

# 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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## Saturday, Feb. 4

CFC Debate  
Robotics at Mitchell Technical Institute  
10 a.m.: Wrestling at Stanley County  
Double Header Basketball with Warner in Groton (Girls JV game at 2 p.m., boys JV at 3 p.m., girls varsity at 4:30 p.m., boys varsity at 6 p.m.)

## Sunday, Jan. 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Monday, Feb. 6

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

**JHBBB:** Hosts Clark-Willow Lake. 7th grade at 6 p.m., 8th grade at 7 p.m.

**City Council:** Meeting at 7 p.m. at Groton Community Center

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

**School Menu:** Chicken Sandwich, sweet potato tots, fruit, carrots and dip.

**Senior Menu:** Tater tot hot dish, green beans, orange half, sugar cookie, whole wheat bread.

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"

**NOW OPEN**

**Flarrs**  
Auto Body ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South  
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

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## Groton Area 55, Tiospa Zina 52

	2-pt	3-pt	FT	Pts	Rbs	Steals	Assists	TO	Fouls
<b>Audrey Wanner</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>10-16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Katie Koehler</b>	<b>3-6</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Jessica Bjerke</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Harleigh Stange</b>	<b>4-10</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Jennie Doeden</b>	<b>3-3</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Taylor Holm</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Alex Stange</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Miranda Hanson</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18-40</b>	<b>2-8</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>

### Lady Tigers win fourth straight game

Tiospa Zina was without their star and leading scoring player on Friday due to an injury in the Sisseton game, but the Wambdi still challenged the Lady Tigers to the bitter end as Groton Area hung on to win, 55-52. The win was Groton Area's fourth straight win. The Lady Tigers will host Warner today at 4:30 p.m.

The Tiospa Zina game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Harry Implement of Ferney, Hefty Seed with Justin Hanson and Kalen Kjellsen, McKiver Collision of Groton, Ken's Food Fair of Groton, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgensen and Groton Ford.

The game was tied three times and there was one lead change in the first quarter as the Wambdi took a 19-13 lead at the break. Tiospa Zina led at halftime, 29-23, and Groton Area made the last shot of the third quarter to take a 37-36 lead into the fourth quarter. Early in the fourth quarter, the lead changed hands four times and the game was tied at 41 before Groton Area took a 50-41 lead. The Wambdi came flying back towards the end of the game, making it a 51-49 game with 24 seconds left, and sliced the lead to one, 53-52. Audrey Wanner made critical free throws at the end to help secure the win for the Tigers.

Audrey Wanner led the Tigers with 23 points followed by Jennie Doeden with eight, Katie Koehler and Jennie Doeden each had six, Jessica Bjerke and Miranda Hanson each had five and Taylor Holm added two points.

The Wambdi were led by Kiana Bearsheart with 16 points followed by Jordy LeBlanc with 14, Aubree Bearsheart had 10, Lexus Redthunder six, Jaisey Shepherded four and Kylee Deutsch two.

Groton Area made 35 percent of its field goals and Tiospa Zina made 47 percent. The Tigers were 13 of 22 from the line and the Wambdi were seven of 14 from the line.

Taylor Holm had seven of Groton's 34 rebounds, Wanner and Harleigh Stange each had five of Groton's 17 steals, Harleigh Stange had five of Groton's 12 assists and Groton Area had 15 turnovers and the Wambdi had 19 turnovers.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 35-26. Scoring for Groton Area: Kaycie Hawkins 10, Miranda Hanson 7, Sam Menzia 4, Eliza Wanner 4, Taylor Holm 3, Portia Ketterling 3, Nicole Marzahn 2 and Caitlyn Barse 2.

Scoring for Tiospa Zina: Gerrilyn Felicia 12, Kylee Deutsch 12 and Lily Smith 2.

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## GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

February 6, 2017 - 7pm  
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Bills
- 4) 7:15pm Brett Wienk – National Guard Service to Communities
- 5) Baseball Report - Blackmun
- 6) Department Reports – Herron, Lambertz, Zerr, Mayou
- 7) Summer Employees Needed
- 8) Fund Reports
- 9) FEMA Resolutions
- 10) P&Z recommends Ordinance # 709 -Changing Olive Grove Golf Course from Ag Fringe to Commercial
- 11) SDML District Meeting – Bowdle – Mar 28
- 12) Exe Session – Legal or Personnel 1-25-2 (1) or (3)

## Kiwanis Potato Bar Feed

Groton Area vs. Warner

### Saturday, February 4th

\$6.00 per person



**Serving 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Groton High School Arena**

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## Museum Opens New Children's Exhibit "Frontier Main Street"

The Dacotah Prairie Museum, 21 South Main St., Aberdeen, SD announces the opening of its newest Children Exhibits for 2017. The three room exhibit is entitled "Frontier Main Street" and will open on Friday, February 10, 2017. The public open house will follow on Saturday, February 11 from 1-4pm. There will be food and activities for everyone and all are invited and welcome.

"Frontier Main Street" revolves around the idea that people and children lived in Brown County during the late 1800s and early 1900s and they used and worked at real businesses, some different and some very much the same just used in a different way. To re-inforce the idea that these were all real businesses, each station will be accompanied by photographs of actual Brown County places like lumber yards; hotels; banks; railroad stations; and post offices which are the basis of the buildings and projects in the exhibit..

Each station will be accompanied by hands-on activities the children can do to make these businesses come to life. They can dress in "fancy" Victorian clothes and have dinner in the Hotel Dining Room, enjoying candy from the Chocolate Shop for dessert. Then they may travel to the Hecla Bank where they can collect 1890s dollars bills and coins to spend in a money sack. Visiting the Land Office will allow the young pioneer to buy one of 10 Brown County houses and, filling out a Land Deed, choose where to put their house on Frontier Main Street. Next door at the Lumber Yard, children will try building their own 3-D structures of wood.

At the Groton Train Station, would-be passengers can buy a ticket to exciting destinations or become the train conductor or engineer in uniform while riding on our new train engine. The Westport Post Office will allow "postal workers" to sort packages to the correct bin to deliver to Brown County towns and the postal box provides a sorting station for letters backed with local historic figures and their pictures and descriptions.

Following Main Street to the Claremont Opera House, young actors and actresses may dress in costume and present a play on the stage for their relatives and friends present. A unique building to Aberdeen, Brown County finishes Main Street in style. The Aberdeen Grain Palace, once located on South Main (in the spot occupied by the present day Malchow's Store) will be shown in 3-D model (inside and out), outside walls for visitors to decorate, and a photograph of the real building!

We hope that visitors to Frontier Main Street will want to return time and again to enjoy playing and learning about a frontier town coming to life.



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South Dakota Governor  
Dennis Daugaard



## Pursuing Constitutional Reforms

Being governor is a serious responsibility, and I've never taken it lightly. Sometimes, it means making a difficult decision that is necessary, but unpopular to some.

In my first year in office, our state faced a large budget deficit. There was not an easy or popular solution. As a new governor, I proposed ten percent cuts to eliminate the deficit. Many legislators supported me in making that tough decision. There were also those who criticized aspects of the plan, without proposing a workable alternative. That is the luxury of being in opposition – one can rely on the majority to make the difficult decisions.

We have faced a similar dilemma this year, because of the passage of Initiated Measure 22. Elected officials have an obligation to respect the will of the voters, but we also have a duty to defend our state constitution. Unfortunately, Initiated Measure 22 has numerous constitutional defects – so numerous, in fact, that a circuit judge held it was unconstitutional “beyond a reasonable doubt” and suspended it from staying in effect. In addition, the law was poorly drafted; even its supporters agreed it had problems that needed to be fixed.

There was no perfect answer in this situation. Leaving Initiated Measure 22 in place was not a viable option, due to its constitutional issues and other problems. It could not be enforced as written.

Another option was to repeal Initiated Measure 22, and return to the old laws. That was also not a good option, because it would have ignored the will of the voters.

The best option, in my opinion, is to replace Initiated Measure 22 with new pieces of legislation that are constitutional and workable, and that meet the same goals as those the voters had in mind. It's not a perfect option, but it balances our need to respect the voters with our need to follow the state constitution.

I am joining with legislators to follow that middle path. Bills have already been introduced to address the important aspects of Initiated Measure 22. One bill will regulate gifts from lobbyists to state officials. A number of bills offer processes to deal with ethics complaints, and I am working with legislators to decide which bill would work best, or if we should combine the best ideas from several bills. The Secretary of State also has a bill to revise campaign finance laws, and there are ideas to improve that bill as well.

My commitment this session is that we will develop a constitutional, workable, responsible plan to respond to the will of the voters. If opponents disagree with that plan, I hope they will propose an alternative that is also comprehensive, constitutional and workable.

## 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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## 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

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

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



# livestream

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, Feb. 4**

**Double Header - Warner at Groton.**

**Boys JV at 3:00, Girls Varsity at 4:30, Boys Varsity at 6:00**

# gdilive.com

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## Today in Weather History

February 4, 1984: A fast moving blizzard pounded the northeast and east central with light snow and raging winds. Snow amounts were generally less than 2 inches region wide. As the storm progressed, temperatures dropped thirty degrees in three hours as winds gusted to 70 mph. Fierce winds struck quickly, plummeting visibilities to zero and making travel difficult in a matter of minutes. No travel was advised across much of the area. Hundreds of travelers became stranded in the white-out and the highway crews were pulled of the road to wait for decreasing winds. There were also some spotty power outages.

1924: In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 20.3 inches of snow fell in a 24 hour period. This ranks as the most snowfall in a 24 hour period since 1884. This storm caused over \$1 million damage. Communication with the outside world was said at the time to be back to the days of the "Indian signal fire". Street car and train service crippled. Snowdrifts of 8 to 10 feet high were common along with considerable ice on trees and wires. Car ferries remained in port. Schools were closed and several plate glass windows broken.

1961 - The third great snowstorm of the winter season struck the northeastern U.S. Cortland NY received 40 inches of snow. (David Ludlum)

1982: Barrow, Alaska reached 36 degrees on this date. This is their warmest temperature ever recorded in February. In fact, this is the second time they climbed above freezing in the month of February. The only date was February 14, 2006 when the temperature reached 35 degrees.

1987 - Gales lashed the northern Pacific coast and the coast of northern New England. A storm in the central U.S. produced five inches of snow at Rapid City SD. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A winter storm produced heavy snow from the Upper Ohio Valley to New England, with up to 12 inches reported in Vermont and New Hampshire. Strong northerly winds in the Upper Midwest produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Two dozen cities in the south central and northwestern U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date. The low of 14 below zero at Boise ID was a February record. A winter storm continued in the southwestern U.S. Alta UT reported 49 inches of snow in four days, Wolf Creek CO reported 66 inches in six days, including 28 inches in 24 hours, and up to 84 inches buried the ski resorts of northern New Mexico in three days. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A winter storm produced heavy snow in the northeastern U.S. Snowfall totals in Maine ranged up to 13 inches at Gorham, with 11 inches reported at Portland. Totals in New Hampshire ranged up to 14 inches at Franconia, with 13 inches reported at Portsmouth. A mixture of snow, sleet and freezing rain caused numerous traffic accidents in eastern New York State resulting in three deaths and fourteen injuries. Subzero cold also gripped parts of the northeastern U.S. Caribou ME and Houlton ME reported morning lows of 15 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1995: A huge nor'easter pounded areas from the southern Mid-Atlantic to northern New England. It would be the only significant storm in the 94-95 winter season. Over 20 inches of snow buried parts of upstate New York. Wind chills dropped as cold as 40 degrees below zero. Behind the storm, arctic air crossing the relatively warm waters of the Great Lakes produced intense lake effect squalls for nearly two weeks from the 4th through the 14th. Downwind of Lake Ontario, storm totals included: Oswego County: Palermo: 85 inches, Fulton: 60 inches, and Oswego: 46 inches.

2011: A winter storm settled four to six inches of snow over northern Texas, including Dallas, just days before the Super Bowl between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Green Bay Packers.

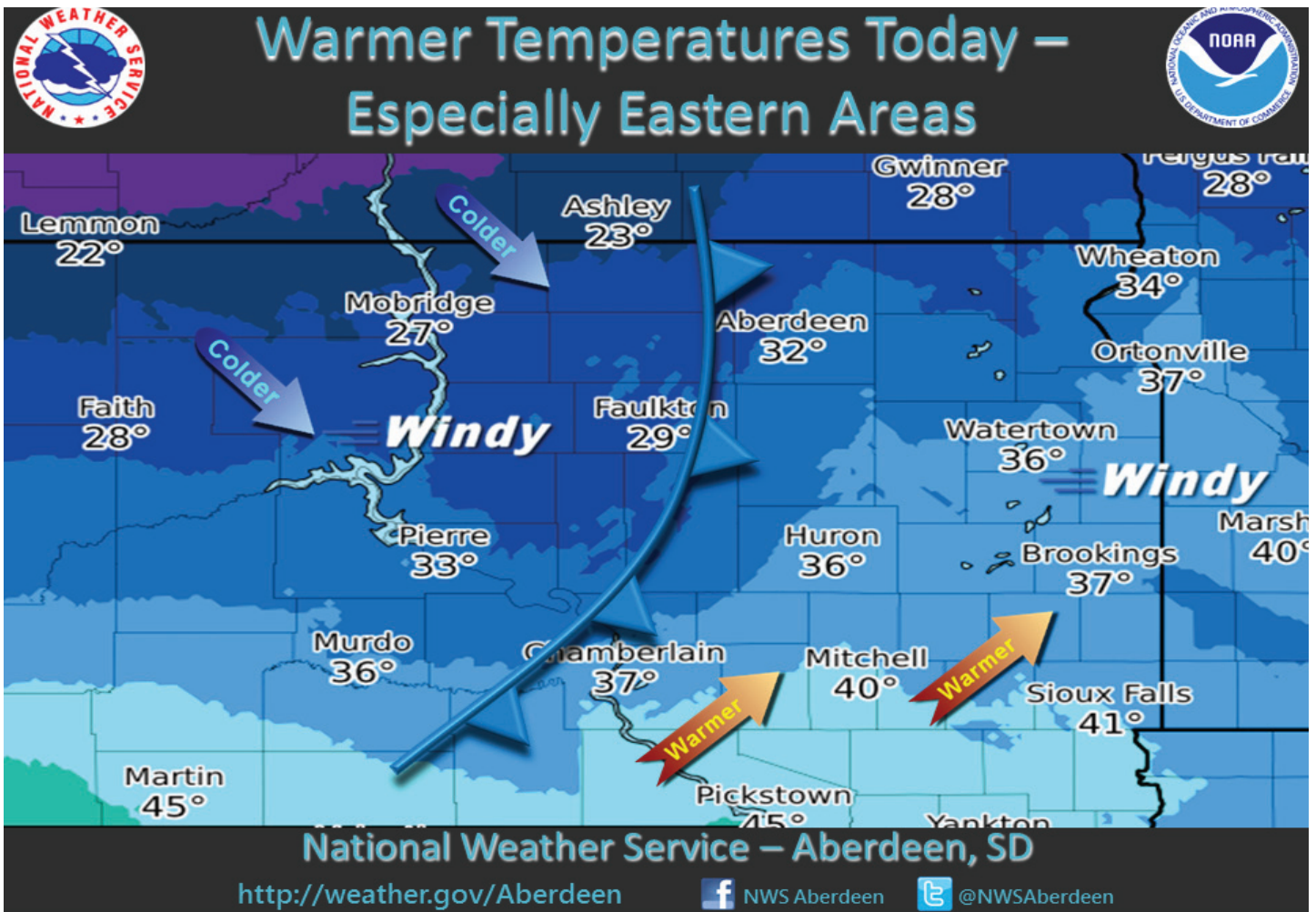
2004 - 7.15 inches of rain deluges Pinson, AL, setting an all-time record rainfall over 24 hours for the town. The Weather Doctor

2007 - Kahului reports a minimum temperature of 54°F, a daily low temperature record for the date. The Weather Doctor

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	30% → 60% Chance Snow then Snow Likely	80% → 30% Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow
High: 31 °F	Low: 8 °F	High: 19 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 28 °F	Low: 11 °F	High: 13 °F



Published on: 02/04/2017 at 5:46AM

A cold front will move into the region today and switch this morning's gusty south winds to the northwest. Ahead of this front, mild air will surge northward across northeastern South Dakota and into west central Minnesota where highs will reach the 30s. Behind the cold front, northwest winds will become gusty as cooler highs in the 20s are expected. A few patches of light snow are also possible across far northern South Dakota today.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 21.5 F at 3:59 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: -1.1 F at 7:52 AM**

**High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 11:54 PM**

Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 55° in 2005**

**Record Low: -30 in 1905**

**Average High: 25°F**

**Average Low: 3°F**

**Average Precip in Feb.: 0.06**

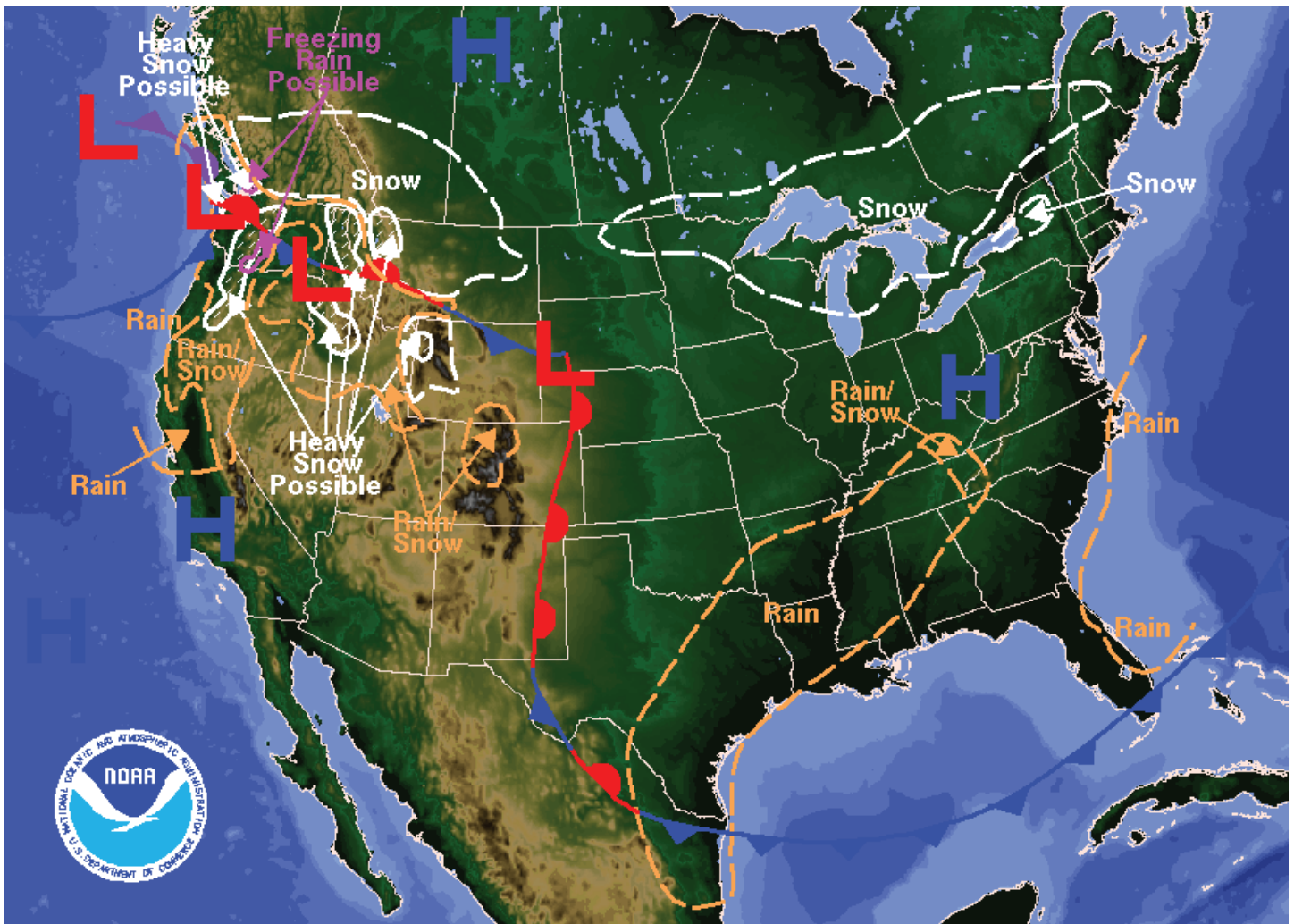
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.53**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:45 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:49 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Sat, Feb 04, 2017, issued 4:04 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Tate based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Grandmother had just finished reading the story of Creation to her beloved four year old granddaughter, Beth. Sitting quietly in her lap she noticed that Beth seemed to be in deep thought.

"Beth," she asked, "what do you think of that story?"

"I love it, Grandmother!" she replied.

"Love it? Why?" Grandmother wondered.

"Well," she replied carefully, "you just never know what God's going to do next!"

While life is unpredictable, God isn't. Even though we do not know what God is going to do next, He certainly does. And one thing we who are Christians know for certain is this: whatever He brings into our lives is in our best interest to mold us and make us into His likeness.

Whatever we face we know that God will be with us and never abandon us. As life comes and goes He does not pick and choose when He will be available to help us. He will not step back from the pain we may be enduring nor the problems we are forced to face and resolve. No, the Eternal One guides us, and guards us and guarantees us His presence and power to accept and overcome every obstacle and challenge.

Whether life is joyous or seemingly unjust, God will never give up on us and never fail us. When times are hard and life is horrible we need to focus on Him.

Prayer: Lord, help us to trust in You and on You and know that You will never leave us or forsake us. May we ever seek and sense Your will and way in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

## News from the Associated Press

### Police recover baby in stolen car; suspect shoots self

DEVILS LAKE, N.D. (AP) — An attempt to stop a pickup truck with a loud exhaust system led to a wild chase in which the driver shot at a trooper, stole a car with a baby inside, took two other people hostage and eventually shot and wounded himself, authorities said.

Only the pickup truck's driver, Daniel TwoHearts, was hurt during the ordeal, which began Thursday night with the attempted traffic stop in Grand Forks and ended Friday night with TwoHearts shooting himself in an apartment in Devils Lake, about 80 miles west, authorities said.

TwoHearts, who shot himself as officers began to negotiate with him to surrender, was hospitalized with an apparently non-fatal wound, Devils Lake police Capt. John Barnett told the Devils Lake Journal (<http://bit.ly/2k6IU3F>).

"People can relax. It got a little tense for a while in town," he said.

It began when a trooper tried to pull over a pickup truck with a loud exhaust on Interstate 29 in Grand Forks, which is along the state border with Minnesota, according to the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Instead, the driver tried to get away, reaching speeds of about 100 mph before law enforcement put down tire spikes, stopping the pickup about 40 miles down the highway.

The suspect jumped out and fired three shots at a trooper, who wasn't injured and didn't return fire, said patrol Lt. Troy Hischer.

Two others in the pickup were arrested and methamphetamine was found in the truck, authorities said. Meanwhile, TwoHearts ran into a neighborhood and jumped into an idling car with an infant inside it.

"The mother had started the car to warm it up, brought out the 1-year-old, then went back to retrieve an older child" when the suspect drove off, Hischer said.

Officers spotted that car on a county road about 20 miles away, again deployed road spikes, flattening the tires and recovering the infant unharmed, but TwoHearts got away again.

After dawn Friday, another truck was reported missing, and was later found abandoned at the Wal-Mart in town.

Law enforcement agencies in North and South Dakota and Minnesota were on the lookout, but Devils Lake Police and other agencies caught up with TwoHearts Friday night, barricaded inside an apartment with two hostages, Barnett said.

"We got the female out and the other male, and he was isolated" when they heard a shot fired and then forced their way in, he said.

This story has been corrected to reflect that the suspect's first name is Daniel, not Danile.

Information from: Devils Lake Journal, <http://www.devilslakejournal.com>

### Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 59, Yankton 41

Alcester-Hudson 47, Beresford 45

Bison 56, McIntosh 14

Bon Homme 62, Avon 40

Bridgewater-Emery 82, Gayville-Volin 40

Clark/Willow Lake 55, Deuel 49

Colome 57, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 48

Crazy Horse 60, Takini 43

Douglas 70, Belle Fourche 37

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Elk Point-Jefferson 49, Dakota Valley 46  
Elkton-Lake Benton 58, Deubrook 45  
Garretson 47, McCook Central/Montrose 32  
Great Plains Lutheran 63, Wilmot 51  
Hamlin 60, Webster 56  
Herreid/Selby Area 73, Edmunds Central 36  
Hopkins, Minn. 87, Sioux Falls Washington 73  
Hot Springs 57, Custer 45  
Huron 70, Spearfish 50  
Irene-Wakonda 70, Baltic 42  
Kadoka Area 44, Wall 43  
Kimball/White Lake 68, Ethan 42  
Lemmon 54, Faith 40  
Marty Indian 67, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 61  
McLaughlin 46, Stanley County 45  
Milbank Area 67, Redfield/Doland 56  
Minnetonka, Minn. 68, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 41  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 62, Wagner 42  
New Underwood 48, Newell 43  
Parkston 60, Gregory 39  
Pierre 61, Mitchell 45  
Potter County 66, Sunshine Bible Academy 30  
Rapid City Stevens 54, Rapid City Central 41  
Sioux Falls Christian 68, Canton 54  
Sisseton 58, Aberdeen Roncalli 56  
St. Thomas More 50, Chadron, Neb. 38  
Tri-Valley 66, Dell Rapids 59  
Viborg-Hurley 61, Freeman Academy/Marion 41  
Waverly-South Shore 47, Waubay/Summit 38  
Wayzata, Minn. 71, Sioux Falls Lincoln 58  
White River 73, Bennett County 36  
**GIRLS' BASKETBALL**  
Avon 32, Burke/South Central 24  
Belle Fourche 47, Douglas 44  
Beresford 46, Alcester-Hudson 36  
Brandon Valley 58, Watertown 36  
Clark-Willow Lake JV 45, Deuel 44  
Crazy Horse 69, Takini 11  
Dakota Valley 63, Elk Point-Jefferson 60  
Dell Rapids 51, Tri-Valley 40  
Dell Rapids St. Mary 38, Arlington 19  
Deubrook 59, Elkton-Lake Benton 51  
Dupree 58, Rapid City Christian 41  
Ethan 51, Kimball/White Lake 25  
Flandreau 68, Sioux Valley 33  
Freeman Academy/Marion 46, Viborg 45  
Gayville-Volin 63, Bridgewater-Emery 51  
Groton Area 55, Tiospa Zina Tribal 52  
Herreid/Selby Area 65, Edmunds Central 18  
Hopkins, Minn. 72, Sioux Falls Washington 58

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Howard 70, Canistota 44  
Huron 59, Sturgis Brown 52  
Irene-Wakonda 45, Baltic 36  
Madison 54, West Central 43  
McLaughlin 59, Stanley County 29  
Milbank Area 51, Redfield/Doland 30  
Mitchell 50, Spearfish 49  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 46, Wagner 38  
Parkston 48, Gregory 25  
Potter County 50, Sunshine Bible Academy 39  
Sioux Falls Christian 72, Canton 36  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 71, Wayzata, Minn. 58  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 63, Minnetonka, Minn. 60, OT  
St. Thomas More 38, Chadron, Neb. 24  
Tri-State, N.D. 67, Britton-Hecla 53  
Wall 67, Kadoka Area 55

## Proposed fine against Dakota Access company to get hearing

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The developer of the Dakota Access pipeline will have to present evidence at a hearing to prove the company didn't willfully violate North Dakota rules when it failed to provide details of how it planned to avoid disturbing Native American artifacts during construction, state regulators said.

Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners last October diverted construction of the \$3.8 billion pipeline around artifacts without running the plan by the Public Service Commission, which oversees pipelines. Commission staffers say that warrants a fine of at least \$15,000, even though the artifacts weren't disturbed.

ETP maintains it didn't intentionally violate state rules and that public comments in November by Public Service Commission Chairwoman Julie Fedorchak illustrate the minor nature of the incident. Fedorchak said she was "disappointed" with the developer's conduct but acknowledged it might have resulted from miscommunication within the company.

The three-member commission on Tuesday rejected the company's request to dismiss the complaint, saying whether there was a willful violation should be determined at a hearing. The commission's order also contends Fedorchak's comments aren't relevant.

"Commissioner Fedorchak has the ability to speak for herself, but only the Commission can speak for the Commission," the order states.

The Associated Press left a message for ETP spokeswoman Vicki Granado asking for comment Friday.

An administrative law judge will oversee the hearing, but the commission will make the final decision on a fine. The hearing wasn't immediately scheduled.

The four-state, 1,200-mile pipeline would transport North Dakota oil to Illinois. Work is stalled due to a dispute over whether Energy Transfer Partners has permission to lay pipe under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota that's the source of drinking water for the Standing Rock Sioux. The Army this week began reviewing an earlier decision not to grant permission until more study is done about the tribe's fears that a pipeline leak would contaminate its water.

Protests against the pipeline have resulted in nearly 700 arrests in southern North Dakota since August. The most recent came Wednesday, when American Indian activist Chase Iron Eyes and 73 others were arrested after a group of protesters set up teepees on land that authorities say is owned by the pipeline developer. Protesters said they were peacefully assembling on land they believe rightfully belongs to American Indians.

Iron Eyes was charged Friday with inciting a riot, a felony that carries a maximum punishment of five years in prison. He also faces a misdemeanor count of criminal trespass. Iron Eyes, who made an unsuccessful bid for Congress last fall, told The Associated Press that he feels he was unfairly targeted because

he's a public figure and has been a vocal opponent of the pipeline. He said he will plead not guilty and fight the charges.

The Army Corps of Engineers said on Friday that it notified remaining protesters camped near Lake Oahe that the government-owned land will be closed beginning Feb. 22 because of a threat of injury or death from flooding. The Corps said there also is a danger of debris and waste from the camp polluting the Cannonball River and the lake.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

## **The Latest: Army Corps to close land where protesters camped**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Latest on the proposed four-state, \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline. (all times local):

7:55 p.m.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers say it will close federal property where Dakota Access oil pipeline protesters have camped beginning on Feb. 22 because of concerns about flooding.

In a statement on Friday, the Corps says there has been a record snowfall and long periods of frigid temperatures at the mouth of the Cannonball River where the protesters have been camped. There is a high potential of flooding from spring runoff and ice jams.

The Corps said it sent notices to the protesters saying that they risk possible injury or death if they stay. The notice added that debris, trash and untreated waste from the camp could pollute the river and Lake Oahe.

Opponents of the pipeline have been camped there to try to stop the completion of the pipeline.

10:45 a.m.

An American Indian activist arrested along with 73 other Dakota Access oil pipeline opponents for allegedly trespassing on private land is now accused of inciting a riot.

Chase Iron Eyes could face up to five years in prison if convicted on the felony charge. He also faces a misdemeanor count of criminal trespass.

Iron Eyes and the others were arrested Wednesday after setting up teepees on land that authorities say is owned by the pipeline developer. Protesters say they were peacefully assembling on land they believe rightfully belongs to American Indians.

Iron Eyes issued a recorded statement from jail late Thursday. He doesn't dispute his involvement but says he wasn't the leader of the effort and had no authority to stop it.

10:30 a.m.

North Dakota regulators say evidence presented at a hearing will determine whether the developer of the four-state, \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline violated state rules regarding the reporting of Native American artifacts.

Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners last October diverted construction of the pipeline around Native American artifacts without running the plan by the Public Service Commission, which oversees pipelines. Commission staffers say that warrants a fine of at least \$15,000, even though the artifacts weren't disturbed.

ETP maintains it didn't intentionally violate state rules and in late November asked for the case to be dismissed. The three-member Commission this week rejected the request and said the company must provide evidence at a hearing.

An administrative law judge will oversee the hearing, but the PSC will make the final decision.

## Top Republicans offer assurances after ethics measure repeal

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Top Republicans gave assurances Friday that South Dakota voters would see bills passed this session to replace provisions of a government ethics overhaul that lawmakers dismantled this week.

The ethics initiative that voters passed in November's election instituted a public campaign finance system, an ethics commission and tighter campaign finance and lobbying laws. It's "very likely" that several replacement measures will get through, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said the day after he signed a bill overturning the voter-backed anti-corruption law.

Legislators have proposed adding campaign disclosure requirements, imposing similar restrictions for lobbyists and creating more limited watchdog commissions. Next week, they're set to consider bills that would bar some officials from private lobbying for two years after leaving government and put in place a \$100 annual limit for gifts that some public officials could accept from lobbyists.

"I can tell you with great confidence that we'll see many of these different measures succeed," said Senate Majority Leader Blake Curd, a Republican.

Under the now-defunct initiative, voters could tap a state fund to give two credits worth \$50 each to participating political candidates. It limited lobbyist gifts to lawmakers to \$100 annually, a major change given there were previously no caps. It also called for an independent commission to ensure that state ethics laws weren't violated and to administer the public campaign finance program.

GOP lawmakers contend that those provisions are unconstitutional, and the embattled law wasn't in effect as Republicans were challenging it in court. Daugaard said in a column released Friday that his commitment this session is to develop a "constitutional, workable, responsible plan to respond to the will of the voters."

Those assurances came after a bitter campaign from initiative supporters failed to save the ethics ballot measure at the Capitol. On Wednesday, they packed the Senate gallery to watch the debate, and an airplane circled the Capitol for hours with a banner that read "Shame on you! Respect our vote!" Ultimately, the Senate sent the repeal bill to Daugaard, who signed it into law.

Doug Kronaizl, a spokesman for pro-initiative group Represent South Dakota, said the organization's goal is to make sure the strongest possible replacements pass. Many provisions of the initiative didn't need to be repealed, said Kronaizl, adding that he's not confident that any replacements will be approved.

"You can say it in a press conference, but that doesn't mean it's going to make it all the way to the governor's desk," he said. "I do think a lot of what the voters enacted is going to get lost in the midst of all this."

## South Dakota Pulse Processors plant opens for business

HARROLD, S.D. (AP) — The \$4.5 million South Dakota Pulse Processors plant is officially open for business. The plant in Harrold began running for a few days last week but is expected to be in full swing from now on, the (Pierre) Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2jyZfQY>) reported. The plant receives peas five days a week now and will be open four days a week for 10 hours a day.

The plant is set to process mostly yellow peas, but it will also process lentils two to three times a year. Pulse Processors merchandiser, Wes Meyer, said the plant will process its first batch of lentils in the next month.

"There's a little bit of a learning curve with it. We want to make sure we're putting out a good product," Meyer said.

The plant is currently receiving 25 tons of peas per day, but it's expected to receive 100 tons per day by the end of next week.

He said the plant has about 20,000 bushels of yellow peas contracted, with 15,000 coming in the next couple of weeks. The next contract is anticipated to bring 30,000 bushels later this month.

The plant has been signing contracts with farmers for about a month.

## Former Booth Society director begins new role in Spearfish

By KAIJA SWISHER, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — After more than two years without anyone in the position, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish has a new curator: April Gregory, former Booth Society executive director, started in her new role last month.

"Gregory has had an association with D.C. Booth for over seven years, and the institutional knowledge she possess will allow her to benefit the station immediately," Carlos Martinez, hatchery director, said. "Her business acumen while dealing with partners and the public is excellent. She enjoys working with people of all ages and backgrounds and does so in a professional and courteous manner."

Martinez added that there were a large number of excellent applicants for the position and that Gregory has the wide range of skills that are necessary at the "out-of-the-ordinary and unique facility."

"Her background and experience includes but is not limited to: collection management, accessions/cataloging, exhibit and interpretive design, preservation of historic structures, working with State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), grant writing, and volunteer management," he said.

"I moved to Spearfish in 2009 specifically to intern in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) Archive at D.C. Booth," Gregory said. "I never imagined I would wind up in the curator position, but when the position opened up, I applied, and things have come full circle. The archives are the only reason I moved here, and they are what have kept me here. My career goal has been to work for the FWS; I'm glad to now officially be a FWS employee with the added benefit of staying in Spearfish at a FWS facility I already know and love."

Gregory graduated from the University of Montana-Missoula with degrees in photojournalism and art history. After working for a few newspapers, she started working part-time at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in 2009 as a museum aide and archives and fisheries technician, while working other jobs simultaneously. In 2011, she was hired as the executive director of the Booth Society, the nonprofit friends group with the mission to promote, preserve, and enhance "the educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities at D.C. Booth. in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for the benefit and enjoyment of the public." Gregory has been recognized as the 2013-14 National Association of Professional Women woman of the year for the field of conservation, as well as the 2016 Spearfish Young Professional Award for her advocacy work in the last years to keep the hatchery open.

Gregory's resignation from the Booth Society executive director position was effective Jan. 7, and that position is currently advertised. Nancy Cole, the assistant and gift shop manager, is running things for the Booth Society in the interim.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service posted the curator job in December, and Gregory became an official federal employee Jan. 8, with her first day as curator.

"Gregory has a deep passion for fisheries and has performed fisheries duties at state and federal hatcheries," Martinez said. "This is important since the collection, museums, and station mission are fisheries-related."

The Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2jNUfnN>) reports that the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives has endured closure threat, reduction of staff, and the possibility of its collection moving to the East Coast since 2012, due to federal budget constraints, and the curator position has been open since Randi Smith, who last served in the role, retired in March 2014. Her assistant, John Huffman, who served as archivist/historian, retired in October 2013.

The job description for the curator describes that the position: "Serves as Museum Curator and Chief of Collections Management for this Historic National Fish Hatchery, which includes approximately 15,000 artifacts and 160,000 pieces or archival material on site, and a National Register of Historic Places listed site, including several buildings and structures; Develops and implements the cultural resources management program; Serves as technical advisor to management on matters related to Service history, fisheries history and culture, and local area history and pre-history; Initiates and guides acquisition and deaccession of museum objects for sound growth of the collection at the Hatchery; Performs the full realm of museum



curation work for the Hatchery including collection maintenance and conservation, overseeing preservation and accurate interpretation of historic structures and site, planning and preparing exhibits, etc." Starting salary is listed at the federal GS-11, Step 01 level of \$59,246 annually.

"I'm most looking forward to learning more about the rich and diverse history of America's FWS fisheries work and sharing more of that history with the public," Gregory said. "I've always admired and respected the work of the FWS and look forward to being directly involved with their mission."

Her hope going forward is that the facility "remains a viable, loved, and utilized part of the Northern Hills community for many generations to come."

"I also hope that the archives continue to grow and be used by researchers from around the country and world to aid them in their important fisheries and aquatic work," Gregory said. "I hope that when people visit the hatchery, they leave with a better understanding of why healthy waterways and fisheries work are so important for our environment and our own well-being, and I hope they leave the hatchery supporting the work and mission of the FWS."

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

### **3 homicide investigations in Rapid City in new year**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Just a few weeks into the new year, Rapid City police are busy investigating three homicides in the community of about 71,000.

Even with the violence, Police Chief Karl Jegeris says residents of Rapid City are safe. Jegeris says of the three homicides, two involved people known to each other, while the third was store clerk allegedly stabbed by two teens.

Jegeris tells KOTA-TV a common thread in recent crime across the state is the increased use of methamphetamine. The chief says a more assertive approach is needed to combat methamphetamine.

Jegeris wants to "get back to using incarceration as a primary tool for repeat meth users."

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

### **Cattle down in South Dakota, sheep in state at record low**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The number of cattle and calves in South Dakota is down slightly over the year. The Agriculture Department says in its latest report that there were 3.85 million cattle and calves in the state on Jan. 1, down 1 percent from 2016.

There were 1.66 million beef cows, down slightly, and 116,000 milk cows, up 5 percent from the previous year.

Cattle in South Dakota feedlots on feed for slaughter totaled 380,000, down 13 percent.

The state's 2016 calf crop totaled 1.69 million head, up 2 percent from 2015.

Sheep and lambs in South Dakota on Jan. 1 totaled a record-low 250,000, down 15,000 from the previous year. The 2016 lamb crop was down slightly, as was wool production.

### **South Dakota livestock in good shape after January storm**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota livestock appear to be in fairly good shape despite some rough weather in January, particularly in the south.

The Agriculture Department says in its monthly crop report that a large storm with heavy snow late in the month created difficult conditions for ranchers in southern areas, and there also was blowing and drifting snow in the north.

However, cattle and calf conditions are rated 73 percent good to excellent, and sheep and lambs are 76 percent good to excellent. Death losses are mostly average to light.

Hay supplies statewide are 79 percent adequate to surplus, and stock water supplies are 83 percent in those categories.

South Dakota's winter wheat crop is rated 62 percent in good to excellent condition.

## Trump lashes out a federal judge over ruling on travel ban

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump lashed out Saturday at “this so-called judge” who put a nationwide hold on his executive order denying entry to the U.S. to refugees and people from seven predominantly Muslim countries. The ruling set in motion another weekend of confusion and chaos around the country.

The White House pledged to swiftly appeal the federal judge's ruling late Friday, but that didn't appear to be enough for Trump, who vented his frustrations on Twitter.

“The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned!” Trump said.

Trump has said the travel ban, which he enacted by executive order on Jan. 27, will keep Americans safe by keeping potential terrorists from entering the country.

He also said Saturday on Twitter that “when a country is no longer able to say who can and who cannot come in & out, especially for reasons of safety & security — big trouble!”

U.S. District Judge James Robart in Seattle ruled late Friday against government lawyers' claims that Washington state and Minnesota, which sued over the ban, lacked the legal grounds to challenge Trump's order. Robart said the states showed that their case was likely to succeed.

Trump's order last week sparked protests nationwide and confusion at airports as some travelers were detained.

More protests were planned for this weekend, including near Trump's estate in Palm Beach, Florida, where he is spending the weekend.

## The cave squeaker returns: Rare frog seen after decades

By FARAI MUTSAKA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — The cave squeaker is back.

Researchers in Zimbabwe say they have found a rare frog that hasn't been seen in decades.

The *Artholeptis troglodytes*, also known as the “cave squeaker” because of its preferred habitat, was discovered in 1962 but there were no reported sightings of the elusive amphibian after that. An international “red list” of threatened species tagged them as critically endangered and possibly extinct.

Robert Hopkins, a researcher at the natural history museum in Bulawayo city, said his team had found four specimens of the frog in its known habitat of Chimanimani, a mountainous area in the east.

The team found the first male specimen on Dec. 3 after following an animal call that they had not heard before, Hopkins said. They then discovered another two males and a female. Hopkins said he been looking for the cave squeaker for eight years.

“I was not with my team when they were found. I was at the base. I can no longer climb the mountains as I am 75,” Hopkins said.

Researchers plan to breed more frogs with the ones taken from their habitat and then reintroduce them to the mountain summit. The frog is tiny and light brown with dark spots.

Now authorities fear for the frogs' security, especially from “the scientific world” whose huge interest could result in the frog being captured and illegally exported. Hopkins said 16 specimens are on display at various museums, including the British Museum.

“We are expecting an influx of scientists looking for it. We will do everything in our power to protect and conserve the frog,” said Caroline Washaya-Moyo, spokeswoman for the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. She said a park management plan will be devised to protect the cave squeaker.

## In Israel, teaching kids cyber skills is a national mission

By DANIEL ESTRIN, Associated Press

BEIT SHEMESH, Israel (AP) — In some Israeli schools, fourth-graders learn computer programming while gifted 10th-graders take after-school classes in encryption tactics, coding and how to stop malicious hacking. The country even has two new kindergartens that teach computer skills and robotics.

The training programs — something of a boot camp for cyber defense — are part of Israel's quest to become a world leader in cybersecurity and cyber technology by placing its hopes in the country's youth.

To that end, Israel announced this week the establishment of a national center for cyber education, meant to increase the talent pool for military intelligence units and prepare children for eventual careers in defense agencies, the high-tech industry and academia.

"You students need to strengthen us with your curiosity," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told an Israeli cyber technologies expo, sitting next to high school students in a training program overseen by the defense establishment. "Your years in the security services will be golden years for the security of the nation."

Israel has long branded itself the "Cyber Nation" but authorities say they have been facing a shortage of cyber experts to keep up with the country's defense needs and keep its cybersecurity industry booming.

To build up a wellspring of talent, Israel is starting young: teaching children the basic building blocks of the web.

"In the first grade, they learn the letters, then how to read and how to write. We are building the next level of knowledge — how to code," said Sagy Bar of the Rashi Foundation, a philanthropic group running the cyber education center as a joint venture with Israel's defense establishment and academic institutions.

The center will also oversee educational programs launched in recent years, including the Education Ministry's Gvachim pilot program that introduced computer and robotic classes to the fourth-grade curriculum in 70 schools, and the after-school Magshimim program, which trains talented high-schoolers from underprivileged areas in college-level cyber skills.

Drawing youth into the highly technical field of cybersecurity is not a novelty, and the United States and Britain have implemented similar training programs.

The National Security Agency, America's global surveillance and intelligence agency, co-sponsors free cybersecurity summer camps throughout the U.S. for students and teachers from kindergarten through high school. The GenCyber program seeks to improve cybersecurity teaching in schools as early as kindergarten.

GCHQ, the U.K.'s powerful signals intelligence agency, has a host of youth outreach initiatives, including an annual competition for amateurs and youngsters at dramatic venues such as Winston Churchill's World War II-era bunker under central London.

In 2015, the competition invested in whizz kid-friendly puzzle games — including a specially designed Minecraft level — to pique children's interest. Also, GCHQ is trying to bridge the gender gap and last month announced a national cybersecurity challenge for schoolgirls aged 13 to 15.

In Israel, the two cyber training programs feed Israel's vaunted military intelligence Unit 8200, which intercepts digital communications and collects intelligence on Israel's enemies across the Middle East — the Israeli equivalent of America's NSA.

Many members of the unit eventually move on to Israel's high-tech and cybersecurity industries. Some of the most successful technology companies have been founded by the unit's veterans.

Military service is compulsory for most Jewish high school graduates in Israel, giving military intelligence the power to enlist the country's best and brightest.

For military intelligence, it's a win-win situation.

"Israeli talent comes mandatorily to the army," Col. R, deputy head of Unit 8200, told The Associated Press over the phone.

The colonel, who could only be identified by her first initial under military regulations, said Unit 8200 is trying to encourage more girls to study computer sciences and eventually join the unit as "cyberists."

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In the Magshimim program, applicants must first pass a home quiz of riddles and challenges involving math, logic and algorithms. Previous computer expertise is not needed, and they can even look up answers online or ask a parent for help. The idea is to recruit students who are not intimidated by challenges, organizers say.

Those accepted to the program meet twice a week after school for three-hour classes, complete 10 hours of cyber-related homework a week, and participate in workshops twice a year.

During a recent workshop for 10th-graders at a school in the central city of Beit Shemesh, a group of 15 religious Jewish girls attended a lecture on artificial intelligence. One of the girls was knitting an orange yarmulke during class.

In a darkened classroom across the hall, a group of teens in sweatshirts and sweatpants hunched over laptops, playing a simulation game: a fictional network of computers had been hacked, and they had 45 minutes to learn an unfamiliar computer code, regain control of the network, and hack into the hacker's system to determine his identity.

"I broke in!" a student suddenly exclaimed. The fictional hacker was a popular cartoon character.

Glued to his computer, 16-year-old Shalev Goodman said he hopes to use his cyber skills in military intelligence when he enlists.

"I'm not the most athletic person," he said. "I do want to give something to the country. So cyber is a good thing to do."

Program leaders say cyber ethics are enforced — students who use their skills to hack would not be accepted into the military and would likely ruin their future in the cyber industry.

But once in the army, the definition of ethics can become blurred. In 2014, a group of reservists in Unit 8200 signed a letter protesting its role in surveillance of Palestinians.

One of the soldiers said the unit was sometimes asked to perform ethically questionable tasks, like spying on Palestinians uninvolved in violence.

"It feels a bit like a game, like a cool computer game," said Gilad, who could only give his first name because Israel's military censor has prohibited the protesters from revealing their full identity.

During his compulsory army service, Gilad said he worked part time in programming. "You develop apathy, moral numbness ... You are far away from the target," he recounted of those days.

Still, the computer skills Gilad gained while in the army helped him get his current job in the high-tech industry, he said.

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Associated Press writer Raphael Satter in London contributed to his report. Follow Daniel Estrin on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/danielestrin](http://www.twitter.com/danielestrin) .

## China lashes out at Mattis remarks on East China Sea islands

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The U.S. is putting regional stability in East Asia at risk, a Chinese spokesman said Saturday following remarks by President Donald Trump's defense secretary that a U.S. commitment to defend Japanese territory applies to an island group that China claims.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang on Saturday called on the U.S. to avoid discussion of the issue and reasserted China's claim of sovereignty over the tiny uninhabited islands, known in Japanese as the Senkaku and Chinese as Diaoyu.

The 1960 U.S.-Japan treaty is "a product of the Cold War, which should not impair China's territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights," Lu was quoted as saying in a statement posted on the ministry's website.

"We urge the U.S. side to take a responsible attitude, stop making wrong remarks on the issue involving the Diaoyu islands' sovereignty, and avoid making the issue more complicated and bringing instability to the regional situation," Lu said.

On his first trip to Asia as secretary of defense, Mattis explicitly stated in Tokyo that the Trump administration will stick to the previous U.S. stance that the U.S.-Japan security treaty applies to defending Japan's continued administration of the Senkaku islands.

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The islands that lie between Taiwan and Okinawa were under U.S. administration from the end of World War II until their return to Japan in 1972. China cites historical records for its claim, and Japan's move to nationalize several of the islands in 2012 set off anti-Japanese riots in China and prompted the government to dispatch ships and planes to the area around them as a challenge to Japanese control.

China also registered its displeasure with Mattis' remarks Friday in South Korea that Trump's administration is committed to carrying through on a deal the Obama administration reached with the Seoul government last year to deploy a high-end U.S. missile defense system to South Korea this year.

The Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, is meant to improve protection of South Korea and Japan — as well as U.S. troops stationed in both countries — against a North Korean missile attack.

Beijing objects to the system because its powerful radar would allow it to peer deep into northeastern China, possibly allowing it to observe Chinese military movements.

At a Friday news conference, Lu said China's "resolute opposition to the deployment ... remains unchanged and will not change."

The deployment "will jeopardize security and the strategic interests of regional countries, including China, and undermine the strategic balance in the region," Lu said.

Chinese officials and scholars say they anticipate further turbulence in relations with the U.S. under Trump. The president sparked anger among Chinese following his election when he broke with decades by talking on the phone with the president of Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy that Beijing considers its own territory.

Trump has also raised concerns with criticism of China's military buildup in the South China Sea, accusations of currency manipulation and unfair trade policies and allegations that Beijing was doing too little to pressure its communist neighbor North Korea.

In a lighter moment, however, Chinese media and internet users praised an appearance by Trump's daughter Ivanka and granddaughter Arabella Kushner's visit to the Chinese Embassy in Washington on Wednesday to attend Lunar New Year festivities. A video clip of Arabella singing a song of holiday greetings also set alight China's internet.

## Trump's nominee for Army secretary withdraws his name

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's nominee for Army secretary, businessman Vincent Viola, has withdrawn his name from consideration for the post.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was disappointed but understood and respected Viola's decision, a Pentagon statement said. Mattis will recommend to Trump another candidate soon, the statement said.

A Trump administration official confirmed Friday night that Viola had withdrawn. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

The Military Times reported that Viola said in a statement he was "deeply honored" to be nominated but cited his inability to successfully navigate the confirmation process and Defense Department rules concerning family businesses.

Viola was the founder of several businesses, including the electronic trading firm Virtu Financial. He also owns the National Hockey League's Florida Panthers and is a past chairman of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

A 1977 West Point graduate, Viola trained as an Airborne Ranger infantry officer and served in the 101st Airborne Division. In 2003, he founded and helped fund the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point.

## US judge temporarily blocks Trump's travel ban nationwide

By MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A U.S. judge on Friday imposed a nationwide hold on President Donald Trump's ban on travelers and immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim countries, siding with two states that had challenged the executive order that has launched legal battles across the country.

U.S. District Judge James Robart in Seattle ruled that Washington state and Minnesota had standing to challenge Trump's order, which government lawyers disputed, and said they showed their case was likely to succeed. About 60,000 people from the affected countries had their visas cancelled.

"The state has met its burden in demonstrating immediate and irreparable injury," Robart said. "This TRO (temporary restraining order) is granted on a nationwide basis ..."

It wasn't immediately clear what happens next for people who had waited years to receive visas to come to America, however an internal email circulated among Homeland Security officials told employees to comply with the ruling immediately.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer released a statement late Friday saying they "will file an emergency stay of this outrageous order and defend the executive order of the President, which we believe is lawful and appropriate." Soon after, the White House sent out a new statement that removed the word "outrageous."

"The president's order is intended to protect the homeland and he has the constitutional authority and responsibility to protect the American people," the statement said.

Trump's order last week sparked protests nationwide and confusion at airports as some travelers were detained. The White House has argued that it will make the country safer.

Washington became the first state to sue over the order that temporarily bans travel for people from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen and suspends the U.S. refugee program.

State Attorney General Bob Ferguson said the travel ban significantly harms residents and effectively mandates discrimination. Minnesota joined the lawsuit two days later.

After the ruling, Ferguson said people from the affected countries can now apply for entry to the U.S.

"Judge Robart's decision, effective immediately ... puts a halt to President Trump's unconstitutional and unlawful executive order," Ferguson said. "The law is a powerful thing — it has the ability to hold everybody accountable to it, and that includes the president of the United States."

Gillian M. Christensen, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, said the agency doesn't comment on pending litigation. The judge's ruling could be appealed the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The judge's written order, released late Friday, said it's not the court's job to "create policy or judge the wisdom of any particular policy promoted by the other two branches" of government.

The court's job "is limited to ensuring that the actions taken by the other two branches comport with our country's laws."

Robart ordered federal defendants "and their respective officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys and persons acting in concert or participation with them are hereby enjoined and restrained from" enforcing the executive order.

A State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the matter is under litigation, said Friday: "We are working closely with the Department of Homeland Security and our legal teams to determine how this affects our operations. We will announce any changes affecting travelers to the United States as soon as that information is available."

Federal attorneys had argued that Congress gave the president authority to make decisions on national security and immigrant entry.

The two states won a temporary restraining order while the court considers the lawsuit, which aims to permanently block Trump's order. Court challenges have been filed nationwide from states and advocacy groups.

In court, Washington Solicitor General Noah Purcell said the focus of the state's legal challenge was the way the president's order targeted Islam.

Trump has called for a ban on Muslims entering the country, and the travel ban was an effort to make good on that campaign promise, Purcell told the judge.

"Do you see a distinction between campaign statements and the executive order," Robart asked. "I think it's a bit of a reach to say the president is anti-Muslim based on what he said in New Hampshire in June."

Purcell said there was an "overwhelming amount of evidence" to show that the order was directed at the Muslim religion, which is unconstitutional.

When the judge questioned the federal government's lawyer, Michelle Bennett, he repeatedly questioned the rationale behind the order.

Robart, who was appointed the federal bench by President George W. Bush, asked if there had been any terrorist attacks by people from the seven countries listed in Trump's order since 9/11. Bennett said she didn't know.

"The answer is none," Robart said. "You're here arguing we have to protect from these individuals from these countries, and there's no support for that."

Bennett argued that the states can't sue on behalf of citizens and the states have failed to show the order is causing irreparable harm.

Robart disagreed.

Up to 60,000 foreigners from the seven majority-Muslim countries had their visas canceled because of the executive order, the State Department said Friday.

That figure contradicts a statement from a Justice Department lawyer on the same day during a court hearing in Virginia about the ban. The lawyer in that case said about 100,000 visas had been revoked.

The State Department clarified that the higher figure includes diplomatic and other visas that were actually exempted from the travel ban, as well as expired visas.

Ferguson, a Democrat, said the order is harming Washington residents, businesses and its education system.

Washington-based businesses Amazon, Expedia and Microsoft support the state's efforts to stop the order. They say it's hurting their operations, too.

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Associated Press reporter Matthew Lee and Alicia A. Caldwell contributed from Washington.

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## Never remember: City laughs along at massacre that wasn't

By **BRUCE SCHREINER**, Associated Press

A White House adviser's commentary about a massacre in Kentucky that never happened has sparked seemingly endless snickering online, with jabs like "never remember" and "I survived the Bowling Green massacre."

Kellyanne Conway mentioned the fictional massacre in an MSNBC interview Thursday as the reason for a temporary travel ban for Iraqis in 2011, saying it also proved why the Trump administration's ban was necessary. It thrust this college town back into the national spotlight, nearly three years after a sinkhole that swallowed several classic Corvettes at a museum in Bowling Green garnered worldwide attention.

Even Big Red, the beloved, furry Western Kentucky University mascot, wasn't immune: One social media post shows him sprawled on the ground with the inscription "Never forget."

"The jokes are flying for sure," said Guy Jordan, who teaches at Western Kentucky. "My sense of things is that we are today a city of people walking around looking at their phones and giggling softly to ourselves."

Jordan quipped the only massacres in Bowling Green have been some of Western's football victories.

For Bowling Green radio personality Jelisa Chatman, Conway's remarks were like a gift from heaven as an on-the-air subject.

"You wake up in the morning and you think, 'What am I going to talk about today?'" she said. "And God is like, 'Here you go. You need something to talk about, how about this?'"

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At Home Cafe & Marketplace, the most popular pizza Friday was "the Bowling Green Massacre" pie. The specialty pizza with blackened chicken, mac' and cheese and jalapenos was on pace to set a one-day sales record at the Bowling Green restaurant, said owner Josh Poling.

"The minute I heard it last night, I was like, 'Oh gosh, that's too good of an opportunity to pass up,'" he said.

All proceeds from the specialty pizza's sales will go to the Southern Poverty Law Center, he said.

Meanwhile, someone registered the domain name bowlinggreenmassacre.com, and people clicking on the site were automatically directed to the website of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Friday night, a group of people gathered at a Bowling Green park where they lit candles in remembrance of massacre victims.

Conway initially cited the Bowling Green "massacre" as a reason why the Trump administration's temporary ban on immigration from several Muslim-majority nations is necessary. She said President Barack Obama implemented a similar ban in 2011 after two men from Iraq were arrested in Kentucky on charges that they plotted to send money and weapons to al-Qaida. The men had been mistakenly admitted to the U.S. as refugees in 2009 but never were accused of plotting attacks inside the U.S.

Conway tweeted Friday that she meant to say "terrorists" instead, and not everyone in Bowling Green was piling on.

Mayor Bruce Wilkerson said he understands how someone can "misspeak" during an interview, and said he appreciated the "clarification."

Asked how people were responding, the mayor said: "People roll their eyes at trying to make a mountain out of a mole hill."

Bowling Green is the home of Republican U.S. Sen. Rand Paul. His spokeswoman said Friday the focus should be on immigration policy.

"Regardless of her words, our visa and refugee systems are severely broken, and the situation regarding the Bowling Green terrorists demonstrates that point," said Paul spokeswoman Kelsey Cooper.

Bowling Green has long had a reputation as a welcoming place for refugees, and the city is home to the International Center of Kentucky, a refugee resettlement agency. In the past 10 years, more than 2,000 refugees resettled in Bowling Green from more than a dozen countries, including some Muslim-majority countries, said the agency's executive director, Albert Mbanfu.

Even some of those poking fun at Conway's "massacre" comment, however, said it reflected more serious concerns.

"It's funny and we can laugh at it," said Barry Kaufkins, who teaches at Western Kentucky. "But I think a lot of the laughter is so we don't cry. A lot of people are really worried about some of the rhetoric, not to mention the behavior, from this administration."

## **Pentagon chief: US has no plans to increase Mideast forces**

**By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Saturday the U.S. cannot afford to ignore destabilizing moves by Iran, but has no plans to respond by increasing American military forces in the Middle East.

Mattis spoke at a joint news conference in Tokyo with his Japanese counterpart, Tomomi Inada. Mattis held a series of high-level meetings in Seoul and Tokyo this week on his first overseas trip as Pentagon chief. He was returning to Washington Saturday.

Asked about U.S. concern about China's militarization of artificial islands in the South China Sea, Mattis was critical of China's moves but said U.S. military action was not appropriate.

In an opening statement at his news conference, Mattis also explicitly stated that the Trump administration will stick to the previous U.S. stance that the U.S.-Japan security treaty applies to defending Japan's continued administration of the Senkaku islands in the East China Sea, which are contested by China.

In response, China's Foreign Ministry reasserted its claim of sovereignty over the tiny, uninhabited islands and called on the U.S. to cease "making wrong remarks" over the issue.

Saturday's news conference was Mattis' first since taking office Jan. 20. He is the first career military



officer to serve as defense secretary since George C. Marshall, a former Army chief of staff, in 1950-51 during the Korean War. Mattis served 41 years in the Marine Corps, including a stint on Okinawa.

Mattis' task in South Korea and Japan was to assure each government that the Trump administration will stick by its treaty obligations. President Donald Trump had said during the campaign that the alliances were a bad deal for America because the allies do too little for U.S. security.

Mattis addressed this head-on.

"Japan has made noteworthy contributions to regional security and to the alliance, and the United States deeply appreciates Japan's contributions," he said. "But make no mistake: In my meeting with Japanese leaders, both our nations recognize that we must not be found complacent in the face of the challenges we face."

The U.S. has 28,500 troops in South Korea and about 50,000 in Japan.

On the Iran issue, Trump administration officials have said they were actively considering a "range of options," including economic measures and increased support for Iran's regional adversaries.

On Friday, the administration ordered sanctions against more than two dozen people and companies from the Persian Gulf to China in retaliation for Iran's recent ballistic missile test. Those targeted by the Treasury Department include Iranian, Lebanese, Emirati and Chinese individuals and firms involved in procuring ballistic missile technology for Iran.

The Trump White House has left unsaid whether military action would be part of intensifying pressure on Iran.

Iran "is the single biggest state sponsor of terrorism in the Middle East," Mattis said Saturday. "I think it is wise to make certain that Iran recognizes that what it is doing is getting the attention of a lot of people."

He added: "It does no good to ignore it. It does no good to dismiss it. At the same time, I don't see any need to increase the number of forces we have in the Middle East at this time."

During his tenure as commander of U.S. Central Command, which ended in 2013, Mattis was known to have pushed for more aggressive actions against Iran than the Obama White House would tolerate. He has called Iran the biggest threat in the Middle East.

One of the few specifics Mattis offered at his Senate confirmation hearing on combatting the Islamic State group in Syria was that he believed the campaign to take Raqqa should be accelerated. Since then he has said little on the subject.

The Obama administration had set a limit of about 500 US troops in Syria, a policy derived from then-President Barack Obama's resistance to getting drawn into another war in the Middle East.

U.S. special operations troops have been working in small groups with local Syrian opposition fighters, both Kurdish and Arab, as part of a strategy to gradually retake Raqqa, the Islamic State group's declared capital. The U.S. also has been conducting airstrikes.

## **Iraqi 'speechless' after 7-year-wait to get into US**

**By JULIE WATSON and FRANK ELTMAN, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Munther Alaskry first bonded with American Marines over a shared love of Metallica. He later cleared roads of bombs for U.S. troops and translated for them, helping the military navigate his war-torn country.

The 37-year-old Iraqi engineer spent nearly a decade working for the U.S. government in his home country and received death threats for doing so.

On Friday, a bespectacled Alaskry, his wife and children stepped onto American soil to begin new lives. His arrival ended an anxiety-filled week in which he was initially banned from the United States because of President Donald Trump's immigration order.

His life, he said, had suddenly turned into a feel-good film.

"I don't believe this is real," he said. "We always watch American movies, and this is just like my life is in one now. I'm speechless."

Alaskry waited seven years for a special visa to the United States. But the last week seemed the longest:

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He and his family were booted off the final leg of their U.S.-bound flight only hours after Trump's Jan. 27 executive order halted travel from Iraq and six other Muslim-majority countries to the United States for 90 days.

His wife was shaking as she was escorted off the plane in Turkey. Their children were crying.

When they returned to Baghdad, the ordeal kept him up at night. Alaskry thought their hopes of living free from death threats had been shattered. Then the U.S. Embassy called and told Alaskry he would be welcome.

After arriving in New York at last, the family filled out paperwork for five hours. Alaskry said he felt like emotionally he had gone between "hell and heaven."

Less than a week ago, he struggled to console his 7-year-old daughter, who had asked him through tears "Why the Americans don't want us?"

On Friday, his daughter clutched a colorful paper sign covered in hearts and the words "Welcome Munther and family." It was given to the girl by a woman from a New York synagogue who volunteered to give the family a ride to a hotel.

"I'm so excited," Alaskry said at the hotel, where his children were playing with Legos, blocks and other toys given to them by New Yorkers who turned out to help.

Alaskry was among nearly a dozen Iraqi interpreters who told The Associated Press they were taken off planes or were told their flights were cancelled after Trump's order, which also banned refugees from Syria indefinitely.

The ban outraged combat veterans who credited the Iraqis with saving their lives. The Pentagon recommended that Iraqis who had supported the U.S. mission be let in.

Days after the order, U.S. Embassy officials in Baghdad began contacting Iraqis who had received special immigrant visas because they worked for the U.S. government during the war. Among them were Alaskry and a 26-year-old man who had worked for the State Department vetting Iraqi contractors.

Alaskry first started working for the U.S. military in 2003 after meeting Marines in the streets of Baghdad. He translated for the Army and National Guard and then cleared away bombs. In 2005, he fled to Jordan after a threatening letter was left hanging from his car door.

He returned to Iraq and got a job with an Iraqi company that supported K-9 teams for the U.S. mission and later worked for a U.S. government-funded project that provided information on health care and trauma to Iraqis displaced by the fighting.

All the while, he waited for his visa to the U.S., hoping to raise his children in a safe place. He applied when his daughter was a year old and was still waiting four years later when his son was born.

Meanwhile, he and his family limited their outings, afraid of the violence and crime. After hundreds of emails, multiple interviews and medical exams, he got the call in December. The visas were ready.

Alaskry promised his daughter that she would finally see Disneyland. He quit his job, sold his car and other belongings and bought their plane tickets, spending more than \$5,000.

After he and his family were pulled from the plane in Turkey, he had to buy four more tickets to return to Baghdad.

They sat in silence in a taxi as they went to his in-laws' home.

"I felt so alone," Alaskry said.

Then he turned on the TV and saw the protests at U.S. airports.

"Every time I see those people protesting on the news, I cry," Alaskry said. "It's touching to me. These people don't know me. They don't know my story, though there are hundreds like me who supported the American troops."

When Trump was elected, Alaskry said, he was happy because he believed he would help Iraq get rid of the Islamic State group.

"I just want to tell Mr. Trump, President Trump: 'We are your allies,'" he said. "Please let us be your friends. We want to be your friends. Don't let the Iraqi people down. We look to America like it is our big brother."

In the end, he said, U.S. veterans, including the veteran-run No One Left Behind organization, came to his rescue during what he felt were his life's darkest moments after his return to Baghdad.

"When I lost hope, they told me they would fight for me, and that's what they did," he said. Now he can fulfill his daughter's dream of going to Disneyland. But first on his list was a different tourist site: the Statue of Liberty.

Watson reported from San Diego.

## Union official blames staffing shortage for guard death

By RANDALL CHASE, Associated Press

SMYRNA, Del. (AP) — The killing of a guard during an inmate uprising at Delaware's largest prison this week was entirely preventable, according to a correctional officers' union leader who blamed state officials for ignoring chronic staffing shortages that put prison workers at greater risk.

Sgt. Steven Floyd, 47, was found dead early Thursday after a nearly 20-hour hostage standoff at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center near Smyrna. Late Friday, the Delaware Division of Forensic Science completed an autopsy and said Floyd's death was homicide by trauma.

On Friday, Floyd was posthumously awarded a promotion to lieutenant and the Medal of Valor, the department's highest honor.

Floyd was one of four staff members, including a female counselor, taken hostage Wednesday after inmates in a unit holding about 120 inmates ambushed him and forced him into a closet.

Inmates released two hostages before a tactical team used a backhoe to breach the building and rescue the woman.

"If there had been a correct amount of staffing for a maximum-security building, the inmates would not have been able to overpower the officers, take control of the building and murder Sergeant Floyd," said Geoff Klopp, president of the Correctional Officers Association of Delaware.

"Bottom line is, you cannot run daily operations of that building with three corrections officers safely," he said.

The problem is not unique to Delaware, observers say.

For years, many states have struggled to attract and retain correctional officers, largely because they are woefully underpaid, said David Fathi, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project.

"The correction officers are really the backbone of every prison ... if you don't have enough officers, really every aspect of prison operations breaks down," he said.

In some states, prisons are competing for workers with Wal-Mart and McDonald's, Fathi said. In Nebraska, the state prison has trouble keeping correctional officers because its county jails will pay them much more, he said.

Klopp who has worked for the Delaware Department of Correction for 29 years, says he makes about \$49,000 annually. A rookie cop in the central Delaware town of Milford starts at \$48,000, he said.

Authorities have said there are about 90 correctional officer vacancies within Delaware's prison system on any given day. That's almost double the 55 correctional officer vacancies reported in fiscal 2010, but less than half of the 260 vacancies in fiscal 2006, according to a Department of Correction annual report.

A department spokeswoman said Commissioner Perry Phelps would not comment on staffing until the investigation into this week's uprising is finished. But the department acknowledged in its most recent annual report that "workforce availability and eminent risk are intimately linked," and that current staffing levels reflect budgetary restrictions, not adherence to National Institute of Corrections recommended standards.

When correctional officer jobs remain vacant, prisons are short staffed for extended periods, the report notes. It adds, "Covering security posts with officers who are unfamiliar with the tasks or post location elevates security risk."

Klopp said one of the two guards taken hostage along with Floyd this week was a rookie, and the other was working overtime and not normally assigned to the building where the uprising occurred.

Officers frequently are forced to work overtime to make up for staff shortages. Klopp said overtime pay amounted to about \$22 million over the past year. Correctional officers often don't find out until the end of their shifts that they are being "frozen" to work an additional shift.

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"They are still forcing people to work overtime to make the facilities run at minimum staffing. They tell you you can't go home," Klopp said.

"Not having enough staff, not having enough senior staff, and the amount of overtime that we work leads to fatigue and complacency, because we have to work so much to make the facility run," he added.

According to a 2015 annual report, the DOC had 1,710 filled correctional officer positions in fiscal 2015, up from 1,664 the prior year but well short of the 1,796 approved positions.

More than a decade ago, a state task force said staff and management were complacent about security at the Smyrna prison. The panel was established in 2004 after a female counselor was held hostage and raped. The inmate who held her was shot to death.

Klopp said that, to his knowledge, none of the recommendations made by the task force in 2005 has been implemented.

Klopp and state Sen. Bruce Ennis of Smyrna, chairman of the Senate Corrections and Public Safety Committee, said turnover among prison guards averages about a dozen a month.

"They can't train them fast enough," Ennis said. "When you lose 13 guards a month, it's kind of hard to keep up."

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

## **Blip, or was this the year fans started tuning out the NFL?**

**By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer**

HOUSTON (AP) — It may have been a blip, explained as much by the must-watch presidential debates as by some wholesale turn away from football. Or, decades from now, 2016 could be remembered as the season fans started falling out of love with the NFL.

TV ratings declined 8 percent, with the presidential election partly, but not solely, to blame. Many of the league's highest-profile contests were boring blowouts, including eight of the 10 playoff games leading to Sunday's Super Bowl between the Patriots and Falcons.

Two NFL teams abandoned fan bases in St. Louis and San Diego in favor of their original home, Los Angeles, where neither team had played for decades. And the Raiders are considering leaving Oakland for Las Vegas, which, for all its renown as America's gambling capital, has never supported its own big-league team.

A key segment of fantasy football, as big a driver of NFL growth as anything in recent years, saw its massive numbers plateau. According to Eilers & Krejci Gaming, entry fees for daily fantasy games increased by 4 percent in 2016, compared to 222 percent the year before, as several states explored the legality of what some perceive as gambling.

All this was piled on top of ongoing narratives about concussions and their effect on players, a domestic-violence problem that hasn't abated, Colin Kaepernick's national-anthem protests and the leadership of a commissioner, Roger Goodell, who is often portrayed as heavy-handed and clueless on some of the league's most pressing problems. Exhibit A: "Deflategate," which led to the four-game suspension of arguably the league's best-known player, Tom Brady.

Brady will close the season going for his fifth Super Bowl ring in a game that will draw high ratings thanks to the decades-long hold the NFL has held over American sports fans. That the infatuation will last indefinitely, however, may no longer be a given. Baseball, boxing and horse racing once consumed the American public, but they don't anymore.

"You've got bad games, (concussions) and drugs, and a declining interest in the game in general," said Orin Starn, a Duke professor who studies sports in society. "When you throw in this welfare for billionaires with these stadium shakedowns, you wonder at what point the good will of 'Joe NFL Fan' is going to dissipate and people are going to lose interest in the NFL."

One big question: Does the average fan even matter anymore in the NFL's math?

The Rams and Chargers each moved out of cities where they'd played for decades — unable to strike

deals in their existing homes, and with the lure of a \$2.6 billion stadium being funded by Rams owner Stan Kroenke too enticing to ignore. Luxury boxes and ancillary revenue from attractions adjacent to the stadium will help pay some of the bills. A bundle of TV contracts worth nearly \$40 billion through 2022 will bankroll the rest.

Actual fans? The Chargers clearly don't need them too badly. While Kroenke's palace is under construction, they're willing to play in a 30,000-seat soccer venue near downtown LA that is smaller than two-thirds of the stadiums in college football's Mountain West Conference.

"You look at that, and on some level, there is some assumption that they take fans for granted," said Eric Simons, author of "The Secret Lives of Sports Fans." "There's this idea that fans will follow or that fans don't matter. That they'll sell out their boxes to big corporations no matter where they go."

During his state-of-the-league news conference Wednesday, Goodell spelled out no fewer than four tweaks the NFL is considering to decrease the amount of dead time during games. Changing the instant replay protocol, shortening breaks between scores and the ensuing kickoffs and repackaging commercial breaks are among the possibilities. What he can't control is making the games themselves competitive. Average score of this year's playoff games: 32-17.

"What we're trying to do is make our ... games as exciting and as action-packed as possible," Goodell said.

In building new stadiums and retrofitting old ones, the league has acknowledged, on some level, that the game itself is no longer enough to keep fans in the stands engaged. TVs on seatbacks and improved internet connections are all part of the reality of 21st-century fandom.

But in the NFL's case, that also speaks to the reality that fantasy football drives a huge segment of its current growth: In many cases, fans are every bit as interested in the performance of the players they drafted as of the players wearing the jersey of the team they grew up rooting for.

It didn't help the fantasy industry when a DraftKings employee won \$350,000 in a FanDuel contest in 2015 — leading to trust issues for the two largest daily fantasy companies, which had gone largely unregulated.

Peter Schoenke, president of rotowire.com, which churns out millions of bits of information for fantasy players, said he's optimistic that fantasy will rebound.

"I think this year, a lot of people got thrown off their rhythm. They were watching the debates, (ticked) off about Kaepernick," Schoenke said. "It threw a big chunk of people off. I think next year, it could settle back down."

At stake is a business worth nearly \$13 billion that, in trying to increase its global footprint, has brought three games to London and one to Mexico, all of which were international hits.

It also brought football back to Los Angeles, times 2, and could be moving the Raider Nation to the desert.

"When you lose people in cities, lose people for entertainment reasons, lose people who identify with certain teams and because there's this weird mercenary element to it all, it can be a problem," Simons said. "You've also got a replacement, in the NBA, that's at its most-entertaining moment in decades. All that can be a real threat, and you have to be careful, or you can go the way of boxing."

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

## Trump launches his attack on banks' financial restraints

By JILL COLVIN and MARCY GORDON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump launched his long-promised attack Friday on banking rules that were rushed into law after the nation's economic crisis, signing new orders after meeting with business and investment chiefs and pledging further action to free big banks from restrictions. Wall Street cheered him on, but Trump risks disillusioning his working-class voters.

He directed his Treasury secretary to review the devilishly complex 2010 Dodd-Frank financial oversight law, which was signed by President Barack Obama to overhaul regulations after the financial and housing crisis of the past decade. It aimed to restrain banks' from misdeeds that many blamed for the crisis.

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The new president also signed a memorandum instructing the Labor Department to delay an Obama-era rule that requires financial professionals who charge commissions to put their clients' best interests first when giving advice on retirement investments.

While the order on Dodd-Frank, named after its Democratic sponsors, won't have an immediate impact, Trump's intent is clear. The law has been a disaster in restricting banks' activities, he said earlier this week. "We're going to be doing a big number on Dodd-Frank."

During a meeting with business leaders, including JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon on Friday, he said, "Frankly I have so many people, friends of mine that have nice businesses that can't borrow money. They just can't get any money because the banks just won't let 'em borrow because of the rules and regulations of Dodd-Frank."

Those regulations unnecessarily cramp the U.S. economy and job creation, he declared. But many Democrats see it differently, including Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who was behind the formation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, formed as part of the Dodd-Frank law.

"Donald Trump talked a big game about Wall Street during his campaign — but as president, we're finding out whose side he's really on," Warren said in a statement. "The Wall Street bankers and lobbyists whose greed and recklessness nearly destroyed this country may be toasting each other with champagne, but the American people have not forgotten the 2008 financial crisis — and they will not forget what happened today."

The crisis touched off the worst recession since the 1930s Great Depression, wiping out \$11 trillion in U.S. household wealth and leaving about 8 million Americans jobless. U.S. taxpayers funded multibillion-dollar bailouts of Wall Street mega-banks, smaller banks across the country and other financial firms.

Eight years on, the economy's recovery has been halting, a situation that contributed to Trump's election. Beyond being fed up with bailouts, consumers have an interest in the Financial Protection Bureau, which expanded regulators' ability to police a wide array of financial products and services.

During his campaign, Trump pledged to repeal and replace the law, but he also railed against Wall Street excess and vowed to hold the industry accountable for the crisis. His rhetoric left questions about how closely he would align with the financial services industries' years-long fight to undo regulations they view as burdensome.

Since winning the White House, Trump has cleared up some of those questions. He has filled his administration with millionaires and financiers and signed the orders after meeting with top CEOs and banking executives.

In his other action Friday, Trump's presidential memorandum on financial advisers delayed implementation of the past administration's "fiduciary rule," aimed at blocking consultants from steering clients toward investments with higher commissions and fees that can eat away at retirement savings. The rule was to take effect in April.

The financial services industry argues that the rule would limit retirees' investment choices by forcing asset managers to steer them to low-risk options.

Meanwhile, unwinding most of Dodd-Frank will require legislation, and on Capitol Hill the Republicans' yearning to cut it down is as strong as ever. But tax reform, reworking "Obamacare" and other issues are more immediate priorities, some Republicans suggest. Further, the big Wall Street banks already have baked in many of the Dodd-Frank rules and aren't clamoring to unwind all of them.

Aiming lower, in the pre-dawn hours of Friday, Congress passed and sent to Trump for his signature legislation striking down a rule that requires oil and gas companies to disclose payments to the U.S. or foreign governments for commercial development.

Critics warn that rolling back the Dodd-Frank regulations would put the economy at risk.

"You can blow up the financial system and really crush the American economy. I think that's where they're headed," said Michael S. Barr, a former assistant treasury secretary for financial institutions and a key architect of the law.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is a prime target within the law for Republican lawmakers,

who have long accused it of overreach. But there are political risks in Trump taking a hatchet to a watchdog agency focused on protecting ordinary consumers against abusive practices by banks, mortgage companies, credit card issuers, payday lenders, debt collectors and others.

Over five years, the agency says, it has recovered \$11.7 billion that it returned to more than 27 million harmed consumers.

"You could expect pushback, that this is about favoring Wall Street over Main Street," said Phillip Swagel, an assistant Treasury secretary for economic policy in the George W. Bush administration.

Going after the bureau, Barr said, would likely hurt consumers, "including some of President Trump's strongest supporters."

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

## DeVos moves closer to confirmation as education secretary

By MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Betsy DeVos moved closer toward confirmation as education secretary Friday after clearing a major hurdle in the Senate, even as Democrats and labor unions fervently sought another Republican vote against her.

Tensions flew on the Senate floor during an early-morning session, with a senior Republican saying DeVos will make an "excellent" secretary and a top Democrat calling her "one of the worst nominees." Republicans overpowered Democrats, voting 52-48 to cut off debate on the nomination, setting the stage for a final vote Tuesday.

DeVos, a billionaire Republican donor, has faced fierce criticism from labor unions for her promotion of school choice. Democrats and teachers' organizations have accused her of seeking to dismantle public education and divert taxpayer money to charter schools and private school vouchers.

Two Republican senators, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, have said they would vote against her nomination, and others are being bombarded by phone calls and letters from parents and teachers across the country. If all Democrats vote against her and no other Republicans dissent, Vice President Mike Pence would have to break a 50-50 tie to gain DeVos' confirmation.

Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, praised DeVos' work in reforming the school system through charter schools.

"Teachers have more freedom and parents have more choices, they are public schools and Betsy DeVos is in the forefront of helping create that opportunity for public education," Alexander said shortly after Friday's vote limiting debate. He said DeVos will seek to diminish federal control over education and give more power to states and locales on such issues as academic standards, teacher evaluations and vouchers.

"We will be swapping a national school board for what she believes in, which is a local school board," said Alexander, who served as education secretary under President George H.W. Bush.

But Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the senior Democrat on the committee, said she strongly opposes DeVos because of her tangled finances and potential conflicts of interest, her lack of experience in public schools and knowledge of basic education issues. Murray complained that the confirmation hearing was rushed and that DeVos didn't answer all the questions from Democrats.

"Betsy DeVos is committed to privatizing public schools, and diverting public funds into private taxpayer-funded vouchers that would leave far too many students behind," Murray said.

In addition to the statements of opposition by the two Republican senators, billionaire philanthropist and public education backer Eli Broad also has come out against her.

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said that Republican senators are under pressure to oppose DeVos.

"This grassroots outcry crosses party and geographic lines," Weingarten said. "If the DeVos vote was based on the merits, including what constituents are telling their senators, rather than senators being scared of President Trump, DeVos would not be confirmed."

In a tongue-in-cheek attempt to highlight opposition to the nomination, several fundraising efforts have been started on the GoFundMe online platform urging people to donate money to “buy” the votes of senators who have received campaign contributions from DeVos or her family and have said they would vote for her.

One such effort was launched by Katherine Fritz, a 31-year-old educator and artist from Philadelphia. “If Betsy DeVos can buy Senator Toomey’s vote, we should be allowed to do the same,” she said on the web page.

Fritz told The Associated Press that she started the campaign as a joke and a way to urge Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey to “reconnect with his constituents.” She never expected it to garner more than \$30 — but as of Friday night, Fritz has raised over \$40,000 in what has become the platform’s top trending campaign, according to a GoFundMe spokeswoman.

Fritz said she never actually planned to bribe the senator and will donate the money to three educational charities. Toomey’s spokesman could not be immediately reached for comment.

DeVos, 59, is the wife of Dick DeVos, heir to the Amway marketing fortune. She has spent more than two decades advocating for charter schools in her home state of Michigan and elsewhere around the country. Her support of anti-LGBT organizations and her advocacy for conservative religious values have also caused concerns that she will be a weak advocate for the LGBT community and other minorities.

Even if she is confirmed in what some experts say is the most divisive nomination battle in the department’s history, DeVos is off to an uneasy start.

“It’s definitely been contentious in an unprecedented way,” said Elizabeth Mann, an education policy fellow at Brookings. “Not having a majority vote when her party controls the Senate and when a member of her party is the White House does not send a signal bipartisan support of her agenda.”

Patrick McGuinn, a professor of political science and education at Drew University said that while DeVos will emerge as “somewhat damaged goods” from the nomination process, that is unlikely to derail her work going forward.

“There is not as much need for the Secretary DeVos to seek compromise across the aisle,” McGuinn said. “Where she may be starting under controversial conditions, the fact remains that Democrats will have a very difficult time blocking her agenda and actions as education secretary.”

## **Soldiers thwart attack on Louvre, tourists held in lockdown**

**By SYLVIE CORBET, JOHN LEICESTER and RAPHAEL SATTER, Associated Press**

PARIS (AP) — Paris was plunged into panic — again — when soldiers guarding the Louvre Museum shot an attacker who lunged at them with two machetes on Friday and shouted “Allahu Akbar!” as the historic landmark went into lockdown.

The threat appeared to quickly recede after the assailant was subdued, but it cast a new shadow over the city just as tourism was beginning to rebound after a string of deadly attacks. Coming just hours before Paris finalized its bid for the 2024 Olympics, it also renewed questions about security in the City of Light.

The soldiers’ quick action put an end to what French President Francois Hollande said was “no doubt” a terrorist attack at one of Paris’ most iconic tourist attractions.

French prosecutor Francois Molins said the assailant was believed to be a 29-year-old Egyptian who had been living in the United Arab Emirates, though his identity has not yet been formally confirmed.

“Everything shows that the assailant was very determined”, Molins told a news conference, adding that the attacker, who was shot four times, was in a life-threatening condition in a hospital.

Anti-terrorism prosecutors took charge of the investigation as police carried out raids near the tree-lined Champs-Elysees linked to the attack, which came two months after authorities carried out a special anti-terrorism exercise around the Louvre.

Molins said the attacker was not carrying any identity papers but investigators used his cellphone and a national data base of visa applicants containing their photos and fingerprints to determine that he was a resident of the United Arab Emirates who arrived in Paris on a tourist visa on Jan. 26.



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Two days later the suspect bought two military machetes at a gun store in Paris, the prosecutor said. He also paid 1,700 euros for a one-week stay at an apartment in the chic 8th arrondissement of the French capital, near the Champs-Élysées.

In the apartment, police found an Egyptian passport and 965 euros, as well as a residence permit, driver's license and a credit card all issued from the UAE, Molins said. He said the suspect's return flight to Dubai was scheduled for Sunday.

Friday's attack targeted an entrance to a shopping mall that extends beneath the sprawling Louvre, a medieval former royal palace now home to the "Mona Lisa" and hundreds of other masterpieces.

Waving two machetes over his head, the assailant lunged at the soldiers patrolling in the mall, shouting "Allahu Akbar!" or "God is great!" Molins said.

One soldier fought him off and was slightly injured in the scalp. Another soldier fell to the ground as the assailant tried to slash him, then opened fire, shooting the attacker in the stomach. When that didn't stop him, the soldier fired three more times, gravely wounding him. The backpack the man was carrying contained cans of spray paint, but no explosives, Molins said.

The 1,200 people inside the Louvre — one of the world's biggest tourist attractions — were first shuttled into windowless rooms as part of a special security protocol before being evacuated. The museum in central Paris remained closed for the rest of Friday but will reopen on Saturday, Culture Minister Audrey Azoulay told reporters.

Hollande, speaking at a news conference in Malta where he was attending a European Union summit, said that while the Louvre incident was quickly contained, the overall threat to France remains high. He said the incident showed the need for the increased security patrols deployed around France since attacks in 2015.

Those patrols — numbering about 3,500 soldiers in the Paris area — were first deployed following the January 2015 attack on Paris' satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and reinforced after the November 2015 bomb-and-gun attacks that left 130 people dead at the city's Bataclan concert hall and other sites. The country has been under a state of emergency since.

Interior Minister Bruno Le Roux praised the soldiers involved in Friday's attack, saying "to wear a uniform, as we can see in the propaganda of those who want to attack us, is to be a target."

Restaurant worker Sanae Hadraoui, 32, said she was waiting for breakfast at a McDonald's in the Louvre's restaurant complex when she heard the first gunshot, followed by another and then a couple more.

"I hear a shot. Then a second shot. Then maybe two more. I hear people screaming, 'Evacuate! Evacuate!'" she said. "They told us to evacuate. I told my colleagues at the McDonald's. We went downstairs and then took the emergency exit."

Parisian Makram Chokri, who was shopping in the mall, described hearing a "boom, boom, boom over a few seconds. ... We thought it was an exercise at first but you know, you have a lot of scenarios going through your mind."

Police sealed off mall entrances near the Louvre and closed the area to vehicles, snarling traffic in Paris. Confused tourists were shooed away.

Lance Manus, a tourist from Albany, New York, described young girls crying in panic, and had immediate thoughts of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

"That's what we're used to now," he said. "I mean we have to learn to live with it, be vigilant. So we listen to instructions from the security guards and do what they told us."

Eric Grau, a high school teacher chaperoning a group of 52 students, said: "We were in one of the galleries and a voice came through the loudspeakers to alert us, saying there was an alert." He said the group was taken to safety in the African art gallery.

The attack came hours before the city unveiled its bid for the 2024 Olympics. Paris is competing against Budapest and Los Angeles for the games, which it hasn't hosted since 1924.

Speaking outside the Louvre, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said terrorism threatens all of the world's big cities and "there is not a single one escaping that menace."

The speed with which Paris largely went back to normal after the attack, with officers gradually dis-

mantling barricades and pulling down police tape around the Louvre just three hours later, underscored how the French city has — unwillingly but stoically — been forced to learn to live with extremist threats.

Within hours, French radio stations went back to talking about storms battering the west coast and school holiday traffic.

Associated Press writers Angela Charlton, Greg Keller, Samuel Petrequin, Alex Turnbull and Jeff Schaeffer in Paris contributed to this report.

## 'Sanctuary cities' bill advances in Texas, despite outcry

By WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Texas Senate panel shrugged off 16 hours of sometimes tearful pleas and defiant opposition to approve a "sanctuary cities" proposal that would withhold grant funding from local jurisdictions that don't hand over immigrants already in custody for possible deportation.

A 7-2 vote around 12:45 a.m. Friday from the chamber's powerful State Affairs Committee sends the bill to the full Senate, where a vote could come as early as next week.

Hundreds of Texans traveled from all over the state to testify on the bill and proceedings were repeatedly disrupted by protesters. Supporters say the measure will impose the rule of law, but civic groups, immigration lawyers, church leaders and Hispanic activists oppose it, fearing it will lead to racial profiling and promote mistrust of law enforcement among minority communities.

The committee voted along party lines and the hotly contested bill should clear the Senate too, since Republicans control 20 of its 31 seats. Similar measures have been backed by top Texas Republicans in previous years but never became law. A bill reaching the Senate floor so early in the state's legislative session — which began Jan. 10 and runs through the end of May — bodes well for its chances this time.

The Texas Democratic Party accused Republicans of using the late hour to rush legislation that much of the state doesn't want. The committee had scheduled a second meeting to discuss the bill after 8:30 a.m. on Friday, but canceled that after succeeding in voting overnight.

"In the dead of the night, while the very families that will be targeted by this discriminatory legislation were asleep, Republicans voted to launch Trump's deportation force agenda," Manny Garcia, the party's deputy executive director, said in a statement Friday.

Republican state Sen. Charles Perry said local authorities must enforce the law.

"This is not a deportation bill, this is a rule-of-law bill," Perry said. "We have almost a culture of contempt for federal immigration law."

The term "sanctuary cities" has no legal definition, but Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has promoted the legislation as a move to crackdown on criminal suspects who are in the country illegally. The issue has become contentious in many legislatures around the country, especially with President Donald Trump promising to wall off the U.S.-Mexico border and impose strict federal immigration policies.

As proposed, Texas' bill applies to local police forces and law enforcement at college campuses, and seeks to strip authorities of state-controlled grant funding if they don't comply — though some of its key provisions may change as it clears the Senate and makes its way through Texas' Republican-controlled state House.

Individual sheriffs and police chiefs — particularly in heavily Democratic areas — have long opposed enforcing federal immigration law, though some statewide law enforcement groups have endorsed the bill. Abbott has already blocked \$1.5 million to be withheld from the Travis County sheriff, who has said the jails in the state capital, Austin, will no longer honor most federal immigration detainers. That funding supported projects such as family violence education and a special court for veterans. The governor has warned that more money could be cut.

On Friday, an Austin Democratic lawmaker launched a website to fundraise money to replace the grant dollars.

"If Governor Abbott is willing to sacrifice our veterans, women and children to score political points, then we will show him the power of love," state Rep. Eddie Rodriguez said.

Opponents of the measure say immigrant communities won't cooperate with law enforcement for fear of deportation if anti-sanctuary cities legislation is approved in Texas.

This story has been corrected to show that Manny Garcia is the Texas Democratic Party's deputy executive director, not its executive director.

## 'El Chapo' lawyers say jail conditions are too strict in NYC

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — He's locked up 23 hours a day. His wife can't visit him. He can't call anyone, except his lawyers. He even was denied water, his lawyers say.

The strict jail conditions for notorious Mexican drug lord and escape artist Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman were outlined on Friday by defense attorneys in a failed bid to get a judge to loosen them.

Guzman smiled at his common-law wife, Emma Coronel, as he was led into the Brooklyn courtroom under heavy guard by deputy U.S. marshals at his second court appearance since being brought to the United States on Jan. 19.

"This was so far the only way she has been able to see him," defense attorney Michelle Gelernt said afterward with a silent Coronel at her side.

Guzman, 59, has pleaded not guilty to charges of running a massive drug trafficking operation that laundered billions of dollars and oversaw murders and kidnappings. He's being held at a high-security federal jail in Manhattan, with U.S. officials mindful of how he twice escaped from prison in Mexico, the second time via a mile-long tunnel dug to the shower in his cell.

Defense lawyers complained to U.S. District Judge Brian Cogan on Friday that the restrictions make it difficult for him to make decisions with them about how to fight the charges. They claimed his jailers are so zealous, they denied him water during a recent meeting with the defense team.

"I don't think there's any thought that if I have the guards give him a glass of water during a three-hour meeting that somehow that's going to effectuate his escape," Gelernt told reporters outside court.

But Cogan, after alluding to having secret correspondence with the government about the risks of guarding Guzman, told the defense he wouldn't weigh in on the jail conditions.

"Based on what I know about this case, there are grounds for extra security measures," the judge said, with Guzman listening through a Spanish interpreter.

Guzman is due back in court on May 5.

## Trump inherits a healthy job market, with solid hiring

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has inherited a healthy-looking job market from his predecessor, with the U.S. economy registering a burst of hiring in January and an influx of Americans looking for work.

U.S. employers added 227,000 jobs last month, the Labor Department said Friday. That's the biggest gain since September, and it exceeded last year's monthly average of 187,000.

Unemployment ticked up to a still-low 4.8 percent from 4.7 percent in December. But it rose for an encouraging reason: More Americans started looking for work last month.

The unemployment rate counts only those people who are actually trying to find a job. All told, more than a half-million Americans began looking in January, and the vast majority landed a job.

That suggests the job market could grow more quickly than expected in the coming months.

"You could have a faster pace of job growth, because you have more people out there looking for work," said Michelle Meyer, chief U.S. economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Investors appeared upbeat about the jobs report. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 187 points to lift the index back above 20,000.

Yet some of the economy's softness remains: Average hourly wages — a weak spot since the Great

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Recession ended 7½ years ago — barely rose last month. And the number of people working part time who would prefer full-time work climbed.

The January figures reflect hiring that occurred mostly before Trump was inaugurated on Jan. 20. Still, it was the first employment report to be released with Trump in the White House.

The president expressed satisfaction with the jobs report and suggested that the sharp hiring gain reflected confidence among employers about his administration.

"Great spirit in the country right now," Trump said as he began a meeting at the White House with corporate CEOs and other business leaders. "We're very happy about that."

As a candidate, Trump frequently argued that the government's jobs data exaggerated the health of the economy. He called the unemployment rate a "hoax" and said it declined after the recession under President Barack Obama mainly because many Americans stopped working or looking for work.

Friday's figures also represent a final report card on Obama. The economy added jobs for a record 76 straight months, or nearly 6½ years, and gained 11.5 million jobs during his two terms in office.

That puts Obama fourth in job-creation among the 12 presidents who have served since World War II, according to Hamilton Place Strategies, a consulting firm.

Many employers appear to have adopted a more positive outlook since Trump's election. His promise of tax cuts, deregulation and infrastructure spending has increased their confidence that the economy's sluggish growth will pick up.

The National Federation of Independent Business said its measure of small-business optimism soared 38 points in December to its highest level since 2004. And the Conference Board's consumer confidence index jumped to a 15-year high in December before dipping slightly last month.

Economists said optimism may have played some role in lifting hiring last month.

"I think there is some anticipatory hiring going on," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University. "The only way I can really explain that is optimism related to the election."

Robert Mayfield, 69, owns eight Dairy Queen franchises and an independent restaurant in Austin, Texas. He plans to open a ninth DQ that will employ about 30 people and said he is much more bullish about the economy since the election.

"It's surprising how much your horizons change when you feel good about the economy," he said. "Instead of hunkering down, we're looking to expand."

Some of January's hiring probably reflects weather and other seasonal quirks. Construction companies, for example, added 36,000 jobs, the most since March. That figure might have been boosted by unseasonably warm weather in the Northeast.

And retailers generated 46,000 more jobs, the sharpest monthly gain in nearly a year. But that number probably reflected imperfections in the government's seasonal adjustment process, which tries to account for the pre-holiday hiring boom and the post-holiday layoffs.

## Discarded IS receipts offer glimpse into former Mosul life

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Receipts from taxi rides, ledgers listing internet usage for the privileged few and random logbooks documenting an ever tighter economy are just some of the documents that Islamic State militants left behind when they fled eastern Mosul in the face of advancing Iraqi forces.

The discarded papers and bundles of receipts, found on a recent visit to a home used as a base for the militants in the city, offer an unusual glimpse into the Islamic State group's daily life and economy.

In the months leading up to the Mosul offensive, IS fighters were increasingly pushed underground by punishing U.S.-led coalition airstrikes.

The bookkeeping reveals how IS bases had become increasingly like bunkers, but also how easily the fighters were able to move within their so-called caliphate just a year ago, when it spanned across western Iraq and a third of Syria.

Most of the receipts were from early 2016, when IS had only just lost control of the city of Ramadi in western Anbar province, but still controlled about a quarter of Iraq's territory. Slips of paper document

taxi rides back and forth to IS-held towns across the Iraq-Syria border.

According to the receipts, Hit was a frequent destination — a small crossroads town along the Euphrates River that was an important logistics and supply hub for IS. The fuel for the six-hour drive cost only 29,000 Iraqi Dinars or about \$22. The drives were likely runs to pick up supplies or hold operational meetings.

Another slip of paper on IS stationary bills a Mosul-based passenger, likely an IS fighter, for gas purchased in the Syrian city of Raqqa — the de facto capital of the IS group.

Stacks of papers also testify that the group kept close tabs of utilities such as electricity and internet usage. Monthly cards bearing users' internet names and passwords were filed with the base's expenses.

While internet and mobile phones were strictly outlawed under IS in Mosul to prevent civilians from becoming government informants, the internet receipts suggest IS used centralized internet connections across the city.

IS-held territory in and around Mosul and in Anbar has significantly shrunk over the past months — the roads fighters once easily traveled by taxi in early 2016 are now dotted with government checkpoints and airstrike craters.

The western half of Mosul, which is still under IS control, is almost entirely cut off from territory the militants hold in Syria. In Mosul's east, the abandoned IS bases sit ransacked by security forces, intelligence officers and curious neighbors.

## **AP FACT CHECK: Conway says she misspoke on 'massacre'**

**By PATRICK MAIRS, Associated Press**

A top aide to President Donald Trump said Friday she misspoke when she cited a 2011 "massacre" in Kentucky that never happened.

A day earlier, during an interview with MSNBC's Chris Matthews, Kellyanne Conway defended Trump's temporary ban on immigration from seven Muslim-majority nations by saying that former President Barack Obama instituted a similar policy for Iraqi refugees in 2011.

"President Obama had a six-month ban on the Iraqi refugee program after two Iraqis came here to this country, were radicalized, and they were the masterminds behind the Bowling Green massacre," Conway said. "Most people don't know that because it didn't get covered."

It didn't happen.

Conway tweeted Friday morning that she meant to say "Bowling Green terrorists" during the interview.

Her description of the 2011 Obama administration policy as a ban was also a mischaracterization, which she didn't correct.

Obama never banned Iraqi refugees or other Iraqi travelers from coming to the United States. His administration did slow down the processing for Iraqis seeking Special Immigrant Visas, which are given to translators and interpreters who worked with the U.S. in that country.

The slowdown was prompted by the May 2011 arrest of two men in Kentucky charged with plotting to send weapons and money to al-Qaida operatives abroad. Waad Ramadan Alwan and Mohanad Shareef Hammadi, were mistakenly admitted to the U.S. as Iraqi refugees in 2009 and resettled in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Alwan and Hammadi are in prison after pleading guilty. They were never accused of plotting to launch attacks inside the U.S.

According to State Department data, 9,388 Iraqi refugees were admitted to the United States during the 2011 budget year. The data also show that Iraqi refugees were admitted every month during the 2011 calendar year.

In addition, more than 7,800 Iraqis were allowed into the United States on nonimmigrant visas, including tourists, during the 2011 budget year, government data show.

## **GOP mulls 'repairing' Obamacare law it vowed to repeal**

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are increasingly talking about repairing President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, a softer tone that comes as their march to fulfill a keystone campaign promise encounters disunity, drooping momentum and uneasy voters.

GOP lawmakers insist they haven't abandoned their goal of repeal, though they face lingering disputes about whether that should come before, after or simultaneously with a replacement effort.

Republicans triumphantly shoved a budget through Congress three weeks ago that gave committees until Jan. 27 to write bills dismantling the law and substituting a Republican plan. Everyone knew that deadline meant little, but now leaders are talking about moving initial legislation by early spring.

And as the party struggles to translate its long-time political mantra into legislation that can pass Congress, some Republicans are using gentler language.

"It's repairing the damage Obamacare has caused. It's more accurate" than repeal and replace, said Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., who chairs the Senate health committee. He noted that President Donald Trump and many Republicans like popular provisions like requiring family policies to cover children up to age 26 and said, "We're not repealing all of Obamacare."

Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said Republicans are "laying the foundation to rebuild America's health care markets as we dismantle Obamacare."

The refined phraseology is endorsed by Frank Luntz, the longtime GOP rhetoric guru. He credited Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., with the idea, saying by email, "He was right. Americans want the ACA repealed and repaired," using the Affordable Care Act's acronym.

The shifting language comes with battles raging over Trump's Supreme Court and Cabinet nominees. That and controversies surrounding his temporary refugee ban have sapped energy from the health care drive.

It also comes with polls spotlighting GOP risks. A recent Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll found 53 percent want to keep Obama's law in some form, and 56 percent concerned that repeal means many will lose insurance.

Vice President Mike Pence stood by the tougher sounding "repeal and replace" language on FOX News Channel's "Hannity" Thursday, saying "We are absolutely committed" to doing both simultaneously.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., says Republicans want to "rescue" the health system and Thursday embraced all of the competing phraseology.

"The best way to repair a health care system is to repeal and replace Obamacare," he said.

Talk of repair dismays other Republicans, including hard-line conservatives. They say the GOP pledge since Democrats enacted the 2010 law was to repeal it, later amended to "repeal and replace."

"You've got to repeal the law that's the problem. That's what we told the voters we were going to do," said Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a leader of the conservative House Freedom Caucus.

Jordan cites problems that have accompanied the statute, including rising premiums and deductibles and diminished choices in some individual insurance markets. He says health care would improve if Obama's law vanishes.

"If you start from that premise, repair shouldn't be your mindset," Jordan said.

Democrats say the GOP's evolving language signals retreat. They say Republicans will threaten health care's availability and raise rates, angering the 20 million people who gained insurance under the law and tens of millions of others who benefit from the statute's coverage requirements.

"It puts the burden on them to come up with the so-called repairs," said No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois. "What a departure from repeal it, walk away from it and America will be a better place."

Republicans continue shaping proposals to void Obama's statute. Potential targets include the law's requirement that people without coverage from work buy policies, the subsidies many of them receive and the tax increases on higher-income people and the health industry.

Some Republicans want to reshape and cut Medicaid, which provides health coverage to lower-earning people, but others represent states that expanded it under Obama's statute. Most want language block-

ing federal payments to Planned Parenthood but some don't, and some would let states choose to keep Obama's law intact.

There are also disputes over how to provide money so people don't abruptly lose coverage and to entice insurance companies fearing losses to keep selling policies.

With insurers crafting their 2018 rates over the coming two months, the industry's leading trade group expressed its jitters to Congress this week. Marilyn Tavenner, president of America's Health Insurance Plans, told Alexander's committee that insurers must know soon whether lawmakers will continue federal payments that let companies reduce out-of-pocket costs for many lower-earning customers.

Losing those subsidies "would further deteriorate an already unstable market and hurt the millions of consumers who depend on these programs," she warned.

At a hearing Thursday before a House health subcommittee, Republicans revealed four drafts of potential bills. One would let insurers charge older customers higher rates. Another would replace the law's unpopular individual mandate with a requirement that people maintain "continuous" coverage if they want to avoid more expensive policies.

AP Congressional Correspondent Erica Werner contributed to this report.

## Israeli settler group shrugs off White House criticism

By IAN DEITCH, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli settlers on Friday shrugged off White House criticism of settlement construction, convinced they have the sympathies of President Donald Trump. The Palestinians, still wary of Trump, warned that the settlers' hard-line stance could spell the end to a two-state solution to the conflict.

Trump has been perceived as sympathetic to the settlements, an issue at the heart of the Israel-Palestinian conflict that was a frequent source of friction between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former President Barack Obama. Israeli nationalists believe they now have an ally in the White House and have made no secret they will push for more settlements in the West Bank.

The White House said Thursday that although the administration doesn't "believe the existence of settlements is an impediment to peace, the construction of new settlements or the expansion of existing settlements beyond their current borders may not be helpful in achieving that goal."

The unexpected warning came hours after Netanyahu vowed to establish the first new West Bank settlement in over two decades "as soon as possible," promising to make up for a court-ordered demolition of an illegal settlement outpost.

Israeli security forces dismantled the West Bank outpost of Amona earlier in the day amid clashes between police and dozens of hard-line settlers who had barricaded themselves in a synagogue.

Oded Revivi, the chief foreign envoy of the Yesha settlers' council, said his group "thanks the White House for asserting that our communities were never an impediment to peace." Using the biblical name for the West Bank, he said "nothing is more natural and morally just than Jews building in Judea."

"We look forward to working closely with our friends in the new Trump administration to build a brighter future all," he added.

The settler movement is a potent political force in Israel, and Netanyahu's narrow nationalist coalition government is dominated by settlers and their supporters.

The Palestinians claim all of the West Bank and east Jerusalem along with the Gaza Strip — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — for their state. The Palestinians and much of the international community consider all Israeli settlements illegal and view them as a hindrance to reaching a two-state solution to the conflict.

Husam Zomlot, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said "this statement of the White House is in the right direction, but we need more than words to protect the two-state solution, otherwise we will find nothing to talk about when President Trump" unveils his policies on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We need actions rather than words to stop the Israeli settlements expansion, which is violating the

international law and killing the two-state solution," Zomlot added.

Israeli nationalists, including Netanyahu, defend the settlements on both security grounds and the historic religious ties to the territory. They say east Jerusalem, home to key sites sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians, is an eternal part of Israel's capital and not up for negotiation.

Today, there are some 400,000 Israelis living in West Bank settlements, in addition to roughly 200,000 Israelis in east Jerusalem, also captured in 1967 from Jordan.

In 2005, Israel withdrew its settlers and troops from Gaza. Two years later, the coastal strip was overrun by the Islamic militant group Hamas. Many Israelis are wary of relinquishing further territory, citing the Hamas takeover — the Palestinian group has launched rockets at Israeli cities and fought three wars with the Jewish state.

Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said Friday if the U.S. concedes that settlements are not an obstacle to peace, then "it must be concluded that expanding construction is not a problem."

Education Minister Naftali Bennett, leader of the pro-settlement Jewish Home Party, has been pushing Netanyahu to abandon the internationally backed idea of a Palestinian state and to annex the Maaleh Adumim settlement near Jerusalem. The White House statement could help Netanyahu fend off hard-line pressure to keep building and annex territory.

For decades, U.S. presidents have joined the international community in condemning the settlements. In December, the Obama administration allowed the U.N. Security Council to pass a resolution condemning the settlements as a "flagrant violation" of international law. In his farewell speech, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry also harshly criticized them.

Trump has said he wants to broker a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians but has given no indication of how he plans to accomplish it. His campaign platform made no mention of a Palestinian state, for decades the cornerstone of U.S. Mideast policy, and he has surrounded himself with advisers with deep ties to the settlement movement.

A day before the evacuation of the Amona outpost, Netanyahu approved 3,000 homes in West Bank settlements in addition to earlier approvals of 2,500 homes in the West Bank and 560 in east Jerusalem.

His government had unsuccessfully tried to block the evacuation of Amona. But Israel's Supreme Court rejected all appeals after determining the outpost was built illegally two decades ago on private Palestinian land.

The White House said Thursday the administration hasn't taken an official position on settlements and Trump looks forward to continued discussions on the issue. He will meet with Netanyahu at the White House on Feb. 15.

Netanyahu's office said Friday that he and Trump would discuss a range of issues, including the settlements.

Earlier, Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon said when asked by Israel Radio whether Trump was changing his tune on settlements that he "wouldn't describe this as a U-turn."

"The statement is very clear .... It says: 'Wait for the meeting between Prime Minister Netanyahu ... and President Trump, and then we will determine the policy,'" Danon added.

## **AP FACT CHECK: Trump vs. Pelosi on Russia sanctions**

**By MATTHEW LEE and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats didn't wait to assemble the facts before they accused President Donald Trump of rewarding "thugs" in the Russian intelligence service by lifting certain sanctions. The facts don't support them.

The Trump administration on Thursday revised sanctions on the Russian intelligence service, FSB, to correct an unintended consequence of broader penalties placed on Russia by President Barack Obama. That prompted a hair-trigger response from Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the House Democratic leader, and others.

PELOSI: "Less than two weeks after walking into the White House, President Trump lifts sanctions on the Russian Security Service. Vladimir Putin's thugs meddle with an American election, and President Trump



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gives them a thank you present. "

REP. ERIC SWALWELL, D-Calif: "Russia attacked our democracy. It should be punished. Instead, President Trump is easing sanctions against its team of hackers, the FSB." He added

TRUMP: "I haven't eased anything."

SEAN SPICER, Trump press secretary: "Regular course of action."

THE FACTS: They support Trump and his spokesman.

The Dec. 29 sanctions imposed by the Obama administration were not intended to ban the U.S. sale of cellphones, tablets and other consumer electronics to Russia. But they had that effect, by barring U.S. firms from getting the permits needed from the FSB to sell in Russia. The FSB has regulatory as well as intelligence responsibilities.

Trump's change does not materially benefit the FSB, except in a minuscule way. It allows U.S. firms to pay the FSB a required fee of up to \$5,000 per year to export encryption-capable consumer electronics to that country. It's of more benefit to the U.S. sellers and Russian buyers of those devices. It's not unusual to fine-tune sanctions to permit certain transactions.

Now, the Treasury Department will allow "certain transactions" with the FSB "that are necessary and ordinarily incident to requesting certain licenses and authorizations for the importation, distribution, or use of certain information technology products in the Russian Federation."

Democrats in particular are incensed at alleged Russian hacking of their party's communications in the campaign. And lawmakers from both parties have been watching for a sign that Trump will try to ease Obama's Russian sanctions in a consequential way, given his cozy rhetoric about Putin during and after the campaign. This isn't it.

Republican Sen. John McCain, hawkish on Russian sanctions, shrugged off the revision as an apparent "technical fix." The same thought was voiced by Democrat Jake Sullivan, a senior policy adviser to Hillary Clinton, who said in a televised interview that former Obama administration officials viewed the Trump move as "a technical correction."

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2017. There are 330 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 4, 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

On this date:

In 1783, Britain's King George III proclaimed a formal cessation of hostilities in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1861, delegates from six southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt opened the Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid.

In 1941, the United Service Organizations (USO) came into existence.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta.

In 1962, a rare conjunction of the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn occurred.

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst, 19, was kidnapped in Berkeley, California, by the radical Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1977, eleven people were killed when two Chicago Transit Authority trains collided on an elevated track.

In 1983, pop singer-musician Karen Carpenter died in Downey, California, at age 32.

In 1987, pianist Liberace died at his Palm Springs, California, home at age 67.

In 1997, a civil jury in Santa Monica, California, found O.J. Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife,

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Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

In 2004, the Massachusetts high court declared that gay couples were entitled to nothing less than marriage, and that Vermont-style civil unions would not suffice. The social networking website Facebook had its beginnings as Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook."

Ten years ago: The Indianapolis Colts won Super Bowl XLI (41), beating the Chicago Bears 29-17. Singer-actress Barbara McNair died in Los Angeles at age 72.

Five years ago: Russia and China vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution aimed at ending Syria's bloodshed. Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney cruised to a decisive victory in the Nevada caucuses. Running back Curtis Martin, the fourth-leading rusher in NFL history, and linemen Chris Doleman, Cortez Kennedy, Willie Roaf and Dermontti Dawson were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, along with senior committee choice Jack Butler. Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers won the 2011 Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award in a landslide. Florence Green, who had served with the Women's Royal Air Force and was recognized as the last veteran of World War I, died in King's Lynn, eastern England, at age 110.

One year ago: In their first one-on-one debate, Hillary Clinton accused Bernie Sanders of subjecting her to an "artful smear" by trying to cast her as beholden to Wall Street interests while Sanders suggested the former secretary of state was a captive of America's political establishment during the Democratic faceoff in Durham, New Hampshire. Infuriating members of Congress, a smirking Martin Shkreli took the Fifth at a Capitol Hill hearing on his practice of jacking up drug prices as CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals. Six family members were found dead in their Chicago home. (Two suspects, one of them related to the victims by marriage, have been charged with first-degree murder.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Phipps is 95. Former Argentinian President Isabel Peron is 86. Actor Gary Conway is 81. Movie director George A. Romero is 77. Actor John Schuck is 77. Rock musician John Steel (The Animals) is 76. Singer Florence LaRue (The Fifth Dimension) is 75. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is 70. Rock singer Alice Cooper is 69. Actor Michael Beck is 68. Actress Lisa Eichhorn is 65. Football Hall-of-Famer Lawrence Taylor is 58. Actress Pamelyn Ferdin is 58. Rock singer Tim Booth is 57. Rock musician Henry Bogdan is 56. Country singer Clint Black is 55. Rock musician Noodles (The Offspring) is 54. Country musician Dave Buchanan (Yankee Grey) is 51. Actress Gabrielle Anwar is 47. Actor Rob Corddry is 46. Singer David (dah-VEED') Garza is 46. Actor Michael Goorjian is 46. TV personality Nicolle Wallace is 45. Olympic gold medal boxer Oscar De La Hoya is 44. Rock musician Rick Burch (Jimmy Eat World) is 42. Singer Natalie Imbruglia (em-BROO'-lee-ah) is 42. Rapper Cam'ron is 41. Rock singer Gavin DeGraw is 40. Actor Charlie Barnett is 29. Olympic gold medal gymnast-turned-singer Carly Patterson is 29.

Thought for Today: "Life is doubt, and faith without doubt is nothing but death." — Miguel de Unamuno (oo-nah-MOO'-noh), Spanish philosopher (1864-1936).