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- 1- Harry Implement ad
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- 5- Big Dakota Invite Wrestling Results
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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**

Sunday, Jan. 8

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.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

NSU Symphonic Band at GHS Gym from 8:30 a.m. to 9:20 p.m.

GBB at Roncalli: C game at 5:15 p.m. with JV and varsity games to follow.

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

School Lunch: Chili, cornbread, fruit, broccoli and dip.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 8

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m. **Emmanuel Lutheran:** League at 6:30 p.m., Confirmation at 7 p.m.

MathCounts: NESD Chapter at NSU



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Groton boys JV team beats Warner by 1 Warner won three of the four games on Saturday at the Groton Area Arena. The Groton Area junior

varsity team won by one point, 40-39.

In the first game, the Warner girls junior varsity team came from behind to win. Groton Area led at the guarterstops at 8-3, 14-10 and 17-16. Groton led, 24-21, with less than three minutes to go in the game. A Tiger turnover resulted in a basket for the Monarchs to make it 24-23. Warner scored three points in the final two minutes to pull out the win, 26-24. Alex Stange led the Tigers in scoring with seven points followed by Miranda Hanson with six, Eliza Wanner had three and adding two points each were Taylor Holm, Sam Menzia, Jadyn Glover, Portia Kettering and Caitlyn Barse.

Ashley Fischbach led the Monarchs with 10 points followed by Keeley Fischbach with eight, Laura Ochsner and Emily Wiedebush each had four and Riley McNeil added three points.

The boys junior varsity team was exciting from start to finish. There were three lead changes and the game was tied twice in the first guarter as the period ended tied at 10. Groton held on to the lead for most of the second quarter. Warner tied the game at 15 and then took a 20-19 lead. Groton scored the last basket of the half and it was 21-20, Groton, to end the first half.

The lead changed sides three times in the third guarter as Warner took a 33-29 lead going into the fourth quarter. Warner opened up a 35-29 lead to the start the fourth guarter. The Tigers rallied to take a 38-35 lead. Groton held a 40-37 lead with under 30 seconds to go in the game. A technical foul was called on Groton which resulted in Will Nilsson making two free throws to make it 40-39. The Monarchs then had the ball but missed on a last second shot.

Jonny Doeden led the Tigers with 13 points followed by Treyton Diegel with 12, Cade Guthmiller had six, Austin Jones four, Marshall Lane and Mitchell Thurston each had two and Darien Shabazz added one free throw.

Jackson Cramer led Warner with 24 points followed by Will Nilsson with five, Joel Young and Spencer Ketterling each had four and Ben Fischbach added two points.

Next was the girls varsity team. The game was tied at seven and Warner took a 9-7 first guarter lead. The Monarchs opened up a 23-17 lead at half time. Warner opened up a 33-25 lead as the Tigers rallied to bring the score to within three, 33-30, at the end of the third quarter. Warner opened up a 41-30 lead in the fourth guarter and went on to win, 48-35. Audrey Wanner led the Tigers with 12 points, Harleigh Stange had eight, Jennie Doeden five, Katie Koehler and Jessica Bjerke each had three and Alex Stange and Taylor Holm each had two points.

Warner was led by Haylee Hanson with 13, Laurie Rogers had nine, Ashley Fischbach and Makala Hauge each had eight and Sydney Leidholt and Reilly Fuhrman each had five points.

Warner showed no mercy in the finale as the Monarchs led at the guarterstops at 25-14, 47-27 and 68-40 en route to an 84-49 win.

Seric Shabazz led the Tigers with 14 points, Bennett Shabazz had nine, Sean Schuring eight, Treyton Diegel and Jonny Doeden each had six, Brandon Keith had five and Anthony Schinkel added two.

Tyler Rozell led Warner with 30 points, Micah Hoellein had 17, Alex Bohle had 13, Daylin Simon and Ryder Fuhrmann each had seven, Danzan Gilborne six and Ty McDonald added two points.

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.



CASE

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JV stats vs. Warner

VISITOR: Warner ()				
NO PLAYER 4 Add New Player, 14 Add New Player, 15 Add New Player, 22 Add New Player, 45 Add New Player, 21 Add New Player, 25 Add New Player, TEAM REBOUNDS Team Totals	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			
Total FG% - 1st: 8/23 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/6 Total FT% - 1st: 3/6	0.348 2nd: 8/17 0.471 Game: 0.400 Deadball 0.167 2nd: 1/6 0.167 Game: 0.167 Rebounds 0.500 2nd: 2/4 0.500 Game: 0.500 (2,0)			
HOME: Groton () NO PLAYER 5 Shabazz, Darien 10 Lane, Marshall 14 Diegel, <u>Treyton</u> 30 Doeden, Jonny 50 Thorson, Luke 22 <u>Guthmiller</u> , Cade 32 Thurston, Mitchell 34 Jones, Austin TEAM REBOUNDS Team Totals	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			
Total FG% – 1st: 8/16 3-PT FG% – 1st: 3/7 Total FT% – 1st: 2/3	0.500 2nd: 8/13 0.615 Game: 0.552 Deadball 0.429 2nd: 3/4 0.750 Game: 0.545 Rebounds 0.667 2nd: 0/0 0.000 Game: 0.667 (0,0)			
Technical Fouls: Warn (0) : <u>groto</u> (0)				
OFFICIALS : ATTENDANCE : 0				
	1st 2nd 3rd 4th TOTAL arner 10 10 13 6 39 roton 10 11 8 11 40			
Last FG: Warner 4th-08:00, Groton 4th-08:00 Largest lead: Warner by 6 4th-08:00, Groton by 5 3rd-08:00 Score tied: 4 times, Lead changed: 9 times				

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Varsity stats vs. Warner

NO PLAYER P FG FGA FG FGA FT FTA OFF DEF		TO BK S MIN			
		Le en le man			
2 Hollein, * 6 9 0 0 5 10 1 7	7 8 3 17 7	1 0 2 16:00			
	2 4 0 2 1	3 0 0 16:00			
	1 2 3 13 2	2 0 2 16:00			
	1 2 0 32 2	1 0 3 24:00			
	1 1 3 5 1	0 0 2 8:00			
		0 0 1 8:00			
	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 8:00			
	1 1 0 0 0	0 0 0 8:00			
	2 4 3 7 2	2 0 1 24:00			
	0 0 0 0 1	0 0 1 16:00			
	1 1 2 6 0	1 0 0 8:00			
45 Cramer, 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 8:00			
TEAM REBOUNDS 0 9	9 9	0			
Team Totals 32 48 7 12 13 21 7 25	25 32 14 84 16	10 0 12 160			
Total FG% - 1st: 18/23 0.783 2nd: 14/25 0.560 Gam	ame: 0.667	Deadball			
3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/4 0.750 2nd: 4/8 0.500 Gam	ame: 0.583	Rebounds			
Total FT% - 1st: 8/14 0.571 2nd: 5/7 0.714 Gam	ame: 0.619	(2,0)			
HOME: Groton ()					
TOT-FG 3-PT REBOU					
NO PLAYER P FG FGA FG FGA FT FTA OFF DEF	F TOT PF TP A	TO BK S MIN			
3 Sippel, Anthony * 1 4 0 2 0 0 0 1	1 1 2 2 0	2 0 1 8:00			
4 Shabazz, Bennett * 3 13 1 7 2 2 1 3	3 4 3 9 3	3 0 0 16:00			
	1 5 4 8 1	2 0 1 8:00			
	1 3 5 5 2	0 0 1 8:00			
	5 6 2 14 1	4 0 1 16:00			
	1 1 1 0 1	1 0 0 24:00			
	0 0 0 0 0	1 0 0 8:00			
	0 0 0 5 0	1 0 0 8:00			
	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 8:00			
	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 8:00			
	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 8:00			
	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 8:00			
	1 2 2 0 0	0 0 0 16:00			
	1 5	0			
Team Totals 18 54 6 30 7 11 13 15	15 28 21 49 8	15 0 6 160			
Tatal 50% 1ats 10/21 0 222 2ads 0/22 0 240 Cas		Deadball			
Total FG% - 1st: 10/31 0.323 2nd: 8/23 0.348 Gam		Deadball			
3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/18 0.167 2nd: 3/12 0.250 Gam		Rebounds			
Total FT% – 1st: 4/6 0.667 2nd: 3/5 0.600 Gam	ame: 0.636	(2,0)			
Technical Fouls: Warn (0)					
: groto (0)					
OFFICIALS :					
ATTENDANCE : 0					
SCORE BY PERIODS 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	h TOTAL				
Warner 25 22 21 16	6 84				
Groton 14 13 13 9	49				
Last FG: Warner 4th-08:00, Groton 4th-08:00 Largest lead: Warner by 35 4th-08:00, Groton NONE					

Largest lead: Warner by 35 4th-08:00, Groton NONE Score tied: 0 times, Lead changed: 0 times

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Big Dakota Invite Results for Groton Area

IG DAKOTA INVITATIONAL

Trevor Pray and Wyatt Locke placed at the Big Dakota Invitational held Saturday at Ft. Pierre. Pray took first, beating his Winner opponent, while Locke placed fourth.

126 - Trevor Pray (24-2) placed 1st and scored 24.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 24-2 won by fall over Mike Benson (Pine Ridge) 1-7 (Fall 0:28)

Quarterfinal - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 24-2 won by fall over Jesse McCann (Harding County) 13-12 (Fall 1:38)

Semifinal - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 24-2 won by decision over Chance Stuwe (Potter County) 21-8 (Dec 9-4)

1st Place Match - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 24-2 won by decision over Trevor Peters (Winner) 23-16 (Dec 8-4)

138 - Wyatt Kurtz (13-12).

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 13-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Connor Bertsch (Miller/ Highmore-Harrold) 30-4 won by fall over Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 13-12 (Fall 3:13)

Cons. Round 2 - Landon Debus (Winner) 19-19 won by fall over Wyatt Kurtz (Groton Area) 13-12 (Fall 1:49)

145 - Thomas Cranford (1-14).

Champ. Round 1 - Cailob Week (Win-Cranford (Groton Area) 1-14 (Dec 2-1)

Cons. Round 1 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 1-14 received a bye () (Bye)

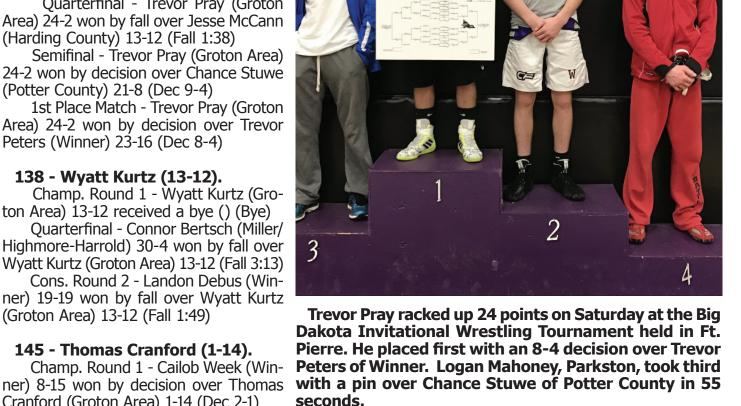
Cons. Round 2 - Dyllan Lesmeister (Cheyenne-Eagle Butte/Dupree) 6-13 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 1-14 (Fall 4:40)

152 - Lane Krueger (0-16).

Champ. Round 1 - Hunter X Foltz (Chamberlain) 1-2 won by major decision over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-16 (MD 13-0)

Cons. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-16 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Logan Kennedy (Stanley County) 11-19 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 0-16 (Fall 0:24)



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170 - Grady O`Neil (2-16).

Champ. Round 1 - Kayleb Brozik (Winner) 37-3 won by fall over Grady O`Neil (Groton Area) 2-16 (Fall 1:31)

Cons. Round 1 - Jayden Face (Stanley County) 8-17 won by fall over Grady O`Neil (Groton Area) 2-16 (Fall 0:52)

220 - Wyatt Locke (14-12) placed 4th and scored 13.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 14-12 won by decision over Ruger Forester (Chamberlain) 8-15 (Dec 5-1)

Quarterfinal - Jayden Schroeder (Winner) 24-14 won by fall over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 14-12 (Fall 1:51)

Cons. Round 2 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 14-12 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 14-12 won by fall over Jacob Sorbel (Pine Ridge) 8-12 (Fall 3:52)

Cons. Semi - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 14-12 won by fall over Dalton Martian (Mobridge-Pollock) 20-9 (Fall 2:07)

3rd Place Match - Jayden Schroeder (Winner) 24-14 won by fall over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 14-12 (Fall 3:56)

285 - Brandyn Anderson (21-4) scored 8.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 21-4 won by fall over Jordan Schwalk (McLaughlin) 1-8 (Fall 0:16)

Quarterfinal - Trevor Gress (Harding County) 23-9 won in the ultimate tie breaker over Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 21-4 (UTB 5-2)

Cons. Round 2 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 21-4 won by decision over Chase Nincehelser (Sully Buttes) 22-15 (Dec 6-3)

Cons. Round 3 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 21-4 won by fall over Jadeon Biggers (Lyman) 23-18 (Fall 0:59)

Cons. Semi - Riley Schmiedt (Wessington Springs-Woonsocket) 23-9 won by decision over Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 21-4 (Dec 4-2)



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Today in Weather History

February 5, 1978: Another winter blizzard plagued the northern half of the state beginning on February 5th and continuing until the 9th. The unusual aspect of this blizzard was that the wind came from the southeast between 25 to 45 mph. Only one to three inches of new snow accumulation fell during the five-day period but was piled high on the existing large snow drifts. Most of the northern half of the state was paralyzed due to blocked roads. Eighteen counties across the northern part of the state were declared a disaster by the governor. There were also numerous livestock losses.

1745: Today is National Weatherman/Meteorologist day commemorating the birth of John Jeffries in 1745. Jeffries, one of America's first weather observers, began taking daily weather observations in Boston, MA in 1774 and he took the first balloon observation in 1784.

1887: San Francisco experienced its greatest snowstorm of record. Nearly four inches was reported in downtown San Francisco, and the western hills of the city received seven inches. Excited crowds went on a snowball throwing rampage.

1920: An intense nor'easter dumped 17.5 inches of snow over a three day period on New York City, New York.

1986: A supercell thunderstorm tracked through the Tomball area northwest of Houston, TX and produced four tornadoes along with damaging microburst winds and up to tennis ball size hail. An F3 tornado killed two people, injured 80 others and devastated a mobile home park and the David Wayne Hooks Airport. 300 aircraft were either damaged or destroyed. Much of the larger hail was propelled by 60 to 80 mph winds, resulting in widespread moderate damage. Total damage from this storm was \$80 million dollars.

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Southern Plains Region caused flooding in parts of south central Texas. Del Rio TX was soaked with two inches of rain in two hours prior to sunrise. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cold and snow invaded the southern U.S. Roswell NM was buried under 16.5 inches of snow in 24 hours, an all-time record for that location. Parts of the Central Gulf Coast Region reported their first significant snow in fifteen years. Strong winds in Minnesota and the Dakotas produced wind chill readings as cold as 75 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe cold gripped much of the nation. Thirty cities reported new record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 9 above at Astoria OR and 27 below zero at Ely NV were records for February. In Alaska, Point Barrow warmed to 24 degrees above zero, and Nome reached 30 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

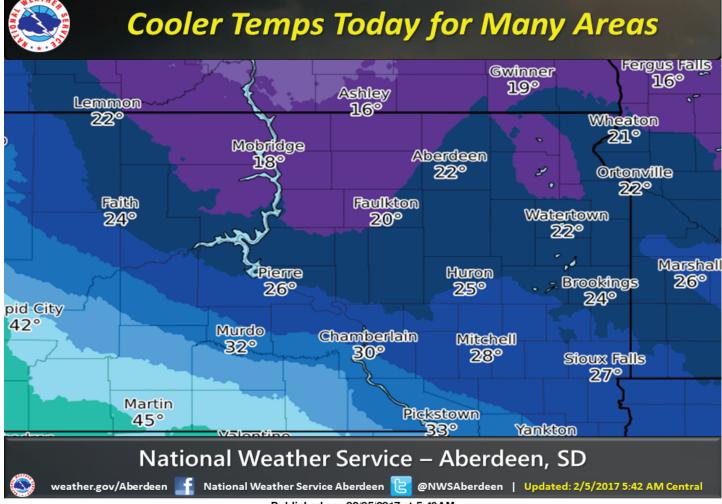
1990 - For the second time in two days, and the third time in a week, high winds plagued the northwestern U.S. Winds in Oregon gusted to 60 mph at Cape Disappointment, and wind gusts in Washington State reached 67 mph at Bellingham. The first in a series of cold fronts began to produce heavy snow in the mountains of Washington and Oregon. Ten inches of snow fell at Timberline OR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006 - Mount Washington Observatory in New Hampshire reaches a high of 41°F, the warmest February 5th on record at the summit and two degrees off the monthly mark, where records have been kept since 1932. The Weather Doctor

2008: The Super Tuesday 2008 Tornado Outbreak has been one of the deadliest tornado outbreaks in the US with 59 fatalities reported. So far, it ranks in the top 15 deadly tornado outbreaks (and the highest number of tornado deaths since 1985). According to the SPC Storm Reports, there were over 300 reports of tornadoes, large hail (up to 4.25 inches in diameter in Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri), and damaging wind gusts from Texas to Ohio and West Virginia. The outbreak produced at least 64 tornadoes, some producing EF-3 and EF-4 damage.

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This Tonight Monday Monday Tuesday Tuesday Wednesday Afternoon Night Night Partly Sunny Mostly Cloudy Mostly Cloudy Slight Chance Chance Snow Partly Cloudy Cold then Partly Freezing Drizzle then Sunny Chance Wintry Mix High: 20 °F Low: 16 °F High: 28 °F Low: 12 °F High: 16 °F Low: -5 °F High: 8 °F



Published on: 02/05/2017 at 5:49AM

Cooler air will reside over the region today, in the wake of yesterday's cold front passage. Highs will generally be in the upper teens and 20s across the forecast area. By the way, happy #Nationalweather-personsday !

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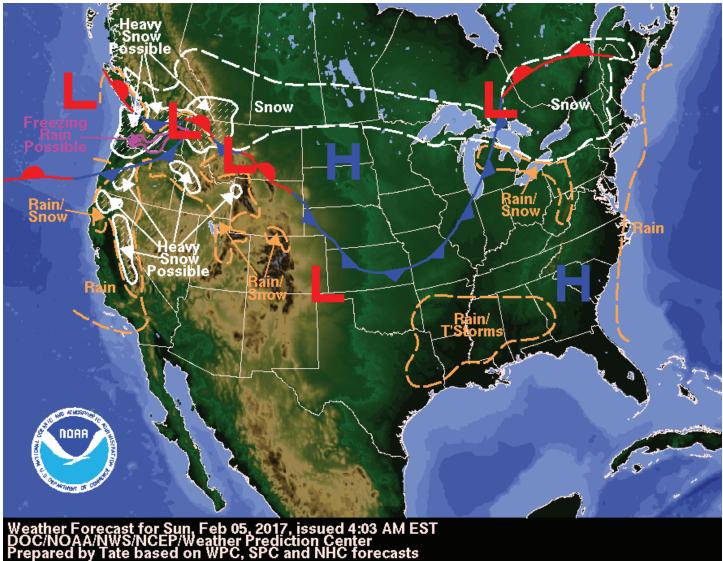
Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 31.7 F at 1:19 PM

Low Outside Temp: 15.4 F at 8:14 PM High Gust: 33.0 Mph at 1:22 AM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 57° in 1991

Record Low: -36 in 1907 Average High: 25°F Average Low: 4°F Average Precip in Feb.: 0.08 Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00 Average Precip to date: 0.55 Precip Year to Date: 0.00 Sunset Tonight: 5:46 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:47 a.m.



enter C forecasts



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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.

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News from the Associated Press

Prices up and inventory down in Sioux Falls housing market

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The average home sale hit a record high in Sioux Falls last year, as more houses sold for more money compared to 2015.

The Realtor Association of the Sioux Empire Inc. reports there were 4,440 closed sales for 2016. That's roughly 6 percent more sales than in 2015, but doesn't include the number of homes sold by owners, the Argus Leader (http://argusne.ws/2jrtOHb) reported.

The average house sold for \$217,588, with the median home price being \$186,500. An average of 99 percent of the original asking price of the homes was given to sellers.

Sales and prices were up in most markets, but the number of homes for sale was down in year-over-year comparisons, according to an analysis included with the association's report.

"Unemployment rates were low, wages improved and, as the year waned, we completed a contentious presidential election and saw mortgage rates increase, neither of which are expected to have a negative impact on real estate in 2017," the analysis read.

The market ended the year down, with closed sales dropping 21.5 percent in December compared with the same time in 2015.

The association predicts that the low inventory crunch will continue into 2017, "as will an increase in prices across all price ranges and property types." Its report said buyers will be competing for fewer available homes, making affordability a challenge for buyers who are unprepared.

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

Deadwood's welcome center display to focus on local wildlife

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Deadwood's new welcome center will feature more than a dozen educational displays featuring full-size animal mounts as part of an effort to better inform visitors about wildlife in the area.

The Black Hills Pioneer (http://bit.ly/2jGSWKH) reports the city will acquire various specimens of mammals, birds and reptiles native to the area from South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks. The city will get the animals at no cost from the state agency, but it will need to apply for special permits by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the different mammals.

The city's historic preservation officer, Kevin Kuchenbecker, said the displays at the new Lower Main Welcome Center will be educational for both Deadwood residents and visitors about Black Hills wildlife.

"For example, if a family comes in — mom, dad, and the kids — and are trying to determine what they want to do and see in Deadwood, we want to be able to hand them a paper with 12 animals on it and say, 'Here, go find these animals," he said. "A scavenger hunt for wildlife, basically, native animals they would see in the Black Hills, a dozen to start with."

Acquiring suitable hides and antler sheds from reputable vendors is also on the city's agenda.

The city commission has approved up to \$20,000 toward the cost of the project, most of which will go to engaging regional taxidermists for their services. The funds will come from the historic preservation welcome center budget.

Lawmakers to take up bills on lobbying, guns at the Capitol By JAMES NORD, Associated Press.

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers are set to consider measures on abortion, lobbying restrictions and allowing concealed pistols in the Capitol this week. Here's a look at some of the proposals they plan to take up:

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ETHICS BILLS

A Senate panel is set to consider a bill Monday that would bar some officials from private lobbying for two years after leaving government, while a House committee that day is to discuss a measure to impose an annual \$100 limit on lobbyist gifts to some public officials.

The bills are among a raft of measures that could replace pieces of a voter-approved government ethics overhaul that Republican lawmakers recently dismantled.

CAPITOL CARRY

A bill that would allow people to carry concealed pistols in the state Capitol if they have an enhanced carry permit is set to be considered on Monday in a House committee. An enhanced permit has additional requirements including completing a training course.

"I am not worried at all about anybody that has an enhanced carry permit. That is not the problem," said House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, the bill's main sponsor.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard said he wants to hear about both sides of the issue.

TEACHING SCIENCE

A bill that that says teachers can't be prohibited from discussing the strengths and weaknesses of scientific information on issues such as climate change and evolution is set to be heard Monday in a House committee. Republican Sen. Jeff Monroe, the bill's prime sponsor, has said he's heard from concerned teachers including one who was forced to teach climate change as a fact.

But, some parents and educators are concerned that it could bring nonscientific theories into science classes. The bill has already passed through the Senate.

ABORTION BILL

South Dakota lawmakers are revisiting a law approved last year that prohibits most abortions beyond 19 weeks of pregnancy. A bill set to be heard Monday by a House committee would increase the penalty for performing an abortion that violates the new threshold to a felony, up from a misdemeanor. A woman who gets such an abortion would not be subject to that consequence.

DE-TAX FOOD

A House panel on Tuesday is set to take up a Democrat-backed bill that would bump up the state's 4.5 percent sales tax rate to eliminate the tax on food for home consumption. Long a popular idea among Democratic lawmakers, such bills have failed in the past.

Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL Alliance, Neb. 59, Spearfish 43 Arlington 74, Great Plains Lutheran 44 Brookings 57, Watertown 33 Clark/Willow Lake 69, Castlewood 53 Crazy Horse 67, Wakpala 33 Eden Prairie, Minn. 76, Sioux Falls Washington 51 Flandreau 73, Hamlin 58 Flandreau Indian 66, Tiospa Zina Tribal 51 Florence/Henry 53, Lake Preston 39 Freeman 87, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 66 Harrisburg 53, Pierre 49 Huron 66, Sturgis Brown 55

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S Dakota State rallies to beat Oral Roberts 74-67

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum scored 38 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, Chris Howell set career highs with 20 points and 12 boards and made eight of his 14 free throws in the final 3:01 to help rally South Dakota State to a 74-67 win over Oral Roberts on Saturday.

The Golden Eagles led 33-23 at halftime and led by as many as 15 in the second half before the Jackrabbits tied it at 61 on Daum's layup with 4:15 left. Albert Owens' jumper put Oral Roberts back on top 66-65, but Howell hit eight from the line amid an 11-4 run and South Dakota State led 74-67 with 22 seconds left. The Jackrabbits (12-14, 5-6 Summit) were outscored 38-28 in the paint, but scored 22 points off 13 Oral

Roberts' turnovers and made 23 of 32 free throws in winning their third straight.

Owens scored 19 points, Jalen Bradley had 18 with three 3-pointers and Emmanuel Nzekwesi added 16 with 11 boards for Oral Roberts (7-18, 3-8), which has lost four straight.

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South Dakota beats North Dakota State 76-66

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Matt Mooney scored 26 points and grabbed five rebounds as South Dakota beat North Dakota State 76-66 on Saturday.

Mooney was 9 of 18 from the floor and 6 of 9 from the line for the Coyotes (16-10, 7-4 Summit). Tyler Flack added 17 points and five rebounds along with four blocks and two steals. Tyler Peterson scored 12 points off the bench and Trey Dickerson chipped in 11.

South Dakota trailed 19-14 midway through the first half when Flack hit back-to-back jumpers to spark an 18-0 run that also included a Carlton Hurst dunk, propelling the team to a 32-19 lead with 3:07 to go before the break.

The Coyotes led throughout the second half and a Mooney 3-pointer extended their advantage to 15, 67-52, with 7:14 to play.

Paul Miller scored 21 points to lead the Bison (15-8, 7-3) who have lost three of their last six.

South Dakota woman pleads guilty in boy's 2015 death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A woman from southwestern South Dakota has admitted killing a 2-year-old boy she was raising.

As part of a plea deal, 43-year-old Lori Ann Wisecarver pleaded guilty Friday in federal court to seconddegree murder in Jayden Locke's death on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in February 2015. She faces a penalty of up to life in prison.

Wisecarver, also known as Lori Vocu, was originally charged with first-degree murder and felony child abuse. Court records say Wisecarver was a distant relative of the boy and became his guardian in October 2014 after his mother lost custody of him and two other siblings because of drug use.

Wisecarver admitted to regularly physically abusing the boy, mainly over toilet-training.

The Rapid City Journal (http://bit.ly/2l5al0t) reports a sentencing date has not been set.

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

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 and eventually barricaded himself inside an apartment, where he 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/2k6lU3F). TwoHearts' condition was unknown Saturday.

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

Authorities initially said that a man and woman had been held hostage before leaving the apartment. But Ramsey County State's Attorney Kari Agotness said in a statement Saturday that this wasn't the case and that they hadn't been held against their will.

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.

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"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 people, 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.

An earlier version of this story was corrected to reflect that the suspect's first name is Daniel, not Danile.

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

300 wild horses in South Dakota need homes as deadline looms By HANNAH WEIKEL, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Volunteers are scrambling to find homes for hundreds of wild horses in South Dakota that were spared a possible trip to the slaughterhouse but are now suffering through a harsh winter.

The horses, some of them blind, were once kept at a troubled South Dakota sanctuary. Now a small group of volunteers from across the country is working 10 hours a day to feed and care for animals, using rented plows to carve paths through 15-foot snowdrifts. In a nearby hotel room, other volunteers are sorting through adoption applications and networking through social media, desperately trying to find homes for the horses before they are forced to leave the property next month.

"We are working to get the whole herd out of the 15-foot snow. Some are blind and are walking out right over the fences. It's really hard to work with so many horses with so many problems," said Elaine Nash, director of horse rescue organization Fleet of Angels, who is spearheading the operation. "Every time we get over one hurdle there's another one waiting for us."

Some 500 horses have already been placed in sanctuaries and ranches across the country, from Arizona and Oregon to California and Minnesota. But the effort near Lantry, in northern South Dakota, isn't done.

The remaining 300 wild horses could be more difficult to sell or have adopted, Nash said. Nearly 200 are stallions that need gelding before anyone will want them. Dozens are old and have health problems. Others are blind from what Nash suspects was toxic farm runoff in their drinking pond.

But Nash was grateful for the response so far to the neglected herd. Many of the less desirable horses have already found homes, and Nash is hopeful that most will be out of South Dakota by their deadline.

When Nash first spread the word in October, This Old Horse rescue in Hastings, Minnesota, agreed to take two older mares.

They wound up taking seven stallions, all blind, instead.

"I don't know how it happened," joked Nancy Turner, board president of This Old Horse. "Elaine is really good at convincing people."

Turner said it's not easy. The horses are wild, after all, and need special handling and transportation. Most have never been inside a barn or trailer.

"But part of it for me is that these aren't poor needy horses," Turner said. "They are magnificent. I thought that we could celebrate them rather than see them as poor things that should probably be put down."

More than 800 horses were impounded in October at the nonprofit International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros after a state veterinarian found they were being neglected and a former ranch employee said they were being starved to death. All but 20 were eventually surrendered by their owner.

By mid-December, a third of the horses had been adopted or sold while the other 550 or so were being

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held as collateral by county officials seeking reimbursement for the cost of caring for the horses. When it didn't come, the counties started planning to auction off the rest to recoup the cost, making animal rights groups fear many of the horses would be brought to slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico.

Fleet of Angels and other animal rights groups raised the \$78,000 still owed to the counties and stopped the auction. They then assumed the costs and responsibility of caring for the horses

The group is now gathering, microchipping, collecting blood samples and trimming the feet of the remaining horses and gelding the stallions. Meanwhile, they still need financial support to feed and care for a herd burning through \$1,000 in hay each day.

Nash said horses won't be euthanized unless they have broken bones or serious conditions — even horses that might be difficult to adopt.

"We know that someone will come forward and give them good homes. People care about these horses and about making this mission a success," she said.

Follow Hannah Weikel on Twitter at https://twitter.com/HanWeikel

Online:

Fleet of Angels: http://bit.ly/2l5BOfw Fleet of Angels on Facebook: http://bit.ly/2l5CNfr

SD refuge plan creates more habitat for wetland wildlife

COLUMBIA, S.D. (AP) — A construction project at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge has begun in order to create more habitat for ducks, geese and other wetland wildlife.

The finished project will let refuge managers have more control over water levels in an 80-acre wetland near the Columbia Dam fishing area. The project includes building a new water-control structure, the Aberdeen News (http://bit.ly/2k4WinM) reported.

Steve Donovan, manager of conservation programs in South Dakota for Ducks Unlimited, said that draining wetlands gives plants that can't germinate underwater the ability to grow. Ducks can then eat the seeds of those plants, mainly smartweed or barnyard grass, when the wetland is flooded in late summer.

"Those are two pretty common species that grow when you draw down a wetland," Donovan said. "A lot of people asked why refuge staff let all the water out of the lake last year, but the proof was in the pudding last fall when it got flooded and saw swarms of ducks return. It's important to grow some food instead of just cattails."

Ducks Unlimited engineer Maddie Saylor said the new structure's concrete pipe was placed recently, and the concrete headwall was formed and poured Jan. 23. Saylor said the next step is to put in the canal gate that will allow staff to control water levels.

Donovan said the project is also being funded by grants from the James River Water Development District and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

According to Saylor, the project is scheduled for completion in February.

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

Stoplight technology helps congestion in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Officials in Sioux Falls say smarter traffic signals along a busy thoroughfare are saving drivers time and money.

The city invested \$371,000 in the traffic signals along the East 26th Street corridor three years ago, and officials said driving along the roadway now takes less time. There also have been fewer traffic accidents, meaning less of a burden on city services and drivers' wallets, The Argus Leader (http://argusne. ws/2iu569U).

Most of the city's traffic signals operate on a timer, meaning the lights stay red or green no matter how

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many cars are waiting to cross an intersection. City engineers can adjust the timing of the lights, but only after congestion gets too heavy.

The newer lights, installed at 10 intersections, have an adaptive signal that uses computer processors and cameras to communicate traffic patterns in real time and adjust timing accordingly.

A study conducted by City Hall analyzed traffic behavior since the new traffic signals were installed, and it showed improvement.

"I would say we've seen good benefits, and we're extremely pleased with the crash analysis," city traffic engineer Heath Hoftiezer said.

The city's figures, vetted by the internal audit office, show that travel times during rush hour dropped by 11 percent for eastbound drivers. Westbound drivers saw drive times dip by 5 percent during morning rush hour and by 10 percent during the late-afternoon rush.

But there was a spike in delays for eastbound traffic during the afternoon rush hour, likely because the old lights were skewed to favor eastbound lanes during rush hour at the expense of side streets, said Rich Oksol, the city's internal audit manager.

The analysis determined that the most significant benefit has been the decrease in accidents. Before 2014, an average of one accident was reported every three days on 26th Street. That has since dropped to one accident every four days, meaning less crash-related expenses, from property damage to medical costs.

Oksol said those societal costs from crashes along the span have dropped by \$891 per day.

"The results so far, preliminary on one corridor, are very promising," Oksol said.

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

White House predicts courts will reinstate travel ban By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rebuffed in its bid for a quick reversal, the White House said Sunday it expected the courts to reaffirm President Donald Trump's executive power and reinstate a ban on refugees and travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States.

The case promised to extend into Monday at least, when fresh legal filings were due, and observers had no doubt the Supreme Court ultimately will have a say.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a brief order overnight, denied the administration's request to set aside a Seattle judge's ruling that put a temporary hold on the ban nationwide.

The lawsuit by Washington state and Minnesota said Trump's order harmed residents and effectively mandated discrimination. Their lawyers had until 2:59 a.m. EST Monday to submit briefs opposing the government's request. The Justice Department then had a 6 p.m. EST deadline to respond.

"We'll accomplish the stay and will win the case on the merits," Vice President Mike Pence said.

Members of Trump's Republican Party scolded him for Twitter attacks on U.S. District Court Judge James Robart, appointed by President George W. Bush, and accused Trump of stepping over the line that separates the executive from the judiciary. To Trump, Robart is a "so-called judge" whose "ridiculous" ruling "will be overturned."

Trump renewed his Twitter attacks against Robart on Sunday. "Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system. People pouring in. Bad!"

He followed with another tweet saying he had instructed the Homeland Security Department to check people coming into the country but that "the courts are making the job very difficult!"

Vice President Mike Pence defended Trump, saying "the president can criticize anybody he wants." Pence added that he believes the American people "find it very refreshing that they not only understand this president's mind, but they understand how he feels about things."

At issue is the legality of a presidential action undertaken in the name of national security. Whatever the outcome and however the case drags on, a president who was used to getting his way in private business is finding, weeks in to the jobs, obstacles to quickly fulfilling one of his chief campaign pledges.

"The president is not a dictator," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. "He is the chief executive of our country. And there is a tension between the branches of government."

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The government had told the appeals court that the president alone has the power to decide who can enter or stay in the United States, an assertion that appeared to invoke the wider battle to come over illegal immigration.

Congress "vests complete discretion" in the president to impose conditions on entry of foreigners to the United States, and that power is "largely immune from judicial control," according to the court filing.

"We don't appoint judges to our district courts to conduct foreign policy or to make decisions about the national security," Pence said.

Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, predicted the appeals court would not have the last word. "I have no doubt that it will go to the Supreme Court, and probably some judgments will be made whether this president has exceed his authority or not," she said.

In his ruling, Robart said it was not the court's job to "create policy or judge the wisdom of any particular policy promoted by the other two branches," but to make sure that an action taken by the government "comports with our country's laws."

Trump's order applied to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen — Muslim-majority countries that the administration said raise terrorism concerns. The order had caused unending confusion for many foreigners trying to reach the United States, prompted protests across the United States and led to multiple court challenges.

Trump's criticism of Robart echoed campaign comments against a federal judge of Mexican heritage who was overseeing a lawsuit against Trump University. Justice Department lawyers could be called upon to answer for Trump's words as the travel ban case makes it way through the courts.

"We all get disappointed from time to time at the outcome in courts on things that we care about," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. "But I think it is best to avoid criticizing judges individually."

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., was blunter: "We don't have so-called judges. We don't have so-called senators. We don't have so-called presidents. We have people from three different branches of government who take an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution."

The State Department said last week that as many as 60,000 foreigners from those seven countries had had their visas canceled. After Robart's decision, the department reversed course and said they could travel to the U.S. if they had a valid visa.

The department also advised refugee aid agencies that refugees set to travel before Trump signed his order would now be allowed in.

The Homeland Security Department no longer was directing airlines to prevent visa-holders affected by Trump's order from boarding U.S.-bound planes. The agency said it had "suspended any and all actions" related to putting in place Trump's order.

Pence appeared on ABC's "This Week," CBS' "Face the Nation," NBC's "Meet the Press" and "Fox News Sunday. McConnell was on CNN, Feinstein spoke on Fox and Sasse was interviewed by ABC.

Travelers arrive in US to hugs and tears after ban is lifted By DENISE LAVOIE and WILLIAM MATHIS, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Travelers from the seven predominantly Muslim countries targeted by President Donald Trump enjoyed tearful reunions with loved ones in the U.S. on Sunday after a federal judge swept the ban aside.

Airlines around the world allowed people to board flights as usual to the United States. One lawyer waiting at New York's Kennedy Airport said visa and green-card holders from Iraq and Iran were encountering no problems as they arrived.

"It's business as usual," said Camille Mackler, of the New York Immigration Coalition.

Fariba Tajrostami, a 32-year-old painter from Iran, came through the gate at Kennedy with a huge smile and tears in her eyes as her brothers greeted her with joyful hugs.

"I'm very happy. I haven't seen my brothers for nine years," she said.

Tajrostami had tried to fly to the U.S. from Turkey over a week ago but was turned away.

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"I was crying and was so disappointed," she said. "Everything I had in mind, what I was going to do, I was so disappointed about everything. I thought it was all over."

Tajrostami said she hopes to study art in the U.S. and plans to join her husband in Dallas soon. He moved from Iran six months ago, has a green card and is working at a car dealership.

Similar scenes played out across the U.S. two days after a judge in Washington state suspended the president's travel ban and just hours after a federal appeals court denied the Trump administration's request to set aside the ruling.

The U.S. canceled the visas of up to 60,000 foreigners in the week after the ban on travel from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen took effect, according to the State Department. Trump also suspended nearly all refugee admissions for 120 days and barred Syrian refugees indefinitely.

The order triggered protests and a multitude of legal challenges around the country and blocked numerous college students, researchers and others from entering the U.S.

Mahsa Azabadi, 29, an Iranian-American who lives in Denver, was forced to put her wedding plans on hold after her fiance, Sorena Behzadfar, was turned away when he tried to board a plane to travel from Iran to the U.S. on Jan. 28.

Over the weekend, though, Behzadfar was cleared for travel and was expected to arrive at Boston's Logan Airport on Sunday afternoon.

"He got the visa, so I was planning the wedding. Then all of a sudden, it stopped, and I didn't even know if he'd be allowed to come here. It's been a really tough week to figure out what will happen to us," said Azabadi, who has lived in the U.S. for 11 years and is now a U.S. citizen.

The couple are hoping to keep their wedding date of May 12.

"Seeing the support from the lawyers and different people trying to help, it was really nice," she said. "We want to be the best and do the best for the people and for this country. We would love to have the opportunity."

Iranian researcher Nima Enayati, a Ph.D. candidate at a university in Milan, was prevented from boarding a flight to the U.S. on Jan. 30. He had a visa to conduct research on robotic surgery at Stanford University.

On Sunday, he said his check-in went smoothly on a flight to New York, where he was expected to arrive Sunday evening.

At Cairo Airport on Sunday, officials said a total of 33 U.S.-bound migrants from Yemen, Syria and Iraq boarded flights.

Lebanon's National News Agency said airlines operating out of Beirut also began allowing Syrian families and others affected by the ban to fly. Beirut has no direct flights to the U.S.; travelers have to go through Europe.

Mackler, the immigration attorney, enjoyed what she saw at Kennedy Airport.

"This is what it should be. You sit in an airport day in and day out, and you see all these moments of great joy and unification," she said. "It was so sad to see that and know some people weren't having that. Now it feels good."

Mathis contributed from New York City.

Taylor Swift's pre-Super Bowl show might be her only in 2017 By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

Taylor Swift's pre-Super Bowl concert broke some news: She announced it may be her only concert of this year; she performed for the smallest number of fans in some time — 9,000 people is intimate for this pop star — and she sang her newest single live for the first time.

She also made some references to football during the 90-minute show, telling the crowd about her early country-turned-pop hit, "You Belong With Me," with lyrics about high school cheerleaders, bleachers and boys.

"I felt like it might be appropriate," she said.

Swift rocked the night at Houston's Club Nomadic — starting late Saturday and ending early Sunday

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morning — wearing a sheer, short Versace dress and fresh bangs.

The 27-year-old mostly performed songs from her Grammy-winning 2014 album "1989" and 2012's "Red," including pop smashes like "Shake It Off," 'Blank Space," 'Bad Blood," 'Style," 'We Are Never Getting Back Together," '22" and "I Knew You Were Trouble."

"It's good to be in Houston, Texas tonight," she yelled.

She worked the stage from the left to right, and strutted up the middle platform to sing closely to her feverish fans at the annual DIRECTV NOW Super Saturday Night — where past performers include Justin Timberlake and Rihanna.

"I swear you don't. You don't want it," Swift said after fans begged for the towel she used to wipe the sweat from her forehead.

Swift also debuted the live performance of "I Don't Want to Live Forever," her Top 5 duet with former One Direction member Zayn from the "Fifty Shades Darker" soundtrack.

The crowd — full of Swift's fans 18 and over — roared loudly, in hopes Zayn would appear. "He's definitely not (here)," she assured them.

But she asked the audience to sing along, as she stripped the song to acoustic form, strumming her guitar. She also slowed things down when performing songs she wrote for others — saying it was one of her biggest accomplishments of the last year. She sang a soft version "This Is What I Came For," the EDM hit she wrote with former boyfriend Calvin Harris (Rihanna's vocals are on the original). Swift also sang "Better Man," a recent No.1 country hit she wrote for Grammy-winning group Little Big Town.

Swift's last tour was a stadium trek with 60,000 seats. The singer, who won the album of the year Grammy last year for her first official pop album "1989," said the pre-Super Bowl show would likely be her only one this year.

"As far as I know I'm only doing one show in 2017, and as far as I know, this is that show," she said. "You are attending 100 percent of my tour dates."

Online:

http://taylorswift.com/

Fans start entering NRG Stadium By The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The Latest on Super Bowl 51 (all times local):

2 p.m.

Fans started entering NRG Stadium four hours before the Super Bowl between the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons.

The Patriots are going for their fifth Super Bowl in the Tom Brady-Bill Belichick era. A win would give Brady the most Super Bowls in league history, breaking a tie with Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw.

The Patriots have overcome Brady's four-game "Deflategate" suspension, star tight end Rob Gronkowski's season-ending back surgery and the loss of two defensive stalwarts, Chandler Jones and Jamie Collins.

The Falcons, making their second Super Bowl appearance in franchise history, are going for their first title led by league MVP Matt Ryan and wide receiver Julio Jones.

Country star Luke Bryan will do the national anthem and Lady Gaga will perform the halftime show. New England will enter the game as a 3-point favorite.

For more NFL coverage: http://www.pro32.ap.org and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Iranian Americans feel stuck, confused, afraid of travel ban By AMY TAXIN, Associated Press IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — Iranian-American supermarket supervisor Alan Tahmasebi voted for Donald Trump

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last year, hoping a businessman would be more trustworthy than a politician.

The 35-year-old now sorely regrets it, seeing the havoc wreaked upon his fellow countrymen — and his family — since the new president issued a temporary travel ban on refugees and citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries, including his former home.

Tahmasebi and his wife have spent more than \$7,000 on green card applications for their parents. Now, their parents are in limbo overseas as the Irvine couple awaits the birth of their second child.

"It was a land of opportunity but now, I don't think so," he said. "They wish to come here and visit my new baby. They never worked with the army, with the government (in Iran) — I have no idea what is going on."

The ban has rattled Americans with ties to the listed countries, and its effects are perhaps most widespread among the country's thriving Iranian American community. The U.S. has nearly 370,000 Iranian immigrants, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, far more than the other countries targeted by the order.

While Tehran and Washington have a lengthy history of friction, personal ties between residents of the two countries have held strong. Many Iranian Americans travel back to visit family or bring aging parents to join them in the U.S.

Since Trump imposed the travel ban, tension between the two governments has continued to rise.

On Friday, Iran barred U.S. wrestlers from an important international tournament. The same day, the Trump administration imposed sanctions on 13 people and a dozen companies in response to Iran's recent ballistic missile test, increasing pressure on Tehran without directly undercutting a nuclear deal with the country.

Later Friday, a federal judge temporarily blocked the travel ban following a lawsuit by Washington state and Minnesota that said Trump's order is causing significant harm to residents and effectively mandates discrimination.

A federal appeals court on Sunday denied a Justice Department request for an immediate reinstatement of the ban, meaning the legal fight will continue for days at least.

Iranian Americans said they are perplexed as to why Iran is even on Trump's list, noting the country is not mired in war like Syria and Yemen. In addition, many Iranians came to the United States after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in search of religious and personal freedom and continue to cherish those ideals.

"There's two things in my country — one is people, one is government," Tahmasebi said. "This new law is not for the government. It's for the people, who like the United States."

In the Southern California suburb of Irvine, a tidy strip mall hosts a pharmacy, bakery and dental office that cater to clients in English and Persian. At the supermarket, Tahmasebi said customers relish persimmon and other produce from Iran, but if relations between the countries sour further the store may have to bring in Pakistani or Chinese goods instead.

The vast majority of the country's Iranians and Iranian Americans live in California. The sizable community in Los Angeles — which includes members of diverse religious groups, including Muslims, Christians, Jews and Baha'i — has led some to adopt the nickname "Tehrangeles."

Jeannine Stepanian, a 32-year-old lawyer who helped travelers detained at Los Angeles International Airport last weekend, said she comes from a family of refugees. First, her Armenian grandparents fled to Iran. Then, her parents, who are Christian and were born in Iran, sought safe haven in the United States after the Islamic Revolution.

"I felt like it could have been any one of my relatives this could have been happening to," said Stepanian, adding she is outraged by the ban.

Trump's order placed a temporary halt on visitors and refugees from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. But citizens of these countries who are legal permanent residents in the United States initially were held for long hours at airports, and those who have immigrant visas also were denied entry.

Ali Vayeghan was stopped at the Los Angeles airport even though he had an immigrant visa. U.S. authorities put him on a plane back to Iran, but lawyers intervened to get him returned to the United States

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so he could reunite with his wife and son and get his green card.

His niece, 32-year-old artist Marjan Vayghan, said her friends have been nervously asking each other since the ban whether they have green cards or U.S. citizenship.

"There is this sense of, 'Are you a citizen, or do we need to Anne Frank you in our homes?' This is a situation where everybody is afraid," she said. "We don't know who among us is safe."

Now, many Iranians — even those who are legal permanent residents or American citizens — are rethinking their plans.

Mehran Sahraeian, a 51-year-old pharmacy technician, said he's been pleading with his mother not to visit his sister in Canada lest she face problems returning.

Eli Majd, a 37-year-old mother of two, said her husband is visiting family in Iran and she worries about him being able to return — even though he is an American. Sam Yebri, a 35-year-old lawyer, said his family probably won't vacation abroad for now because although he is a U.S. citizen, his passport lists his birthplace as Tehran.

"I have no problem with the security apparatus. There are concerns just about being an Iranian American at this time, I think, until cooler heads prevail," Yebri said.

At the Irvine supermarket, 45-year-old Iranian American Mary Far said she hasn't returned to Iran in two decades. She was hoping to go this summer to visit her brother and sister, whom she hasn't seen since she left the country. But with the travel ban, she isn't sure she'll make the trip.

"It affects a lot of people," she said. Then she burst into tears.

Associated Press writer Christine Armario in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

For Trump foes, Democratic gains may remain elusive in 2018 By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

Passionate protests against Donald Trump's presidency have swelled the ranks of Democratic activists, but their new enthusiasm faces a hard reality: Republicans remain well-positioned to retain their grip on power in the 2018 elections.

While Republicans hold only a slim majority in the U.S. Senate, Democrats occupy most of the seats up for election in two years. That means they must play defense against Republicans, especially in 10 states that Trump won.

In the U.S. House, Republicans will be aided by favorable district boundaries that were drawn to maintain GOP political dominance. In some cases, the congressional districts were gerrymandered to pack high numbers of Democratic voters into just a few districts as a way to create a greater number of Republican-leaning seats.

"Democrats are extremely fired up right now," said Sam Wang, a Princeton University neuroscientist and statistician who has developed a statistical model for analyzing partisan gerrymandering.

But for Democrats to win back Congress, Wang said it "would take an extreme event. The question is, are we seeing something that's headed towards that?"

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is targeting 59 Republican-held House seats in 24 states as it builds toward the next election. Those include 23 districts where Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton defeated Trump and various others that Republicans took away from Democrats in recent years.

It also is beginning to place full-time paid organizers in 20 of those districts, something the committee says it has never done at this early stage.

The Democratic committee is touting a surge of 675,000 new supporters in January, many of whom joined the cause amid nationwide protests against Trump's policies. Whether that energy can be sustained through 2018 remains to be seen.

National Republican Congressional Committee spokesman Jesse Hunt calls the Democratic optimism a "pipe dream." Hunt notes that Democrats also held high hopes for 2016, but unseated just four of the 15

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freshmen GOP representatives they targeted.

Democrats would appear to have history on their side. The president's party has lost ground in Congress in all but two of the initial midterm elections since the Civil War. The exceptions are 1934, when President Franklin Roosevelt was guiding the country through the Great Depression, and 2002, when President George W. Bush was leading the response to the 2001 terrorist attacks.

In the 2010 election during the middle of President Barack Obama's first term, Republicans flipped more than five dozen seats to take control of the U.S. House away from Democrats. Republicans also won control of a majority of state legislative chambers and governors' offices that year.

They then used that statehouse power to help cement their control in Washington by redrawing congressional districts following the 2010 Census.

In 2012, the first election under those new maps, Republicans won a 33-seat majority in the U.S. House even though Democratic candidates across the country received 1.4 million more votes than their Republican opponents.

Although court rulings have since forced the redrawing of some districts, many of those boundaries remain in place for the 2018 elections.

Wang estimates Democratic congressional candidates would need to win the 2018 nationwide vote by 7 to 12 percentage points to capture enough seats to win control of the House. The last time Democrats enjoyed such a spread was 2008, he said.

But circumstances have changed since then.

"There are just more districts at the moment that have a natural tilt toward Republicans, partly because of Democratic geography and partly because of Republicans drawing districts with an eye toward helping pick up more seats for their party," said Michael Barber, an assistant political science professor at Brigham Young University who has studied the effects of gerrymandering and incumbency on congressional elections.

Former Attorney General Eric Holder recently signed on as chairman of the new National Democratic Redistricting Committee, which is attempting to better position Democrats for the 2021 redistricting by winning key statehouse races and court cases in the coming years.

"There's a lot of work to be done," said Iowa-based Democratic consultant Jim Kottmeyer. "Redistricting is a real problem, but the bigger problem is frankly that Democratic votes are just way too concentrated in too small of geographic areas" — big cities, instead of America's many small and mid-size towns.

The realities of the electoral map have tempered the optimism of some newly invigorated Democratic activists.

Since Election Day, Philadelphia physician Rhea Powell has marched with other women in Washington, protested in her home town against the potential repeal of Obama's health care law and joined in airport demonstrations against Trump's immigration restrictions. She has even enrolled in a program that trains potential Democratic candidates.

But she also understands that victories may be difficult, at least in the near term.

"I am worried that because of the impact that gerrymandering has had on many of the districts that it may be hard to make big changes" in the 2018 elections, Powell said.

Other new activists believe it's possible to win even with unfavorable districts.

"I think there'll always be barriers ... (but) we're not just going to sit back and shake our head and say, OK, well, I guess that's it," said Mary Clauss, a small business owner from suburban Chicago who recently marched in Washington and now is organizing other women in her community.

Ironically, Democratic chances for huge congressional gains may depend on Trump's success at enacting his agenda. The Republican wave in 2010 was fueled by voter backlash against Obama's policies, headlined by the health care law that quickly became known as "Obamacare."

"Politicians sometimes think that they made promises and their voters want them to keep them, but the historical pattern is the opposite — that public opinion moves against the direction of policy change," said political scientist Matt Grossmann, director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University.

"So the more Donald Trump is successful — and the Republican Party is successful — in moving policy to the right, the bigger the backlash is likely to be."

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Follow David A. Lieb at: http://twitter.com/DavidALieb

Super Bowl online: See the game, learn some new taunts By ANICK JESDANUN, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — You can watch the Super Bowl online for free, but there are a few catches. For starters, you're out of luck on phones unless you're a Verizon customer. And if you're interested in the ads, you may have a surprise in store.

Here's your online guide to the matchup in Houston between the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots. Kickoff is at 6:30 p.m. ET Sunday on Fox.

WATCHING THE GAME

It's true: Some people will be watching the Super Bowl for the actual game on an actual TV.

You can join them even if you don't have a cable subscription or a good signal with an antenna. Just fire up the Fox Sports Go app on many streaming TV devices, including Roku, Apple TV, Google Chromecast, Amazon Fire TV and Xbox. Fox is suspending its usual requirement that you log on with a cable or satellite account, meaning it's free.

If you can't get to a TV, try the Fox Sports Go app on a tablet or FoxSportsGo.com on a laptop or desktop. Verizon has exclusive rights on phones. If you're a Verizon customer, you can watch through the NFL Mobile app. Otherwise, find another device.

WATCHING THE ADS

The Super Bowl is the rare event where viewers do pay attention to ads . A 30-second spot goes for about \$5 million.

Fox's online stream will get you most of the same ads shown on television. This includes local ads, thanks to a technology Fox is employing to customize the stream to your local station.

The catch is that a handful of stations aren't participating, so you may see a static screen denoting a commercial break. There may also be a few cases in which a national or local advertiser has bought the spot for television only; a substitute ad may appear online in its place.

You can also watch many of the ads on the web. Fox is planning to showcase ads at FoxSports.com. You can also check iSpot.tv and YouTube's AdBlitz . Hulu has shown Super Bowl ads in the past, but it isn't planning to this year. You don't have to wait until Sunday, as many of the ads are already available online.

GIZMOS GALORE

Fox is partnering with Intel to offer replays from the perspective of players on the field. Fox isn't mounting cameras on individual players. Rather, it's using 38 cameras surrounding the field. Powerful computers then create videos to depict how a play would have looked to the player. Although these are 360-degree videos, don't expect a lot of viewer control. They will be more like replays shown as part of the regular broadcast, available a few minutes after the play.

If you have a virtual-reality headset such as Google Cardboard or Samsung's Gear VR, you can get highlights and top plays through the Fox Sports VR app. Without a headset, you can also view 360-degree video with a phone, but it won't be as immersive. You'll need to sign in with a cable or satellite account to watch in VR.

VIDEO EXTRAS

Fox has video specials throughout the week on Facebook and Twitter, as well as Fox websites and apps. On Sunday, Fox is offering a backstage look before the game; the online-only NFL Field Pass stream is expected to include player arrivals, on-field warmups and various stadium activities.

It's not clear whether Fox's pre-game and postgame television coverage will be available through Fox

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apps and websites. Even if it is available, it's possible a cable or satellite account will be needed. Fox didn't respond to inquiries for clarification.

If that's something you need to have online, you may want to invest in an online television package such as Sling TV, PlayStation Vue or DirecTV Now. A subscription will cost at least \$25 a month (though weeklong free trials are available). But check to make sure those services offer Fox stations in your city; that's only true in a handful of locations across the country. A subscription to PlayStation Vue or DirecTV Now will also get you Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl, an homage to the big game played with puppies.

DIGITAL SMARTS

Virtual assistants such as Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa have been tweaked to understand Super Bowl questions. Ask either for player and team stats, or the latest Super Bowl odds (you're on your own for actual bets).

And if someone at your party is cheering for, um, the wrong team, Alexa can help with taunts. Just ask, "Alexa, give me a Patriots burn" or "Alexa, give me a Falcons burn."

How to sound like an NFL fan while watching the Super Bowl By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Pro Football Writer

If you're among the millions of people who watch precisely one NFL game each year, yet want to sound like a real football fan during Sunday's Super Bowl, The Associated Press has you covered.

This guide includes talking points for some of the biggest storylines and critical characters that everyone will be watching and discussing when the New England Patriots face the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl 51 in Houston:

TOM BRADY: Brady is New England's 39-year-old quarterback, their superstar with the cover-boy looks and the Brazilian supermodel wife. He is certain to be the most yapped-about player in the game — and not merely because he is trying to become the first starting QB to win a fifth Super Bowl ring and first player at any position to win a fourth Super Bowl MVP award. As he throws passes to Chris Hogan (whose college lacrosse days are worth knowing about) or hands off to one of three running backs who could be important, you'll hear plenty about Brady's four-game suspension at the start of this season for what became known as ...

'DEFLATEGATE': The NFL determined the Patriots intentionally underinflated footballs used during their AFC championship game victory two years ago and said Brady had a role. Eventually, after a federal court sided with the league, Brady served his punishment ; the NFL fined the Patriots \$1 million and took away two draft picks — all of which is why if New England beats Atlanta, all eyes will be on ...

ROGER GOODELL: The commissioner of the NFL could be put in the awkward position of sharing a postgame stage for the trophy ceremony with Patriots owner Robert Kraft and Brady. Goodell avoided going to Foxborough, Massachusetts, for either of New England's home playoff games last month (he attended two games in Atlanta) and was mocked by Patriots fans' chants of "Where is Roger?" This wasn't the first time Goodell punished the Patriots for running afoul of league rules while they've been coached by ...

BILL BELICHICK: Considered by some the greatest coach in NFL history, branded as a cheater by others, Belichick can break the record for most Super Bowl championships for a coach by collecting No. 5. A flop with the Cleveland Browns in the early 1990s, Belichick then infamously resigned one day after getting the top job with the New York Jets in 2000, heading instead to New England. Long before "Deflategate," there was "Spygate," when the Patriots videotaped signals being sent in by Jets coaches during a 2007 game, earning a \$500,000 fine for Belichick. While his offense flourishes thanks to Brady, Belichick is a defensive mastermind, a trait that comes in handy against ...

MATT RYAN: Known as "Matty Ice" for his cool demeanor, Atlanta's quarterback is coming off one of the best seasons in NFL history, including 38 touchdown passes and seven interceptions, making him a favorite to win the MVP award Saturday night. Ryan threw TDs to a record 13 receivers as part of a versatile ...

FALCONS OFFENSE: Orchestrated by offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan — expected to be hired soon to

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coach the San Francisco 49ers, he is the son of Mike Shanahan, who led the Denver Broncos to two Super Bowl trophies — Atlanta led the NFL by averaging 33.8 points. Receiver Julio Jones can score whenever he touches the ball, Mohamed Sanu is talented, too (and played QB in college, so look for a trick play with him throwing), and Taylor Gabriel is a speedster. Running backs Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman gain yards on the ground and as pass-catchers. The Patriots allowed a league-low 15.6 points per game. In six previous Super Bowls between the No. 1 offense and No. 1 defense , the defense went 5-1. Another trend: Six previous Belichick-Brady Super Bowls (New England is 4-2) were all decided by four points or fewer, so a key role could be played by ...

THE KICKERS: It's been more than 25 years since a Super Bowl extra point was missed, but don't head to the fridge when New England's Stephen Gostkowski and Atlanta's Matt Bryant line up to kick. While both have had successful careers — although Gostkowski did miss three field-goal tries and two extra points in the first seven games this season — kickers all around the NFL had trouble with extra points in 2016, the second year with those attempts taken from 33 yards away, instead of 20. In one week alone this season, 12 extra points were missed, four more than in all of 2014.

For more NFL coverage: http://www.pro32.ap.org and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich

Iran lifts ban on American wrestling team

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian media are saying the country has lifted a ban on U.S. wrestlers, allowing them to take part in the Freestyle World Cup later this month in the Iranian city of Kermanshah.

The Sunday report by the semi-official Fars news agency quotes Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi as saying that the ban was lifted after the "discriminative restrictions" on Iranian nationals travelling to the U.S. was suspended by a U.S. federal judge.

The wrestlers were originally banned from the Feb. 16-17 competition after President Donald Trump temporarily suspended travel from seven Muslim-majority countries, including Iran.

The Trump administration is now appealing to reinstate the travel ban. On Sunday a judge in San Francisco rejected the government's request for an immediate reinstatement. Formal arguments in the case begin on Monday.

US suspends enforcement of travel ban, DOJ appeals By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has appealed a judge's order temporarily blocking President Donald Trump's refugee and immigration ban, saying it's the "sovereign prerogative" of a president to admit or exclude aliens in order to protect national security.

The appeal filed late Saturday at the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, cites a "basic principle that an alien seeking initial admission to the United States requests a privilege and has no constitutional rights regarding his application."

The Justice Department asked that the federal judge's order be stayed pending resolution of the appeal. It says the ban is necessary "to ensure that those approved for admission do not intend to harm Americans and that they have no ties to terrorism."

Earlier Saturday, the government officially suspended enforcement of the ban in compliance with the judge's order, which plunged the new administration into a crisis that has challenged both Trump's authority and his ability to fulfill campaign promises.

That stand-down marked an extraordinary setback for the White House. Only a week ago, the president had acted to suspend America's refugee program and halt immigration to the U.S. from seven Muslimmajority countries that the government said raise terrorism concerns.

The appeal says the temporary restraining order by U.S. District Judge James Robart in Seattle is a broad

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overreach of judicial authority.

"Judicial second-guessing of the President's national security determination in itself imposes substantial harm on the federal government and the nation at large," it says. The order also imposes harm on U.S. citizens "by thwarting the legal effect of the public's chosen representative," it says.

On Twitter, Trump mocked Robart, appointed by President George W. Bush, as a "so-called judge" whose "ridiculous" ruling "will be overturned." He added in a subsequent tweet: "Because the ban was lifted by a judge, many very bad and dangerous people may be pouring into our country. A terrible decision."

Trump's direct attack recalled his diatribes during the campaign against a federal judge of Mexican heritage who was overseeing a Trump University case. Justice Department lawyers could be called upon to answer for his words as the travel ban case is judged by higher courts.

The ban has caused unending confusion for many foreigners trying to reach the United States, prompting protests across the United States and leading to multiple court challenges. Demonstrations took place outside the White House, in New York and near Trump's estate in Palm Beach, Florida, where he was spending the weekend and attending an annual American Red Cross fundraising gala.

"We'll win," Trump told reporters Saturday night. "For the safety of the country, we'll win."

The State Department, after initially saying that as many as 60,000 foreigners from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen had their visas canceled, reversed course on Saturday and said they could travel to the U.S. if they had a valid visa.

The department on Saturday advised refugee aid agencies that refugees set to travel before Trump signed his order will now be allowed into the United States. A State Department official said in an email obtained by The Associated Press that the government was "focusing on booking refugee travel" through Feb. 17 and working to have arrivals resume as soon as Monday.

The Homeland Security Department no longer was directing airlines to prevent visa-holders affected by Trump's order from boarding U.S.-bound planes. The agency said it had "suspended any and all actions" related to putting in place Trump's order, which the White House argued was "intended to protect the homeland."

Trump made clear what he thought of Robart's action.

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

After a pause of several hours, the president returned to Twitter: "What is our country coming to when a judge can halt a Homeland Security travel ban and anyone, even with bad intentions, can come into U.S.?"

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, criticized Trump for "attempting to bully and disparage yet another federal judge" and said he seemed "intent on precipitating a constitutional crisis."

Trump's rhetoric also could put government lawyers defending his order in a tough spot.

"Either they have to defend the statements that Judge Robart is a 'so-called judge,' which you can't do, or they have to distance themselves from the president, who is their boss," said University of Pittsburgh law professor Arthur Hellman.

With legal challenges pending, two prominent Middle Eastern air carriers announced they would resume carrying passengers from the seven affected countries. Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways, national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, said U.S.-bound travelers from those countries with valid visas would be allowed to board.

In Egypt, Cairo airport and airline officials said they have received instructions from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to suspend President Trump's executive order.

Government-backed Qatar Airways is one of a few Mideast airlines operating direct daily flights to multiple American cities. Its U.S. destinations from its Doha hub include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and Washington.

At New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, volunteer lawyer Renee Paradis said most of the flights involving passengers from the affected countries were to arrive later Saturday.

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"Anybody who comes here on a visa is supposed to be allowed in, so we would anticipate that somebody who is in the air would be able to land and enter," she said. "Of course, as with everything this week, it remains to be seen what happens on the ground."

The executive order has caused chaos within the government and the courts. Trump fired Sally Yates, an Obama administration holdover who was serving as acting attorney general, after she said the Justice Department would not enforce it. In Washington on Saturday, demonstrators chanting "No hate, No fear, Refugees are welcome here" walked from the White House down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Hearings have also been held in court challenges nationwide.

In arguments to the court, Washington state and Minnesota said the temporary ban and the global suspension of the U.S. refugee program harmed residents and effectively mandated discrimination.

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

But in his written order Friday, Robart 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," but rather, to make sure that an action taken by the government "comports with our country's laws."

Associated Press writers Alicia A. Caldwell, Mark Sherman, Matthew Lee and Jessica Gresko in Washington, Martha Bellisle in Seattle, William Mathis and Julie Walker in New York, Susannah George in Baghdad, Hamza Hendawi in Cairo and Adam Schreck in Dubai, United Arab Emirates contributed to this report.

China criticizes Mattis' remarks on East China Sea island By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The U.S. is putting regional stability in East Asia at risk, a Chinese spokesman said, 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.

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 un-

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changed 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 of diplomatic protocol 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.

Rebels in Ukraine say commander is killed in a car bombing By INNA VARENYTSIA, Associated Press

AVDIIVKA, Ukraine (AP) — A top rebel commander in eastern Ukraine was killed along with another person when their car exploded, rebels said Saturday, blaming Ukraine's special services for the blast.

Ukraine's military, meanwhile, said three soldiers were killed in shelling over the past day.

Fighting between government forces and Russia-backed separatist rebels has escalated over the past week in eastern Ukraine, killing at least 33 people, including civilians, and wounding several dozen. More than 9,800 people have died since the war began in April 2014.

The rebels' Lugansk Information Center reported Saturday that Lugansk People's Militia commander Oleg Anashchenko died in the explosion along with an unnamed person.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko spoke late Saturday with President Donald Trump, who he said expressed "deep concern" over the escalation.

The surge in violence began the day after Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke by telephone with Trump for the first time since Trump entered the White House. Poroshenko has cast the outburst of fighting as an argument for continuing Western sanctions imposed on Moscow for its actions in Ukraine.

During Saturday's call, a statement issued by Poroshenko's office said the two leaders "noted the urgent necessity of establishing a complete cease-fire." The Ukrainian president thanked Trump for his "strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

The White House said Trump had a "very good call" with Poroshenko. "We will work with Ukraine, Russia, and all other parties involved to help them restore peace along the border," Trump said in a statement.

The government-held town of Avdiivka, just north of the main rebel-controlled city of Donetsk, has been the focus of the fighting. A temporary cease-fire had been called to allow workers on both sides to restore electricity to freezing residents as shelling eased for much of the day. But the Ukrainian military said rebel forces began a mortar barrage of Avdiivka in the evening.

The daily shelling has left locals in the industrial town of about 35,000 traumatized.

Olga Duzhikova's apartment was hit by a shell.

"I lost my head. I don't know what I felt — I took my kids to hide them and I was waiting for someone to help me leave the place," she said.

Trump's repeated promises to improve relations with Russia have fueled concern in Ukraine that Washington would back off some of the sanctions. But the new US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, has said sanctions imposed for Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea will remain.

Associated Press writers Jim Heintz in Moscow and Lynn Berry in Washington contributed to this report.

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French far-right candidate Le Pen's plan: "Made in France" By ELAINE GANLEY, Associated Press

LYON, France (AP) — Marine Le Pen, France's far-right presidential candidate, unveiled her platform Saturday, envisioning a thriving nation "made in France," with its citizens first in line for state services and the state unshackled by the rules-laden European Union.

The French would guard their own borders, spend francs instead of euros and defend themselves under the National Front leader's plans. Immigration, especially by Muslims, would be contained. A policy of "national priority" would give French citizens preference for public housing and other services over EU citizens and immigrants, and lower the profile of France's large Muslim population.

Le Pen hopes the British decision to exit the European Union and the election of U.S. President Donald Trump could provide a morale boost for right-wing, populist voters.

"The entire world — it's true for Brexit, it's true for Mr. Trump — is becoming conscious of what we've been saying for years," she said in a television interview.

The timing could not be better for Le Pen, a leader in early polls for France's two-round presidential election on April 23 and May 7, to roll out 144 nationalistic promises at a weekend conference. Le Pen speaks Sunday at the conference, but had plenty of supporters to speak for her on Saturday.

"The survival of France is at stake. It's the first time we've been so close to the goal," National Front official Jean-Lin Lacapelle said.

"France is a Christian land coming from Roman law and Greek philosophy," said Marion Marechal-Le Pen, her high-profile niece and one of three National Front lawmakers. "We have the right to expect that cultures imported by those newly arrived bow and fade away in the face of our patrimony."

Unlike Trump, Le Pen isn't a new quantity in French politics — she has headed the National Front since 2011 and came in third in the presidential vote in 2012. But they share a belief in what she calls "economic patriotism" and "intelligent protectionism." Her plan includes reserving public bids for French companies if their offers are reasonable and adding a tax for foreign workers.

Le Pen denounces what she calls the "ultra-liberal economic model" of globalization, open borders and "massive immigration," notably of Muslims. In her view, immigrants take jobs from the French, raise the country's terrorism risk and steal away France's very identity.

Among Le Pen's "commitments" unveiled Saturday: No more membership in NATO's integrated command. No more euro currency, European Union or open borders. And no more second chances for foreigners under surveillance as suspected potential terrorists — those thousands would be expelled.

Early polls consistently show Le Pen among France's two top presidential candidates, but suggest she'll lose by a wide margin in the May 7 runoff.

The candidate just two weeks ago considered the most likely to beat Le Pen and win, former conservative Prime Minister Francois Fillon, is bogged down in a corruption scandal over possibly fictitious parliamentary aide jobs for his wife and two children.

Former budget minister Emmanuel Macron, who rebelled against the Socialist Party to strike out on his own, could end up facing Le Pen in the second-round vote. Macron, a centrist, also chose Lyon for a rally this weekend, as did leftist presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon.

Bruno Marcel, 52, who traveled to the southeastern city of Lyon from the Val d'Oise region north of Paris, predicted that Le Pen's time has come.

"All indicators are in place so that in May she is president of France," he said.

Still, the amphitheater at Lyon's Congress Center was far from full. That was expected to change Sunday, when Marine Le Pen speaks.

Le Pen's first move, if elected, will be working to get France out of the 28-nation EU, and her first trip will be to Brussels to try to extract France from the euro currency, border agreements and other critical domains.

It's a battle she apparently thinks she might not win, so she has a Plan B: a Brexit-style exit referendum.

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France's 10 percent jobless rate, growing disgust with politics as usual and the disarray of its political establishment both on the right and left have boosted the appeal of the National Front. Marine Le Pen has worked to shed the party's image as a pariah for its racist, anti-Semitic profile under the leadership of her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Still, Le Pen knows that not all her measures please her supporters — including a decision not to seek a return of the death penalty, which was abolished in 1981. She has made it clear, however, that the platform is hers alone — not the party's.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2017. There are 329 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Feb. 5, 1917, Mexico's present-day constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention in Santiago de Queretaro. The U.S. Congress passed, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto, an act severely curtailing Asian immigration.

On this date:

In 1783, Sweden recognized the independence of the United States.

In 1887, Verdi's opera "Otello" premiered at La Scala.

In 1897, the Indiana House of Representatives passed, 67-0, a measure offering a new (as well as fundamentally flawed) method for determining the area of a circle, which would have effectively redefined the value of pi as 3.2. (The bill died in the Indiana Senate.)

In 1922, the first edition of Reader's Digest was published.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of U.S. Supreme Court justices; the proposal, which failed in Congress, drew accusations that Roosevelt was attempting to "pack" the nation's highest court.

In 1940, Glenn Miller and His Orchestra recorded "Tuxedo Junction" for RCA Victor's Bluebird label.

In 1953, Walt Disney's animated feature "Peter Pan" was first released.

In 1967, "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1971, Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell stepped onto the surface of the moon in the first of two lunar excursions.

In 1973, services were held at Arlington National Cemetery for U.S. Army Col. William B. Nolde, the last official American combat casualty before the Vietnam cease-fire took effect.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that all but a small rear-guard contingent of its troops had left Afghanistan.

In 1994, white separatist Byron De La Beckwith was convicted in Jackson, Mississippi, of murdering civil rights leader Medgar Evers in 1963, and was immediately sentenced to life in prison. (Beckwith died Jan. 21, 2001 at age 80.) Sixty-eight people were killed when a mortar shell exploded in a marketplace in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush unveiled a \$2.9 trillion budget which proposed a big spending increase for the Pentagon while pinching domestic programs. NASA astronaut Lisa Nowak was arrested in Orlando, Florida, accused of trying to kidnap a rival for the affections of a space shuttle pilot. (Nowak was sentenced in 2009 to a year of probation in the altercation after pleading guilty to burglary charges; she was drummed out of the astronaut corps as well as the U.S. Navy.)

Five years ago: Josh Powell, long identified as a person of interest in the 2009 disappearance of his wife, Susan, set fire to his home in Graham, Washington, killing himself and his two sons, 7-year-old Charles and 5-year-old Braden, who had been brought there by a social worker for a supervised visit. Eli Manning and the Giants one-upped Tom Brady and the Patriots again, coming back with a last-minute score to beat New England 21-17 for New York's fourth NFL title in Super Bowl XLVI (46).

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One year ago: President Barack Obama used a new jobs report to continue his victory lap on the economy, declaring the U.S. had "the strongest, most durable economy in the world." (The president spoke shortly after the Labor Department announced that U.S. employers added 151,000 jobs in January, pushing the unemployment rate to 4.9 percent from 5 percent.) A huge construction crane plummeted into a Lower Manhattan street, killing one person and leaving three other people injured.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron is 83. Actor Stuart Damon is 80. Tony-winning playwright John Guare (gwayr) is 79. Financial writer Jane Bryant Quinn is 78. Actor David Selby is 76. Singer-songwriter Barrett Strong is 76. Football Hall-of-Famer Roger Staubach is 75. Movie director Michael Mann is 74. Rock singer Al Kooper is 73. Actress Charlotte Rampling is 71. Racing Hall-of-Famer Darrell Waltrip is 70. Actress Barbara Hershey is 69. Actor Christopher Guest is 69. Actor Tom Wilkinson is 69. Actor-comedian Tim Meadows is 56. Actress Jennifer Jason Leigh is 55. Actress Laura Linney is 53. Rock musician Duff McKagan (Velvet Revolver) is 53. World Golf Hall of Famer Jose Maria Olazabal is 51. Actor-comedian Chris Parnell is 50. Rock singer Chris Barron (Spin Doctors) is 49. Singer Bobby Brown is 48. Actor Michael Sheen is 48. Actor David Chisum is 47. Country singer Sara Evans is 46. Country singer Tyler Farr is 33. Neo-soul musician Mark Shusterman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 32. Actor-singer Darren Criss is 30. Actor Alex Brightman is 30. Rock musician Kyle Simmons (Bastille) is 29. Actor Jeremy Sumpter is 28. Drummer Graham Sierota (Echosmith) is 18.

Thought for Today: "Men do not desire to be rich, but to be richer than other men." — John Stuart Mill, English philosopher and economist (1806-1873).