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Public Meeting Dates Set

The dates and locations for the public meetings concerning the proposed building project at Groton Area MS/HS have been finalized:

- Mon. Feb. 27 – Columbia American Legion – 7:00 PM
- Mon., March 6 – Bristol Community Center – 7:00 PM
- Thurs., Mar. 9– Groton Community Center – 7:00 PM

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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President's Day - NO SCHOOL

DI Instant Challenge at Groton Area Elementary School, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 21

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

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, sweet potato tots, fruit, broccoli and dip, muffin.

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, cookie, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m., Evening Bible Study at 7 p.m.

Girls Regional Basketball Tourney at Sisseton. First round begins at 4:30 p.m. with 2 games to follow.

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.

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57439



GENERAL CONTRACTOR

605.290.1535

custom homes | remodels | additions

Prepare Your Budget for Closing Costs When Buying a Home

By Nathaniel Sillin

Imagine the frustration that would follow if you spent hours planning and narrowing in on a dream home only to find out that you can't afford it when push comes to shove. Starting with a price range can help you make the most of your search, but you'll need to account for closing costs to create a realistic budget.

A catch-all for the fees and services that result from the sale of a home, closing costs are generally about 2 to 5 percent of the home's value when you're making a purchase. In other words, you could pay about \$4,000 to \$10,000 on a \$200,000 home.

Estimating your closing costs. Your closing costs and fees vary depending on where you're buying, how much you put down, who helps you with the home-buying process, the type of home you're buying and the type of loan you're taking out.

You can estimate the closing costs of homes you're interested in by using one of the many closing cost calculators online. Also, ask your real estate agent to help you estimate the closing costs of homes in different neighborhoods.

A few of the fees you could encounter when closing on a home. While costs can vary and state laws dictate differences in the closing process, here are a few typical services or fees:

- ◆ Inspections. You likely want to hire an inspector to make sure the home doesn't need any major repairs and there aren't any wood-eating pest (such as termite) infestations. Many lenders require you get these inspections, but even when they don't it's usually a good idea.

- ◆ Attorney fees. You could have to pay attorneys to help prepare and review documents for the closing.

- ◆ Survey. Some states require you to hire a surveyor to verify the size of the lot.

- ◆ Homeowners insurance. You may need to pay several months' worth of homeowners insurance premiums up front.

- ◆ Origination fee. Mortgage lenders, banks or brokers often charge about 1 percent of your loan's value.

- ◆ Property taxes. Several months' worth of property tax payments could be due at the closing.

You might advertisements for "no-closing-cost" mortgages. While these offers can be enticing, you'll generally pay a higher interest rate on the loan or the closing costs will be wrapped into the mortgage. It might be a good option if you're planning on moving within the next few years. Otherwise, you'll likely wind up paying more in interest over the lifetime of the loan than you would have on the closing costs.

Try to do your own calculations to determine if a no-cost closing makes sense based on your estimated closing costs, increase in monthly payments and how long you plan on staying in the home.

You'll know approximately how much you have to pay before the closing. Mortgage lenders have three business days from when you submit a loan application to give you a loan estimate. The standardized document shows your estimated interest rate, monthly payments, taxes, insurance and closing costs.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has an interactive example of a standard loan estimate form with explanations and definitions of terms. On the second page, there'll be a list of closing costs, including a breakdown of which services you may be able to negotiate.

You shop mortgage lenders, compare the loan estimate you receive and then continue the process with the lender that gives you the best estimated terms.

Three business days before your scheduled closing, the lender you choose must give you a five-page closing disclosure form with the finalized terms.

Carefully look over the closing disclosure and ask your real estate agent, loan officer or attorney questions. If you don't agree with the new terms of the deal, it's not too late to back out. If you're happy with the terms and the closing goes smoothly you'll be a homeowner soon.

Bottom line: Estimating your closing costs, and budgeting accordingly, can help ensure you're looking for homes within your price range. That's important because you want to be able to move quickly when you find a home you love. However, don't move so fast that you miss out on savings opportunities. Shopping mortgage lenders and service providers could help you minimize your closing costs.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

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JV Round Robin in Redfield

Redfield/Doland 38, Groton Area 34

Scoring for Groton Area: Jonny Doeden 12, Marshall Lane 10, Treyton Diegel 7, Anthony Sippel 4, Austin Jones 1.

Groton Area 51, Milbank Area 24

Scoring for Groton Area: Treyton Diegel 15, Jonny Doeden 9, Cade Guthmiller 6, Austin Jones 6, Darien Shabazz 5, Anthony Sippel 4, Luke Thorson 2, Alex Morris 2, Marshall Lane 2.

Sioux Valley 67, Groton Area 32

Scoring for Groton Area: Treyton Diegel 15, Marshall Lane 9, Jonny Doeden 4, Marshall Lane 2, Alex Morris 1, Darien Shabazz 1.



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

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Last week, we started going through the Vikings roster, taking a look at the quarterback position. This week, we'll be looking at the running back and fullback positions.

Last season, the Minnesota Vikings had the worst rushing attack in the National Football League. Not "one of the worst". The worst. Part of that may be due to the absence of a particular running back who wears number 28, and part of it was absolutely because of the Vikings' putrid offensive line. But no matter the excuses, the rushing attack is something the Vikings NEED to fix this offseason.

Before we get into the specific players, let's take a look at the stats from last year. The Vikings, as a team, ranked dead last in yards gained on the ground (1205) and yards per carry (3.2). The team only scored nine touchdowns on the ground, which is also a massive drop.

Many people assume Adrian Peterson would have made a big difference had he been healthy last season, but before he got injured in week 2 against the Green Bay Packers, Peterson carried the ball 31 times for 50 yards (1.6 yards per carry). Peterson is one of the greatest running backs of all time, but even he couldn't overcome the offensive line's horrendous performance.

Adrian Peterson turns 32 next month, and is scheduled to make \$18 million this next season which is the final year of his contract. Both of those are major red flags, and when you factor in his injuries sustained over the last few years, there is a big chance he will be released by the team. However, if Peterson is willing to restructure his contract, the Vikings might elect to bring him back.

Both Jerick McKinnon and Matt Asiata attempted to fill the void of Peterson's absence. McKinnon started seven games and carried the ball 159 times for 539 yards (3.4 yards per attempt) and two touchdowns. He also caught 43 passes for 255 yards and two more touchdowns. McKinnon is entering the final year of his rookie contract, so this year will be very important to him. If he plays well, he just might earn himself a big payday next offseason.

Matt Asiata seems like he has been on the team forever. He got six starts in 2016, and carried the ball 121 times for 402 yards (3.3 y/a) and six touchdowns. Asiata also caught 32 passes for 262 yards, which opened a lot of people's eyes and showed off his versatility and athleticism. Matt Asiata is a free agent this offseason, and it's likely the Vikings will bring him back on a very team-friendly deal.

The Minnesota Vikings are undergoing a philosophical shift on offense, and are relying less and less on the fullback position. In 2016, Zach Line only received 211 total snaps per Pro Football Focus (compared to McKinnon's 512 and Asiata's 407). Zach is a free agent this offseason, and with the Vikings moving away from an offense that features the fullback, it's likely the team will let Line walk, choosing instead to sign a younger player for less money.

All in all, the team took a major step backwards in the ground game in 2016. A lot of that is because of the offensive line, but if the Vikings want to take that next step forward in 2017, the running game will need to get back on track. The team also has a big decision to make regarding Adrian Peterson. In my opinion, I'd like to see the team bring Adrian back on a team-friendly contract that will give him incentives for production. What do you think? Let me know by reaching out to me through my contact info below!

Check out next week's article, as I break down the Vikings' wide receivers and tight ends. And as always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me through Facebook ([facebook.com/SkolJWright](https://www.facebook.com/SkolJWright)) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright).



Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

The sixth week of Session went exceedingly well from my perspective. Of course, in any given week, a person wins some and loses some, but I felt the week was marked by many successes for the people of SD and District 2.

With respect to an issue that is certainly of interest to some people all across the state, but is of greater concern in our district, SB 136 sought to allow for Certified Profes-

sional Midwives (CPM's) to be able to be licensed to attend to home births. Currently, South Dakota law allows home births. It allows for family members to be present to help throughout the birth. However, it essentially criminalizes CPM's attending to the birth. These CPM's are undeniably more adept and experienced in helping throughout the labor than what family members who have no training are, so I feel it creates a much safer environment to put in place a process by which they are allowed to serve those families who choose the home birth option. Nationally, since 1970, some thirty states have allowed CPM's to become licensed to oversee low-risk home births. Our neighbor to the north has actually passed a law to allow CPM's to attend to home births without being licensed through a decriminalization bill. Not one state who has enacted some type of CPM law has rescinded it. While the traditional health care model remains the choice of the vast majority, home birth is the preference of some--and, as I alluded to--a higher number in District 2 than a lot of other districts. After failing last year on its final leg in the legislative process by a vote of 16-19, this year's legislation was the result of a very concerted effort to address concerns raised last year. The strong 29-6 vote on the Senate side gives us hope that as the bill passes to the House, it will prevail, and hopefully be signed into law. Again, it simply makes a legal activity in the state of SD a safer activity going forward. To the extent that CPM's are able to draw from their experiences to identify dangers and address them either by the techniques they employ or by transporting a mother-to-be to a medical facility, it will save lives and/or prevent problems associated with complications in the delivery process.

In Senate State Affairs, I pitched two bills on Wednesday. In the morning, I had SB 124 in front of the panel. This bill seeks to do two things. First, it repeals an obsolete reference to the Federal Refugee Act of 1980, which we are no longer under, as we became a "Wilson-Fish" state during the early 2000's. Under the Fed Refugee Act, our SD Department of Social Services (DSS) could contract with the federal government for purposes of entering into refugee resettlement agreements. When we became a Wilson-Fish state, the DSS was removed from the equation, and private entities could contract directly with the Feds for such purposes. That brings me to the second section of the bill. As amended, it would require any private entity who is charged with resettling refugees to report to the Governor and the legislature on a yearly basis a number of pieces of information. These include what services are being provided, total number of refugees being resettled to SD, where direct resettlements are taking place, demographic information of refugees, and if they anticipate any changes to the number or venue where resettlements are occurring. The bill passed out of State Affairs 8-0. A number of people who came to testify against the bill actually testified in favor of it after I asked the committee to amend the bill. In addition to these individuals expressing their support, so did Luther Social Services, who is currently said to be the only private entity providing refugee resettlement services in SD. I feel it is important that we have access to more information and that we have an open dialogue concerning refugee resettlement. That both the legislature and the DSS had removed themselves from the process entirely was an abdication of responsibility.

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Later Weds afternoon, I was back in front of State Affairs asking them to pass SB 171, which would establish the Government Accountability Task Force to study government accountability, campaign finance, lobbyist restrictions and ethics over the next several months. It is no secret that there are a whole host of bills seeking to address these issues this session. My reason for bringing SB 171 was not to thwart efforts this year, but to compliment them. I insist that we do our level best to pass good, responsible legislation this year, but that we also continue such efforts in the off-season. I said we need to take a look at existing law, legislation passed this year, and any possible legislation that needs to be considered next year. With so many bills being considered this year, there is a chance that certain legislation will conflict with other legislation. There is also a chance certain issues will be overlooked as we work through things this year. Given the focus on the issues surrounding IM 22, I think it is important that we spend more than just the few weeks of the 2017 Session to fully consider all things.

Finally, at a glance, SB 77 would require ballot measures with a fiscal impact on the state budget to contain a fiscal note and that people be presented with that fiscal note at the time they are being asked to sign petitions and that it also be part of the disclosure on the ballot. This bill that improves transparency and leads to a more informed electorate passed 27-5. SJR 2 eked through the Senate after failing on its first consideration. SJR 2 would increase the threshold by which the legislature can propose Constitutional amendments to the voters from a majority of both houses to a 2/3 majority of both houses. That is not the particularly objectionable part. The objectionable part is contained in the second part of the measure. That would increase the threshold to pass a Constitutional amendment from 50% plus 1 to 60%. While I would agree that the Constitution should be difficult to modify, I would contend that it generally already is. Many people who have any doubts about measures tend to vote "No". If this measure passes the House and is placed on the ballot, a margin of 50% plus 1 could lock up the 60% threshold going forward. If anybody would ever attempt to take it back to 50%+1, it would require a 60% vote to do so. The joint resolution intially failed, 17-16, but prevailed on reconsideration 19-16. The two people who were excused during the first vote actually voted against the measure, but three people switched from "No" to "Yes" votes, while one flipped the other way. If this measure squeaks through the House, I look for it to be soundly defeated on the next ballot.

With just over one-third of the 2017 Session remaining, I remain thankful for the opportunity to serve you, appreciative of all you support and input, and grateful for all your prayers! God bless each of you!



Lana's Annals

**Lana
Greenfield
District 2
State
Representative**

Greetings to all of you. It was again a very busy week in the capitol city but was refreshing to see the halls bustling with local school government classes and instructors. Thanks Willow Lake, Redfield, Hamlin, Groton and Castlewood for your visit. We appreciate your interest in government and hope that you had an enjoyable day.

Our Commerce and Energy committee heard some interesting bills (and some not). We dealt with providing guidelines for places where building codes had not been adopted. The code can then, according to the bill, be based on the 2015 code. The 2009 international energy conservation code will also be followed. While this may seem unimportant to some, it became very real when we tried to put an egress window in every room in the lodging area of our building. After the installer got done, we found that we were still not in compliance as the windows

were a couple of inches narrower than International code would allow. Therefore, we had to rip all of the

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windows out and get new ones once again. It was a very traumatizing experience where I learned that understanding codes was of utmost importance, AND ignorance is NOT bliss.

Our local government committee heard testimony on HB1085, a bill allowing the BID districts increase their fees from 2 dollars to 3 percent per motel room rental per night. I initially voted for it....then I got to thinking. There is a tourism tax of 1.5 per cent already. Another fee (an avoidance term for the word "tax") of 3 per cent really does not seem fair. Rooms out in the Hills during peak times are in excess of 200 dollars per night. That is quite a chunk of change difference. On the floor I spoke against this additional TAX, and after debate, we were able to kill it.

I appeared before the Transportation Committee to pitch a diesel fuel bill HB1124. This bill allows a person with a class" A" CDL to haul 1000 gallons of diesel fuel without a haz mat. Bruce Nelson, Custom Harvesters member, also testified. We ended up with a unanimous vote of the committee, and it later passed the House on consent. After cross over day, it will move on to a Senate committee for favorable consideration hopefully.

This week we voted on the Article 5 Convention of States. In theory the states (after each votes its approval) will send a delegate to meet,open up the Constitution, and make the proper changes in order to balance our national budget. Ideally, this sounds good. We have a certain idea of what SHOULD take place and what people SHOULD discuss and change and how many people SHOULD attend from each state, BUT is that the way it will be? I considered the history of the First Convention and the mess it turned out to be; I then cast a "no" vote as did 39 other House members. Since the vote, we have been sharply criticized by visionaries, but I do not do business with "maybes".

Both chambers have been working hard to try to find ways to replace faulty, unconstitutional wording in what was IM22. HB1073 addresses the gifting from lobbyists to legislators and sets the limit at 100 dollars. It eliminates language which would have caused people to have to quit their jobs or else resign from the legislature as in past form, employment was defined also as a gift. The new wording also exempts SDRS scholarships from gifting as these college and tech students may be family members who are legislators. Another place that needed change was that SDRS monthly newsletter should not be defined as a gift. If it were, this would go toward the 100 dollar gift limit. I think the language in this new bill is good as I do not think we want people who are citizen legislators to lose their jobs just because they work in a profession that employs a lobbyist. Almost every professional organization does..doctors, teachers, farmers, lawyers, retailers, etc. This week we will continue our work on fixing the faulty initiated measure.

We have about three very busy weeks ahead and some days will be very long. If you come to Pierre, you are very welcome to sit in a committee meeting in the morning. They are posted online or outside each chamber and include time, place, and bill subjects. Our floor sessions begin at 2 most days. If you wish to watch from home, our sessions are on SDPB2 (may vary with cable service) at the same time. I mention this now as bills will now be crossing over this week; this means we will be viewing the bills of the opposite chamber and decide if they are suitable to become law.

I hope that you enjoyed the sunshine last week and that you are well. My contact addresses are as follows : ana.greenfield@gmail.com or Lana.Greenfield@sdlegislature.gov I can also be reached at 635-6932 on weekends.

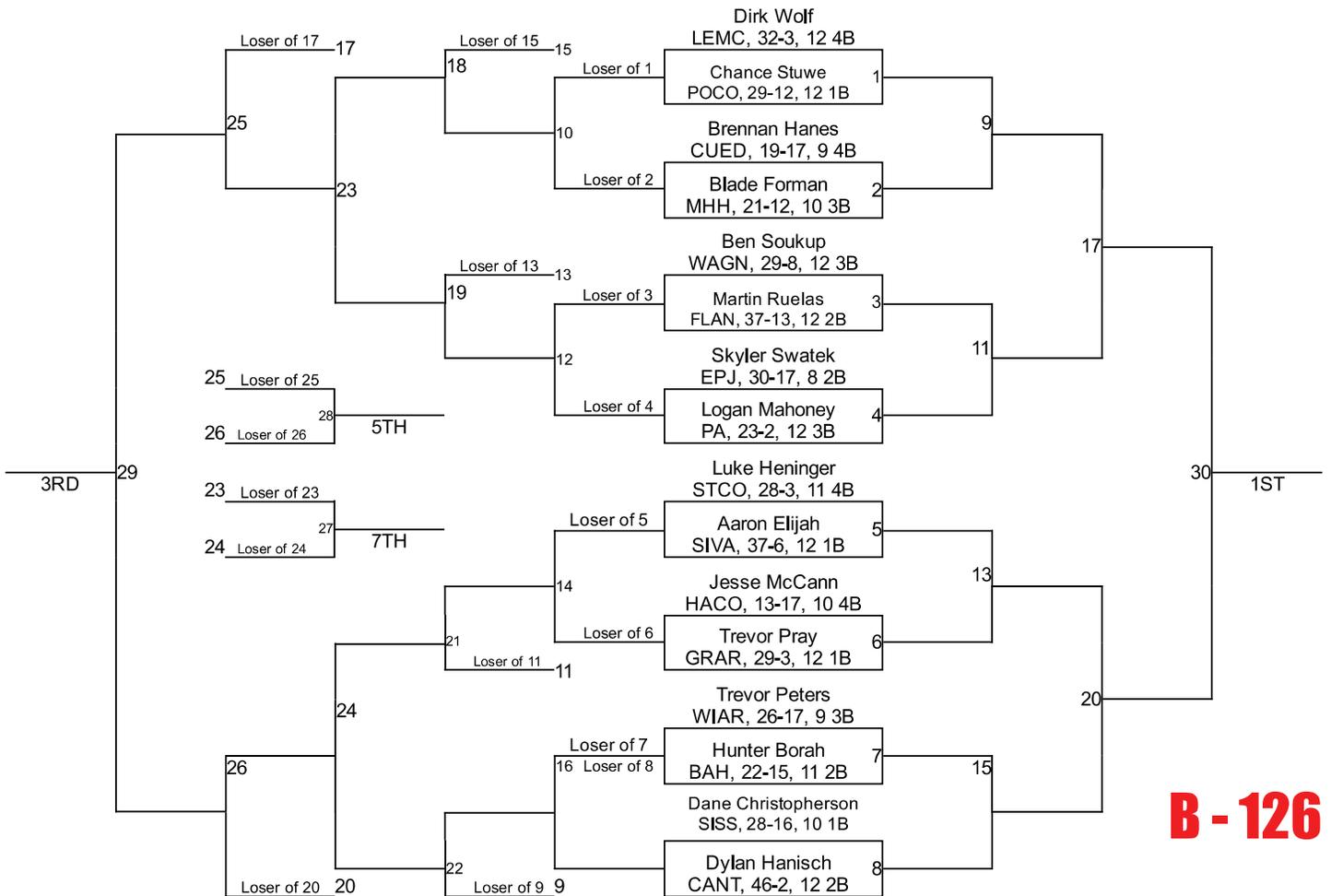
Blessings to all.

Rep. Lana Greenfield

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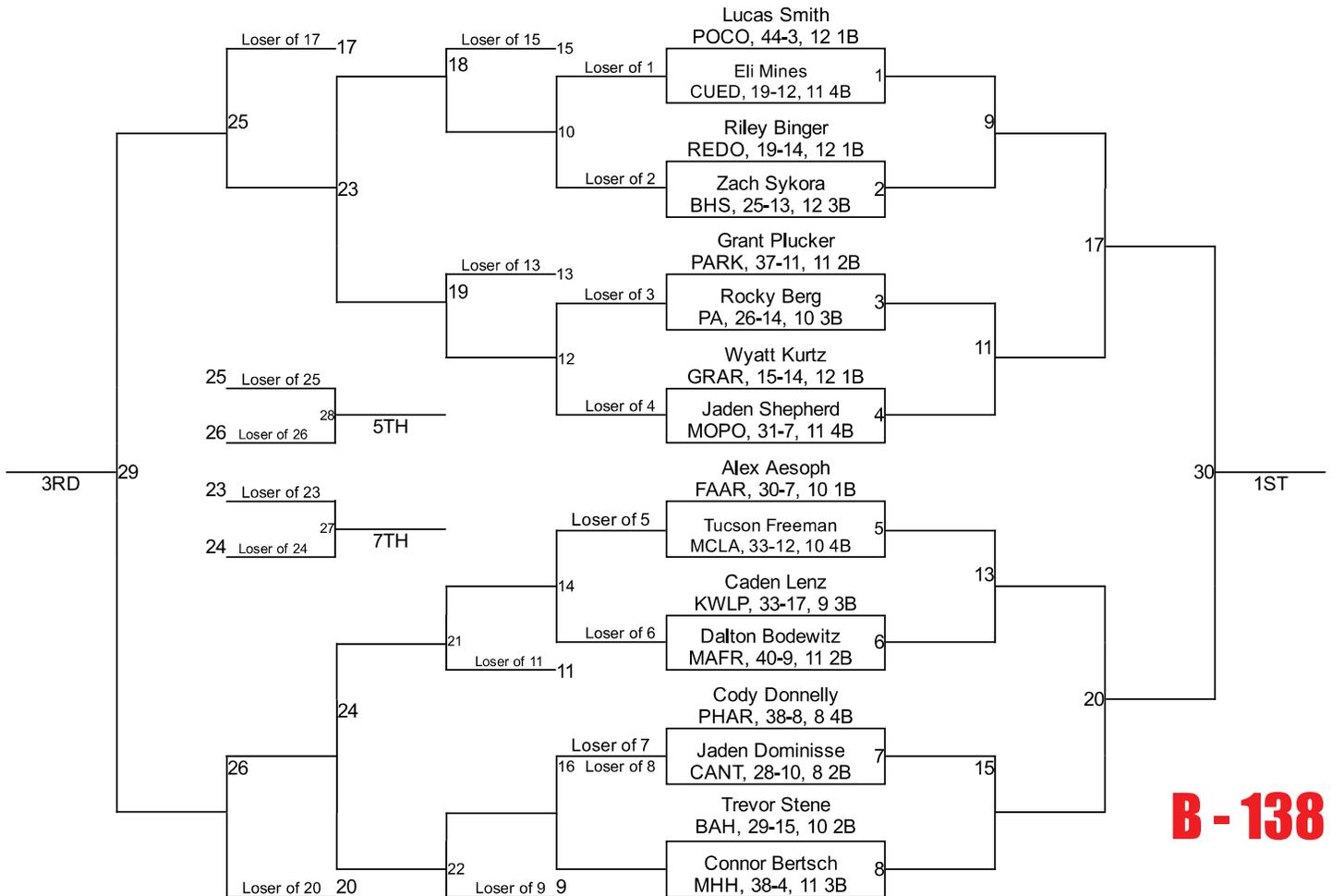
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State Wrestling Pairings



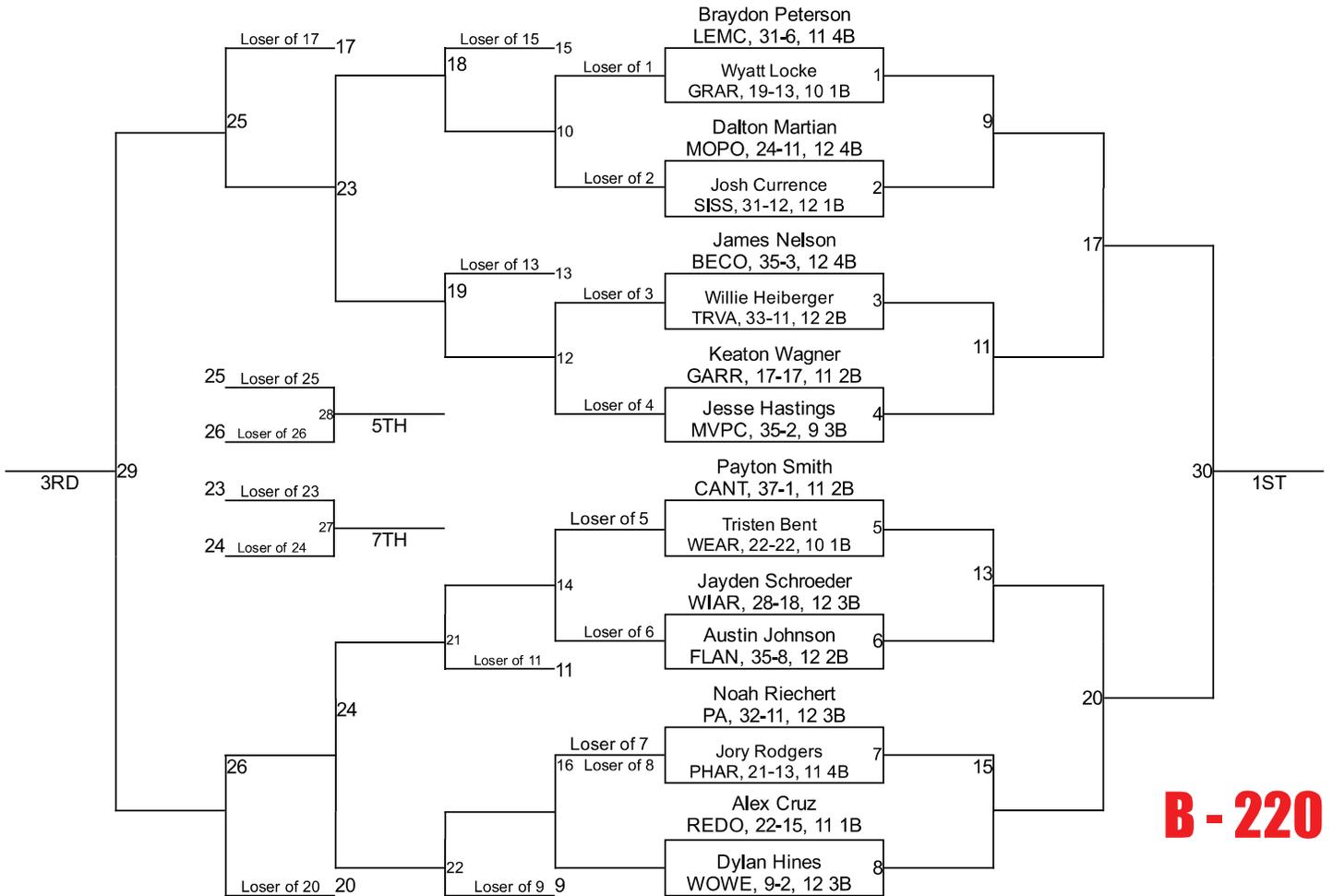
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A significant number of Americans struggle with mental illness. For many the struggle is silent. Some experience short-term mental health problems; it's not uncommon for individuals temporarily to face mild forms of mental illness at some point during their lives. For others though, it's a lifelong battle that requires consistent treatment. No community is untouched by mental illness. It affects schools, work places and families.

Last year the Helmsley Charitable Trust's Rural Healthcare Program released a study on mental health in South Dakota. The study found that our state has a high prevalence of undiagnosed and untreated depression as well as a very high prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety. While 87 percent of survey respondents reported receiving all needed medical care, only 64 percent reported receiving all needed mental health care, and just 54 percent received all needed substance use care.

Without proper treatment, individuals with mental health problems can land in the emergency room or in jail. When a person showing signs of mental illness behaves in a way that causes arrest, a court may order an evaluation of the person's fitness to stand trial. In recent years, the increased number of these court-ordered evaluations has caused delays for the mentally ill. In some instances, mentally ill individuals had to wait in jail several months for competency evaluations to be completed.

Recognizing this problem, South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson convened a task force to address delays in court-ordered mental health evaluations and shortfalls in treatment for the mentally ill within the justice system.

Funded by a grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust, the task force released its report in November. Among its findings, it recognized that our system lacks procedures to identify mental illness quickly after an arrest, and in many cases jails are not equipped to deal with mental health needs. In some cases, diversion options that are already authorized by statute are not available in all areas of the state.

This legislative session, the Legislature is considering House Bill 1183, which would enact the task force's recommendations.

The legislation will provide law enforcement with tools to better identify and respond to mental health crises, prevent unnecessary jail admissions, and assist communities in building capacity to offer intervention services. The bill will also expand the pool of providers who can provide competency evaluations, and will shift funding from the Human Services Center directly to counties to perform these evaluations. An oversight council will monitor implementation and recommend changes to future legislatures.

I thank the Chief Justice and task force members for undertaking this work and offering their recommendations, and I thank the Helmsley Charitable Trust for the funding they provided.

I support HB 1183 and I hope legislators will send the bill to my desk. These common sense proposals will be steps forward for our state.



Grain Bin Safety

My dad was one of those people who just got things done. He worked hard and he worked fast. It's a skill set many farmers share, but that day, I wish he would have slowed down a bit. He had gone into a grain bin and things went wrong. By the time I got there, neighbors were digging through piles of corn from the bin that was torn apart trying to find him. When they did, CPR started immediately. Despite the doctors working to save him for hours, we lost him that day and in that instant, my whole world changed.

In 2014, more than three dozen farmers were trapped in grain bins, resulting in at least 17 deaths. In most cases, it took only seconds for the producer to become engulfed – and getting out without assistance at this point is nearly impossible. Still, there are things that can be done to help prevent accidents like this and improve the chance of a successful recovery if something does go wrong.

Every year, the last week of February is reserved as Grain Bin Safety Week. It's a good opportunity to take a look at some of your operation's practices to see if there's something more you could do to improve the safety of your farm.

A few years back, the South Dakota Corn Growers Association offered a few tips that I wanted to share today. First, farmers often work alone. They recommend that when cleaning out your grain bins, use a buddy system.

Additionally, especially after a wet harvest, don't forget to wear a mask. This is going to help make sure you don't breathe in harmful molds.

Be aware that the grain in the bin might not be as it appears. Crusting can deceive you and lead to dangerous falls, even entrapment.

As an added measure of precaution, I encourage you to touch base with your local first responders. They can seek out training on rescue techniques and specialized equipment.

Finally, I'd add, take the time to educate your kids about safe practices on the farm. Raising our kids on the ranch has been one of the best parenting decisions we've made. I'm proud of the work ethic they've earned – the commonsense problem solving skills they've developed – the understanding they've gotten about how our food is grown. But I'm also very much aware of how dangerous it can be.

Farming is risky enough. Please take time this week to evaluate your current grain bin safety procedures. It's worth the attention.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



A Week in the Life

Aside from being a dad, grandpa, and husband, serving the people of South Dakota as one of their U.S. senators has afforded me with some of the most rewarding experiences in my life. I'm constantly humbled by the opportunity and trust South Dakotans have placed in me, which is why I've never taken this job for granted – not for a single second.

My top priority when I show up to work each day, whether that's in cities and towns throughout the state or in the Capitol in Washington, D.C., is listening to and fighting for what matters to South Dakotans. Hopping between South Dakota and Washington, I've been asked about my typical work week. While every week is a little different, some things never change.

It's no secret that I try to spend as much time as possible wherever there's a 605 area code. On most weekends, you can likely find me with family and friends. In the winter, I'm out shoveling snow, and in the summer, I'm out mowing the lawn. In the fall, I'm chasing pheasants in the prairie, and it doesn't matter what month it is, you can always catch me at local sports or community events throughout the state.

Once the Senate is set to reconvene, I head back to Washington with the feedback I've received from friends, neighbors, and fellow South Dakotans, and my work in the Senate picks up right where it left off.

The next best thing to spending time with South Dakotans back home is when our paths cross in Washington. Whether people are in town for vacations or conferences, or even if they're just passing through, I always appreciate when they stop by my office to say hello.

In between meeting with South Dakotans, my weeks are filled with the day-to-day action on the Senate floor and in the various committees on which I serve. January and February have largely been consumed by voting to confirm members of the president's Cabinet. While this process is taking far longer than it should – due to unnecessary, politically driven hurdles created in the Senate – we're making progress. The quicker we can get the president's team in place, the quicker we can turn our attention to other important issues like repealing and replacing Obamacare, reforming our tax code, and confirming the next justice to the Supreme Court.

Once the Senate wraps up its legislative work for the week, I usually head back to South Dakota to recharge and get a fresh round of feedback – sometimes while I'm sitting in the bleachers during a Saturday night basketball game. From there, the cycle starts all over again. Every week is different, yes, but the one thing they all have in common is that they revolve around what's most important to South Dakota, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

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DI Dessert Theater



There was a good size crowd that attended the Destination Imagination Dessert Theater held Sunday afternoon at the Groton Area Elementary Gym. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Wonderful Nonsense group of Rylee Rosenou, Kaitlyn Kyar and Kayla Jensen are performing in the senior division of the Fine Arts Challenge: Vanished!

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The Aquarium Solvers of Jeslyn Kosel, Abby Jensen, Nicolette Nickeson, Emma Bahr, Karlie McKane and Hannah Monson are performing in the elementary level of the Fine Arts Challenge: Vanished!



The DIsfunctional Broad Squad of Hailey Monson, Tiara DeHoet, Alyssa Fordham, Julianna Kosel and Sage Mortenson are performing in the middle level of the Fine Arts Challenge: Vanished!

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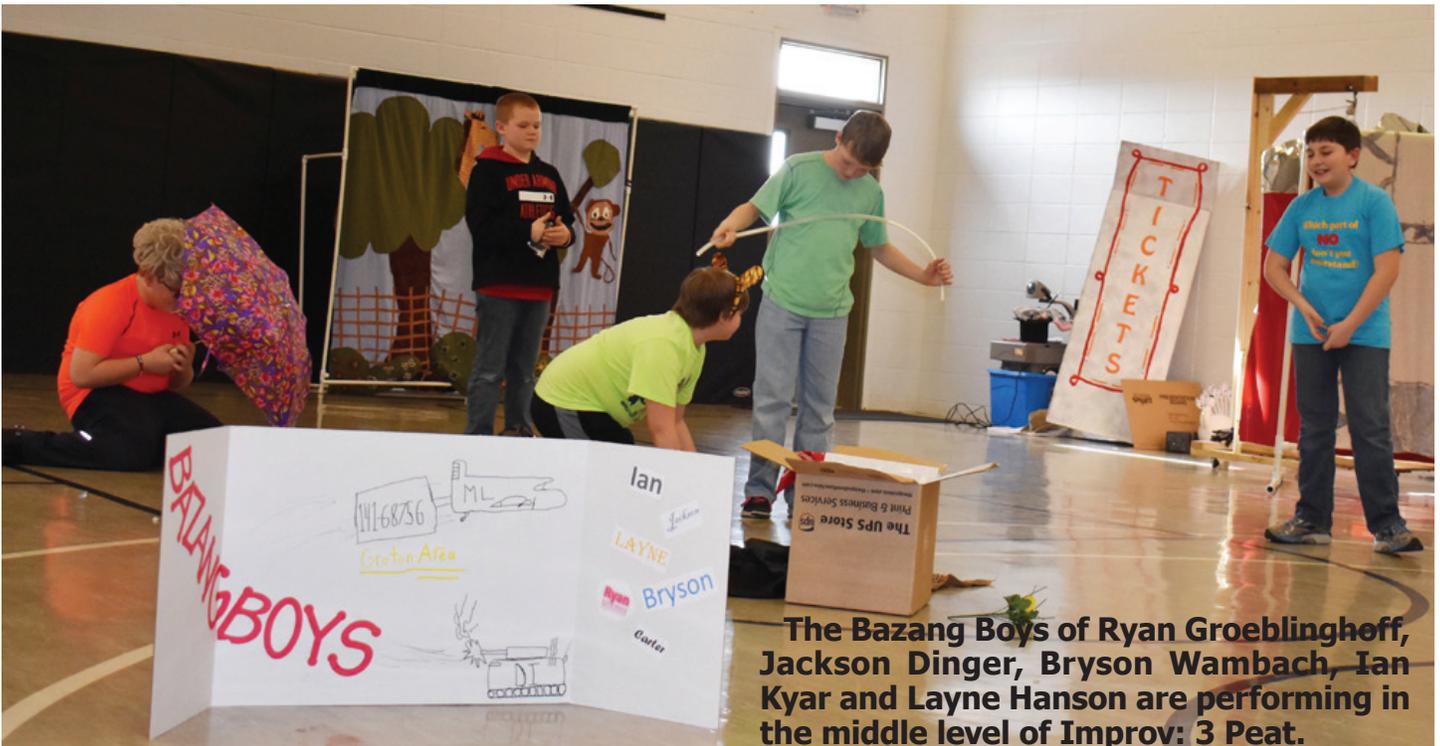


The Rising Stars group is a noncompetitive group performing in the Saving the Day division. The Super Stars are Novalea Warrington, Aurora Washenburger, Korbin McKane, Wyatt Wambach, Arabella Clark, Makena Krause and Troy Nickeson.

Performing in the Improv: 3 Peat category is the Army Ants in the elementary level. Members are Ben Hoeft, Karsten Flihs, Keira Weismantel, Addison Hoffman, Natalia Warrington and Tristan Nickeson.

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The Bazang Boys of Ryan Groeblichhoff, Jackson Dinger, Bryson Wambach, Ian Kyar and Layne Hanson are performing in the middle level of Improv: 3 Peat.



The Dumpling Jokers are competing in the elementary level of Technical: Show & Tech. Members are Corbin Weismantel, Nicholas Groeblichhoff, Winston Clark, Lincoln Krause and Axel Warrington.

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The senior level members of Out of the Boxers are competing in the Scientific: Top Secret senior level. Members are Jenifer Fjelstad, Nathan Fjelstad, Trey Wright, Halie Yarborough, Emma Donley and AnneMarie Smith. There were two fill-ins on Sunday as two members were home sick. This group will not be competing in the Northeast regional tournament being held in Groton on Saturday due to conflicts. The group will be making the journey to Custer to compete in the western regional tournament later this month.

Here is the schedule for the regions to be held in Groton on Saturday

Time	Team	Challenge	Location	IC
11:00	The Aquarium Solvers	Fine Arts: Vanished	Conference Room	12:20
12:20	DIsfunctional Broad Squad	Fine Arts: Vanished	Conference Room	11:00
1:00	The Wonderful Nonsense	Fine Arts: Vanished	Conference Room	11:40
2:00	Dumpling Jokers	Engineering: Show & Tech	Old Gym	11:20
2:20	Army Ants	Improv: 3 Peat	Conference Room	11:20
2:40	Bazang Boys	Improv: 3 Peat	Conference Room	12:00
3:00	Super Stars	Early Learning	Old Gym	1:00

The public can watch the performances. The Instant Challenges are not open to the public.

Today in Weather History

February 20, 1962: Another round of heavy snow fell across the southeastern half of the state from the 20th through the 22nd with up to 10 inches of new snowfall. Snowfall amounts included, 5 inches at Bryant, 6 inches at Kennebec, 7 inches at Redfield, Brookings, Mitchell, and Sioux Falls, 8 inches at Miller, and 10 inches at Huron. Snowfall amounts for the record setting month of February 1962 ranged from 30 to 50 inches across much of the southeast part of the state.

February 20, 1997: Warm weather resulted in snowmelt runoff and ice breakup on the Bad River. As a result, the Bad River went above flood stage from Capa to Fort Pierre late in the evening of the 20th. Flood stage at Fort Pierre is 21 feet and the river rose to around 25 feet on the 21st. The Bad River went below flood stage during the afternoon of the 22nd. Lowlands near the river were flooded along with some county roads with some of the roads damaged. Late in the evening of the 20th, the trailer court on the southern edge of Fort Pierre was evacuated where they did some sandbagging. Also, on the west side of Fort Pierre, some roads were flooded.

February 20, 2011: The snowfall/blizzard event on 20-21 February 2011 produced yet another round of impressive snowfall totals across central and northeastern South Dakota and west-central Minnesota. Storm total snowfall amounts generally ranged from 8" to 12" with locally higher amounts in excess of 18" reported in a few locations.

1805 - The Potomac River was opened after being closed by ice for a period of two months. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1898 - Eastern Wisconsin experienced their biggest snowstorm of record. Racine received thirty inches, and drifts around Milwaukee measured fifteen feet high. (David Ludlum)

1912: An F3 tornado killed 9 people and injured 50 others as it crossed Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. This would happen again in 1940.

1953 - A snowstorm in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota produced drifts ten feet high which derailed trains. (David Ludlum)

1995: The temperature at the Civic Center in Los Angeles, California soared to 95 degrees. This is highest temperature ever recorded at the location during the month of February.

2004: A nor'easter brought heavy snow and strong winds to the Nova Scotia and Prince Edwards Island from the 17th through 20th. The Maritimers called this storm White Juan, a hurricane disguised as a blizzard. Halifax, Yarmouth and Charlottetown broke all-time 24-hour snowfall records, receiving about 3 feet of snow. For Halifax, the 34.8 inches of snow on February 19 nearly doubled its previous record for a single day.



livestream

Upcoming Events
Tuesday, GBB Region
Groton vs. Sisseton, 7:30

gdilive.com

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Washington's
Birthday



Chance
Showers and
Breezy

High: 55 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 34 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 59 °F

Tuesday
Night



Partly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance Rain

Low: 36 °F

Wednesday



Slight Chance
Rain then
Partly Sunny

High: 49 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 28 °F

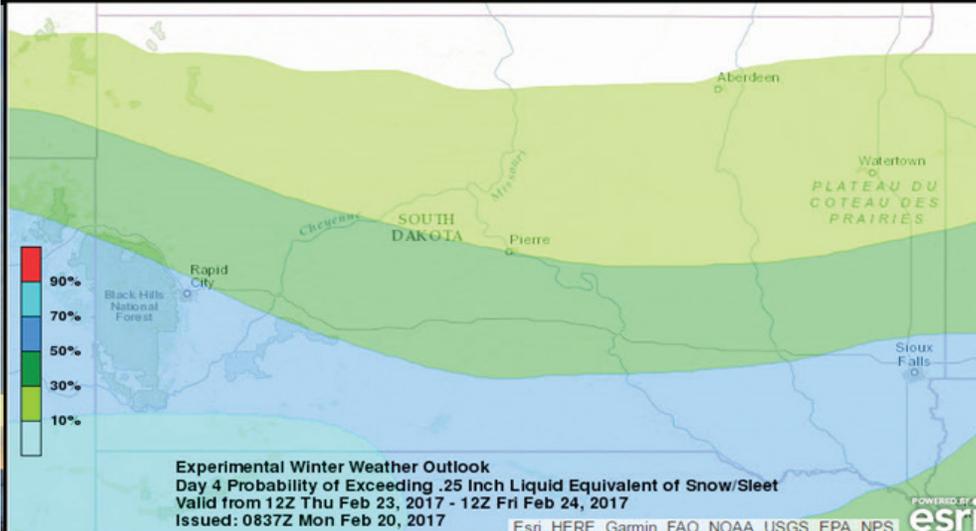
Thursday



Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
Rain/Snow

High: 37 °F

Breezy northwesterly winds of 15 to 25 mph can be expect today, along with a few showers.



**Thursday –
Friday
snowstorm
heading south?
Possible, but
still too early to
say for sure!!**



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 2/20/2017 5:19 AM Central

Published on: 02/20/2017 at 5:29AM

An area of low pressure moving through the Dakotas this morning will bring some showers and a few rumbles of thunder. Breezy northwesterly winds can be expected behind this system. Later in the week, models have been consistent with a snowstorm Thursday through Friday time frame, BUT they differ on the placement of the heaviest snow.

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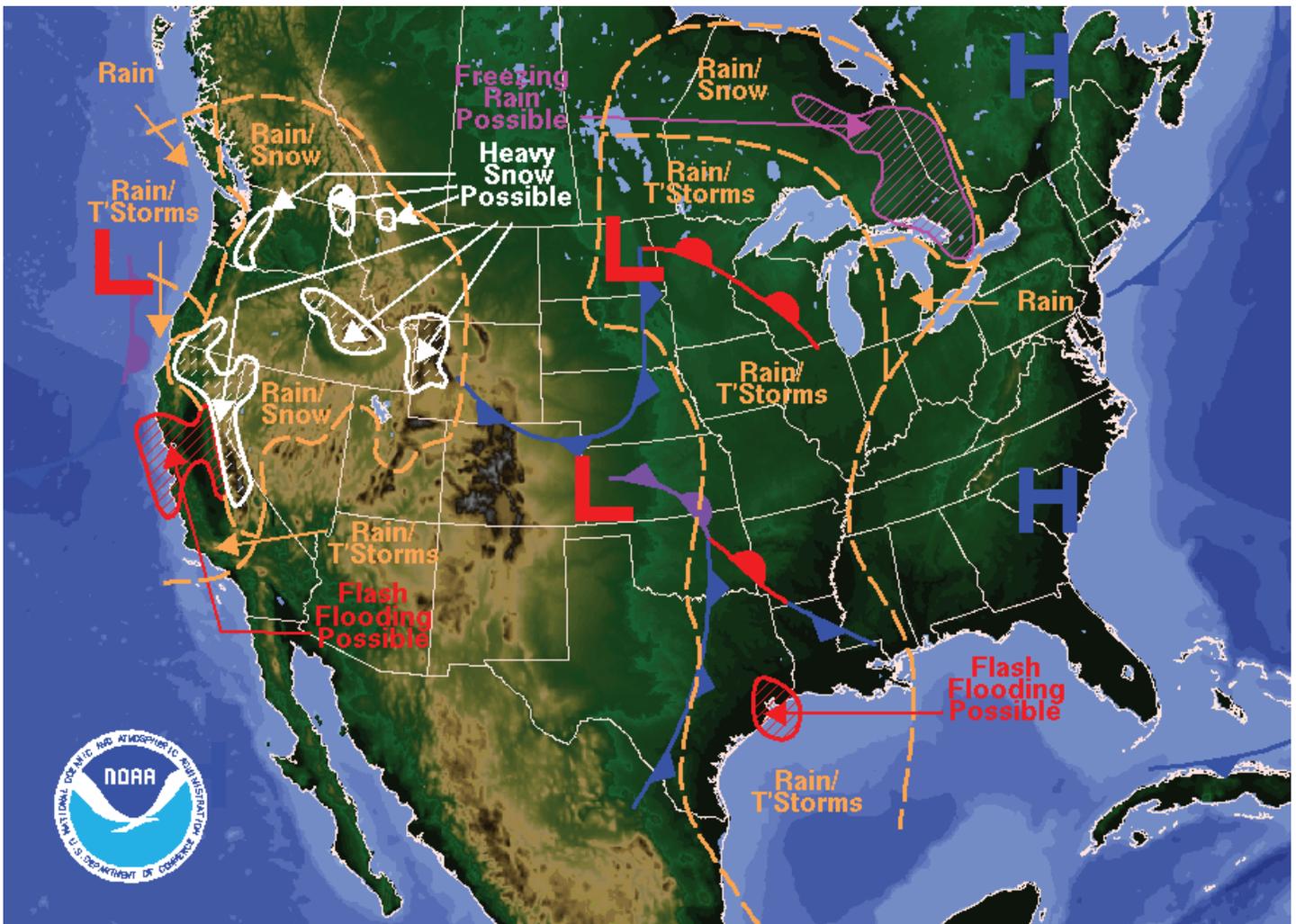
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 61.7 F at 1:47 PM
Low Outside Temp: 38.5 F at 12:00 AM
High Gust: 34.0 Mph at 2:23 PM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 61° in 1930
Record Low: -30 in 1918
Average High: 30°F
Average Low: 9°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.35
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.82
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 6:08 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:25 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Feb 20, 2017, issued 4:11 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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EARNING IT IS WHAT MATTERS!

A friend of Clark Gable took her young son to his home for a visit. As they were about to leave, the boy pointed to the Oscar that Gable had won and asked, "May I have this?"

"Sure," answered Gable, giving it to the child.

"Give it back immediately," shouted the mother in shock.

"Oh, no," said Gable. "Keep it. Having the Oscar around doesn't mean anything to me. Earning them does."

Focusing on the future has many benefits. Paul boldly declared that "I am still not all I should be! But I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead I strain to reach the end of the race."

Paul had great reasons to want to forget the past – he persecuted Christians and even had them killed. He held them in great contempt creating fear and anxiety among them. But, he also had accomplished many outstanding things for Christ when he wrote these words. In all reality he could have "stayed stuck" for one reason or another: either the wrongs he had done from feelings of guilt or false pride for his service to his Lord.

These are two traps every Christian faces: our failures and our successes. Either one can destroy what God has called us to do. We must always move forward!

Prayer: Help us, Father, not to ruin the present or the future by staying stuck in the past. You have called us to do great things through Christ. May we be faithful. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

News from the Associated Press

Volunteers scour lake for duck hunter missing since December

ARLINGTON, S.D. (AP) — About 30 volunteers are searching for the body of a duck hunter whose boat capsized on a lake in Brookings County in early December.

Thomas Hill, 28, was duck hunting with his brother, Matthew Hill, 23, when their boat capsized on Brush Lake. The body of the younger brother was quickly recovered but the older sibling was never found.

Volunteers have drilled hundreds of holes across the lake and have dropped high-tech cameras into each hole in their underwater search.

"You can see the structure of the bottom of the lake. You can see tree, fish, rocks. If you happened to see a body in there, you would pick that up," Arlington Fire Chief Todd Smidt told KELO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2kZAYQL>). Smidt said he's invested about 70 hours in the search.

"We're not going to quit until we recover the body. So if that means going until we get boats in, we'll just keep working at it. I just want to stay out here until the job is done," Smidt said.

Search dogs from Codington County have also been at the lake. Smidt said the dogs picked up scent in the northeast corner of the lake where the boat was found, but that has not led to Hill's body.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

Deadline looms for Dakota Access pipeline protest camp

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — As dawn breaks over an encampment that was once home to thousands of people protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline, a few hundred holdouts rise for another day of resistance.

They aren't deterred by the threat of flooding, nor by declarations from state and federal authorities that they must leave by Wednesday or face possible arrest. They're determined to remain and fight a pipeline they maintain threatens the very sanctity of the land.

"If we don't stand now, when will we?" said Tiffanie Pieper, of San Diego, who has been in the camp most of the winter.

Protesters have been at the campsite since August to fight the \$3.8 billion pipeline that will carry oil from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners began work on the last big section of the pipeline this month after the Army gave it permission to lay pipe under a reservoir on the Missouri River. The protest camp is on Army Corp of Engineers land nearby.

The protests have been led by Native American tribes, particularly the Standing Rock Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux, whose reservation is downstream. They say the pipeline threatens drinking water and cultural sites. ETP disputes that.

Faced with the prospect of spring flooding, some protesters are considering moving to higher ground, though not necessarily off the federal land. Some may move to the Standing Rock Reservation, where the Cheyenne River Sioux is leasing land to provide camping space even though Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault has urged protesters to leave.

"We have the same goals," Cheyenne River Chairman Harold Frazier said of himself and Archambault. "We don't agree on whether or not the water protectors should be on the ground."

Those urging the protesters to leave say they're concerned about possible flooding in the area as snow melts.

"The purpose of this is to close the land to ensure no one gets harmed," said Corps Capt. Ryan Hignight. One concern is that floodwaters could wash tons of trash and debris at the encampment into the nearby

rivers.

"One of the biggest environmental threats to the Missouri is the camp itself," said North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum.

Many in camp think authorities are exaggerating the flood threat and trying to turn public sentiment against them.

"They're talking like it will be a flood that will wipe out all of existence," said Luke Black Elk, a Cheyenne River Sioux from South Dakota. Some flooding is likely, he said, but "most of it won't be that bad."

The camp has been the site of numerous and sometimes violent clashes between police and protesters who call themselves "water protectors," with more than 700 arrests. The camp's population has dwindled as the pipeline battle has largely moved into the courts.

Protesters who remain say they're prepared to be arrested, but will remain peaceful.

"We'll make it difficult for them to handcuff us, but there will be no forceful opposition," said Bryce Pppard, from Oregon.

The Corps and the governor say they would rather there were no arrests.

"The ideal situation is zero arrests are made because everybody figures out that it's not a place where you want to be when the flood starts to happen," Burgum said.

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

Rapid City police could have body cameras by next summer

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Officers with the Rapid City Police Department and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office could be outfitted by body cameras by next summer.

The two agencies applied last week for a U.S. Department of Justice grant that would help pay for the video recording tools. The agencies should know by late summer or early fall whether the grant was approved.

The grant would cover up to \$400,000 of the costs associated with the \$800,000 effort. The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2IA7JHP>) reports the grant would include purchasing cameras and storage equipment.

Rapid City Police Chief Karl Jegeris told a city committee last week the department is "just slightly behind the curve" on body cams.

Proponents say body cams help prosecutors gain convictions and also can reduce the chance for lawsuits against police.

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

Pence was disappointed Flynn gave him inaccurate information

By KEN THOMAS and LORNE COOK, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence said Monday it was right to oust Michael Flynn as national security adviser for misleading him about the adviser's contacts with Russia.

"I was disappointed to learn that the facts that have been conveyed to me by General Flynn were inaccurate," Pence said when asked about Flynn at a news conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels. "I fully support the president's decision to ask for his resignation. It was the proper decision. It was handled properly and in a timely way."

Flynn's resignation came after reports that he had discussed sanctions with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. before President Donald Trump's inauguration, despite previously denying those conversations to Pence and other top officials. Flynn had said for weeks that he had not discussed U.S. sanctions in his conversations with the ambassador but later conceded the topic may have come up.

The matter, coming before Pence's first overseas trip as vice president, raised questions about Pence's

influence within Trump's administration and doubts by some European leaders about whether he speaks on behalf of Trump.

Trump spent the weekend at his South Florida resort considering his options for Flynn's replacement, interviewing candidates for the key national security job.

Iraqi troops advance on western Mosul as Mattis holds talks

By BRAM JANSSEN, Associated Press

SOUTH OF MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi forces advanced Monday into the southern outskirts of Mosul on the second day of a push to drive Islamic State militants from the city's western half, as the visiting U.S. defense secretary met with officials to discuss the fight against the extremists.

With aerial support from the U.S.-led coalition, Iraqi police and army troops launched the offensive Sunday, part of a 100-day-old campaign that has already driven the militants from the eastern half of the city.

Iraqi helicopters fired rockets at the village of Abu Saif early Monday, targeting a hill that overlooks the city's airport. By noon, the forces entered the village and gained control over much of the strategic hill as fighting was still raging.

Separately, militarized police in armored vehicles were moving toward the sprawling Ghazlani military base on the southwestern outskirts of the city.

A U.S.-led coalition has been providing close air support throughout the campaign to retake Iraq's second-largest city. U.S. special operations forces are embedded with some Iraqi units and thousands of U.S. troops are in Iraq providing logistical and other support.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Jim Mattis was holding discussions with U.S. and Iraqi officials, a week before he is expected to present a new strategy to President Donald Trump for defeating the Islamic State group.

"We're going to make certain that we've got good situational awareness of what we face as we work together and fight alongside each other," Mattis told reporters traveling with him.

Trump has repeatedly vowed to eliminate the extremist group but has provided few details about how his approach might differ from that of the Obama administration, which had partnered with Syrian and Iraqi forces to drive IS out of several towns and cities.

The battle for western Mosul, the extremist group's last major urban bastion in Iraq, is expected to be the most daunting yet.

The streets are older and narrower in that sector of the city, which stretches west from the Tigris River, forcing Iraqi soldiers to leave the relative safety of their armored vehicles. The presence of up to 750,000 civilians also poses a challenge.

Two suicide car bombers struck army and paramilitary forces west of Mosul on Monday, killing and wounding a number of troops, two army officers said, without specifying the number of casualties. A third suicide car bomber was blown up before reaching the troops, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

IS claimed responsibility for two attacks in an online statement, saying the attackers were British and Iraqi.

Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor and Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad and Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

Trump wigs in big demand for Austrian carnival-goers

VIENNA (AP) — Just about everyone wants to be Donald Trump this Carnival season in Austria — so much so that some costume rental shops have run out of wigs miming the U.S. president's signature hairstyle.

State broadcaster ORF cites Manuela Plank, who says she has taken to fashioning normal blond hairpieces into Trump wigs just to meet the demand. She said over the weekend she had run out of ready-made

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ones in her own store in the village of Pfaffstaetten, south of Vienna, and they are generally hard to find elsewhere.

Austria celebrates the pre-Lenten Carnival season with scores of balls and other masked events in the winter.

US Defense Secretary Mattis: US will stay in Iraq a while

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Monday he believes U.S. forces will be in Iraq and in the fight against Islamic State militants for a while, despite some rocky times between the two nations.

Speaking at the end of a day of meetings in Baghdad with military commanders and Iraqi political leaders, Mattis said he is open to any request from his military commanders to aid the battle to retake Mosul and launch a major battle to oust IS from the base of its so-called caliphate in Raqqa, Syria. He would not provide details.

Despite President Donald Trump's past threats to take Iraq's oil and his attempt to impose a travel ban that includes Iraqi citizens, Mattis said his meetings with Iraqi leaders underscored the partnership the U.S. has with the Iraqis.

He said there's no doubt that "the Iraqi people, the Iraqi military and the Iraqi political leadership recognize what they're up against and the value of the coalition and the partnership, in particular with the United States."

His optimistic words come on the heels of his earlier declaration that the U.S. does not intend to seize Iraqi oil, distancing himself from comments made by President Donald Trump that has rattled Iraq's leaders.

Trump's oil threat and his inclusion of Iraq in the administration's travel ban have roiled the nation and spurred local lawmakers to pressure al-Abadi to reduce cooperation with Washington.

"I think all of us here in this room, all of us in America have generally paid for our gas and oil all along, and I'm sure that we will continue to do that in the future," Mattis told reporters traveling with him. "We're not in Iraq to seize anybody's oil."

Trump brought up the prospect during the campaign, and he mentioned it again late last month during a visit to the CIA. He told the gathering there that, "To the victor belong the spoils," and added, "maybe you'll have another chance" to take the oil.

Despite those tensions, Mattis and Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, described an enduring partnership between the U.S. and Iraq.

"I imagine we'll be in this fight for a while and we'll stand by each other," Mattis said.

Townsend, who was standing by Mattis, declined to say how long the U.S. will stay in Iraq. But, he said, "I don't anticipate that we'll be asked to leave by the government of Iraq immediately after Mosul." He added, "I think that the government of Iraq realizes their very complex fight, and they're going to need the assistance of the coalition even beyond Mosul."

Townsend also acknowledged that U.S. forces are now operating closer and deeper into the fight with Iraq units as the battle to retake western Mosul entered its second day.

He said the change began in recent months during the successful fight to take back eastern Mosul, and is now happening more often. U.S. special operations forces have been working with the Iraqis, offering advice and assistance but initially they were only at the headquarters' level.

More recently they have been moving closer to the battlefield, working with brigade, battalion and sometimes smaller units. But they are generally with command and control units, not in combat on the front lines.

"We embedded advisers a bit further down into the formation," Townsend said.

Mattis' unannounced one-day stop in Iraq was his first as Pentagon chief and the first visit to the warzone by a senior member of the Trump administration. It comes as Mattis and his military leaders are nearing the end of a 30-day review of the Islamic State fight. He must send Trump a strategy to accelerate the

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battle in the next seven days.

Senior U.S. military officers said Monday that the fight in the more urban, heavily populated areas of western Mosul will require more precision airstrikes and probably smaller bombs that can take out a building or group of militants and leave surroundings intact.

Lt. Gen. Jeff Harrigian, the top Air Force commander in the Middle East, said troops responsible for calling in airstrikes are closer to the fight and can move forward with Iraqi units. They also have greater authority now to speak directly to pilots in the aircraft overhead, allowing them to launch strikes more quickly, he said.

Military leaders, said Harrigian, realized they could be more responsive now because the troops have built up trust with their Iraqi partners.

While Mattis and Townsend wouldn't talk about any future changes or accelerants in the war fight, various military options have been discussed in recent months. Among them: putting more troops in Iraq and Syria and boosting military aid to Kurdish fighters backed by the U.S.-led coalition.

More specifically, officials have talked about expanding efforts to train, advise and enable local Iraqi and Syrian forces, increasing intelligence and surveillance, and allowing U.S. troops to move forward more frequently with Iraqi soldiers nearer the front lines.

The Pentagon also would like more freedom to make daily decisions about how it fights the enemy. Current and former U.S. officials discussed the likely options on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to talk publicly.

In Syria, a possible option would be to send more U.S. forces, including combat troops, there as the Raqqa fight heats up.

Another move would be to provide heavy weapons and vehicles to the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds, and boost training. They have been the most effective force against IS in northern and eastern Syria, but the proposal is sensitive. Turkey, a key U.S. and NATO ally, considers the group a terrorist organization.

There are more than 5,100 U.S. military personnel in Iraq, and up to about 500 in Syria.

N. Korean envoy blasts Malaysians, calls for joint probe

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — North Korea's ambassador to Malaysia on Monday denounced the country's investigation into the death of the exiled half brother of North Korea's ruler, calling it politically motivated and demanding a joint probe amid increasingly bitter exchanges between the once-friendly nations.

Malaysia responded with its own accusations, with a foreign ministry statement saying the ambassador's comments were "culled from delusions, lies and half-truths." Earlier Monday, Malaysia said it was recalling its ambassador to Pyongyang.

The diplomatic spat comes in the wake of the death last week of Kim Jong Nam, who died after apparently being poisoned in the Kuala Lumpur airport.

The attack spiraled into diplomatic fury when Malaysia refused to hand over Kim's corpse to North Korean diplomats and proceeded with at least one autopsy over the diplomats' objections.

"The investigation by the Malaysian police is not for the clarification of the cause of the death and search for the suspect, but it is out of the political aim," North Korean Ambassador Kang Chol told reporters Monday, saying Malaysia was in collusion with South Korea, as Seoul tries to deflect attention from its own months-long political crisis.

Police "pinned the suspicion on us, and targeted the investigation against us," Kang said, calling on Malaysia to work with North Korea in a joint investigation. Kang referred to the dead man as "Kim Chol," the name on the passport found with Kim Jong Nam.

Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak told reporters later Monday that he had confidence in the objectivity of his country's police and doctors.

Malaysia had no reason to "paint the North Koreans in a bad light," he said, adding, "We expect them

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to understand that we apply the rule of law in Malaysia.”

Over the weekend, Kang said Malaysia may be “trying to conceal something,” an accusation that led the Malaysian foreign ministry to recall its ambassador to Pyongyang “for consultations” and summon Kang to a meeting.

Police have so far arrested four people carrying identity documents from North Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam. Those arrested include two women who were allegedly seen approaching Kim on Feb. 13 as he stood at a ticketing kiosk at the budget terminal of the Kuala Lumpur airport.

Surveillance video, obtained by Japan’s Fuji TV and often grainy and blurred, seems to show the two women approaching Kim Jong Nam from different directions that morning. One comes up behind him and appears to hold something over his mouth for a few seconds.

Then the women turn and calmly walk off in different directions. More video shows Kim, a long-estranged half-brother of North Korea’s ruler, walking up to airport workers and security officials, gesturing at his eyes and seemingly asking for help. He then walks alongside as they lead him to the airport clinic.

Fuji TV has not revealed how it acquired the video, which was taken by a series of security cameras as Kim arrived for a flight to Macau, where he had a home.

Kim, who was in his mid-40s, died shortly after the attack, en route to a hospital after suffering a seizure, Malaysian officials say.

Investigators are still looking for four North Korean men who arrived in Malaysia on different days beginning Jan. 31 and flew out the same day as the attack. The four were traveling on regular — not diplomatic — passports, Malaysia’s deputy national police chief, Noor Rashid Ibrahim, told reporters.

Indonesian officials said three of those men transited through Jakarta after the apparent assassination, leaving on a nighttime flight to Dubai.

Dubai police and the Dubai government media office did not immediately respond to requests for comment. State-owned airline Emirates declined to comment, citing policies on passenger confidentiality.

Police said they also want to question three other people. Noor Rashid said one was North Korean, but that police had not yet identified the other two. It was not clear if they were suspects or simply wanted for questioning.

Autopsy results on Kim Jong Nam could be released as early as Wednesday, said Health Minister S. Subramaniam.

Investigators want to speak to Kim Jong Nam’s next of kin to formally identify the body. He is believed to have two sons and a daughter with two women living in Beijing and Macau.

According to police, the Indonesian woman is a spa masseuse and the Malaysian man, a caterer, is believed to be her boyfriend. The Vietnamese woman works at an entertainment outlet and the North Korean man works in the information technology department of a Malaysian company, they said.

The Indonesian woman has told investigators that she was duped into thinking she was part of a comedy show prank.

The Malaysian foreign ministry said the government has kept the North Korean Embassy informed, telling them that because “the death occurred in Malaysian soil under mysterious circumstances, it is the responsibility of the Malaysian government to conduct an investigation to identify the cause of death.”

South Korea has been quick to blame North Korea for the death of Kim Jong Nam, who as the eldest son of the late dictator Kim Jong Il was once seen as the ruler-in-waiting of the isolated nation. However, he fell out of favor more than a decade ago, and has spent most of his time since then living in China or Southeast Asia.

The attack “showed the reckless and brutal nature of the North Korean government,” South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn said Monday during a National Security Council meeting.

Associated Press writers Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo, Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, and Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to eliminate an erroneous reference to Indonesian officials saying a North

Korean suspect flew from Jakarta to Bangkok after Kim Jong Nam died.

Supreme Court weighs case of Mexican boy slain across border

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sixty feet and the U.S.-Mexico border separated the unarmed, 15-year-old Mexican boy and the U.S. Border Patrol agent who killed him with a gunshot to the head early on a June evening in 2010.

U.S. officials chose not to prosecute Agent Jesus Mesa Jr. and the Obama administration refused a request to extradite him so that he could face criminal charges in Mexico. When the parents of Sergio Adrian Hernandez Guereca tried to sue Mesa in an American court for violating their son's rights, federal judges dismissed their claims.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday is hearing the parents' appeal, which their lawyers say is their last hope for some measure of justice.

The legal issues are different, but the Supreme Court case resembles the court battle over President Donald Trump's ban on travelers from seven majority Muslim nations in at least one sense. Courts examining both issues are weighing whether foreigners can have their day in U.S. courts.

Privacy experts also are watching the case because it could affect how courts treat global internet surveillance, particularly when foreigners are involved. It's there that the "Fourth Amendment question in Hernandez seems to matter most," George Washington University law professor Orin Kerr wrote on the Volokh Conspiracy blog.

The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Precisely what happened in the cement culvert that separates El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, is in dispute, although the competing accounts are legally irrelevant to the court's decision.

Sergio's family says he was messing around with his friends that day, playing a game in which they ran down the culvert from the Mexican side and up the American side to touch an 18-foot fence. Mesa arrived on a bicycle and detained one person while the others scampered back across the culvert, actually the dry bed of the Rio Grande River. He then shot Sergio as the boy ran toward a pillar supporting an overhead rail bridge. Mesa and other agents who arrived on the scene rode away on their bikes, without checking on the boy or offering medical aid, the family says.

The Justice Department said Mesa was trying to stop "smugglers attempting an illegal border crossing" and fired his gun after he came under a barrage of rocks. Mesa argues in his court filings that Sergio was among the rock throwers.

But Robert Hilliard, the family's lawyer, said U.S. officials met privately with the parents to explain the decision not to prosecute Mesa and told them that their son had not thrown rocks. A cellphone video appears to show that Sergio was running and trying to hide before he was shot.

Had Sergio been shot a few feet to the north, he would have been on American soil and U.S. courts would be open to his family, Hilliard said. There's no dispute that Mesa was on the U.S. side of the border, he said.

If the family is kept out of court, Hilliard said, the Supreme Court will be saying "that 100 percent of the conduct of a domestic police officer in the United States is unconstrained by the U.S. Constitution." The family is seeking at least \$10 million, Hilliard has said.

The Trump administration, like its predecessor, is arguing that the location of Hernandez's death, in Mexico, should be the end of the story.

The right to sue "should not be extended to aliens injured abroad," the government said in its court filing. In addition, the government said the parents' claims under the Fourth Amendment should be dismissed because its protections against unreasonable search and seizure don't apply to non-citizens outside the U.S. The government also said Mesa should be shielded from liability for the shooting, even if the family could prove he violated other rights Sergio might be able to assert.

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Judge Edward Prado of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals initially voted to allow the case to proceed because "if ever a case could be said to present an official abuse of power so arbitrary as to shock the conscience," Sergio's shooting appeared to be it. The full 5th Circuit later sided with Mesa.

Sergio's shooting was not an isolated border episode. Parents of a teenager killed in Nogales, Mexico, from gunshots fired across the border by a U.S. agent have filed a civil rights lawsuit that is being delayed until the Supreme Court rules.

The government's response to that shooting was notable because prosecutors are pursuing second-degree murder charges against Agent Lonnie Swartz.

In that episode, 16-year-old Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez was hit about 10 times by shots fired across the border from Arizona. The Border Patrol has said Swartz was defending himself against rock-throwers.

The boy's family says he was not involved and was walking home after playing basketball with friends. Swartz is on leave and his trial is set for June.

A 2013 report commissioned by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and written by an outside group faulted the agency for insufficiently investigating the 67 shootings that took place from 2010 to 2012 and questioned the use of force in some of those cases. The agency has said it has tightened its policies, particularly in response to rock-throwers.

Trans-Atlantic relations put to test in Trump's first month

By **RAF CASERT, Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — After President Donald Trump's raucous first month in office, Europeans have reacted with demonstrations, counter-barbs and sheer angst that a century of trans-Atlantic friendship may be sinking.

"Too much has happened," European Union leader Donald Tusk said Monday, "for us to pretend that everything is as it used to be."

The governments of some traditional allies have gone a step further, uniting with fundraising plans and a special conference to balance the new U.S. administration's reverse tack from Barack Obama's presidency on abortion policies.

Beyond Trump's orders on immigration, few of the administration's policies have unsettled many European nations as much as his ban on funding for international groups that perform abortions or provide information about abortions to women in developing nations.

Belgian Vice Premier Alexander De Croo was so shocked that words were not enough. He said European nations, fearful that thousands of women and girls will die without family planning information, already are cooperating to make up as much of funding gap as possible.

"What we are doing is rolling up our sleeves and saying instead of complaining we are going to take action," De Croo said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Ten EU nations wrote to the European Union's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, telling her that Europe cannot let down women in developing nations whatever the U.S. policy.

"Collectively we have a responsibility not to allow this to happen," the nations said in a common call against Trump's order, which massively expanded previous Republican bans on providing federal money to international family planning groups that perform abortions or provide abortion information.

Even if European nations were alarmed when past Republican administrations restricted international funding over abortion, the reaction against the Trump order was much more vociferous.

Within five days of Trump's action, Dutch Foreign Development Cooperation Minister Lilianne Ploumen said she received thousands of messages from over 150 countries, with many seeking information how to donate funds.

Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands already have committed 10 million euros (\$10.5 million) each and will host an international pledging conference March 2 to help cover the financial hole Trump left.

The Swedes showed their scorn toward Trump in a different way.

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Trump signed the anti-abortion order two days after taking office as seven men looked on in the Oval Office. Soon after, Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lovin posted on Facebook a photo that showed her signing a government document, surrounded by an all-woman cast. Lovin said she left it "to the observer to interpret the photo."

From the quirky to the fundamental, covering anything from abortion to trade, defense and relations with Russia, the doubts about Trump made it a tall order for U.S. Vice President Mike Pence during Monday's talks with Mogherini and other EU leaders on Monday.

Pence said that Trump sent him to Europe "to express the strong commitment of the United States to continued cooperation and partnership with the European Union."

The Europeans will take some convincing.

With intimidating language and caustic one-liners, Trump has called NATO, the old military bond between Europe and North America, "obsolete," described Britain's decision to leave the EU "a tremendous asset" and suggested the EU itself could soon well disintegrate.

Pence sought to assuage European allies who are constantly wondering what Trump's next quip or Twitter bomb will bring.

"Too many new, and sometimes surprising, opinions have been voiced," Tusk told reporters, with Pence standing by his side.

On Saturday, Trump alluded to past terror attacks in the EU and said: "Look what's happening last night in Sweden." The president's comment left Swedes confused since nothing remotely linked to extremist action had troubled the country on Friday night.

"Sweden? Terror attack? What has he been smoking? Questions abound," former Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt tweeted.

Trump said in tweet on Sunday: "My statement as to what's happening in Sweden was in reference to a story that was broadcast on @FoxNews concerning immigrants & Sweden."

In Munich last week, EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker described the United States in terms of "our American friends, if they should and want to remain our friends." And Tusk had put the United States in a "threat" category two weeks ago, insisting that Trump is contributing to the "highly unpredictable" outlook.

Pence sought to build bridges on Monday, not walls.

"Whatever our differences, our two continents share the same heritage, the same values and above all the same purpose," Pence said.

Frank Jordans in Bonn, Germany, Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen and Lorne Cook and Ken Thomas in Brussels contributed to this story.

Trump seeks national security adviser, health care strategy

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump's holiday weekend featured a raucous campaign rally, a health care strategy session, interviews for a new national security adviser — and even a few holes of golf.

Trump brought four contenders to his private club Mar-a-Lago club in Florida on Sunday as he seeks a replacement for retired Gen. Michael Flynn, who was ousted last week. Trump says he wants to make a decision in the next few days.

The president also drilled down on policy during his working weekend at Mar-a-Lago, attending a strategy session on how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, with top aides including newly-installed Health Secretary Tom Price and Mick Mulvaney, director of the White House budget office.

After weeks of tumult in Washington, Trump returned to Florida and his private club for a third straight weekend. On Twitter Saturday, he defended his young administration against reports of dysfunction,

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saying: "The White House is running VERY WELL. I inherited a MESS and am in the process of fixing it."

At the top of the president's agenda is filling the job of national security adviser.

Scheduled to meet with the president at Mar-a-Lago were his acting adviser, retired Army Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg; John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations; Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster and the superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump may interview more candidates. She also said candidates have been assured that "they can bring on their own team" to the position.

Trump pushed out Flynn last Monday after revelations that Flynn misled Vice President Mike Pence about discussing sanctions with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. during the presidential transition. Trump said in a news conference Thursday that he was disappointed by how Flynn had treated Pence, but did not believe Flynn had done anything wrong by having the conversations.

Trump's first choice to replace Flynn, retired Vice Adm. Robert Harward, turned down the offer.

Trump's chief of staff used appearances on the Sunday news shows to echo his boss' complaints about media coverage of the White House and cited what he said were multiple accomplishments in the first few weeks of the Trump presidency.

"The truth is that we don't have problems in the West Wing," Reince Priebus told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Priebus also denied a report that Trump advisers were in touch with Russian intelligence advisers during the 2016 campaign, and said he had assurances from "the top levels of the intelligence community" that it was false.

Meanwhile, Trump caused a stir in Sweden with a remark he made during a rally in Florida Saturday. At that time the president said "look what's happening last night in Sweden" as he alluded to past terror attacks in Europe. It wasn't clear what he was referring to and there were no high-profile situations reported in Sweden on Friday night.

The comment prompted a barrage of social media reaction Sunday, with hundreds of tweets, and a local newspaper published a list of events that happened on Friday that appeared to have no connections to any terror-like activity.

Trump subsequently said he was referring to something he saw on television.

On Sunday, Trump took to Twitter to explain: "My statement as to what's happening in Sweden was in reference to a story that was broadcast on @FoxNews concerning immigrants & Sweden."

On health care, top House Republicans last week presented a rough sketch of a health overhaul to rank-and-file lawmakers that would void President Barack Obama's 2010 law and replace it with conservative policies. It features a revamped Medicaid program for the poor, tax breaks to help people pay doctors' bills and federally subsidized state pools to assist those with costly medical conditions in buying insurance.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., has said Republicans would introduce legislation repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act after Congress returns in late February, but he offered no specifics.

Famine declared in part of South Sudan by government and UN

By JUSTIN LYNCH, Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Famine has been declared in two counties of South Sudan, according to an announcement by the South Sudan government and three U.N. agencies, which says the calamity is the result of prolonged civil war and an entrenched economic crisis that has devastated the war-torn East African nation.

The official classification of famine highlights the human suffering caused by South Sudan's three-year civil war and even as it is declared President Salva Kiir's government is blocking food aid to some areas, according to U.N. officials.

More than 100,000 people in two counties of Unity state are experiencing famine and there are fears that the famine will spread as an additional 1 million South Sudanese are on the brink of starvation, said the announcement.

"Our worst fears have been realized," said Serge Tissot, head of the Food and Agriculture Organization

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in South Sudan. He said the war has disrupted the otherwise fertile country, causing civilians to rely on "whatever plants they can find and fish they can catch."

Roughly 5.5 million people, or about 50 percent of South Sudan's population, are expected to be severely food insecure and at risk of death in the coming months, said the report. It added that nearly three-quarters of all households in the country suffer from inadequate food.

If food aid does not reach children urgently "many of them will die," said Jeremy Hopkins, head of the U.N. children's agency in South Sudan. Over 250,000 children are severely malnourished Hopkins said, meaning they are at risk of death.

It is not the first time South Sudan has experienced starvation. When it fought for independence from Sudan in 1998, the territory suffered from a famine spurred by civil war. Anywhere from 70,000 to several hundred thousand people died during that famine. But Monday's declaration of starvation is solely South Sudan's creation, and a U.N. official blamed the country's politicians for the humanitarian crisis.

"This famine is man-made," said Joyce Luma, head of the World Food Program in South Sudan. "There is only so much that humanitarian assistance can achieve in the absence of meaningful peace and security."

Perhaps nowhere else has civil war caused such a drastic decline in South Sudan's food security than in Central Equatoria state, according to the report. Traditionally South Sudan's breadbasket, Central Equatoria has been hit by fighting and ethnically targeted killings that began in July 2016 and have displaced over half a million residents and disrupted agricultural production. As a result, more than a third of Central Equatoria's population is now facing crisis or emergency levels of hunger, according to the report.

South Sudan's widespread hunger has been compounded by an economic crisis as well. South Sudan is experiencing severe inflation and the value of its currency has plummeted 800 percent in the past year, which has made food unaffordable for many families. When The Associated Press visited the western town of Aweil in September, the price of food had risen ten-fold in the previous 12 months.

Although it is not as significant as the effects of war and inflation, some of South Sudan's hunger crisis is the direct result of the government's action. South Sudanese government officials have blocked or placed constraints on the delivery of food aid to areas of the country, according to a U.N. official who insisted on anonymity because of lack of authorization to speak to the media. On Monday, the U.N. agencies said that unimpeded humanitarian access "is urgently needed."

Tens of thousands of people have died since civil war broke out in December 2013, and the U.N. warns that South Sudan is at risk of genocide. Since fighting in the capital of Juba killed hundreds of people in July, the war has uprooted more than 3 million people.

U.N. officials have contested that hunger in South Sudan is even more shocking because of the country's fertile land conditions. During her farewell briefing in November as head of the U.N. mission, Ellen Loj said that South Sudan has the resources and climate to feed itself.

"When I am flying up country I am always surprised to see all that fertile land and there is not anything," Loj said. "You could feed yourself plenty and I hope peace will come to South Sudan."

House GOP hails health plan that Democrats call inadequate

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top House Republicans say their outline for replacing President Barack Obama's health care law is a pathway to greater flexibility and lower costs for consumers. Democrats see a road to ruin for millions who'd face lost coverage and higher medical expenses, particularly the poor.

The plan "ensures more choices, lower costs and greater control over your health care," according to talking points GOP leaders handed lawmakers heading home to face constituents during this week's recess.

Democrats say the proposal would threaten the coverage 20 million Americans gained under Obama's 2010 overhaul. "It's like rationing" health care, said Rep. Frank Pallone of New Jersey, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's top Democrat.

The GOP package lacks details, which are a work in progress, and has no estimates of cost or the num-

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ber of people it would serve. It's also uncertain if enough Republicans would support it — a hurdle that's flummoxed leaders over seven years of trying to dismantle Obama's law.

The plan's highlights and each side's views:

MEDICAID: Serves 77 million people, mostly the poor and those with nursing home costs. Benefits go to anyone who qualifies.

GOP lawmakers want states to receive fixed federal sums per beneficiary. These would likely be less generous than today's payments, which generally cover costs automatically. They'd give more power to states to decide who and which services are covered, and phase out Obama's expansion for additional lower-earning people that 31 states accepted.

Republicans: The program, which they have long advocated cutting, is unsustainable. Its costs are projected to grow from \$390 billion this year to nearly \$500 billion in 2022. It's swamping states, devouring an average one-fifth of their budgets. States should have more freedom to shape programs.

Democrats: The GOP will cut Medicaid's budget and cash-strapped states can't make up the difference. That means fewer recipients with higher out-of-pocket costs, dwindling menus of services covered and lower payments to providers.

INDIVIDUAL MANDATE: If people don't get policies at work or from government programs like Medicare or veterans' coverage, Obama's law requires them to buy it privately or pay tax penalties. Millions purchase insurance on online exchanges the statute established, and nearly 9 in 10 get federal subsidies.

The GOP would erase the penalty and phase out subsidies, replacing them with a tax credit for everyone not insured on the job or by government programs. The amount is undecided, but it would be larger for older people and not vary by people's income. It would cover dependent children up to age 26 and be paid monthly. If one's tax liability is smaller than the credit, the IRS would refund the difference with a check.

Republicans: Unlike Obama's subsidies for use on exchanges, the GOP tax credit lets people spend it for any state-approved policies. Adjusting the credit for income like Obama's subsidies, which are higher for the poor, creates disincentives for work. Consumers would curb medical expenses because they could deposit leftover funds into health savings accounts.

Democrats: A boon to better-off people at the expense of poorer consumers, who today get bigger subsidies than those in higher income brackets. Unlike Obama's subsidies, the GOP credit is not adjusted for local health care costs.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS: People can already contribute money to these tax-favored funds if they also have health insurance with high annual deductibles. Once the deductible is met, money in the funds can be tapped to pay medical bills. This year's contributions are capped at \$6,750 for families.

Republicans would increase contribution limits, perhaps letting them nearly double. Money could be spent for over-the-counter products.

Republicans: Creates incentives for people to shop for medical care and curb spending, which helps control costs.

Democrats: A gift to the rich. Useless for low- and middle-income families already having trouble saving money. Their savings would pale compared to potential bills for serious health problems.

HIGH-RISK POOLS: More than 30 states tried these government-subsidized funds for people whose pre-existing medical conditions made them costly to insure. They had a problematic history, often losing money and with coverage limits and long waits.

The GOP would create federal grants states could use to help finance pools or any effort to stabilize their insurance markets, like helping people pay premiums.

Republicans: An innovative way to let states design programs to help "their most vulnerable patients," the talking points say.

Democrats: Historically, the pools get less government money than needed to function well. No substitute for Obama's mandated individual coverage, fines and subsidies.

How often have athletes snubbed the White House?

By PAUL NEWBERRY, AP National Writer

The routine is familiar. The president makes a few bad jokes. The championship-winning team presents the leader of the free world with a personalized jersey. Everyone smiles for the cameras.

Nothing political about that, right?

Not exactly.

In a divided nation, everything is political.

While presidents have been snubbed before, six players from the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots took it to another level by preemptively turning down an expected invitation from President Trump.

Rest assured, they won't be the last to mix sports and politics.

"The balance of power in professional sports now rests more with the performers than the owners," said Stephen Mosher, a professor of sports management and media at Ithaca College. "Without a labor force, (Patriots owner) Robert Kraft has nothing but an empty stadium. He has to let his employees make these political statements if he wants to win. He has to. There's too many different political views held by players in the National Football League.

"Actually," Mosher added, "I think it's quite refreshing."

The Patriots were part of the political discourse even before they dramatically rallied from 25 points down to beat the Atlanta Falcons in the first Super Bowl to go to overtime.

Kraft is a friend of the 45th president, and quarterback Tom Brady drew plenty of scrutiny when one of Trump's "Make America Great Again" caps was spotted in his locker at the start of the contentious presidential campaign.

Then, with the Patriots still in the midst of their Super Bowl celebration, tight end Martellus Bennett made it clear he had no intention of visiting Trump's White House.

Five teammates — defensive back Devin McCourty, running back LeGarrette Blount, defensive end Chris Long, linebacker Dont'a Hightower and defensive tackle Alan Branch — quickly followed suit. Most pinned their decision on political differences with the Republican administration.

Significant, to be sure.

But nothing new.

SNUBBING THE WHITE HOUSE

Since the tradition of inviting sports champions to the nation's most famous home really began to take off under President Reagan, some two dozen athletes have turned down the opportunity.

That list includes Brady, who didn't attend a 2015 celebration because of what the quarterback insisted was a "family commitment" but others speculated was because of some unflattering comments a spokesman for President Obama made about the Deflategate scandal.

For some, a trip to the White House was no big deal.

Larry Bird shrugged off an invitation from Reagan after the Boston Celtics won an NBA title, crabbily explaining, "If the president wants to see me, he knows where to find me." After winning one of his six championships, Michael Jordan said he preferred to spend time with his family rather than hang with President George H.W. Bush. Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison turned down not one, but two chances to visit the White House, pointing out — quite correctly — that he wouldn't have gotten either of those invitations if his team had lost the Super Bowl.

Others cited political differences with those in power in declining.

Boston Bruins goaltender Tim Thomas declined to join the 2011 Stanley Cup champions on their White House visit, writing on social media that the government "has grown out of control, threatening the Rights, Liberties, and Property of the People."

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Baltimore Ravens center Matt Birk passed on a chance to meet with Obama because of the president's support of Planned Parenthood. Golfer Tom Lehman was even more outspoken when rebuffing a president, calling Bill Clinton "a draft-dodging baby killer."

HOW IT ALL STARTED

In 1865, not long after the end of the Civil War and before professional baseball was even a thing, President Andrew Johnson met with a pair of amateur teams, the Washington Nationals and Brooklyn Atlantics, according to the White House Historical Association. Given the tumultuous term he would serve after inheriting the office from Abraham Lincoln, Johnson probably figured he could use all the positive publicity he could get.

President Calvin Coolidge invited the hometown Senators for a visit after their dramatic seven-game victory in the 1924 World Series, which proved to be a prudent move. Washington may be first in war and first in peace, but it's still stuck on that one Series title.

More teams would visit the White House in the years to come, but Mosher points to Richard Nixon as the first president who really pushed for a connection to athletes of all stripes, with some speculating that it was a way to make up for his failed football dreams. Most notably, he began the practice of placing congratulatory phone calls right to the locker room while teams were right in the midst of their championship celebrations.

Reagan, who knew how to work the camera far better than Nixon, stepped up the game by using the White House as a backdrop for well-choreographed photo ops with champions from a wide range of sports. While these appearances were passed off as nothing more than a chance to dole out some well-deserved kudos while escaping the divisive issues of the day, the Gipper surely knew they had everything to do with politics.

"Basking in the reflective glory" of a championship team, as Mosher puts it, never hurts when election time rolls around. "They keep telling us over and over again that sports and politics don't mix," he said. "But that's simply not the case."

WHAT'S NEXT

Colin Kaepernick's season-long protest against police brutality and abuses in the justice system seems to have sparked a new activism among professional athletes.

The quarterback's simple act of kneeling during the national anthem "is very different than what I've studied in the past," Mosher said. "He did it so politely, with so much respect. He wasn't calling attention to himself. The story only became a story when people noticed it. That stood in stark contrast to the ranting and raving that the political campaign was putting in front of the American public."

In Week 1 of the NFL season, Bennett raised his fist in a show of support.

Now that the season is over, he's plunging into another fiery issue.

Given the divided state of the nation, more athletes are sure to follow.

No matter who's in the White House.

Follow Paul Newberry on Twitter at www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963 . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/paul-newberry> .

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

Record All-Star: Davis scores 52, West tops East 192-182

By TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Move over, Wilt. After 55 years, one of your records is no more.

Anthony Davis took care of that.

At the defense-free dunkfest that now serves as the NBA's All-Star Game, Davis scored a record 52 points and led the Western Conference past the Eastern Conference, 192-182 on Sunday night. He made 26 of

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39 shots, scored 20 points in the fourth quarter and became the first player since Kobe Bryant in 2011 to win MVP honors on his home floor.

"It was amazing," Davis said. "That's what I wanted to do ... get the MVP for this crowd, for this city. This one definitely means a lot to me."

Davis was the star of stars in a game where the teams combined for more points than in any other All-Star contest. It came on a night when Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant provided a glimpse of the past, Giannis Antetokounmpo had more dunks — 12 — than his name has consonants and LeBron James became the first player to eclipse 300 points in an All-Star career.

Being linked to Wilt Chamberlain, who had 42 points in the 1962 game, only made it more special, Davis said.

"The next one I'm going to try to do is 100 points," Davis said.

He even outdid Westbrook, who had 41 points in just 20 minutes — which ordinarily would have been enough to merit him what would have been a third straight MVP award.

Not this time. It was Davis hoisting the trophy, thanks to his West teammates deferring to their host time and again.

"It shows our guys recognize what the weekend is about," West coach Steve Kerr said

Durant had a triple-double with 21 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Stephen Curry added 21 points for the West. And after the game, word came that Sacramento is trading All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins to New Orleans as part of a deal that will involve five players and two draft picks.

Cousins played only two minutes. The New Orleans fans will see much more of him soon enough.

Antetokounmpo had 30 points for the East. James scored 23 — including a 3-pointer from the midcourt logo — while Cleveland teammate Kyrie Irving added 22 points and 14 assists.

"There were a few too many transition baskets allowed," East coach Brad Stevens deadpanned. "But I think that was strictly coaching."

Davis became the story that overshadowed The Story coming into this game, that being the Durant-Westbrook whatever.

If any animus remains between Durant and Westbrook, it was hidden. They passed each other the ball in the pregame layup line, and not long after Westbrook checked into the game the former Oklahoma City teammates provided one of the game's top highlights — a give-and-go, capped by Durant lobbing the ball to set Westbrook up for a dunk.

"OH MY GOD! WHAT JUST HAPPENED?" Curry shouted on the West bench, which moments later broke into celebration. Players jumped and threw hands skyward, Curry tossing a cupful of ice water onto a smiling Durant amid it all.

"It was a nice give-and-go, man," Westbrook said.

Added Durant: "It was a great basketball play. He was open so I threw him the lob. He can jump really high so yeah, good play."

Kerr said that set the West up for the rest of the night.

"I guess that's kind of the beauty of the game," Kerr said. "You just let the game break the ice, and that play, I thought, broke the ice."

Westbrook scored 12 points — all on 3s — in a 63-second span late in the third quarter, coming off the bench and firing over and over and over again. And then he opened the fourth quarter with another 3, giving him 34 points in just under 14 minutes played to that point.

It looked like he was a cinch for MVP honors, until Davis scored 20 points in the fourth.

"He did a good job," Westbrook said, "and got it done."

TIP-INS

East: Irving also led the East in rebounds with seven. ... Isaiah Thomas scored 20 for the East. Kyle Lowry scored 19 points and DeMar DeRozan added 16. ... No East player logged more than 24 minutes.

West: Curry took cover in the third quarter, comically hitting the deck face-first as Antetokounmpo went in for yet another dunk. So later in the quarter, Antetokounmpo went over Curry for a rebound slam —

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one that left Curry staring at the scoreboard for a replay.

CELEB WATCH

A huge roar greeted Jon Batiste, who performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" pregame, when he started the song.

It wasn't for him.

That happened to be the moment when John Legend — the halftime performer — and Chrissy Teigen were shown at their sideline seats on the video screens around the arena. And a louder cheer came not long afterward when Beyonce and Jay Z got on-screen.

Among the other celebs in the seats: Guy Fieri, Dave Chappelle, Julius Erving, Alonzo Mourning, Bill Russell, Oscar Robertson and The Roots.

UP NEXT

The next All-Star Game is Feb. 18, 2018, in Los Angeles, which will host for a record sixth time.

Trump steps up security aide search, focuses on health care

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump brought more contenders for national security adviser to his Palm Beach club for in-person interviews Sunday, hoping to fill the job in the coming days as he seeks to refocus his young administration.

Trump also drilled down on policy during his working weekend at Mar-a-Lago, attending a strategy session on how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, with top aides including Health Secretary Tom Price and Mick Mulvaney, director of the White House budget office.

While in Florida, the president found time for a few holes of golf on Saturday and Sunday. And with his wife, Melania, he stopped by a fundraiser Saturday night at his private Palm Beach club, put on by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Trump also took to Twitter to explain a comment he made about violence in Sweden at a Saturday rally. He suggested that some kind of major incident had taken place in the country Friday night, but on Sunday he said he was referring to something he saw on Fox News. That might have been a report Friday night about the influx of immigrants to Sweden.

Trump also spoke to the leaders of Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago.

After weeks of tumult in Washington, Trump returned to Florida and his private club for a third straight weekend. High on Trump's to-do list is finding a replacement for ousted Michael Flynn as national security adviser.

Scheduled to discuss the job with the president at Mar-a-Lago were his acting adviser, retired Army Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg; John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations; Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster and the superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump may interview more candidates and hopes to make the decision soon.

Trump pushed out Flynn last Monday after revelations that Flynn misled Vice President Mike Pence about discussing sanctions with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. during the presidential transition. Trump said in a news conference Thursday that he was disappointed by how Flynn had treated Pence, but did not believe Flynn had done anything wrong by having the conversations.

Trump's first choice to replace Flynn, retired Vice Adm. Robert Harward, turned down the offer.

Trump's chief of staff used appearances on the Sunday news shows to echo his boss' complaints about media coverage of the White House and cited what he said were multiple accomplishments in the first few weeks of the Trump presidency.

"The truth is that we don't have problems in the West Wing," Reince Priebus told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Priebus also denied a report that Trump advisers were in touch with Russian intelligence advisers during the 2016 campaign, and said he had assurances from "the top levels of the intelligence community" that

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House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., has said Republicans would introduce legislation repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act after Congress returns in late February, but he offered no specifics.

The day of presidential business follows a return on Saturday to campaign mode when Trump held a rally before thousands of supporters at an airplane hangar in Melbourne. He revived campaign promises to build a border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, reduce regulations and create jobs — and continued his attacks on the media.

The rally was put on by Trump's campaign, not the White House. Trump told reporters he was holding a campaign rally because "life is a campaign."

Trump, who held a rally in the same spot in Florida in September, clearly relished being back in front of his supporters, welcoming the cheers and letting one supporter up on stage to offer praise for the president. He also enjoyed reliving his victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Trump has lurched from crisis to crisis since the inauguration, including the botched rollout of his immigration order, struggles confirming his Cabinet picks and a near-constant stream of reports about strife within his administration.

Priebus would have none of it.

"The fact of the matter is the level of accomplishment that he's put forward so far in the first 30 days has been remarkable," he told CBS' "Face the Nation."

Malaysia recalls ambassador to North Korea

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's ambassador to North Korea has been recalled from Pyongyang amid rising tensions between the countries over the death in Kuala Lumpur of an estranged scion of North Korea's ruling family.

The Malaysian foreign ministry said in a Monday statement that it had recalled its ambassador "for consultations" and had summoned Kang Chol, North Korea's ambassador to Kuala Lumpur, "to seek an explanation on the accusations he made against the Government of Malaysia."

Kang said Malaysia may be "trying to conceal something" and that the autopsy on Kim Jong Nam was carried out "unilaterally and excluding our attendance." Kim Jong Nam is the half brother of North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un.

The statement called Kang's comments "baseless," adding it "takes very seriously any unfounded attempt to tarnish its reputation."

Draft DHS guidelines sharpen focus on those in US illegally

By HOPE YEN and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department has drafted sweeping new guidelines aimed at aggressively detaining and deporting immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, according to a pair of memoranda signed by DHS Secretary John Kelly.

The memos dated Friday seek to implement President Donald Trump's broad directive to crack down on illegal immigration. Kelly outlines plans to hire thousands of additional enforcement agents, expand on the priority list for immigrants marked for immediate removal and enlist local law enforcement to help make arrests, according to a person briefed on the documents, who confirmed the details to The Associated Press.

"The surge of illegal immigration at the southern border has overwhelmed federal agencies and resources and has created a significant national security vulnerability to the United States," Kelly wrote.

He said apprehensions on the southern U.S. border had seen an additional surge of 10,000 to 15,000 per month from 2015 to 2016.

The memos leave in place one directive from the Obama administration, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which allows young people who were brought into the country illegally as children to stay and obtain work permits. The program has protected about 750,000 immigrants since its inception in 2012. Trump has previously indicated his desire to end the program, but at his press conference last week indicated that he would "show great heart" toward the program.

The memos were reported first by The Washington Post and other news organizations. A U.S. official familiar with the documents did not dispute the accuracy of the memos signed by Kelly, which were originally scheduled for release Friday before they were postponed for White House review.

A White House official said the White House has raised objections with the documents and is working with DHS to finalize the policy. The official was not authorized to discuss the process publicly and insisted on anonymity.

Under the draft guidelines, Kelly seeks to "expeditiously hire" 10,000 more enforcement agents and 5,000 Border Patrol officers.

Seeking to fulfill Trump's campaign promise to build a wall along the Mexican border, Kelly also calls on Customs and Border Protection to "immediately begin planning, design, construction and maintenance of a wall, including the attendant lighting, technology (including sensors), as well as patrol and access roads." He describes the wall as necessary to deter illegal immigration and calls it a "critical component" of Trump's overall border security strategy.

He says the department will also prioritize for more immediate removal those who have been convicted of a crime; charged with a crime; committed fraud in connection with a matter before a government agency; abused any program related to public benefits; or have not complied with orders to leave the country.

Joanne Lin, senior legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, criticized the proposed guidelines as a Trump style of immigration enforcement in which "due process, human decency and common sense are treated as inconvenient obstacles on the path to mass deportation."

"The Trump administration is intent on inflicting cruelty on millions of immigrant families across the country," she said in a statement.

US vice president visits former Nazi concentration camp

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

DACHAU, Germany (AP) — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence paid a somber visit to the site of the Dachau concentration camp on Sunday, walking along the grounds where tens of thousands of people were killed during World War II.

Pence was joined by his wife, Karen, and the couple's 23-year-old daughter, Charlotte, as they toured the exhibits at the former concentration camp that was established by the Nazis in 1933 near Munich.

The vice president was accompanied by Abba Naor, a survivor of the camp, and other dignitaries as he passed through the wrought-iron gate bearing the inscription, "Arbeit macht frei," or "Work sets you free." The Pences placed a wreath beneath the International Memorial at the center of the camp, toured the barracks and viewed the ovens inside the crematorium.

The Pences also stopped at religious memorials at the site and later attended a church service on the camp's grounds.

The concentration camp for political prisoners and Jews near Dachau was the first such facility in Germany. In 1935 other groups, among them Jehovah's Witnesses, gays and emigrants, were sent there. After a larger facility was built, more political prisoners and more than 11,000 German and Austrian Jews were sent there in 1938. In time, more than 200,000 people from across Europe were held at Dachau and subsidiary camps, and more than 40,000 died. The camp was liberated by U.S. forces in April 1945.

Former Vice President Joe Biden visited Dachau in 2015.

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Making his first overseas trip as vice president, Pence spoke to foreign diplomats and defense officials at the Munich Security Conference on Saturday and met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other world leaders.

Shortly after his arrival in Brussels later Sunday, Pence said the American people appreciate the nation's alliance with Belgium and he's looking forward to his meetings with European Union and NATO leaders on Monday.

Follow Ken Thomas on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

Trump says remark about Sweden referred to something on TV

By MATTI HUUHTANEN, Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Swedes have been scratching their heads and ridiculing President Donald Trump's remarks that suggested a major incident had happened in the Scandinavian country. The American president now says he was referring to something he saw on television.

During a rally in Florida on Saturday, Trump said "look what's happening last night in Sweden" as he alluded to past terror attacks in Europe. It wasn't clear what he was referring to and there were no high-profile situations reported in Sweden on Friday night.

The comment prompted a barrage of social media reaction on Sunday, with hundreds of tweets, and a local newspaper published a list of events that happened on Friday that appeared to have no connections to any terror-like activity.

On Sunday, Trump took to Twitter to explain: "My statement as to what's happening in Sweden was in reference to a story that was broadcast on @FoxNews concerning immigrants & Sweden." A White House spokeswoman, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, says that Trump was talking about rising crime and recent incidents in general, not referring to a specific issue.

The president may be referring to a segment aired Friday night on the Fox News Channel show "Tucker Carlson Tonight" that reported Sweden had accepted more than 160,000 asylum-seekers last year but that only 500 of the migrants had found jobs in Sweden. The report, which was illustrated with video of broken windows and fires, went on to say that a surge in gun violence and rape had followed the influx of immigrants.

Reacting to Trump's original remarks, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Catarina Axelsson said that the government wasn't aware of any "terror-linked major incidents." Sweden's Security Police said it had no reason to change the terror threat level.

"Nothing has occurred which would cause us to raise that level," agency spokesman Karl Melin said.

Former Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt tweeted, "Sweden? Terror attack? What has he been smoking? Questions abound."

Addressing Trump in an article on Sunday, the Aftonbladet tabloid wrote, "This happened in Sweden Friday night, Mr President," and then listed in English some events that included a man being treated for severe burns, an avalanche warning and police chasing a drunken driver.

One Twitter user said, "After the terrible events #lastnightinSweden, IKEA have sold out of this" and posted a mock Ikea instruction manual on how to build a "Border Wall."

Sweden, which has a long reputation for welcoming refugees and migrants, had a record 163,000 asylum applications in 2015. The country has since cut back on the number it annually accepts.

Its most recent attack linked to extremism happened in the capital, Stockholm, in December 2010. An Iraqi-born Swede detonated two explosive devices, including one that killed him but no one else.

In the month he has been president, Trump's remarks and those of his staff have fueled numerous news media "fact checks" pointing out inaccuracies and falsehoods. On the subject of terrorism, Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway referred to a "Bowling Green Massacre" that never occurred.

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Former foreign minister Bildt told Swedish Radio after his initial confounded tweet Sunday that he sees danger in how Trump relates to facts.

"If we are in a situation where there is tension in the world, we stand between war and peace," he said. "If we then have a president who spreads lots of false rumors, it can be truly dangerous."

Associated Press writer Douglass K. Daniel in Washington contributed to this report.

SpaceX launches rocket from NASA's historic moon pad

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A SpaceX rocket soared from NASA's long-idled moonshot pad Sunday, sending up space station supplies from the exact spot where astronauts embarked on the lunar landings nearly a half-century ago.

It was the first flight from NASA's legendary Launch Complex 39A since the shuttle program ended almost six years ago, and SpaceX's first liftoff from Florida since a rocket explosion last summer.

The crowds at Kennedy Space Center watched eagerly as the unmanned Falcon 9 rocket took flight with a cargo ship bound for the International Space Station. They got barely 10 seconds of viewing before clouds swallowed up the Falcon as it thundered skyward.

As an extra special treat, SpaceX landed its leftover booster back at Cape Canaveral eight minutes after liftoff, a feat accomplished only twice before. Most of SpaceX's eight successful booster landings — rocket recycling at its finest — have used ocean platforms. As they did during the shuttle era, sonic booms heralded Sunday's return.

SpaceX employees at company flight headquarters in Southern California cheered as the 15-story booster landed upright at its designated parking spot at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

SpaceX chief Elon Musk celebrated the successful touchdown via Twitter.

"Baby came back," he tweeted.

The celebratory roar grew when the Dragon cargo ship successfully reached orbit a couple minutes later. It will reach the space station Wednesday, delivering 5,500 pounds of food, clothes and experiments.

It was SpaceX's second launch attempt in a row. Saturday's effort was foiled by last-minute rocket concerns. The repairs paid off, and even the clouds parted enough to ensure a safe flight.

Musk said he's honored to use Launch Complex 39A. The company hopes to launch astronauts from this very spot next year, bringing U.S. crew launches back to home soil after a longer-than-intended hiatus. SpaceX Mars missions, first robots then people, could follow from here.

If the pad weathered Sunday's launch well, another Falcon could be standing there for a satellite send-up in just two weeks.

Kennedy Space Center's director Robert Cabana, a former shuttle commander who flew four times from 39A, is thrilled to see the pad used for commercial flights like this "instead of just sitting out there and rusting away." It's a stark contrast, he noted, to the depression that followed the final shuttle mission in 2011.

"It's just really an exciting time," Cabana said just before liftoff.

It was a momentous comeback for SpaceX. The last time SpaceX had a rocket ready to fly from Cape Canaveral, it blew up on a neighboring pad during prelaunch testing on Sept. 1. Although the company successfully returned to flight last month from California, the focus was on getting leased Launch Complex 39A ready for action given that the pad with the accident was left unusable. The damaged pad should be back in action later this year.

Built in the mid-1960s for the massive Saturn V moon rockets, Launch Complex 39A has now seen 95 launches. Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins left Earth from here on July 16, 1969, on the first moon-landing mission. The very first space shuttle pilots, John Young and Robert Crippen, soared from here on April 12, 1981. And in a grand shuttle finale, Atlantis took off from here on July 8, 2011.

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NASA signed over 39A to SpaceX in 2014 under a 20-year lease.

SpaceX has spent tens of millions of dollars to make 39A Falcon-ready. By the time astronauts climb into a Dragon capsule to fly to the space station, Shotwell said, pad renovations will exceed \$100 million.

Last week, the U.S. Government Accountability Office warned the commercial crew launches by SpaceX and Boeing are at risk of slipping into 2019. "The hell we won't fly before 2019," SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell told reporters in response.

In a tweet Saturday, Musk said the company has already "retired" so much research and development risk on the crew Dragon capsule "that I feel very confident of 2018."

As for the second-stage steering issue that cropped up Saturday, SpaceX hustled to replace an engine part before Sunday morning's try. Musk said he personally called Saturday's launch off, saying he was unwilling to risk something going wrong.

For SpaceX employees long accustomed to breaking new ground, Sunday was "a huge deal for us," according to SpaceX's Dragon mission manager, Jessica Jensen.

"I'm sure the team will be out celebrating," Jensen told reporters. "We'll be out tonight if you want to find us."

Online:

SpaceX: <http://www.spacex.com/>

NASA: <https://www.nasa.gov/>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2017. There are 314 days left in the year. This is Presidents Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 20, 1942, Lt. Edward "Butch" O'Hare became the U.S. Navy's first flying ace of World War II by shooting down five Japanese bombers while defending the aircraft carrier USS Lexington in the South Pacific. (O'Hare, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, was killed in action in 1943; Chicago's O'Hare International Airport is named for him.)

On this date:

In 1792, President George Washington signed an act creating the United States Post Office Department.

In 1816, the opera buffa "The Barber of Seville" by Gioachino Rossini premiered in Rome under its original title, "Almaviva, or the Useless Precaution."

In 1862, William Wallace Lincoln, the 11-year-old son of President Abraham Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, died at the White House, apparently of typhoid fever.

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an immigration act which excluded "idiots, imbeciles, feebleminded persons, epileptics, insane persons" from being admitted to the United States.

In 1915, the Panama Pacific International Exposition opened in San Francisco (the fair lasted until December).

In 1938, Anthony Eden resigned as British foreign secretary following Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's decision to negotiate with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. Rabinowitz*, ruled 5-3 that authorities making a lawful arrest did not need a warrant to search and seize evidence in an area that was in the "immediate and complete control" of the suspect.

In 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Project Mercury's Friendship 7 spacecraft.

In 1971, the National Emergency Warning Center in Colorado erroneously ordered U.S. radio and TV stations off the air; some stations heeded the alert, which was not lifted for about 40 minutes.

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In 1987, a bomb left by Unabomber Ted Kaczynski exploded behind a computer store in Salt Lake City, seriously injuring store owner Gary Wright. Soviet authorities released Jewish activist Josef Begun.

In 1998, Tara Lipinski of the U.S. won the ladies' figure skating gold medal at the Nagano Olympics; fellow American Michelle Kwan won the silver.

In 2003, a fire sparked by pyrotechnics broke out during a concert by the group Great White at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, killing 100 people and injuring about 200 others.

Ten years ago: In a victory for President George W. Bush, a divided federal appeals court ruled that Guantanamo Bay detainees could not use the U.S. court system to challenge their indefinite imprisonment. In New Orleans, thousands of hurricane-weary residents joined with rowdy visitors to celebrate the second Mardi Gras since Katrina.

Five years ago: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (dih-MEE'-tree med-VYEH'-dyev) held an unprecedented meeting with opposition leaders, who said they were encouraged by his promises to make it easier for anti-Kremlin parties to take part in elections. Former senator and astronaut John Glenn celebrated the 50th anniversary of his history-making space flight at Ohio State University by kicking off a forum about NASA's future.

One year ago: Six people were shot to death in the Kalamazoo, Michigan, area; an Uber driver is charged with murder and attempted murder in the apparently random attacks. Donald Trump barreled to victory in South Carolina's Republican primary; Hillary Clinton pulled out a crucial win over Bernie Sanders in Nevada's Democratic caucuses. A funeral Mass was held for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Lindsey Vonn clinched a record 20th World Cup crystal globe title in La Thuile (lah tweel), Italy, surpassing Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark.

Today's Birthdays: Gloria Vanderbilt is 93. Actor Sidney Poitier is 90. Racing Hall of Famer Bobby Unser is 83. Actress Marj Dusay is 81. Jazz-soul singer Nancy Wilson is 80. Racing Hall of Famer Roger Penske is 80. Singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie is 76. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Phil Esposito is 75. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is 75. Movie director Mike Leigh is 74. Actress Brenda Blethyn is 71. Actress Sandy Duncan is 71. Rock musician J. Geils is 71. Actor Peter Strauss is 70. Rock musician Billy Zoom (X) is 69. Rock singer-musician-producer Walter Becker (Steely Dan) is 67. Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is 66. Country singer Kathie Baillie is 66. Actor John Voldstad is 66. Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is 63. Actor Anthony Stewart Head is 63. Country singer Leland Martin is 60. Actor James Wilby is 59. Rock musician Sebastian Steinberg is 58. Comedian Joel Hodgson (HAHD'-suhn) is 57. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Charles Barkley is 54. Rock musician Ian Brown (Stone Roses) is 54. Actor Willie Garson is 53. Actor French Stewart is 53. Actor Ron Eldard is 52. Model Cindy Crawford is 51. Actor Andrew Shue is 50. Actress Lili Taylor is 50. Actress Andrea Savage is 44. Singer Brian Littrell is 42. Actress Lauren Ambrose is 39. Actor Jay Hernandez is 39. Actress Chelsea Peretti is 39. Country musician Coy Bowles is 38. Actress Majandra Delfino is 36. Singer-musician Chris Thile (THEE'-lee) is 36. Actress-singer Jessie Mueller is 34. Comedian Trevor Noah is 33. Actor Jake Richardson is 32. Actress Daniella Pineda is 30. Singer Rihanna is 29. Actor Jack Falahee is 28.

Thought for Today: "There is no hope of joy except in human relations." — Antoine de Saint-Exupery, French author-aviator (1900-1944).