

# 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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## 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 sour cream, creamed peas, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

**Boys Basketball at Langford:** 7th and 8th grade times to be determined. JV boys at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

## Wednesday, Feb. 1

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

**School Lunch:** BBQ, French fries, fruit, broccoli and dip.

**Senior Menu:** Breaded fish, parsley buttered potatoes, Prince Edward Island Vegetable, Sherbet, whole wheat bread.

NAEP Testing at GHS

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Sarah Circle at 5 p.m., League at 6:30 p.m., Confirmation at 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Feb. 2

**School Breakfast:** Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese, fruit, carrots and dip.

**Senior Menu:** Roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, squash, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Nigeria Circle at 2 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball hosts Tiospa Zina

## Friday, Feb. 3

**School Breakfast:** Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice,

## Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.  
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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## Lady Tigers surprise Northwestern with big win

The Groton Area girls overcame their biggest obstacle Monday night, the flu bug, which plagued 65 students in grades six through 12 including four of the five starters and two other players. Despite that issue, the Lady Tigers pulled out a 52-45 big win over the 11-4 Northwestern Wildcats.

"I'm proud of these girls," said Coach Shaun Wanner. "They worked through it despite being sick. I had four of five starters that were not feeling well. Everything was going good except we were not making the layups. I had them practice layups at half time. Otherwise, the girls did really good against an 11-4 team."

The game was tied at six and the first quarter ended tied at 11. Northwestern made only one free throw in the second quarter while the Tigers expressed to a 20-12 lead at half time. The Tigers led, 31-22 at the end of the third quarter. Groton Area had seven turnovers in the fourth quarter with several of them coming from the Northwestern full court press. The Wildcats closed to within four, 46-42 with two minutes left in the game. The Tigers made 11 of 15 free throws in the fourth quarter to pull out the win.

Jennie Doeden led the Tigers with 11 points followed by Audrey Wanner, Jessica Bjerke and Miranda Hanson with nine each, Katie Koehler had seven, Harleigh Stange three and Taylor Holm and Gia Gengerke each had two points.

Taylor Holm and Jessica Bjerke each had nine of the team's 42 rebounds, Wanner and Stange each had four of the team's 10 steals and Wanner had six of the team's 14 assists. Groton Area had 14 turnovers and 17 team fouls.

Addison Sparling led the Wildcats with 16 points followed by Darby Duncan with eight, Evy Peterson and Josie Clemens each had seven, Sydney Schell had four and Peyton Groft added two points.

The Wildcats made 15 of 53 field goals for 28 percent. Both teams were 12 of 21 from the line for 57 percent.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 22-19. Scoring for the Tigers: Taylor Holm 11, Miranda Hanson 4, Gia Gengerke 3, Sam Menzia 2, Madison Sippel 1 and Nicole Marzahn 1. Scoring for Northwestern: Miranda Thorson 6, Caitlyn Fischbach 5, Cassidy Frerricks 4, Riely Grandpre 3 and Chrissy Stoltenberg 1.

## Groton Area 52, Northwestern Area 45

	2-pt	3-pt	FT	Pts	Rbs	Steals	Assists	TO	Fouls
<b>Audrey Wanner</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>3-8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Katie Koehler</b>	<b>1-6</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Jessica Bjerke</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Harleigh Stange</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Jennie Doeden</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Taylor Holm</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Miranda Hanson</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>3-7</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Gia Gengerke</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11-28</b>	<b>6-17</b>	<b>121-21</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>

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## Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Monday, January 30, 2017

# Pushing the frontiers of science



Artwork by Sandbox Studio, Chicago, with Ana Kova courtesy Symmetry Magazine.

In the 1960s, Ray Davis Jr., a chemist from Brookhaven National Laboratory, began counting neutrinos deep underground at the Homestake Mine in Lead, S.D. As he began collecting data, he realized he was seeing only one-third the number of neutrinos that had been predicted. Nearly 30 years later, the answer to the so-called “solar neutrino problem” was discovered: neutrinos occasionally oscillate, or change flavors as they travel to detectors on earth.

“We know there are three flavors of neutrinos—electron, muon and tau,” said Mark Thomson, a professor of physics at the University of Cambridge. When a neutrino interacts with matter, which happens very rarely, it can change flavor.

“Before the discovery of neutrino oscillation, we thought neutrinos were quite dull particles. We didn’t believe they had mass and they didn’t seem to do much,” said Thomson, a co-spokesperson with DUNE (Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment). “Pretty much everything we know about neutrinos today comes from the discovery of this phenomenon,” Thomson said.

Neutrinos are tiny, almost massless particles that behave very strangely, making them very difficult to study. Scientists with DUNE hope that by studying neutrino oscillation, they will learn more about the universe in which we live.

The universe is made up of matter, but it wasn’t always that way. During the Big Bang, equal amounts of matter and anti-matter were created, annihilating each other as they collided. But somewhere along the line, matter became more prevalent, producing stars, planets, intergalactic gases and life.

“Neutrino physics could be the key to how that whole process happened,” Thomson said. “We want to find conclusive evidence that neutrinos behave differently from their antimatter particles.”

DUNE plans to shoot the most powerful beam of neutrinos ever produced 800 miles through the earth from Fermilab in Illinois to massive liquid argon detectors deep underground at Sanford Lab. That distance, Thomson said, is critical. “The greater the distance, the better you can study the properties more precisely.”

The placement of DUNE nearly a mile underground, has other implications as well. If there were a core-collapse supernova in the Milky Way, DUNE could observe thousands of neutrinos, allowing us to see the formation of a neutron star and, potentially, the birth of a black hole. “We’d have to be pretty lucky to see that, actually,” Thomson said. “But you never know. If we did, we’d learn a lot.”

DUNE collaborators will also look for proton decay, an incredibly rare event that could open a window into a grand unified theory, in which three of the four fundamental forces of nature—electromagnetism, the weak force and the strong force—merge.

“Basically, that says we can treat all particles the same and all of the forces in one common way. They just manifest differently,” Thomson said.

“We’re building an experiment with more power and precision than has ever been done before,” Thomson said. “We’re pushing the frontiers of science. We could see something completely surprising.”

Deeptalks  
Science on the Road

Mike Headley and Jaret Heise will discuss Big Science, Big Impacts at the Hill City School this evening at 7 p.m. On Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center, Bryce Pietzyk will talk about underground access at the Sanford Lab.

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## Service Notice: Fern Kersting

Memorial services for Fern Kersting, 86, of Groton will be 10 a.m., Thursday, February 2, 2017 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Father Mike Kelly will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the church from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday. Fern passed away Sunday, January 29, 2017 at her home.

## Service Notice: June Meyer

Services for June Meyer, 94, formerly of Groton will be 2 p.m., Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the Presbyterian Church, Groton. Rev. Terry Kenny will officiate. Burial will be at a later date in Union Cemetery. Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services at the church. June passed away January 29, 2017 at Prairie Lakes Hospital, Watertown.

## PARTS COUNTER SALES

Self motivated individual needed to fill our Parts Counter Sales position. Duties include parts sales, display stocking, shipping and receiving. Sponsored training, excellent benefits package and the possibility for advancement. Contact Steve at 605-395-6421 or email resume to s.harry@harrysinc.com.

### Harry Implement Inc.

PO Box 841  
Ferney, SD  
57439



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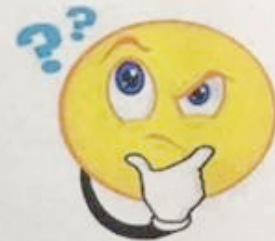
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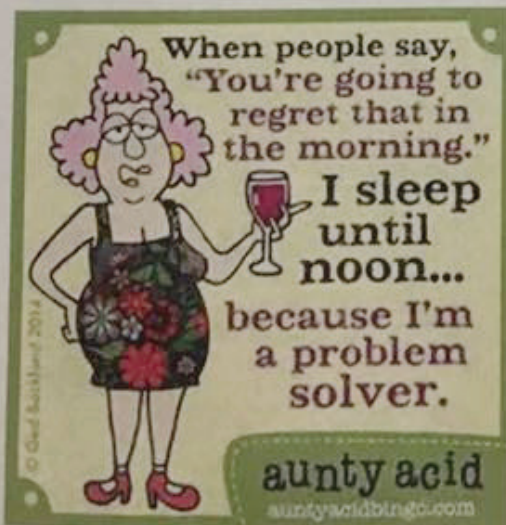
Leave all your money and worries at home as we have you covered unless you see something on the side of the road you just can't live without then your on your own. Pack your overnight bag and your ready to enjoy



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



trip call [Keri Kline](tel:605-233-0144) 605-233-0144 Seats are limited!! Bus will depart Clark at 8:30am and Watertown at 9:15am on Wednesday March 1st. It's going to be a trip of a lifetime and you will be doing things you have never done before???? So jump on the bus sit back and wonder where this bus will be taking me today and tomorrow.



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## 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.

# They have arrived!

**GDI Living  Fitness**

25 Main St., Downtown Groton

## 2 NuSteps

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for membership information

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



 **livestream**  
**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, Jan. 31**

**Boys at Langford: JV at 6:30, Varsity at 8:00**

**gdilive.com**

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## Today in Weather History

January 31, 1969: Minnesota experienced many winter storms throughout the month of 1969 where several people had died from heart attacks and auto accidents. Many roads were blocked or iced over several times during the month. Considerable snow during the month of January along with frequent periods of strong winds resulted in many days of blowing and drifting snow across northeast South Dakota. There were also many days with freezing rain. The most significant icing occurred on the 22nd and the 27th. There were numerous days where the traffic was at a standstill due to blocked roads and closed airports. Many school closings occurred throughout the month with many activities cancelled. Many rural roads went long periods without being opened resulting in hardships for farmers. Days of blowing snow were the 8th, 19th, 22nd, 23th, 24th, 26th, 27th, and 31st. Days of freezing rain were the 5th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and the 22nd.

1911: Tamarack, California was without snow the first eight days of the month, but by the end of January, they had been buried under 390 inches of snow, a record monthly total for the United States. By March 11, 1911, Tamarack had a record snow depth of 451 inches.

1979: A winter storm that started on the previous day and ended on this day spread 2 to 4 inches of rainfall in 24 hours over much of coastal Southern California, and two inches of snow in Palm Springs. Snow fell heavily in Palm Springs and 8 inches fell at Lancaster. All major interstates into Los Angeles were closed. Snow drifts shut down Interstate 10 on both sides of Palm Springs, isolating the city.

1989: The barometric pressure at Norway, Alaska reached 31.85 inches (1078.4 mb) establishing an all-time record for the North American Continent. The temperature at the time of the record was about 46 degrees below zero. Severe arctic cold began to invade the north central U.S. The temperature at Grand Fall, Montana plunged 85 degrees in 36 hours. Valentine, Nebraska plummeted from a record high of 70 degrees to zero in just nine hours. Northwest winds gusted to 86 mph at Lander WY, and wind chill readings of 80 degrees below zero were reported in Montana. Sixty-four cities in the central U.S. reported record highs for the date as readings reached the 60s in Michigan and the 80s in Kansas.

1949 - The temperature at San Antonio, TX, plunged to a record low of one degree below zero. Helena MT reached 42 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1966 - A blizzard struck the northeastern U.S. When the storm came to an end, twenty inches of snow covered the ground at Washington D.C. (David Ludlum)

1982 - A snowstorm struck Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. Twenty-five inches of snow at Greenville IL, located east of Saint Louis, paralyzed the community. The storm left 4000 motorists stranded for two days. (David Ludlum)








1987 - A storm in the Pacific Northwest produced wind gusts to 85 mph in Oregon, and nearly two inches of rain in twelve hours in the Puget Sound area of Washington State. Ten inches of snow at Stampede Pass WA brought their total snow cover to 84 inches. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-one cities in the central and northeastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date, with many occurring during the early morning hours. Temperatures in western New York State reached the 60s early in the day. Strong northerly winds in the north central U.S. produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero in North Dakota. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - High winds in Montana on the 28th, gusting to 77 mph at Judith Gap, were followed by three days of snow. Heavy snow fell over northwest Montana, with up to 24 inches reported in the mountains. An avalanche covered the road near Essex with six feet of snow. Snow and high winds also plagued parts of the southwestern U.S. Winds gusted to 54 mph at Show Low AZ, and Flagstaff AZ was blanketed with eight inches of snow. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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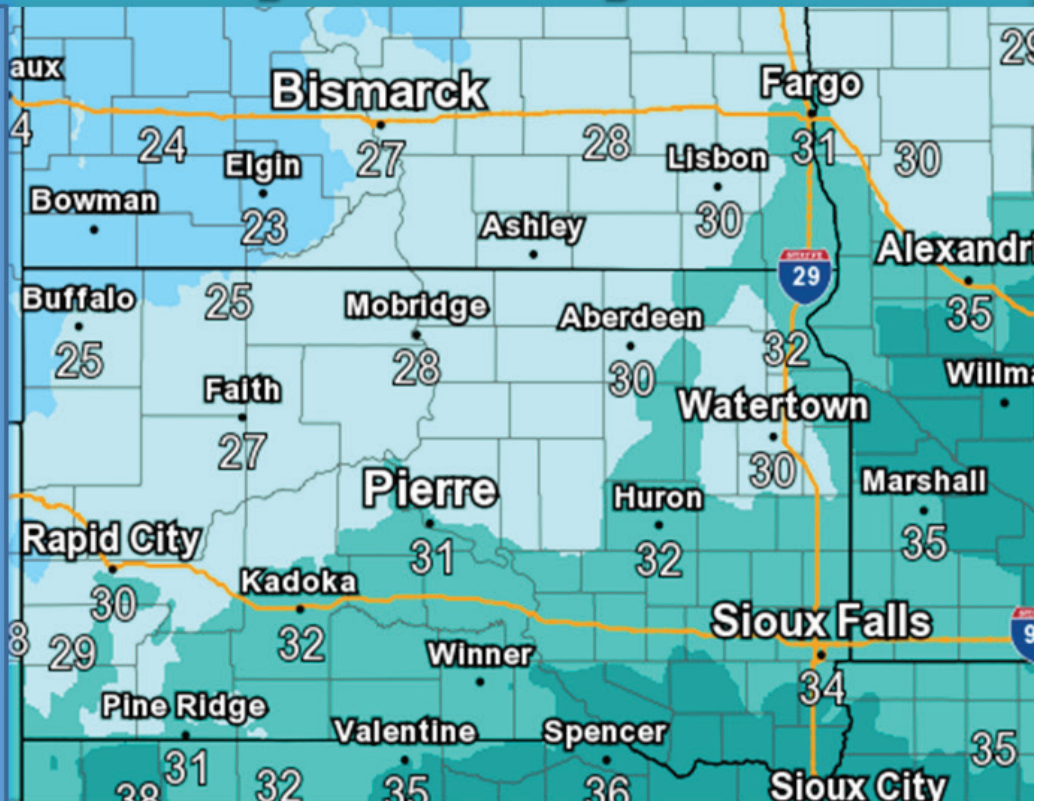
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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 34 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 17 °F	Low: 4 °F	High: 15 °F	Low: 2 °F	High: 19 °F




## Breezy Today

~ Turning colder for the rest of the work week.

~ Little to no measurable precipitation expected through the next 36 hours.



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NWSAberdeen)

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)
 Updated: 1/31/2017 4:47 AM Central

Published on: 01/31/2017 at 4:49AM

A breezy day is expected across the region, with temperatures near to slightly above normal. The rest of the week looks cooler, with some chances for snow mainly toward the upcoming weekend.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 41.9 F at 10:11 AM**

**Low Outside Temp: 25.4 F at 12:17 AM**

**High Gust: 39.0 Mph at 2:29 PM**

Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 51° in 1924**

**Record Low: -32 in 1996**

**Average High: 24°F**

**Average Low: 2°F**

**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.47**

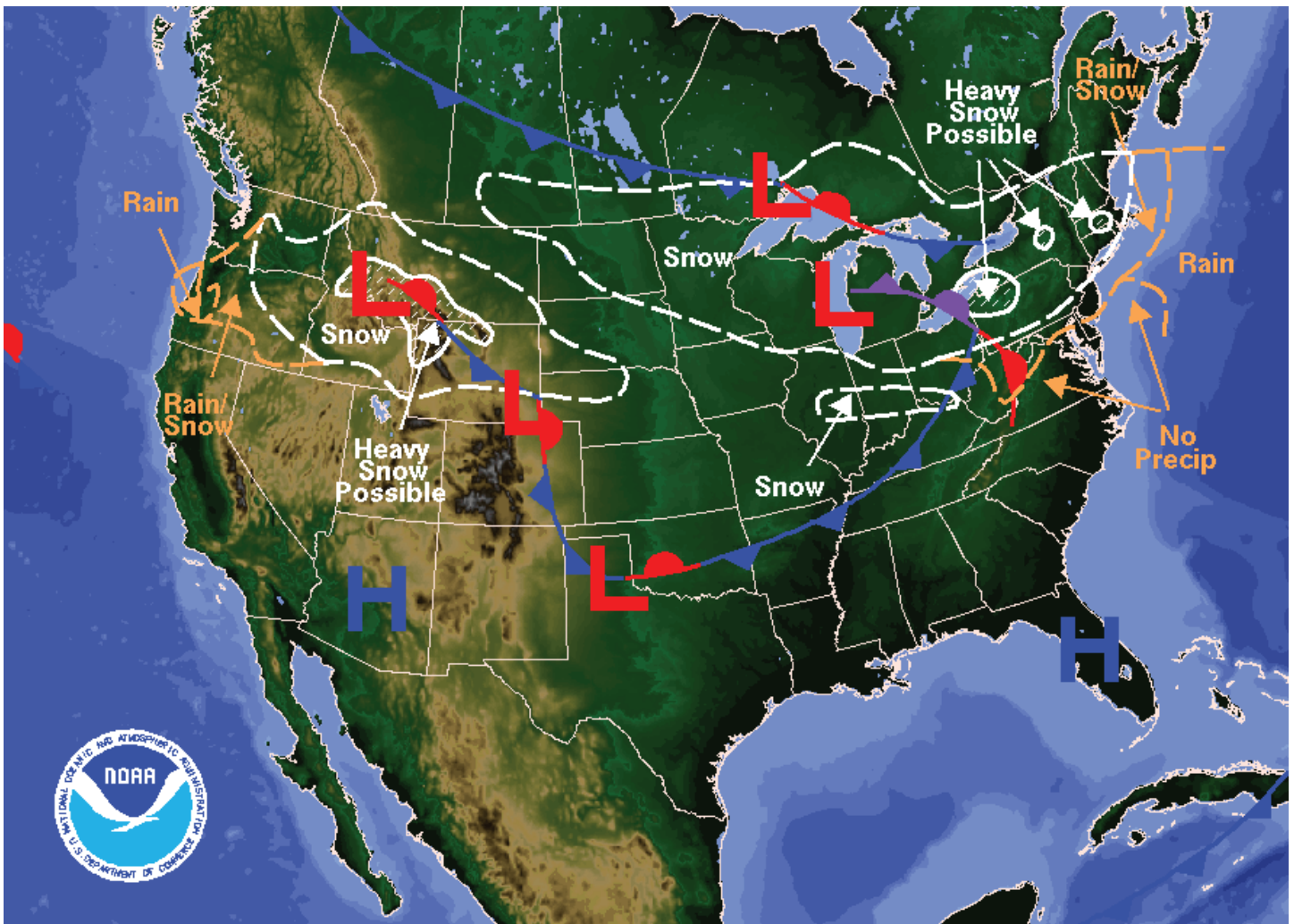
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.47**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:39 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:54 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jan 31, 2017, issued 4:20 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## **FORGIVENESS**

It was the new pastor's first opportunity to visit the sixth grade boys' Sunday school class. He knew the lesson they were about to study was on forgiveness. He looked around the class and recognized Danny from his neighborhood.

"Danny," he said, looking at him and smiling, "do you think you could forgive a boy if he hit you?"

"Oh, yes Sir," he said proudly, "I know I could – especially if he was bigger than me."

It's interesting to think about whom we are willing to forgive or not forgive. Perhaps we even have a criterion. It seems as though there are some individuals whom we forgive easily and quickly – no matter what they have said or done to us. Then, there are some we do not want to forgive – some we enjoy holding a grudge against – savoring or waiting patiently for that magical moment when we can "get even."

How unlike Jesus. When He was teaching His disciples to pray He said, "...forgive us our sins just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us."

Jesus offered no criteria when it comes to forgiving. Forgiving others is the sign of a heart that understands, accepts and appreciates the forgiveness of God. If we are slow or refuse to forgive others, we do not know the true meaning of forgiveness and do not realize all that God has done for us.

Prayer: We know, Father, that when we forgive others we have an understanding of Your forgiveness and mercy. May we forgive others as You have forgiven us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

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## News from the Associated Press

### Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Bison 61, Takini 21  
Dell Rapids 61, Flandreau 43  
Harding County JV 86, McIntosh 29  
Howard 63, Wessington Springs 57, 3OT  
Irene-Wakonda 75, Centerville 16  
Menno 50, Avon 39  
Mobridge-Pollock 48, McLaughlin 46  
Morris Area/Chokia-Alberta, Minn. 50, Milbank Area 28  
Parkston 56, McCook Central/Montrose 41  
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 77, Ethan 49  
Scotland 68, Freeman 55  
Todd County 44, Winner 43  
Tri-Valley 71, West Central 46

#### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Bison 53, Takini 23  
Bon Homme 65, Gregory 55  
Canton 52, Menno 41  
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 52, Bennett County 19  
DeSmet 69, Clark/Willow Lake 36  
Ethan 62, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 29  
Faith 76, Newell 16  
Freeman 68, Viborg-Hurley 36  
Groton Area 52, Northwestern 45  
Harrisburg 62, Sioux Falls Washington 55  
Ipswich 58, Langford 43  
Kimball/White Lake 40, Wolsey-Wessington 23  
New Underwood 61, Kadoka Area 28  
South Border, N.D. 56, McIntosh 41  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 55, Burke/South Central 48  
Wall 57, Hot Springs 16  
Webster 68, Waverly-South Shore 40

### South Dakota delegation backs Trump's refugee suspension

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's all-Republican congressional delegation is standing by President Donald Trump's decision to temporarily suspend America's refugee program, though U.S. Sen. John Thune criticized the way it was rolled out.

Trump signed an order suspending refugee admissions for 120 days and indefinitely barring the processing of refugees from Syria. It also temporarily bars citizens of seven majority Muslim nations from entering the U.S., but there's confusion about how it applies to certain groups, like U.S. legal permanent residents.

U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem said in a statement that her first priority is the safety of the American people, adding that she shares Trump's concerns about America's ability to screen refugees, especially those from "terrorist hotbed areas."

"I support putting a temporary pause on accepting refugees from terrorist-held areas — at least until

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the administration can certify that asylum seekers do not present a safety threat to the U.S.," Noem said.

Natalie Krings, a spokeswoman for U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, said in a statement that until the administration is confident that it's able to process the large number of refugees expected with high certainty, "we should not be allowing this group of refugees into our country."

"Terrorists have shown they are willing to infiltrate countries posing as refugees," Rounds said in a statement.

Thune said in a statement that the "very brief pause" gives the U.S. a chance to fully assess the threats it is facing and strengthen the country's vetting process. But, the third-ranking Senate Republican said that the order's rollout has created unnecessary confusion and that Americans deserve more clarity from Trump's administration.

"I strongly oppose any religious test, but I do support a security test," Thune said.

Immigration lawyers in South Dakota are hearing concerns from families who have resettled in the U.S. from now-banned countries. Taneeza Islam, a Muslim-American immigration lawyer in Sioux Falls, said she has spoken with clients who wonder when they'll be able to see family members overseas.

"There's a feeling of panic," said Islam, adding that she thinks the order is unconstitutional and discriminatory.

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Associated Press writer Hannah Weikel in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

## The Latest: Thune says order gives US time to weigh threats

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Latest on President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration and its effect on South Dakota (all times local):

5 p.m.

U.S. Sen. John Thune says that President Donald Trump's immigration order gives the U.S. a chance to fully assess the threats it is facing.

Trump's move temporarily bars refugees and citizens of seven predominantly Muslim nations from entering the U.S. There's confusion about how it applies to certain groups, like U.S. legal permanent residents.

The third-ranking Senate Republican said Monday that the order's rollout has created unnecessary confusion and that Americans deserve more clarity from Trump's administration. But Thune says the "very brief pause" would also allow a chance to strengthen the country's vetting process.

The rest of South Dakota's all-Republican congressional delegation, Rep. Kristi Noem and Sen. Mike Rounds, say they support Trump's decision to temporarily suspend America's refugee program.

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4:20 p.m.

South Dakota's public universities are advising students and faculty from the countries included in the President Donald Trump's immigration order that they may not be able to re-enter the U.S. if they leave.

Trump's move temporarily bars citizens of seven majority Muslim nations from entering the U.S., but there's confusion about how it applies to certain groups, like U.S. legal permanent residents.

Paul Turman, vice president for academic affairs with the South Dakota Board of Regents, says officials have found four faculty members and 74 students who are affected.

He says they're being notified of the executive order and the "implications associated with it." Turman says there's a lot of uncertainty in higher education right now.

South Dakota has six public universities.

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10:08 a.m.

U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem says she supports a temporary pause on refugees from "terrorist-held" areas in response to President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration.

Noem says that she shares Trump's concerns about America's ability to screen refugees. The Republican congresswoman says her first priority is the safety of the American people.

Trump signed an order Friday suspending refugee admissions for 120 days and indefinitely barring the processing of refugees from Syria.

It also temporarily bars citizens of seven majority Muslim nations from entering the U.S., but there's confusion about how it applies to certain groups, like U.S. legal permanent residents.

Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds, both Republicans, didn't immediately comment.

## South Dakota lawmakers weigh transgender locker room bill

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill in South Dakota that would restrict the locker rooms that transgender students can use is about to get its first test.

A Senate committee is to hear the measure Tuesday. It would require public school students to use the locker rooms, shower rooms and changing facilities matching their gender at birth.

The proposal is similar to one Gov. Dennis Daugaard vetoed last year that also applied to bathrooms. The Republican said last week he'd veto this year's bill too if it gets to his desk.

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

Under the bill, schools could provide other accommodations, like single-occupancy restrooms, under special circumstances.

## Gambling in Deadwood declines 25 percent

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Gambling in Deadwood fell 25 percent in December compared to the same month in 2015, and the industry finished the year with a 5 percent drop in cumulative totals.

The Deadwood Gaming Association's executive director, Mike Rodman, told the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2kLjSpe>) that the drop was "an alarming end to a disappointing year." He said Deadwood's 2016 adjusted gross revenues of just over \$99 million were the lowest since 2007.

"Despite good weather conditions for our winter sports enthusiasts in December, we were unable to capitalize on that market," Rodman said.

Celebrity Hotel and Casino's general manager, Ken Gienger, said he's not surprised by the decline. He says the numbers give Deadwood a benchmark to improve on.

"This is a reflection of people being conservative with their extra income and not exceeding their budget," Gienger said. "I am looking forward to 2017, and I know Deadwood will use the experiences we all learn during 2016 to help us make 2017 better."

For the month of December Deadwood Gaming operators rewarded players with \$1,329,802.36 in "free-play."

The South Dakota Commission on Gaming released its monthly summary last week. It shows gamers visiting Deadwood in December dropped \$61.4 million in machines and on tables, bringing the total amount wagered for 2016 to \$1.1 billion.

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

## Correction: Education-Science story

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — In a story Jan. 27 about concerns over legislation that could bring nonscientific theories into science classes in South Dakota, The Associated Press erroneously reported that Anne Lewis was a spokeswoman for the South Dakota Discovery Center in Pierre. Lewis is the center's special projects director, and she spoke on her own behalf, not on behalf of the center.

A corrected version of the story is below:

South Dakota lawmakers approve scientific bill

South Dakota parents and educators are concerned that an approved bill could bring nonscientific theories into science classes

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. But others noted that such terms can be problematic.

Anne Lewis is special projects director at the South Dakota Discovery Center in Pierre. Speaking on her own behalf, she said scientists use the terms "probability and uncertainty" when discussing theories, not the terms "strengths and weaknesses."

"Weakness' says, 'Hey, this looks like it's wrong,'" said Lewis, who also testified against the legislation in Pierre on her own behalf. 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.

## Lawmakers seek control over South Dakota refugee settlement

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A group of Republican state lawmakers wants to give the Legislature control over refugee resettlement agreements in South Dakota.

Senate President Pro Tempore Brock Greenfield tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2jnCn6Z>) that his bill would allow the Legislature to put a "stamp of approval" on any refugee resettlement proposed in the state.

Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota is the state's lone resettlement program. Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen, vice president of community services, says the group works with the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement to place refugees in South Dakota.

Kiesow-Knudsen says the organization has an open communication line with local officials and the governor's office.

She says Lutheran Social Services hasn't taken a stance on the bill, which doesn't currently have a hearing date scheduled at the Capitol.

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

## Joop Bollen set to change plea in EB-5 visa case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The former administrator of South Dakota's scandal-ridden investment-for-visa program is scheduled to appear in court this week for a change-of-plea hearing in a financial misconduct case.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said that Joop Bollen is scheduled to appear at the hearing Wednesday at the Brown County Courthouse. An attorney for Bollen declined to comment to The Associated Press.

Bollen previously pleaded innocent to felony charges that accuse him of diverting more than \$1.2 million from an account created as part of a contract with the state to protect it against costs or liability from South Dakota's EB-5 visa program. Authorities say he put back most of the money.

A February trial has been scheduled in the case. A defense attorney for Bollen said previously that the state was trying to make his client a scapegoat by bringing the charges against him.

The federal EB-5 visa program allows people to seek U.S. residency if they invest at least \$500,000 in approved projects. Bollen first led South Dakota's participation in the program as a state employee and

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later as the head of SDRC Inc., a private company he founded. The program was privatized in 2009 and turned over to SDRC until the state took over management in 2013.

The investment program came under fire that year after a former state official associated with it killed himself as felony theft charges were being prepared against him.

The state's legal documents accuse Bollen, 53, of Aberdeen, of improperly transferring money out of an account that his company was supposed to maintain. In at least one case, the money was subsequently used to buy an Egyptian artifact, according to a court document.

A court affidavit said most of the money was repaid to the account, but a state investigator said in the document that a nearly \$167,000 transfer does not appear to have been refunded.

## Cowboys capture escaped bull on the run in South Dakota city

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — It took a couple of cowboys from a rodeo competition, each armed with a lasso, to catch an escaped bull that was running wild in a South Dakota city.

Authorities say the bull got loose Sunday when the owner was loading him into a trailer at the Central States Fairgrounds in Rapid City. The bull bolted along a bike path, through Memorial Park and Rapid Creek, and stopped at the Executive Golf Course.

KOTA-TV (<http://bit.ly/2k8uL5v>) reports that police say even though the bull was tired he was still considered dangerous, especially in a residential area. Police summoned some cowboys from the Sutton Ranch Rodeo competition at the civic center and they were able to rope the bull and get him back to the trailer.

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

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HEAD FIRED

Trump sacks the acting attorney general after she questioned the constitutionality of his refugee and immigration ban and refused to defend it in court.

### 2. U.S. MILITARY BOTCHES ONLINE FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE GROUP

A psychological operation run by the Pentagon against the extremists is so beset with incompetence, cronyism and flawed data that it's having little impact, The AP finds.

### 3. WHAT VIEWS CANADA MOSQUE SHOOTING SUSPECT ESPOUSED

The French Canadian university student charged with killing six Muslim men during evening prayers was known for far-right, nationalist views.

### 4. SEISMIC SHIFT AT CENTURY-OLD INSTITUTION

The Boy Scouts of America announces it will allow transgender children who identify as boys to enroll in its boys only programs.

### 5. SCIENTISTS TOUT NEW INDONESIA TSUNAMI NETWORK

The prototype is designed to detect so-called near-field tsunamis and possibly add a few minutes of warning time for vulnerable coastal cities.

### 6. WHAT A SINGLE TWEET HAS DONE

A New York City writer uses social media to spur donors to raise thousands of dollars to pay off school lunch debt in districts around the country.

### 7. 'BAKED SLOP': DELAWARE STICKS TO 'ALTERNATIVE' MEAL PLANS

While other states are moving away from special diets for unruly prisoners, Delaware is sticking with its use of what is commonly known as "the loaf."

### 8. RETAIL GIANT TAKES AIM AT AMAZON'S PRIME

Wal-Mart is replacing a program that offers free shipping but has an annual fee with one that has a lower free shipping threshold and faster delivery.

## 9. REAL-LIFE BATTLE BREWS OVER ARAB-ISRAELI FILM

An award-winning film about Arab women battling their own conservative society and life in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv prompts calls for a boycott and death threats against the director.

## 10. PATRIOTS OWNER PULLS SOME PUNCHES, THROWS OTHERS

While Robert Kraft wants to celebrate yet another trip to the Super Bowl, he also didn't back down from addressing "Deflategate."

## Only on AP: Falcons worried about handling of painkillers

By JIM LITKE, AP Sports Writer

An email chain released in court shows Atlanta Falcons officials in 2010 were worried about the team's "excessive" reliance on painkillers to treat players and the potential embarrassment that could cause.

The officials expressed concern over a review that found the team spent \$81,000 on prescriptions for medications for players in 2009 — nearly three times the league average.

Nearly every recipient on the email chain — from Blank, president Rich McKay and general manager Thomas Dimitroff to then-head athletic trainer Marty Lauzon — is still with the team, which plays New England in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

The emails were entered into the court record Thursday as part of a proposed class-action lawsuit by former NFL players.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Boy Scouts allows transgender kids into boys-only programs

By CLAUDIA LAUER, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A New Jersey woman whose son was asked to leave his Boy Scouts troop after leaders found out he is transgender said she has mixed emotions about the organization's decision to allow transgender children who identify as boys to enroll in its boys-only programs.

The Boy Scouts of America announced Monday that enrollment in its boys-only programs will now be based on the gender a child or parent lists on his application to become a scout, rather than the gender listed on the child's birth certificate.

Eight-year-old Joe Maldonado was asked to leave his scout troop in Secaucus, New Jersey, last fall after parents and leaders found out he is transgender. The organization's statement did not specifically mention Joe's case, but said it changed the policy because of the larger conversation about gender identity taking place around the country.

"For more than 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America, along with schools, youth sports and other youth organizations, have ultimately deferred to the information on an individual's birth certificate to determine eligibility for our single-gender programs," the statement said. "However, that approach is no longer sufficient as communities and state laws are interpreting gender identity differently, and these laws vary widely from state to state."

Kristie Maldonado, Joe's mother, said she had mixed emotions Monday night when a Boy Scouts representative called to tell her the organization would allow her son to re-enroll in his troop. Maldonado said she would like her son to rejoin the Secaucus troop, but only if the scout leader who threw him out of the troop leaves.

She said Joe, who will turn 9 on Wednesday, has spoken publicly about the incident. She called him a "ham" and noted he had a big birthday party on Saturday with the mayor of Secaucus in attendance.

"I'm so grateful. I really am that they're accepting and that there won't be any issues. They (other transgender youth) won't have to go through what my son went through," Maldonado said by phone Monday. "It's a big change for everybody that all are accepted now ... I'm so delighted that they finally called and they did say this, but I'm still angry."

Maldonado said the decision to remove her son from the troop made him feel different, and she wanted



to make sure he knew the troop made a mistake.

The Boy Scouts said the enrollment decision goes into effect immediately.

"Our organization's local councils will help find units that can provide for the best interest of the child," the statement said.

Zach Wahls, co-founder of the groups Scouts for Equality, called the decision historic.

"The decision to allow transgender boys to participate in the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts is an important step forward for this American institution," he wrote in a statement posted to social media. "We are incredibly proud of Joe Maldonado — the transgender boy from New Jersey whose expulsion last year ignited this controversy — and his mother Kristie for their courage in doing what they knew was right. We are also proud of the Boy Scouts for deciding to do the right thing."

Boy Scouts of America leaders lifted a blanket ban on gay troop leaders and employees in July 2015 amid intense pressure. The group decided in 2013 — after heated debate — to allow openly gay youth as scouts.

The national Girl Scouts organization, which is not affiliated with the Boy Scouts, has accepted transgender members for years.

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Associated Press writer Josh Cornfield in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

## Clash over refugee ban brings firing of Justice Dept. head

By **JULIE PACE** and **ERIC TUCKER**, Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an extraordinary public showdown, President Donald Trump fired the acting attorney general of the United States after she publicly questioned the constitutionality of his refugee and immigration ban and refused to defend it in court.

The clash Monday night between Trump and Sally Yates, a career prosecutor and Democratic appointee, laid bare the growing discord and dissent surrounding an executive order that halted the entire U.S. refugee program and banned all entries from seven Muslim-majority nations for 90 days. The firing, in a written statement released just hours after Yates went public with her concerns, also served as a warning to other administration officials that Trump is prepared to terminate those who refuse to carry out his orders.

Yates' refusal to defend the executive order was largely symbolic given that Sen. Jeff Sessions, Trump's pick for attorney general, will almost certainly defend the policy once he's sworn in. He's expected to be confirmed Tuesday by the Senate Judiciary Committee and could be approved within days by the full Senate.

Yet the firing reflected the mounting conflict over the executive order, as administration officials have moved to distance themselves from the policy and even some of Trump's top advisers have made clear that they were not consulted on its implementation.

As protests erupted at airports across the globe, and as legal challenges piled up in courthouses, Yates directed agency attorneys not to defend the executive order. She said in a memo Monday she was not convinced it was lawful or consistent with the agency's obligation "to stand for what is right."

Trump's press secretary, Sean Spicer, soon followed with a statement accusing Yates of having "betrayed the Department of Justice by refusing to enforce a legal order designed to protect the citizens of the United States." Trump named longtime federal prosecutor Dana Boente, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, as Yates' replacement. Boente was sworn in privately late Monday, the White House said, and rescinded Yates's directive.

Also late Monday, the acting head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement was removed. The administration didn't offer any explanation for the move, only said via Twitter that Daniel Ragsdale is returning to his previous position as deputy director. ICE executive associate director Thomas Homan was elevated to the role of acting chief.

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly said in a statement that Homan had led efforts "to identify, arrest, detain, and remove illegal aliens." The statement didn't mention Ragsdale.

The chain of events bore echoes of the Nixon-era "Saturday Night Massacre," when the attorney general and deputy attorney general resigned rather than follow an order to fire a special prosecutor investigating

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the Watergate scandal. The prosecutor, Archibald Cox, was fired by the solicitor general.

Yates, a holdover from the Obama administration who was the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta and later became Loretta Lynch's deputy, was not alone in her misgivings.

At least three top national security officials — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly and Rex Tillerson, who is awaiting confirmation to lead the State Department — have told associates they were not aware of details of the directive until around the time Trump signed it. Leading intelligence officials were also left largely in the dark, according to U.S. officials.

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that despite White House assurances that congressional leaders were consulted, he learned about the order from the media.

A large group of career diplomats circulated several drafts of a memo arguing that the order Trump signed last week will not make the U.S. safe, saying it runs counter to American values and will fuel anti-American sentiment around the world.

Spicer challenged those opposed to the measure to resign. "They should either get with the program or they can go," he said.

Trump's order pauses America's entire refugee program for four months, indefinitely bans all those from war-ravaged Syria and temporarily freezes immigration from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. Federal judges in New York and several other states issued orders that temporarily block the government from deporting people with valid visas who arrived after Trump's travel ban took effect and found themselves in limbo.

Yates on Monday said that she had reviewed the policy and concluded that it was at odds with the Justice Department's mission. She said that though other lawyers in the department had reviewed the order, their review had not addressed whether it was "wise or just."

"I am responsible for ensuring that the positions we take in court remain consistent with this institution's solemn obligation to always seek justice and stand for what is right," Yates wrote in a letter.

Trump said the order had been "approved" by Justice Department lawyers. However, the department has said the Office of Legal Counsel review was limited to whether the order was properly drafted, but did not address broader policy questions.

The blowback underscored Trump's tenuous relationship with his own national security advisers, many of whom he met for the first time during the transition.

Mattis, who stood next to Trump during Friday's signing ceremony, is said to be particularly incensed. A senior U.S. official said Mattis, along with Joint Chiefs Chairman Joseph Dunford, was aware of the general concept of Trump's order but not the details. Tillerson has told the president's political advisers that he was baffled over not being consulted on the substance of the order.

U.S. officials and others with knowledge of the Cabinet's thinking insisted on anonymity in order to disclose the officials' private views.

Despite his public defense of the policy, the president has privately acknowledged flaws in the rollout, according to a person with knowledge of his thinking. But he's also blamed the media — his frequent target — for what he believes are reports exaggerating the dissent and the number of people actually affected.

After a chaotic weekend during which some U.S. legal permanent residents were detained at airports, some agencies were moving swiftly to try to clean up after the White House.

Homeland Security, the agency tasked with implementing much of the refugee ban, clarified that customs and border agents should allow legal residents to enter the country. The Pentagon was trying to exempt Iraqis who worked alongside the U.S. and coalition forces from the 90-day ban on entry from the predominantly Muslim countries.

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Associated Press reporters Matthew Lee, Lolita C. Baldor, Erica Werner, Jonathan Lemire and Vivian Salama contributed to this report.

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

## **Patriots owner Kraft pulls some punches, throws others**

**By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer**

HOUSTON (AP) — Robert Kraft is pulling his punches over “Deflategate.”

Well, some of them.

While the New England Patriots owner and once close confidant of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell wants to celebrate yet another trip to the Super Bowl this week, he also couldn’t back down from a challenge Monday night to address the whole mess. So Kraft took a couple of shots during the Patriots’ availability, yet also made sure not to temper the festive mood.

“Everybody wants to protect their family,” Kraft said when asked about the aftermath of the deflated footballs case from the 2014 AFC championship game that resulted in Tom Brady’s four-game suspension, a \$1 million fine for the franchise and the loss of its first-round draft pick in 2016.

“I think our family was involved, or accused of being involved, in something that was mishandled and became inappropriate. Sometimes in a complicated situation in business, people start pointing fingers, and we want to assure everyone that we are together.”

Kraft then cited a Hebrew saying from the Old Testament.

“When tough times come,” he translated, “there’s nothing bad that happens that doesn’t have good associated with it.

“In a way, that galvanized our team.”

Sure looks that way considering the Patriots (16-2) had the NFL’s best record this season, eased to the conference title with lopsided wins over Houston and Pittsburgh and are 3-point favorites for Sunday’s Super Bowl against Atlanta (13-5).

After the home victory over the Steelers, Kraft accepted the Lamar Hunt Trophy — no, Goodell was not on hand to present it — and made a not-too-veiled reference to “Deflategate.”

“For a number of reasons, all of you in this stadium understand how big this win was,” Kraft said. “And we have to go to Houston and win one more.”

He’s in Houston with his team now, and Kraft tried to stick to the business at hand, not carrying out any vendetta.

“I feel privileged to be here in the Super Bowl city,” he said. “There’s a time and a place to talk about problems. I’m going to stay focused on being here.”

Kraft is such a veteran of Super Bowls, having also been to one in 1997 with Bill Parcells as his coach, that he gets calls from other owners about how to handle the week. So it was no surprise when he revealed that Falcons boss Arthur Blank called him.

“Arthur asked me for some advice about being in (the Super Bowl),” Kraft said. “I told him, ‘Don’t let anyone ruin these two weeks for you. Focus on how lucky we are to be here.’”

Kraft must have heard the chorus of boos when his team captains were introduced onstage after Atlanta’s media session and before New England’s. The Falcons’ captains weren’t subjected to any such jeers.

It wasn’t in direct response to that moment, but Kraft did say something that reflects how his team hardly engenders the same warm feelings across America that the Cubs recently did.

“Jealousy and envy are incredible diseases,” he said. “We try to take it and turn it into something that’s positive.”

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For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## **Immigration order playing well to Trump’s fans around nation**

**By JAY REEVES, Associated Press**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — President Donald Trump’s order temporarily banning refugees and immigrants from seven mostly Muslim countries is playing well in Trump Country, those places that propelled him to the White House.

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The New York businessman and reality TV star promised to put America first during the campaign, his supporters say, and he's doing it. That includes securing the nation's borders and doing everything possible to prevent terrorists from entering the U.S.

In their view, Trump is being Trump. They add that Democrats and liberal snowflakes and soft-hearted do-gooders just need to calm down.

"He's going to do what he says and says what he does," said Barbara Van Syckel, 66, of Sterling Heights, Michigan. "That's a little frightening for some people."

Thousands have demonstrated at U.S. airports since Trump issued an order Friday blocking people from seven countries in the Middle East and Africa from entering the U.S. and suspending refugee immigration for four months. The protests included a gathering of several hundred people at the Birmingham, Alabama, airport, the largest in a Southern state Trump carried with ease.

Washington's state attorney general filed a lawsuit over the order, and a federal judge in New York issued an emergency order temporarily banning deportations of people from the seven nations. Some Republican lawmakers have questioned the order, with Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina saying they fear it will become "a self-inflicted wound in the fight against terrorism."

Yet none of that criticism matters much in Trump Country, those states and counties where Trump claimed the votes to win the Electoral College despite losing the popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Retired social service worker Judith Wilkenroh says the order shows Trump "means what he says."

"He's just unafraid. He's just going ahead like a locomotive, and I like him more and more every time he does something," said Wilkenroh, 72, of Fredrick, Maryland.

Trump supporters said they're satisfied with the immigration order and the ideas behind it, from improving national security to watching out for Americans first. Some Trump backers said they might do things a little differently than the president, but their overall reaction is positive.

"We're not the world's Social Security office. We're not here to take care of people," said Jim Buterbaugh, the head of custodial work and maintenance at a public school in the western Montana town of White Hall. "I understand that people need help, but there are other ways besides bringing them here."

Buterbaugh, who has actively fought the re-settlement of Syrians in Montana, was frustrated that Trump's moratorium did not include countries such as Saudi Arabia, where most of the Sept. 11 hijackers were from. The executive order also did not include the creation of safe zones for refugees, which he favors.

Mike Honaker has some misgivings, too. A Trump supporter in a struggling West Virginia coal town, he didn't think "blitzing everybody" with an order that spread chaos around the world was the right way to go.

But Honaker worries about terrorism and does not have a problem with Trump's plan to screen refugees more thoroughly. Overall, Honaker likes 85 percent of what the president has done so far.

"I think he's shaking it up, the whole of Washington, D.C., and half the country, like he said he would," he said.

Attorney Terri King, 56, said Trump's order has widespread support in her Rust Belt city of Middletown, Ohio.

The only people who don't support it are "those who are paid to protest on the left ... and some Democrats," said King, an also-ran in a GOP congressional race last year.

Venitta Ferguson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, said national security was a priority for her during the election, and Trump has delivered on what he promised.

"I couldn't be more pleased with what he's done," the 59-year-old Ferguson said. "We're in that kind of world where to ignore the possibility that even one person out of 10,000 has ill intentions is foolish."

Charles Lewis, a retired firefighter in Topeka, Kansas, said he voted for Trump in part because of national security issues, and he supports the president's actions.

"We need to know who these people are," said Lewis, 64. "I just don't think this nation is secure. We're a day late and a dollar short on everything."

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Associated Press writers Dave Dishneau in Hagerstown, Maryland; John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas; Adam Causey in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Claire Galofaro in Louisville, Kentucky; Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia; Dan Sewell in Cincinnati; Mike Householder in Sterling Heights, Michigan; Jacob Jordan in Atlanta; and

Alanna Durkin Richer in Richmond, Virginia, contributed to this report.

## **GOP pushing Price, Sessions, DeVos a step toward Senate OK**

**By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are muscling more of President Donald Trump's Cabinet nominees to the cusp of Senate confirmation over Democratic objections, with committees poised to advance his picks to head agencies in the thick of partisan battles over health care, legal protections, education and the economy.

Senate panels were expected Tuesday to advance Trump's picks of Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., to be health secretary; Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., to be attorney general; wealthy conservative activist Betsy DeVos to head the Education Department and Steve Mnuchin to lead Treasury. All had strong Republican support, though final confirmation votes by the full Senate weren't yet scheduled.

Republicans were trying to help Trump staff his Cabinet in the second week of an administration that has ignited fights on multiple fronts. Trump by executive action has clamped temporary bans against refugees from all countries and visitors from seven Muslim-majority nations, and he's seen relations with Mexico sour after insisting it will pay for a border wall. And he's backing the GOP's problematic efforts to dismantle President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

Trump complained Monday night about the confirmation process, tweeting: "The Democrats are delaying my cabinet picks for purely political reasons. They have nothing going but to obstruct."

Trump has nominated some of the wealthiest Americans to serve a president, leading to exhaustive ethics reviews. A Senate schedule interrupted by breaks has also delayed the process.

The Senate Finance Committee was considering Trump's nomination of Price to become health secretary. Democrats have targeted the seven-term congressional veteran for his staunch backing of that drive and past GOP plans to reshape Medicare and Medicaid, which help older and low-income people afford medical care.

Democrats have also assailed Price for buying stocks of health care firms, accusing him of using insider information and conflicts of interest for backing legislation that could help his investments. Price has denied the charges, saying his trades were largely managed by brokers and that he's followed congressional ethics rules.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., included Price in a list of Trump nominees who he said represented "the very worst of this anti-immigrant, anti-middle-class, billionaires' club Cabinet."

The Finance panel was also expected to approve Mnuchin to become treasury secretary. Democrats have accused Mnuchin, a wealthy former investment banker, of failing to protect homeowners from foreclosures and criticized him for not initially disclosing almost \$100 million in assets.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., was on track to win Senate Judiciary Committee approval to become attorney general. That vote was coming with Democrats and demonstrators around the country in an uproar over Trump's executive order blocking refugees. Even some Republicans were warning it could hinder anti-terrorism efforts.

Democrats have questioned Sessions' devotion to enforcing civil rights laws. Sessions also could manage any federal investigation into Trump's widely discredited charge that millions of people voted illegally last November.

DeVos, a wealthy GOP donor, has long supported charter schools and allowing school choice. That's prompted opposition from Democrats and teachers' unions, which view her stance as a threat to federal dollars that support public education.

Rights activists fear DeVos' conservative religious beliefs make her a poor advocate for LGBT students and other minorities. Critics have mocked her for suggesting that guns could be justified in schools to protect students from grizzly bears.

Health committee Chairman Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., called her an "excellent" choice.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee was expected to affirm the nominations of former

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Texas Gov. Rick Perry to become energy secretary and Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont., to head the Interior Department.

The full Senate was on track to easily confirm Elaine Chao to become transportation secretary in a mid-day vote.

Chao was labor secretary under President George W. Bush, and is wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. She would be a lead actor in pursuing Trump's promise to invest \$1 trillion to improve highways, rail service and other infrastructure projects.

On Monday evening, the Senate cleared the way for a final vote on Rex Tillerson, Trump's nominee to be secretary of state. Democrats wanted Tillerson to answer questions about Trump's ban against entry for people from seven majority Muslim countries, but lost a bid to delay his nomination.

Democrats were opposing Tillerson's selection even before Trump issued his immigration orders over the weekend, citing his close ties with Russia as CEO of Exxon Mobil. Democrats want him to retain sanctions imposed by Obama because of Russia's seizure of Ukrainian territory and U.S. intelligence agencies' conclusion that Moscow meddled in last November's U.S. elections to help Trump.

AP reporters Maria Danilova, Mary Clare Jalonick and Martin Crutsinger contributed to this report.

## US military botches online fight against Islamic State

By **DESMOND BUTLER** and **RICHARD LARDNER**, Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — On any given day at MacDill Air Force Base, web crawlers scour social media for potential recruits to the Islamic State group. Then, in a high-stakes operation to counter the extremists' propaganda, language specialists employ fictitious identities and try to sway the targets from joining IS ranks.

At least that's how the multimillion-dollar initiative is being sold to the Defense Department.

A critical national security program known as "WebOps" is part of a vast psychological operation that the Pentagon says is effectively countering an enemy that has used the internet as a devastating tool of propaganda. But an Associated Press investigation found the management behind WebOps is so beset with incompetence, cronyism and flawed data that multiple people with direct knowledge of the program say it's having little impact.

Several current and former WebOps employees cited multiple examples of civilian Arabic specialists who have little experience in counter-propaganda, cannot speak Arabic fluently and have so little understanding of Islam they are no match for the Islamic State online recruiters.

It's hard to establish rapport with a potential terror recruit when — as one former worker told the AP — translators repeatedly mix up the Arabic words for "salad" and "authority." That's led to open ridicule on social media about references to the "Palestinian salad."

Four current or former workers told the AP that they had personally witnessed WebOps data being manipulated to create the appearance of success and that they had discussed the problem with many other employees who had seen the same. Yet the companies carrying out the program for the military's Central Command in Tampa have dodged attempts to implement independent oversight and assessment of the data.

Central Command spokesman Andy Stephens declined repeated requests for information about WebOps and other counter-propaganda programs, which were launched under the Obama Administration. And he did not respond to detailed questions the AP sent on Jan. 10.

The AP investigation is based on Defense Department and contractor documents, emails, photographs and interviews with more than a dozen people closely involved with WebOps as well as interviews with nearly two dozen contractors. The WebOps workers requested anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the work and because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

The information operations division that runs WebOps is the command's epicenter for firing back at the

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Islamic State's online propaganda machine, using the internet to sway public opinion in a swath of the globe that stretches from Central Asia to the Horn of Africa.

Early last year, the government opened the bidding on a new counter-propaganda contract — separate from WebOps— that is worth as much as \$500 million. Months after the AP started reporting about the bidding process, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service told the AP that it had launched an investigation. NCIS spokesman Ed Buice said the service is investigating a whistleblower's "allegations of corruption" stemming from how the contract was awarded.

The whistleblower's complaint alleges multiple conflicts of interest that include division officers being treated to lavish dinners paid for by a contractor. The complaint also alleges routine drinking at the office where classified work is conducted. The drinking was confirmed by multiple contractors, who spoke to AP and described a frat house atmosphere where happy hour started at 3 p.m.

One of the most damning accusations leveled by the whistleblower is against Army Col. Victor Garcia, who led the information operations division until July 2016, when he moved to a new assignment at Special Operations Command, also in Tampa. The whistleblower contended that Garcia successfully steered the contract to a team of vendors that included a close friend's firm. The whistleblower requested anonymity for fear of professional retribution.

The AP obtained a screen-grab from a Facebook page that shows Garcia and the friend at a tiki bar in Key Largo two weeks before the winning team was officially announced Sept. 30. The photo was also turned over to NCIS investigators by the whistleblower, who said the photo created a "clear impression and perception of impropriety."

Garcia, a West Point graduate and decorated officer, denied any wrongdoing and described the complaint as "character assassination." Garcia, who moved to his new post two months before the contract was decided, said he scrupulously avoided any discussions about the contract with both his friend and his former deputy. His former deputy served on the five-member panel that reviewed all of the bids.

"Because I was aware of these conflicts of interest, I intentionally kept myself out of that process — with any of these contract processes," Garcia said.

The whistleblower is a senior manager at a company that lost its bid for the work. He told AP that he was investigated for attempting to accept kickbacks on an unrelated government contract. He denied the allegations, which were made four years ago, and no charges have been filed in the case.

The problems with the WebOps operation and the personal bonds underpinning the new contract illustrate challenges awaiting President Donald Trump. He has promised to boost military spending by tens of billions of dollars while also cutting waste at the Defense Department and ensuring that contractors aren't getting sweetheart deals.

Charles Tiefer, a professor at the University of Baltimore's law school and a government contracting expert, reviewed AP's findings and called Central Command's lack of rigorous oversight inexcusable.

"These people should not be wasting the money consigned to defend us against terrorism," said Tiefer, who served on a bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting. The commission reported in 2011 that at least \$31 billion was lost to waste and fraud in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## DO YOU SPEAK ARABIC?"

In a large office room filled with cubicles at Central Command, about 120 people, many of them Arabic language specialists, are assigned to fight IS militants on their own turf: the internet.

The WebOps contract is run by Colsa Corp., based in Huntsville, Alabama. A major challenge for Colsa — and contractors working on other national security programs— is finding people who can speak Arabic fluently and can also get security clearances to handle classified material.

The problem, according to six current and former Colsa employees, is that to engage with operatives of the Islamic State, or their potential recruits, you need to be fluent in language, nuance and Islam — and while Colsa has some Arabic experts, those skills are not widely distributed.

"One of the things about jihadis: they are very good in Arabic," said one specialist who worked on WebOps.

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Another former employee said common translation mistakes he personally witnessed, including the "Palestinian salad" example, were the result of the company hiring young people who were faking language abilities.

He mockingly described the conversations between managers and potential hires: "Do you speak Arabic?" he mimicked. "Yes. How do you say 'good morning?' Oh, you can do that? You are an expert. You are hired."

A third specialist said she asked a colleague, who was assigned to analyze material written in Arabic, why he was discarding much of it. While watching a soap opera online, the colleague said the material was irrelevant because it was in Farsi or Urdu. But when she checked, it was indeed Arabic. She has since left WebOps to find more meaningful work, she said.

The WebOps Arabic program focuses on Syria, Iraq and Yemen, but for most of the time Colsa has been running it, it has had no Syrian or Yemeni staff, the AP was told in separate interviews with two current employees and one who left recently.

Engaging in theological discussions on social media with people who are well versed in the Quran is not for beginners. Iraq and Syria are riven with sectarian violence between Shiite and Sunni Muslims, who follow different interpretations of Islam. Multiple workers said that WebOps "experts" often trip up on language that is specific to one sect or region.

"People can tell whether you are local, or whether you are Sunni or Shia," said another former worker, so poorly crafted messages are not effective. He said he left WebOps because he was disgusted with the work.

A number of the workers complained to AP that a large group on staff from Morocco, in North Africa, were often ignorant of Middle Eastern history and culture — or even the difference between groups the U.S. considers terrorist organizations. The group was so dominant that colleagues jokingly referred to them as "the Moroccan mafia."

A lot of them "don't know the difference between Hezbollah and Hamas," said the employee who left to find more meaningful work. Hezbollah is an Iran-backed Shiite group based in Lebanon. Hamas, based in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, is the Palestinian branch of the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood.

Cathy Dickens, a vice president for business management and corporate ethics at Colsa Corp., referred questions to CENTCOM, which declined comment.

## "YOU SHOULDN'T GRADE YOUR OWN HOMEWORK"

To determine whether WebOps actually dissuades people from becoming radicalized, Colsa's scoring team analyzes the interactions employees have online and tries to measure whether the subjects' comments reflect militant views or a more tolerant outlook.

Three former members of its scoring team told the AP they were encouraged by a manager to indicate progress against radicalism in their scoring reports even if they were not making any.

The employee who said she left to find meaningful work recalled approaching a Colsa manager to clarify how the scoring was done shortly after starting her job. She said he told her that the bottom line was "the bread we put on the table for our children."

The boss told her that the scoring reports should show progress, but not too much, so that the metrics would still indicate a dangerous level of militancy online to justify continued funding for WebOps, she said.

She was shocked. "Until my dying day, I will never forget that moment," she said.

She, like other former employees, spoke only on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from Colsa that could affect future employment.

The manager she spoke to declined to comment. AP withheld his name because of security concerns.

Employees and managers routinely inflate counts of interactions with potential terrorist recruits, known as "engagements," according to multiple workers. Engagements are delivered in tweets or comments posted on social media to lists of people and can also be automated. That automation is at times used to inflate the actual number of engagements, said two former workers, including the one who talked about colleagues faking their language abilities.

The worker who left in disgust explained that a single tweet could be programmed to be sent out to



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all the followers of a target individually, multiple times. So the targets and their followers get the same tweets tagged to them over and over again.

"You send it like a blind copy. You program it to send a tweet every five minutes to the whole list individually from now until tomorrow," the former employee said. "Then you see the reports and it says yesterday we sent 5,000 engagements. Often that means one tweet on Twitter." The person said that he saw managers printing out the skewed reports for weekly briefings with CENTCOM officers. But the volume made it look like the WebOps team's work was "wow, amazing," he said.

Garcia said Colsa has done a good job under his watch, that the data is sufficiently scrutinized and the program is succeeding.

In 2014, a group of more than 40 Defense Department data specialists came to Tampa to evaluate the program. Their unclassified report, obtained by AP, identified what one of the authors called "serious design flaws." For instance, the report found that any two analysts were only 69 percent likely to agree on how to score a particular engagement. The author said a rate of 90 percent or higher is required to draw useful conclusions.

The report found that computers would be as accurate or better than analysts, and could evaluate effectiveness more quickly — and cheaply.

What Central Command really needed, the report said, was outside oversight.

"You shouldn't grade your own homework," said the author, a former U.S. military officer and data specialist once stationed at Central Command. The author, one of many people who signed off on the report, spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of professional retribution.

He said the report was given to officers, including Garcia, and to Colsa. The author said the suggestions were not implemented and WebOps managers resisted multiple attempts at oversight. The author said that when he directly appealed to Garcia for outside assessment, an officer under Garcia said the effort would cloud the mission.

"The argument was that WebOps was the only program at Central Command that was directly engaging the enemy and that it couldn't function if its staff was constantly distracted by assessment," he said. The argument worked, he said, and Colsa was not forced or instructed to accept outside oversight.

Garcia disputed that account but would not elaborate on what steps were taken to address the Defense Department data specialists' concerns. The Government Accountability Office issued a report in 2015 on WebOps oversight, but it is classified.

## "UNTOUCHABLE"

Despite the problems behind the scenes at WebOps, Central Command will play a key role in the new \$500 million psychological operations campaign against the Islamic State and other groups. The five-year contract was a hefty commitment to "degrade and ultimately defeat extremist organizations," according to a document detailing the scope of the work. It would run parallel to WebOps.

The request for bids was announced in April. Four separate teams of companies competed for the contract, including one led by defense giant Northrop Grumman.

From the start, competitors complained among themselves that Simon Bergman, an executive with the British advertising firm M&C Saatchi, had an advantage because he was friends with Garcia. Bergman was working with Northrop to prepare the bid.

A former British officer, Bergman was deployed to Iraq while Garcia was there working on psychological operations during the Iraq war. It was well known that the two men were close, and in recent years, contractors often saw Bergman at CENTCOM offices.

In April, defense contractor CACI International held a meeting in Tampa to discuss the bid. Three contractors on the team said a CACI manager warned a roomful of people that Garcia had already told him that he would decide who got the contract. The manager said that Garcia indicated that having Bergman on the team would help.

So in mid-September, when a photo appeared on Facebook showing Garcia and Bergman together in

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the Florida Keys, it did not look good in the eyes of many contractors. Garcia's girlfriend captured the old friends inside the Tiki Bar at Gilbert's Resort in Key Largo. They were on her Facebook page, shoulder-to-shoulder, smiling and giving the thumbs up.

Within days, the photos had been taken down from her page.

Two weeks later, the government announced Northrop had won the contract. Its team included M&C Saatchi, Bergman's firm.

A panel led by the U.S. General Services Administration chose the winner of the contract. Chris Hamm, a senior GSA acquisition executive, said a five-member team scrutinized the technical merits of the proposals for the contract. That team was led by two GSA officials and included three military officers — one of whom was Marine Corps Lt. Col. Matt Coughlin, who reported directly to Garcia before Garcia left his post. Coughlin is the information operations' liaison with contractors.

In an interview with AP, Hamm said the contract award was handled properly.

"The process is designed to avoid bias," Hamm said.

But several other contractors on losing teams said Coughlin would clearly have been the person on the panel with the most sway, because of both his technical expertise and the fact that he represented CENTCOM. And given Coughlin's ties with Garcia, they found that troubling.

Garcia said that while the bids were being considered, he stayed away from any discussions of it with Coughlin, his deputy. So he didn't even realize the award announcement was imminent when he went with Bergman to the Keys.

"I wasn't involved with the contracting process at all," Garcia said. "So I had no idea what the timing of the contract was."

When asked why the photo with Bergman was taken off Facebook, Garcia declined to comment.

Bergman said that his friendship with Garcia, one of many he has with military officers, is irrelevant. He noted that M&C Saatchi was only a subcontractor.

"I don't see why my relationship with somebody in the military would have any influence over anything," he said.

The whistleblower complaint however, filed in December with Central Command's inspector general, contended the photo of Garcia and Bergman created a "clear impression and perception of impropriety."

The four-page complaint, now under investigation by NCIS, said the atmosphere at the CENTCOM division, with routine drinking at the office and myriad conflicts of interest, led to an "air of untouchable invincibility."

Several contractors who spoke to AP, among the nearly two dozen either bidding for work or involved in CENTCOM information operations, said they suspected undue influence in the decision for the \$500 million contract. In his complaint, the whistleblower alleges that Garcia told him directly at one point that "any team must include Simon Bergman."

All the contractors asked for anonymity to discuss sensitive work because they feared repercussions for their companies.

Colsa, the primary WebOps contractor, was not involved in Northrop's bid. However, nothing prevents Northrop from bringing the company in as a subcontractor.

That's the plan, said several contractors who have been briefed by Northrop. Such a move would provide ample funding to keep WebOps running for up to five more years.

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Associated Press researchers Jennifer Farrar, Rhonda Shafner and Monika Mathur contributed to this report.

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Have a tip on government contracting? Contact the authors securely at <https://securedrop>

## Democratic state attorneys general begin Trump pushback

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington became the first state to sue the Trump administration with a filing Monday over the president's executive order restricting refugees and immigration. It likely will not be standing alone for long.

Since Donald Trump was elected president, Democratic state attorneys general have been forming a coordinated wall of legal resistance over immigration, environmental protections, health care and other major issues.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman told The Associated Press that lawyers, including attorneys general, are having an "awakening" regarding the Trump administration.

"This is a president who does not have respect for the rule of the law," he said. "That's something that bothers a lot of people."

Schneiderman has given model legislation to local governments in New York showing them how to become sanctuary cities that would refuse to cooperate with federal authorities on some immigration enforcement matters.

Their plan for legal pushback has precedent: Several Republican attorneys general made it a practice to routinely file lawsuits against the policies of former President Barack Obama.

The American Civil Liberties Union and other groups are taking up similar fights on behalf of individuals. But attorneys general — the chief lawyers for state governments — can sue more broadly on behalf of their states. Most are elected and thus can act independently of their state legislatures or governors.

"It's my responsibility as attorney general to defend the rule of law, to uphold the Constitution on behalf of the people of this state. And that's what we're doing," Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson said when announcing his lawsuit against Trump's executive order.

He said other states could join the lawsuit, which asks a judge to throw out key provisions of the order Trump issued Friday. It temporarily closes the U.S. to all refugees and all people from seven majority-Muslim countries and bars Syrian refugees indefinitely.

The administration says such action is needed to protect the country from terrorist attacks. Since it was issued, the White House has said people from the banned countries who have permission to work in the U.S. can enter.

On Sunday, 17 Democratic attorneys general signed a letter vowing to "use all of the tools of our offices to fight this unconstitutional order." Most of the signatories were from states controlled by Democrats and that Hillary Clinton won in November. But also signing were the Democratic attorneys general from Iowa and Pennsylvania, which voted for Trump, and Maine, where the electoral vote was split.

Attorneys general have taken smaller actions since Trump was elected, both on their own and in concert.

For example, some wrote Trump calling for him to keep former President Barack Obama's clean power plan in place and to oppose weakening a federal agency in charge of consumer financial protection. Some banded together to urge the U.S. Senate to reject former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions to lead the U.S. Department of Justice.

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey has hosted town hall meetings to speak with residents about how to deal with a Trump presidency.

"I don't wish for or want opportunities to either sue the Trump administration, sue a federal agency or to have to act in a way to protect people because of something the federal government has done," she told The Associated Press. "But we have to be prepared to do that."

Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen said he has spoken with advocacy groups about legal strategies. Among them is Planned Parenthood, which is preparing to react if Trump and the GOP-led Congress defund the organization.

One of the first steps T.J. Donovan took when he became attorney general in Vermont this month was forming a task force to advise him on immigration policies.

State attorneys general have a history of banding together. Most notably, a series of lawsuits from them

led to the 1998 tobacco industry settlement under which cigarette makers agreed to pay states more than \$200 billion over 25 years.

Republican attorneys general sued President Obama over his health insurance overhaul minutes after he signed it and over his rules to limit power plant emissions even before the details were final. In both cases, courts sided with them, at least in part. After Trump won the White House in November, taking on the president became part of the job description for their Democratic counterparts.

State attorneys general have become more active since the administration of former President George W. Bush, especially when it comes to federal laws and policies, said a scholar who studies the office.

"It's become such an established part of what AG's do on the national level," said Paul Nolette, an assistant professor of political science at Marquette University. "It's become much more AG's going on the offensive."

Mulvihill reported from Haddonfield, New Jersey. Associated Press writer David B. Caruso in New York contributed to this article.

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## Mosque shooting suspect in Canada known for far-right views

By TRACEY LINDEMAN and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

QUEBEC CITY (AP) — The French Canadian university student charged with killing six Muslim men during evening prayers at a mosque was known for far-right, nationalist views and his support of the French rightist party led by Marine Le Pen.

Alexandre Bissonnette was charged Monday with six counts of first-degree murder and five counts of attempted murder over the shooting rampage at a Quebec City mosque that Canada's prime minister called an act of terrorism against Muslims.

Bissonnette made a brief court appearance and did not enter a plea in the attack staged during evening prayers Sunday. Wearing a white prisoner jump suit, his hands and feet shackled, he stared down at the floor and fidgeted, but did not speak.

The 27-year-old suspect, who has espoused support for Le Pen and U.S. President Donald Trump on his Facebook page, was known to those who monitor extremist groups in Quebec, said François Deschamps, an official with a refugee advocacy group.

"It's with pain and anger that we learn the identity of terrorist Alexandre Bissonnette, unfortunately known to many activists in Quebec for taking nationalist, pro-Le Pen and anti-feminist positions at Laval University and on social media," Deschamps wrote on the Facebook page of the group, *Bienvenues aux Réfugiés*, or *Welcome to Refugees*.

An anthropology and political science major at Laval University in Quebec City, Bissonnette had also expressed support on his Facebook profile for "Génération Nationale," a group whose manifesto includes the rejection of "multiculturalism."

Authorities said Bissonnette was unknown to police.

The grandson of a decorated World War II veteran, Bissonnette appears in a Facebook photo as a boy dressed as an army cadet, a military leadership program for Canadian youths. But cadets are not members of the Canadian Armed Forces and do not receive military training.

For Le Pen and her supporters, "massive migration," notably from Muslim North Africa, is supplanting French civilization and is at the root of many France's modern woes. "On est chez nous" ("We're in our land") is a mantra at the rallies of her party, the National Front. Her views have won the endorsement from white supremacists.

More than 50 people were at the Quebec Islamic Cultural Centre when the shooting began, and witnesses described a scene of chaos as worshippers scrambled to find friends and loved ones. In addition

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to the six dead, 19 people were wounded — all men. Of the five victims who remained hospitalized, two were in critical condition, authorities said. The dead ranged in age from 39 to 60.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard both characterized the attack as a terrorist act, which came amid strong criticism around the world over Trump's temporary travel ban for people from seven Muslim countries.

Canada is generally welcoming toward immigrants and all religions, but the French-speaking province of Quebec has had a long-simmering debate about race and religious accommodation. The previous separatist government of the province called for a ban on ostentatious religious symbols, such as the hijab, in public institutions.

Trudeau said in Parliament that the victims were targeted simply because of their religion. Speaking directly to the more than 1 million Muslims who live in Canada, he said, "We are with you."

"Thirty-six million hearts are breaking with yours," Trudeau said.

The prime minister later attended a vigil along with thousands of people bundled in winter clothes in front of Notre-Dame-de-Foy Church, just around the corner from the mosque that was attacked. It was one of many vigils in Canada, and the Eiffel Tower in Paris was darkened in respect to the victims as was the CN Tower in Toronto.

The suspect was arrested in his car on a bridge near d'Orleans, after he called 911 to say he wanted to cooperate with police. Authorities, who initially named two suspects, said the other man taken into custody was a witness to the attack and was released. Officials said they did not believe there were others involved but were investigating.

Police did not give a motive for the attack.

Trump called Trudeau to express condolences to the Canadian people and to offer any assistance that might be needed.

The White House pointed to the attack as an example of why Trump's policies are needed. "We condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms. It's a terrible reminder of why we must remain vigilant and why the president is taking steps to be pro-active, rather than reactive when it comes to our nation's safety and security," White House spokesman Sean Spicer said.

The victims were businessmen, a university professor and others who had gathered for evening prayers, said Mohamed Labidi, vice president of the mosque.

"It's a very, very big tragedy for us," Labidi said tearfully. "We have a sadness we cannot express."

He said the victims were shot in the back.

"Security at our mosque was our major, major concern," he said. "But we were caught off guard."

Asked if he blamed recent rhetoric in the U.S. for the attack, the Quebec premier said he would "not go there"

"Quebec is a good, generally loving society, but we have these devils as other societies have. We have to recognize that and fight them," Couillard said at a news conference at which he and Muslim leaders held hands in a display of solidarity.

The mosque has been a target of hate crimes in the past, including last summer when a pig's head was left on its doorstep during Ramadan, when Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. Practicing Muslims do not eat pork.

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Associated Press writer Tracey Lindeman reported this story in Quebec City and AP writer Rob Gillies reported from Toronto. AP writer Sean Farrell in Montreal contributed to this report.

## Veterans protest travel ban, saying it hurts interpreters

By JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — U.S. combat veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan say they are outraged at the temporary ban on immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries that has blocked visas for Iraqi interpreters who risked their lives to help American troops on the battlefield.

Thousands of veterans have signed petitions. One soldier says he has bought a plane ticket for his Afghan translator in case that country is added to the list of banned nations.

Many veterans say they feel betrayed by the executive order signed by President Donald Trump on Friday that also suspends the admission of all refugees to the U.S. for 120 days and all Syrian refugees indefinitely.

They say the fight feels personal because they gave their word to people who aided American troops that the United States would protect them and their families.

"This administration just made me a liar in a very significant way, and I'm not willing to accept this," said Iraq and Afghanistan combat veteran Michael Breen, president and CEO of the Truman National Security Project, a Washington-based nonprofit think tank.

The Pentagon is compiling the names of Iraqis who have supported U.S. and coalition personnel to help exempt them from the 90-day immigration ban.

The list will include those who have tangibly demonstrated their commitment to supporting U.S. forces, Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said. It will contain several categories of people, such as translators, drivers and Iraqi forces who may be training in the U.S.

California Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter, a combat Marine veteran who endorsed Trump's presidential campaign, sent the president a bipartisan letter signed by other lawmakers who served in the military, expressing support for the exemption list.

"Doing so would send a strong signal to those who show such immense courage to advance U.S. security interests at a risk to their own safety, as well as the many veterans and warfighters who've relied on the service of these individuals for their own protection and to accomplish their objectives," the letter states.

His spokesman, Joe Kasper, said Hunter supports the intent of the travel ban but questions how it was executed.

Veterans who have been aiding translators say it would be difficult to get everyone on the list.

What's more, they say the ban sends a message to Iraqi soldiers and other Muslims fighting insurgents that the United States does not want them.

"Not only is this executive order a death sentence for Iraqis and Afghans who have served faithfully alongside U.S. troops, but it feels like a death sentence for our service members who are in the Middle East," said former Army Capt. Matt Zeller, who runs the nonprofit No One Left Behind, an organization working to get interpreters from Iraq and Afghanistan to the United States.

"I'm only alive because my Afghan Muslim translator saved my life by killing two Taliban fighters who were about to kill me in battle," he said.

Zeller said that's why he grabbed the American flag that flew over his base in Afghanistan and waved it outside the White House this weekend, joining thousands of protesters who demanded an immediate end to the travel ban.

Afghanistan is not among the seven countries on the ban list, but suspension of the refugee program is affecting Afghan translators who have been given special immigrant visas for helping U.S. troops.

Zeller said two Afghan translators have had their flights cancelled since Friday's order. The interpreters waited for years to get the visas, going through a lengthy vetting process, he said.

Army Capt. Matthew Ball said his interpreter, Qismat Amin, who has been living in hiding after getting threats from Taliban and Islamic state fighters, got his visa Sunday, after nearly four years of interviews. Ball bought him a \$1,000 plane ticket to San Francisco and plans to meet him at the airport with an attorney.

"The ban is terrible. It's terrible for what it says about our country. It's terrible for what it says to our allies who we fight with overseas. It's terrible for what it does to real people, struggling to flee terrorism in their home countries, who now have nowhere to go," said Ball, who now serves in the Reserves.

Amin, who talked to The Associated Press by phone, said he had mixed feelings.

"I feel kind of hesitant to be honest," he said. "I'm hopeful it's going to be OK. I've never been out of my country, so I don't know the rules, and I've been watching the news. I'm a Muslim, and there are different stories saying the United States is banning Muslims, banning immigrants. I'm immigrant plus I'm Muslim, so I don't know."

"I'm very excited at the moment right now and kind of terrified," he said.

## Washington is 1st state to sue Trump over immigration order

By MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington state's attorney general declared Monday that he was suing President Donald Trump over his temporary ban on immigration from seven countries with majority-Muslim populations, making it the first state to announce a legal action against the Trump administration over one of its policies.

Trump's executive order also suspended the United States' entire refugee program and set off nationwide protests over the weekend, including one that drew 3,000 people to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

"If successful it would have the effect of invalidating the president's unlawful action nationwide," Attorney General Bob Ferguson said at a news conference.

Ferguson was one of 16 state attorneys general who released a statement Sunday calling Trump's immigration action "un-American and unlawful."

Trump has repeatedly said Friday's order suspending immigration for citizens of the seven countries for 90 days is aimed at protecting the nation against extremists looking to attack Americans and U.S. interests.

The lawsuit against Trump, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and high-ranking Trump administration officials was filed in federal court in Seattle.

The complaint seeks to have key provisions of the executive order declared unconstitutional, Ferguson said. The state is also asking for a temporary restraining order against enforcement of the order.

"We are a country based on the rule of law, and in a courtroom it is not the loudest voice that prevails, it's the Constitution," Ferguson said. "At the end of the day, either you're abiding by the Constitution or you are not. And in our view, the president is not adhering to the Constitution when it comes to this executive action."

Declarations of support from Amazon and Expedia — two Washington state-based businesses — will be filed with the lawsuit, said Ferguson, who was joined at the news conference by Gov. Jay Inslee.

Microsoft, based in Redmond, Washington, also supports Ferguson's efforts, said Dominic Carr, general manager for public affairs. The company will be happy to testify more if needed, Carr said.

The complaint claims that Trump's actions are separating Washington families, harming thousands of state residents, damaging the state economy, hurting Washington-based companies "and undermining Washington's sovereign interest in remaining a welcoming place for immigrants and refugees," Ferguson said.

Inslee said the "inhumanity" of Trump's order is obvious.

"This is un-American, it is wrong, and it will not stand," Inslee said. "The clear intent of this executive order is to discriminate against one faith amongst all God's children."

Asked if he fears retaliation from the Trump administration, Inslee said "there's no predicting this president, but we will not yield, we will not be leveraged, we will not be threatened, we will not be intimidated."

Inslee said he learned the hard way over the years "you do not back down to bullies."

Ferguson said he has been in contact with other attorneys general but at this point Washington state was acting on its own regarding the legal action.

The Port of Seattle said over the weekend that people who were detained at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport as a result of Trump's order have been released.

U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal said Sunday that two individuals were released. One is a citizen of Sudan and the other a citizen of Yemen, both countries named in Trump's order.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2017. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1917, during World War I, Germany served notice that it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

On this date:

In 1606, Guy Fawkes, convicted of treason for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot" against the English Parliament and King James I, was executed.

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna.

In 1865, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery, sending it to states for ratification. (The amendment was adopted in Dec. 1865.) Gen. Robert E. Lee was named general-in-chief of the Confederate States Army by President Jefferson Davis.

In 1929, revolutionary Leon Trotsky and his family were expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Gold Reserve Act.

In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite into orbit, Explorer I.

In 1961, NASA launched Ham the Chimp aboard a Mercury-Redstone rocket from Cape Canaveral; Ham was recovered safely from the Atlantic Ocean following his 16 1/2-minute suborbital flight.

In 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

In 1980, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands announced she would abdicate on her birthday the following April, to be succeeded by her daughter, Princess Beatrix (BAY'-uh-triks).

In 1990, McDonald's Corp. opened its first fast-food restaurant in Moscow.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines MD-83 jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Port Hueneme (wy-NEE'-mee), California, killing all 88 people aboard.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, visiting Wall Street, delivered his "State of the Economy" speech in which he took aim at lavish salaries and bonuses for corporate executives, saying their pay should be tied to how much they helped their companies' shareholders. Delaware Sen. Joe Biden formally launched his second bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. Some three dozen blinking electronic devices planted around Boston threw a scare into the city in what turned out to be a marketing campaign for the Cartoon Network TV show "Aqua Teen Hunger Force." Best-selling author and columnist Molly Ivins died in Austin, Texas, at age 62.

Five years ago: Republican Mitt Romney routed Newt Gingrich in the Florida primary, rebounding from an earlier defeat. The breast-cancer charity Susan G. Komen for the Cure set off a furor by deciding to halt its partnerships with Planned Parenthood affiliates (Komen reversed itself three days later). Retired Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua (beh-vih-LAH'-kwuh), who led the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia for more than 15 years, died at age 88.

One year ago: A triple bombing killed at least 45 people in a predominantly Shiite Muslim suburb south of the Syrian capital. Israel's Cabinet voted to allow non-Orthodox Jewish prayer at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, marking a historic show of support for liberal streams of Judaism. Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) maintained his perfect streak in six Australian Open finals with a 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory over Andy Murray. Team Irvin won a 49-27 victory over Team Rice in the NFL Pro Bowl. "Grease Live" aired on Fox television.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Carol Channing is 96. Composer Philip Glass is 80. Former Interior Secre-



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tary James Watt is 79. Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, the former queen regent, is 79. Actor Stuart Margolin is 77. Actress Jessica Walter is 76. Former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., is 76. Blues singer-musician Charlie Musselwhite is 73. Actor Glynn Turman is 71. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Nolan Ryan is 70. Actor Jonathan Banks is 70. Singer-musician Harry Wayne Casey (KC and the Sunshine Band) is 66. Rock singer Johnny Rotten is 61. Actress Kelly Lynch is 58. Actor Anthony LaPaglia is 58. Singer-musician Lloyd Cole is 56. Actress Paulette Braxton is 52. Rock musician Al Jaworski (Jesus Jones) is 51. Actress Minnie Driver is 47. Actress Portia de Rossi is 44. Actor-comedian Bobby Moynihan is 40. Actress Kerry Washington is 40. Bluegrass singer-musician Becky Buller is 38. Singer Justin Timberlake is 36. Actor Tyler Ritter is 32. Country singer Tyler Hubbard (Florida Georgia Line) is 30. Folk-rock singer-musician Marcus Mumford (Mumford and Sons) is 30. Actor Joel Courtney is 21.

Thought for Today: "Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have." — Rabbi Hyman Judah Schachtel, American theologian, author and educator (1907-1990).