

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, Feb. 11

ACT Test: in Aberdeen

Robotics: at Lead-Deadwood High School

Wrestling: at Howard High School at 10 a.m.

Double Header at Mobridge: JV girls at 2 p.m., JV boys at 3 p.m., Varsity Girls at 4:30 p.m., Varsity Boys at 6 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 12

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

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m. No Sunday School.

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

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

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom apartment for rent. Move in by Feb. 28th and get a FREE 32" Flat Screen TV! All utilities included except A/C, for \$600. Please call or text 239-849-7674 .

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

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PARTS COUNTER SALES

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

Harry Implement Inc.

PO Box 841

Ferney, SD

57439



Check out our portfolio on Facebook at Schultz-Construction-LLC

~ New Construction and Remodeling- renovations, additions, and carpentry work

~ Concrete- foundations, flatwork, decorative concrete surfaces.

605-380-1717

www.shawnschultzconstruction.com

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2017 Wildland Fire Academy Registration Open

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Registration is open for the 2017 Wildland Fire Academy which will be held in Ft. Pierre, S.D., on March 23-26. The academy is put on by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture's Wildland Fire Division.

This event provides valuable training experience for volunteer fire departments (VFD), state and federal firefighters. Grant funds are available for VFD's to offset the costs of participation.

South Dakota Wildland Fire training specialist Tamara Dierks says, "A quality training experience provides firefighters with the tools to perform safely, develop leadership skills and gain higher qualifications. Not only does this foster high quality firefighters, but it allows them to network with people from all over the state creating relationships that benefit everyone from the local VFD to the citizens of South Dakota."

The registration deadline is March 12. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$30 per student. For a list of classes and details to register, visit: http://reg.abcsignup.com/view/view_month.aspx?as=14&wp=86&aid=SDFA. These are certified National Wildfire Coordinating Group courses, so any student attending must have their Incident Command System (ICS) classes up to date including ICS-100 and ICS-700. Additional courses or qualifications may be required, dependent upon course selection.

For more information, please contact Tamara Dierks, South Dakota Wildland Fire at 605.393.4229 or email tamara.dierks@state.sd.us.

South Dakota Wildland Fire can be found on Facebook by searching SD Wildland Fire and on Twitter @SDWildlandFire.

Valentines Day – Tuesday, Feb 14th

SHOW YOUR LOVED ONES
HOW SPECIAL THEY ARE!

Fresh Flowers
Plants
Jewelry
Gourmet Coffee
Wine
Truffles & Gourmet Treats
Home Decor
Gift Certificates



Free Delivery to
Groton Schools on
Feb 14th when
ordered by
Monday, Feb 13th!

Add on extra love to any order –
\$25 – add a teddy bear, mylar
balloon & a small box of truffles!

Main Street, Groton
605-397-8650
oldebankfloral.com



Delivery – Aberdeen, Groton, & all surrounding communities

Groton DI plans Dessert Theater

Groton DI, Destination Imagination, will host their Dessert Theater on Sunday, February 19, 2017. Skits will begin at 2:30 pm in the GES gym. Dessert is being served at 2:15. DI is an extra-curricular activity that encourages teamwork, creative problem solving, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Skills and 21st Century Skills.

Groton has eight teams involved in DI this year. One team is Early Learning Teams – these students are in Kindergarten through second grade. We have three elementary teams which are students in third through fifth grade. There are two middle school teams of students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. Students in grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve are represented by two high school teams.

In the fall of the year, teams have a variety of challenges to research and decide which one is a good fit for their team. They have been working since October to solve their challenge. Each challenge has multiple solutions and therefore each presentation is different. It is always interesting to see what solutions various teams develop. Dessert Theater many times is the first public performance of the teams' solutions.

Please come and see the solutions that the Groton DIers have come up with. If you can't make Dessert Theater, Groton is hosting the NE Regional competition on February 25th at the high school. We hope to see you at one of these events. THANK YOU for your continued support of Groton Destination Imagination!



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

GDI Living Fitness
25 Main St., Downtown Groton

Shelby Hjermstad scores!

Coach Shaun Wanner said, "It was Katie's (Koehler) and Audrey's (Wanner) idea to have Shelby dress for the game. That way there would be three seniors at the last home event." The Redfield/Doland Coach called time-out and said to put her in the game. "I have to say kudos to Coach Tommy Gregg. It's moments like this that they will always remember. The girls were all crying in the locker room and Shelby said, "Why are you all crying? You should be happy for me." It was a moment that will be cherished.

When Shelby checked into the game, it was a three senior moment. The first shot did not go in. Wanner got the rebound on the Redfield-Doland end and brought the ball up court. She passed the ball to Katie Koehler who tossed it to Shelby at the free throw line where the ball hit nothing by net and the entire crowd erupted with joy. When asked about the night, Shelby said, "It was awesome!"

Groton Area defeated Redfield-Doland in girls' basketball action played Friday in Groton, 50-24.

Audrey Wanner led the Tigers with 19 points followed by Jessica Bjerke with eight, Payton



Shelby Hjermstad made this basket to give Groton Area its 50th point in the Redfield-Doland game Friday night in Groton. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Area 50, Redfield/Doland 24

	2-pt	3-pt	FT	Pts	Rbs	Steals	Assists	TO	Fouls
Shelby Hjermstad	1-3	0-0	0-0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Audrey Wanner	5-8	1-2	6-8	19	7	1	1	2	0
Katie Koehler	2-4	0-0	0-0	4	1	1	1	1	1
Jessica Bjerke	1-1	2-2	0-0	8	7	3	4	2	2
Harleigh Stange	2-5	0-1	0-0	4	1	5	2	2	2
Jennie Doeden	1-3	0-0	3-4	5	5	0	1	0	1
Taylor Holm	0-4	0-0	0-0	0	4	1	0	0	1
Alex Stange	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Miranda Hanson	0-0	1-1	0-0	3	1	0	1	1	1
Gia Gengerke	0-0	0-0	0-2	0	2	0	0	0	1
Payton Maine	1-3	1-1	0-0	5	0	0	0	1	0
Madison Sippel	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTALS	12-29	5-7	9-14	50	30	11	10	10	9

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Maine had five, Jennie Doeden five, Harleigh Stange four and Katie Koehler each had four, Miranda Hanson had three and Shelby Hjermstad added the last two points of the game.

Hannah Kuehn led the Pheasants with nine points followed by Addison Rozell and Georgia Kuehn with five each, Kennedy Fast had three and Kailee Clausen two.

Groton Area made 45 percent of its field goals compared to 18 percent for Redfield-Doland. The Tigers were nine of 14 from the line for 64 percent off of Redfield-Doland's 14 team fouls, Audrey Wanner and Jessica Bjerke each had seven of Groton's 30 rebounds, Bjerke had four of Groton's 10 assists and Harleigh Stange had five of Groton's 11 steals.



This was the senior's last home game at Groton Area High School. Audrey Wanner is on the left and Katie Koehler is on the right. (Photos by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 34-27. Scoring for Groton: Payton Maine 15, Gia Gengerke 5, Taylor Holm 4, Sam Menzia 4, Kaycie Hawkins 3, Miranda Hanson 2 and Alex Stange 1.

Scoring for Redfield: Hannah Kuehn 7, Katelyn Nelson 7, Kailee Clausen 6, Georgia Kuehn 4, Courtney Turck 2 and Faith Jandel 1.

The Groton Area varsity team is now 10-8 on the season and will be at Moberidge today with a 4:30 p.m. contest and will end the regular season Thursday at Milbank Area.

The varsity game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Groton Ford, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgensen, Ken's Food Fair of Groton, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, the John Sieh Agency, The Tax Lady of Aberdeen, Producer's Hybrids with John Wheeting, Harry Implement of Ferney and McKiver Collision.

- Paul Kosel

The Life of Joyce Schaller



Joycelin Jean Ebert was born on May 31, 1930 to Andrew and Selma (Breitkreutz) Ebert at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. She attended school in Beaver Dam and graduated from Beaver Dam High School.

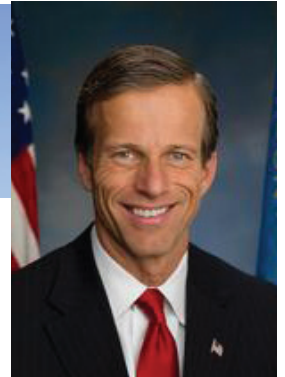
Following graduation, she moved to Ferney, South Dakota to visit and work for her aunt and uncle at their gas station/café. This is where she met the love of her life.

On June 9, 1950, she was united in marriage to Orville Schaller at Ferney. After their marriage the couple made their home in Groton. Joyce stayed home to raise their three children, Sandra, Steven, and Sherry. Joyce occasionally helped out at the car dealership owned by her husband for many years. They were very fortunate to travel extensively as a result of that business. Joyce also was the manager at the first tanning salon in Aberdeen, which was owned by her son. She was a huge dog lover of favorite pets no longer with us: Precious, Angie, Simba (Poodles) and Pomeranian, Zoe. And a frequent overnight guest the grandchildren's dog, Kisses.

Joyce was a member of St. Johns Lutheran Church in Groton. She enjoyed bowling and spent many years in leagues and competing in tournaments. She was instrumental in starting a youth bowling league at S&A Service in Groton. She also enjoyed sewing for which she created many Halloween and skating costumes for all 3 children. She also loved music and listening to country recording artists, Billy Ray Cyrus, Tim McGraw and Josh Turner. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren constantly provided her with unending joy and entertainment.

She will be greatly missed by her children; Sandra Schaller and Steven Schaller both of Groton, SD, former daughter-in-law; Julie Schaller of Groton, SD, one brother; Wayne (Sally) Ebert of St. Germaine, WI, five grandchildren; Stephy (Tim) Hanigan of Aberdeen, SD, Arielle Cameron of Groton, SD, Cheyenne Schaller of Orlando, FL, Jasmine Schaller of Groton, SD and Hunter Schaller of Groton, SD. She is also survived by five great-grandsons; Colton, Kayson, Kyler, Bronsen, and Quinssen. She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter; Sherry, and three brothers; Gerald, Ronald, and Dennis.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



My Work on the Next Farm Bill Begins Today

Most Americans don't realize the important role agriculture plays in our daily lives. They can easily hop in their car, drive across town where pre-packaged meat, produce, and other items are waiting for them on the shelves at their local grocery store. Everything is easily accessible, ready to be purchased and brought home to fill refrigerators and pantries.

Ask a South Dakotan about agriculture, and you'll hear an entirely different story. Farming and ranching make agriculture our state's top industry. It's an opportunity to provide for one's family. It defines a lifestyle. The hard-working farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs throughout South Dakota are among the people responsible for making sure there's food in America's grocery stores, restaurants, and schools. And they're proud of it, too.

Neither farming nor ranching is an easy way to make a living. There's plenty of blood, sweat, and tears to prove it. It's not a nine-to-five, stress-free job either. They're often up before the sun rises and home after it sets. The dirt literally runs through their hands as next week's weather forecast weighs heavy on their mind. As if farming and ranching aren't hard enough during the best of times, today's record low commodity and livestock prices have made it even more difficult.

We're less than two years away from needing to pass the next farm bill, and given today's market conditions, it's not too early to start working on it. Our top priority must be to make production agriculture more sustainable by keeping farmers and ranchers on their land. We can work toward achieving that goal by enacting policies that could help prices rise above production costs, bolster commodity programs, protect soil health, preserve crop insurance, and simplify and streamline conservation programs.

I feel strongly about making sure we get this right, which is why I'll soon be unveiling multiple farm bill proposals that will address specific portions of most titles of the overall bill – well in advance of any deadline. I think these individual proposals are an important place to start. Once we begin the rollout, I look forward to hearing from South Dakotans about what they think of my proposals and if there are any areas in which we can improve.

I've written three farm bills during my time in Congress, having served on both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. Next year's bill will be my fourth. I know what it takes to get these farm bills across the finish line, and I know the farmers and ranchers who will be affected once we do. After having recently met with former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, who will soon lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture, I'm confident we'll have a strong partner who also understands these high-stakes times. Our work begins today.



An Eternal Tribute

Through the many sacrifices made, our veterans and their families have earned America's eternal gratitude. Since 1948, the Black Hills National Cemetery has been one way in which this appreciation has been shown, although burial space there is increasingly limited.

Tucked in the hills outside Sturgis, around 100 acres has been set aside to serve as a final resting place for some of our state's most courageous. Included among these heroes is Chief David Beautiful Bald Eagle. Born in a tepee in 1919, Chief Bald Eagle served as a paratrooper during World War II. He – alongside John Bear King and Clarence Eugene Wolf Guts, who are buried in the Black Hills National Cemetery as well – was also a Code Talker. These men were critical to our success in numerous battles during the war, using their native languages to help protect, defend, and secure freedom.

Brigadier General Richard E. Ellsworth was also laid to rest at the Black Hills National Cemetery. This is a man who flew 400 combat missions during World War II and earned numerous metals. He returned to the U.S. where he eventually became wing commander of what was then called the Rapid City Air Force Base. While co-piloting a bomber during a simulated combat mission in 1953, his plane encountered bad weather. With limited visibility, the plane struck a hill, killing everyone on board. Later that year, Rapid City Air Force Base would be named in General Ellsworth's honor.

These legacies continue to earn our country's respect. This is a lesson in patriotism that Sturgis and other nearby communities have never forgotten. On a brisk day this past December, for instance, Pennington County 4-H, the Sturgis Boy Scouts, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, and members of the surrounding community came together to place 1,000 wreaths on the graves of those laid to rest in the Black Hills National Cemetery – a community coming together around those who sacrificed much to protect it.

The cemetery, however, does not have the room required to continue serving veterans and their families unless it is expanded. After working with a number of area veterans and related federal agencies, I again introduced the Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act this year, which would nearly triple the cemetery's size by transferring federal lands that are currently under the Bureau of Land Management's jurisdiction to the Department of Veterans Affairs. I was humbled to see the House unanimously pass my legislation earlier this month and I'm hopeful the expansion can soon earn the support of the Senate, where Senators Round and Thune have introduced a companion bill. Enacting this legislation would be an incredible way to show our nation's eternal gratitude for all our service members and their families have done.

One final thing: to all those who have served and to the families who stand beside you, thank you. You are what makes this nation great.



Obstruction in the Senate Does More Harm Than Good

Since even before President Donald Trump took office in January, the Senate has been attempting to work through the confirmation process for his Cabinet secretary nominees so we can get to work on the important policy issues to get our country moving in the right direction again. Filling the Cabinet is critically important for the executive branch to function effectively. In addition to their advisory duties, Cabinet members lead their respective departments, create policies that guide each unit and manage programs within their respective departments.

I take very seriously the Senate's role in providing 'advise and consent' to the president's Cabinet selections. However, as a former governor, I generally believe that a chief executive has the right to choose his or her Cabinet and that nominees should be allowed an up-or-down vote. The Senate's job is to assure each candidate is qualified to assume the offices for which they are nominated.

The idea of a Cabinet dates back to our first president, George Washington, who had a group of four advisors who assisted him in fulfilling his duties as president. President Trump's nominees have unfortunately undergone the slowest Cabinet confirmation process since President Washington took office.

If you have monitored the news recently, you'll note that confirming President Trump's nominees has been a slow-moving process, as Senate Democrats continue to do all they can to slow their confirmations, regardless of their experience or qualifications for the jobs they have been nominated to fill. I understand that some Senate Democrats may have differing policy objectives than some nominees, but rather than voicing those concerns, they have slowed down the entire confirmation process for nearly all nominees, with very few exceptions.

Historically, the Senate has worked with an incoming administration to fill their Cabinet picks. In fact, every incoming president from James Garfield in 1881 to Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 had all of his Cabinet officials confirmed on day one of their presidencies. By this point in his first term, President Obama had all of his Cabinet secretaries confirmed. As we all know, elections have consequences. I understand that some of my colleagues were not pleased with, nor expected, the result of our recent election, but it's time to put aside political gamesmanship and work together on behalf of the American people we all serve in Congress.

This historic obstruction prevents Congress from working on issues important to many Americans, such as regulatory reform, tax reform, repairing Obamacare and fixing the VA to make it better for our veterans. These are issues that drove millions of Americans to the ballot box in November in support of President Trump, and issues that I have pledged to work on throughout my time in the Senate. I am ready and willing to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to accomplish these goals. Additionally, when federal agencies do not have leadership in place, policy decisions important to citizens are delayed in their delivery.

The Senate is historically known for its decorum. Though individual senators may disagree with one another on policy, comity reigns in this body. I'd like to think that all of us share similar principles, especially when it comes to a peaceful transition of power. We will all benefit by finalizing the president's nominees in a timely manner so we can get to work on the issues that will have a positive impact on the lives of all Americans.

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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



SD's Gun Laws: Effective, Appropriate and Minimal

Gun control measures have been gaining ground in some places around the nation in recent years. In the more urban areas of the country and along the coasts, people are more wary, and perhaps fearful, of guns. That may be why some states pass very restrictive gun laws. For instance, in New Jersey a citizen cannot even own a handgun, rifle or shotgun without a permit or Firearms Purchaser Identification Card. In some states, obtaining a concealed carry permit can take months. In Maryland and California, an individual has to prove a need to be granted a concealed carry permit.

South Dakota is a state that respects the Second Amendment. A great many of our citizens own pistols, rifles and shotguns. Here, guns are as common as saddles and pickups. Many of us grew up hunting or on farms or ranches where we needed to be able to handle a gun. Most importantly, we understand that law-abiding individuals should be able to defend themselves.

As a lifetime member of the NRA, I support the right to bear arms. I own a rifle, a pistol, and more than one shotgun. I am happy to be governor of a state that still respects that right and I am proud of our current gun laws.

South Dakotans do not need a permit to purchase a firearm in our state. The firearm requirements we have in state law are few and reasonable. One such requirement is that if you want to carry a concealed pistol – under your coat, for example – you must obtain a permit. You pay \$10 and undergo a background check. The background check is a safety measure to identify applicants who may not be eligible to carry a concealed weapon because they have a criminal record or a history of mental instability. Barring those few exceptions, it's easy and cheap, and it usually takes only a few days to receive a permit. My friend Matt said he spent five minutes at the sheriff's window, paid his \$10 and three days later had his permit.

There are a number of bills being considered this legislative session that would alter our state's common sense gun laws. A couple of those bills are deceptively labeled as "constitutional carry" bills.

House Bill 1072, for example, would eliminate the permit requirement in order to carry a concealed weapon. Under this bill, the vetting process would be removed. Individuals with a proven history of violence or substance abuse and those who have been identified as a danger to the public or to themselves could not be restricted from carrying a firearm. If this bill becomes law, it will create confusion for law enforcement who will still seek to ascertain whether an individual is lawfully concealing a weapon. Innocent citizens could be detained by law enforcement and subjected to time-consuming criminal and mental health background checks.

I am proud of South Dakota's traditions and pro-Second Amendment track record. Just as I do not support gun control measures, I cannot support bad legislation which would lead to a whole host of unintended consequences. The laws we currently have in place are effective, appropriate and minimal.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was an ardent defender of constitutional rights and a staunch conservative. In one of his last opinions, Scalia referenced concealed permits. He stated unequivocally that "like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited," and he affirmed that concealed weapons permit laws are not an affront to our Second Amendment rights.

On this issue, I'm with Justice Scalia.

Today in Weather History

February 11, 2002: High winds of 35 to 45 mph gusting to 60 to 65 mph affected central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota through the afternoon and into the evening hours. The high winds caused some spotty tree and roof damage along with a few power outages. A few downed power lines in Aberdeen resulted in a short power outage for some people. Also, a streetlight pole was knocked down in Aberdeen. Some wind gusts included 55 mph at Wheaton, 58 mph at McLaughlin, 59 mph at Pierre, 61 mph at Sisseton and Aberdeen, 62 mph at Mobridge, and 63 mph at Graceville, Minnesota.

1895: The low temperature was 11 degrees below zero at Moline, Illinois marking the last of a station record 16 consecutive days on which the low temperature was at or below zero. During the first 11 days of February, the highest temperature recorded at Moline was only 13 degrees above zero. Their current normal high temperature for early February is in the lower 30s.

1899 - Perhaps the greatest of all arctic outbreaks commenced on this date. The temperature plunged to 61 degrees below zero in Montana. At the same time a "Great Eastern Blizzard" left a blanket of snow from Georgia to New Hampshire. The state of Virginia took the brunt of the storm, with snowfall totals averaging 30 to 40 inches. (David Ludlum)

1935: Africa's lowest recorded temperature occurred on this date in 1935. A bitterly cold 11 degrees below zero was registered at the Atlas Mountains village of Ifrane, Morocco.

1983: Called the "Megalopolitan blockbuster snowstorm," this major snowstorm impacted the Mid-Atlantic and southern New England. Snowfall up to 25 inches fell at Allentown, Pennsylvania. Snowfall amount of 35 inches occurred in parts of the Blue Ridge Mountains of West Virginia at Glen Cary. Windsor Locks, Connecticut recorded a record 19 inches in 12 hours. A ship sunk off the Virginia/Maryland coast killing 33. There were 46 total storm-related fatalities. New 24-hour snowfall records were set in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Allentown Pennsylvania and Hartford Connecticut. Five inches of snow in one hour was recorded at Allentown and Hartford.

1987 - Denver, CO, reported only their third occurrence of record of a thunderstorm in February. Ten cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Huron SD reported February temperatures averaging 19 degrees above normal. Williston ND reported readings averaging 24 degrees above normal for the month. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



livestream

**Upcoming Events
Saturday at Mobridge**








GBB at 4:30 p.m.

BBB at 6:00 p.m.

gdilive.com

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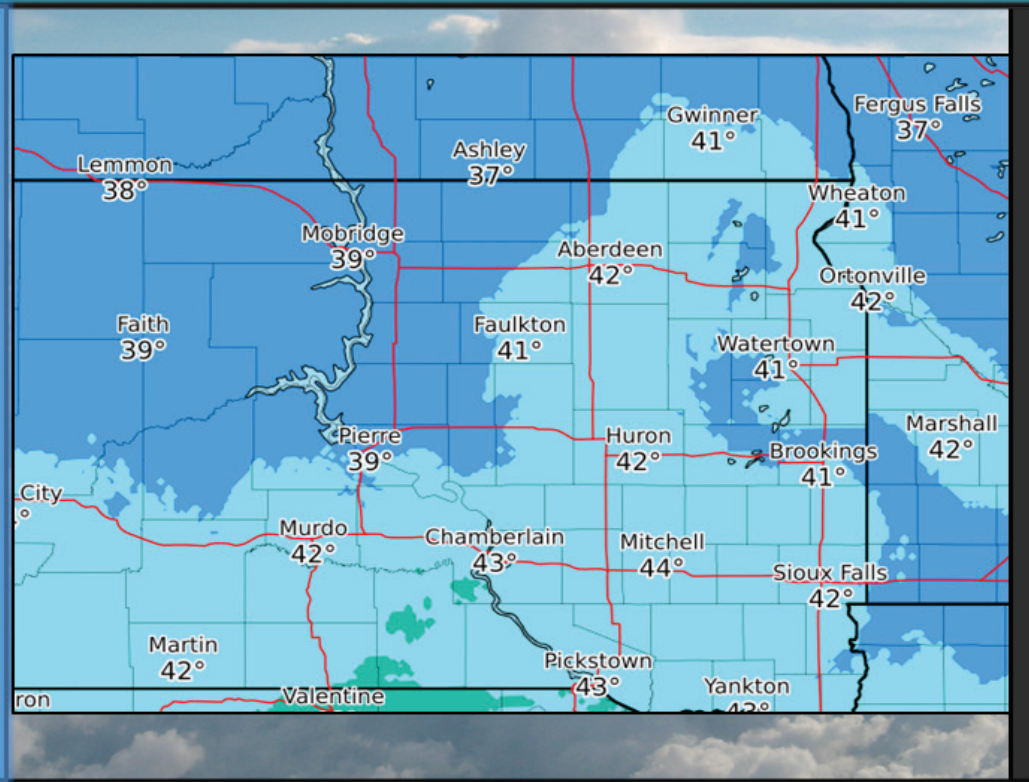
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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
40%	20%					
Chance Rain and Patchy Fog	Blustery. Slight Chance Rain then Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 42 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 37 °F	Low: 20 °F	High: 39 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 39 °F



Above Normal Temps Continue

~ Light Precipitation Tonight - Saturday.

~ Turning Breezy Saturday Night.



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 2/10/2017 3:26 PM Central

Published on: 02/10/2017 at 3:30PM

A weak system crossing the region later tonight through Saturday will bring light precipitation into the area. Locations along and south of Highway 14 has the best potential of seeing precipitation. Otherwise, mild temperatures will continue through the weekend and all of next week.

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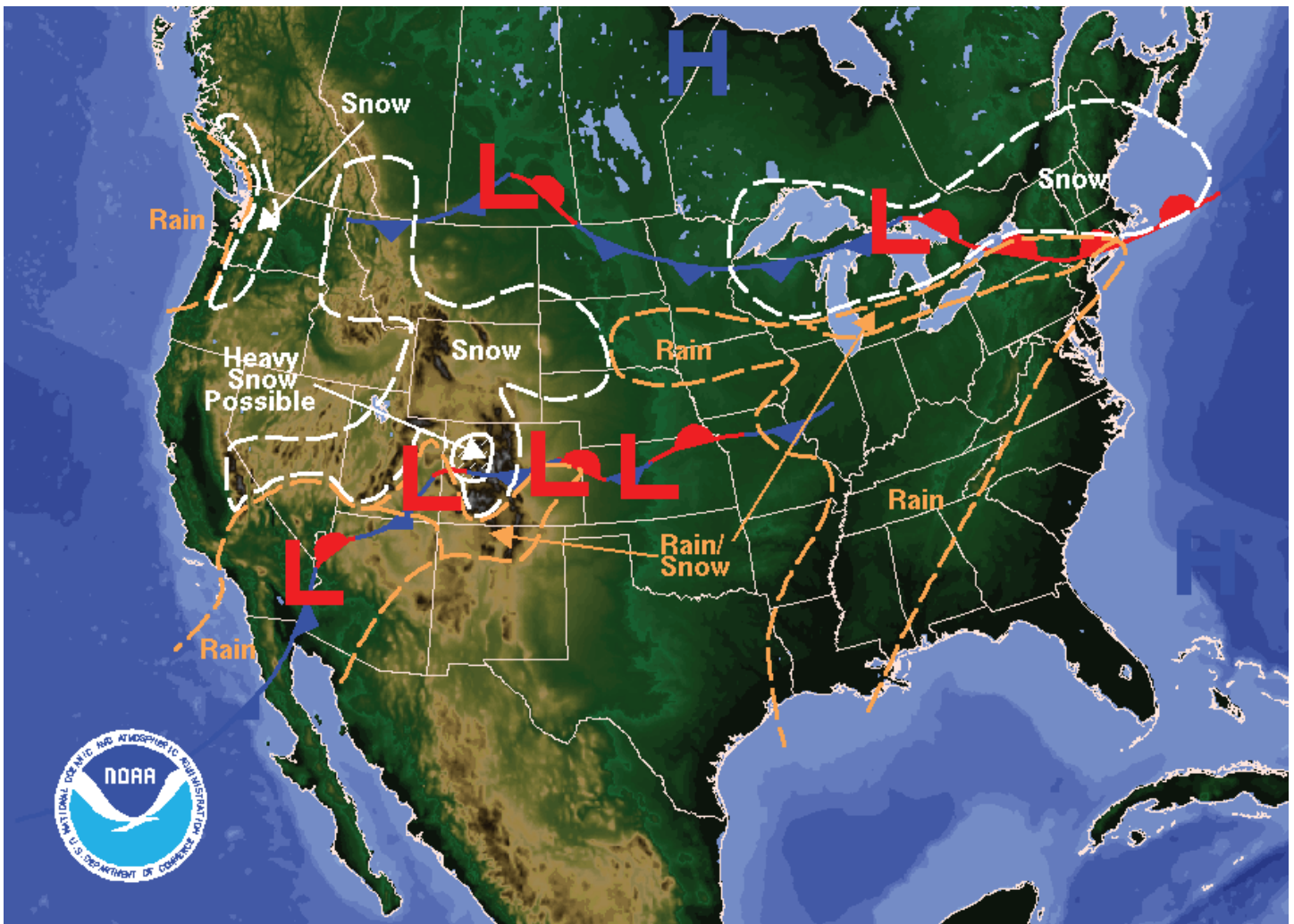
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 46 F at 3:37 PM
Low Outside Temp: 22 F at Midnight
High Gust: 33.0 Mph at 12:14 AM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 58° in 1987
Record Low: -35 in 1988
Average High: 27°F
Average Low: 6°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.17
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.64
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:55 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:39 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Feb 11, 2017, issued 3:30 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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ONE ANSWER

It was the first day in her new position as the secretary to the president. As she was being given her first task, she wanted to appear confident and competent.

Listening carefully he said to her, "These accounts that I am giving you are very important. They are the foundation of our income. I want you to go over each of them at least three times to make sure that all of the numbers are correct before you return them to me. Your results must be right!"

Working anxiously for quite some time, she finally completed her task. She went to him and handed him the results of her efforts. As he took the papers from her hands she said, "Sir, I want you to know that I exceeded your expectations. I went over each page ten times and came up with ten different answers."

When asked the way to heaven and eternal life, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

This statement in John's Gospel is one of the most basic and important passages in all of Scripture. If anyone anywhere wants to know the way to God and eternal life, this is the one and only answer. Jesus, with no hesitation, declared once and for all that He is the Way. Some may argue that this declaration and proclamation is too narrow. But in all reality, it is wide enough for anyone, anywhere to enter at any time.

Prayer: Thank You, Heavenly Father, for sending Your one and only Son into the world to become, if we choose, Our Savior and the Way to eternal life with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

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News from the Associated Press

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 69, Clark/Willow Lake 63
Alcester-Hudson 76, Baltic 56
Bennett County 63, New Underwood 23
Brandon Valley 64, Aberdeen Central 55
Brookings 62, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 46
Canton 79, Irene-Wakonda 68
Chamberlain 69, Wagner 38
Colman-Egan 52, Arlington 46
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Scotland 57, Gregory 46
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Sioux Falls Lincoln 65, Rapid City Central 59
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Police investigate woman's suspicious death near Rapid City

RAPID VALLEY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in southwestern South Dakota are investigating a woman's suspicious death that may be linked to illegal drug activity.

Pennington County officials say 43-year-old Tamra Jo Ness, of Rapid City, was found dead in Rapid Valley

after someone called to report a cardiac arrest Thursday night.

A statement from Pennington County says authorities arrested a 43-year-old Rapid City woman. She's in jail on suspicion of ingesting a controlled substance.

Authorities say Ness' autopsy shows no signs of trauma, and the cause of her death won't be determined until toxicology tests are done.

Child obesity stagnant in South Dakota after 2 decades

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Health is claiming success in fighting childhood obesity despite numbers that show an unchanged percentage since it began tracking the rate nearly two decades ago.

The department announced Tuesday that 32.1 percent of South Dakota children ages 5 to 19 were either overweight or obese during 2015-16 school year. The results are compared to the previous year of 32.2 percent, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2k7SJB2>) reported.

Ashley Miller, a state-employed chronic disease epidemiologist, said the fact that the rate isn't rising is good news, despite missing its goal of reducing the proportion of obese children in South Dakota to 15 percent by 2010. The department now aims to reduce the proportion of obese children in the state to 14 percent by 2020.

"But bringing the rate down won't happen overnight, just as reaching these levels didn't happen overnight," Miller said. "It's going to take long-term effort from schools, communities and parents."

Last year, a Rapid City Journal investigation found state government had received \$1.7 million in federal Team Nutrition grant money since 2001. The funds were sub-granted to local projects that promoted healthier eating and better exercise habits among children. However, the funds only reached a few dozen schools or out-of-school programs each year.

South Dakota began tracking childhood obesity during the 1999-2000 school year, and there has been more effort to make school lunches healthier in recent years. The initiative was led in part by former first lady Michelle Obama.

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

North Dakota company to close 15 machinery dealerships

WEST FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Titan Machinery Inc. is closing 15 dealerships, including stores in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, as part of a restructuring plan.

The West Fargo-based company is consolidating those stores with nearby Titan dealerships. Titan says customers will still be able to get parts, service rental and support at those stores that remain open.

Stores affected include Redwood Falls and Thief River Falls in Minnesota along with Arthur, Kintyre, Kulm and Mayville in North Dakota and Milbank and Redfield, South Dakota. Other closings are planned in Iowa and Nebraska.

Chief marketing officer Jeff Bowman tells KFGO-AM (<http://bit.ly/2kuDjmC>) the company is working to serve customers better and become more efficient.

Titan runs a network of agricultural and construction equipment dealerships. The restructuring plan is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Information from: KFGO-AM, <http://www.kfgo.com>

Colleagues say judge in Dakota pipeline case is even-handed

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON** and **DAVE KOLPACK**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The federal judge who will decide whether oil flows through the disputed Dakota Access pipeline has shown sympathy for the historical plight of American Indians, but has also made clear that he doesn't think that should play a role in judicial decisions.

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U.S. District Judge James "Jeb" Boasberg is overseeing a lawsuit filed by the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux that could be their last hope of stopping the \$3.8 billion pipeline to carry North Dakota oil to Illinois. The tribes argue the pipeline threatens drinking water and cultural sites. A hearing is scheduled Monday.

While the Washington, D.C.-based Boasberg cited in a previous ruling the historic exploitation of Indians in early America, he also told an attorney for the tribe last year he won't be influenced by phone calls from pipeline opponents to sway his opinion.

That doesn't surprise Michael Kellogg, a law firm colleague of Boasberg's in the mid-1990s, or Virginia attorney Tim Heaphy, who once worked with Boasberg in the D.C. federal prosecutor's office.

"He is not motivated by ideology or politics," Heaphy said.

Boasberg has been appointed to judgeships by both Republican and Democratic presidents, showing he is respected by both conservatives and liberals, said a third colleague of Boasberg, 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Senior Judge Dorothy Nelson, for whom Boasberg once clerked.

Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners this week received approval from the Army Corps of Engineers to lay pipe under Lake Oahe, a Missouri river reservoir that's the tribes' water source. It's the final chunk of construction for the 1,200-mile pipeline. The Cheyenne River tribe has asked Boasberg to stop the work until the legal battle is resolved.

Boasberg earned his law degree from Yale in 1990. He was appointed to his current post on the federal bench by President Barack Obama in 2011.

In responding to questions in 2010 from then-Alabama U.S. senator and current U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions about his judicial philosophies, Boasberg agreed with another judge who had rejected Obama's call for empathy in a Supreme Court justice.

"If empathy means sympathizing with one party such that a judge fails to follow the law, then I believe it should not play a role in a judge's consideration of a case," Boasberg said.

In a September ruling Boasberg wrote, "the tragic history of the Great Sioux Nation's repeated disposessions at the hands of a hungry and expanding early America is well known."

But he denied an attempt by the Standing Rock tribe to halt pipeline work, rejecting arguments that tribal officials hadn't been properly consulted and that cultural sites were in immediate peril.

"Lake Oahe is of undeniable importance to the tribe, and the general area is demonstrably home to important cultural resources," Boasberg said. "Even here, though, the tribe has not met its burden to show that DAPL-related work is likely to cause damage."

About the same time, Boasberg said his chambers had been flooded with calls about the pipeline. He urged Standing Rock attorney Jan Hasselman to remind his clients that "tallying calls for and against ... is not how our judicial system works."

Boasberg has been in the spotlight before. In 2012 he ruled that the Obama administration wouldn't have to turn over images of the body of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, and last year he dismissed lawsuits arising from Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email server as secretary of state.

Dave Kolpack reported from Fargo, North Dakota. Follow him on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/DaveKolpackAP>

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

AP FACT CHECK: Burning tent photo at protest site is fake

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Reports that police in North Dakota raided and set fire to the site of a pipeline protest encampment are false, and the picture posted of burning tents is a fake, too.

Both police and a protest leader confirmed Friday that authorities never set fire to tents at the protest camp on Feb. 1. They also said that the photo of burning tents posted on some websites and shared on social media is from a 2007 HBO movie, "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," a drama about Native Americans in the western U.S. in the 19th century. Messages left with HBO were not returned.

Snow and hay bales were digitally added to the fake photo, and it was cropped to remove an actor on a horse.

Demonstrators have gathered for several months to protest plans for the 1,200-mile Dakota Access pipeline. Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners plans to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Illinois. The proposed route skirts the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's reservation and crosses under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota that serves as the tribe's drinking water source.

Hundreds have been arrested amid sometimes confrontational protests. But Dallas Goldtooth, a protest organizer and executive director of the Indigenous Environmental Network, said protesters voluntarily took down their own tents on Feb. 1. He said the only fire that day occurred when some old firewood was burned.

As for the photo? "One-hundred percent fake," Goldtooth said.

Morton County, North Dakota, Sheriff's spokesman Rob Keller confirmed the doctored photo originated from the HBO program, a photo that can be found on HBO's website.

This story is part of an ongoing Associated Press effort to fact-check claims in suspected false news stories.

Gym fire forces students to evacuate South Dakota school

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — A fire in the school gym has forced hundreds of students to evacuate an elementary school in northeastern South Dakota.

The fire broke out Friday morning in the gymnasium at Westside Elementary School in Sisseton.

District Superintendent Wally Leipart (LEEP'-hart) tells KWAT Radio (<http://bit.ly/2kuIBPa>) the fire was in a mechanical room of the building.

Leipart says the cause of the fire is still being determined but it was accidental. He says students and staff evacuated the building and walked to a nearby church.

About 500 students attend class in the kindergarten-through-fifth-grade school. No one was hurt.

The building is being inspected. The superintendent says there will be no school for elementary students Monday, but he's unsure when classes will resume.

Information from: KWAT-AM, <http://www.gowatertown.net>

Not guilty pleas entered in fatal bayonet attack

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man accused of killing one man and injuring two others with a bayonet has pleaded not guilty to criminal charges.

Twenty-six-year-old Joseph Rich is charged with first-degree manslaughter in the stabbing death of Juan Legarda Jr. on New Year's Day. Rich is also accused of using the bayonet, which was attached to a gun, to attack two other men.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2kA6Yxm>) says Judge Jane Pfeifle denied a defense request to reduce \$100,000 cash bond to about \$25,000 during an appearance in 7th Circuit Court Thursday.

A relative of Legarda spoke against the bond reduction and asked that the amount be increased to \$500,000. Rich is due back in court March 9.

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

Collins joins GOP senators calling for tough Russia approach

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Maine's Republican U.S. senator is among a group of party members urging President Donald Trump to get tough on Russia.

Susan Collins joined a group of senators that sent a letter to Trump calling for the administration to take a "tough-minded and principled police" toward Russia. The letter says the U.S. should condemn Russia's

aggression toward Ukraine.

The letter also says the U.S. shouldn't enter into military or diplomatic agreements with Russia regarding the future of Syria until Russia stops military operations and ends support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Other Republican senators to sign the letter are Cory Gardner of Colorado, Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, Todd Young of Indiana, Rob Portman of Ohio, Mike Rounds of South Dakota, Joni Ernst of Iowa and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

Not guilty pleas entered in Rapid City motel homicide

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man charged with a fatal beating at a Rapid City motel has pleaded not guilty to charges.

Thirty-four-year-old Clifford Gilbert is accused of using a walking stick to violently beat Robert Smith at the Stardust Motel Dec. 27. Prosecutors say Gilbert then used his fists and feet to deliver the fatal blows while the 61-year-old victim was on the floor.

Court documents say Gilbert told investigators he "snapped" in anger while he was in a motel room with Smith and a woman.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2kA6Yxm>) says Gilbert entered the not guilty pleas to second-degree murder and an alternate charge of first-degree manslaughter in 7th Circuit Court Thursday.

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

Powerful quake kills at least 6 in southern Philippines

SURIGAO, Philippines (AP) — A powerful nighttime earthquake in the southern Philippines killed at least six people and injured more than 120, with officials combing through cracked buildings and nearby towns Saturday to check on the damage and other possible casualties.

The magnitude 6.7 quake roused residents from their sleep late Friday in Surigao del Norte province, forcing hundreds of people to flee their homes. The quake was centered about 16 kilometers (8 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Surigao at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), said Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology.

Nearly 100 aftershocks have been felt, officials said. Evacuation centers accommodated wary residents overnight, but many returned home Saturday, Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo said, adding that officials were continuing to assess the damage in Surigao and outlying towns.

Provincial information officer Mary Jul Escalante was being interviewed by ABS-CBN TV network when another aftershock struck. "Oh sir, there's an aftershock," she said. "I'm shaking, we have a phobia now."

At least six people were killed, mostly after being struck by falling debris and concrete walls, provincial disaster-response official Gilbert Gonzales said. At least 126 others were injured in Surigao, where the quake knocked out power and forced the closure of the domestic airport due to deep cracks in its runway, officials said.

Several buildings, including a state college, a hotel and a shopping mall, were damaged in the city, located about 700 kilometers (430 miles) southeast of Manila. Surigao was placed under a state of calamity to allow faster release of emergency funds, provincial police chief Senior Superintendent Anthony Maghari said by phone.

TV footage showed army troops and other rescuers pulling out the body of a man from the concrete rubble of a damaged house while relatives wept. In Surigao's downtown area, the facade of a number of buildings were heavily cracked, their glass windows shattered with canopies and debris falling on parked cars on the street below.

Roads had visible cracks in the coastal city and a bridge collapsed in an outlying town, officials said.

"The shaking was so strong I could hardly stand," coast guard personnel Rayner Neil Elopre said by phone.

Village leaders asked residents to move to a school building on higher ground, Elopre said, pausing briefly

during a mild aftershock while talking on the phone.

Police officer Jimmy Sarael said he, his wife and two children embraced each other until the shaking eased. They later moved to the moonlit grounds outside the provincial capitol complex to join more than 1,000 jittery residents, he said.

The last major earthquake that struck Surigao, an impoverished region also dealing with a communist insurgency, was in the 1879, Solidum said. A magnitude 7.7 quake killed nearly 2,000 people on the northern island of Luzon in 1990.

Amid the calamity, the military appealed to New People's Army guerrillas not to disrupt rescue and rehabilitation work. "We urge you not to attack our soldiers," military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

The Philippines sits in the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where earthquakes and volcanoes are common.

Associated Press writer Jim Gomez in Manila contributed to this report.

More whales strand in New Zealand, bringing total to 650

By NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A new pod of 240 whales swam aground at a remote New Zealand beach on Saturday just hours after weary volunteers managed to refloat a different group of whales following an earlier mass stranding.

In total, more than 650 pilot whales have beached themselves along a 5 kilometer (3 mile) stretch of coastline over two days on Farewell Spit at the tip of the South Island. About 335 of the whales are dead, 220 remain stranded, and 100 are back at sea.

Department of Conservation Golden Bay Operations Manager Andrew Lamason said they are sure they're dealing with a new pod because they had tagged all the refloated whales from the first group and none of the new group had tags.

The news was devastating for hundreds of volunteers who had come from around the country to help with the initial group of 416 stranded whales that was found early Friday, many of them already dead.

Volunteers are planning to return Sunday to help refloat as many healthy whales as they can.

Lamason said about 20 of the new group were euthanized by conservation workers because they were in poor condition and more would likely need to be killed Sunday.

Rescuers had been hopeful earlier Saturday after efforts to refloat the initial group of whales had gone well, following a frustrating day on Friday.

Lamason said improved weather and crystal clear water had helped with the rescue attempt. He said about 100 surviving whales from the initial group were refloated, and dozens of volunteers had formed a human chain in the water to prevent them from beaching again.

He said volunteers were warned about the possibility of stingrays and sharks, after one of the dead whales appeared to have bite marks consistent with a shark. He said there had been no shark sightings.

Officials will soon need to turn to the grim task of disposing of hundreds of carcasses.

Lamason said one option was to tether the carcasses to stakes or a boat in the shallow tidal waters and let them decompose. The problem with towing them out to sea or leaving them was that they could become gaseous and buoyant, and end up causing problems by floating into populated bays.

Farewell Spit, a sliver of sand that arches like a hook into the Tasman Sea, has been the site of previous mass strandings. Sometimes described as a whale trap, the spit's long coastline and gently sloping beaches seem to make it difficult for whales to navigate away from once they get close.

There are different theories as to why whales strand themselves, from chasing prey too far inshore to trying to protect a sick member of the group or escaping a predator.

New Zealand has one of the highest rates of whale strandings in the world, and Friday's event was the nation's third-biggest in recorded history. The largest was in 1918, when about 1,000 pilot whales came ashore on the Chatham Islands. In 1985, about 450 whales stranded in Auckland.

Pilot whales grow to about 7.5 meters (25 feet) and are common around New Zealand's waters.

Trump says he might give travel ban a tweak or a makeover

By JULIE PACE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he might give his refugee and immigration travel ban a second try, either as a revision or as a new order, as he contends with an appeals court ruling that prevents the ban from being enforced.

Trump said he expected to win the legal battle over his original directive even though options were being considered by the White House.

Advisers were debating the next step in response to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that upheld a restraining order on the travel ban. The White House directive had suspended the nation's refugee program and barred all entries from seven Muslim-majority countries.

A White House official initially suggested the administration would not ask the Supreme Court to overturn that order. But chief of staff Reince Priebus scrambled to clarify to reporters that "every single court option is on the table," including a high court appeal or "fighting out this case on the merits" in a lower court.

Trump's executive order was hastily unveiled at the end of his first week in office. While the White House boasted that Trump was fulfilling a campaign promise to toughen vetting procedures for people coming from countries with terror ties, the order caused chaos at airports in the U.S. and sparked protests across the country.

The president has cast the order as crucial for national security. Earlier Friday, he promised to take action "very rapidly" to protect the U.S. and its citizens in the wake of the appeals court decision, but he did not specify what steps he planned to take.

"We'll be doing things to continue to make our country safe," Trump pledged at a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. "It will happen rapidly. We will not allow people into our country who are looking to do harm to our people."

The president's comments were far more restrained than his angry reaction to last week's initial court ruling blocking the travel ban. Trump took aim at both the "so-called judge" in that case and the ruling, which he called "ridiculous."

Trump continued to conjure images of unspecified danger Friday, saying he had "learned tremendous things that you could only learn, frankly, if you were in a certain position, namely president. And there are tremendous threats to our country. We will not allow that to happen, I can tell you that. We will not allow that to happen."

The 9th Circuit ruling represented a significant setback for Trump in just his third week in office. The appellate decision brushed aside arguments by the Justice Department that the president has the constitutional power to restrict entry to the United States and that the courts cannot second-guess his determination that such a step was needed to prevent terrorism.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer tweeted that Trump "ought to see the writing on the wall" and abandon the proposal. The New York Democrat called on the president to "roll up his sleeves" and come up with "a real, bipartisan plan to keep us safe."

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California promised, "Democrats will continue to press for President Trump's dangerous and unconstitutional ban to be withdrawn." And Trump's former presidential rival Hillary Clinton offered a terse response on Twitter, noting the unanimous vote: "3-0."

Congress' Republican leaders, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, declined to comment.

U.S. District Judge James Robart in Seattle issued the temporary restraining order halting the ban after Washington state and Minnesota sued, leading to the federal government's appeal.

The Trump administration has said the seven nations — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — have raised terrorism concerns. The states have argued that the executive order unconstitutionally blocked entry based on religion and the travel ban harmed individuals, businesses and universities.

Trump and his aides frequently refer to a ruling by a federal judge in Boston who declined last week to extend a temporary injunction against Trump's travel ban. In a separate federal ruling in Seattle, a different federal judge put the ban on hold nationwide; it is that judge's decision that the White House has

challenged.

"It's a decision that we'll win, in my opinion, very easily and, by the way, we won that decision in Boston," Trump said.

Colvin reported from Palm Beach, Florida. Associated Press writers Ken Thomas and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

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

Homeland Security head is pressed to define 'sanctuary city'

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told law enforcement officials on a tour of nation's border with Mexico Friday that he couldn't define a sanctuary city, which President Donald Trump has targeted for withdrawal of federal funding for refusing to cooperate with immigration authorities.

Trump's executive order on immigration last month says a "sanctuary jurisdiction" defies federal law by shielding people in the country illegally and that they have caused "immeasurable harm to the American people and to the very fabric of our Republic." While sanctuary cities are broadly understood to mean a refusal to cooperate with the federal government on immigration enforcement, a precise definition has eluded many, including in law enforcement.

"I don't have a clue," Kelly told San Diego Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman when she asked for a definition.

The blunt-spoken, retired four-star general went on to say it was inconceivable why any jurisdiction wouldn't want criminals removed from their communities. "I'm stunned when people say, 'Well, we're not going to cooperate with you even in the event of convicted criminals,'" he said.

Kelly said it would be difficult to justify immigration enforcement grants to cities that refuse to cooperate.

"I promise you we'll work with you and will make no Draconian moves until I fully understand what a given locale might be doing or not doing," he told Zimmerman and other local police chiefs and sheriffs.

Kelly spoke near the end of a two-day tour of the border in Arizona and California. In San Diego, he joined agents on two house visits to deport people in the country illegally and toured a cross-border drug tunnel. Last week he toured the border in south Texas.

The secretary said he got "an earful" of suggestions from his employees on where to extend a border wall with Mexico, which currently covers about 700 miles of the 2,000-mile international divide.

"I'll take that on board, we'll bring it back to Washington, put in the blender and come up with a solution," he told federal, state and local law enforcement officials at San Diego's San Ysidro port of entry, the nation's busiest border crossing.

On Tuesday, Kelly told lawmakers that he would like to see wall construction "well underway" within two years, but he held open the possibility that it wouldn't extend to areas where there are natural physical barriers.

San Diego, which has one of the most fortified stretches of border, is often cited as an example of how walls can slow illegal crossings, but critics say fencing only forced people to more remote areas, particularly in Arizona, where many have died in extreme heat.

Kelly later told reporters that he worried about a federal appeals court's refusal to reinstate Trump's ban on travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries. He said vetting practices in those countries "are loose at best" and that the countries include failing or faltering states.

"I am concerned in that we are unable to vet these folks who are coming here in a more meaningful way," he said.

Asked about reports from advocacy groups that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents did a large roundup of people in the country illegally in Southern California and made arrests elsewhere, Kelly said authorities are executing the law. He didn't specifically address the reports but rejected the term 'roundup' and said officials cannot ignore federal laws. He said Congress should change the law if it sees fit.

At the meeting with law enforcement officials, San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore sought help for legal authority to hold criminals in the country illegally after they finish their sentences, giving ICE authorities more time to pick them up at county jails. Kelly said he didn't know if that was possible but would do so if he could.

Trump attacks on judiciary raise safety concerns for judges

By MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — When a judge who helped derail President Donald Trump's travel ban was hit with online threats, the abuse raised safety concerns among jurists across the country, and experts are worried that the president's own attacks on the judiciary could make judges a more inviting target.

U.S. District Judge James Robart imposed the temporary restraining order that halted enforcement of Trump's ban last week. The president soon sent a tweet saying the opinion of "this so-called judge" was "ridiculous and would be overturned." He also tweeted that the judge was "a known liberal sympathizer" and had "just opened the door to terrorists!"

Robart quickly became a target on social media. Someone on Twitter called him a "DEAD MAN WALKING" and another on Facebook suggested that he be imprisoned at the military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, "where other enemies of the US are held."

"I know there's a fear among the judiciary with what's being said," said John Muffler, a former U.S. marshal who teaches security at the Reno, Nevada-based National Judicial College. He cited professional contacts and email exchanges with judges.

The president's critical comments have consequences, he added, because "people on the edge can easily be pushed over the edge once the rhetoric gets going."

Trump blasted the federal court system again Wednesday after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments on whether Robart's temporary restraining order should stand. During a speech to law enforcement officials, the president said the "courts seem to be so political" and called the hearing "disgraceful."

The next day, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Trump had "no regrets" about his criticism of judges.

Threats against judges are nothing new. They often come in the form of emails, phone calls, letters and social media posts, according to court records and the U.S. Marshal Service, which is responsible for protecting the federal judiciary.

Judges are well guarded at their courthouse offices, but most do not receive protection when at home or out in the community. The Marshal Service offers extra protection if judges are threatened or handling especially sensitive or high-profile cases. All judges are also entitled to a home security system, Muffler said.

Over the past few years, marshals have responded to thousands of threats against court officials. Many are not serious, but some are more dangerous.

A Minnesota man used Twitter to threaten a federal judge overseeing a case against ISIS supporters. In Seattle, a defendant left phone messages and sent letters to two judges saying he would kill, stab, poison and bomb them because of their rulings. A white supremacist in Virginia sent electronic messages threatening to kidnap, torture, rape and kill a judge, his spouse, children and grandchildren.

Chad Schmucker, president of the Judicial College, said "assaults on judges don't occur every day, but threats do." He said they are usually made by "disturbed people or people who are very angry."

"Inflammatory language," he said, "doesn't help the situation and can make judges very nervous."

The marshals conducted hundreds of investigations and some prosecutions last year, according to the agency's 2016 annual report. They declined to release data on 2017 threats.

Threatening to kill a federal judge is a Class C felony that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Laurie Levenson, a professor at Loyola Law School and a former assistant U.S. attorney, said Trump's comments about Robart were "irresponsible."

"It's demeaning and it's dangerous," she said, and "an attack on the rule of law."

The remarks could also inspire violence, she said.

"The last thing you want to do is give a green light to someone who is misguided and thinks they're doing a public service in attacking judges, physically or otherwise," Levenson said.

Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch, has described the president's criticism of the judiciary as "demoralizing and disheartening."

Personal attacks and threats against Robart abound on social media.

On a Facebook page about the judge, some people wrote thank-you notes to him, but others called him a disgrace, a traitor and a "bow tie wearing freak." One man directed his note at Robart, saying he couldn't wait "to read about the bad karma that is going to land on your weak slumping shoulders."

One woman wrote: "Open ur home to them if anything happens to anyone in this country like 911 there (sic) blood is on your head, and I will remember to rip u one." Another said, "who in your family is expendable Robart?"

Drew Wade, spokesman for the U.S. Marshals Service, declined to discuss the judge's situation. The FBI also declined to comment.

Follow Martha Bellisle at <https://twitter.com/marthabellisle> .

Opponents of Trump's travel ban look to score another win

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opponents of President Donald Trump's travel ban sought Friday to rack up another legal victory against the measure, believing they have the administration on the defensive after a federal appeals court refused to reinstate the order.

As government attorneys debated their next move, they faced unsympathetic judges on both coasts.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided Thursday with the states of Washington and Minnesota in refusing to reinstate the ban, opening the possibility that the case could advance to the U.S. Supreme Court. On Friday, a federal judge in Virginia also seemed inclined to rule against the administration in a different challenge.

For his part, Trump said Friday that he is considering signing a "brand new order" while the ban is held up in court.

Speaking to reporters on Air Force One as he flew to Florida for the weekend, the president said he expected his administration to win the legal battle over his original directive. But he said the White House was also weighing other alternatives, including making changes to the order, which suspended the nation's refugee program and barred all entries from seven Muslim-majority countries.

In Virginia, a lawyer for the state asked a judge to impose a preliminary injunction barring the government from enforcing a portion of Trump's Jan. 27 executive order that bars anyone from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from entering the U.S. for 90 days.

A preliminary injunction would be long-lasting, continuing through the trial in a case. Still, because of the 9th Circuit's decision refusing to reinstate the order, the practical effect of any decision in Virginia may be muted for now.

Judge Leonie Brinkema, who was appointed to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton in 1993, did not seem satisfied with answers about the executive order from an administration lawyer.

Brinkema said that the order "clearly has all kinds of weaknesses," and she asked the government to explain the justification for the ban, saying courts have been "begging" for that explanation. The president can legally suspend the entry of non-citizens into the country when he "finds" that their entry "would be detrimental to the interests of the United States."

"Finds," she said, doesn't mean just "think."

Virginia's Solicitor General Stuart Raphael said the government has been unable to answer the charge that the ban was targeted at Muslims.

Brinkema, who did not say when she will rule, said that there was strong evidence that the order is harmful to national security. She quoted from a joint declaration filed in the case by former national security,

foreign policy and intelligence officials, including former secretaries of state Madeline Albright and John Kerry, former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and former CIA Director and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

"In our professional opinion, this Order cannot be justified on national security or foreign policy grounds. It does not perform its declared task of 'protecting the nation from foreign terrorist entry into the United States,'" the declaration states.

The group continued that Trump's executive order "could do long-term damage to our national security and foreign policy interests."

A lawyer for the administration, Erez Reuveni, countered that the group is not in the current administration. But he did not give any additional justification for the order. Instead, Reuveni argued that Virginia does not have the right to challenge the ban and that Brinkema does not have the power to review the president's executive order.

As for how the government will move forward in the 9th Circuit case, Reuveni said no decisions had been made.

"We may appeal. We may not," Reuveni said. "All options are being considered."

Moments after the ruling Thursday, Trump tweeted, "SEE YOU IN COURT," adding that "THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!" But he did not specify what court he meant.

The administration could appeal the ruling to a larger 9th Circuit panel or bypass that step and go straight to the U.S. Supreme Court. That could put the decision over whether to keep the temporary restraining order suspending the ban in the hands of a divided court that has a vacancy. Trump's nominee, Neil Gorsuch, probably could not be confirmed in time to take part in any consideration of the ban, which would expire in 90 days unless it is changed.

In addition to the challenge in Virginia brought by Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat, the ban still faces lawsuits around the country, some filed by refugees directly affected by it. The Trump administration did win a legal victory earlier this month in Massachusetts, where a federal judge in Boston declined to extend a temporary injunction against the travel ban. But a separate federal ruling in Seattle later in the day put the ban on hold nationwide. It was the Seattle judge's ruling that was ultimately appealed to the 9th Circuit.

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas and Darlene Superville in Washington and Gene Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

Iranian baby with heart defect to undergo surgery soon

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — An Iranian infant soon will have life-saving heart surgery in Portland after she was temporarily banned from coming into the U.S. by President Donald Trump's immigration order.

Since she was admitted to OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital on Tuesday, 4-month-old Fatameh Reshad has been undergoing a series of diagnostic studies in preparation for her surgery, hospital officials said in a news release.

A procedure called a cardiac catheterization was done Friday to determine the extent of injury to her lungs, which went well, according to Dr. Laurie Armsby, interim head of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology at OHSU.

"The results were very encouraging. Despite the excess of blood passing through her lungs we believe we can proceed with surgical correction as planned," she said in the news release.

The girl's heart defects can be repaired by closing the holes in her heart and reconnecting the transposed arteries to the proper pumping chambers of the heart, according to Dr. Irving Shen, head of the Division of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at OHSU, who will perform the surgery.

If all goes as planned, Fatemeh's health care team expects her to stay in the hospital for up to three weeks.

Iranian doctors told the child's parents weeks ago that she needed surgery. But the family's tourist visa

was abruptly canceled after Trump announced his executive order banning the entry of people from seven countries with Muslim majorities.

A Seattle judge issued a temporary restraining order on the ban the same day a waiver was granted for the baby.

The family of the 4-month-old chose Portland because of its proximity to relatives and because of OHSU's expertise in treatment of the heart condition.

The hospital also said the family "expresses their profound gratitude for the expert care their child is receiving and for the constant stream of support from people around the world."

Trump hugs ally Japan after easing US-China tensions

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, fresh off patching up ties with China, reassured Japan's leader Friday that the U.S. will defend its close ally. Together, the pronouncements illustrated a shift toward a more mainstream Trump stance on U.S. policy toward Asia.

Welcoming Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the White House with a hug, Trump said he wants to bring the post-World War II alliance with Japan "even closer." While such calls are ritual after these types of meetings, from Trump they're sure to calm anxieties that he has stoked by demanding that America's partners pay more for their own defense.

Abe, a nationalist adept at forging relationships with self-styled strongmen overseas, was the only world leader to meet the Republican before his inauguration. He is now the second to do so since Trump took office. Flattering the billionaire businessman, Abe said he would welcome the United States becoming "even greater."

He also invited Trump to visit Japan this year. Trump accepted, according to a joint statement.

Other leaders of America's closest neighbors and allies, such as Mexico, Britain and Australia, have been singled by their encounters or conversations with Trump.

But the optics Friday were positive. After a working lunch on economic issues, the two leaders boarded Air Force One with their wives for a trip to Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Florida. They dined with New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft at the club Friday night. Trump and Abe are scheduled to play golf Saturday.

Their Oval Office meeting came hours after Trump reaffirmed Washington's long-standing "one China" policy in a call with Chinese President Xi Jinping. That statement will similarly ease anxieties in East Asia after Beijing was angered and other capitals were rattled by earlier suggestions that he might use Taiwan as leverage in trade, security and other negotiations.

Although Japan is a historic rival of China, Trump said that his long and "warm" conversation with Xi was good for Tokyo, too.

"I believe that will all work out very well for everybody, China, Japan, the United States and everybody in the region," Trump said at a joint news conference with Abe.

Stepping carefully into Japan's longstanding territorial dispute with China over uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, Trump said the U.S. is committed to the security of Japan and all areas under its administrative control. The implication was that the U.S.-Japan defense treaty covers the disputed islands, which Japan calls the Senkaku, but China calls the Diaoyu.

Beijing opposes such statements, but Trump's wording allowed for some diplomatic wiggle room. The joint statement released later was more explicit, however, in spelling out the U.S. commitment.

Abe has championed a more active role for Japan's military. He has eased constraints imposed by the nation's pacifist post-war constitution and allowed forces to defend allies, even if Japan itself is not under attack.

As a candidate, Trump urged even greater self-reliance, at one point even raising the notion of Japan and South Korea developing their own nuclear weapons as a deterrent to North Korea.

He made no similar remark Friday, and according to Japanese officials, did not raise the issue of cost-sharing for defense. Instead he thanked Japan for hosting nearly 50,000 American troops, which also serve

as a counterweight to China's increased regional influence. He said freedom of navigation and dealing with North Korea's missile and nuclear threats are a "very high priority."

There was less agreement on economics.

One of Trump's first actions as president was to withdraw the U.S. from a 12-nation, trans-Pacific trade agreement that was negotiated by the Obama administration and strongly supported by Tokyo.

Diverting from Trump's stance that the Trans-Pacific Partnership is bad for America, Abe stressed the importance of a "free and fair common set of rules" for trade among the world's most dynamic economies.

"That was the purpose of TPP. That importance has not changed," Abe said through an interpreter, though both leaders held out the possibility of a future bilateral, U.S.-Japanese deal.

Trump has also criticized Toyota Motor Corp. for planning to build an assembly plant in Mexico and has complained Japanese don't buy enough U.S.-made cars — though on Friday, Japanese government spokesman Norio Maruyama said Trump expressed appreciation to Abe for Japanese investment in the U.S. and looked forward to it expanding.

Abe told U.S. business leaders Friday that "a whopping majority" of the Japanese cars running on American roads are manufactured in the U.S. by American workers. That includes 70 percent of Toyotas. Abe said Japanese business supports some 840,000 jobs in the United States.

That may not be enough for Trump, who is highly sensitive to U.S. trade deficits.

Japan logged the second-largest surplus with the U.S. last year, behind only China, and there had been some expectation Abe would use the visit to propose new Japanese investments to help Trump spur American job growth. There was no such announcement Friday — only agreement to launch a high-level dialogue on economic cooperation.

Protest marks public school visit by new education secretary

By MARIA DANILOVA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Angry activists shouted "stand up, fight back" and one protester was arrested, as Betsy DeVos made her first visit to a public school Friday as education secretary.

Several dozen protesters, some with small children, gathered at Jefferson Middle School, a predominantly African-American school in the nation's capital. At one point, when DeVos tried to enter the school, two protesters blocked her path, forcing her to return to her car. D.C. police said one man was detained for assaulting a police officer.

DeVos eventually made it inside the school, in a visit that was designed to help her mend fences with teachers and parents across the country following a contentious confirmation battle.

DeVos praised the school for its hard work and innovative approaches to teaching and vowed to strengthen public education. But she also had some tough words for the protesters.

"I respect peaceful protest, and I will not be deterred in executing the vital mission of the Department of Education," DeVos said in a statement. "No school door in America will be blocked from those seeking to help our nation's school children."

DeVos, 59, is a billionaire Republican donor who spent more than two decades promoting charter schools and school voucher programs in her home state of Michigan and other states. She faced fierce opposition during the confirmation process from teachers unions who fear that she intends to defund traditional public schools. Two Republican senators from rural states that rely heavily on public schools opposed the nomination and Vice President Mike Pence had to cast a tie-breaking vote Tuesday.

DeVos' visit itself was not advertised by the Education Department and was closed to the news media. Besides the arrest, police were investigating an allegation of assault on Secretary DeVos.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, one of the groups that vigorously opposed DeVos' nomination, condemned the incident.

"Just heard a protester blocked & almost knocked Secy @BetsyDeVos down at Jefferson," she wrote on Twitter. "We don't condone such acts."

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser also stressed on Twitter that protests should be peaceful. "We welcome Betsy DeVos & anyone who wants to learn more about our schools," she wrote.

DeVos' visit to the school was not announced by the Education Department.

Jennifer Ibrahim, 34, a humanitarian worker, brought her toddler son in a stroller to the protest.

"I want to support our local public schools, make sure that everybody gets fair treatment under the system and I don't feel like that's where we are headed with our new education person," Ibrahim said. "Charter schools aren't necessarily better than public schools."

Ari Schwartz, 26, a nonprofit worker, held a poster in which a picture of a teddy bear was juxtaposed with a photo of DeVos. "This is a bear. This is a threat to students," the caption read.

During her confirmation hearings, DeVos suggested that schools should have guns on campus to protect students against grizzly bears.

Public schools are "the foundation of our society, that's how everybody learns what's right and wrong," Schwartz said. "We need to keep it that way."

Elizabeth Davis, president of the Washington Teachers Union said teachers will continue to fight for good public education and hope DeVos will listen to them.

"We want quality public schools ... for all of our children in every zip code in D.C.," Davis told The Associated Press ahead of the protest. "We do not want to continue a trend of starving, punishing and closing our public schools to make way for privatization and more charter schools and vouchers."

But former Education Secretary Arne Duncan, who served under President Barack Obama, tweeted: "Agree or disagree w @Betsy DeVos on any issue, but let's all agree she really needs to be in public schools. Please let her in."

Residents say 1st atom bomb test caused cancer cases

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Residents say the world's first atomic bomb test caused generations of southern New Mexico families to suffer from cancer and economic hardship, according to surveys gathered by an advocacy group seeking compensation for descendants.

The surveys released Friday detailed residents' stories from areas around the 1945 Trinity Test and argue that many Hispanic families later struggled to keep up with cancer-related illnesses. The health effects of the test have long been debated in New Mexico.

"It's the first ever study done on the Tularosa Downwinders," said Tina Cordova, co-founder of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium. "We wanted people to tell their stories in the fashion because it's never been done before."

Members of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium have long contended that those living near the site of the world's first atomic bomb test in 1945 weren't told about the dangers or compensated for their resulting health problems.

Since then, they say, descendants have been plagued with cancer and other illnesses while the federal government ignored their plight.

Chuck Wiggins, director of the New Mexico Tumor Registry, has said data shows cancer rates in Tularosa are around the same as other parts of the state. Cancer is one of the leading causes of death all over New Mexico, he said.

On Friday, Wiggins said he hadn't gone through the report yet.

"It is detailed and lengthy," he said. "I have not had a chance to systematically review the entire document."

Around 800 community health surveys and two community focus groups were used to collect data for the report in partnership with the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership, an initiative of the Santa Fe Community Foundation.

Cordova said the report wasn't a scientific epidemiology study but an attempt to gather information from residents who have complained about various forms of cancers in families who had limited access to health insurance.

The surveys involved residents of the historic Hispanic village of Tularosa and four New Mexico counties.

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They want lawmakers to include New Mexico in a federal law that compensates residents near atomic tests. The Trinity Test took place as part of the Manhattan Project, a top-secret World War II nuclear development program run out of the then-secret city of Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Residents did not learn that the test had involved an atomic weapon until the U.S. dropped bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the war ended.

In 2015, U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, D-New Mexico, pressed the Senate to include New Mexico residents in the law after meeting with Tularosa Downwinders.

"The Consortium's Health Impact Assessment Report is important work," Udall wrote in a letter to the group on Friday. "It adds to the body of evidence that people in this area were injured as a result of radioactive fallout and should be compensated by the federal government."

Corrects a previous version that incorreccted stated Trinity Test was in 1947. It was in 1945.

Follow Russell Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/russell-contreras>.

White House seeks to regroup after stinging legal defeat

By JULIE PACE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seeking to regroup after a stinging legal defeat, President Donald Trump said Friday he is considering signing a "brand new order" after his refugee and immigration travel ban was halted in court.

Trump, speaking to reporters on Air Force One, said he expected his administration to win the legal battle over his original directive. But he said the White House was also weighing other alternatives, including making unspecified changes to the order, which could address some of the legal issues that have arisen.

As Trump flew to Florida for the weekend, his advisers debated their next steps after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a restraining order on the original travel ban. The White House directive suspended the nation's refugee program and barred all entries from seven Muslim-majority countries.

A White House official initially suggested the administration would not ask the Supreme Court to overturn that order. But chief of staff Reince Priebus scrambled to clarify to reporters that "every single court option is on the table," including a high court appeal or "fighting out this case on the merits" in a lower court.

Trump's executive order was hastily unveiled at the end of his first week in office. While the White House boasted that Trump was fulfilling a campaign promise to toughen vetting procedures for people coming from countries with terror ties, the order caused chaos at airports in the U.S. and sparked protests across the country.

The president has cast the order as crucial for national security. Earlier Friday, he promised to take action "very rapidly" to protect the U.S. and its citizens in the wake of the appeals court decision, but he did not specify what steps he planned to take.

"We'll be doing things to continue to make our country safe," Trump pledged at a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. "It will happen rapidly. We will not allow people into our country who are looking to do harm to our people."

The president's comments were far more restrained than his angry reaction to last week's initial court ruling blocking the travel ban. Trump took aim at both the "so-called judge" in that case and the ruling, which he called "ridiculous."

Trump continued to conjure images of unspecified danger Friday, saying he had "learned tremendous things that you could only learn, frankly, if you were in a certain position, namely president. And there are tremendous threats to our country. We will not allow that to happen, I can tell you that. We will not allow that to happen."

The 9th Circuit ruling represented a significant setback for Trump in just his third week in office. The appellate decision brushed aside arguments by the Justice Department that the president has the consti-

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tutional power to restrict entry to the United States and that the courts cannot second-guess his determination that such a step was needed to prevent terrorism.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer tweeted that Trump "ought to see the writing on the wall" and abandon the proposal. The New York Democrat called on the president to "roll up his sleeves" and come up with "a real, bipartisan plan to keep us safe."

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California promised, "Democrats will continue to press for President Trump's dangerous and unconstitutional ban to be withdrawn." And Trump's former presidential rival Hillary Clinton offered a terse response on Twitter, noting the unanimous vote: "3-0."

Congress' Republican leaders, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, declined to comment.

U.S. District Judge James Robart in Seattle issued the temporary restraining order halting the ban after Washington state and Minnesota sued, leading to the federal government's appeal.

The Trump administration has said the seven nations — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — have raised terrorism concerns. The states have argued that the executive order unconstitutionally blocked entry based on religion and the travel ban harmed individuals, businesses and universities.

Trump and his aides frequently refer to a ruling by a federal judge in Boston who declined last week to extend a temporary injunction against Trump's travel ban. In a separate federal ruling in Seattle, a different federal judge put the ban on hold nationwide; it is that judge's decision that the White House has challenged.

"It's a decision that we'll win, in my opinion, very easily and, by the way, we won that decision in Boston," Trump said.

Colvin reported from Air Force One. Florida. AP writers Ken Thomas and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

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

The Latest: Doctor says prognosis for Polish PM is good

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The Latest on the car crash involving Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo. (all times local):

12:05 a.m. Saturday

Dr. Andrzej Jakubowski says Prime Minister Beata Szydlo suffered some injuries to the body in a car crash Friday in southern Poland, but that the prognosis for her is good.

Jakubowski examined Szydlo in the hospital in Oswiecim, a town of 40,000 where the accident took place. He made the comments TVP INFO.

The prime minister was later flown by medical helicopter to Warsaw for more tests.

11:50 p.m.

Government spokesman Rafal Bochenek has tweeted that there will be a news conference at 08.20 GMT on Saturday following the injury of Prime Minister Beata Szydlo in a car crash.

Officials have said that Szydlo is in "good condition" after crash Friday in southern Poland.

She has been flown in a medical helicopter to a hospital in Warsaw for more medical tests. Two security officials were also injured in the accident.

11:30 p.m.

A yellow-and-red medical helicopter has landed near the government hospital in Warsaw, Poland and a passenger was put on a wheeled stretcher and into an ambulance, which drove to the hospital building.

The helicopter had taken off from the southern city of Oswiecim after Prime Minister Beata Szydlo had a car accident there.

Government spokesman al Bochenek has said that Szydlo is in "good condition" after being in the car

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crash but was to be flown to Warsaw for more medical tests.

10:20 p.m.

Poland's interior minister has called an emergency meeting with the leadership of the Government Protection Office, which protects and drives Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo and other top government figures.

The action by Minister Mariusz Blaszczak comes after Szydlo was injured in a car crash in southern Poland and was being flown to Warsaw for more medical tests.

Friday night's accident in the southern city of Oswiecim was the third official car crash in recent months.

In November, several vehicles in a Polish government convoy collided during a state visit to Israel, injuring two Polish officials. Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz also escaped uninjured from an eight-car collision in January.

10 p.m.

A yellow-and-red helicopter ambulance has taken off from the southern Polish city of Oswiecim after the country's prime minister had a car accident there.

Poland's PAP agency said the government hospital in Szaserow street in Warsaw was waiting to receive Prime Minister Beata Szydlo, 53, for more tests.

Poland's government spokesman says Szydlo is in "good condition" after being in the car crash but is being flown to Warsaw for more medical tests.

Local police spokesman Sebastian Glen said a 21-year-old driver in a Fiat abruptly turned left and hit Szydlo's car while being overtaken by Szydlo's convoy. Szydlo's car swerved to the left and hit a tree. Glen says police are questioning the driver and witnesses.

9:45 p.m.

Poland's government spokesman says that Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo is in "good condition" after being in a car crash in southern Poland but will be flown to Warsaw for more medical tests.

The accident occurred about 6:30 p.m. Friday in the town of Oswiecim, which is Szydlo's hometown. Officials say Szydlo was traveling in the second car in a convoy along the town's main road when another car drove into Szydlo's black Audi limousine, causing it to hit a tree.

Two security officials were also injured in the accident.

Government spokesman Rafal Bochenek said Szydlo was conscious and in good shape. A helicopter was to transport her to Warsaw.

9:30 p.m.

Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo has suffered minor injuries after a small Fiat hit her car, officials and Polish news reports said. Her spokesman said she was being examined in a hospital but wasn't badly hurt.

The accident occurred Friday in the southern town of Oswiecim, which is Szydlo's hometown. Szydlo was traveling in the second car in an official convoy along the town's main road when another car drove into Szydlo's black Audi limousine, causing it to hit a tree.

The state broadcaster TVP published an image of her limousine, with the front of the car bashed in.

Sebastian Glen, a police spokesman, said the car that hit the prime minister's car was a small Fiat driven by a 21-year-old man who was sober. He said Szydlo, the driver and a security officer were taken to a nearby hospital.

Government spokesman Rafal Bochenek told the news agency PAP that Szydlo's injuries were not serious but that she was undergoing a precautionary examination in a hospital.

"Fortunately, nothing bad happened," he said.

Oswiecim is best known to the world by its German name, Auschwitz. It is the town where Nazi Germany ran the death camp in occupied Poland during World War II and today is the site of a memorial and museum that draws large numbers of visitors.

It was the second such accident involving a convoy that Szydlo was traveling in.

In November, several vehicles in a Polish government convoy collided during a state visit to Israel. Szydlo was not in one of those that collided but two other Polish officials had minor injuries.

Separately, Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz escaped uninjured from an eight-car collision in January.

After a win, travel ban opponents seek another court victory

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opponents of President Donald Trump's travel ban sought Friday to rack up another legal victory against the measure, believing they have the administration on the defensive after a federal appeals court refused to reinstate the order.

As government attorneys debated their next move, they faced unsympathetic judges on both coasts.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided Thursday with the states of Washington and Minnesota in refusing to reinstate the ban, opening the possibility that the case could advance to the U.S. Supreme Court. On Friday, a federal judge in Virginia also seemed inclined to rule against the administration in a different challenge.

For his part, Trump said Friday that he is considering signing a "brand new order" while the ban is held up in court.

Speaking to reporters on Air Force One as he flew to Florida for the weekend, the president said he expected his administration to win the legal battle over his original directive. But he said the White House was also weighing other alternatives, including making changes to the order, which suspended the nation's refugee program and barred all entries from seven Muslim-majority countries.

In Virginia, a lawyer for the state asked a judge to impose a preliminary injunction barring the government from enforcing a portion of Trump's Jan. 27 executive order that bars anyone from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from entering the U.S. for 90 days.

A preliminary injunction would be long-lasting, continuing through the trial in a case. Still, because of the 9th Circuit's decision refusing to reinstate the order, the practical effect of any decision in Virginia may be muted for now.

Judge Leonie Brinkema, who was appointed to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton in 1993, did not seem satisfied with answers about the executive order from an administration lawyer.

Brinkema said that the order "clearly has all kinds of weaknesses," and she asked the government to explain the justification for the ban, saying courts have been "begging" for that explanation. The president can legally suspend the entry of non-citizens into the country when he "finds" that their entry "would be detrimental to the interests of the United States."

"Finds," she said, doesn't mean just "think."

Virginia's Solicitor General Stuart Raphael said the government has been unable to answer the charge that the ban was targeted at Muslims.

Brinkema, who did not say when she will rule, said that there was strong evidence that the order is harmful to national security. She quoted from a joint declaration filed in the case by former national security, foreign policy and intelligence officials, including former secretaries of state Madeline Albright and John Kerry, former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and former CIA Director and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

"In our professional opinion, this Order cannot be justified on national security or foreign policy grounds. It does not perform its declared task of 'protecting the nation from foreign terrorist entry into the United States,'" the declaration states.

The group continued that Trump's executive order "could do long-term damage to our national security and foreign policy interests."

A lawyer for the administration, Erez Reuveni, countered that the group is not in the current administration. But he did not give any additional justification for the order. Instead, Reuveni argued that Virginia does not have the right to challenge the ban and that Brinkema does not have the power to review the

president's executive order.

As for how the government will move forward in the 9th Circuit case, Reuveni said no decisions had been made.

"We may appeal. We may not," Reuveni said. "All options are being considered."

Moments after the ruling Thursday, Trump tweeted, "SEE YOU IN COURT," adding that "THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!" But he did not specify what court he meant.

The administration could appeal the ruling to a larger 9th Circuit panel or bypass that step and go straight to the U.S. Supreme Court. That could put the decision over whether to keep the temporary restraining order suspending the ban in the hands of a divided court that has a vacancy. Trump's nominee, Neil Gorsuch, probably could not be confirmed in time to take part in any consideration of the ban, which would expire in 90 days unless it is changed.

In addition to the challenge in Virginia brought by Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat, the ban still faces lawsuits around the country, some filed by refugees directly affected by it. The Trump administration did win a legal victory earlier this month in Massachusetts, where a federal judge in Boston declined to extend a temporary injunction against the travel ban. But a separate federal ruling in Seattle later in the day put the ban on hold nationwide. It was the Seattle judge's ruling that was ultimately appealed to the 9th Circuit.

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas and Darlene Superville in Washington and Gene Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

Trump's comments likely to cause heartburn for US lawyers

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump lobbs verbal bombshells on Twitter and fiercely criticizes federal judges overseeing his court cases. He openly discusses pending legal matters on which lawyers usually advise their clients to stay mum.

That freewheeling style, uncharacteristic for an American president, is sure to complicate efforts of Justice Department attorneys tasked with defending his executive actions in court. Federal lawyers, invariably inclined to speak through technical legal pleadings instead of on social media, are likely to be asked time and again to account for public statements from the president, including comments that seem to contradict or harm their arguments.

"This is what's so surprising about Trump's statements and his use of Twitter: He says all kinds of things that undermine the claims that the government is making in litigation," said Eric Posner, a University of Chicago law professor. People challenging the government will bring tweets and other statements to the attention of the courts, Posner said, "and courts will pay attention to them."

That showed up prominently in the legal fight over Trump's ban on refugees and immigration from seven Muslim-majority nations, which federal courts have put on hold.

Even as Justice Department attorneys worked to convince courts that the policy was not motivated by religious prejudice, Trump himself was quoted in a news interview as saying he wanted to prioritize refugee admissions for Christians. "We are going to help them," Trump told the Christian Broadcasting Network. "They've been horribly treated."

Those comments were said to have helped persuade acting Attorney General Sally Yates — fired by Trump last week after she declined to defend his executive order — that the policy was meant to disadvantage Muslims. Lawyers for Washington state and Minnesota cited Trump's public statements about Christian refugees in court filings and noted his campaign pledge to block Muslims from entering the U.S.

And in the opinion Thursday that refused to reinstate the travel ban, a panel of judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed that remarks made outside the courtroom were fair game for them to consider.

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"If the president says 'x,' it's hard for his own lawyer to credibly walk that back and say 'not x,'" said Andrew Schilling, the former civil division chief of the United States Attorney's office in Manhattan. Just as a criminal defense attorney would advise a client to remain silent for fear his statements could be used against him, "that's no less true when your client is the president."

In just the past week, Trump referred to the jurist who suspended his temporary travel ban as a "so-called judge" and later wrote "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 was more restrained Friday morning, saying he had "no doubt" he would eventually win in court on the ban. Later in the day, Trump told reporters he was considering signing a "brand new order."

It's not unique for Justice Department attorneys to have the words of the commander in chief or other top administration officials quoted back to them in uncomfortable ways.

Lawyers for Guantanamo Bay detainees, for instance, have used President Barack Obama's declaration that the war in Afghanistan is over as grounds to challenge their clients' continued detention.

When the Justice Department argued against the release of information about the government's drone program to kill suspected terrorists, a federal appeals court noted in its ruling that Obama himself had already publicly acknowledged the use of remote strikes against members of al-Qaida.

And in 2012, a judge on the conservative-leaning 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals grilled a Justice Department lawyer about Obama's reprimand that "unelected" judges had the potential to overturn his signature health care law.

Yet Trump's statements in the past week alone have up set an extraordinary clash between the executive and judicial branches and have been widely criticized as disrespecting the courts' authority. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat, said Trump's Supreme Court pick Neil Gorsuch had expressed misgivings about attacks on the judiciary in a personal conversation.

Stuart Gerson, who was the Justice Department's civil division chief under President George H.W. Bush and was the acting attorney general in the early days of the Clinton administration, said although Trump's comments haven't been helpful, federal lawyers still have strong legal arguments for the scope of presidential authorities — arguments that can outweigh Trump's public comments in importance and relevance.

"They have a job in representing the United States and giving a fair argument to whatever issues are involved, and I think that'll be the case here," Gerson said.

What remains unclear in light of Trump's public statements, said law professor Posner, is whether the Trump administration will continue to enjoy the same deference that courts generally afford to executive branch decision-making.

"This particular president has been so reckless in his remarks," he said. "My sense is that the courts are going to be less deferential and more demanding, less willing to just look at a document and more interested in what's the real motivation."

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

Ford bets \$1B on startup founded by Waymo, Uber vets

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ford Motor is spending \$1 billion to take over a budding robotics startup to acquire more expertise needed to reach its ambitious goal of having a fully driverless vehicle on the road by 2021.

The big bet announced Friday comes just a few months after the Pittsburgh startup, Argo AI, was created by two alumni of Carnegie Mellon University's robotics program, Bryan Salesky and Peter Rander.

The alliance between Argo and Ford is the latest to combine the spunk and dexterity of a technologically savvy startup with the financial muscle and manufacturing knowhow of a major automaker in the race to develop autonomous vehicles. Last year rival General Motors paid \$581 million to buy Cruise Automation, a 40-person software company that is testing vehicles in San Francisco.

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The Argo deal marks the next step in Ford's journey toward building a vehicle without a steering wheel or brake pedal by 2021 — a vision that CEO Mark Fields laid out last summer.

The big-ticket deal for the newly-minted company clearly was aimed at getting Salesky and Rande. Salesky formerly worked on self-driving cars at a high-profile project within Google — now known as Waymo — and Rander did the same kind of engineering at ride-hailing service Uber before the two men teamed to launch Argo late last year.

"When talent like that comes up, you don't ignore that ability," said Raj Nair, who doubles as Ford's chief technical officer and product development head.

The two will develop the core technology of Ford's autonomous vehicle — the "virtual driver" system, which Nair described as the car's "brains, eyes, ears and senses."

The decision to turn to Argo for help is a tacit acknowledgement that Ford needed more talent to deliver on Fields' 2021 promise, said one expert familiar with Salesky and Rande.

"This is likely a realization that Ford is behind relative to companies like GM, Audi, Volvo, Waymo and Uber, and is trying to catch up," said Raj Rajkumar, a Carnegie Mellon computer engineering professor who leads the school's autonomous vehicle research.

Salesky said Argo expects to have 200 workers by the end of the year. Argo employees will be given stock in the subsidiary as part of their compensation packages so they will be enriched if Argo's technology becomes a hot commodity.

The equity should set Argo apart from other companies in recruiting scarce tech workers. "There's a war for talent out there," Fields said.

By joining with Ford, Argo gets strong capital backing and expertise on other components needed to run autonomous cars, as well as product development and manufacturing knowledge, Salesky said. In return for its funding, Argo will design its driverless system exclusively for Ford and then have a chance to license the technology to other automakers in the future.

Competitors such as NVIDIA have developed artificial intelligence that learns about different situations as it's tested on roads, something that is almost essential for an autonomous car to function in heavy traffic on city streets.

Ford isn't just racing General Motors and other automakers to gain robotics experience. Uber bought autonomous trucking startup Otto for an estimated \$680 million last summer primarily to get Otto's engineers on its team working on driverless vehicles. Otto co-founder Anthony Levandowski, another former Google engineer, is now overseeing Uber's testing of driverless cars in Pittsburgh and Arizona.

AP Auto Writer Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed to this story.

Olympic ghost town: Bills due, venues empty after Rio Games

By **STEPHEN WADE, AP Sports Writer**

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Rio de Janeiro pulled off last year's Olympics, keeping crime at bay and fending off dire forecasts of corruption, environmental degradation, and cost overruns.

Six months after South America's first games, the floodgates have burst.

Rio organizers still owe creditors about \$40 million. Four of the new arenas in the main Olympic Park have failed to find private-sector management, and ownership has passed to the federal government. Another new arena will be run by the cash-strapped city with Brazil stuck in its deepest recession in decades.

The historic Maracana stadium, site of the opening and closing ceremony, has been vandalized as stadium operators, the Rio state government, and Olympic organizers have fought over \$1 million in unpaid electricity bills. The electric utility reacted by cutting off all power to the city landmark.

There are few players for a new \$20 million Olympic golf course, and little money for upkeep. Deodoro, the second-largest cluster of Olympic venues, is closed and searching for a management company.

The state of Rio de Janeiro is months late paying teachers, hospital workers, and pensions. The state also reports record-breaking crime in 2016 in almost all categories from homicides to robbery.

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"During the Olympics, the city was really trying hard to keep things together," said Oliver Stuenkel, a Brazilian who teaches international relations at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a Brazilian university. "But the minute the Olympics were over, the whole thing disintegrated."

BETTER IMAGE, OR WORSE?

The Olympics — and to a lesser extent the 2014 World Cup — showcased the reality of Rio, a city romanticized for its sprawling beaches, annual Carnival celebration, and sensual lifestyle.

It also exposed the city's crime, environmental contamination, and corruption.

Some building projects connected to the Olympics and World Cup have been tied to a probe which has led to the jailing of dozens of politicians and businessmen for receiving kickbacks in Brazil's largest corruption scandal.

Three politicians who were instrumental in landing and organizing the Olympics — former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, former Rio governor Sergio Cabral, and former Rio Mayor Eduardo — have been under investigation. Cabral, an early promoter of the Olympics and World Cup, has been jailed on corruption charges.

"The Olympics gave people a better sense of the difficulties Brazil faces," Stuenkel said. "Maybe not a better or worse image, but more rounded."

UNPAID BILLS

Sidney Levy, the chief executive officer of the Rio organizing committee, tried to run the games with only private money, and almost succeeded. His \$3 billion operating budget — the budget for running the games, not building the infrastructure — was frugal by Olympic standards. At the last minute, he had to ask for a 250-million-real bailout — \$80 million — from the city of Rio and the federal government to run the Paralympics.

Eventually, he got only 100 million reals (\$30 million), and the shortfall has left organizers owing creditors millions.

Today, Levy says he's nearly a forgotten man.

"I could call the president of the country, and the call was taken," Levy said. "But try it today. I could call the IOC and everybody. But now people have other things to handle. We are no longer a priority."

Levy said organizers probably lost about \$200 million in income during the run-up to the games as sponsors backed out of expensive deals as the recession kicked in.

Levy said he has not asked the IOC to help pay debts, but acknowledged the Olympic body came up with millions in advance money several times during the run-up to the games.

"The whole thing was too painful," Levy told The Associated Press. "We never really enjoyed the games, ourselves; 2016 was just extremely hard. It's like we were climbing Everest, and ice is falling on your lips, and you are not seeing."

WHITE ELEPHANTS

The Olympic Park is a ghost town; sleek sports arenas without events, deserted before they were even broken in, and well-tended flower gardens, free from pedestrian wear-and-tear.

"The arenas are beautiful," Wagner Tolvai said, walking inside the park with his girlfriend Patricia Silva. "But it's all abandoned, everything has stopped. Nobody is here."

He likened the 2.5 billion real (\$800 million) park to a new shopping mall "without stores, or customers." The park is only open on weekends, and there's not much to do but walk, pedal a bike, or look for shade.

Four permanent arenas are being run by the federal government. Among them is the Olympic tennis center, which was used earlier this month for a one-day beach volleyball tournament. This in a city with endless sand and beaches.

Two temporary venues for swimming and handball have yet to be dismantled. The exterior of the swimming venue is falling apart and many translucent tapestries that covered the outside of the building are

frayed or falling to the ground.

The warmup pool, which was covered during the games, is filled with muddy, stagnant water.

Away from the park, the famous Maracana stadium has drawn the most attention. It was renovated for the 2014 World Cup at a cost of about \$500 million. It was largely abandoned after the Olympics and Paralympics, and then hit by vandals who ripped out thousands of seats and stole televisions.

"The Maracana is the biggest symbol of the way the games were managed," said Mauricio Santoro, a political scientist at Rio de Janeiro State University. "The vast majority of people in Rio will never go to the golf course, or the Olympic venues. But the Maracana is different. It's the jewel of the crown."

Up the road from the Olympic Park, the \$1 billion Athletes Village — it housed about 10,000 athletes — is fenced off and empty. The developer says it has sold only 260 of the 3,604 apartments — about 7 percent.

Rio's Globo newspaper reported that new Rio Mayor Marcelo Crivella is arranging low-cost loans for public employees to buy the units.

SUBWAY AND BUSES

Transportation projects driven by the Olympics look better than the sports venues.

The games led to a subway line extension, though at the reportedly inflated price of \$3 billion. They also produced a high-speed bus network, a light-rail line, and a pedestrian-friendly, renovated port area. Rio's international airport also got a makeover.

People using the new subway line have benefited, though city traffic is still snarled.

But many of the improvements benefit mostly the wealthy south and west of the city.

"The gains were unevenly spread across the city," Stuenkel, the political scientist said.

TOKYO 2020 ADVICE

Levy, the CEO, said Tokyo's 2020 Olympics will face completely different challenges.

"They have a society that works pretty well already," he said. "They don't have to prove anything to anybody."

Tokyo will face higher costs than Rio, and organizers are already looking for places to cut.

Levy suggested reining in sports federations, which all want five-star treatment. He used an example from the equestrian events.

"They wanted 15 horse ambulances," Levy said. "We offered nine. In the end, the right number was four. The magic of the games doesn't come from these things."

Stephen Wade on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/StephenWade> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/stephen-wade>

Swiss consider citizenship for third-generation foreigners

By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — High-school student Selena Mercado was born in Switzerland, has gone to school in Switzerland, considers herself Swiss and dreams of a political career here one day. But her passport is from Chile, a country that she's never set foot in but was home to her grandparents before they moved to this small Alpine nation decades ago.

Being born in Switzerland doesn't mean automatically mean becoming Swiss, a situation echoed in a few other European nations.

On Sunday, Swiss voters will decide whether to make it easier for young "third-generation foreigners" like the 17-year-old Mercado, giving them the same fast-track, simplified access to Swiss citizenship that foreign spouses of Swiss nationals often enjoy.

The issue resonates in a country that has long taken in foreigners and underlines a dilemma faced across Europe these days: How best to integrate newcomers, if at all, at a time of rising nationalism.

Mercado is among thousands of foreigners who have become so integrated that they're all but Swiss — just not legally.

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"When I tell people I want to give back to Switzerland, they just say, 'you can't, you're not Swiss,'" Mercado, who lives in the town of Vallorbe on the French border, said Friday in a phone interview.

The issue is one of three being considered in Sunday's referendum, the latest installment of Switzerland's direct democracy.

One referendum topic has to do with financing for infrastructure. The other — also with important implications for Switzerland's relations with its neighbors — centers on corporate tax reform.

Polls suggest the "simplified naturalization of third-generation immigrants" will pass. It would make for less paperwork, fewer delays and lower fees for anyone under 25 whose parents and grandparents have lived in Switzerland for years but who did not go through the time-consuming, onerous naturalization process.

Mercado said her family moved around a lot, making an application for highly-coveted Swiss citizenship through the usual channels — generally 12 years of residency is the minimum requirement — a daunting process for her.

Candidates for citizenship are required to master at least one of Switzerland's four national languages — German, French, Italian or Romansh — respect its legal order, and honor "fundamental values" of the Constitution, such as equal rights for women and men and freedom of conscience.

While just under 25,000 people would be affected if the measure passes, the long-term implications are far-reaching: Roughly one in four of Switzerland's total population of 8.2 million are foreigners — one of the highest such percentages in Europe.

Switzerland, which is not in the 28-nation European Union but is all but surrounded by bloc members, has been taking in foreigners for centuries. A quick look at its national soccer team reflects a wide spectrum of backgrounds.

But the populist Swiss People's Party (SVP), which now has the most seats in Switzerland's two-chamber Federal Assembly, has dug in its heels. It insists Switzerland has been too lax in allowing "mass naturalization" over the last 15 years, and says authorities have let in people "who are not integrated and don't identify with our legal rules."

The party is strongly against the simplified naturalization proposal.

Many populists have ridden growing concerns about an influx of migrants and refugees from war-torn or impoverished areas of the Middle East and Africa. But most of the people affected in Sunday's vote have roots in Switzerland's European neighbors and came long before Europe's recent wave of immigration.

The SVP's youth wing has sought to muddle the issue, posting on its website an image of a silhouetted person holding up a rifle under the question "Islamists with a Swiss passport?" and urging the Swiss to vote "no" on Sunday.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 2017. There are 323 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 11, 1929, the Lateran Treaty was signed, with Italy recognizing the independence and sovereignty of Vatican City.

On this date:

In 660 B.C., tradition holds that Japan was founded as Jimmu ascended the throne as the country's first emperor.

In 1812, Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry signed a redistricting law favoring his Democratic-Republican Party — giving rise to the term "gerrymandering."

In 1858, a French girl, Bernadette Soubirous (soo-bee-ROO'), reported the first of 18 visions of a lady dressed in white in a grotto near Lourdes. (The Catholic Church later accepted that the visions were of the Virgin Mary.)

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson began in Tennessee. (Union forces led by Brig. Gen. Ulysses

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S. Grant captured the fort five days later.)

In 1937, a six-week-old sit-down strike against General Motors ended, with the company agreeing to recognize the United Automobile Workers Union.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin signed the Yalta Agreement, in which Stalin agreed to declare war against Imperial Japan following Nazi Germany's capitulation.

In 1963, American author and poet Sylvia Plath was found dead in her London flat, a suicide; she was 30.

In 1972, McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. and Life magazine canceled plans to publish what turned out to be a fake autobiography of reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes.

In 1986, Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky was released by the Soviet Union after nine years of captivity as part of an East-West prisoner exchange.

In 1990, South African black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in captivity.

In 2011, Egypt exploded with joy after pro-democracy protesters brought down President Hosni Mubarak (HOHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk), whose resignation ended three decades of authoritarian rule.

In 2013, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation during a routine morning meeting of Vatican cardinals. (The 85-year-old pontiff was succeeded by Pope Francis.)

Ten years ago: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahd), marking the 28th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, vowed his country would not give up uranium enrichment. The Dixie Chicks won five Grammys, including Album of the Year for "Taking the Long Way" and Record and Song of the Year for "Not Ready to Make Nice," in a defiant comeback after being shunned over their anti-President George W. Bush comments about the Iraq war. Harvard University named historian Drew Gilpin Faust its first female president.

Five years ago: Whitney Houston, 48, who ruled as pop music's queen until her majestic voice was ravaged by drug use and her regal image was tarnished by erratic behavior and a tumultuous marriage to singer Bobby Brown, was found dead in a hotel room in Beverly Hills, California. Mitt Romney eked out a narrow win in Maine's Republican caucuses.

One year ago: Surrounded by FBI agents in armored vehicles, the last four occupiers of a national nature preserve in Oregon surrendered, ending a 41-day standoff that left one man dead. Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders battled for the crucial backing of black and Hispanic voters during a Democratic debate in Milwaukee. The White House announced that President Barack Obama would nominate Dr. John B. King Jr. to lead the Education Department.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Conrad Janis is 89. Fashion designer Mary Quant is 83. Actor Burt Reynolds is 81. Actress Tina Louise is 79. Actor Sonny Landham is 76. Bandleader Sergio Mendes is 76. Actor Philip Anglim is 65. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is 64. Actress Catherine Hickland is 61. Rock musician David Uosikkinen (aw-SIK'-ken-ihn) (The Hooters) is 61. Actress Carey Lowell is 56. Singer Sheryl Crow is 55. Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is 53. Actress Jennifer Aniston is 48. Actor Damian Lewis is 46. Actress Marisa Petrora is 45. Singer D'Angelo is 43. Actor Brice Beckham is 41. Rock M-C/vocalist Mike Shinoda (Linkin Park) is 40. Singer-actress Brandy is 38. Country musician Jon Jones (The Eli Young Band) is 37. Actor Matthew Lawrence is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kelly Rowland is 36. Actress Natalie Dormer is 35. Singer Aubrey O'Day is 33. Actress Q'orianka (kohr-ee-AHN'-kuh) Kilcher is 27. Actor Taylor Lautner is 25.

Thought for Today: "Perhaps when we find ourselves wanting everything, it is because we are dangerously close to wanting nothing." — Sylvia Plath (1932-1963).