Minister Beata Szydlo, who is from the Polish town where the Auschwitz memorial and museum is located, Oswiecim, recalled the "destruction of humanity" and the "ocean of lost lives and hopes" that resulted from the German genocide.

"It's an open wound that may close sometimes but it shall never be fully healed and it must not be forgotten," she said.

Dozens of Auschwitz survivors began a day of commemorations by placing wreaths and flowers at the infamous execution wall on the 72nd anniversary of the camp's liberation by Soviet soldiers.

The United Nations recognized January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005, and many commemorative events were held across the world.

"Tragically, and contrary to our resolve, anti-Semitism continues to thrive," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "We are also seeing a deeply troubling rise in extremism, xenophobia, racism and anti-Muslim hatred. Irrationality and intolerance are back."

Guterres vowed to "be in the front line of the battle against anti-Semitism and all other forms of hatred."

In Germany, outgoing Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said his nation sticks by its obligation to take responsibility for the crimes committed by the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler.

Noting the political instability in the world today, Steinmeier said, "History should be a lesson, warning and incentive all at the same time. There can and should be no end to remembrance."

In Albania's capital, Tirana, an olive tree was planted during the inauguration of a downtown garden commemorating Albanians who saved Jews during the war.

Speaking alongside the Israeli ambassador, Foreign Minister Ditmir Bushati said Albanians are proud their predecessors handed over no Jews to the Nazis who occupied Albania from 1943-44.

Albania was the only country in Europe where the number of the Jews during World War II increased after the Muslim majority population provided refuge to Jews fleeing other countries.

On Friday, rising far-right sentiments cast a shadow on some remembrance day events, including in Germany.

The Buchenwald concentration camp memorial rescinded an invitation to a prominent member of a nationalist party who suggested that Germany should stop atoning for its Nazi past.

Bjoern Hoecke, the leader of Alternative for Germany in the state of Thuringia, last week called Berlin's Holocaust memorial a "monument of shame" and saying Germany should take a "positive" attitude toward its history.

The Jewish community in Croatia boycotted official commemorations, saying the country's conservative government is not doing enough to curb pro-Nazi sentiments. The decision was made after authorities

failed to remove a plaque bearing a World War II Croatian pro-Nazi salute from the town of Jasenovac — the site of a wartime death camp where tens of thousands of Jews, Serbs and Roma perished.

Elderly survivors at Auschwitz, which today is a museum and partially preserved memorial, paid homage to those killed by wearing striped scarves to symbolize the uniforms prisoners were given when they arrived at the concentration camp.

They walked slowly beneath the notorious gate with the words "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Will Set You Free) and made their way as a group to the execution wall, where they lit candles and prayed. The commemorations then moved to the site of Birkenau, the satellite camp some two miles (three kilometers) away.

Janina Malec, a Polish survivor whose parents were killed at the execution wall, described her yearly visit as a "pilgrimage" and told the PAP news agency that "as long as I live I will come here."

Llazar Semini in Tirana, Albania, and Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed.

## Chinese Lunar New Year feast begins with drums and dumplings

By NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

LIUMINYING VILLAGE, China (AP) — Four men in traditional yellow costumes bang large drums to announce the start of the New Year's Eve banquet in Liuminying village. Inside the meeting hall, 100 tables are set with a dozen plates, bearing sausages, nuts and fruit.

Sitting in a storage shed outside are thousands of half-moon shaped dumplings, made by hand the day before, ready to be boiled and served.

Villages and cities across China are preparing this weekend to celebrate Lunar New Year, though few feasts are as elaborate as the one in Liuminying, a hamlet in Beijing's suburbs. Festivities in recent years have been more muted as China's economy has slowed down — hitting its lowest level of growth in three decades last year — and its top political leadership has issued calls for austerity.

But in Liuminying, what began as a small lunch sponsored by the local Communist Party branch in 1980 has grown into a feast that served 1,000 people this year during a three-hour spectacle with singing and dancing.

The show began at 10 a.m. with loud music and applause. A group of children waved pompoms in a synchronized dance, followed by a raffle, the presentation of a large banner commemorating the New Year, and several other songs and speeches.

As the performances grew longer, the attendees started to peel oranges and crack open nuts. A few people smoked cigarettes at their tables, a sight not often seen in Beijing restaurants since the city enacted an indoor smoking ban two years ago.

Outside, dozens of workers were preparing meat and vegetable stews in huge grills. One worker pushed coal underneath several of the grills, causing large flames to come bursting out.

A few hours after the doors opened, the first dishes were brought inside. The plastic wrap came off many of the plates on the table. Diners uncorked wine bottles and, at a few tables, opened red boxes placed at the center. Inside were clear bottles of the Chinese grain liquor called baijiu, passed around for a series of toasts.

After several dishes came the signature item: the dumplings, or jiaozi, which people across northern China consider a mandatory part of celebrating the New Year.

The feast ended with diners stacking their plates and bowls in a clatter that steadily grew louder as more people began to leave.

They walked outside to the loud, echoing sounds of booms from fireworks, another Lunar New Year tradition. While authorities in Beijing have cracked down on the sales of fireworks, Liuminying is far enough outside for vendors to be more easily found. The sky was clear blue, offering a rare respite from the smog that blankets northern China in winter.

Guo Lianhong, 55, attended her first lunch in 1984 and described the "earth-shaking changes" she's seen in her village in the last three decades.

"We hope Liuminying can become even more prosperous," she said.

Associated Press reporter Helene Franchineau and researcher Henry Hou contributed to this report.

## Questions swirl after Trump admin says tax will pay for wall

By JOSH LEDERMAN and JOSH BOAK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is promising Mexico will pay for his massive border wall. On Thursday, his administration finally suggested how: a 20 percent tax on products imported from south of the border.

The new measure could be part of a comprehensive tax reform package that Trump and Congress will work out, the White House said. But there was great ambiguity about the proposal. White House officials later clarified that the tax was but one possible way Trump could finance the wall.

Much was left unanswered. Would Mexico be footing the bill or American consumers? What items would become more expensive? Is this even legal?

Some of the details Trump's proposal still has to work out:

IS IT A TAX, A TARIFF OR SOMETHING ELSE?

It's unclear.

The White House said Congress' tax overhaul would place a 20 percent tax on imports from any country enjoying a trade surplus with the United States. In other words, countries selling more goods and service to the U.S. than buying from it. The idea is to rebalance the playing field for U.S. companies by discouraging Americans from importing.

The idea appears to overlap with a plan House Republicans are pushing called "border adjustment." Under this plan, the U.S. would refrain from taxing American companies' exports, but would tax imports.

The new revenues are projected to top \$1 trillion over a decade. The money had been envisioned as an offset for lowering U.S. corporate income tax rates, though House Republicans say it could also pay for a wall.

Trump, however, recently said he didn't like the "border adjustment" idea.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR AMERICANS?

Mexican products would become more expensive.

That means pricier tequila, but also things Americans need: cars, eyeglasses and many basic groceries. A Toyota Camry? About \$1,000 more, according to Jim Lentz, CEO of Toyota North America, noting that a quarter of the car's parts are imported.

U.S. exporters are behind the House plan because it would reduce their taxes.

Here's the flip side: Importers, including big retailers and consumer electronics firms, say the higher prices for Mexican products could hurt sales. And that means American jobs.

Retailers such as Wal-Mart also could face higher tax burdens.

WOULD MEXICO REALLY BE PAYING?

Not quite.

The U.S. could recoup some of the wall's costs by changing the tax and trade policies with Mexico. But the money wouldn't necessarily be coming from Mexican taxpayers or the Mexican government.

While the tax would land first on companies exporting from Mexico, the costs would likely be passed on to consumers. That leaves Americans footing much of the likely bill.

Trump has said he's OK with being "reimbursed" at a later point because he is keen to start building the wall immediately.

WOULD IT RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE WALL?

Probably.

Various estimates put the wall's cost at up to \$15 billion.

House Republicans expect their plan to pull in much more than that in its first year. They say that could easily cover the costs of the wall.

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## IS IT LEGAL?

To be determined.

The U.S. has a range of obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and at the World Trade Organization. And Mexico is likely to challenge any new tax that penalizes its economy.

Trump has said he plans to renegotiate NAFTA. Mexico, however, is under no obligation to soften the agreement for his sake.

Other countries may also object, if their products and services are targeted.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said the border adjustment is essentially a tariff that would be struck down by the WTO if it targets Mexico.

## HOW WOULD THIS AFFECT THE ECONOMY?

A topic of great dispute.

The White House said the plan would increase U.S. wages, help U.S. businesses and consumers, and deliver "huge economic benefits." With so much of the plan ill-defined, it's impossible to substantiate those claims.

Any turbulence in the U.S.-Mexican trade relationship could have implications for the entire world.

Mexico is the second-largest exporter to the United States, after China. The United States imported roughly \$271 billion of goods from Mexico during the first 11 months of 2016, according to the Commerce Department, and ran a trade deficit of almost \$60 billion.

## DO REPUBLICANS LIKE TRUMP'S PLAN?

Not all of them.

Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan said on Twitter it would be a "tax on Americans to pay for the wall." Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said he was "mucho sad" and that "any policy proposal which drives up costs of Corona, tequila or margaritas is a big-time bad idea."

Even Trump's pick for commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, dismissed the idea of using tariffs as a trade ploy.

Republicans have traditionally hailed themselves as the party of free trade.

## WHAT OTHER WAYS COULD TRUMP GET MEXICO TO PAY?

During the campaign, Trump floated a number of possibilities without committing to any in particular.

He proposed changing a rule under the USA Patriot Act to block some of the roughly \$25 billion in remittances that Mexicans living in the U.S. send home each year. He said he would refuse to free up the money until Mexico agrees to pay the U.S. between \$5 billion and \$10 billion.

Opponents of that plan say Mexicans in the U.S. would likely find other ways to send money back. They could take cash with them when traveling, wire money to a non-Mexican bank or use off-the-books transfers that are difficult to police.

Trump also suggested increasing visa fees for Mexicans to raise money, or canceling business and tourist visas issued to Mexicans until their country pays for the wall.

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AP Business Writer Tom Krisher in Detroit and writers Erica Werner and Stephen Ohlemacher in Washington contributed to this report.

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Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

## Trump plan for tax on Mexico exports raises eyebrows in Asia

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Talk of a possible 20 percent tax on U.S. imports from Mexico raised eyebrows Friday in Asia, where exports to the U.S. drive growth in many economies.

Reaction to the news was more muted than it might have been, however, since much of the region was closed for lunar new year holidays.

Japanese officials said Friday they hoped to meet soon with U.S. officials. Finance Minister Taro Aso



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said the Japanese side should "thoroughly explain" how Japanese companies have been contributing to American society, including creating jobs.

"It would be important to exchange opinions to accurately convey the reality and establish a steady relationship," Aso told reporters.

President Donald Trump's press secretary Sean Spicer said the 20 percent tax was among several options to finance building a wall along the U.S. southern border, but no decision has been made.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto (PAYN'-yuh nee-EH'-toh) scrapped a scheduled trip to Washington next week over the issue. He has flatly rejected Trump's assertion that Mexico will pay for the wall on its border.

The peso fell 0.6 percent against the U.S. dollar, to 21.35 pesos to the dollar but recovered to about 21.23 late Friday in Asia. The Japanese yen also weakened against the dollar, to 115.23 yen from Thursday's close of 114.46 yen.

China's official Xinhua News Agency reported that Trump was considering the 20 percent tariff without any editorial comment. However, the report cited unnamed analysts saying Trump would have to withdraw the U.S. from the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, to be able to impose such a tax. Trump has said he wants to renegotiate NAFTA.

Though he did not refer directly to Trump, in remarks marking the eve of the lunar new year on Friday, Premier Li Keqiang said, "Above all, we remain convinced that economic openness serves everyone better, at home and abroad.

"The world is a community of shared destiny. It's far preferable for countries to trade goods and services and bond through investment partnerships than to trade barbs and build barriers. Should differences arise, it behooves us all to discuss them with respect and a keen sense of equality," he said.

Uncertainty over future trade ties with the U.S. rose after Trump pulled the U.S. out of a Pacific Rim trade initiative, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, that formed the centerpiece of former President Barack Obama's moves to strengthen U.S. economic ties in the region.

It's unclear how much of Trump's campaign rhetoric will become reality, said Kent Calder, director of Asia Programs at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

"But the general symbolism that America is growing protectionist I think deeply concerns almost all Asian countries because they are pre-eminent exporters, and many of them heavily dependent on exports and so that has major implications for them, even if this is specifically aimed first of all at Mexico," he said.

Japan's chief government spokesman refused comment on tensions over the border wall, but said Tokyo was watching for any impact on Japanese companies.

A steep tariff on exports from Mexico to the U.S. would pinch manufacturers like Toyota Motor Corp., which like nearly all other automakers builds small cars in Mexico to take advantage of its lower wages.

Toyota employs thousands of people at factories in the U.S, but it also is planning to build a plant in Mexico to make the popular Corolla subcompact.

About 70 percent of the vehicles Japanese car makers sell in the U.S. are made in the U.S., but a tax on cars exported from Japan — 1.8 million last year — would "clearly be a major headwind," Capital Economics' economists Marcel Thieliant and Mark Williams said in a report issued Friday.

Trump also has threatened to impose steep tariffs on imports from China, which ran a \$319 billion surplus with the U.S. in January-November 2016, compared with Japan's \$62.4 billion surplus and Mexico's \$60 billion, according to U.S. figures.

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Associated Press writers Ken Moritsugu and Mari Yamaguchi contributed to this report.

## Republicans divided over border wall as Trump era begins

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Congressional Republicans leave their annual policy retreat divided over paying for President Donald Trump's border wall, one of several thorny issues looming to trip them up as the GOP adjusts to full control of Washington.

Lawmakers welcomed a speech from Trump endorsing their goals on repealing and replacing former President Barack Obama's health care law and overhauling the loophole-ridden tax code. But the president's comments on paying for the wall, and subsequent clarification and walk-backs from the White House, sowed widespread confusion Thursday.

After the White House press secretary announced a 20 percent border tax on imports from Mexico, House Republicans felt certain the administration was describing a central plank of their own tax plan — so-called border adjustment that taxes imports instead of exports. They argued it would more than pay for the wall and would end up with Mexico footing the bill in the end, as promised. But Senate Republicans, who are not sold on the House GOP tax plan, began to raise questions.

Then the White House began to walk the idea back, saying it was simply part of a menu of options.

"Many unanswered questions about proposed 'border adjustment' tax," the No. 2 Senate Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, said over Twitter. GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said that "any policy proposal which drives up costs of Corona, tequila or margaritas is a big-time bad idea."

The confusion underscored the tricky currents ahead as the GOP aims to repeal and begin to replace "Obamacare" by March and complete action on taxes by summer's end — all while paying for the border wall and other spending proposals, writing an infrastructure bill and taking must-do action to raise the government's borrowing limit.

"It's obvious we have an awful lot of work to be done," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. "There's not necessarily consensus on it, but there is a sense of excitement about it."

Amid their two-day retreat in Philadelphia, Republicans sought to fall in line behind their new president even if it meant abandoning long-held GOP principles.

House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky announced that Congress would take steps to pay the \$12 billion to \$15 billion for the border wall without committing that the money would not be added to the deficit. It was a marked turnaround from the GOP's traditional opposition to deficit spending.

Lawmakers praised Trump for his use of executive orders for the wall and other issues, something they criticized bitterly when it was coming from Obama.

And even as Trump continued to stoke controversy, Republicans increasingly said they could live with his erratic approach, and some were even coming around to the view that it was helpful.

"I think he's completely winning the expectations game. I think he's a genius at lowering expectations and over-performing," said Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill. "It's really remarkable."

During his presentation Trump said he was with the GOP on its aggressive agenda on health care and taxes, welcome words to Republicans. Many were pleased that in his 20-minute remarks Trump stayed mostly on the script shown on his teleprompter and did not veer into the false allegations about massive voter fraud and inaugural crowd size that have raised controversy.

"I think a lot of people in the room feel calm when we see teleprompters in front of him," said GOP Rep. Dan Donovan of New York. "You have to love the man, though. He speaks his mind."

Yet it was clear that Trump would have his detractors. Sen. John McCain of Arizona told reporters that he was not sold on paying for the border wall, and the former prisoner of war passionately denounced Trump's new suggestions that torture works and that enhanced interrogation techniques and black CIA sites should be renewed.

"When he brings up this issue of torture again, I have to speak up. I have to speak up. I have to. I have no choice on that," McCain said, adding that torture "does not work" and is clearly illegal.

## Trump's choice for labor secretary outsourced jobs

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's pick for labor secretary outsourced his fast-food company's technology department to the Philippines, a move that contradicts Trump's vow to keep American jobs in the U.S.

Trump has blasted, threatened and tried to charm American companies that have so much as contemplated moving jobs overseas, saying he's sticking up for American workers who aren't feeling the economic recovery and form his political base.

But a filing with the Labor Department on CEO Andrew Puzder's company — and a spokesman's acknowledgement that CKE continues to use the IT operation in the Philippines — provides a window into a key contradiction raised by the nomination.

Democrats and their allies are rushing to exploit Puzder's record on a big increase in the minimum wage, overtime rules and more as they question how well he would advocate for American workers.

"President Trump has said that he will put American workers first, but it increasingly appears this was just empty campaign rhetoric — and we saw this so clearly in who he nominated to lead the Department of Labor," said Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the senior Democrat on the committee planning to consider Puzder's nomination on Feb. 7.

Puzder's company, CKE Restaurants Inc., notified the government in August 2010 that it was outsourcing its restaurant information technology division to the Philippines. Doing so, the agency found, "contributed importantly" to the layoffs of both CKE employees and those of an outside staffing firm at an Anaheim, California, facility. The agency's finding made workers eligible for federally funded benefits meant to dampen the impact of globalization on employees.

"By outsourcing the function to a firm that employs hundreds of Help Desk specialists, CKE was able to improve the quality of service levels to their restaurants," the company said in a statement Wednesday to The Associated Press.

There's nothing illegal, or even uncommon, about CKE's decision to move its help desk overseas and lay off about 20 workers.

"This filing showing jobs being outsourced overseas is yet another troubling example of workers being squeezed by companies under Andrew Puzder's leadership," Murray said.

During his first week in the White House, Trump warned that he would impose a "substantial border tax" on companies that move their manufacturing out of the United States. He also promised tax advantages to companies that produce products domestically.

"All you have to do is stay," Trump said during a meeting in the White House's Roosevelt Room. His companies have regularly outsourced supply purchases and sometimes used guest workers.

Trump's anti-outsourcing message, begun during the presidential campaign, is based on the idea that the practice has hurt middle- and lower-income working Americans who feel left behind in the nation's economic recovery. Trump handily won this group of voters in the 2016 election over Democrat Hillary Clinton, and he's said from his inaugural speech on that bringing jobs back to the U.S. economy is a top priority.

In its statement, CKE defended its decision to move its IT division overseas. "The existing CKE restaurant support staff was insufficient to adequately cover the disproportionately high volume of help desk calls that occur during the early morning hours and to provide full, 24 hours per day, seven days per week coverage. So, CKE shifted its small help desk services team to a firm that provides both offshore and onshore support."

The Labor Department's determination that outsourcing cost the CKE Restaurant employees their jobs was one of more than 2,400 such certifications made in 2010.

Committee Democrats have offered up current and former employees of his companies to tell unflattering stories about their treatment while working for Puzder's companies.

At a 2013 American Enterprise Conference, Puzder said Hardee's Restaurant operators in the Southeast and Midwest were jealous of the immigrant-heavy workforce in California.

"In other parts of the country you often get people that are saying, 'I can't believe I have to work this

job," he said. But in California, he added, "with the immigration population you always have the, 'Thank God I have this job' kind of attitude."

Puzder also has talked about deploying robots to replace American workers who demand higher wages. Robots, he said, are always polite, never late and don't sue their employers for discrimination, according to an interview with Business Insider.

A statement from Puzder released by the Trump campaign in December struck a different note, promising that he'd be "the best champion American workers have had."

Puzder tweeted on Jan. 16, "I am looking forward to my hearing."

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Associated Press writer Jeff Horwitz contributed to this report.

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Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

## Political football: For some, Super Bowl reflects US divide

By PHILIP MARCELO, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Not even the grandest of American sports spectacles is immune to the nation's deep political divisions.

Patriots fans have spent nearly two full seasons being reminded of the close friendship between President Donald Trump and their team's three top figures — owner Robert Kraft, star quarterback Tom Brady and coach Bill Belichick.

As the Super Bowl approaches, that has put the typically united Patriots Nation at odds over how hard to celebrate a team chasing its fifth Super Bowl win under Brady and Belichick. New England faces the Atlanta Falcons on Feb. 5.

Some fans in the northeastern states that backed Democrat Hillary Clinton in the November presidential election say they're struggling to reconcile their football loyalties with their distaste for Trump. Many other fans — more than 1 million people voted for Trump in Massachusetts alone, Clinton won by less than 3,000 votes in New Hampshire and Trump picked up one of four electoral votes in Maine — say critics are simply injecting politics where it doesn't belong.

"It's pathetic. We have a double standard where if you admit you like Trump, you get blasted by the media," said Brian Craig, a Lowell, Massachusetts, Republican who voted for Trump. "If Brady endorsed Hillary, no one would care."

Plenty of people put politics aside completely when they root for their teams. But after an election that magnified the country's deep differences of opinion, the Super Bowl matchup offers easy symbolic foils for anyone inclined to play politics.

Trump's friendship with Brady has been fodder for sports talk radio and local news in New England since September 2015, when one of Trump's trademark red "Make America Great Again" hats was spotted in Brady's locker and the quarterback said it would be "great" if the GOP hopeful in a crowded primary field won it all.

Most of Atlanta is represented by longtime Democratic U.S. Rep. John Lewis, who has been excoriated by Trump because he boycotted the inauguration and doesn't consider Trump a "legitimate" president because of intelligence reports of Russian involvement in the election. Trump won Georgia in November with more than 2 million votes.

"It's been very tough," said Segun Idowu, a Boston civil rights activist who grew up in Massachusetts, went to college in Atlanta, voted for Clinton and will likely be rooting for the Patriots. "The Trump versus Lewis metaphor seems apt to me."

Patrick Dugan, a Clinton voter from West Hartford, Connecticut, said his Patriots fanhood has become "increasingly lukewarm" because of the team's Trump connections.

"You can't put that genie back in the bottle," he said. "It's out there at this point. And once it's out there, it colors how you look at them, whether you want it to or not."

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Trump drew attention to his relationships with the Patriots several times throughout his campaign and leading up to his inauguration, including an election eve rally where he read a glowing letter from Belichick and claimed Brady voted for him, prompting a denial from the quarterback's supermodel wife, Gisele Bündchen.

Brady, for his part, hasn't revealed his vote and questioned this week why his long friendship with Trump is "such a big deal" after being asked whether he called the Republican to congratulate him, as Trump claimed in a speech attended by Kraft the night before his inauguration.

"If you know someone, it doesn't mean that you agree with everything they say or do," Brady said.

Indeed, few recent marriages of sports and politics have caused this much hand-wringing. There was relatively little furor when basketball megastar LeBron James — fresh off winning a title for the Cleveland Cavaliers — endorsed and stumped for Clinton in his home state of Ohio, which Trump won anyway; or when now-ousted Bills coach Rex Ryan introduced Trump at a campaign rally in Buffalo last year.

As president, Trump drew on his sports connections when he tapped New York Jets owner Woody Johnson as the next U.S. ambassador to Britain. And Peyton Manning, the retired Denver Broncos quarterback who won the Super Bowl last year, joined Trump and other leaders in Philadelphia on Thursday night as Republican lawmakers gathered to map out their congressional agenda.

Conversations on Twitter, Facebook and other social networks show the Patriots have certainly won over some new fans because of the Trump ties.

And many in Patriots Nation are certainly dreaming of sweet revenge if NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has to hand the championship trophy to Brady. Goodell suspended Brady for four games at the start of this season for using underinflated footballs in a playoff game, a case that wended through two federal courts and spurred lots of disdain for Goodell among Patriots fans.

For plenty of others, the Trump association is just another reason to dislike a franchise that's enjoyed unprecedented success but has also been the part of two high profile cheating scandals ("Spygate" and "Deflategate") and whose coach cultivates a gruff, stand-offish persona.

"I want the Falcons to win for normal sports fan reasons, but I want the Patriots to lose in embarrassing fashion for political reasons," said Todd Moye, who grew up in Atlanta and now lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

As the Super Bowl approaches, some skeptical New Englanders say they've made their peace with politics and, for now, are just focused on the game.

"I have family members who support Trump. I'm not going to write them off, either," said Clinton voter Jack Peterson of Fairhaven, Massachusetts. "You just try to compartmentalize."

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## Brazil's 'Car Wash' prosecutor says corruption probe to grow

By PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

CURITIBA, Brazil (AP) — The lead federal prosecutor in a massive corruption investigation roiling Brazil says that recent developments could double the size of the case, a staggering possibility given that the probe has ensnared many of the country's elite, threatens to bring down President Michel Temer and is expanding to other Latin American countries.

Nearly three years after the first arrests in March 2014, the so-called Car Wash investigation has no end in sight, said Deltan Dallagnol, coordinator of the task force in the state of Parana, where the operations began and are still largely centered under the jurisdiction of Judge Sergio Moro.

"I would say that the new plea agreements could allow the Car Wash operation to double its size in the future," Dallagnol told The Associated Press on Thursday, declining to go into detail because the cases were ongoing.

What started as an investigation into money-laundering has morphed into a corruption scandal so large that it has shocked Brazilians long accustomed to graft in politics. Investigators say more than \$2 billion

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in bribes were paid out in a kickback scheme that was centered at state oil company Petrobras and included major construction companies like Odebrecht. In the last few years, dozens of politicians and top businessmen have been convicted and jailed, and many more are facing charges.

In a wide-ranging interview, Dallagnol said the investigation "lives at risk" because of forces trying to snuff it out. He said the pressures were increasing as the number "of powerful people caught up in it grows by the day."

Dallagnol said the loss of Supreme Court Justice Teori Zavascki, who was overseeing a large part of the investigation and died in a plane crash last week, was a huge blow but ultimately would not derail the many cases in progress.

He said that while many believed the investigation was creating a "new Brazil," its long-term impact depended on whether Latin America's largest nation took measures to reform its political and judicial systems. He likened it to an ill patient who goes to the doctor and gets a diagnosis but doesn't act on the medical advice.

"Unfortunately, we are still at the diagnostic stage," said Dallagnol, who studied law in Brazil and then did a master's degree at Harvard University.

Dallagnol said the Car Wash investigation was succeeding thanks to a four-pronged strategy: plea bargains that lead to new revelations, operational "phases" that build on each other, close cooperation between justice and legal officials, and a transparent communication strategy that includes divulging details of cases once arrests are made.

Dallagnol also praised Moro, the judge, saying his vast knowledge of laws related to corruption and ability to succinctly apply the law were key factors.

To many Brazilians, fed up with corruption and their political leaders, Moro and Dallagnol are heroes, a designation that Dallagnol flatly rejects.

"We are just doing our jobs," he said.

The investigation has become so large that it is expanding to other states and judges. The arrest warrant issued Thursday in Rio for Eike Batista, previously one of the world's richest men now wanted for allegedly making bribes, is a testament to how far the Car Wash investigation and its offshoots have gone.

Last year, prosecutors reached a plea agreement with dozens of executives of constructor Odebrecht. The agreements, expected to be made public early this year, are believed to have damning evidence of bribes against top politicians in Brazil and possibly in other Latin American countries, including Argentina, Peru and Venezuela.

Temer, who has been fingered in other plea bargains but never charged, could be removed by the electoral court if Odebrecht plea bargains detail illegal campaign financing that he has long been accused of accepting. Temer has denied wrongdoing.

Dallagnol brushed off criticism of the tactics used during the investigation, which have included building cases based in part on plea bargains, wire taps and making accusatory statements about defendants who have not been convicted.

While detailing money laundering and corruption charges against former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in September, Dallagnol called Silva the "the maximum commander of the corruption scheme identified as Car Wash."

Supporters of Silva and his Workers' Party immediately accused Dallagnol of playing politics since Silva had yet to even stand trial. Silva, president between 2003 and 2010, has expressed interest in running for the presidency in 2018 and leads in preference polls.

Dallagnol defended the designation, saying it was based on all the cases against Silva, not just the charges being presented that day. Dallagnol noted that only two of the five cases against Silva are in his jurisdiction.

"In Car Wash, I've learned that politicians are never corrupt," Dallagnol deadpanned. "They are always persecuted."

## Man convicted of killing 2 at Texas sandwich shop executed

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A man convicted of a fatal robbery at a Dallas-area Subway shop just weeks after he was fired from his job there was executed Thursday night.

Terry Edwards, 43, received lethal injection for the \$3,000 holdup at a Subway restaurant where two employees were shot to death in 2002.

Asked by a warden if he had a final statement, Edwards replied: "I'm at peace with God. I hope y'all find peace in this." As the lethal dose of pentobarbital was administered, he began snoring quickly. Within about 30 seconds, all movement stopped.

He was pronounced dead at 10:17 p.m. CST, 23 minutes after the sedative began flowing into his arms. Edwards never looked at five relatives of the two murder victims who stood a few feet from him, looking through a window.

Edwards' execution, the second this year in Texas and the third nationally, was delayed about four hours until the U.S. Supreme Court rejected multiple last-day appeals that sought to halt his punishment.

Lawyers for Edwards wanted to reopen his case to investigate claims that a court-appointed lawyer earlier in the appeals process provided deficient help by abandoning him. Attorneys also contended Dallas County prosecutors at his trial incorrectly portrayed Edwards as the shooter, that he was innocent of the shootings, that prosecutors manipulated evidence and testimony at his trial and improperly excluded black people from the jury. Edwards was black.

Other attorneys asked the punishment be stopped until the justices resolved an appeal that would require Texas prison officials test the pentobarbital they use for lethal injections to ensure its potency and sterility. Edwards was among several Texas death row inmates who argued the testing was needed to make certain the drug made by an unidentified compounding pharmacy doesn't cause unconstitutional pain and suffering. The state agreed to testing for two inmates, and Edwards' attorneys said he deserved the same protections.

Evidence showed Edwards worked at the restaurant in Balch Springs, about 15 miles southeast of Dallas, but had been fired few weeks before the robbery and shootings for stealing from the cash register.

Mickell Goodwin, 26, and Tommy Walker, 34, were each shot in the head in the holdup. Walker, the store manager, had seven children and stepchildren. Goodwin was mother of two daughters. No one else was inside the store.

"Tonight is a time for us to remember Mickey and Tommy," their families said in a statement following the execution. "Though this chapter of our journey is now over, we will always feel the loss of them in our lives."

Edwards admitted being in the shop shortly after it opened July 8, 2002, but told police a man he knew as "T-Bone" gave him the gun and did the shootings. Investigators later determined the other man he claimed to not know by name was his cousin.

People in a business next door heard the gunfire and called police who arrived in time to see two men fleeing. One of them, Edwards, was seen running from the shop holding a gun and an officer saw him tossing it in a garbage bin. He was arrested a short time later.

An audio recording in the police car caught Edwards saying he had messed up "big time," and referring to two murders.

Edwards was on parole at the time of the shootings. He'd been released in October 1999 after prison time for car theft and possession with intent to deliver cocaine.

The second man involved, Edwards' cousin, Kirk Edwards, turned himself in to police a day after the shootings. He had a previous criminal record for burglary and theft and now is serving 25 years for aggravated robbery for the sandwich shop case.

## Trump proposes big import tax, triggering fight with Mexico

By JULIE PACE and MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Determined to wall off America's border with Mexico, President Donald Trump triggered a diplomatic clash and a fresh fight over trade Thursday as the White House proposed a 20 percent tax on imports from the key U.S. ally and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto abruptly scrapped next week's trip to Washington.

The swift fallout signaled a remarkable souring of relations between Washington and one of its most important international partners just days into the new administration. The U.S. and Mexico conduct some \$1.6 billion a day in cross-border trade, and cooperate on everything from migration to anti-drug enforcement to major environmental issues.

At the heart of the dispute is Trump's insistence that Mexico will pay for construction of the massive wall he has promised along the southern U.S. border. Trump on Wednesday formally ordered construction of the wall.

The plan was a centerpiece of Trump's election campaign, though he never specified how Mexico would fund the project or how he would compel payments if Pena Nieto's government refused.

The two leaders had been scheduled to discuss the matter at the White House next week. But Pena Nieto took to Twitter Thursday to say he had informed the White House he would not be coming.

In a speech in Philadelphia later Thursday, Trump cast the cancellation as a mutual decision. He said that "unless Mexico is going to treat the United States fairly, with respect, such a meeting would be fruitless, and I want to go a different route. We have no choice."

On the flight back to Washington, Trump's spokesman told reporters the president was considering the 20 percent import tax to foot the bill, the most specific proposal Trump has ever floated for how to cover a project estimated to cost between \$12 billion and \$15 billion.

"By doing that, we can do \$10 billion a year and easily pay for the wall just through that mechanism alone," Spicer said. "This is something that we've been in close contact with both houses in moving forward and creating a plan."

Spicer said Trump was looking at taxing imports on all countries the U.S. has trade deficits with, but he added, "Right now we are focused on Mexico."

But the announcement sparked immediate confusion across Washington, and the White House tried to backtrack. During a hastily arranged briefing in the West Wing, chief of staff Reince Priebus said a 20 percent import tax was one idea in "a buffet of options" to pay for the border wall.

A 20 percent tariff would represent a huge tax increase on imports to the U.S., raising the likelihood of costs being passed on to consumers. Half of all non-agricultural goods enter the U.S. duty free, according to the office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The other half face import tariffs averaging 2 percent.

Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Luis Videgaray said Thursday, "A tax on Mexican imports to the United States is not a way to make Mexico pay for the wall, but a way to make the North American consumer pay for it through more expensive avocados, washing machines, televisions."

Mexico is one of America's biggest trade partners, and the U.S. is the No. 1 buyer from that country, accounting for about 80 percent of Mexican exports. A complete rupture in ties could be damaging to the U.S. economy and disastrous for Mexico's. And major harm to Mexico's economy would surely spur more people to risk deportation, jail or even death to somehow cross the border to the U.S. — undercutting Trump's major goal of stopping illegal immigration.

House GOP lawmakers and aides interpreted Spicer's comments on a 20 percent border tax as an endorsement of a key plank of their own tax plan, which Speaker Paul Ryan has been working to sell to the president. The House GOP "border adjustability" approach would tax imports and exempt exports as a way of trying to help U.S. exporters and raise revenue.

Earlier this month, Trump called that concept confusing. And during the White House's clean-up efforts Thursday, Spicer wouldn't say whether Trump agreed with the border adjustment tax being considered by the House GOP.



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The new president has previously raised the prospect of slapping tariffs on imports, but had not suggested it as a way to pay for the border wall.

There's also disagreement within his new administration over the effectiveness of tariffs in general. Wilbur Ross, Trump's nominee for commerce secretary, dismissed tariffs for trade negotiations during his confirmation hearing, saying the 1930 Tariff Act "didn't work very well then and it very likely wouldn't work now."

Pena Nieto has faced intense pressure at home over his response to Trump's aggressive stance toward his country. Until this week, Mexico had tried its traditional approach of quiet, cautious diplomacy combined with back-room discussions, sending Cabinet officials for talks with the Trump administration.

But that changed when Trump decided to announce his border wall on Wednesday — the same day that two senior Mexican Cabinet ministers arrived in Washington for preliminary talks ahead of what was to be a presidential tete-a-tete. Many Mexicans were affronted by the timing, and Pena Nieto faced a firestorm of criticism at home.

The diplomatic row recalls the rocky days of U.S.-Mexico relations in the 1980s, prior to the North American Free Trade Agreement, a pact that Trump has vigorously criticized.

"There is a change in the understanding that had been in operation over the last 22 years, when Mexico was considered a strategic ally," said Isidro Morales, a political scientist at the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education. "Trump has unilaterally broken with this way of doing things."

Stevenson reported from Mexico City. AP writers Josh Boak, Stephen Ohlemacher and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

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

## How Trump's plan to pay for Mexico border wall would work

By **JOSH LEDERMAN** and **JOSH BOAK**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is promising Mexico will pay for his massive border wall. On Thursday, his administration finally suggested how: a 20 percent tax on products imported from south of the border.

The new measure could be part of a comprehensive tax reform package that Trump and Congress will work out, the White House said. But there was great ambiguity about the proposal. White House officials later clarified that the tax was but one possible way Trump could finance the wall.

Much was left unanswered. Would Mexico be footing the bill or American consumers? What items would become more expensive? Is this even legal?

Some of the details Trump's proposal still has to work out:

IS IT A TAX, A TARIFF OR SOMETHING ELSE?

It's unclear.

The White House said Congress' tax overhaul would place a 20 percent tax on imports from any country enjoying a trade surplus with the United States. In other words, countries selling more goods and service to the U.S. than buying from it. The idea is to rebalance the playing field for U.S. companies by discouraging Americans from importing.

The idea appears to overlap with a plan House Republicans are pushing called "border adjustment." Under this plan, the U.S. would refrain from taxing American companies' exports, but would tax imports.

The new revenues are projected to top \$1 trillion over a decade. The money had been envisioned as an offset for lowering U.S. corporate income tax rates, though House Republicans say it could also pay for a wall.

Trump, however, recently said he didn't like the "border adjustment" idea.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR AMERICANS?

Mexican products would become more expensive.

That means pricier tequila, but also things Americans need: cars, eyeglasses and many basic groceries.

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A Toyota Camry? About \$1,000 more, according to Jim Lentz, CEO of Toyota North America, noting that a quarter of the car's parts are imported.

U.S. exporters are behind the House plan because it would reduce their taxes.

Here's the flip side: Importers, including big retailers and consumer electronics firms, say the higher prices for Mexican products could hurt sales. And that means American jobs.

Retailers such as Wal-Mart also could face higher tax burdens.

WOULD MEXICO REALLY BE PAYING?

Not quite.

The U.S. could recoup some of the wall's costs by changing the tax and trade policies with Mexico. But the money wouldn't necessarily be coming from Mexican taxpayers or the Mexican government.

While the tax would land first on companies exporting from Mexico, the costs would likely be passed on to consumers. That leaves Americans footing much of the likely bill.

Trump has said he's OK with being "reimbursed" at a later point because he is keen to start building the wall immediately.

WOULD IT RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE WALL?

Probably.

Various estimates put the wall's cost at up to \$15 billion.

House Republicans expect their plan to pull in much more than that in its first year. They say that could easily cover the costs of the wall.

IS IT LEGAL?

To be determined.

The U.S. has a range of obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and at the World Trade Organization. And Mexico is likely to challenge any new tax that penalizes its economy.

Trump has said he plans to renegotiate NAFTA. Mexico, however, is under no obligation to soften the agreement for his sake.

Other countries may also object, if their products and services are targeted.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said the border adjustment is essentially a tariff that would be struck down by the WTO if it targets Mexico.

HOW WOULD THIS AFFECT THE ECONOMY?

A topic of great dispute.

The White House said the plan would increase U.S. wages, help U.S. businesses and consumers, and deliver "huge economic benefits." With so much of the plan ill-defined, it's impossible to substantiate those claims.

Any turbulence in the U.S.-Mexican trade relationship could have implications for the entire world.

Mexico is the second-largest exporter to the United States, after China. The United States imported roughly \$271 billion of goods from Mexico during the first 11 months of 2016, according to the Commerce Department, and ran a trade deficit of almost \$60 billion.

DO REPUBLICANS LIKE TRUMP'S PLAN?

Not all of them.

Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan said on Twitter it would be a "tax on Americans to pay for the wall." Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said he was "mucho sad" and that "any policy proposal which drives up costs of Corona, tequila or margaritas is a big-time bad idea."

Even Trump's pick for commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, dismissed the idea of using tariffs as a trade ploy. Republicans have traditionally hailed themselves as the party of free trade.

WHAT OTHER WAYS COULD TRUMP GET MEXICO TO PAY?

During the campaign, Trump floated a number of possibilities without committing to any in particular.

He proposed changing a rule under the USA Patriot Act to block some of the roughly \$25 billion in remittances that Mexicans living in the U.S. send home each year. He said he would refuse to free up the money until Mexico agrees to pay the U.S. between \$5 billion and \$10 billion.

Opponents of that plan say Mexicans in the U.S. would likely find other ways to send money back. They could take cash with them when traveling, wire money to a non-Mexican bank or use off-the-books transfers that are difficult to police.

Trump also suggested increasing visa fees for Mexicans to raise money, or canceling business and tourist visas issued to Mexicans until their country pays for the wall.

AP Business Writer Tom Krisher in Detroit and writers Erica Werner and Stephen Ohlemacher in Washington contributed to this report.

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## Video appears to show Texas officer push teen with foot

By CLAUDIA LAUER, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Bodycam video from a white Fort Worth police officer who was suspended for wrestling a black woman and her daughter to the ground appears to show the officer using his foot to push the 15-year-old girl into a police car.

The footage was provided to The Associated Press on Thursday from attorneys representing Jacqueline Craig, who had called police last month to report that a neighbor choked her 7-year-old son for allegedly littering in his yard. The attorneys also provided internal affairs documents showing the officer had been disciplined for a previous use of force complaint when he allegedly used a Taser on a black teenager to end a foot chase.

Police spokeswoman Tamara Valle said the department could not authenticate the video or the disciplinary report at this time.

Also Thursday, Fort Worth police said they had dropped all charges against Craig and her 19-year-old daughter, Brea Hymond, who had recorded the interactions between Craig and Officer William Martin in a separate video they posted on Facebook in December. Attorneys for Craig said at a Thursday afternoon news conference that charges also had been dropped against Craig's 15-year-old daughter, Jacques Craig.

The daughters were charged with resisting arrest and interfering with public duties. Jacqueline Craig was charged with resisting arrest, failure to identify herself as a fugitive and three outstanding traffic warrants.

The AP doesn't typically identify juveniles accused of crimes, but the family and the teen have spoken out publicly.

Police also said Thursday that the neighbor, Itamar Vardi, has been issued a citation for misdemeanor assault by contact related to Craig's son. Vardi did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Jacqueline Craig's attorneys said they had hoped for more serious charges against the neighbor. They called the misdemeanor ticket "a slap in the face," noting the boy visited the emergency room and was given medication after the injury prevented him from sleeping.

The bodycam footage provided by Craig's attorneys also depicts Martin pushing Hymond's arms, which were handcuffed, above her head from behind when she refuses to answer his question. It also shows him pushing another young female who approaches the police car. Those two incidents along with the use of his foot to push the 15-year-old into the police car were cited in a letter from Police Chief Joel Fitzgerald to the city's Civil Service Commission explaining the finding that Martin had used excessive force in the situation and asking for his suspension.

The Fort Worth Police Department has denied media requests to release Martin's bodycam footage.

Martin has returned to work after serving a 10-day suspension that he's appealing with the city's Civil Service Commission.

Craig's attorneys said the family would like to see the officer fired and criminally charged.

The internal affairs documents Craig's attorneys provided to The Associated Press said Martin was one of a handful of officers to respond to a trespassing complaint at a high school. A foot chase ensued and

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Martin fired his Taser twice, striking one of two black teenagers in the back as he fled. The report said Martin was ordered to undergo coaching with a supervisor for violating department policy that prohibits officers from deploying weapons to stop a foot chase, particularly if a suspect is not armed or posing a threat.

Martin's attorney, Terry Daffron, said she would not comment "on the distorted portrayal of the facts" until she receives a copy of the investigation report.

Valle, the police spokeswoman, said the department does not release complaints against officers that do not result in a suspension or firing.

Fitzgerald's report about the December incident said Martin violated department policy by failing to thoroughly investigate, neglecting his duty, and being discourteous to the public and conduct prejudicial to good order.

The video also shows Martin's conversation with Craig and one of her daughters after he places them in the back of a patrol vehicle.

"Here's the deal. When somebody's under arrest, if anybody interferes, they go to jail too," Martin told them.

"Well, I don't know this. I'm 15 years old," Craig's daughter replied.

Craig responds: "He got mad at me for saying what I said. That's why he did it. But it's all recorded, it's all recorded."

Police said Thursday that Martin would not return to the same neighborhood where the incident occurred. That followed comments Fitzgerald made earlier this month saying Martin would return to the same community "to repair relationships."

"The Police Department recognizes we must work to repair the fractured relationships in our community. We are committed to ensuring all Fort Worth Police officers live up to restoring the trust you have lost in our department," the statement said.

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Associated Press reporter Jamie Stengle contributed to this report.

## **AP source: Border Patrol chief says he's been forced out**

**By ELLIOT SPAGAT and ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The man charged with protecting America's borders was ousted Thursday, one day after President Donald Trump announced ambitious plans to build a massive wall at the Mexican border and bolster the ranks of the Border Patrol.

Border Patrol Chief Mark Morgan said he was asked to leave and decided to resign rather than fight the request, according to a U.S. official with knowledge of the brief video conference in which Morgan informed senior agents of the change.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussion was not intended to be made public.

The forced resignation leaves Trump with a leadership gap but also gives him a chance to start fresh with a Border Patrol chief of his own choosing.

Border security and a "big beautiful wall" paid for by the Mexican government were centerpieces of Trump's immigration platform during his presidential campaign. Mexico has repeatedly said it won't pay for a barrier, and Mexican president Enrique Pena Nieto on Thursday cancelled a meeting with Trump.

Morgan was named to the post in June and took office in October. The former FBI agent briefly led the internal affairs department at the Border Patrol's parent agency before heading the agency of roughly 20,000 agents.

Gil Kerlikowske, who hired Morgan when he was commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said he wasn't surprised about the leadership change and added: "I have nothing but good and positive things to say about him."

From the start, Morgan clashed with the Border Patrol's union, which had advocated for an insider to lead the agency and sharply criticized Morgan at almost every turn.

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The union was incensed when Morgan, at a Senate hearing Dec. 1, said he supported a comprehensive immigration overhaul, which is often interpreted to include a path to citizenship for people who are in the country illegally. Morgan clarified his remarks in a note to Border Patrol staff the following week, saying he does not support a "blanket amnesty."

The union, the National Border Patrol Council, has had a strong relationship with Trump. It was so enamored with his stance on security that it took the unusual step of endorsing him during the campaign. The endorsement was a leadership decision and not decided on by a unionwide vote. Union chief Brandon Judd was part of Trump's transition team.

"He didn't know the job to begin with," Judd said in an interview with the AP last week. "He had to go on a tour of all the Border Patrol sectors to get an understanding. We needed a chief to hit the ground running."

When Trump visited the Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday, he singled out Judd while pointedly avoiding mention of Morgan. Morgan was not at the event.

Despite pressure from the union, many agency officials said Morgan appeared to embrace the job. Less than a week ago, the first message on his new Twitter account read, "Chief Morgan here — excited to use this account to share the latest news and events of the #BorderPatrol with followers."

Deputy Chief Carla Provost, who has been with the agency since 1995, will be the agency's acting chief, according to an internal memo to agents in the Border Patrol's Tucson office that was obtained by the AP.

Morgan's ouster occurred amid a shakeup across the agencies of government.

The State Department on Thursday said several senior management officials as well as a top arms control diplomat would be leaving. All had submitted resignations before Trump became president as required of officials holding president-appointed jobs. But they weren't required to leave the foreign service.

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Spagat reported from San Diego.

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Follow Elliot Spagat on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/elliotspagat](http://www.twitter.com/elliotspagat) and Alicia A. Caldwell at [www.twitter.com/acaldwellap](http://www.twitter.com/acaldwellap)

## Official: Trump wants to slash EPA workforce, budget

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and SETH BORENSTEIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former head of President Donald Trump's transition team at the Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday he expects the new administration to seek significant budget and staff cuts.

Myron Ebell said in an interview with The Associated Press that Trump is likely to seek significant reductions to the agency's workforce — currently about 15,000 employees nationwide. Ebell, who left the transition team last week, declined to discuss specific numbers of EPA staff that could be targeted for pink slips.

Asked what he would personally like to see, however, Ebell said slashing the agency's size by about half would be a good start.

"Let's aim for half and see how it works out, and then maybe we'll want to go further," said Ebell, who has returned to his position as director of the Center for Energy and Environment at the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

The conservative think tank in Washington opposes "global-warming alarmism" and receives a portion of its funding from corporations and individuals that profit from the continued burning of fossil fuels. Ebell has long been a vocal critic of federal environmental regulations, which he claims are strangling the nation's economy and impeding job growth.

Though he kept specific recommendations he made to the White House confidential, Ebell suggested it was reasonable to expect the president to seek a cut of about \$1 billion from the EPA's roughly \$8 billion annual budget.

About half the EPA's budget passes through to state and local governments for infrastructure projects

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and environmental cleanup efforts that Ebell said Trump supports. He said the cuts would likely fall on the remaining half the agency's budget, which pays for agency operations and environmental enforcement.

"President Trump said during the campaign that he would like to abolish the EPA, or 'leave a little bit,'" Ebell said. "I think the administration is likely to start proposing cuts to the 15,000 staff, because the fact is that a huge amount of the work of the EPA is actually done by state agencies. It's not clear why so many employees are needed at the federal level."

EPA has been roiled by turmoil during its first week under Trump, as members of the transition team issued what it has described as a temporary freeze on all contract approvals and grant awards. Trump's representatives also instituted a media blackout, clamping down on media releases, social media posts and other external communications issued by career staff.

AP reported Wednesday that Trump's political appointees have been scrutinizing reports and data published on the agency's websites for potential removal, especially details of scientific evidence showing that the Earth's climate is warming and man-made carbon emissions are to blame.

Ebell said Tuesday the purge is necessary because EPA's leaders under President Barack Obama "politicized" global warming and allowed activists within the agency to publish "junk science."

"Undoubtedly the federal government has been staffed with scientists who believe the global-warming alarmist agenda," said Ebell, whose academic credentials are in philosophy and political theory.

Asked about Ebell's comments, former Republican EPA Administrator William K. Reilly cautioned calm, saying that often transition teams have little to do with what eventually happens in an agency.

"I would tell the EPA staff that, in my experience, transition teams often have zero influence," said Reilly, who ran the environmental agency under Republican President George H.W. Bush. "They shouldn't be taken that seriously. They're just ideologues. They don't work for and are not even known to the incoming cabinet."

Trump's nominee for EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt, said during his Senate confirmation hearing last week that he disagreed with past statements by the president alleging that global warming is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese to harm U.S. economic competitiveness. But like Trump, Pruitt has a long history of publicly questioning the validity of climate science and has pledged to dismantle Obama-era regulations aimed at curbing carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Earlier this month, NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a joint statement affirming that 2016 was officially the hottest year in recorded history, breaking prior records set in 2015 and 2014. Studies show the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets have decreased in mass, while the world's oceans have risen on average nearly 7 inches in the last century.

"Many studies have shown just how strong that level of consensus in the scientific community is that climate change is happening, it's caused by humans and the impacts will be significant," said Keith Seitter, the head of the American Meteorological Society who has a doctorate in geophysics. "It's not junk science."

Ebell insists studies showing climate change poses a serious risk to human civilization are bunk. Though he now accepts global temperatures are increasing, he claims that the warming will be beneficial for most Americans — providing milder winters and longer growing seasons.

"The fact is that in modern society we have the technology to deal with environmental challenges, and that's why people live in Phoenix," Ebell said. "Because warm is good, as long as we have air conditioning."

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

## Trump's border wall doesn't address key shift in crossings

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — President Donald Trump's plan to erect a wall along the Mexican border overlooks a key change in how people enter the U.S. illegally: Many of them make no attempt to jump a fence or evade authorities; they simply turn themselves in and ask for asylum.

Asylum requests have surged in recent years, especially since 2014, when families and unaccompanied

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children fleeing drug violence in Central America overwhelmed agents in Texas.

Those who express fear of returning home are often freed into the U.S. with a notice to appear before an immigration judge. It often takes years for the clogged courts to decide asylum cases.

"Migration is very, very different now," Gil Kerlikowske, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection from 2014 until last week, said Thursday. "People are coming up to our ports of entry, walking up and asking for some type of protection."

CBP does not release numbers on how many migrants turn themselves in versus how many are caught trying to avoid capture, but a pronounced shift is underway.

Longtime Border Patrol agents say their jobs are increasingly about changing children's diapers in holding facilities rather than chasing people through mountains and deserts.

Mark Morgan, who resigned under pressure Thursday as the Border Patrol chief only seven months after his appointment, told a Senate panel last month that he never thought buying baby powder and baby wipes would be part of his job.

"I just got from one sector where agents, one of their jobs during the day, is to actually make sure that the food, the burritos that were provided, are being warmed properly," Morgan said. "It takes a tremendous amount of resources to do this."

The 2,000-mile border has about 700 miles of fence, much of it built in California and Arizona during the second term of President George W. Bush, when crossers were predominantly Mexican men.

But that, too, has changed. In 2014, the number of Central Americans stopped by the Border Patrol surpassed the number of Mexicans for the first time. Many of them were women and children who turned themselves in. Also, a Pew Research Center study in 2015 found that more Mexicans were leaving the U.S. than entering, a dramatic reversal.

Border Patrol arrests — a key measure of illegal crossings — rose 23 percent to 415,815 during the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, up from a 44-year-low in the previous year. Still, it was the fifth-lowest tally since 1972 and was down 75 percent from a peak of nearly 1.7 million in 2000. Border arrests include some migrants who turn themselves in and ask for asylum.

A consultant's report last year for the Homeland Security Department said asylum-seekers peaked in 2014 at 170,000, nearly triple the previous year's 63,000. Before 2012, there were fewer than 30,000 a year. Last year's caseload for asylum officers who do the initial screenings was more than 16 times what it was in 2009.

Many asylum-seekers turn themselves in to inspectors at land crossings or to Border Patrol agents almost immediately after setting foot in the U.S.

Trump has also pledged to stop "asylum fraud" and end what he and other critics of President Barack Obama's border enforcement efforts call "catch and release," or the practice of freeing people with a notice to appear in court. He hasn't provided details on how he plans to do that.

Eric Olson, director of the Wilson Institute's Latin America program, said additional fencing and Trump's pledge to add 5,000 Border Patrol agents to the current force of about 20,000 are bound to be a deterrent.

But he said those steps don't address issues like people who enter the country legally and overstay their visas or those who turn themselves in.

"Will it solve the problem?" Olson said. "I think it's clear that it really won't."

## UK's May praises Trump's 'renewal' but differs on torture

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May on Thursday embraced U.S. President Donald Trump as a friend and ally, but cautioned him not to turn his back on global institutions and long-established political values.

On her first visit to the United States as prime minister, May called the start of Trump's term "a new era of American renewal" — but firmly rejected the president's suggestion that torture might be acceptable, and rebuffed some of his foreign-policy views.

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May flew to Philadelphia a day before she will hold talks with Trump at the White House and become the first foreign leader to meet the president since his inauguration.

May worked hard to get the invitation, and is seizing the opportunity to bolster the trans-Atlantic "special relationship" and work toward a U.S.-U.K. free trade deal after Britain leaves the European Union.

She told a gathering of Republican lawmakers at their annual Congressional retreat that a Britain outside the EU and the U.S. under Trump can "lead together again" in the world, as they did when they set up the United Nations, NATO and other international organizations the new president has strongly criticized.

Throughout the more than half-hour of her speech, May declared sympathy for Trump's world view, then reminded the gathered Republicans — and by extension the president — of the United States' international obligations.

She also joined in Trump's criticism of past U.S. foreign policy, saying "the days of Britain and America intervening in sovereign countries in an attempt to remake the world in our own image are over."

The comment could be read as a critique of military interventions in Iraq and Libya, and suggested an insular approach to the world that echoes Trump's "America First" stance.

But May also said Britain was a strongly internationalist nation that supports a strong EU and considers NATO the bulwark of global security.

May praised Trump's dedication to fighting violent Islamic extremism, but seemed to reject his suggestion for a ban on immigration by Muslims. She once called the idea "divisive, stupid and wrong."

"We should always be careful to distinguish between this extreme and hateful ideology, and the peaceful religion of Islam and the hundreds of millions of its adherents," she said at the Republican gathering.

May acknowledged the need to work with Russia to end the war in Syria, but drew applause when she cautioned that the West's approach to President Vladimir Putin should be "engage but beware."

She spoke of Iran's "malign influence," but praised the international deal that has limited its nuclear program. And she acknowledged fears about the rise of China, but said the growth of Asian economies "is hugely welcome."

Amid the foreign-policy suggestions, May wooed Republicans with an ode to the "special relationship" between the two countries. Her remarks were dotted with references to Winston Churchill, the Magna Carta and — of course — Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, a famously friendly Republican president and Conservative prime minister.

May's carrot-and-stick approach to Trump is politically risky. She is under fire at home for seeking to get close to a president who has renewed his commitment to building a Mexican border wall, moved to pull the U.S. out of international trade treaties and said he thinks torturing terrorism suspects works.

May told reporters aboard her Royal Air Force plane flying to the U.S. that "we absolutely condemn the use of torture."

Britain's official policy is to halt intelligence-sharing with countries that practice torture. May did not say what her government would do if the U.S. reinstated waterboarding, which has been called a form of torture and was banned under President Barack Obama. But she said, "Our position has not changed."

May said her talks with Trump in the Oval Office will focus on the fight against the Islamic State group, the future of NATO and Britain's desire for a quick trade deal.

Not all leaders are as keen as May to meet Trump. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto on Thursday canceled a planned trip to Washington next week due to his disagreement with Trump over which country should pay for the promised wall.

Critics say May's desire for new economic partners outside the EU's single market of 500 million people is blinding her to Trump's disregard for facts and civil liberties, sweeping edicts and isolationist stance.

Historian Simon Schama dubbed May "Theresa Appeaser," while Labour Party lawmaker Ed Miliband tweeted that her warm words for Trump should make her fellow Conservatives "feel queasy."

Trump has spoken enthusiastically about having a free-trade deal with Britain, although been cool on trade agreements generally. He is pulling the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership — a deal Obama worked hard on — and has promised to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with



Canada and Mexico.

May, in contrast, has vowed Britain will champion free trade around the world.

On a personal level, the leaders could hardly be more different. Trump is a brash, spotlight-loving businessman; May is a small-town vicar's daughter who rose to the political top through prudence, caution and the avoidance of personal ostentation and controversy. Her most flamboyant feature is a fondness for leopard-print kitten-heel shoes.

May insisted that the U.S.-U.K. relationship was not built on personalities.

"It's existed through many different prime ministers and presidents," she said aboard the plane. "I want to build on that relationship. I believe, from the conversations I've already had with Donald Trump, that he does, too."

And, she added: "Sometimes opposites attract."

Follow Jill Lawless on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/JillLawless>

## Thongs cheer new president's triumphant return to Gambia

By CARLEY PETESCH, Associated Press

BANJUL, Gambia (AP) — President Adama Barrow returned triumphantly to Gambia on Thursday, nearly two months after winning an election disputed by the country's longtime dictator, to the cheers of hundreds of thousands who jammed the roads in welcome.

"That's my president!" the crowds cried, eager to see Barrow fulfill the promise of democratic reforms and newfound freedoms in this tiny West African nation.

The impasse after the Dec. 1 balloting had brought Gambia to the brink of military intervention, as regional leaders vowed to install the democratically elected Barrow despite legal efforts by longtime ruler Yahya Jammeh to overturn the result of the vote. Barrow had flown to Banjul from Senegal, where he had waited for Jammeh to leave Gambia.

"Barrow! Barrow!" people shouted from atop vehicles as far as the eye could see at sunset Thursday as the president's convoy made its way through Banjul. Women danced on minibuses and the sound of drums and music blared in the streets. Spontaneous parties erupted.

Barrow stood out of the roof of his vehicle and waved as he slowly made his way on a tour of the city and back to his home.

"I am a happy man today," Barrow told The Associated Press amid the crush of his arrival. "I think the bad part is finished now."

He promised to get his Cabinet in place and "then get the ball rolling," adding that a commission would be set up to address reconciliation.

Gambians had eagerly awaited Barrow, who has promised to reverse many of the authoritarian policies of Jammeh. The former leader oversaw a government accused of imprisoning, torturing and killing his political opponents. Some political prisoners have been released, but the fate of many who have disappeared remains unknown.

"Every Gambian must be free. We suffered for 22 years, but now enough is enough," said Seedia Badjie, 37.

Jammeh, who had been accused of rigging previous elections during his regime, initially called Barrow to concede after the balloting. But when the talk began about whether he could be indicted on war crimes charges, Jammeh shocked the world with a dramatic about-face, saying he would not cede power after all.

The international community, alarmed by Jammeh's unpredictability, said the election was fair and threw its support behind Barrow, a 51-year-old businessman.

Concerns emerged for Barrow's safety, and regional mediators urged him to wait for Jammeh's departure in neighboring Senegal. Ultimately, Barrow was sworn in Jan. 19 at the Gambian Embassy in Dakar, though officials say another celebration will be held in Gambia.

Jammeh finally left Gambia last weekend, bowing to international pressure and ending his more than

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22-year rule. The West African troops were poised to oust him if talks failed. Since then, they have been securing the country for Barrow's arrival.

A larger, more formal ceremony to welcome Barrow home will take place at a later date, spokesman Halifa Sallah said.

About 2,500 of the ECOWAS troops remain in Gambia — in the capital, Banjul, as well as at key crossing points between Gambia and Senegal and at the port and airport, according to Sweden's U.N. Ambassador Olof Skoog, the current U.N. Security Council president.

Barrow has asked the troops to stay for six months to provide security, said Mohamed Ibn Chambas, special representative of the U.N. secretary-general and head of the U.N. Office for West Africa and the Sahel.

Gambia, with nearly 1.9 million people, has become an example in West Africa as the region strives for stable, democratic changes of power. The world watched as Gambians showed they wanted change, supporting a coalition of opposition parties whose aim was to oust Jammeh and put the country on a path toward greater freedoms.

Jammeh ended up in Equatorial Guinea, taking luxury cars and other riches amassed during his presidency, and accompanied by family and trusted security guards.

When he left, Banjul exploded in celebration, with music blaring from speakers and people dancing in the streets.

Barrow faces immediate challenges, including a government that appears to be broke. Jammeh left the state coffers empty, the new leader has said.

Gambia's biggest export is peanuts, although the country, the smallest on Africa's mainland, also has become a significant source of migrants making their way to Europe.

Tourism is a vital industry, but the increasingly isolationist Jammeh regime had frightened away many visitors, and it remains unclear how long it will take hotels and resorts to recover.

The coming months will be crucial to building a country without a climate of fear and working toward reconciliation. Barrow has vowed greater freedoms and reforms to the security forces and the constitution.

Barrow already has named a female vice president, Fatoumata Tambajang, who has called for Jammeh's prosecution for alleged human rights abuses. But it emerged that she might be above the constitutional age limit for the post, and Barrow said he will form a vetting committee for further appointments.

Sallah, the spokesman, said a human rights commission will be set up and the new government will create a freedom of information act.

"We expect a lot of things from Barrow," said 26-year-old Modou Fall, who, like many others, wore T-shirt with the slogan "#Gambiasdecided" to show support for Barrow. "We want the forces to stay so that we can reform our army ... and we need development in this country."

Associated Press writer Krista Larson in Dakar, Senegal contributed to this report.

## Actor Shia LaBeouf arrested on camera during NYC livestream

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Shia LaBeouf was arrested in New York City early Thursday after he got into an altercation with another man during a performance art project that has seen him chanting "He will not divide us" in front of a live camera since Donald Trump's first day as president.

Police said LaBeouf pulled the scarf of a 25-year-old man outside the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens, scratching his face in the process. They said he also pushed the man, who refused medical attention.

The tussle happened on the seventh day of a livestream that LaBeouf and two collaborators intend to have running 24 hours a day for the next four years.

They have invited the public to repeat the phrase "He will not divide us," into a camera mounted on an outdoor wall.

It was unclear whether the camera captured any of Thursday's confrontation, but it did show the aftermath, including LaBeouf being handcuffed and led off by police.

In the moments before his arrest, he issued a plea into the camera.

"Hey, be nice. Everybody be nice down here, man. Just be nice! That's the only requirement. Be nice!" he said. "That's all I ask. Be nice. Pro this, pro that. Cool. But be nice."

The camera went live the morning of the inauguration. LeBeouf has been a frequent presence. Most of the time he is surrounded by enthusiastic supporters, but the cameras have also shown him getting aggressive with fellow participants.

In one instance, he shoved a man who said "Hitler did nothing wrong."

In another, he bumped chests with a man who began reciting a white supremacist slogan.

Videos posted on social media show LaBeouf returning to the site before sunrise to resume chanting.

He faces a misdemeanor assault charge and is due in court April 4.

## **NFL says injuries down this season, including concussions**

**By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Injuries in the NFL decreased this season, including concussions.

Emphasizing that players are doing more self-reporting of head injuries, the league released data Thursday that show overall concussions for the preseason and regular season were down from 275 in 2015 to 244 in 2016. That includes a drop of 16 in regular-season games to 167.

The 275 diagnosed concussions in 2015 were a high over the past five years and were an increase of 69 over the previous season. But the NFL enhanced its detection and examination protocols in that span.

"What we have to account for, too, are the additional protocols involved and the people involved in recognizing the injuries," NFL executive Jeff Miller said. "We have seen a significant culture change on those points" — players themselves or teammates identifying what they suspect could be head injuries.

"The point of all of this ... is the effort to identify the concussions when they happen so players can get the treatment as quickly and comprehensively as they can. That is why we spend so much time on the protocols."

Dr. Robert Heyer, president of the NFL Physicians Society and team internist for the Carolina Panthers, cited the players' willingness to report injuries as making a major difference in the numbers.

"I have been a team physician 22 years, and in the past three years I think we've seen a cultural change regarding concussions," Heyer said. "As result of ongoing education, players are more likely to speak up if they believe they might have a concussion. I know what we are doing is making a difference, but we must continue to do more."

One unaffiliated neurological consultant working games is Dr. Mitchel Berger. His interactions with players on the sidelines have changed, he said.

"When we started the program, there was a significant amount of resistance from the players in terms of just being evaluated," Berger said. "But now, I would say uniformly this past season, none of the players ever resisted. They are much, much more aware of the whole concussion situation and want to actively be engaged in the interview process on the sideline as well as in the locker room. They really are much more aware of and interested in their safety."

There were only 71 reported concussions in the preseason, the lowest in the past five years. San Francisco 49ers owner Dr. John York, chairman of the NFL Owners' Health and Safety Advisory Committee, said his group was concerned about the number of preseason practice concussions compared to the regular season. That number was 42 in 2014, and is down to 26.

"We went and discussed with the individual clubs the number of preseason concussions, and those discussions led to a significant decrease, over 30 percent, between 2014 and 2015, and that number has stabilized in 2016, actually, with the decrease of three," York said. "So we're happy those results shows that the clubs do listen and are very interested in the number of concussions in their players, and that we can have an effect on the culture of the National Football League."

A rule change regarding player safety of moving the ball to the 25-yard line on touchbacks had little effect on diminishing concussions, with a drop from 20 to 17. That information will be presented to the league's competition committee for evaluation, Miller said.

The NFL and players' association worked with the health information research company QuintilesIMS in gathering the data.

The statistics also showed decreases in knee injuries from 2015-2016. Also of note was no conclusive evidence of more injuries on Thursday night games. The injury rate was less than from games played Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

"Injuries don't increase when teams have a shorter preparation time," said Christina Mack, a director with QuintilesIMS.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Trump poised to seek new military options for defeating IS

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is expected to ask the Pentagon for ways to accelerate the fight against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, and officials said the options probably would include steps the Obama administration considered but never acted on, from adding significantly more U.S. troops to boosting military aid to Kurdish fighters

Trump's visit Friday to the Defense Department's headquarters will start the conversation over how to fulfill his inauguration address pledge to eradicate radical Islamic terrorism "completely from the face of the Earth."

Among the possible options are sending in more Apache helicopters and giving the U.S. military broader authority to make routine combat decisions, according to current and former U.S. officials familiar with the ongoing discussions.

The officials weren't authorized to publicly discuss internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

As a candidate and now president, Trump has never articulated a detailed plan for defeating IS, and his thoughts on a strategy are murky.

He has railed against the trillions of dollars that America's post-9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost. But he suggested at one point that he would have "no choice" but to exponentially expand the Obama administration's limited footprint of American forces fighting the militants.

There are about 5,160 U.S. troops in Iraq now, about 100 fewer than the maximum cap. There are no more than 503 in Syria.

In a Republican primary debate last March, Trump raised the prospect of needing 20,000 to 30,000 troops to "knock out" IS.

It's unlikely that military commanders would push for many thousands of additional troops in Iraq. While the Iraqis have asked for more help, a large U.S. military presence could unsettle the fragile, U.S.-allied government.

One possible option in Syria is sending an Army brigade to help retake IS headquarters of Raqqa, according to the officials. Military planners have discussed that option during previous reviews, and could give it to Trump so he has the widest array of possible changes.

The idea always involved the U.S. handing off authority to a local council or group to govern liberated areas, but military commanders never endorsed or recommended the proposal in the past.

More likely could be new ways to enhance the abilities of the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds, known as the YPG. They have been the most effective force against IS in northern and eastern Syria.

American support is sensitive.

NATO ally Turkey considers the group a terrorist organization. But the YPG forms the main force to retake Raqqa and some in the Pentagon have suggested giving the Kurds heavy weapons, including rocket-

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propelled grenades, machine guns and heavy combat vehicles. The idea never made it through debate in President Barack Obama's National Security Council.

Military commanders have said they're prepared to give the Trump White House a broad range of options. Many will involve expanding existing efforts to train, advise and enable local Iraqi and Syrian forces. Increased intelligence and surveillance are options, as is allowing U.S. troops to embed more frequently with Iraqi soldiers near the front lines.

The Pentagon also would like more freedom to make daily decisions in how it fights the enemy.

The Obama administration often forced military leaders to seek permission for tactical combat decisions, frustrating commanders. One example, according to a senior official, involved the use, placement and staffing of the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System — a highly lethal and effective rocket launcher used in Iraq. Commanders would like greater authority to decide when and how to use the weapon.

Military leaders hope for less micromanagement from the White House, but there is an expectation the Trump administration may set new parameters for the military to work within.

At the Pentagon on Friday, Trump planned to host a formal swearing-in ceremony for Defense Secretary James Mattis, a retired Marine general. The president also was to meet privately with Mattis and military leaders in what's called the Tank — the Joint Chiefs of Staff's secure conference room.

One big decision Trump will have to address is whether to keep fighting IS primarily through local forces or upending the strategy by assuming a greater U.S. leadership role through more forces on the ground.

A wild-card to all the planning is Trump's desire for closer counterterrorism coordination with Russia.

In Syria, the Obama administration and the Russians backed two opposing sides in the nation's civil war. But that conflict has slowed since Russia helped Syria's government oust rebels from the city of Aleppo. Direct negotiations between the government and rebels took place this week for the first time in years.

It's unclear, however, how much Washington and Moscow can cooperate.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, has talked about improving high-level military contact but hasn't advocated military cooperation or joint operations in Syria.

Even intelligence-sharing with Moscow faces legal hurdles. Current law prohibits military cooperation and U.S. officials worry about America being held responsible if a Russian airstrike kills civilians.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2017. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 29, 1820, King George III, the British monarch whose 59-year reign included the loss of the American colonies, died at Windsor Castle at age 81; he was succeeded by his son, who became King George IV.

On this date:

In 1843, the 25th president of the United States, William McKinley, was born in Niles, Ohio.

In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven" was first published in the New York Evening Mirror.

In 1861, Kansas became the 34th state of the Union.

In 1919, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In 1936, the first inductees of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, New York.

In 1956, editor-essayist H.L. Mencken, the "Sage of Baltimore," died at age 75.

In 1958, actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were married in Las Vegas.

In 1964, Stanley Kubrick's nuclear war satire "Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" premiered in New York, Toronto and London. The Winter Olympic Games opened in Innsbruck, Austria. Actor Alan Ladd, 50, died in Palm Springs, California.

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In 1966, the musical comedy "Sweet Charity" starring Gwen Verdon opened on Broadway.

In 1975, a bomb exploded inside the U.S. State Department in Washington, causing considerable damage but injuring no one; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility.

In 1990, former Exxon Valdez (val-DEEZ') skipper Joseph Hazelwood went on trial in Anchorage, Alaska, on charges stemming from the 1989 oil spill. (Hazelwood was acquitted of the major charges, and convicted of a misdemeanor.)

In 1995, the San Francisco 49ers became the first team in NFL history to win five Super Bowl titles, beating the San Diego Chargers, 49-26, in Super Bowl XXIX.

In 1998, a bomb rocked an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, killing security guard Robert Sanderson and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons. (The bomber, Eric Rudolph, was captured in May 2003 and is serving a life sentence.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, deeply distrustful of Iran, told National Public Radio "we will respond firmly" if Tehran were to escalate its military actions in Iraq and threaten American forces or Iraqi citizens. A Palestinian suicide bomber killed three Israelis at a bakery in Eilat (ay-LAHT') in the first such attack inside Israel in nine months. Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro (BAR'-buh-roh) was euthanized because of medical complications eight months after his gruesome breakdown at the Preakness. Miss Oklahoma Lauren Nelson was crowned Miss America 2007 at the pageant in Las Vegas.

Five years ago: Eleven people were killed when smoke and fog caused a series of fiery crashes on I-75 in Florida. Fourteen-year-old Lydia Ko of New Zealand won the Bing Lee/Samsung Women's NSW Open on the ALPG Tour. Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) began defense of his Australian Open title with a 5-hour, 53-minute match against Rafael Nadal (rah-fay-ehl nah-DAHL') (Djokovic won 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5 at 1:37 a.m. Melbourne time Jan. 30). Team Chara won a 12-9 victory over Team Alfredsson in the NHL All-Star game. The AFC beat the NFC 59-41 in the Pro Bowl. Jeremy Abbott won his third title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, California.

One year ago: The Obama administration confirmed for the first time that Hillary Clinton's home server contained closely guarded government secrets. An avalanche in the Canadian province of British Columbia left five people riding snowmobiles dead. Two American endurance athletes, Daniel Cartica of Chicago and Becca Pizzi of Belmont, Massachusetts, won the World Marathon Challenge by completing seven marathons in seven days on seven continents. French movie director Jacques Rivette, 87, died in Paris.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-composer-lyricist Leslie Bricusse is 86. Feminist author Germaine Greer is 78. Actress Katharine Ross is 77. Feminist author Robin Morgan is 76. Actor Tom Selleck is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bettye LaVette is 71. Actor Marc Singer is 69. Actress Ann Jillian is 67. Rock musician Louie Perez (Los Lobos) is 64. Rhythm-and-blues/funk singer Charlie Wilson is 64. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 63. Actor Terry Kinney is 63. Country singer Irlene Mandrell is 61. Actress Diane Delano is 60. Actress Judy Norton Taylor (TV: "The Waltons") is 59. Rock musician Johnny Spampinato is 58. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 57. Rock musician David Baynton-Power (James) is 56. Rock musician Eddie Jackson (Queensryche) is 56. Actor Nicholas Turturro is 55. Rock singer-musician Roddy Frame (Aztec Camera) is 53. Actor-director Edward Burns is 49. Actor Sam Trammell (TV: "True Blood") is 48. Actress Heather Graham is 47. U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is 47. Actor Sharif Atkins is 42. Actress Sara Gilbert is 42. Actress Kelly Packard is 42. Actor Justin Hartley is 40. Actor Sam Jaeger is 40. Writer and TV personality Jedediah Bila (TV: "The View") is 38. Actor Andrew Keegan is 38. Actor Jason James Richter is 37. Blues musician Jonny Lang is 36. Pop-rock singer Adam Lambert (TV: "American Idol") is 35. Country singer Eric Paslay is 34.

Thought for Today: "And were an epitaph to be my story I'd have a short one ready for my own. I would have written of me on my stone: 'I had a lover's quarrel with the world.'" — Robert Frost, American poet (born 1874, died this date in 1963).