

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 1 of 46

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Johnson Agency Ad
- 1- Harry Implement Help Wanted
- 2 - Stat sheet from Boys Britton game
- 3 - Prismatic Sensations
- 4 - State waterfowls ask to cut nonresident licenses
- 5- Do you know how to save on online brokerage fees?
- 6- Dr. Holm's Column
- 7- Bowling Scores
- 7 - GDI Living Heart Fitness Ad
- 8- Upcoming GDI Live Events
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Local Weather Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 10- Today's Weather Climate
- 10- National Weather map
- 11 - Daily Devotional
- 12- News from the Associated Press

Wednesday, March 1

ASH WEDNESDAY

United Methodist: Kid Zone at 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 2

Boys Regional Semifinals at Webster

Friday, March 3

Girls' Basketball Sweet 16 at a site to be determined

MS All State Band at Huron

State Debate at Mitchell

United Methodist: World Day of Prayer. 9:30 a.m. MOMS Group.

Saturday, March 4

MS All State Band in Huron

State Debate in Mitchell

Sunday, March 5

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

PARTS COUNTER SALES

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

Harry Implement Inc.

PO Box 841

Ferney, SD

57439



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**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St.

Office: 605/397-2424

Groton, SD 57445

Home: 605/397-8565



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 2 of 46

Groton Area 65, Britton-Hecla 50

VISITOR: Britton-Hecla ()

| NO PLAYER | P | TOT-FG | | 3-PT | | FTA | | REBOUNDS | | | PF | TP | A | TO | BK | S | MIN |
|----------------|---|--------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|----|----|---|----|----|---|-------|
| | | FG | FGA | FG | FGA | FT | FTA | OFF | DEF | TOT | | | | | | | |
| 0 Haskins, | * | 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8:20 |
| 2 Hawkins, | * | 3 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 32:00 |
| 3 Meyer, | * | 5 | 19 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 32:00 |
| 11 Deutsch, | * | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 16:00 |
| 22 Bush, | * | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 23:40 |
| 21 Flanery, | | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 32:00 |
| 33 MacConnell, | | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 16:00 |
| TEAM REBOUNDS | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | 6 | | | | 0 | | | |
| Team Totals | | 17 | 51 | 5 | 21 | 11 | 18 | 10 | 18 | 28 | 18 | 50 | 9 | 12 | 1 | 7 | 160 |

Total FG% - 1st: 6/23 0.261 2nd: 11/28 0.393 Game: 0.333 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/10 0.300 2nd: 2/11 0.182 Game: 0.238 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 6/9 0.667 2nd: 5/9 0.556 Game: 0.611 (1,0)

HOME: Groton ()

| NO PLAYER | P | TOT-FG | | 3-PT | | FTA | | REBOUNDS | | | PF | TP | A | TO | BK | S | MIN |
|--------------------|---|--------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|----|----|---|----|----|---|-------|
| | | FG | FGA | FG | FGA | FT | FTA | OFF | DEF | TOT | | | | | | | |
| 4 Shabazz, Bennett | * | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 16:00 |
| 5 Shabazz, Seric | * | 6 | 13 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 18 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 24:00 |
| 12 Schuring, Sean | * | 7 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 3 | 19 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 32:00 |
| 20 Keith, Brandon | * | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 15:40 |
| 30 Doeden, Jonny | * | 2 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 24:20 |
| 3 Sippel, Anthony | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8:00 |
| 10 Lane, Marshall | | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 24:00 |
| 14 Diegel, Treyton | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8:00 |
| 50 Thorson, Luke | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8:00 |
| TEAM REBOUNDS | | | | | | | | 2 | 4 | 6 | | | | 1 | | | |
| Team Totals | | 24 | 47 | 6 | 21 | 10 | 15 | 8 | 30 | 38 | 18 | 64 | 9 | 20 | 0 | 6 | 160 |

Total FG% - 1st: 12/24 0.500 2nd: 12/23 0.522 Game: 0.511 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 6/12 0.500 2nd: 0/9 0.000 Game: 0.286 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 4/4 1.000 2nd: 6/11 0.545 Game: 0.667 (2,0)

Technical Fouls: BrHe (0)
 : groto (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

| SCORE BY PERIODS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | TOTAL |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| <u>Britton-Hecla</u> | 14 | 7 | 9 | 20 | 50 |
| Groton | 19 | 15 | 17 | 13 | 64 |

Last FG: Britton-Hecla 4th-07:40, Groton 4th-07:40
 Largest lead: Britton-Hecla by 1 1st-08:00, Groton by 21 3rd-08:00
 Score tied: 1 times, Lead changed: 4 times

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 3 of 46



Prismatic Sensations – Groton, SD

The Groton Area High School "Prismatic Sensations" is a group of students ranging from ninth to twelfth grade. With 23 voices on stage, and 9 tech and pit crew members, we strive to create the ultimate show to keep our audience at the edge of their seats, wanting more! Our show consists of This is It/The Spelling Rules (Soloist: Gabbie Kramer), Respect (Soloist: Aleaya Worlie), Love (Soloist: Tylan Glover), Happiness, Hakuna Matata, and Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (Soloists: Gabbie Kramer and Jenifer Fjelstad). Grateful for the love from our friends and family, and support from the community, we hope you enjoy our show as much we enjoy performing it! Ready for a challenge? Journey back with us, and see if you can become our spelling bee champion!

Directors: Cody Swanson, Sanessa Lindemann

Show Band Directors: Ron Parker, Austin Fordham

Choreographers: Kyle Stugelmayer, Sanessa Lindemann, Jennifer Phillips, Molly Hornamen

Ladies: Insa Deden, Emma Donley, Ashley Flihs, Jenifer Fjelstad, Ashley Garduno, Gabbie Kramer, Jasmine Schinkel, Madeline Schuelke, AnneMarie Smith, Erin Smith, Hattie Weismantel, Aleaya Worlie, Madilyn Wright

Gentlemen: Korbin Blackmun, Tylan Glover, Thane Henschel, Austin Jones, Alex Kern, Mitchell Koens, Marshall Lane, Micah Poor, Hunter Schaller, Anthony Schinkel.

The show choir received first in its class in Vermillion over the weekend.

State Waterfowlers Ask GF&P to Cut Nonresident Licenses

Two organizations representing state waterfowl hunters, the South Dakota Wildlife Federation and the South Dakota Waterfowl Association, are asking the Game Fish and Parks Commission to cut the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses.

"In spite of record numbers of waterfowl, residents have seen a dramatic loss in the opportunity to hunt them," says George Vandel, vice-president of the South Dakota Waterfowl Association. "As a result, we have lost one third of our resident waterfowl hunters in the last 15 years."

According to Department of Game Fish and Parks statistics, the number of resident waterfowl hunters has plummeted from 43,500 in 2001 to 30,000 in 2015. The most recent department survey showed that a primary reason for the rapid decline was a loss in the opportunity to hunt.

Chris Hesla, executive director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, says the opportunity to hunt isn't as simple as counting the number of birds produced each year. "You have to have adequate water, access to the water or the adjacent fields and limited hunting pressure. If any one of the four is missing, you don't have opportunity."

The South Dakota Waterfowl Association and the South Dakota Wildlife Federation are not opposed to nonresident waterfowl hunters, says Vandel. "We are, however, opposed to numbers of nonresidents that exceed the state's ability to offer a quality hunting experience for its residents. It's the same position taken by South Dakota and every other state when they award a vastly disproportionate number of big game licenses to residents than they do to nonresidents.

In their formal request to the commission, which meets in Pierre on March 1 and 2, the organizations are asking the commission to:

1. Eliminate all three-day waterfowl licenses with the exception of 500 that are restricted to private land in the Missouri River unit
2. Limit the number of 10-day nonresident licenses each year to eight percent of the average number of resident waterfowl licenses sold in the prior three-years. (This change would make nonresident waterfowl licenses consistent with nonresident big game licenses.)

Do You Know How to Save on Online Brokerage Fees?

By Nathaniel Sillin

If you've made it to a point in life where you're ready to start investing, or at least start thinking about investing, you may consider opening a brokerage account. But you're not alone if the thought of choosing a brokerage firm is foreign to you.

While brokers have helped individual investors buy and sell investments for decades, the relationship and services have changed over time. For instance, rather than calling their brokers, today many investors use a sleek online platform or mobile app to place orders.

Fees associated with maintaining a brokerage account and investing have also changed. Whether you've been investing for years, or are just diving in, it's wise to occasionally compare brokerage firms' offerings and costs, including those listed below, and find the option that's right for you.

Trading-platform fees might not be necessary. A trading platform is downloadable software or an online app that you can use to make trades, view real-time quotes and news, perform analysis and set up your trading strategies. While platform fees can cost hundreds of dollars a month, many high-quality options are completely free. Others are free as long as you meet minimum account balance requirements.

Trading fees are common, but prices vary. Brokerage trading fees can vary widely depending on the financial product and broker. Many online brokers charge a flat fee, typically somewhere between \$5 to \$10 per online trade for stocks or exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Some brokers alternatively charge a fee per share, which could be a better option for day traders.

Making a trade over the phone or with the help of a broker rather than on your own online could incur an additional fee (sometimes between \$20 to \$50).

Mutual fund transaction fees may be higher than the cost of trading stocks, although some brokers have a list of no-transaction-fee funds. More advanced trading tactics, such as options, also may have additional fees.

Higher trading fees don't necessarily indicate better service, but the fees could help the brokerage firm invest in its trading platform, customer service and research tools. Therefore, you'll want to compare each firm as a whole, not just the trading fees.

Avoid annual fees. Some brokers charge an annual fee, often around \$50 to \$75. You might be able to avoid the fee by maintaining a minimum balance in your account, or there are a number of brokerages that don't charge this fee regardless of your account balance.

Don't overthink account closure or transfer fees. It's common for a brokerage to charge \$50 to \$75 to close your account or transfer your holdings to a different brokerage. However, many brokerages will reimburse you when you open a new account with them.

Optional services are just that – optional. There are a few services, such as paper statements or premium research tools, that often cost money but are easy to opt in or out of based on your preferences.

How much could you save by choosing a low-fee brokerage? Unless you're an advanced investor, there are likely a variety of brokerages that can fulfill your needs. Review the fees you're paying at your current brokerage, or at a brokerage you're considering, and the competition's offering.

Paying \$5 versus \$10 per trade might not be significant for every investor. However, that's the difference between receiving \$95 or \$90 worth of stock when you invest \$100. Everything being equal, spending the extra \$5 means you take an immediate 5-percent loss, plus you miss out on potential gains.

Bottom line: Choosing a brokerage with low fees helps ensure that your money goes towards your investments rather than overhead expenses. Low-fee brokerages aren't necessarily worse either. Some still offer high-end services, advanced trading platforms and mobile apps that can satisfy the needs of most beginner or intermediate investors.

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



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

It's not nice to mess with normal flora

Last year, an elderly hospitalized patient with pneumonia was getting better after three days on powerful pneumonia antibiotics, when bloody diarrhea, cramping, and fever began and his overall condition started to deteriorate. His stool test was positive for *C. difficile* and he got better on a different type of antibiotic. This happened because too many of the good microscopic organisms, which usually

colonize the intestinal tract, were destroyed by the antibiotics we gave him. This threw off an important balance of nature, and similar to a lawn with a patch of destroyed grass, the weeds invaded.

It sounds like a sci-fi movie, but it's NOT. Scientists have discovered large numbers of micro-communities around and within every living plant and animal. Surprisingly many of these 'invaders' are necessary and helpful to the host; although some cause no benefit, and some can be harmful. Microscopic organisms include bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites and are called 'microbiota,' 'microbiome' when referring to the genetic make-up of the tiny communities, or more commonly the 'normal flora.'

Helpful non-human examples include bacteria fixing nitrogen on alfalfa, fertilizing plant and surrounding soil; or organisms living in the rumen of cattle making grass turn into absorbable nutritious food. The human microbiome has up to ten times as many non-human cells as human and involve many organ systems including mammary glands, skin cells, lungs, mouth, and eyes. The area where most normal flora reside, however, is within the gut or gastro-intestinal tract.

From the first minute after birth, the baby's gut is exposed to a microorganism-rich world. It starts with travel through the vaginal canal followed by oral exposure to skin and milk flora while suckling at mama's breasts. Over the next year, baby's normal flora develops and helps the infant break down dietary fiber and fat while providing for a barrier to invasive organisms. Amazingly foreign micro-communities also help synthesize vitamins, metabolize harmful toxins, reduce inflammation, enhance immune activity, and produce hormones.

When human normal gut flora is depleted by well-intentioned antibiotics, an unintended consequence may be a catastrophic overgrowth of invasive bacteria. The most dangerous opportunistic infection is called *Clostridium difficile* or *C. dif*. This type of invasive overgrowth was responsible for about a half million infections in 2011 with 29,000 of those dying within the first month.

Take home message: Avoid antibiotics unless necessary. It's not nice to mess with normal flora.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 7 of 46

Groton Coffee Cup League

February 27 Team Standings: James Valley 31, Kens 19, Ten Pins 16, Jungle Lanes 14

High Games: Nancy Radke 191, 157; Vickie Kramp 175; Vicki Walter 154

High Series: Nancy Radke 474, Vickie Kramp 463, Vicki Walter 415

Conde National League

February 27 Team Standings: Pirates 23, Braves 23, Mets 21 1/2, Cubs 19, Colts 17 1/2, Giants 16

Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 208; Preston Brewer 189, 183; Lance Frohling 189; Larry Frohling 179

Men's High Series: Preston Brewer 546, Butch Farmen 520, Lance Frohling 516

Women's High Games: Kayla Johnson 179, Nancy Radke 172, Michelle Johnson 163

Women's High Series: Nancy Radke 485, Kayla Johnson 438, Michelle Johnson 428



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

GDI Living Fitness
25 Main St., Downtown Groton

Today in Weather History

March 1, 1970: Freezing rain and drizzle impacted much of South Dakota on March 1, 1970. Ice accumulation up to 1/8 of an inch thick was reported in Rapid City, with heavier amounts reported in the northwestern part of the state. Some utility lines were broken, but there was no extensive line damage. In addition, some schools were closed due to icy roads.

March 1, 1998: Incredible amount of snow falls on Lead, South Dakota from February 25 through March 1. The official storm total was 103 inches for the 5 day period.

March 1, 2014: Arctic air combined with strong northwest winds to bring bitter cold wind chills to central and northeast South Dakota east of the Missouri River. Bitter wind chills of 35 below to around 40 below occurred. Some of the coldest wind chills include; 39 degrees below zero west of Long Lake; 40 degrees below zero at Highmore; 41 degrees below zero near Roy Lake; and 42 degrees below zero at Summit.

1910: The worst avalanche in US history in terms of lives lost, occurred Wellington, Washington. Heavy snow occurred from February 26 through the 28th, which blocked the rail lines. Weather conditions turned on the 28th with a thunderstorm occurring over the area. Just after 1 am on March 1st, a ten to 14 foot high mass of snow broke free from the mountain side and pushed the trains 150 feet down into the Tye River gorge. In all, 96 people were killed from this avalanche.

1914 - High winds and heavy snow crippled New Jersey and New York State. Two feet of snow were reported at Ashbury Park, and at New York City the barometric pressure dropped to a record 28.38 inches. The storm caused complete disruption of electric power in New Jersey. (David Ludlum)

1980 - Norfolk, VA, received 13.7 inches of snow to push their season total to a record 41.9 inches exceeding their previous record by more than four inches. (David Ludlum)

1980 - An unusually large Florida tornado, 500 yards in width at times, killed one person and caused six million dollars damage near Fort Lauderdale. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - A ferocious storm battered the Pacific coast. The storm produced heavy rain and gale force winds resulting in flooding and beach erosion, and in the mountains produced up to seven feet of snow in five days. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm crossing the Great Lakes Region produced heavy snow and gale force winds from Wisconsin to northern New England, with eight inches of snow reported at Ironwood MI. (The National Weather Summary)

2006: The day's high temperature of 93 degrees at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in Texas broke a 107-year-old record. Other hot north Texas cities included Wichita Falls with 96 degrees and Fort Worth Meacham Airport with 90 degrees.










livestream

Upcoming Events
Thursday, BBB Region
7:30 p.m. at Webster
Groton Area vs. Roncalli

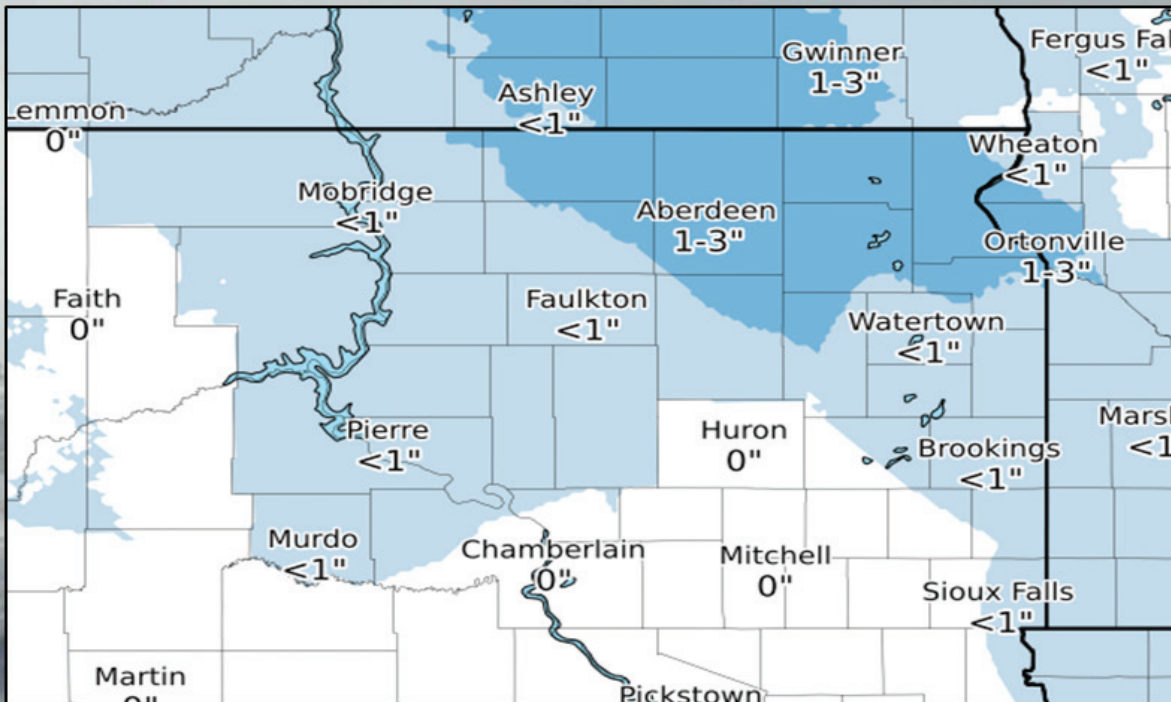
gdilive.com

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 9 of 46

| Today | Tonight | Thursday | Thursday Night | Friday | Friday Night | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 50% → 20% | 60% | 20% | | 20% | | |
| Chance Snow then Slight Chance Snow | Snow Likely | Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny | Partly Cloudy | Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny and Breezy | Partly Cloudy | Mostly Sunny |
| High: 31 °F | Low: 17 °F | High: 28 °F | Low: 12 °F | High: 41 °F | Low: 26 °F | High: 52 °F |

Snow Moving in Late Tonight Highest accumulations across northeast SD



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 3/1/2017 5:41 AM Central

Published on: 03/01/2017 at 5:45AM

A clipper system will slide southeast across the Dakotas late tonight. This system will spread snow across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota into Thursday morning. In general, 1 to 3 inches can be expected across the area, with the highest accumulations across higher elevations of the Coteau in northeast South Dakota. Warmer temperatures are still in store for the weekend, with highs in the 50s and 60s.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 10 of 46

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 31.0 F at 2:15 PM

Low Outside Temp: 18.9 F at 8:14 AM

High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 3:42 AM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 73° in 1992

Record Low: -29 in 1962

Average High: 33°F

Average Low: 13°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.03

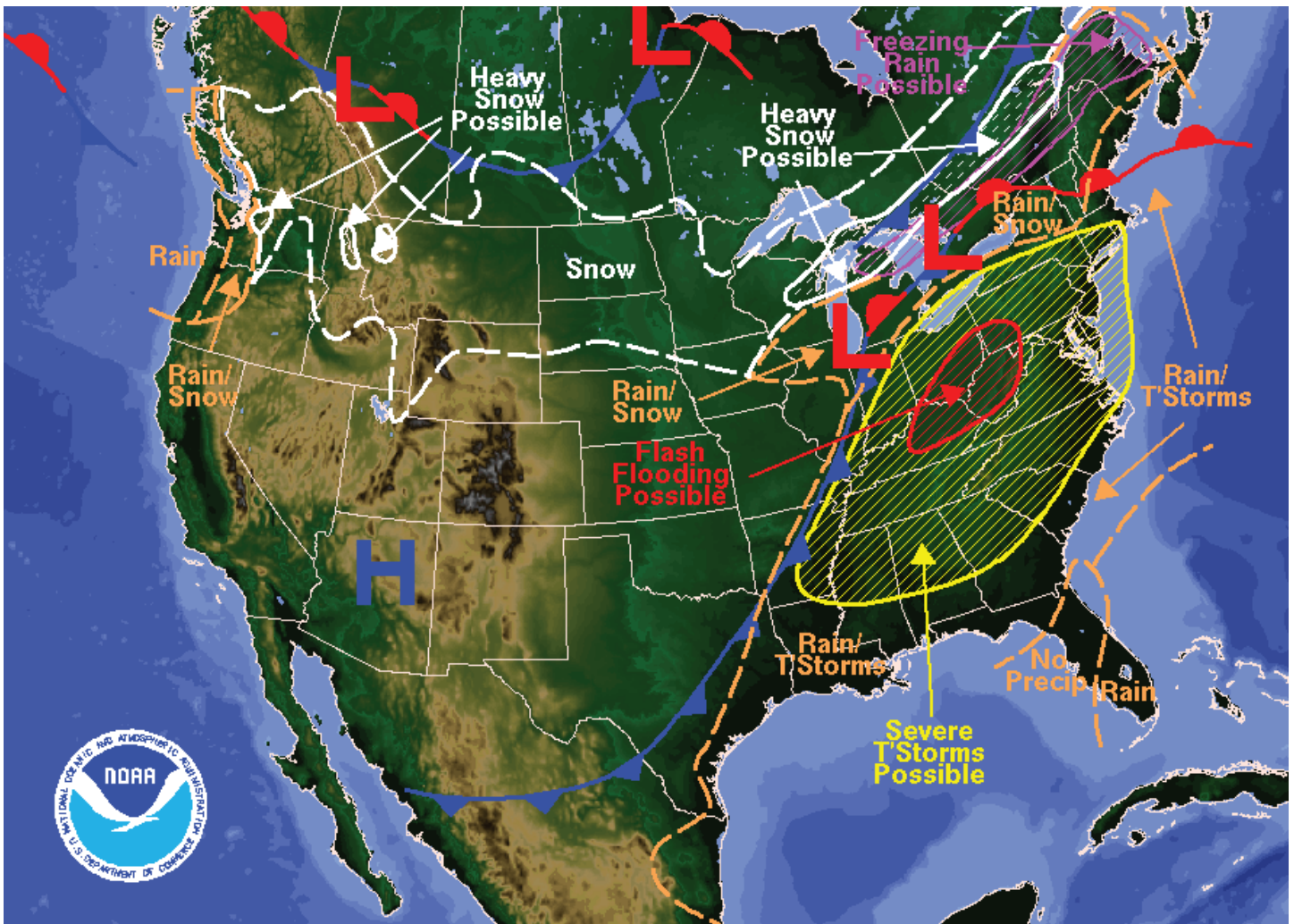
Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.05

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 6:21 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:09 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Mar 01, 2017, issued 4:18 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 11 of 46



DIG DEEPER!

Henry was caught up in the gold rush. Shortly after arriving in California he found a mine, staked a claim and began digging. One day he found some ore, became excited, and believed he had struck it rich. He knew without any doubt that fame and fortune would soon be his.

He kept digging for a few weeks but eventually became discouraged and wanted to quit. Finally, a stranger approached him and offered to purchase his mine. In a moment of frustration he agreed to sell his rights for \$11,000.00.

The new owner was excited about his purchase and began to dig where Henry stopped. And he kept digging for years and years. Eventually the Comstock Mine produced \$340,000,000.00 of gold!

Wanting to encourage the church in Galatia, the Apostle Paul wrote, "So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up for we will reap a harvest of blessings at the appropriate time."

We have all faced those times in our lives when we become discouraged and distressed at doing what we believe is the right thing to do. No one offers a word of thanks or encouragement and there are no visible results to accompany our hard work. But Paul reminds us to keep on doing good and to trust God for the results. Giving in or giving up or giving out is the sure way to forfeit the blessing that God will award us for being faithful.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may we be faithful to You in what You ask us to do. Protect us from allowing discouragement to destroy us and doubt to defeat us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 12 of 46

News from the Associated Press

Midwest survey suggests manufacturing boosting economy

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Results from a monthly survey of business supply managers suggest manufacturing is boosting economic conditions in nine Midwest and Plains states.

The Mid-America Business Conditions Index report released Wednesday says the overall economic index for the region rose to 60.5 in February from 54.7 in January. It's the highest figure since April 2014 and the fourth monthly increase in a row.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says the increases point to the improving regional manufacturing economy.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

District 1AA

Brookings 49, Watertown 44

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 64, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 46

District 2AA

Harrisburg 53, Brandon Valley 48

Sioux Falls Lincoln 62, Sioux Falls Washington 60

District 3AA

Huron 74, Mitchell 45

Pierre 64, Aberdeen Central 55

District 4AA

Rapid City Stevens 65, Rapid City Central 49

Sturgis Brown 75, Douglas 66

Region 1A

Aberdeen Roncalli 78, Tiospa Zina Tribal 52

Groton Area 64, Britton-Hecla 50

Milbank 56, Webster 50

Region 2A

Hamlin 53, Great Plains Lutheran 45

Redfield/Doland 64, Deuel 53

Region 3A

Dell Rapids 65, Baltic 32

Flandreau 81, Flandreau Indian 57

Sioux Falls Christian 70, Garretson 26

Region 4A

Canton 57, Elk Point-Jefferson 48

Dakota Valley 54, Lennox 49

Tea Area 72, Beresford 38

Region 5A

Bon Homme 57, McCook Central/Montrose 49

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 13 of 46

Tri-Valley 81, Wagner 47
West Central 55, Parkston 46
Region 6A
Crow Creek 70, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 66
Miller 102, McLaughlin 92
Mobridge-Pollock 64, Stanley County 62
District 1B
Florence/Henry 68, Wilmot 41
Waverly-South Shore 54, Waubay/Summit 41
District 2B
Langford 63, Northwestern 47
Warner 60, Aberdeen Christian 39
District 3B
Faulkton 62, Herreid/Selby Area 51
Potter County 67, Ipswich 39
District 4B
Lower Brule 75, Highmore-Harrold 61
Sully Buttes 62, Hitchcock-Tulare 36
District 5B
DeSmet 46, Estelline 18
Deubrook 55, Lake Preston 51
District 6B
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 77, James Valley Christian 51
Wolsey-Wessington 77, Wessington Springs 35
District 7B
Chester 62, Elkton-Lake Benton 42
Colman-Egan 48, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 28
District 8B
Bridgewater-Emery 46, Hanson 35
Canistota 58, Mitchell Christian 49
District 9B
Parker 81, Freeman Academy/Marion 47
Scotland 56, Menno 46
District 10B
Irene-Wakonda 67, Gayville-Volin 45
Viborg-Hurley 83, Alcester-Hudson 67
District 11B
Corsica/Stickney 70, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 35
Platte-Geddes 64, Kimball/White Lake 47
District 12B
Colome 67, Burke/South Central 25
Gregory 65, Marty Indian 33
District 15B
Lemmon 78, Tiospaye Topa 41
Timber Lake 60, Dupree 54
District 16B
Faith 53, Bison 52
Harding County 74, Newell 43
GIRLS' BASKETBALL
Region 7B

Regional Final
New Underwood 58, Lyman 29

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

20-33-45-58-69, Mega Ball: 4, Megaplier: 2

(twenty, thirty-three, forty-five, fifty-eight, sixty-nine; Mega Ball: four; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$73 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$53 million

State lawmakers seek more ballot measure donor disclosure

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers are weighing major new state campaign finance rules that would force nonprofit advocacy groups to reveal top donors if the groups contribute significant sums of money to ballot measure campaigns.

The bill would require the disclosure of the 50 largest contributors to such groups — including labor organizations, business leagues and social welfare organizations — that give \$25,000 or more in a year to a South Dakota ballot measure committee. House Speaker Mark Mickelson, who will pitch the bill Wednesday to a Senate panel, said that the identity of the messenger matters as much as the message.

“That’s the point of this bill,” said Mickelson, the legislation’s main sponsor. “Why are you afraid to have your name associated with your ideas?”

Current state law requires that ballot question committees publicly release the names of their donors. But, nonprofit advocacy groups that contribute to those committees are able to shield their contributors under South Dakota’s campaign finance regulations.

The new bill comes after an election season with 10 ballot questions that attracted millions of dollars from out-of-state groups, including dark money organizations, pouring into South Dakota initiative campaigns.

The plan also aims to impose the requirement on advocacy groups that spend more than \$25,000 on independent expenditures within a year. Under the bill, if a top-50 contributor is an advocacy group, that organization would have to share its 50 largest donors.

But the bill’s disclosure provisions wouldn’t apply to 501(c)(3) charities, for-profit businesses and contributors who give less than \$5,000.

Advocacy groups have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in dark money on candidate and ballot measure elections in recent years, said Paul S. Ryan, a vice president at the Washington watchdog group Common Cause, which opposes big money in politics.

“We need better disclosure of the donors, the true donors who are giving that money to the nonprofits to influence voters on Election Day,” Ryan said, calling the South Dakota bill “on the cutting edge of disclosure policy and law.”

Under the measure, groups would face fines if they didn’t comply, and they could be barred from contributing to ballot question campaigns or making independent expenditures for five years.

The bill has already passed through the state House with the support of Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard. But, top groups that have opposed the legislation include the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the South Dakota Retailers Association.

The National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action said in a recent post on its website that the bill “seeks to limit the free speech of organizations like the NRA unless they first disclose their members’ private information in the process.”

South Dakota residents have the right to support the causes that they believe in without the fear or

harassment or retaliation, said Ben Lee, state director of Americans for Prosperity-South Dakota, another group against the bill. Lee said that if passed, the legislation would mean fewer ballot questions in South Dakota because people would be afraid of having their contributions disclosed.

"Transparency is for the government, and private citizens deserve privacy," he said.

Sioux Falls day care owner faces charges in infant's death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls day care provider faces charges in connection with the September death of an infant in her care.

Authorities issued a warrant for the woman's arrest on Tuesday on charges of first-degree manslaughter, abuse or cruelty to a minor, contributing to the abuse of a child, and providing false information to police.

Officials were called to the in-home day care on Sept. 23 and found the 2-month-old boy unresponsive in a car seat.

He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

The woman's day care license was suspended at the time of the boy's death and then revoked in December.

Officials plan to release more information Wednesday.

No immediate ruling made on Dakota Access pipeline work

By SAM HANANEL and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge said Tuesday that he'll decide within a week whether to temporarily halt construction of the final section of the Dakota Access pipeline over claims that it violates the religious rights of two Indian tribes.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg told lawyers at a hearing that he wants to issue a ruling before oil begins flowing in the pipeline, which could be weeks away.

Boasberg is considering a request by the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes to order the Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw permission to lay pipe under Lake Oahe in North Dakota. The pipeline has prompted months of protests and hundreds of arrests.

The stretch under the Missouri River reservoir is the last piece of construction for the \$3.8 billion pipeline, which would move oil through the Dakotas and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois.

Tribal attorney Nicole Ducheneaux argued during the 1 ½ hour hearing that the mere existence of an oil pipeline under the reservoir that provides water to neighboring reservations violates their right to practice their religion, which relies on clean water.

Boasberg asked Ducheneaux how there could be a contamination issue if "the pipeline itself doesn't even touch the water."

"Can you claim a property interest in the land as well as the water?" he asked.

Ducheneaux said the judge appeared to be questioning the sincerity of the tribes' beliefs and stressed there was no other source of clean water available near the tribe's reservation.

American Indian activist Chase Iron Eyes, an outspoken opponent of the pipeline, attended the hearing and said afterward that "from the way that the judge was asking questions, it's clear that American or Western (courts) ... lack a place intellectually or spiritually to comprehend the sacred relationship between the original peoples of this hemisphere and the waters, the sacred sites and the lands in our hemisphere."

When they filed the lawsuit last summer, the tribes argued that the pipeline threatens Native American cultural sites and their water supply. Their religion argument is new, however, and both the Corps and the company building the pipeline, Energy Transfer Partners, argue that the delay in raising it is a reason for Boasberg to reject the argument.

Corps attorney Reuben Schifman said the tribes waited too long to raise the religion claims and argued that they haven't shown that the pipeline creates a "substantial burden" on their religious practices.

Representing the pipeline, lawyer David Debold noted that the lake has only existed since the 1950s and questioned how the purity of its water could be part of longstanding tribal religious beliefs.

Earlier this month, Boasberg declined the tribes' request to order an immediate halt to the pipeline construction, ruling that as long as oil wasn't flowing through the pipeline, there was no imminent harm to the tribes.

Boasberg's decision on the matter won't be the end of the court battle, as no final decision has been made on the merits of the tribes' overall claims. Both tribes also have asked Boasberg to overturn the federal permission for the Lake Oahe crossing and to bar the Corps from granting permission in the future. The judge won't rule until at least April.

Hundreds and sometimes thousands of pipeline opponents who sided with tribal opposition to the pipeline camped on federal land near the drill site for months, often clashing with police. There have been about 750 arrests in the region since August. Authorities last week closed the camp in advance of spring flooding season and set up roadblocks to prevent protesters from returning.

Work under Lake Oahe had been held up in the courts until President Donald Trump last month instructed the Corps to advance construction. The Army is involved because its engineering branch manages the river and its system of hydroelectric dams, which is owned by the federal government.

Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners began drilling under the lake Feb. 8. The pipeline could be operating as early as Monday and no later than early April, according to Scherman.

Blake Nicholson was reporting from Bismarck, North Dakota. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

State House considers tax break for rural internet

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota House members will consider giving tax rebates to telecommunication companies for bringing broadband service to under-served rural areas.

The measure brings telecommunications companies into the state's reinvestment payment program which helps companies offset upfront costs associated with relocating or expanding operations or with upgrading equipment in South Dakota.

KELO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2m3329y>) reports state Utilities Commissioner Chris Nelson says telecommunication companies have maximized current federal funds. Rep. Spencer Hawley of Brookings says the state is going to "throw a little bit more into the game to help spread those funds out."

The bill unanimously passed the Senate and is now headed to the House floor, possibly Tuesday.

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

Trump gives GOP leaders rallying cry, roadmap for change

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump gave Republican congressional leaders a rallying cry and even a roadmap as they try to push through a sweeping and divisive agenda on health care, taxes and more.

In his first address to a joint session of Congress, Trump said largely what GOP leaders were hoping to hear Tuesday night, staying on-message and talking in optimistic tones, even weighing in at one point to settle a brewing dispute over how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Vice President Mike Pence said Wednesday morning it was "a great speech and a great night for America." He said that Trump showed Congress and the nation his "broad shoulders, big heart, reaching out, focusing on the future."

House Speaker Paul Ryan declared the speech a "home run," pointing to Trump's embrace for the first time of tax credits — a central element in the Republican plan to replace former President Barack Obama's health care law.

Those tax credits have sparked a fierce conservative backlash in recent days, imperiling GOP efforts to make good on the party's long-stated promise to get rid of "Obamacare" and put something better in its

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 17 of 46

place. Ahead of the speech congressional Republicans had been unsure how far Trump would go in backing their plan, with some pleading openly with him to do so, and many were elated at what they heard.

"We should help Americans purchase their own coverage, through the use of tax credits and expanded health savings Accounts — but it must be the plan they want, not the plan forced on them by the government," Trump said, as Republicans cheered and Democrats sat silently in their seats.

It remains to be seen whether Trump's endorsement of refundable tax credits will be enough to tame rebellious conservatives in the House and Senate who have criticized them as a costly new entitlement. The initial response from one key conservative group, the Freedom Caucus in the House, was full of praise for Trump's speech without mentioning the divisions over tax credits.

"We were pleased the President reaffirmed his commitment to fully repeal Obamacare and replace it with patient-centered, market-driven policy. We share his vision," the group said.

Trump also addressed taxes, another major issue that is dividing Congress. After weeks of sending mixed signals, he provided hope to House Republican leaders pushing a tax overhaul that would tax imports but not exports. But he stopped short of explicitly endorsing the proposal.

"Currently, when we ship products out of America, many other countries make us pay very high tariffs and taxes — but when foreign companies ship their products into America, we charge them almost nothing or almost nothing," Trump said.

Without providing specifics, Trump said he will propose to change that.

Rewriting health care and overhauling the tax code are the twin pillars of the Republican-run Congress' legislative platform this year and GOP lawmakers have been eager for guidance from the president on both counts.

House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady of Texas welcomed Trump's remarks on taxes, and said "It was also great to hear the president's strong support for our efforts to repeal Obamacare."

House leaders hope to meet an ambitious goal of passing health legislation through the House and maybe even the Senate before mid-April. That was looking in doubt as divisions surfaced ahead of Trump's speech, and it remains to be seen whether the deadline will be met.

Democrats, accustomed to jeering at Trump as he veers off message, advances false claims or resorts to personal insults, argued that in delivering a speech that did none of those things, Trump gave a wrong impression of how he has comported himself as president after five weeks in office.

"President Trump's speech had an air of unreality because what he said tonight was so different than how he has governed in the first 40 days," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

Trump planned to continue his legislative push on Wednesday, meeting with House and Senate leaders for lunch at the White House before leading a legislative affairs strategy session in the afternoon. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also summoned senators to a closed-door afternoon meeting on health care to hash out divisions on the issue in that chamber.

But Republicans' enthusiastic reception to Trump's speech could belie tough fights ahead. Trump called on Congress to approve a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, something likely to set up a clash with deficit hawks, and also renewed his call for money for a border wall, which could provoke a spending fight with Democrats and even the threat of a government shutdown.

And underscoring the distance that still remains between Trump and congressional Republicans, the speech made no mention of overhauling the financially-shaky Medicare or Social Security, the expensive, enormous entitlement programs that Republicans have long attacked. Trump's budget leaves those programs untouched and Ryan has recently declined to say that dealing with them remains a priority.

On health care, far from his blanket statement in January that his plan would ensure "coverage for everybody," Trump on Tuesday embraced an overhaul that would "increase access," the phrase House Republicans have used to describe their more modest goal.

Pence was interviewed on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program.

___ =

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Stephen Ohlemacher contributed to this report.

Suspects charged with murder in airport nerve agent attack

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Appearing calm and solemn, two young women accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader, were charged with murder Wednesday.

The women, who arrived in court under the protection of masked special forces carrying machine guns, are at the center of a bizarre killing at a busy Kuala Lumpur airport terminal. Many speculate the attack was orchestrated by North Korea, but Pyongyang denies any role.

"I understand but I am not guilty," Vietnamese suspect Doan Thi Huong told the court in English after the murder charge was read. She looked briefly at the public gallery as she was led out and bowed her head.

The other suspect, Indonesian Siti Aisyah, nodded as her translator told her: "You are accused of murdering a North Korean man at the departure hall" of Kuala Lumpur International Airport. She was dressed in a red T-shirt and jeans.

The women did not enter pleas because the magistrate court where they appeared has no jurisdiction over a murder case. Lead prosecutor Iskander Ahmad told the court he will ask for the case to be transferred to a higher court and for both women to be tried together.

Each faces a mandatory death sentence if convicted. Both women were wearing bulletproof vests as they were escorted from the court to Kajang Prison.

Kim Jong Nam was attacked as he waited for his flight home to Macau on Feb. 13. He died shortly after two women went up behind him and wiped something onto his face.

Both women have reportedly said they thought they were part of a prank TV show playing harmless tricks on unsuspecting passengers. Aisyah told authorities she was paid the equivalent of \$90.

The attack was caught on grainy airport surveillance video; Huong was seen clearly in a T-shirt with "LOL" emblazoned across the front.

Gooi Soon Seng, Aisyah's lawyer, spoke to his client for the first time Wednesday.

"Her eyes were red and she says she's innocent," he said.

Also Wednesday, the court approved a gag order to prevent police and potential witnesses from making public statements about the case.

Meanwhile, Kim's corpse is at the center of a growing diplomatic battle between North Korea and Malaysia.

Speculation is rampant that North Korea was behind the killing, particularly after Malaysia said Friday that VX had killed Kim. Experts say the oily poison was almost certainly produced in a sophisticated state weapons laboratory.

On Tuesday, a high-level North Korean delegation arrived in Kuala Lumpur seeking custody of the body.

North Korea opposed Malaysian officials even conducting an autopsy, while Malaysia has resisted giving up the body without getting DNA samples and confirmation from next of kin.

Malaysian officials have confirmed that the victim of the attack was Kim Jong Nam. North Korea, however, has identified him only as a North Korean national with a diplomatic passport bearing the name Kim Chol.

Health Minister Subramaniam Sathasivam said Malaysia will continue to insist that the body be identified by medical examiners through DNA or other means before it can be released. He said the protocol is to release it to the next-of-kin once identification is completed.

Kim Jong Nam is believed to have two sons and a daughter with two women living in Beijing and Macau.

The Pyongyang delegation is also seeking the release of a North Korean arrested in the case, 45-year-old Ri Jong Chol. Malaysia has not described his alleged role in the killing, and it was not clear if or when he could be charged.

Authorities are seeking seven other North Korean suspects, four of whom fled the country the day of Kim's death and are believed to be back in North Korea. Others sought include the second secretary of North Korea's embassy and an employee of North Korea's state-owned airline, Air Koryo.

Kim Jong Nam was estranged from Kim Jong Un. He reportedly fell out of favor with their father, the late Kim Jong Il, in 2001, when he was caught trying to enter Japan on a false passport to visit Tokyo Disneyland.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 19 of 46

He had been heading to Macau, where he has a home, when he was killed.

Isolated North Korea has a long history of ordering killings of people it views as threats to its regime. Kim Jong Nam was not known to be seeking political power, but his position as eldest son of the family that has ruled North Korea since it was founded could have made him appear to be a danger.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. TRUMP HERALDS 'NEW CHAPTER OF AMERICAN GREATNESS'

The president, addressing Congress for the first time, calls for overhauling the nation's health care system and significantly boosting military spending.

2. PRESIDENT SALUTES WIDOW OF SLAIN SEAL IN EMOTIONAL MOMENT

The widow of William "Ryan" Owens, who was killed in Yemen, is saluted by Trump and applauded by Congress.

3. REVISED TRAVEL ORDER SPARES IRAQ

Trump's new immigration order will remove Iraq from the list of countries whose citizens face a temporary U.S. travel ban, U.S. officials say.

4. SUSPECTS IN NORTH KOREAN'S KILLING CHARGED WITH MURDER

Prosecutors lodge formal charges against two young women accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader.

5. WHAT'S CAUSING MIGRANT CRISIS IN AFRICA

More than half a million refugees have fled South Sudan amid civil war and warnings of genocide.

6. 'SENSE OF HUMANITY DRIVES ME TO COME HERE'

A small group of former addicts is trying to help drug users in Afghanistan, a country where addiction rates are among the highest in the world.

7. WHERE TWISTERS ARE SPREADING HAVOC

Tornadoes in the upper Midwest and northern Arkansas kill at least two people as a spring-like storm system poses a risk to 45 million people.

8. BIG EASY CELEBRATES FAT TUESDAY

After a day of parades, blaring marching bands, elaborate costumes and crowds screaming for beads, another Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans is over.

9. HOW WALDORF IS REGAINING ITS WONDER

The word "grand" matched no hotel in the world better than New York's Waldorf Astoria — a bastion of gilded splendor now closing for massive renovations.

10. MUMPS THE WORD: FRESH OUTBREAK IN NHL

So far, players in Vancouver and Minnesota have fallen ill in the second such outbreak of the highly contagious disease in the league in a little over two years.

Officials: New Trump travel ban removes Iraq from list

By MATTHEW LEE and VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's new immigration order will remove Iraq from the list of countries whose citizens face a temporary U.S. travel ban, U.S. officials say, citing the latest draft in circulation. Trump is expected to sign the executive order in the coming days.

Four officials told The Associated Press that the decision followed pressure from the Pentagon and State Department, which had urged the White House to reconsider Iraq's inclusion on the list given its key role in fighting the Islamic State group.

Citizens of six other predominantly Muslim countries — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — will remain on the travel ban list, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the order before it is signed. Those bans are effective for 90 days.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 20 of 46

The new order includes other changes as well. The officials said the 12-page document no longer singles out Syrian refugees for an indefinite ban and instead includes them as part of a general, 120-day suspension of new refugee admissions.

The officials also said the order won't include any explicit exemption for religious minorities in the countries targeted by the travel ban. Critics had accused the administration of adding such language to help Christians get into the United States while excluding Muslims.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump signed his original executive order in late January. It sparked immediate confusion, panic and outrage as some travelers were detained in U.S. airports before being sent back overseas and others were barred from boarding flights at foreign airports.

The federal government initially blocked U.S. green card holders before offering those legal residents special permission to come into the country. It finally decided the order didn't apply to them.

The State Department provisionally revoked roughly 60,000 valid visas in all, before a federal judge in Washington state blocked the government from carrying out the ban. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that decision.

Under the revised order, officials said, all existing visas will be honored.

In his first address to a joint session of Congress, Trump on Tuesday evening defended his effort.

"We will shortly take new steps to keep our nation safe and to keep out those who would do us harm," he said.

After Trump signed the original order, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi refuted the ban and said he would consider reciprocal measures. Many Iraqi lawmakers urged the government to ban Americans from Iraq in response, despite the potential effects that might have on the anti-IS fight.

Al-Abadi then met with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in Baghdad this month and underscored the U.S.-Iraqi partnership. And Mattis walked back comments made by Trump suggesting that Americans could get another chance to seize Iraqi oil as compensation for its military efforts there.

"We're not in Iraq to seize anybody's oil," Mattis told reporters on that trip. Al-Abadi also met with Vice President Mike Pence in Munich earlier this month, where the two publicly discussed ways of strengthening cooperation.

The Trump administration's changes to the immigration order follow a report by intelligence analysts at the Homeland Security Department, which found insufficient evidence that citizens of the seven Muslim-majority countries posed a terror threat to the United States. A draft of the analysis was obtained last week by the AP.

Associated Press writer Alicia Caldwell contributed to this report.

Airports, legal volunteers prepare for new Trump travel ban

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Airport officials and civil rights lawyers around the country are getting ready for President Donald Trump's new travel ban — mindful of the chaos that accompanied his initial executive order but hopeful the forthcoming version will be rolled out in a more orderly way.

The new order is expected to be issued in the coming days. A draft suggested it would target people from six of the original seven predominantly Muslim countries but would exempt travelers who already have visas to come to the U.S. The latest draft in circulation no longer includes Iraq.

Since last month's ban, which courts have put on hold, a section of the international arrivals area at Dulles International Airport outside the nation's capital has been transformed into a virtual law firm, with legal volunteers ready to greet travelers from affected countries and ask if they saw anyone being detained.

Similar efforts are underway at other airports, including Seattle-Tacoma International, where officials have drawn up plans for crowd control after thousands crammed the baggage claim area to protest the original ban.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 21 of 46

"The plan is to be as ready as possible," said Lindsay Nash, an immigration law professor at Cardozo School of Law in New York who has been helping prepare emergency petitions on behalf of those who might be detained.

Trump's initial action, issued Jan. 27, temporarily barred citizens of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan and Libya from coming to the U.S. and halted acceptance of all refugees. The president said his administration would review vetting procedures amid concerns about terrorism in those seven nations.

Protesters flooded U.S. airports that weekend, seeking to free travelers detained by customs officials amid confusion about who could enter the country, including U.S. permanent residents known as green-card holders.

Attorneys also challenged the order in court, including officials from Washington state. That lawsuit, which Minnesota joined, resulted in a federal judge temporarily blocking the government from enforcing the travel ban, a decision unanimously upheld by a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Many civil rights lawyers and activists have said they don't believe a new order would cure all the constitutional problems of the original, including the claim that it was motivated by anti-Muslim discrimination.

Trump has said he singled out the seven countries because they had already been deemed a security concern by the Obama administration.

In his first address to Congress on Tuesday night, Trump said his administration "is taking strong measures to protect our nation from radical Islamic terrorism" and is working on improved vetting procedures.

"And we will shortly take new steps to keep our nation safe — and to keep out those who would do us harm," Trump said.

Last week, analysts at the Homeland Security Department's intelligence arm found insufficient evidence that citizens of the seven Muslim-majority countries pose a terror threat to the United States.

"It's not enough to just tweak an order and not change the nature of why it was issued in the first place," said Rula Aoun, director of the Arab American Civil Rights League in Dearborn, Michigan, which sued over the initial ban and is prepared to do the same with the rewrite if necessary.

In New York, American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt said the organization was ready to go to court if the administration tries to immediately enforce its new order.

"The primary focus is being able to respond immediately to any request by the government to lift any of the injunctions, before the courts have had a chance to examine the new order," he said.

Activists and airport officials alike said they hoped it would be phased in to give travelers fair warning, which might preclude any detentions from arriving flights.

"We are prepared and willing," said Rebecca Sharpless, who runs the immigration clinic at the University of Miami School of Law. "But it's unlikely to cause the same kind of chaos of last time."

At Dulles, Sea-Tac, Minneapolis-St. Paul and other airports, legal volunteers have greeted arriving travelers in shifts every day since the initial ban, wearing name tags or posting signs in different languages to identify themselves.

The legal-services nonprofit OneJustice was ready to send email alerts to 3,000 volunteers in California if needed, deploying them to San Francisco and Los Angeles airports for people affected by any new order, chief executive Julia Wilson said.

In Chicago, travelers have been signing up for an assistance program started by the local Council on American-Islamic Relations office to ensure swift legal help if they're detained.

Groups urged those arriving at 17 other airports, including Miami, Atlanta and San Diego, to register with Airport Lawyer , a secure website and free mobile app that alerts volunteer lawyers to ensure travelers make it through customs without trouble.

Asti Gallina, a third-year student at the University of Washington Law School, volunteered at Sea-Tac for the first time Tuesday. It was quiet, she said.

"An essential part of the American narrative is the ability to come to America," Gallina said. "Any infringement of that is something that needs to be resisted."

Associated Press writers Tammy Webber and Sophia Tareen in Chicago; Deepti Hajela and Larry Neumeister in New York; Matthew Barakat in Alexandria, Virginia; Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami; and Amy

Forliti in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Cardozo Law School is in New York, not affiliated with New York University

AP FACT CHECK: Trump takes credit he hasn't earned

By CALVIN WOODWARD and CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump boasted Tuesday night about corporate job expansion and military cost-savings that actually took root under his predecessor and gave a one-sided account of the costs and benefits to the economy from immigration — ignoring the upside.

A look at some of his claims in his prime-time speech to Congress:

TRUMP: "According to the National Academy of Sciences, our current immigration system costs America's taxpayers many billions of dollars a year."

THE FACTS: That's not exactly what that report says. It says immigrants "contribute to government finances by paying taxes and add expenditures by consuming public services."

The report found that while first-generation immigrants are more expensive to governments than their native-born counterparts, primarily at the state and local level, immigrants' children "are among the strongest economic and fiscal contributors in the population." This second generation contributed more in taxes on a per capita basis, for example, than did non-immigrants in the period studied, 1994-2013.

The report found that the "long-run fiscal impact" of immigrants and their children would probably be seen as more positive "if their role in sustaining labor force growth and contributing to innovation and entrepreneurial activity were taken into account."

TRUMP: "We've saved taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars by bringing down the price" of the F-35 jet fighter.

THE FACTS: The cost savings he persists in bragging about were secured in full or large part before he became president.

The head of the Air Force program announced significant price reductions in the contract for the Lockheed F-35 fighter jet Dec. 19 — after Trump had tweeted about the cost but weeks before he met the company's CEO about it.

Pentagon managers took action even before the election to save money on the contract. Richard Aboulafia, an analyst with the aerospace consulting firm Teal Group, said there is no evidence of any additional cost savings as a result of Trump's actions.

TRUMP: "Since my election, Ford, Fiat-Chrysler, General Motors, Sprint, Softbank, Lockheed, Intel, Walmart and many others have announced that they will invest billions of dollars in the United States and will create tens of thousands of new American jobs."

THE FACTS: It's unlikely Trump is the sole or even primary reason for the expected hiring he cites. Many of the announcements reflect corporate decisions that predate his election.

In the case of Intel, construction of the Chandler, Arizona, factory referred to by Trump actually began during Barack Obama's presidency. The project was delayed by insufficient demand for Intel's high-powered computer chips, but the company now expects to finish the factory within four years because it anticipates business growth.

More important, even as some companies create jobs, others are laying off workers. The best measure of whether more jobs are actually being created is the monthly employment report issued by the Labor Department, which nets out those gains and losses. The department will issue its report for February, the first full month of Trump's term, on March 10.

TRUMP: His budget plan will offer "one of the largest increases in national defense spending in American

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 23 of 46

history.”

THE FACTS: Three times in recent years, Congress raised defense budgets by larger percentages than the \$54 billion, or 10 percent, increase that Trump proposes. The base defense budget grew by \$41 billion, or 14.3 percent, in 2002; by \$37 billion, or 11.3 percent, in 2003, and by \$47 billion, or 10.9 percent, in 2008, according to Defense Department figures.

TRUMP: “We will provide massive tax relief for the middle class.”

THE FACTS: Trump has provided little detail on how this would happen. Independent analyses of his campaign’s tax proposals found that most of the benefits would flow to the wealthiest families. The richest 1 percent would see an average tax cut of nearly \$215,000 a year, while the middle one-fifth of the population would get a cut of just \$1,010, according to the Tax Policy Center, a joint project by the Brookings Institution and Urban Institute.

TRUMP: “Ninety-four million Americans are out of the labor force.”

THE FACTS: That’s true, but for the vast majority of them, it’s because they choose to be.

That 94 million figure includes everyone aged 16 and older who doesn’t have a job and isn’t looking for one. So it includes retirees, parents who are staying home to raise children, and high school and college students who are studying rather than working.

They are unlikely to work regardless of the state of the economy. With the huge baby boomer generation reaching retirement age and many of them retiring, the population of those out of the labor force is increasing and will continue to do so, most economists forecast.

It’s true that some of those out of the workforce are of working age and have given up looking for work. But that number is probably a small fraction of the 94 million Trump cited.

TRUMP: “According to data provided by the Department of Justice, the vast majority of individuals convicted for terrorism-related offenses since 9/11 came here from outside of our country. We have seen the attacks at home — from Boston to San Bernardino to the Pentagon and yes, even the World Trade Center.”

THE FACTS: It’s unclear what Justice Department data he’s citing, but the most recent government information that has come out doesn’t back up his claim. Just over half the people Trump talks about were actually born in the United States, according to Homeland Security Department research revealed last week. That report said of 82 people the government determined were inspired by a foreign terrorist group to attempt or carry out an attack in the U.S., just over half were native-born citizens.

Even the attacks Trump singled out weren’t entirely the work of foreigners. Syed Rizwan Farook, who along with his Pakistani wife killed 14 people in the deadly 2015 attack in San Bernardino, California, was born in Chicago.

It’s true that in the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11, the FBI’s primary concern was with terrorists from overseas feared to be plotting attacks in the United States. But that’s no longer the case.

The FBI and the Justice Department have been preoccupied with violent extremists from inside the U.S. who are inspired by the calls to violence and mayhem of the Islamic State group. The Justice Department has prosecuted scores of IS-related cases since 2014, and many of the defendants are U.S. citizens.

TRUMP: “Obamacare is collapsing ... imploding Obamacare disaster.”

THE FACTS: There are problems with the 2010 health care law, but whether it’s collapsing is hotly disputed.

One of the two major components of the Affordable Care Act has seen a spike in premiums and a drop in participation from insurers. But the other component, equally important, seems to be working fairly well, even if its costs are a concern.

Trump and congressional Republicans want to repeal the whole thing, which risks leaving millions of people uninsured if the replacement plan has shortcomings. Some critics say GOP rhetoric itself is making things worse by creating uncertainty about the future.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 24 of 46

The health law offers subsidized private health insurance along with a state option to expand Medicaid for low-income people. Together, the two arms of the program cover more than 20 million people.

Republican governors whose states have expanded Medicaid are trying to find a way to persuade Congress and the administration to keep the expansion, and maybe even build on it, while imposing limits on the long-term costs of Medicaid.

While the Medicaid expansion seems to be working, the markets for subsidized private health insurance are stressed in many states. Also affected are millions of people who buy individual policies outside the government markets, and face the same high premiums with no financial help from the health law.

Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation says "implosion" is too strong a term. An AP count found that 12.2 million people signed up for this year, despite the Trump administration's threats to repeal the law.

But a health care blogger and industry consultant, Robert Laszewski, agrees with Trump, saying too few young, healthy people have signed up to guarantee the stability of the insurance markets.

Find all AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kbn8bd>

Associated Press writers Robert Burns, Alicia A. Caldwell, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Eric Tucker and Jim Drinkard contributed to this report.

Pick 6: Notre Dame, Texas positioned for turnaround in 2017

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

The premise is simple: Close games are often decided by good fortune as much as good play. Therefore, a team that loses a lot of close games one season is likely to add wins the next season as its bad luck evens out.

Last year's Nebraska team was the perfect example. In 2015, the Cornhuskers (6-7) lost seven games, all by 10 points or less — including six one-possession games.

In 2016, Nebraska improved to 9-4, going 3-1 in one-possession games.

Using Football Outsiders' S&P metric, which takes into account play-by-play and drive data, we can also spot some teams that left a win or two on the table in 2016. Second-order wins project how many games a team would have been expected to win based on how it played.

And it helps to have an experienced team with lots of returning starters.

Six teams that have profiles suggesting better results in 2017.

Iowa State (3-9)

4 one-possession losses and a 10-point loss to Oklahoma.

4.2 second-order wins.

21 returning starters (11 offense/10 defense).

The Cyclones first season under coach Matt Campbell went much like the last three under Paul Rhoads — if you just look at the record. After stumbling out to 0-3, Iowa State was pretty competitive the rest of the way. Having only four Big 12 home games this season will be tricky, but all those players returning with starting experience should set up the Cyclones to make a bowl run.

North Carolina State (7-6)

4 one-possession losses.

8.5 second-order wins.

16 returning starters (8 offense/8 defense), including 11 returning senior starters.

The Wolfpack was a chip-shot field goal away from beating Clemson in Death Valley and they lost by four to Florida State. They also lost one-score games to East Carolina and Boston College. NC State was a strange team. Coach Dave Doeren returns a loaded defensive line led by Bradley Chubb, who put off the NFL to play as a senior. The schedule will be tricky with eight bowl teams, plus Notre Dame in South Bend, but if ever the Wolfpack was set up to have something of a breakthrough season, this is it.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 25 of 46

Michigan State (3-9)

3 one-possession losses.

5.0 second-order wins

9 returning starters (4 offense/5 defense)

Last season was just so bad for the Spartans, the bar for a bounce back is pretty low. Michigan State will have to rebound with an inexperienced team, but having a bunch of returning starters last year didn't do much good. Maybe new blood will provide a boost. And, really, can coach Mark Dantonio have another team that bad? Seven home games, plus a trip to Rutgers, should be enough for Michigan State to at least double its win total from last year.

Notre Dame (4-8)

7 one-possession losses.

7.2 second-order wins.

15 returning starters (8 offense/7 defense), including four senior offensive linemen.

Luck of the Irish was buzzards luck in 2016. Almost every game that could have gone either way went against Notre Dame. Of course, fans don't want to hear about how a play here or there and the season could have been drastically different. And maybe if coach Brian Kelly would have fired defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder BEFORE the season instead of during Notre Dame wouldn't have started 1-3 while averaging 38 points in September. Kelly enters 2017 in need of a big turnaround, with a revamped coaching staff (new defensive, offensive and special teams coordinators) and new starting quarterback (Brandon Wimbrush).

Texas (5-7)

Five one-possession losses.

6.8 second-order wins.

17 returning starters (8 offense/9 defense).

Part of why Charlie Strong's flameout at Texas was so excruciating and protracted was because there were so many painfully close losses. A little better luck would help the Longhorns, but there is also something to be said for creating your own luck with more efficient and disciplined play. Part of Herman's task is to create some luck. Another part is to make sure Texas avoids playing so many games that could go either way. Especially against Kansas.

UCLA (4-8)

4 one-possession losses, plus one by 9 points and another by 10.

5.9 second-order wins

13 returning starters (7 offense/6 defense), including nine seniors.

The Bruins probably have only one more season of quarterback Josh Rosen and need to make it a big one. Last season was a disaster and things really got away from UCLA at the end when Rosen was injured. But the Bruins were also a couple of plays from starting 5-0 with wins against Texas A&M and Stanford. Coach Jim Mora brought in Michigan assistant Jedd Fisch to be offensive coordinator and unearth Rosen's star potential.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP

More college football coverage at <http://collegefootball.ap.org/>

In emotional moment, Trump salutes slain SEAL's wife

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The widow of a U.S. Navy SEAL killed in Yemen stood in the balcony of the House chamber, tears streaming down her face as she looked upward and appeared to whisper to her husband.

Democrats and Republicans alike stood for minutes to applaud Carryn Owens, giving her the loudest cheers of the night in a rare moment of unity during President Donald Trump's first speech to a joint session

of Congress. Her husband, Senior Chief William "Ryan" Owens, was killed last month in a raid approved by Trump, a decision that has been sharply criticized by some — including the slain SEAL's father — and which Trump continued to defend Tuesday night.

Trump, near the end of his hour-long speech, paid tribute to Carryn Owens, a surprise guest whose presence in the first lady's box was not announced in advance by the White House.

"The challenges we face as a nation are great. But our people are even greater. And none are greater or braver than those who fight for America in uniform," said Trump, who said they were "blessed" to be joined by Owens.

The president then turned to the balcony where Owens sat next to Trump's daughter, Ivanka, and said "Ryan died as he lived: a warrior, and a hero — battling against terrorism and securing our nation."

The chamber roared with cheers as Owens stood and cried, creating what would likely become the signature moment of Trump's address.

But Owens' death, as well as the killing of several civilians, has raised questions about the effectiveness of the raid, and Trump took a moment to again litigate the decision. He quoted Defense Secretary Jim Mattis defending the action, saying "Ryan was a part of a highly successful raid that generated large amounts of vital intelligence that will lead to many more victories in the future against our enemies."

"Ryan's legacy is etched into eternity," Trump said. "For as the Bible teaches us, there is no greater act of love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. Ryan laid down his life for his friends, for his country, and for our freedom — we will never forget him."

He also struck an awkward note, saying that the prolonged ovation would have made Carryn's slain husband "very happy, because I think he just broke a record" for applause.

Carryn Owens cheered the president's remarks. But Owens' father, Bill, has denounced the raid that took his son's life and refused to meet with Trump when the president greeted the Navy SEAL's remains when they were returned to the United States. He told the Miami Herald last weekend that the raid was a "stupid mission" and called for an investigation.

"Don't hide behind my son's death to prevent an investigation," the elder Owens warned Trump. He did not attend the speech.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

The strange life, and sudden death, of a North Korean exile

By **KELVIN CHAN** and **TIM SULLIVAN**, Associated Press

MACAU (AP) — The heavy-set man got out of a taxi one night last September and headed for the lobby bar of the swank Wynn Macau — a quiet place, where women are often in evening dresses and gamblers can relax with \$300 Cuban cigars. He was dressed casually. There were no bodyguards, no flashy women.

It wasn't what you'd expect of a man once tipped to be the next dictator of North Korea.

Kim Jong Nam had spent years in exile, gambling and drinking and arranging the occasional business deal as he traveled across Asia and Europe. In recent years, his fortunes had apparently declined, and he'd moved his family from a luxurious seafront condominium complex in Macau to a more affordable apartment building. He was looking for company when he bumped into a friend outside the Wynn.

"He wanted us to join him because he didn't want to drink alone," said an insider in Macau's gambling industry who was introduced to Kim that night by a mutual friend. In a city awash in new money and Chinese gamblers flaunting their wealth, Kim was low-key and polite, making no mention of his powerful family.

"It just seemed odd that the son of a dictator would just be — you wouldn't know him from an average dude on the street," said the insider, who spoke on condition of anonymity, not wanting to alienate the city-state's gambling fraternity, where privacy is deeply valued.

Kim may have seemed easygoing, but he had reason to worry. He'd known for years that his younger half brother, now the ruler of North Korea, had ordered him hunted down, South Korean intelligence of-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 27 of 46

officials say.

On a Monday morning in mid-February, that order apparently was carried out.

Kim was walking through Kuala Lumpur's cavernous budget airport terminal, a few steps past a Baskin-Robbins ice cream shop, when a pair of women who Malaysian police say were recruited by a team of North Koreans approached him.

At least one of the women suddenly wiped a powerful toxin on Kim's face, smearing him with VX nerve agent before quickly walking away. Minutes later, after walking to the airport's medical clinic, Kim went into convulsions.

A few minutes after that, as an ambulance rushed him to a hospital, Kim Jong Nam died. He was 45 years old.

Kim's mother was one of North Korea's most famous movie stars. His father was the dictator-prince of North Korea, a deeply isolated country where the same family has been in power since 1948 and the rulers are worshipped in all-encompassing cults of personality.

But Kim Jong Nam's grandfather, the founding ruler Kim Il Sung, didn't approve of his mother, and refused to allow his parents to marry. So Kim spent his childhood in luxurious isolation, hidden from his grandfather, shuttled among Pyongyang mansions and watched over by platoons of bodyguards. When his mother fell ill, reportedly suffering from depression, she was sent to Moscow for treatment and Kim was raised by his maternal aunt.

In those days, his father, Kim Jong Il, loved him deeply, almost desperately. He rocked his son to sleep, and cooed to him "the way a mother calms a crying baby," the aunt, So'ng Hye-rang, wrote in a memoir after she defected to South Korea in the 1990s.

At some point in his childhood, Kim Jong Nam left home, spending years living either with his mother or in boarding schools in Moscow and Geneva. He came back as a worldly teenager, a young man conversant in a string of languages who found himself back in the walled-off mansions and with just a cousin, his aunt's daughter, for company.

"They had nothing to do. They had no place to go," So'ng wrote in her memoir. They would occasionally be driven around the city, but weren't allowed out of the car. At the seaside, they'd be kept in a sealed-off area where they "experienced the sorrow of being on the vast empty beach."

By that time, Kim Jong Il also had another family, with a dancer named Ko Yong-hui who gave birth to the current ruler, and his brother and sister. Kim Jong Il, who succeeded his father in 1994, shifted what So'ng called his "abnormal, tearful love" of Kim Jong Nam to his new children.

It was probably around this point that Kim Jong Nam — then seen by most analysts as his father's successor-in-waiting — was pushed aside, almost certainly by his step-mother.

"I think Kim Jong Nam was already out" of the succession race, because of the increased influence of Ko and her children, said Chang Yong Seok, a senior researcher at Seoul National University's Institute for Peace and Unification studies.

"A queen can play a very important role when a crown prince is proclaimed," he added.

Kim Jong Nam began traveling more as he grew into adulthood, setting up homes in Beijing and Macau, where he had children with two women.

In 2001, he was caught with his family trying to enter Japan using a fake passport. He told Japanese officials they were going to Disneyland and was quickly expelled, a major embarrassment for Kim Jong Il that seemingly ended any chance he could succeed his father.

Still, most analysts believe he was financially supported by his father, as well as by the Chinese government, North Korea's main ally. He also reportedly worked as a freelance businessman, arranging deals where he could.

It was not always a lonely life.

"He had mistresses abroad, used to meet North Korean diplomats and had a network of friends in North Korea," said Nicolas Levi, a researcher with the Polish Center of Asian Studies. For a while, he also traveled back to North Korea, though he did not attend his father's 2011 funeral.

In Macau, a former Portuguese colony turned Chinese gambling center, Kim's son and daughter joined the Portuguese-language Lusophone Scouts and the family attended Mass, hoping to fit in better.

"The family was trying as much as possible" to live normal lives, said Ricardo Pinto, a Macau magazine publisher who closely watched the family for years.

There's no evidence Kim ever got involved in his homeland's politics, though he told journalists that he didn't believe in the regime's system of hereditary dictatorship.

While Kim never fell on hard times, his jet-setting ways appeared to have slowed in recent years. Two years after his father died, his powerful uncle, Jang Song Thaek, was arrested and executed by Kim Jong Un's government. Jang had been close to Kim Jong Nam, and also may have financially supported him, said Chang, the South Korea-based analyst.

He also knew that his brother wanted him dead, apparently fearing he — and his illustrious bloodline — could someday be used against the regime, South Korean intelligence officials have said.

After a mysterious failed attempt to kill him in 2012, South Korean officials say Kim sent his brother a letter, begging for the assassination order to be lifted.

"We have nowhere to go, nowhere to hide, and we know that the only way to escape is to commit suicide," he wrote.

Instead, two women — one Indonesian and the other Vietnamese — were recruited to kill him, with the Indonesian woman telling authorities that a group of men had recruited her for what she believed was a harmless airport prank.

They paid her \$90.

Sullivan reported from New Delhi. Associated Press writer Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

Follow Kelvin Chan on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/chanman> and Tim Sullivan at <http://twitter.com/ByTimSullivan>

Trump offers mixed messages on immigration

By JULIE PACE and JILL COLVIN, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, signaling a potential shift on a signature issue, indicated Tuesday in a private meeting with news anchors that he's open to immigration legislation that would give legal status to some people living in the U.S. illegally and provide a pathway to citizenship to those brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

But hours later, in his first address to Congress, he pledged to vigorously target people living in the U.S. illegally who "threaten our communities" and prey on "innocent citizens." His private comments raised expectations that he might make a similar call in his primetime address. He hinted that he was open to legislation, saying that "real and positive immigration reform is possible," but still pledged to vigorously target those he says make the country unsafe.

The mixed messages underscore the thorniness of an issue that Republicans have been struggling to address for years and on which Trump appears to be torn.

The president, in a lunch with news anchors ahead of his address to Congress, said, "The time is right for an immigration bill as long as there is compromise on both sides." A person with knowledge of the discussion confirmed his comments to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

In his address, Trump said he believes that "real and positive immigration reform is possible" and called on Republicans and Democrats to "work together to achieve an outcome that has eluded our country for decades."

But otherwise, he struck a different tone, touting the steps his administration has taken in its first month to crack down on people living in the country illegally and painting the image of a country besieged by "lawless chaos."

His administration, Trump said, has "answered the pleas of the American people for immigration enforce-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 29 of 46

ment and border security.”

“As we speak, we are removing gang members, drug dealers and criminals that threaten our communities and prey on our very innocent citizens,” he said. “Bad ones are going out as I speak tonight and as I promised throughout the campaign.”

The message was underscored by the administration’s decision to invite family members of people killed by immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to sit in first lady Melania Trump’s box.

Trump campaigned as an immigration hard-liner, vowing to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and pledging to step up deportations. Since taking office, some of his policy moves have hewed closely to those promises, including new guidance from the Department of Homeland Security that would subject any immigrant in the country illegally to deportation if they are charged or convicted of any offense, or even suspected of a crime.

But the president also has suggested he is open to finding a solution for the so-called Dreamers — those who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Although he railed against President Barack Obama’s executive actions to protect those immigrants from deportation during the campaign, Trump has not rolled back those safeguards and has suggested he has other priorities.

During a White House news conference earlier this month, Trump said he would deal with the Dreamers with “great heart” but didn’t say what his administration’s policy would be. He called their status “one of the most difficult subjects I have, because you have these incredible kids.”

Trump has flirted with a more lenient immigration policy before, saying during the campaign that he was open to “softening” his position. But he ultimately landed where he started, declaring during a speech in September that under his presidency, there would be “no legal status or becoming a citizen of the United States by illegally entering our country.”

Congress last took up immigration legislation in 2013, after Hispanic voters overwhelmingly backed Obama in his re-election campaign. A measure including a pathway to citizenship passed the Senate, but stalled in the House.

The popularity of Trump’s tough immigration message among Republican voters appeared to kill any prospect of taking up legislation during his tenure.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that if Trump has an idea on immigration, “we’d be happy to take a look at it.”

But immigration hard-liner Rep. Steve King of Iowa cautioned Trump against attempting to pursue comprehensive immigration legislation, calling it a “trap.”

“Comprehensive is the code word for amnesty and everyone knows that by now,” King said, arguing Trump needed to make good on his campaign promises including ending protections for the younger immigrants brought here illegally as kids. “If it’s not going to be a promise kept on immigration the base will be gone.”

On the other side, Rep. Bill Flores, R-Texas, argued that his conservative district and most of the country is ready for a solution on immigration that deals with the 11 million in the country illegally.

“I applaud the president for bringing this up,” Flores said. “It’s one of those areas where if you bring it up somebody’s out there screaming the word amnesty at the top of their lungs and it’s not amnesty, and so I think he’s showed real leadership by bringing it up. I was thrilled to hear it.”

As for the immigration hard-liners who’ve defeated past immigration efforts in the past, Flores said they didn’t have Trump to contend with before.

“You’ve got a different president who can unleash Twitter jihad,” Flores said.

Trump’s mixed signals have left many, including Deyvid Morales, a 25-year-old Dreamer from Salt Lake City, unsure about their status. Morales, who has lived in the United States since 2001, said he was optimistic about the president’s new comments but unsure if he could trust him, considering Trump’s hardened rhetoric throughout the campaign.

“I believe about 20 percent of whatever he says,” Morales said.

AP Congressional Correspondent Erica Werner and Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

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

Suspects charged with murder in airport nerve agent attack

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Appearing calm and solemn, two young women accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader, were charged with murder Wednesday.

The women, who arrived in court under the protection of masked special forces carrying machine guns, are at the center of a bizarre killing at a busy Kuala Lumpur airport terminal. Many speculate the attack was orchestrated by North Korea, but Pyongyang denies any role.

"I understand but I am not guilty," Vietnamese suspect Doan Thi Huong told the court in English after the murder charge was read. She looked briefly at the public gallery as she was led out and bowed her head.

The other suspect, Indonesian Siti Aisyah, nodded as her translator told her: "You are accused of murdering a North Korean man at the departure hall" of Kuala Lumpur International Airport. She was dressed in a red T-shirt and jeans.

The women did not enter pleas because the magistrate court where they appeared has no jurisdiction over a murder case. Lead prosecutor Iskander Ahmad told the court he will ask for the case to be transferred to a higher court and for both women to be tried together.

Each faces a mandatory death sentence if convicted. Both women were wearing bulletproof vests as they were escorted from the court to Kajang Prison.

Kim Jong Nam was attacked as he waited for his flight home to Macau on Feb. 13. He died shortly after two women went up behind him and wiped something onto his face.

Both women have reportedly said they thought they were part of a prank TV show playing harmless tricks on unsuspecting passengers. Aisyah told authorities she was paid the equivalent of \$90.

The attack was caught on grainy airport surveillance video; Huong was seen clearly in a T-shirt with "LOL" emblazoned across the front.

Gooi Soon Seng, Aisyah's lawyer, spoke to his client for the first time Wednesday.

"Her eyes were red and she says she's innocent," he said.

Also Wednesday, the court approved a gag order to prevent police and potential witnesses from making public statements about the case.

Meanwhile, Kim's corpse is at the center of a growing diplomatic battle between North Korea and Malaysia.

Speculation is rampant that North Korea was behind the killing, particularly after Malaysia said Friday that VX had killed Kim. Experts say the oily poison was almost certainly produced in a sophisticated state weapons laboratory.

On Tuesday, a high-level North Korean delegation arrived in Kuala Lumpur seeking custody of the body.

North Korea opposed Malaysian officials even conducting an autopsy, while Malaysia has resisted giving up the body without getting DNA samples and confirmation from next of kin.

Malaysian officials have confirmed that the victim of the attack was Kim Jong Nam. North Korea, however, has identified him only as a North Korean national with a diplomatic passport bearing the name Kim Chol.

Health Minister Subramaniam Sathasivam said Malaysia will continue to insist that the body be identified by medical examiners through DNA or other means before it can be released. He said the protocol is to release it to the next-of-kin once identification is completed.

Kim Jong Nam is believed to have two sons and a daughter with two women living in Beijing and Macau.

The Pyongyang delegation is also seeking the release of a North Korean arrested in the case, 45-year-old Ri Jong Chol. Malaysia has not described his alleged role in the killing, and it was not clear if or when he could be charged.

Authorities are seeking seven other North Korean suspects, four of whom fled the country the day of

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 31 of 46

Kim's death and are believed to be back in North Korea. Others sought include the second secretary of North Korea's embassy and an employee of North Korea's state-owned airline, Air Koryo.

Kim Jong Nam was estranged from Kim Jong Un. He reportedly fell out of favor with their father, the late Kim Jong Il, in 2001, when he was caught trying to enter Japan on a false passport to visit Tokyo Disneyland.

He had been heading to Macau, where he has a home, when he was killed.

Isolated North Korea has a long history of ordering killings of people it views as threats to its regime. Kim Jong Nam was not known to be seeking political power, but his position as eldest son of the family that has ruled North Korea since it was founded could have made him appear to be a danger.

Presidential Trump says 'join forces' for new greatness

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Heralding a "new chapter of American greatness," President Donald Trump issued a broad call for overhauling the nation's health care system and significantly boosting military spending Tuesday night, swapping his trademark pugnaciousness and personal insults for a more restrained tone as he addressed Congress for the first time.

In an appeal to American optimism, Trump declared, "The time for small thinking is over." Still, he employed dark language to describe the threat posed by "radical Islamic terrorism" — a term his own national security adviser rejects as inflammatory — and warned against "reckless" and "uncontrolled entry" of refugees and immigrants from countries with ties to extremist groups.

Trump's overall message on immigration, one of his signature campaign issues, was unexpectedly mixed. He said he believed that "real and positive immigration reform is possible" and had suggested to news anchors earlier that he was open to legislation that could provide a pathway to legal status for some of the millions of people living in the U.S. illegally.

In his hour-long address, Trump defended his early actions in office and ignored the missteps that have set even his allies in Washington on edge. He outlined a populist agenda centered on promises to compel companies to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. He was unusually measured and embraced the pomp and tradition of a presidential address to Congress.

The president was greeted by enthusiastic applause as he entered the House chamber, though it was filled with Democrats who vigorously oppose his policies and many Republicans who never expected him to be elected. Most Republican lawmakers have rallied around him since the election, hopeful that he will act on the domestic priorities they saw blocked during President Barack Obama's eight years in office.

Topping that list is undoing Obama's signature health care law and replacing the sweeping measure. Trump offered a basic blueprint of his priorities, including ensuring that those with pre-existing conditions have access to coverage, allowing people to buy insurance across state lines and offering tax credits and expanded health savings accounts to help Americans purchase coverage. He suggested he would get rid of the current law's requirement that all Americans carry insurance coverage, saying that "mandating every American to buy government-approved health insurance was never the right solution for America."

Making a direct appeal for bipartisanship, Trump turned to Democrats and said, "Why not join forces to finally get the job done and get it done right?"

Democrats, now firmly ensconced in the minority, sat silently while Republicans stood and cheered. Some wore blue, pro-health care buttons that read "Protect our care," and dozens of Democratic women wore white in honor of the suffrage movement.

Delivering Democrats' formal response after the speech, former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear accused Trump of planning to "rip affordable health insurance" from Americans and being "Wall Street's champion."

Trump was vague in his call for tax reform, another Republican priority. He promised "massive tax relief for the middle class" and a reduction in corporate tax rates, but glossed over how he would offset the cuts.

The president also urged Congress to pass a \$1 trillion infrastructure package financed through both

public and private capital.

"The time has come for a new program of national rebuilding," he said.

First lady Melania Trump sat with special guests who were on hand to amplify the president's agenda, including the family members of people killed by immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. The widow of former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia also sat alongside Mrs. Trump, a reminder of the president's well-received nomination of federal appeals court Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill Scalia's seat.

The majority of Trump's address centered on the domestic, economic-focused issues that were at the center of his presidential campaign. His national security message centered largely on a call for significantly boosting military spending and taking strong but unspecified measures to protect the nation from "radical Islamic terrorism."

Underscoring the human cost of those efforts, Trump honored Chief Special Warrant Officer William "Ryan" Owens, who was killed in a raid in Yemen during his first days in office. Owens' widow, Carryn, sat in the guest box with tears streaming down her face as the crowd stood and applauded at length.

Owens' death, as well as the killing of several civilians, have raised questions about the effectiveness of the raid. Owens' father, Bill, has refused to meet with Trump, has called for an investigation into the raid's planning and has criticized the administration for its timing.

Pushing back against the criticism, the president said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had assured him that the operation generated "large amounts of vital intelligence that will lead to many more victories in the future against our enemies."

Trump also voiced support for NATO but reiterated his call for partner countries to meet their financial obligations to the military alliance. Trump has previously called NATO "obsolete," setting some allies on edge about his commitment to the partnership.

The president opened his remarks by condemning the recent threats against Jewish community centers and a fatal shooting in Kansas being investigated as a hate crime.

The president had received criticism from some civil rights groups who had accused him of being slow in denouncing the violent acts.

AP writers Catherine Lucey and Vivian Salama contributed to this report.

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

Conservatives rebel on health care, Trump backs key elements

By ERICA WERNER and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans confronted a conservative rebellion in their own party Tuesday over their long-promised plans to repeal and replace the health care law, and beseeched President Donald Trump to settle the dispute.

In his first speech to a joint session of Congress Trump embraced a key element of the emerging House GOP health plan, in comments that cheered Republican House leaders and could help bring conservatives back in line.

Trump's remarks were short on details, but for the first time he announced his support for tax credits to help consumers buy health care. House GOP leaders are structuring their health plan around those tax credits, but they've been running into trouble with conservatives in the House and Senate who say they amount to a costly new entitlement.

"We should help Americans purchase their own coverage, through the use of tax credits and expanded Health Savings Accounts - but it must be the plan they want, not the plan forced on them by the government," Trump said as he called on Republicans to make good on long-held promises to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law and replace it with something better.

The comments, cheered by many Republicans in the House chamber as Democrats sat silent, came amid roiling debate on Capitol Hill as conservatives revolt over the tax credits and threaten to vote down

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 33 of 46

a leadership plan taking shape in the House.

"He's the leader on this issue right now; he's the one that's got to hold us together," Rep. Dennis Ross of Florida said ahead of the speech as he left a meeting during which he said Republican leaders urged the rank-and-file to "stay strong" on health care and told them: "Now is not the time to back down."

The dispute comes a month into Trump's presidency, and seven years after the Affordable Care Act passed a Democratic-controlled Congress with Barack Obama in the White House. Now the Republicans are in charge of the White House and Congress. Yet, having spent all those intervening years promising to uproot the law and replace it with something better, they find themselves flailing and divided at the moment of truth.

"What the president can say is that the plan that gets presented to the conference is the one you need to vote 'yes' on," GOP Rep. Bill Flores of Texas said ahead of the speech. "That's how he can be helpful."

Trump didn't go quite that far, but he did back principles enshrined in the emerging House GOP plan, and leadership aides immediately cheered his remarks, especially his support for tax credits.

Trump also spoke of ensuring that people with pre-existing conditions continue to have coverage and giving flexibility to governors to manage the Medicaid federal-state health care program for the poor.

It remained to be seen whether Trump's remarks would convince rebellious conservatives. After a recess week filled with raucous town hall meetings, lawmakers' return to the Capitol this week immediately put deep divisions on display. The two leading conservative groups in the House both announced their opposition to House leadership health care plans based on a leaked draft and reports that the bill would cost more than expected while covering fewer people than the Affordable Care Act.

And three key conservative senators, Mike Lee of Utah, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Ted Cruz of Texas, added their voices in opposition, too, announcing that they will resist "Obamacare Lite" and "accept nothing less than full repeal of Obamacare."

"I think we have the votes now to tell the leadership that this is what we want to do," Paul said on a conference call with House conservative leaders Tuesday.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky summoned Republicans to a meeting Wednesday afternoon to hash things out.

"The goal is for the administration, the House and the Senate to be in the same place," McConnell said on health care. "We're not there yet."

Health care is far from the only issue dividing Republicans. Plans to overhaul the tax code have them tied in knots, and senior lawmakers are busy throwing cold water on Trump's budget proposal, which was made public in broad outlines on Monday. The budget envisions a huge \$54 billion surge in U.S. military spending while slashing domestic programs and foreign aid.

Asked Tuesday whether the Senate could pass a budget that slashes the State Department budget by a third as Trump envisions, McConnell replied shortly: "Probably not."

And, Trump's budget would leave large deficits intact while sparing Social Security and Medicare, the entitlements that make up an enormous and growing share of the federal budget. That puts Trump in direct conflict with Ryan and other leading Republicans who've long advocated adjusting entitlement programs to put them on a more sustainable footing and get deficits under control.

Trump made no mention of Medicare or Social Security Tuesday night. And Ryan himself, pressed on whether he still favored reforming entitlements, something that has been his legislative calling card for years, claimed that repealing and replacing Obamacare actually qualifies as entitlement reform.

Follow Erica Werner on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ericawerner>

Trump signs executive order on black colleges

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday aimed at signaling his commitment to historically black colleges and universities, saying that those schools will be “an absolute priority for this White House.”

HBCU presidents are hoping Congress will bolster Trump’s actions to strengthen the schools with dramatically increased funding in the upcoming federal budget. They are calling for \$25 billion for infrastructure, college readiness, financial aid and other priorities. Under President Barack Obama’s administration, historically black colleges and universities received \$4 billion over seven years.

“The next step is the budget. You cannot have mission without money,” Thurgood Marshall College Fund President Johnny Taylor told reporters outside the White House after the signing ceremony.

Many of the college presidents also went to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to lobby Congress for more funding. Taylor said the \$25 billion is needed to make up for years of underfunding and would cover the country’s more than 100 HBCUs.

Several presidents and HBCU advocacy organizations echoed Taylor’s sentiments.

GOP lawmakers said there were currently no concrete plans for increased funding. Several of them attended meetings Tuesday that Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., and Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., arranged with HBCU presidents, GOP officials and business leaders.

Scott said he and Walker planned to personally push for more money for black colleges, and “hopefully we will be more successful than they have been in the last few years.”

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said if Trump was interested in helping HBCUs, he would increase spending on education instead of proposing cuts. She called his executive order “more empty symbolism.”

The founder and co-chair of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, Rep. Alma Adams, D-N.C., called the executive order a first step. “This action on HBCUs is not sufficient to hold up to promises made by this administration,” she said.

Trump’s order moves the Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities from the Department of Education into the executive office of the White House. It directs the initiative to work with the private sector to strengthen the fiscal stability of HBCUs, make infrastructure improvements, provide job opportunities for students, work with secondary schools to create a college pipeline and increase access and opportunity for federal grants and contracts.

It does not specify how much federal money the colleges should receive.

The moves are among the actions some college presidents said they would like to see from the new administration. Some of them decided to come to Washington over the objections of students and alumni, saying they can ill afford to play politics while Trump moves quickly to set priorities.

Larry Robinson, interim president of Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida, said he felt it was incumbent upon black college leaders to engage federal officials, “regardless of who’s sitting in the White House, or what their political affiliations are.”

“We’re appealing to his good business sense and hoping he finds an investment worth paying for,” said Roslyn Artis, president of Florida Memorial University in Miami. She said she favors tax incentives that would attract government contractors and private companies to invest in historically black schools.

Trump met briefly with the college leaders on Monday, as did Vice President Mike Pence and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. Present alongside Trump was one of his most visible black aides, Omarosa Manigault, who holds degrees from two HBCUs: Central State University in Ohio and Howard University in Washington.

President Ronald Reagan created the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities by executive order in 1981. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush established a Presidential Advisory Board on HBCUs, and in 2002, President George W. Bush transferred the initiative from the White House to the Department of Education.

Nearly 300,000 students are enrolled at historically black colleges, according to the National Center for

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 35 of 46

Education Statistics. While the number has increased over the past generation, the percentage of HBCU attendees among the overall black college student population has decreased from 18 percent in 1976 to 8 percent in 2014.

The Washington trip was led by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the nonprofit umbrella organization of public HBCUs. Taylor pointed out that two-thirds of such schools are in red, or Republican-controlled states, and that the colleges are heavily reliant on federal and state funding to survive.

Several of the presidents may have a tough time explaining to their students and alumni why they were willing to meet with Trump and GOP lawmakers. Trump only received 8 percent of votes from African-Americans during his election, and far more blacks vote Democrat than Republican.

Any funding coming from the federal government will have to have Republican approval, several presidents said. "We owe it to our alumni, we owe it to our students to be at the table," said Ray Belton, president of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

While some HBCU presidents in attendance are proceeding with cautious optimism, some African-Americans are wary of the administration's intentions - concerns underscored by DeVos' seemingly tone-deaf comments Monday praising HBCUs as "pioneers" in school choice that gave black students more options to pursue higher education.

In fact, many of the HBCUs - including some established in the aftermath of the Civil War - were the only option, as state-sanctioned segregation blocked generations of blacks from enrolling at white colleges.

Grambling State University President Rick Gallot pointed out that more than 90 percent of the students at his Louisiana college are eligible for the federal Pell grant, and added he would like to see the program strengthened and made into a year-round opportunity.

"As HBCUs, we've always done what politicians stress to agencies: To do more with less," Gallot said. "Think of the opportunities that would be there to do more with more."

Jesse J. Holland and Jill Colvin contributed to this report. Errin Haines Whack covers urban affairs for The Associated Press. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous>.

Airports, legal volunteers prepare for new Trump travel ban

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Airport officials and civil rights lawyers around the country are getting ready for President Donald Trump's new travel ban — mindful of the chaos that accompanied his initial executive order but hopeful the forthcoming version will be rolled out in a more orderly way.

The new order was expected as soon as Wednesday. A draft suggested it would target people from the same seven predominantly Muslim countries but would exempt travelers who already have visas to come to the U.S.

Since last month's ban, which courts have put on hold, a section of the international arrivals area at Dulles International Airport outside the nation's capital has been transformed into a virtual law firm, with legal volunteers ready to greet travelers from affected countries and ask if they saw anyone being detained.

Similar efforts are underway at other airports, including Seattle-Tacoma International, where officials have drawn up plans for crowd control after thousands crammed the baggage claim area to protest the original ban.

"The plan is to be as ready as possible," said Lindsay Nash, an immigration law professor at Cardozo School of Law in New York who has been helping prepare emergency petitions on behalf of those who might be detained.

Trump's initial action, issued Jan. 27, temporarily barred citizens of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan and Libya from coming to the U.S. and halted acceptance of all refugees. The president said his administration would review vetting procedures amid concerns about terrorism in those seven nations.

Protesters flooded U.S. airports that weekend, seeking to free travelers detained by customs officials amid confusion about who could enter the country, including U.S. permanent residents known as green-card holders.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 36 of 46

Attorneys also challenged the order in court, including officials from Washington state. That lawsuit, which Minnesota joined, resulted in a federal judge temporarily blocking the government from enforcing the travel ban, a decision unanimously upheld by a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Many civil rights lawyers and activists have said they don't believe a new order would cure all the constitutional problems of the original, including the claim that it was motivated by anti-Muslim discrimination.

Trump has said he singled out the seven countries because they had already been deemed a security concern by the Obama administration.

In his first address to Congress on Tuesday night, Trump said his administration "is taking strong measures to protect our nation from radical Islamic terrorism" and is working on improved vetting procedures.

"And we will shortly take new steps to keep our nation safe — and to keep out those who would do us harm," Trump said.

Last week, analysts at the Homeland Security Department's intelligence arm found insufficient evidence that citizens of the seven Muslim-majority countries pose a terror threat to the United States.

"It's not enough to just tweak an order and not change the nature of why it was issued in the first place," said Rula Aoun, director of the Arab American Civil Rights League in Dearborn, Michigan, which sued over the initial ban and is prepared to do the same with the rewrite if necessary.

In New York, American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt said the organization was ready to go to court if the administration tries to immediately enforce its new order.

"The primary focus is being able to respond immediately to any request by the government to lift any of the injunctions, before the courts have had a chance to examine the new order," he said.

Activists and airport officials alike said they hoped it would be phased in to give travelers fair warning, which might preclude any detentions from arriving flights.

"We are prepared and willing," said Rebecca Sharpless, who runs the immigration clinic at the University of Miami School of Law. "But it's unlikely to cause the same kind of chaos of last time."

At Dulles, Sea-Tac, Minneapolis-St. Paul and other airports, legal volunteers have greeted arriving travelers in shifts every day since the initial ban, wearing name tags or posting signs in different languages to identify themselves.

The legal-services nonprofit OneJustice was ready to send email alerts to 3,000 volunteers in California if needed, deploying them to San Francisco and Los Angeles airports for people affected by any new order, chief executive Julia Wilson said.

In Chicago, travelers have been signing up for an assistance program started by the local Council on American-Islamic Relations office to ensure swift legal help if they're detained.

Groups urged those arriving at 17 other airports, including Miami, Atlanta and San Diego, to register with Airport Lawyer, a secure website and free mobile app that alerts volunteer lawyers to ensure travelers make it through customs without trouble.

Asti Gallina, a third-year student at the University of Washington Law School, volunteered at Sea-Tac for the first time Tuesday. It was quiet, she said.

"An essential part of the American narrative is the ability to come to America," Gallina said. "Any infringement of that is something that needs to be resisted."

Associated Press writers Tammy Webber and Sophia Tareen in Chicago; Deepti Hajela and Larry Neumeister in New York; Matthew Barakat in Alexandria, Virginia; Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami; and Amy Forliti in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Cardozo Law School is in New York, not affiliated with New York University

AP FACT CHECK: Black colleges hardly school choice pioneers

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is praising the country's historically black colleges and universities as pioneers on school choice. She said in a speech Monday that African-Americans "took it upon themselves to provide the solution" when they were blocked from attending predominantly white institutions of higher education.

But DeVos' comparison is off base. The goal of those schools was not to expand choices, but to provide black students with their only choice when confronted with segregation. A look at the facts:

DEVOS: "They saw that the system wasn't working, that there was an absence of opportunity, so they took it upon themselves to provide the solution," she said in a statement after meeting with HBCU presidents and chancellors who were in Washington to lobby administration officials. "HBCUs are real pioneers when it comes to school choice. They are living proof that when more options are provided to students, they are afforded greater access and greater quality. Their success has shown that more options help students flourish."

THE FACTS: Historically black colleges and universities were created in direct response to racism in education — some soon after the Civil War ended in 1865 — as African-Americans were shut out from predominantly white schools. Though a handful of black students were enrolled at some private white colleges during segregation, for generations HBCUs were the only option open to black students seeking higher education. From their beginnings, the schools have accepted students of all races and cultures.

Racial tensions exploded in 1960s as black students attempted to integrate public colleges in several Southern states, in some cases requiring the National Guard to escort black students into campus buildings and to calm angry mobs.

DeVos visited Howard University, a historically black college, in Washington on her first day as Education secretary. At the meeting on Monday, she pledged to "elevate the role of HBCUs in this administration." On Tuesday, in an address to HBCU leaders at a congressional luncheon, DeVos was more measured.

Though she referred to HBCUs as "an alternative option" and "bucking the status quo," DeVos told the group: "Your history was born, not out of mere choice, but out of necessity, in the face of racism and in the aftermath of the Civil War."

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <http://apne.ws/2kx8bd>

Errin Haines Whack covers urban affairs for The Associated Press. Follow her on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous>.

Trump sons open newest hotel in Vancouver

By MANUEL VALDES and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Ignoring protests, claims their newest real estate venture clashes with Canadian values and a no-show mayor who tried to change the tower's name, U.S. President Donald Trump's sons said Tuesday that it was "so fitting" to see the Trump brand in Vancouver, a city known for its diversity and progressive politics.

Protesters, some carrying posters proclaiming, "Love Trumps Hate," surrounded the entrance to the Trump hotel and condominium tower while police and security officers in black suits gathered on sidewalks at the soaring edifice, which has drawn praise for its sleek design but has also raised ethical concerns about the business interests of the new U.S. president.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, who had lobbied for the Trump name to be removed from the tower, refused to attend the ceremony in protest of Trump's policies on immigration and other matters. "The name Trump has now become synonymous not with luxury and lifestyle, but with racism, sexism and intolerance," said city Councilman Kerry Jang, who was among other city officials boycotting the event.

Despite the protests and controversy, however, the Trump brothers said Vancouver was the perfect

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 38 of 46

location for a new Trump enterprise.

"Vancouver is truly one of the great cities of the world. It's truly one of the most beautiful places in the world and it's so fitting for the Trump brand," Eric Trump said in a speech before the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Calling the building an "an architectural masterpiece," he added: "That's what our brand is all about. That's what our father's vision was all about, creating one of the most iconic buildings in the world."

In true Trump fashion, Donald Jr. opened his remarks with a light-hearted swipe at the media. "I'd like to thank the press," he said before quickly adding: "Just kidding. Good to see you here. I'm shocked. I'm absolutely shocked."

Donald Jr. also thanked the tower's Malaysian developer, Joo Kim Tiah, whose father is one of Malaysia's wealthiest businessmen and who, like the U.S. president, made a fortune in real estate.

"It's great to be able to do this within a family business. I understand how that dynamic works," Donald Jr. said. "It either works great or it is a total disaster."

The Trump Organization is licensing the name to the building and managing the hotel, but does not own it.

Joo Kim, the developer, said he found it "extremely stressful" when Trump entered politics well after he signed the partnership agreement with the Trump organization.

"I was terrified," Joo Kim of the Canada-based Holborn Development company told The Associated Press last week. "The people who ran the city were not happy with me. I was scared, but I think they understand. They understand that I'm trapped into — not trapped, locked into — an agreement."

As the opening ceremony took place Tuesday inside the gleaming 69-story tower, people carrying anti-Trump signs took part in a raucous demonstration to the sound of reggae music outside. Protesters crowded the building's entrance, including Henry Ho, who brought signs with messages that included "Dump Trump," and "Is it 2020 yet?"

"I believe a president should be at his core a good person," the Vancouver resident said. "I don't feel like that comes from Donald Trump."

Sue Robertson, a retiree who lives in Vancouver, said the Trump brand is associated with "evil" and said a Trump tower "does not belong in a multicultural, fabulous beautiful city."

While the Trump-branded tower is a source of anger for many, the new hotel and its namesake do have some support in the region.

"President and hotel owner are two different things. If he can separate the two, all the power to him," said Joe Taylor, a resident of British Columbia. "At least he's got the nerve to say what's on his mind. If people don't like it, well, they're not used to that."

The Trump brothers did not take questions after the ceremony, though Donald Jr. later said in a tweet that the Trump Organization had received a record number of applications to work at the tower: 10,000 applications for 300 full time jobs.

A Trump Organization tweet late Monday asserted the tower was "the first property to open in the city" in over six years. But the city's former planning director, Brent Toderian, said that wasn't true.

"I'm the former chief planner for #Vancouver. That's so far from being true, it's laughable," Brent Toderian tweeted. The Trump Organization tweet was later deleted.

The media was taken on a tour of the hotel, which included stops at Ivanka Trump's spa, a view of the rooms where reporters could take a look at the protest below, and the night club.

Located along an upscale six-lane downtown thoroughfare, the tower is the second-tallest in Vancouver and offers majestic mountain and ocean views. A one-bedroom apartment, at 699 square feet, starts around \$1 million and the average 1,153-square-foot two-bedroom condo went for \$1.7 million but has since gone up. Hotel rooms in the slow season start at around \$228 (\$300 Canadian).

The chief White House ethics lawyers under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama have criticized Trump's turning over control of his business to his sons, saying it does not eliminate potential conflicts of interest. Legal experts also say Trump's overseas businesses could violate the "emoluments clause" of the U.S. constitution, which bars public officials from accepting payments or gifts from foreign governments

or companies they control without the consent of Congress. A liberal-funded watchdog group has filed a lawsuit against Trump citing the clause.

Associated Press videographer Manuel Valdes reported this story in Vancouver and AP writer Rob Gillies reported from Toronto. AP writer Cara McKenna in Vancouver contributed to this report.

When Amazon's cloud storage fails, lots of people get wet

By MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Reporter

NEW YORK (AP) — Usually people don't notice the "cloud" — unless, that is, it turns into a massive storm. Which was the case Tuesday when Amazon's huge cloud-computing service suffered a major outage.

Amazon Web Services, by far the world's largest provider of internet-based computing services, suffered an unspecified breakdown in its eastern U.S. region starting about midday Tuesday. The result: unprecedented and widespread performance problems for thousands of websites and apps.

While few services went down completely, thousands, if not tens of thousands, of companies had trouble with features ranging from file sharing to webfeeds to loading any type of data from Amazon's "simple storage service," known as S3. Amazon services began returning around 4 p.m. EST, and an hour later the company noted on its service site that S3 was fully recovered and "operating normally."

THE CONCENTRATED CLOUD

The breakdown shows the risks of depending heavily on a few big companies for cloud computing. Amazon's service is significantly larger by revenue than any of its nearest rivals — Microsoft's Azure, Google's Cloud Platform and IBM, according to Forrester Research.

With so few large providers, any outage can have a disproportionate effect. But some analysts argue that the Amazon outage doesn't prove there's a problem with cloud computing — it just highlights how reliable the cloud normally is.

The outage, said Forrester analyst Dave Bartoletti, shouldn't cause companies to assume "the cloud is dangerous."

Amazon's problems began when one S3 region based in Virginia began to experience what the company called "increased error rates." In a statement, Amazon said as of 4 p.m. EST it was still experiencing errors that were "impacting various AWS services."

"We are working hard at repairing S3, believe we understand root cause, and are working on implementing what we believe will remediate the issue," the company said.

WHY S3 MATTERS

Amazon S3 stores files and data for companies on remote servers. Amazon started offering it in 2006, and it's used for everything from building websites and apps to storing images, customer data and commercial transactions.

"Anything you can think about storing in the most cost-effective way possible," is how Rich Mogull, CEO of data security firm Securosis, puts it.

Since Amazon hasn't said exactly what is happening yet, it's hard to know just how serious the outage is. "We do know it's bad," Mogull said. "We just don't know how bad."

At S3 customers, the problem affected both "front-end" operations — meaning the websites and apps that users see — and back-end data processing that takes place out of sight. Some smaller online services, such as Trello, Scribd and IFTTT, appeared to be down for a while, although all have since recovered.

The corporate message service Slack, by contrast, stayed up, although it reported "degraded service" for some features. Users reported that file sharing in particular appeared to freeze up.

The Associated Press' own photos, webfeeds and other online services were also affected.

TECHNICAL KNOCKOUTAGE

Major cloud-computing outages don't occur very often — perhaps every year or two — but they do happen. In 2015, Amazon's DynamoDB service, a cloud-based database, had problems that affected companies like Netflix and Medium. But usually providers have workarounds that can get things working again quickly.

"What's really surprising to me is that there's no fallback — usually there is some sort of backup plan

to move data over, and it will be made available within a few minutes," said Patrick Moorhead, an analyst at Moor Insights & Strategy.

AFTEREFFECTS

Forrester's Bartoletti said the problems on Tuesday could lead to some Amazon customers storing their data on Amazon's servers in more than one location, or even shifting to other providers.

"A lot more large companies could look at their application architecture and ask 'how could we have insulated ourselves a little bit more,'" he said. But he added, "I don't think it fundamentally changes how incredibly reliable the S3 service has been."

Bright like a diamond: Harvard honors Rihanna's philanthropy

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Grammy Award-winning singer Rihanna finally "made it to Harvard" to be honored as the university's 2017 Humanitarian of the Year.

She received a standing ovation as she accepted the award on Tuesday.

"So I made it to Harvard," she said, flipping her long ponytail and striking a pose as the crowd erupted into cheers. "Never thought I'd be able to say that in my life. But it feels good."

The university says it chose Rihanna for her involvement in a number of charitable causes. She built a state-of-the-art center for oncology and nuclear medicine to diagnose and treat breast cancer in her home nation, Barbados.

Rihanna, whose songs include "Work" and "Diamonds," also supports the Global Partnership for Education and Global Citizen Project, providing children with access to education in more than 60 developing countries. She created the Clara Lionel Foundation scholarship program, named for her grandparents, for students from the Caribbean who attend college in the U.S.

Previous winners of the award include actor James Earl Jones and activist Malala Yousafzai.

Democratic effort led by ex-AG Holder targets swing states

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

Seeking a path back to power in Congress, Democrats first want to hold on to the governorship in Virginia this year. Then they're setting their sights in 2018 on crucial governors' contests in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

The targeted races are part of a strategy by a new Democratic coalition led by former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder that aims to undo what he denounces as the "rigged political process" that has favored Republicans since congressional and state legislative districts were redrawn after the 2010 Census.

To win in Washington, Democrats have come to believe that they must first gain ground locally — through elections for governors and state legislators, court cases or ballot initiatives. Most governors elected in 2017 and 2018 will still be in office when the next round of redistricting occurs after the 2020 Census, wielding a potential veto pen over maps drawn by legislatures.

Democratic-backed legal challenges to the current districts in some states also could set new precedents for how redistricting must occur nationally. And in some states, Democratic-aligned groups are considering state ballot initiatives that could diminish the power of legislatures to draw districts, instead entrusting the process to bipartisan or independent commissions.

Republicans won a 241-194 majority over Democrats in last year's U.S. House elections, claiming more than 55 percent of the seats even though they edged Democrats by just 1 percentage point in the nationwide popular vote. Holder contends that disproportionate ratio is partly the result of partisan gerrymandering engineered by Republicans, who now control about two-thirds of all state legislatures.

"The will of the people, I think, has ultimately been frustrated — both at the state level and at the federal level," Holder said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Because of the way districts are drawn, Holder says it will be difficult for Democrats to regain control of Congress in the 2018 elections during the middle of Republican President Donald Trump's term. But he's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 41 of 46

hopeful of laying a foundation for future success.

Holder, who was attorney general under former President Barack Obama, is chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a new alliance of Democratic leaders, unions and progressive groups trying to bolster Democratic prospects ahead of the next round of redistricting.

"The mission is simple: Better maps in 2021 than we got coming out of the census in 2010," Holder told a group of reporters in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday.

He views the effort as a continuation of his work as attorney general "protecting voting rights" against Republican initiatives such as photo identification requirements, although the new committee will leave it to others to challenge such laws.

Obama also will be involved in the redistricting effort and already has helped with fundraising, Holder said. He declined to say how much money has been raised so far.

The Democratic initiative is modeled after the Republicans' successful Redistricting Majority Project, which contributed to a wave of state legislative and gubernatorial victories in 2010. Those new Republican majorities then were able to control the 2011 redistricting, helping to lock in favorable political maps for years to come.

Since then, Republicans have seized even more states, now controlling the governorship and full legislature in 25 states while total Democratic control has diminished to about a half-dozen states. Republicans contend their dominance is due primarily to superior candidates and issues, not manipulated maps.

"Right now, the Democrats are in their nightmare scenario, and they're responding" with talented strategists and fundraisers, said Matt Walter, president of the Republican State Leadership Committee.

But he said if Democrats take a top-down approach to targeting local races, "we'll continue to win."

Many Democrats say the party failed to focus enough on local candidates during Obama's tenure. Newly elected Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez is pledging to rebuild the party at all levels, from the "school board to the Senate."

Holder's redistricting initiative is dividing states into four tiers, focusing foremost on those with the largest gaps between the partisan popular votes and seats won, and where Democrats can have the greatest impact by winning a key election or court battle. At the bottom are states with few members of Congress, unlikely to flip to Democrats or where there is little ability to influence the redistricting process.

Among their top targets is Virginia, where Democratic congressional candidates received about 16,000 more votes than Republicans last November yet won just four of the state's 11 U.S. House seats. Even that marked a gain: Democrats flipped one Republican seat after a federal appeals court ordered new district boundaries because too many black voters had been packed into a single district under the Republican-drawn maps.

Democrats want to retain the governor's office, now held by term-limited Gov. Terry McAuliffe, to provide leverage during the 2021 redistricting against a state legislature currently led by Republicans.

A similar scenario exists in Michigan, where Republican congressional candidates edged Democrats by a single percentage point in last year's statewide vote yet won 9 of the 14 districts, which were drawn under a GOP legislature and governor. Democrats are taking a three-pronged approach: considering filing suit against the current districts; backing a ballot initiative to change the future redistricting process; and trying to win the governor's office being vacated by term-limited Republican Rick Snyder.

"There are a lot of big governors' races in states where maps are particularly egregious," said Kelly Ward, executive director of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee.

Where Republicans control the state legislature, those governors are essential "to get a Democrat at the table in the redistricting process," she added.

Governors' races also will be the top targets for Democrats in Ohio and Pennsylvania, two places with Republican state legislatures where GOP congressional candidates' received a mid-50s percent share of the statewide vote yet won around 75 percent of their U.S. House seats.

Florida is another high-stakes state, with a term-limited Republican governor in 2018, a GOP-led state legislature and a 16-11 Republican advantage in U.S. House seats.

Republicans will be mounting similar offensives in Illinois and Maryland, hoping to hold on to GOP governorships as a redistricting buffer against Democratic-dominated state legislatures that drew congressional

maps in their favor after the 2010 Census.

Associated Press writer Mark Sherman in Washington, D.C., contributed to this story.

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

NFL prospects have been prepping for this big week

By ARNIE STAPLETON, AP Pro Football Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The 330 players arriving at the league's annual combine have been preparing for this week's "Underwear Olympics" like a prize fighter gets ready for his big night, pumping iron and cutting carbs.

They've been following strict programs designed to help them get stronger, run faster and jump higher in anticipation of getting poked and prodded, measured and treasured.

"The hardest thing for these kids to really understand when they get to the combine and the pro day is they get one shot at all these drills," said Loren Landow, who trained Stanford star Christian McCaffrey among more than two dozen NFL hopefuls at Landow Performance in suburban Denver over the last two months.

"Whereas your strength coach in college used to let you do it over and over until you got your best time, now that's not the case when you're being evaluated in a time crunch," Landow said. "They're going to give you one opportunity and it's all about how well you perform at that moment with high levels of stress and some fatigue on you."

That's why they've been training with such single-minded focus since their bowl games.

"It's a lot of just trying to improve all the funky drills that they have you doing at the combine that you know aren't necessarily things that we practice as a football player on a daily basis," said Wyoming offensive lineman Chase Roullier, who trained with Landow.

That's been the formula ever since Mike Mamula absolutely killed it at the 1995 combine and rocketed into the first round, where the Philadelphia Eagles traded the 12th overall pick and two second-round selections to Tampa Bay so they could move up five spots and get the Boston College defensive end at No. 7.

Mamula was among the first players to train specifically for the tests he'd face at the combine: the 40-yard dash, the three-cone drill that measures agility and the 225-pound bench press.

Now everybody targets this week in Indy like Mamula did all those years ago.

Today's prospects train six days a week for eight weeks or more all so they can impress NFL executives who will test their speed, strength, skills and brain power while also checking out their medical background and any off-field history for any red flags.

"I feel like it's definitely getting us ready for the combine as far as all the guys we're competing against each other," said Air Force receiver Jalen Robinette, who led the nation in yards per catch in 2016. "Because it's a real big interview/competition there at the combine. And being able to break down the drills and mentally be practicing everything, it's awesome. Literally every day I hear new stuff about the combine that they teach me here."

"Preparation is everything."

They pretty much follow the same basic program because they'll be doing the same tests at the combine. But the training is also personalized by position.

"I'll talk to the agents and from the agents' perspective, I'll say, 'What are the scouts telling you that they want to see from your player? Do they want to see them heavier, lighter?'" Landow said. "At the end of the day, I don't think you ever go wrong in providing a little bit more mobility, flexibility to an athlete and getting them stronger. More explosive is always the key in this short window so they can really show their best in all their 'measurables.'"

These players have all undergone mock combines, too, where they put all their training together for dry runs to give them a taste of what this week will bring.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 43 of 46

"I think it makes the hugest difference," Roullier said. "If I were to go in there and do this stuff cold, I mean, I'd have an idea of what I'd be doing because it's all stuff that I've done in the past. But my technique would be just awful, you know, it's just all these little things that you need to change and I'm able to get coached up on all of them. It's just continuing to improve those little things and it makes a huge difference in the numbers."

This training isn't cheap. It can cost tens of thousands of dollars, although the pricing structure changes for draft wannabes and sure bets.

"If an athlete is an NFL combine invite, the agent will pay for everything," Landow said. "If you have a kid who may be a bubble guy who didn't get the combine invite but you know can play, the agents will typically foot the bill. Some guys if they're a priority free agent maybe at best, sometimes it's coming out of their own pocket."

For a combine invitee, the cost can run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

"I know with housing and food and all that it ends up being like 10, 20 grand that my agent's dropping just in these few months up to the combine. So, it's a lot," said Roullier, who's out to ensure this week that the training pays big dividends.

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

Follow Arnie Melendrez Stapleton on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/arniestapleton>

Some facts about hail from the National Weather Service

By The Associated Press

A powerful storm system blew through a large swath of the nation's midsection, spawning deadly tornadoes, blowing cars off roads and causing property damage, including from hail. Here are some hail facts, according to the National Weather Service:

HOW IT FORMS

Inside thunderstorms are warm updrafts and cold downdrafts. When a water drop is lifted, it can carry to temperatures below 32 degrees, freeze and then fall. As it falls it can thaw as it moves into warmer air, where it can get picked up again by another updraft, returning it to cold air where it refreezes. With each trip above and below freezing, it adds a layer of ice before it ultimately falls to earth as hail.

HAIL SIZES (diameter)

Pea: 1/4 inch

Marble: 1/2 inch

Penny: 3/4 inch

Nickel: 7/8 inch

Quarter: 1 inch (hail at least quarter size is considered severe)

Pingpong ball: 1 1/2 inch

Golf ball: 1 3/4 inch

Tennis ball: 2 1/2 inches

Baseball: 2 3/4 inches

Grapefruit: 4 inches

Softball: 4 1/2 inches

BIGGEST EVER

The largest recorded hailstone in the U.S. was nearly as big as a volleyball and fell on July 23, 2010, in Vivian, South Dakota. It was 8 inches in diameter and weighed almost 2 pounds.

DAMAGE DONE

Hail causes about \$1 billion damage to crops and property annually. A hailstorm that hit Kansas City on April 10, 2001, was the costliest ever in the U.S., causing about \$2 billion damage.

Online: <http://www.weather.gov/cae/hail.html>

New York City's Waldorf Astoria closing for major makeover

By VERENA DOBNIK, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The word “grand” matched few hotels in the world better than New York City’s Waldorf Astoria, but this bastion of gilded splendor is now closing for two to three years for a transformative makeover.

The last guests were to check out by noon Wednesday after enjoying the rich Art Deco style of the old Waldorf one last time.

When the building reopens it will still have a hotel, but hundreds of its 1,400 guest rooms will have been converted into privately owned condominiums, according to a spokesman for the Anbang Insurance Group, the Chinese company that bought the storied hotel for nearly \$2 billion in 2015.

The exterior is protected by law as a New York City landmark, but some fans are still nervous about the future.

“I’ve been watching New York disappear in front of my eyes,” lamented Shade Rupe, 48, an author and actor who visited the hotel’s lobby this week for one last look around.

Wrapping his arms around an entrance pillar, he noted that the ever-changing city has a history of devouring its own landmarks.

“There’s so little of what we’ve known as iconic New York left, and as soon as you say the Waldorf Astoria, that’s like saying the Empire State Building or the Statue of Liberty. It’s huge!”

The Waldorf Astoria’s history dates to 1893, but its original home was torn down to make way for the Empire State Building. The “new” Waldorf Astoria’s more than 40 stories opened on Park Avenue in 1931, built at a cost topping \$40 million (\$639 million in today’s dollars) making it one of the world’s largest and most expensive hotels at the time.

It has welcomed well-heeled guests including every American president — in the Presidential Suite, of course, behind bulletproof glass windows.

Those who slept in luxury at the Waldorf over the years have included celebrities from Marilyn Monroe and Grace Kelly to Cole Porter, who left his Steinway ivories behind. It was a regular stop for foreign heads of state, royalty and corporate kings. Long-term residents have included former presidents Herbert Hoover and Dwight Eisenhower and U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

The hotel also lent its name to the Waldorf salad, a mix of dressed apples, celery, grapes and walnuts that’s become an American standard.

Plans for the renovation are still not finalized, but some in the hotel industry said the new Waldorf will mirror the concept of New York’s Plaza hotel, which was renovated a decade ago into a mix of private apartments and a smaller hotel. Anbang bought the Waldorf in 2015 from Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc., which continues to operate it.

“This can be a great real estate transaction, if they can get enough money selling the condominium units to cover the purchase price,” said Bjorn Hanson, professor of hospitality and tourism management at New York University.

About 1,500 hotel employees are being laid off due to the closure.

Two hotel regulars, Rebecca Ward, 50, and her fiance, Martin Murphy, 51, of Orlando, Florida, returned for two days before the closure to celebrate their engagement. Murphy proposed to Ward in front of the hotel’s giant lobby clock a month earlier.

“We wanted to stay here for the last night of the Waldorf,” said Murphy.

As renovation work starts, the city’s Landmarks Preservation Commission must vote on whether to officially preserve certain interior details of the building including the “wheel of life” created from 140,000 marble tiles above the Park Avenue entrance, the grand ballroom and the Art Deco lobby with its huge, chiseled tower supporting a diminutive Statue of Liberty. The exterior already is landmarked.

As for the upcoming changes under Chinese ownership, Ward said, “I’m very sad. I think this is an American institution and I think it should stay American.”

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 45 of 46

But the couple said the modernization won't keep them from returning to the Waldorf when it reopens.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 1, the 60th day of 2017. There are 305 days left in the year. Today is Ash Wednesday.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 1, 1867, Nebraska became the 37th state as President Andrew Johnson signed a proclamation.

On this date:

In 1565, the city of Rio de Janeiro was founded by Portuguese knight Estacio de Sa.

In 1792, Holy Roman Emperor Leopold II died; he was succeeded by his son, Francis II.

In 1815, Napoleon, having escaped exile in Elba, arrived in Cannes, France, and headed for Paris to begin his "Hundred Days" rule.

In 1932, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, New Jersey. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)

In 1940, "Native Son" by Richard Wright was first published by Harper & Brothers.

In 1954, four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the spectators' gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five members of Congress. The United States detonated a dry-fuel hydrogen bomb, codenamed Castle Bravo, at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

In 1957, "The Cat in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss was released to bookstores by Random House.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps.

In 1967, U.S. Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, D-N.Y., accused of misconduct, was denied his seat in the 90th Congress. (The Supreme Court ruled in 1969 that Powell had to be seated.)

In 1971, a bomb went off inside a men's room at the U.S. Capitol; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn blast.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland; he died 65 days later.

In 1997, severe storms hit Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi, and spawned tornadoes in Arkansas blamed for two dozen deaths.

Ten years ago: Tornadoes killed 20 people in the Midwest and Southeast, including eight students at Enterprise High School in Alabama. Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman, who had been in charge of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, was relieved of command after disclosures about dilapidated buildings and inadequate treatment of wounded soldiers. An independent commission concluded the National Guard and Reserves weren't getting enough money or equipment.

Five years ago: Senate Democrats narrowly blocked, 51-48, an effort by Republicans to overturn President Barack Obama's order that most employers or their insurers cover the cost of contraceptives. Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley signed a measure legalizing same-sex marriage in his state, effective Jan. 2013. Online publisher and conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart died in Los Angeles at age 43.

One year ago: In the Super Tuesday primaries and caucuses, Republican Donald Trump won Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia; Ted Cruz won Alaska, Oklahoma and his home state of Texas; Marco Rubio won Minnesota. On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton won Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia while Bernie Sanders prevailed in Colorado, Minnesota, Oklahoma and his home state of Vermont.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Clary is 91. Singer Harry Belafonte is 90. Actor Robert Conrad is 82. Rock singer Mike D'Abo (Manfred Mann) is 73. Former Sen. John Breaux, D-La., is 73. Rock singer Roger Daltrey is 73. Actor Dirk Benedict is 72. Actor-director Ron Howard is 63. Actress Catherine Bach is 63. Country singer Janis Gill (aka Janis Oliver Cummins) (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 63. Actor Tim Daly is

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 232 ~ 46 of 46

61. Singer-musician Jon Carroll is 60. Rock musician Bill Leen is 55. Actor Bryan Batt is 54. Actor Maurice Bernard is 54. Actor Russell Wong is 54. Actor Chris Eigeman is 52. Actor John David Cullum is 51. Actor George Eads is 50. Actor Javier Bardem (HAH'-vee-ayr bahr-DEHM') is 48. Actor Jack Davenport is 44. Rock musician Ryan Peake (Nickelback) is 44. Actor Mark-Paul Gosselaar is 43. Singer Tate Stevens is 42. Actor Jensen Ackles is 39. TV host Donovan Patton is 39. Rock musician Sean Woolstenhulme (WOOL'-sten-hyoolm) is 36. Actress Lupita Nyong'o is 34. Pop singer Kesha (formerly Ke\$ha) is 30. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sammie is 30. Pop singer Justin Bieber is 23.

Thought for Today: "Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind." — Rudyard Kipling, English author (1865-1936).