

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Wednesday, March 8

**School Breakfast:** Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Quesadilla, mixed vegetable, fruit, romaine salad.

**Senior Menu:** Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, glorified rice, whole wheat bread.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Lenten meal at 6 p.m. (Nigeria Circle serves), worship at 7 p.m.

**St. John's Lutheran:** Confirmation at 3:45 p.m., Lenten Service at 7 p.m.

**United Methodist:** Wednesday Coffee at 9 a.m., Kid Zone at 3:30 p.m., 8th grader mentors join confirmation at 6 p.m., Confirmation at 6 p.m., Lenten Services with coffee and dessert following at 7 p.m.

## Thursday, March 9

**School Breakfast:** Cheese omelette, muffin, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** BBQ, sweet potato tot, fruit, broccoli and dip.

**Senior Menu:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, baby carrots, bar, whole wheat bread.

Public meeting regarding proposed MS/HS project, 7 p.m., at the Groton Community Center

## Friday, March 10

**School Breakfast:** Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Cheese bread, green beans, fruit, carrots and dip.

**Senior Menu:** Salmon loaf, creamed peas, orange, peanut butter brownie, whole wheat bread.  
End of the third quarter

**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

**The cardboard/paper**

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

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Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

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## Bowling

**Groton Coffee Cup Team Standings:** James Valley 32, Kens 22, Jungle Lanes 17, Ten Pins 17  
**High Games:** Nancy Radke 183, Vicki Walter 182, Vickie Kramp 180  
**High Series:** Vickie Kramp 522, Nancy Radke 492, Joyce Walter 473

### Conde National League

**Team Standings:** Braves 27, Pirates 26, Mets 22 1/2, Cubs 20, Giants 19, Colts 17 1/2  
**Men's High Games:** Butch Farmen 206, Lance Frohling 200, Bryce Dargatz 188  
**Men's High Series:** Butch Farmen 550, Bryce Dargatz 532, Lance Frohling 530  
**Women's High Games:** Vickie Kramp 184, Nancy Radke 180, Mary Larson 174  
**Women's High Series:** Vickie Kramp 477, Mary Larson 473, Nancy Radke 454

### Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Foxes 11, Cheetahs 11, Chipmunks 9, Coyotes 7, Jackelopes 7, Shih Tzus 3  
**Men's High Games:** Brad Waage 209, 199, Brad Larson 207, Mike Siegler 196  
**Women's High Games:** Nicole Kassube 171, Vicki Jorgensen 171, Lori Giedt 168, Nancy Radke 167  
**Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 603, Brad Larson 518, Ron Belden 517  
**Women's High Series:** Vicki Jorgensen 480, Nancy Radke 473, Nicole Kassube 446

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Paul  
603-397-7460  
or  
Tina  
603-397-7285



Keri Pappas placed second in Class A Original Orator and KaSandra placed fifth in the Class A Public Forum debate. They are pictured with Coach Kristen Gonsoir.



## Pappas girls at state debate

Pictured are Samantha, Keri and KaSandra. They placed at the State debate tournament held March 3-4 in Mitchell.

## Keri Pappas is state runner-up

GHS Senior, Keri Pappas was named the South Dakota High School Activities Runner-Up State Champion class A Original Orator in Mitchell at the State Debate Contest March 3-4, 2017. Pappas also placed 5th in the final round of state competition in class A Domestic Extemporaneous speaking. The team of Keri Pappas and freshman, KaSandra Pappas were also recognized as 5th place quarter-finalists at the state contest in class A



**Keri Pappas**

Public Forum debate. Pappas and Pappas lost in a quarter final round on a split decision. Going into quarter finals the team was undefeated. Samantha Pappas, GHS 8th grader, also competed at the state event in class A foreign extemporaneous speaking and class A Lincoln Douglas debate, where she narrowly missed advancing to quarter finals. The team is coached by Kristen Gonsoir.

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## SCHURING CARD OF THANKS

A big thank you to everyone who contributed towards my bridal shower gift registry at Lori's Pharmacy. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is very much appreciated.

Kayla Schuring

## EMPLOYMENT

**Applications due March 6 for swimming pool lifeguards, baseball/softball coaches, groundskeepers, ticket takers. Visit City of Groton, 209 N Main or call 397-8422. EOE**

### Full-Time Job Opportunity

This unique full-time position will provide for cross organizational support of accounting, marketing, and loan processing. May be based out of Sisseton, Webster, or Aberdeen. Regular travel to the Sisseton office will be required. Experience beneficial, but will train. Applications taken until Friday, March 17. To request a job application and job description, contact GROW South Dakota, 104 Ash St. E., Sisseton, SD 57262, [www.growsd.org](http://www.growsd.org), or call (605)-698-7654. EOE



Sun Dial Manor in Bristol has openings for an RN or LPN, full time, part time or PRN. Increased wage based on previous experience. May be eligible for \$10,000 recruitment bonus. We also have openings for CNA's, training for certification provided. For more information, please call Connie Brown RN, DON at 605/492-3615. EOE. DFW.



**GDI Living Fitness**  
25 Main St., Downtown Groton

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



## Public Meeting set for Thursday for proposed school project

This is a huge school project! Make sure you attend the upcoming special community school board meeting concerning an April 11th bond vote to finance the MS/HS Building Project.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm, this Thursday, March 9th at the Groton Community Center. Refreshments will be served.

So far, there have been two other community meetings. One at Columbia where 18 patrons attended and one in Bristol where 26 attended.

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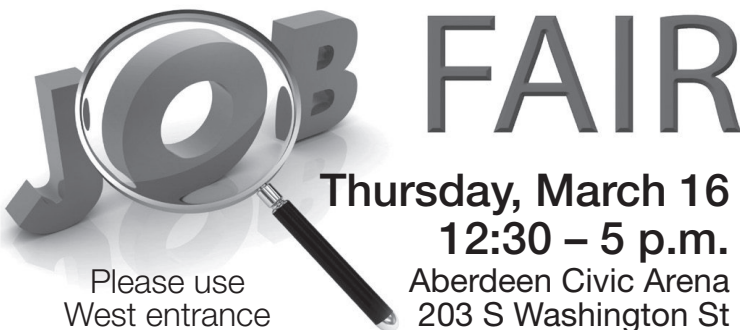


Lee Schinkel was program leader for the March 1 Groton Kiwanis program. Lee presented the following Groton High School students, who performed their memorized contest superior rating vocal solos. Back row - L-r - Aleaya Worlie, Micah Poor, Tylan Glover, and their accompanist and director, Cody Swanson. Front row - Mitchell Koens, Madilyn Wright, and Macy Knecht.

## Come meet with local hiring businesses!

Discover career opportunities • Meet recruiters  
Distribute your resume • Learn about many companies

## 2017 ABERDEEN AREA



Thursday, March 16  
12:30 – 5 p.m.  
Aberdeen Civic Arena  
203 S Washington St

Please use  
West entrance

Let the Department of Labor and Regulation help you prepare

Write your resume • Fill out applications • Practice interviewing skills

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- South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation
- Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
- Aberdeen Area Human Resource Association
- Aberdeen Development Corporation
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- Northern State University, Career Development and Placement Center
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## Today in Weather History

March 8, 2000: High winds of 30 to 50 mph, combined with 3 to 7 inches of snow, caused widespread blizzard conditions across north central South Dakota. Many schools were closed early in the day. Travel was also significantly disrupted. Telephone service went down for several hours between Mobridge and Selby. Some heavy snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Eagle Butte, Selby, and Hoven, and 7 inches southwest of Keldron.

March 8, 2013: A surface low-pressure area moving across the region brought warm moist air over-top low-level cold air which resulted in the widespread freezing rain across much of northeast South Dakota during the evening and into the early morning hours of the 8th and 9th. For much of the area, the precipitation changed over to all rain before ending as temperatures rose to above freezing. Ice accumulations ranged from a tenth of an inch to a half of an inch. Some ice accumulation reports include; 0.25 inches at Garden City, Hayti, Waubay, Clear Lake, Sisseton, and Summit; and 0.50 inches near Florence and Clark. Travel became hazardous with no significant accidents reported. Also, no problems with power outages or tree damage were reported.

1717 - On Fishers Island in Long Island Sound, 1200 sheep were discovered to have been buried under a snow drift for four weeks. When finally uncovered, one hundred sheep were still alive. (The Weather Channel)

1909: The town of Brinkley, Arkansas was struck by an estimated F4 tornado which killed 49 people. The tornado, which was two-thirds of a mile wide, destroyed 860 buildings. Entire families were killed as houses were completely swept away by the tornado.

1972: A wind gust of 207 mph was recorded at the Thule Air Force Base in Greenland. Winds were sustained at over 146 mph for three hours during the storm.

1984 - A freak thunder snowstorm produced high winds, vivid lightning, and up to seven inches of snow in the northern suburbs of Washington D.C. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date, including Madison WI with a reading of 71 degrees. Afternoon highs of 68 degrees at Houghton Lake MI and

72 degrees at Flint MI smashed their previous records for the date by fourteen degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989: While Arctic cold gripped the northeastern U.S., unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the southwestern states. Albany, New York reported a record low of 2 degrees below zero. Tucson, Arizona reported a record high of 90 degrees.



**livestream**

**Upcoming Event**

**Thursday, March 9, 7 p.m.**








**School - MS/HS Building Project**

**Groton Community Center**


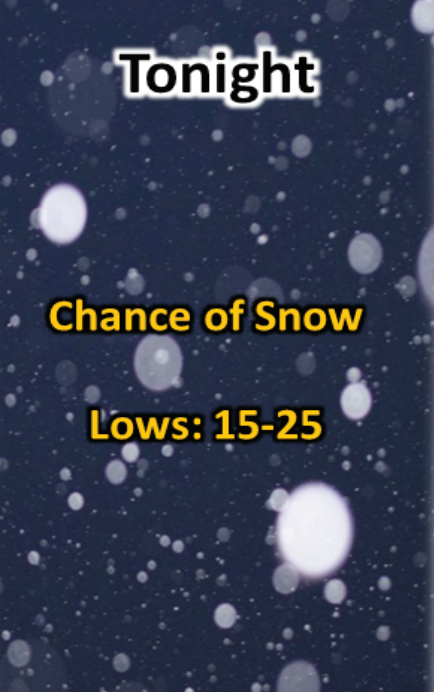

**gdilive.com**

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Mostly Sunny and Breezy then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Snow Likely	Chance Snow
High: 34 °F	Low: 17 °F	High: 28 °F	Low: 2 °F	High: 18 °F	Low: 9 °F	High: 23 °F

## *Winds Diminishing Today Snow Potential Increases into the Weekend*

Today	Tonight	Friday - Saturday
		
<b>Breezy this morning</b> <b>Increasing Clouds</b> <b>Highs: 30s North</b> <b>40s South</b>	<b>Chance of Snow</b> <b>Lows: 15-25</b>	<b>Measurable Snow Potential</b> <b>Greatest Potential For Snow</b> 80-90% 40-70% 10-40% <b>Stay Tuned For Snowfall Amounts</b>

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 3/8/2017 4:23 AM Central

Published on: 03/08/2017 at 4:27AM

After two days of strong winds, they will be coming to an end today as high pressure moves over the area. Tonight will be the first of several opportunities for light snow through this weekend, with the best chance coming on Friday night.



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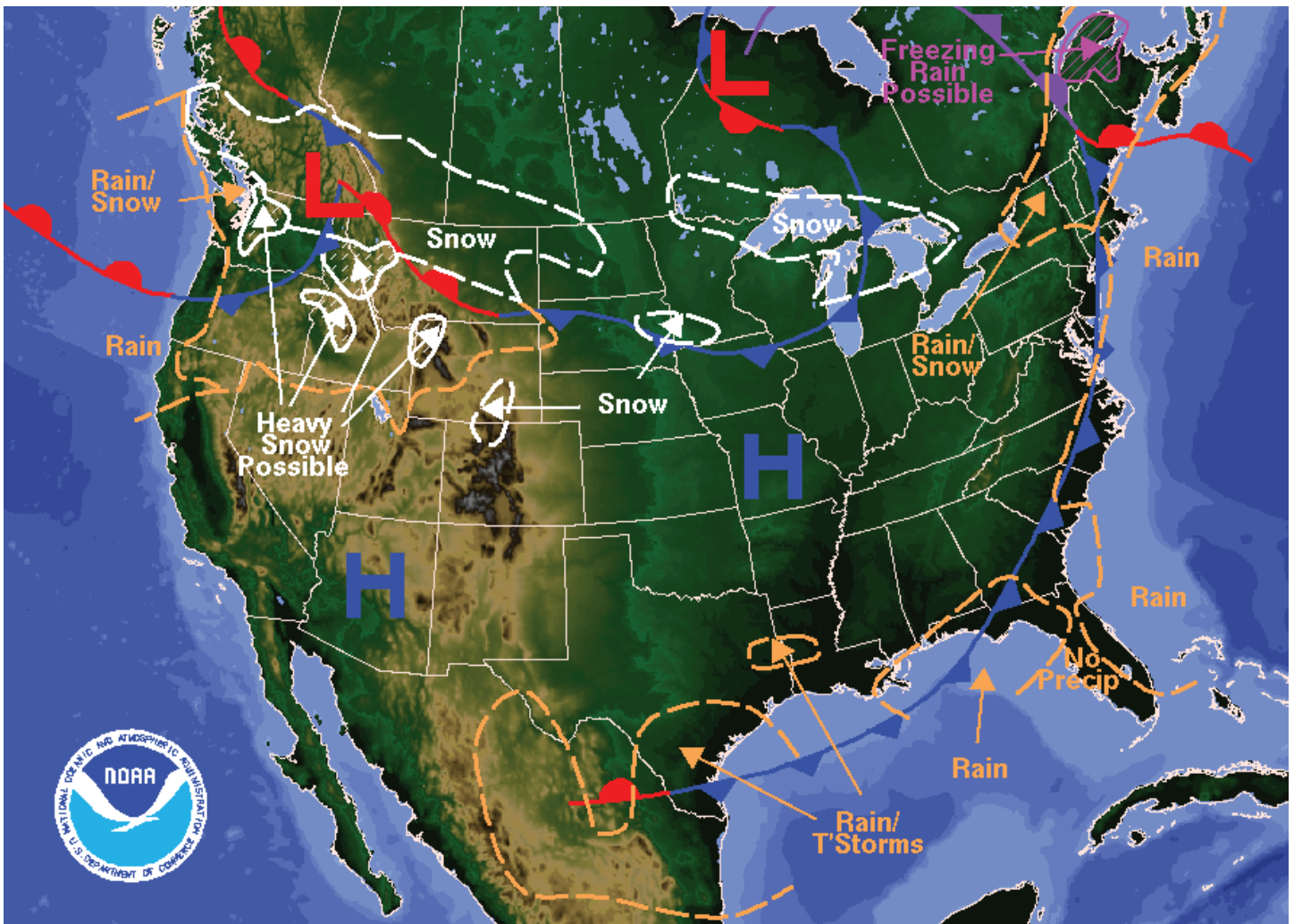
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 42.8 F at 2:50 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 28.0 F at 12:00 AM**  
**High Gust: 43.0 Mph at 3:57 PM**  
**Rain: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 62° in 1911**  
**Record Low: -32 in 1995**  
**Average High: 36°F**  
**Average Low: 17°F**  
**Average Precip in March.: 0.23**  
**Precip to date in March.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 1.25**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:30 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:56 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Wed, Mar 08, 2017, issued 4:33 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## BEEN THERE – EXPERIENCED THAT

Joseph is a well-known painter of seascapes. His paintings capture calm waters and threatening storms. Once, an admirer was looking at one of his famous paintings and asked, "How were you able to paint with such realism the violence of a storm at sea?"

"Sir," he replied, "I was on the bow of a ship one evening facing that storm. I not only saw it, I felt it. I experienced it."

Like the painter, our Lord experienced the storms of life. Often we neglect to think of what the writer of the book of Hebrews said: "Since He himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted."

When we neglect to walk along side of Jesus in the Gospels, we fail to remember that He was as human as we are. We don't often remember and recall the fact that whatever we experience in our lives He also experienced it in His life. However, He persevered because of His faith and trust in His Heavenly Father.

When we lose a loved one, we need to remember that He stood by a grave side one day and wept.

When we experience loneliness, we need to recall His feelings of desertion when His followers left Him.

When we experience suffering, we need to look at Him as He hung on His cross on our behalf and try to feel His pain and humiliation. God understands our pain, suffering and grief.

Prayer: How blest we are, Father, to know that we have a "High Priest" who has experienced our pains and knows our problems and is waiting to heal and help us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Hebrews 4:15-16 We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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## News from the Associated Press

### Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL

##### Region 1AA

Brookings 68, Brandon Valley 56

Harrisburg 71, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 52

##### Region 2AA

Aberdeen Central 59, Sturgis Brown 46

Huron 57, Rapid City Central 36

##### Class A - Sweet Sixteen

Chamberlain 61, Crow Creek 47

Dakota Valley 85, Sioux Valley 79, OT

Madison 67, Hot Springs 30

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 81, Pine Ridge 77

Sioux Falls Christian 83, Sisseton 44

St. Thomas More 52, Aberdeen Roncalli 45

Tea Area 85, Little Wound 58

Tri-Valley 61, Clark/Willow Lake 39

Region 1B: Langford 48, Florence/Henry 29

Region 2B: Sully Buttes 66, Potter County 47

Region 3B: Wolsley-Wessington 66, Castlewood 55

Region 4B: Bridgewater-Emery 69, Chester 64

Region 5B: Parker 61, Irene-Wakonda 58

Region 6B: Platte-Geddes 49, Gregory 35

Region 7B: White River 76, Wall 40

Region 8B: Harding County 58, Lemmon 38

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

#### Mega Millions

03-30-45-53-68, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 3

(three, thirty, forty-five, fifty-three, sixty-eight; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$94 million

#### Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$85 million

### Daum scores 37 as S. Dakota State tips Omaha, gains 4th NCAA

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — After a sluggish start, South Dakota State dug in, took care of the ball, and hung on to defeat Omaha and win the Summit League championship for the fourth time.

Mike Daum scored 24 of his 37 points in the second half to help the Jackrabbits beat the Mavericks 79-77 on Tuesday night.

Omaha led with 4:43 left to play, but Daum, who was the league's player of the year and tournament MVP, took over. He scored seven straight to give South Dakota State a 73-72 lead with 3:30 left. The Jackrabbits wouldn't relinquish it. Omaha had a chance for the win at the buzzer, but Tra-Deon Hollins'

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3-pointer rimmed out.

Daum went 14-for-24 from the floor and continued his torrid scoring pace, averaging 29.3 points per game in SDSU's three conference tournament wins.

"He's just a heck of a player. He's just talented and the run a lot of sets for him. You have to be on your toes the entire game," Omaha's Tre'Sahwn Thurman said of Daum. "You have to be communicating and you have to know what's coming. He's able to create for other guys and able to create mismatches. He's just a tough guy to guard. I wish him well in the NCAA tournament."

The Jackrabbits struggled early with nine turnovers in the first nine minutes. Omaha took advantage of it, building its biggest lead of the game at 16-7 when Tre'Shawn Thurman hit a 3-pointer. But fortunately for SDSU, the Jackrabbits were 8-for-9 from the field over that span, keeping the SDSU in the game.

"It's not typical. It's not who we've been," SDSU coach T.J. Otzelberger said of the early turnovers. "We don't need to be panicked, but I think we came out a little bit tight. We need to do a better job of taking care of the basketball. I think this team has continued to grow and find different ways to win."

After the early turnovers, SDSU (18-16) settled down and built its biggest lead of the game, leading 37-31 at halftime. But Omaha went on a 9-0 run to open the second half, and the back-and-forth battle in the second half was set. The second half featured eight lead changes and seven ties.

Omaha, in its first conference championship game in school history, had four players in double figures with Thurman leading the way with 21 points. The loss breaks a five-game win streak for the Mavericks.

## LOW SEEDS ADVANCE:

The Summit League championship game between No. 3 seeded Omaha and No. 4 seeded SDSU marks the first time since 1993, and only the fifth time in history, that neither the No. 1 nor No. 2 seed appeared in the title contest.

## BIG PICTURE

The Jackrabbits outrebounded Omaha 44-25 including a 16-9 advantage on the offensive end. After opening the game with nine turnovers in the first nine minutes, SDSU took care of the ball the rest of the way, turning it over ten more times.

## UP NEXT

South Dakota State clinches an automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament. This is SDSU's fourth trip to the tournament. The Jackrabbits have won four of the last six Summit League tournament championships.

Omaha finishes the season with a record of 18-14. The Mavericks have never have never secured a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

## Judge won't stop construction of Dakota Access pipeline

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge declined Tuesday to temporarily stop construction of the final section of the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline, clearing the way for oil to flow as soon as next week.

The Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes pledged to continue their legal fight against the project, even after the pipeline begins operating.

The tribes had asked U.S. District Judge James Boasberg in Washington to direct the Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw permission for Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners to lay pipe under Lake Oahe in North Dakota. The stretch under the Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota is the last piece of construction for the \$3.8 billion pipeline to move North Dakota oil to Illinois.

The tribes argued that a pipeline under the lake violates their right to practice their religion, which relies on clean water, and they wanted the work suspended until the claim could be resolved.

When they filed their lawsuit last summer, the tribes argued that the pipeline threatens Native American cultural sites and their water supply. Their religion argument was new, however, and disputed by both the Corps and the company.

Boasberg in his ruling Tuesday said the tribes didn't raise the religion argument in a timely fashion. He also questioned its merit.

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"Although the tribe's members may feel unable to use the water from Lake Oahe in their religious ceremonies once the pipeline is operational, there is no specific ban on their religious exercise," he said.

The judge's decision came as American Indians from across the country gathered in Washington to protest President Donald Trump's policies encouraging oil pipelines. Native Americans are planning four days of activities including lobbying lawmakers and culminating in a march on the White House. Tribal members and supporters plan to camp each day on the National Mall, with teepees, a ceremonial fire, cultural workshops and speakers.

"Trump and his friends at Big Oil have not won," Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault said in response to Boasberg's ruling, adding that "the bigger legal battle is ahead — we stand strong."

Standing Rock attorney Jan Hasselman and Cheyenne River attorney Nicole Ducheneaux said they hadn't decided whether to appeal Boasberg's ruling. In the meantime, they said, they'll continue to argue for more environmental study and for the government to recognize the tribe's treaty rights to clean water.

They don't expect a court hearing until at least April — long after pipeline operations are expected to begin — but Boasberg "can order the pipeline turned back off, and that's what we'll be asking for," Hasselman said.

Work under Lake Oahe had been held up in the courts until 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.

The company began drilling under the lake Feb. 8. Company attorney William Scherman said in court documents that the pipeline could be moving oil as early as next week, and company spokeswoman Vicki Granado said it could be fully operational about three weeks later.

The MAIN Coalition, an industry group made up of agriculture, business and labor entities that benefit from Midwest infrastructure projects, praised Boasberg's ruling paving the way for the project's completion. The decision "further demonstrates that both the Army Corps of Engineers and Dakota Access have fully complied with all established laws and regulations," spokesman Craig Stevens said.

The pipeline saga has endured for months. 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 month closed the camp in advance of spring flooding season and set up roadblocks to prevent protesters from returning.

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

## South Dakota House advances governor's protest legislation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The House has approved a scaled-back version of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's public safety bill addressing potential oil pipeline protests in South Dakota.

The bill would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for someone to stand in the highway to stop traffic or to trespass in a posted emergency area. Senators will have to consider changes made in the House.

The measure initially failed when it didn't receive the two-thirds majority required to pass it with an emergency clause. After stripping the provision, the House approved the bill with a 49-18 vote.

Under some circumstances, it would also allow the commissioner of school and public lands, at the request of the governor and local sheriff, to block any group larger than 20 people from gathering on land under the office's supervision.

## W. Illinois advances to NCAA's for first time since 1995

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Emily Clemens had 20 points, nine assists and five steals, Taylor Hanneman hit a 3-pointer as time expired to force overtime and Western Illinois beat IUPUI 77-69 on Tuesday to win the Summit League Tournament for the first time since 1995.

Morgan Blumer scored 18 points, Taylor Higginbotham added 15 and Hanneman finished with 12 points

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for No. 1 seed Western Illinois (26-6), which tied the school record with its 11th win in a row.

Hanneman, Higginbotham and Blumer each hit a 3-pointer as the Leathernecks scored the first nine points of overtime and held on from there. Second-seed IUPUI missed 6 of 7 from the field, including its first four shots, after regulation.

Sydney Hall scored 18 points, Jenna Gunn added 16 and Caitlyn Tolen 10 for IUPUI (24-8).

Western Illinois shot just 38 percent, but scored 23 points off IUPUI's season-high 25 turnovers.

Mallory Boyle hit 1 of 2 free throws to give the Leathernecks a 61-57 lead with 13 seconds left. Tolen hit an NBA-range 3 from the left wing two seconds later and, after Clemens — an 87 percent free-throw shooter this season — missed the front end of a one-and-one, Holly Hoopingartner made two foul shots with 3.7 seconds left to give IUPUI its first lead since the opening minutes of the second half. Alex Brown stole the ensuing inbound pass and was immediately fouled. She hit two free throws to make it 64-61, but Hanneman's 3 tied it at the buzzer.

The game featured eight ties and 11 lead changes, three of which came in the final four seconds of regulation.

## Vikings' Chad Greenway leaving football 'healthy and happy'

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — NFL players usually don't get to leave the game like Chad Greenway did. From start to finish, Greenway had quite the career.

Proudly declaring he's "healthy and happy" and ready for retirement after 11 seasons with the Minnesota Vikings, Greenway turned his time at the podium at a farewell news conference into a 25-minute thank-you to the people who influenced and supported him over the years. Former teammates Jim Kleinsasser and Ben Leber were among those in attendance, along with Vikings greats Carl Eller and Bud Grant.

General manager Rick Spielman praised Greenway's exemplary citizenship off the field, and coach Mike Zimmer expressed his appreciation for being able to lean on Greenway's leadership to help sell his message in the locker room.

"I wish I would've had him when he was younger," said Zimmer, who has been with the Vikings for three seasons.

The 34-year-old Greenway reminisced about his family's farm in South Dakota, where he recalled telling his father at age 5 or 6 while helping him feed cattle that he would play professional football one day. The encouragement offered by Alan Greenway, who died of cancer during the 2014 season, was one of many meaningful ways he impacted his son's life over the years. Greenway needed to pause several times to compose himself between cracks in his voice.

"The most amazing man in the world, hands down," Greenway said. "I'm so proud to carry the name that he gave me and hold it to a high standard. I'm so proud to be his son. It was hard losing him, but at the same time it's fun to be able to carry on his name and his legacy with my own kids."

Greenway said he was 90 percent certain he was done playing after the 2016 season ended. His talks with Spielman and Zimmer since then never broached the subject of a new contract.

Greenway's biggest priority for now? Coaching his daughter's youth basketball team, along with serving as an ambassador for the Minnesota host committee throughout the buildup to the Super Bowl at U.S. Bank Stadium next winter.

Winning a title was the one football goal left unfulfilled for Greenway, but he hardly sounded disappointed as he painted the NFC championship game after the 2009 season as a fruitful experience despite the devastating loss in overtime at New Orleans.

After playing nine-man ball for Mount Vernon High School and learning to play linebacker at Iowa on the way to developing into a first-round draft pick, Greenway appeared in 156 games for the Vikings and was voted team defensive MVP three times. He spoke with pride that he could "hold the torch" for small towns throughout rural America, beyond just the three-state area in which he played his entire career, allowing so many family and friends to attend his home games.

With a reduced role under Zimmer, rarely playing in passing situations, Greenway was able to freshen up his body for the next stage in life.

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"I'm healthier now than I was when I was 25 or 26 and playing every snap," he said, adding: "It was something that really ticked me off when I first had to do it, because I'm a competitor and a player and a guy that played every snap for so long, but at the end of the day, it ended up being the best thing that happened in my career. I'm proud that I was able to overcome my ego as an athlete and embrace those roles."

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

## Senate lawmakers approve state government watchdog board

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Senate has approved creating a government watchdog board that would be able to investigate statewide officeholders and executive branch employees.

Members voted 29-6 Tuesday to advance the bill. The House will have to debate whether to accept changes made in the Senate.

The State Government Accountability Board would review and investigate allegations including bribery and theft of public funds.

Republican Sen. Brock Greenfield, the proposal's main Senate sponsor, says it's a "good government" bill.

Under the measure, if the board believes a crime has been committed, the matter would be referred to the Division of Criminal Investigation. In other cases, the panel would have options including issuing reprimands or making recommendations to the governor.

Lawmakers recently repealed a voter-imposed government ethics overhaul that included an ethics commission.

## AP FACT CHECK: How Trump's Keystone XL story fell apart

By CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a nice story while it lasted.

Moments from signing orders to advance the stalled Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, President Donald Trump comes up with the idea of requiring the projects to use pipes and steel made in the U.S. He inserts a "little clause" to that effect and vows the projects will only happen if his buy-American mandate is met.

Now, it turns out, those projects are advancing without it.

In recent days, the White House exempted Keystone XL from the rule. It was a stretch from the beginning to think it would apply to Dakota Access because that pipeline is almost complete.

A look at Trump's comments a month apart and what really happened:

TRUMP:

— "I was sitting at my desk and I'm getting ready to sign Keystone and Dakota. I said, where's the pipe coming from? And I won't tell you where, but you wouldn't be happy. I say, why is it we build pipelines and we're not using pipe that's made in our country? I say, let's put that little clause in, like it's a one-sentence clause, but that clause is gonna attract a lot of people and we're gonna make that pipe right here in America. OK?" — Jan. 26, at a Republican retreat in Philadelphia.

— "We have authorized the construction, one day, of the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines, and issued a new rule. This took place while I was getting ready to sign. I said, who makes the pipes for the pipeline? Well, sir, it comes from all over the world, isn't that wonderful? I said, nope, comes from the United States or we're not building it. American steel. If they want a pipeline in the United States, they're going to use pipe that's made in the United States, do we agree?" — Feb. 24, at the Conservative Political Access Conference.

THE FACTS:

For starters, the buy-America improvisation Trump describes does not resemble the ceremony staged and recorded on video in the Oval Office on Jan. 24, when he displayed a series of executive actions that had been prepared for his signature.

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Among them, he signed two reviving Keystone XL and Dakota Access projects — each close to 1,180 miles long — that had been sidelined by President Barack Obama. Neither directive specifies U.S. content. He signed a third memorandum aimed at having new, expanded or repaired pipelines made from U.S. material.

This memorandum does not name Keystone XL or Dakota Access and does not mandate all U.S. content in future projects. Instead it says materials and equipment should be made in the U.S. “to the maximum extent possible and to the extent permitted by law,” and gives the Commerce secretary until July to come up with a plan.

Trump continued either to state or to imply that the two projects were subject to this directive until last week. A careful parsing of his speech to Congress shows that he was no longer saying explicitly that the projects were required to use U.S. steel or pipes, even if he left that impression.

“We have cleared the way for the construction of the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines,” he told lawmakers, “thereby creating tens of thousands of jobs. And I’ve issued a new directive that new American pipelines be made with American steel.”

By the end of the week, Trump’s original story had come apart.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Keystone is not affected by the directive because “it’s specific to new pipelines or those that are being repaired,” and since “the steel is already literally sitting there, it would be hard to go back.” Dakota Access, meantime, is almost ready to carry oil.

TransCanada said in 2012 that half the pipe for its Keystone XL pipeline would come from a mill in Arkansas, almost a quarter from Canada and the rest from India and Italy.

Trump’s Keystone XL order invited TransCanada to resubmit its application, which it did, and laid out a fast track for a U.S. decision. He has stated prematurely that he has approved the project.

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Associated Press writers Matthew Daly and Jim Drinkard contributed to this report.

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Find all AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kbx8bd>

## Senate OKs limit on gifts officials can get from lobbyists

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Senate has approved imposing an annual limit on gifts that public officials can accept from lobbyists.

Members voted 25-10 Tuesday to pass the bill. The House will have to debate whether to accept changes made in the Senate.

The proposal would put in place a \$100 annual limit for gifts that legislators and other public officials could accept from lobbyists. Starting in 2019, that value would be adjusted for inflation.

A gift would be defined as anything of value given without compensation, but it doesn’t include food, beverage or entertainment for immediate consumption, among other things.

The bill comes after lawmakers recently repealed a voter-imposed government ethics overhaul that included even stricter regulations on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers.

## South Dakota House approves cannabidiol measure

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — House lawmakers have passed a bill that would allow people in South Dakota with a prescription to use a non-intoxicating compound found in marijuana if it’s approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Members voted 54-13 Tuesday for the bill, which will be sent back to the Senate to consider changes made in the House.

The legislation would exclude cannabidiol, if it receives FDA approval, from the definition of marijuana in state law and classify it as a Schedule IV controlled substance that could be prescribed.

Republican Rep. Spencer Gosch, the bill’s main House sponsor, says it would allow cannabidiol to be available to children with seizure disorders.

London-based GW Pharmaceuticals’ Epidiolex, a nearly pure extract of cannabidiol, is scheduled for



review by the FDA this summer.

## Religious adoption agency protections headed to governor

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would give new legal protections to adoption agencies and foster groups that cite religious reasons for denying services is one step away from becoming law.

The Senate voted 27-8 Tuesday to agree to changes made in the House, advancing the bill to Gov. Dennis Daugaard. The Republican governor didn't provide a position on the bill to reporters last week.

The proposal says that child-placement agencies can't be required to provide services that conflict with "sincerely-held" religious beliefs. It says the state can't "discriminate" against agencies that exercise such convictions.

Critics say it would allow state-funded child-placement agencies to discriminate against children or prospective parents.

## Blizzard conditions persist in north central North Dakota

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — Blizzard conditions persist over north central North Dakota.

The National Weather Service says wind gusts up to 60 mph and light blowing snow will continue to create travel difficulties Tuesday in Minot, Bottineau, Towner, Belcourt and Rugby.

A blizzard warning remains in effect until Tuesday night, although little new accumulation is expected. Minot Public Schools are among those with a delayed start Tuesday.

To the west, from Williston to Stanley, winds aren't expected to quite be as strong. But, blowing snow is expected to reduce visibility to a-half mile. The area is under a winter weather advisory through 9 p.m. Tuesday.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation and the Highway Patrol issued an advisory Tuesday warning against traveling in north central and portions of northwestern North Dakota.

## Attack on military hospital in Afghan capital kills 30

By RAHIM FAIEZ and AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan's Defense Ministry says an attack on a military hospital in the capital has killed more than 30 people.

An Islamic State affiliate claimed Wednesday's attack on the hospital in Kabul's heavily guarded diplomatic quarter, which set off clashes that lasted for several hours.

Gen. Dawlat Waziri, a Defense Ministry spokesman, says there were "more than 30 killed and more than 50 wounded" in the attack.

He says security forces have taken full control of the facility and that the fighting is over.

## WikiLeaks CIA files: Are they real and are they a risk?

By STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — WikiLeaks has published thousands of documents that the anti-secrecy organization said were classified files revealing scores of secrets about CIA hacking tools used to break into targeted computers, cellphones and even smart TVs.

The CIA and the Trump administration declined to comment on the authenticity of the files Tuesday, but prior WikiLeaks releases divulged government secrets maintained by the State Department, Pentagon and other agencies that have since been acknowledged as genuine. In another nod to their authenticity, the chairman of the House intelligence committee, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., said he was very concerned about the release and has sought more information about it.

The hacking tools appeared to exploit vulnerabilities in popular operating systems for desktop and laptop computers developed by Microsoft. They also targeted devices that included Apple's iPhones and iPads, Google's Android cellphones, Cisco routers and Samsung Smart TVs.

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Some of the technology firms said they were evaluating the newly released documents. Some questions and answers about the latest WikiLeaks dump and its fallout:

## WHERE DO THESE DOCUMENTS COME FROM?

WikiLeaks said the material came from "an isolated, high-security network" inside the CIA's Center for Cyber Intelligence, the spy agency's internal arm that conducts cyber offense and defense. It said the documents were "circulated among former U.S. government hackers and contractors in an unauthorized manner, one of whom has provided WikiLeaks with portions of the archive." It did not make it clear who was behind the leak, leaving several possibilities: espionage, a rogue employee, a theft involving a federal contractor or a break-in of a staging server where such information may have been temporarily stored.

## HOW MANY FILES WERE LEAKED? WHAT PERIOD DO THEY COVER?

WikiLeaks said 7,818 web pages and 943 attachments were published, but were just the first part of more material to come. WikiLeaks said it has an entire archive of data consisting of several million lines of computer code. The documents appear to date between 2013 and 2016. WikiLeaks described them as "the largest-ever publication of confidential documents on the agency."

## ARE THESE LEGITIMATE CIA DOCUMENTS?

A spokesman for the CIA said the agency would not comment "on the authenticity or content of purported intelligence documents." Trump administration spokesman Sean Spicer declined comment as well. But WikiLeaks has a long track record of assembling and releasing secret files from the U.S. and other governments. Security experts who reviewed the material said the documents appeared to be authentic. Jake Williams, a security expert with Georgia-based Rendition Infosec, who has dealt previously with government hackers, said that frequent references in the files to operation security gave them the stamp of legitimacy. "It rings true to me," Williams said.

## WHAT DO THESE DOCUMENTS CONTAIN?

The files describe CIA plans and descriptions of malware and other tools that could be used to hack into some of the world's most popular technology platforms. The documents showed that the developers aimed to be able to inject these tools into targeted computers without the owners' awareness.

The files do not describe who the prospective targets might be, but the documents show broad exchanges of tools and information between the CIA and National Security Agency and other federal intelligence agencies, as well as intelligence services of close allies Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

The purported CIA documents range from complicated computer coding to organizational plans to sarcastic comments about the tools' effectiveness. Some of the tools were named after alcohol references, including Bartender, Wild Turkey and Margarita. Others referenced recent popular movies, including "Fight Club" and "Talladega Nights." One hacking tool, code-named "RickyBobby," after the character who is a race car driver in "Talladega Nights," was purportedly used to upload and download information "without detection as malicious software."

The documents also include discussions about compromising some internet-connected televisions to turn them into listening posts. One document discusses hacking vehicle systems, appearing to indicate the CIA's interest in hacking recent-model cars with sophisticated on-board computer systems.

## HOW ARE TECHNOLOGY FIRMS RESPONDING TO THESE REVELATIONS?

Microsoft said it was looking into the reports that its operating systems were potentially vulnerable to many of the malware and other hacking tools described in the purported CIA documents. The maker of the secure messaging app Signal said the purported tools described in the leaked documents appeared to affect users' actual phones, but not its software designs or encryption protocols. The manufacturer of the popular Telegram mobile messaging app said in a statement that manufacturers of cellphones and their operating systems, including Apple, Google and Samsung, were responsible for improving the security of their devices. It said the effort will require "many hours of work and many security updates" and assured its customers that "If the CIA is not on your back, you shouldn't start worrying yet."

## Rubble and ash in Mosul museum retaken from Islamic State

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press**

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — The antiquities museum in the Iraqi city of Mosul is in ruins, with exhibition halls housing piles of rubble and the basement filled with ankle-deep drifts of ash.

Associated Press reporters were granted rare access to the museum on Wednesday after Iraqi forces retook it from the Islamic State group earlier this week.

They saw the jagged remains of what appeared to have been an ancient Assyrian bull statue and fragments from cuneiform tablets. The museum once housed Mesopotamian artifacts dating back thousands of years.

IS captured Mosul in 2014 and released a video the following year showing fighters smashing artifacts in the museum with sledgehammers and power tools. The extremists view ancient artifacts as idols.

Iraqi officials at the time said most of what the militants destroyed were copies, as much of the museum's inventory had been moved to Baghdad for safe-keeping.

Federal Police Cpl. Abbas Muhammad said he was one of the first to enter the building after it was retaken from IS.

"Daesh came to Iraq to destroy our heritage because they don't have their own," he said, using an Arabic acronym for the group.

The territory IS overran in Syria and Iraq is home to some of the region's most important historical sites and monuments.

Over the past two and half years, the militants have systematically destroyed ancient palaces, temples and churches. They have even demolished some mosques, saying they were used to venerate saints, which IS considers a form of polytheism.

The extremist group is also believed to have looted ancient artifacts in order to sell them on the black market to finance its operations.

A handful of history books remained in the main entryway of the museum beside a bag of placards from old exhibits.

They describe flint objects found in Nineveh dating back to about 4,000 BC, copper oil lamps discovered in Ur dating back to 2,600 BC and Sumerian statues dating back to 2,050 BC.

"Mosul is the heart of Iraqi civilization," said Federal Police Maj. Muhammad al-Jabouri, a Mosul native from a nearby neighborhood.

"When I heard how Daesh destroyed this place," he said as his eyes filled with tears. "Death would have been a greater mercy for me."

## China grants preliminary approval to 38 new Trump trademarks

By **ERIKA KINETZ, Associated Press**

SHANGHAI (AP) — China has granted preliminary approval for 38 new Trump trademarks, paving the way for President Donald Trump and his family to develop a host of branded businesses from hotels to insurance to bodyguard and escort services, public documents show.

Trump's lawyers in China applied for the marks in April 2016, as Trump railed against China at campaign rallies, accusing it of currency manipulation and stealing U.S. jobs. Critics maintain that Trump's swelling portfolio of China trademarks raises serious conflict of interest questions.

China's Trademark Office published the provisional approvals on Feb. 27 and Monday.

If no one objects, they will be formally registered after 90 days. All but three are in the president's own name. China already registered one trademark to the president, for Trump-branded construction services, on Feb. 14.

If President Trump receives any special treatment in securing trademark rights, it would violate the U.S. Constitution, which bans public servants from accepting anything of value from foreign governments unless approved by Congress, ethics lawyers from across the political spectrum say. Concerns about potential

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conflicts of interest are particularly sharp in China, where the courts and bureaucracy are designed to reflect the will of the ruling Communist Party.

Dan Plane, a director at Simone IP Services, a Hong Kong intellectual property consultancy, said he had never seen so many applications approved so quickly. "For all these marks to sail through so quickly and cleanly, with no similar marks, no identical marks, no issues with specifications — boy, it's weird," he said.

The trademarks are for businesses including branded spas, massage parlors, golf clubs, hotels, insurance, finance and real estate companies, retail shops, restaurants, bars, and private bodyguard and escort services.

Spring Chang, a founding partner at Chang Tsi & Partners, a Beijing law firm that has represented the Trump Organization, declined to comment specifically on Trump's trademarks. But she did say that she advises clients to take out marks defensively, even in categories or subcategories of goods and services they may not aim to develop.

"I don't see any special treatment to the cases of my clients so far," she added. "I think they're very fair and the examination standard is very equal for every applicant."

Richard Painter, who served as chief ethics lawyer for President George W. Bush, said the volume of new approvals raised red flags.

"A routine trademark, patent or copyright from a foreign government is likely not an unconstitutional emolument, but with so many trademarks being granted over such a short time period, the question arises as to whether there is an accommodation in at least some of them," he said.

Painter is involved in a lawsuit alleging that Trump's foreign business ties violate the U.S. Constitution. Trump has dismissed the lawsuit as "totally without merit."

China's State Administration for Industry and Commerce, which oversees the Trademark Office, and Trump Organization general counsel Alan Garten did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Associated Press researcher Fu Ting in Shanghai and reporter Kelvin Chan in Hong Kong contributed to this report.

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## 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. CHINA GIVES PROVISIONAL APPROVAL FOR TRUMP TRADEMARKS

If no one objects, the U.S. president will have control of his brands in the country for a host of activities, raising serious conflict of interest questions, ethics lawyers tell AP.

### 2. HEALTH CARE BILL ADVANCES AMID RIFTS

Despite opposition from both sides of the aisle, House Republican leaders forge ahead with a plan that scraps major parts of "Obamacare."

### 3. HOW WIKILEAKS FALLOUT MAY IMPACT CONSUMERS

If you use messaging apps like WhatsApp or Signal or have smart TVs and PCs, the chances are slim that the CIA is listening to your conversations.

### 4. MAN CLAIMING TO BE SLAIN NORTH KOREAN EXILE'S SON POSTS VIDEO

The YouTube video shows an individual saying he is Kim Jong Nam's son Kim Han Sol, stating he's safely with his mother and sister.

### 5. WOMEN'S DAY A CALL TO NON-ACTION

Organizers of January's Women's March in the U.S. are asking women to stay home from work and not spend money in stores or online to show their impact on American society as the world marks International Women's Day.

### 6. MILITARY HOSPITAL IN AFGHANISTAN ATTACKED

Gunmen storm the facility in Kabul, killing at least four people and wounding more than 60, setting off

clashes with security forces.

## 7. FEDS PROBE DEADLY TRAIN-BUS COLLISION IN MISSISSIPPI

The crossing in Biloxi is on a steep embankment and has a sign warning drivers that it has a low ground clearance. Witnesses say the bus appeared to have been stuck on the tracks when it was hit.

## 8. NO WORD OF EX-FBI MAN LOST IN IRAN ON CIA JOB

Ten years after Robert Levinson's disappearance, his family hopes Trump will do something the last two U.S. presidents have been unable to achieve: Bring him home, if he's still alive.

## 9. PEOPLE AREN'T ONLY ONES USING POT FOR AILMENTS

Pet owners are giving their dogs and cats cannabis-based oils, supplements and snacks to treat everything from arthritis and cancer to pain and anxiety.

## 10. WHO TOPPED 30,000 POINTS IN NBA

Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki became the sixth player to reach the milestone, joining Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and Wilt Chamberlain.

## Facing strong pushback, GOP leaders advance health care bill

By ALAN FRAM and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the strong objections of key conservatives and Democrats, House Republican leaders are forging ahead with a health care plan that scraps major parts of the Obama-era overhaul.

The House Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee will convene what are expected to be marathon sessions on Wednesday to start voting on the legislation. President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence back the plan to repeal Barack Obama's health care law, and Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is confidently predicting it will pass the House.

But many fellow Republicans don't seem to be listening.

On Tuesday, less than 24 hours after the GOP health bill was launched, a powerful conservative backlash threatened to sink it.

"As the bill stands today, it is Obamacare 2.0," according to a statement by the billionaire Koch Brothers'-backed Americans for Prosperity and FreedomWorks groups. "Passing it would be making the same mistake that President Obama, Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi made in 2010. Millions of Americans would never see the improvements in care they were promised, just as Obamacare failed to deliver on its promises."

Those sentiments were echoed by some GOP lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Closer to the political center, Ohio's Republican Gov. John Kasich expressed deep doubts in a statement that took issue with congressional plans to curb Medicaid coverage expanded under Obama.

"Phasing out Medicaid coverage without a viable alternative is counterproductive and unnecessarily puts at risk our ability to treat the drug-addicted, mentally ill and working poor who now have access to a stable source of care," said Kasich.

"The right way to fix Obamacare is by Republicans and Democrats working together," he added.

AARP also objected, saying the bill would "dramatically increase health care costs for Americans aged 50-64" and put the health care of millions at risk. The organization, which has nearly 38 million members, was pivotal to the passage of Obama's law in 2010.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent congressional leaders a letter praising the GOP plan, calling it "absolutely critical in taking steps to restore choice, flexibility and innovation to the nation's health care markets."

Democrats remained unified in opposition, with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York saying the Republican approach would mean "higher cost for less health care, plain and simple."

Republicans are pushing forward even without official estimates from the Congressional Budget Office on the cost of the bill and how many people would be covered, although GOP lawmakers acknowledge they can't hope to match the 20 million Americans covered under Obamacare.

"We're going to do something that's great and I'm proud to support the replacement plan released by the House of Representatives," Trump declared at the White House as he met with the House GOP vote-

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counting team Tuesday. "We're going to take action. There's going to be no slowing down. There's going to be no waiting and no more excuses by anybody."

Aiming to reduce the role of government in health care, the GOP plan would repeal unpopular fines that Obama's law levies on people who don't carry health insurance. It also would replace income-based subsidies, which the law provides to help millions of Americans pay premiums, with age-based tax credits that may be skimpier for people with low incomes. Those payments would phase out for higher-earning people.

The Republican legislation would limit future federal funding for Medicaid, which covers low-income people, about 1 in 5 Americans. And it would loosen rules that Obama's law imposed for health plans directly purchased by individuals, while also scaling back subsidies.

Democrats say the bill would leave many people uninsured, shifting costs to states and hospital systems that act as providers of last resort. The bill also adds up to big tax cuts for the rich, cutting more than 20 taxes enacted under Obama's health law with the bulk of the savings going to the wealthiest Americans.

Conservatives say the GOP's new system of refundable tax credits would be a costly new entitlement, and they're demanding a vote on a straightforward repeal-only bill.

As the conservative opposition mounted, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price appeared in the White House briefing room to defend the bill. He stood next to a small table with a copy of the new bill, weighing in at 123 pages, next to the original Obamacare legislation, many times that size. Republicans frequently criticized the Affordable Care Act as overly lengthy and take pride in the fact that their bill is much shorter.

"This is the culmination of years of work, it's the culmination of years of concern and frustration by the American people," Price said. "The president and the administration support this step which we believe is in the right direction," he said, but he added, "This is a work in progress."

Associated Press writers Erica Werner, Stephen Ohlemacher, Mary Clare Jalonick and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

## Nowitzki tops 30,000 points, Mavs roll past Lakers, 122-111

By SCHUYLER DIXON, AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki ducked his head into a mob of teammates, with Dallas owner Mark Cuban clutching the side of his jersey before the Mavericks superstar found coach Rick Carlisle for a hug.

The celebration of 30,000 points came a lot faster than most would have imagined — except maybe the man who has watched from the bench for nine of Nowitzki's 19 seasons.

"Watching Dirk the last couple of days, there was no doubt this was going to happen tonight," Carlisle said.

Nowitzki scored the 20 points he needed for 30,000 in barely more than a quarter despite coming in with just five 20-point games this season, and the Mavericks celebrated with their second straight easy home win over the Los Angeles Lakers, a 122-111 victory Tuesday night.

The 7-foot German became the sixth NBA player and the first international one to reach the milestone, joining four Hall of Famers and a future one in Kobe Bryant. Nowitzki is one of three to score all 30,000-plus with one team. The others are Karl Malone (Utah) and Bryant (Lakers).

Nowitzki scored Dallas' first eight points in slightly more than two minutes, matched the best first quarter of his career with 18 points and reached the hallowed mark on a 15-foot fadeaway jumper from the baseline over Larry Nance Jr. with 10:58 remaining in the second quarter.

The 38-year-old scored all of his 25 points — one shy of his season high — in the first half to send the Mavericks on their way to a 31-point lead in the third quarter.

"I made the first one and it was a 2, and then I made the first 3 and thought, 'Why not?'" said Nowitzki, who made his first six shots and had 11 rebounds in 24 minutes. "I threw another one up and it went in,

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and then the next three came right after that and I was just trying to ride it from there.”

Dallas extended a franchise record with its 14th straight win over the Lakers, who got 13 points, 18 rebounds and 10 assists from Julius Randle in their eighth straight loss.

“I was a Kobe fan,” said Randle, who grew up in the Dallas area. “I hated Dirk growing up. As I got older and wiser, obviously, I was really able to appreciate his greatness.”

After the signature shot for 30,000, Nowitzki added a 3-pointer for 23 points in the first 14 minutes before the game was stopped as teammates mobbed the wide-smiling star near midcourt.

Nowitzki waded through the huddle to get to the bench for more hugs and hand slaps, then returned to the court to acknowledge the standing ovation.

The 2007 MVP was 9 of 12 from the field, 3 of 3 from beyond the arc and 4 of 4 on free throws before halftime. He missed his only shot of the second half.

“For me, this was a 13:02 microcosm of one of the greatest careers in the history of this game,” Carlisle said. “Meticulous preparation, total commitment, unbelievable competitive spirit and a real flair for the moment.”

Nowitzki finished the night at 30,005 points and has said he plans to play a 20th season. If so, he could have a shot at fifth-place Wilt Chamberlain, who has 31,419. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the career leader at 38,387.

With his ABA career included, Julius Erving is the seventh player to reach the mark.

Fans arrived with T-shirts draped over their seats that read “30K” behind a silhouette of Nowitzki’s signature one-legged fadeaway jumper. And they stood each time the Mavericks brought the ball up the court when Nowitzki was two points away.

While the game was stopped, a short video tribute was played, followed by testimonials from former teammates and fans, even some Germans, during subsequent breaks in the game.

Jason Kidd, the point guard with Nowitzki on Dallas’ only championship team in 2011 and second in the NBA in career assists, joked that he should have passed more. Steve Nash, his best friend from the early years of his career, wondered what “ball hog” was in German.

The only glitch was Nowitzki’s first attempt at 30,000, an airball on another fadeaway jumper 10 seconds into the second quarter.

“Every milestone makes you reflect a little bit,” Nowitzki said. “It’s been an amazing ride and a couple more baskets are coming and then it’s time to ride off into the sunset.”

## TIP-INS

Lakers: D’Angelo Russell and Jordan Clarkson led LA with 22 points apiece. ... Randle had his third triple-double of the season. ... The Lakers outscored Dallas 37-19 in the fourth quarter.

Mavericks: Seth Curry scored 18 points, followed by Yogi Ferrell with 16, Wesley Matthews with 15 and Harrison Barnes with 14. ... Nerlens Noel had 11 points and 12 rebounds. ... G Quinn Cook had 10 on the last day of his 10-day contract. ... The Mavericks led 70-52 at the half. It was their first 70-point half since scoring 72 in the first half of a 130-128 loss to Houston in Game 3 of a first-round playoff series in 2015.

## NOWITZKI NUGGETS

Nowitzki had his 20th career half with at least 25 points. It was his first 25-point half since Nov. 16, 2008. The 18-point quarter was his highest since scoring 20 in the third quarter against New Orleans on Jan. 11, 2014.

## QUOTABLE

“Dirk has been a model player and terrific ambassador for our game. This latest accomplishment further establishes his legacy as one of the NBA’s greatest players.” — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

## UP NEXT

Lakers: At Phoenix on Thursday.

Mavericks: Home against Brooklyn on Friday.

## Pot for pets: Owners treat sick animals with cannabis

By TERENCE CHEA, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Michael Fasman's 12-year-old dog, Hudson, limps from pain caused by arthritis and an amputated toe, but Fasman doesn't want to give her painkillers because "they just knock her out."

So the San Francisco resident has turned to an alternative medicine that many humans use to treat their own pain and illness: marijuana.

On a recent morning, Fasman squeezed several drops of a cannabis extract onto a plate of yogurt, which the Portuguese water dog lapped up in seconds. It's become part of Hudson's daily routine.

"We think it's really lifted her spirits and made her a happier dog," Fasman said. "It's not that she's changed. She's just back to her good old self."

As more states legalize marijuana for humans, more pet owners are giving their furry companions cannabis-based extracts, ointments and edibles marketed to treat everything from arthritis and anxiety to seizures and cancer.

Most of these pet products, which aren't regulated, contain cannabidiol or CBD, a chemical compound found in cannabis that doesn't get pets or humans high. They contain little or no tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, the cannabis compound known for its psychoactive effects.

But veterinarians say there isn't enough scientific data to show cannabis is safe and effective for treating animals. Although medical marijuana is legal in 28 states, it remains illegal under federal law, so there has been relatively little research into its potential medical benefits for humans or animals.

Veterinarians in California and other states are legally barred from prescribing or recommending cannabis. They risk losing their veterinary licenses if they do.

"Our hands really are tied," said Ken Pawlowski, president of the California Veterinary Medical Association. "Definitely we're getting more questions from clients asking about it for their pets, but unfortunately we don't have any answers for them."

Karl Jandrey, a veterinarian who teaches at the University of California, Davis, said he tells his clients they "use them at their own risk with the potential to spend money for no improvement, or a risk of adverse side effects."

Despite the lack of scientific data or veterinary guidance, many pet owners are convinced cannabis has improved their animals' health and well-being, based on their own observations.

Lynne Tingle, who runs a pet adoption center and animal sanctuary, regularly gives cannabis edibles and topical ointments to older dogs with health or behavior issues, including her own elderly dogs Chorio and Alice.

"You just see a real difference in their spirit. They're just not in pain, so they're happier and they're moving better," said Tingle, who founded the Richmond-based Milo Foundation. "They just get a new lease on life."

San Francisco-based TreatWell Health is one of a growing number of companies marketing cannabis products for pets despite questions over their legality.

TreatWell sells cannabis tinctures — extracted from marijuana plants in Humboldt County — that can be added to food or dropped directly into an animal's mouth. Co-founder Alison Ettel works directly with clients and their pets, recommending different formulations based on the animals' ailments.

TreatWell pet tinctures can help treat anxiety, poor appetite, pain, inflammation and seizures, as well as kidney and liver problems, cancer and glaucoma, according to its website. They also are used in end-of-life care.

"What we find is a lot of the animals are coming to us when there are no other options and pharmaceuticals haven't worked for that animal," Ettel said. "They're at that last resort, and cannabis is really good for those types of situations."

Barbara Stein is one of TreatWell's most enthusiastic customers. She said the cannabis tinctures helped treat anxiety and digestive problems in her 13-year-old cat, Willie. And she believes the drug helped Willie's sister Prudence maintain her weight and stay comfortable when she was battling cancer.

Stein, a retiree who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area city of Concord, said she got a medical marijuana



card so she could buy cannabis for her cats. She has since recommended cannabis to many friends with aging and sick pets.

"All I know is that none of the traditional medications she got from the vet worked, but the cannabis did," Stein said. "I swear by the stuff."

## **Australia, Malaysia hope MH370 will be found one day**

**By ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press**

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — The Australian government minister in charge of the suspended seabed search for the Malaysia Airlines jet told victims' families and friends at an anniversary church service on Wednesday that he remained hopeful that Flight 370 would be found.

"While to date we have been unsuccessful, we remain hopeful that at some stage in the future, there will be a breakthrough, the aircraft will be found, and we will be able to answer more of your questions," said Darren Chester, minister for infrastructure and transport.

The Malaysian government said that although Australia, Malaysia and China in January suspended the sonar search for the airliner after a sweep of 120,000 square kilometers (46,000 square miles) of the Indian Ocean, "we remain ever hopeful that we will be able to find the answers we seek when the credible evidence becomes available."

Chester and Angus Houston, the former Australian defense chief who coordinated the early months of the search efforts, were among around 100 who attended the private ceremony at St. John's Anglican Cathedral in the east city of Brisbane to mark the third anniversary of the mysterious tragedy.

Several victims and relatives of the 239 passengers and crew aboard the Boeing 777, which flew far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing on March 8, 2014, live in or near Brisbane.

Chester told the congregation that included families of New Zealand victim Paul Weeks, and Australians Robert and Catherine Lawton and Rodney and Mary Burrows that searchers had tried their best to end the uncertainty surrounding the crash. He also said that a memorial to the lost passengers and crew would be erected in the west coast city of Perth, which had been a base for Indian Ocean air and sea search crews.

Chester said before the service that he understood the frustration that many would feel on the anniversary of the tragedy that there was no longer an active search for the crash site.

Jeanette Maguire, sister of passenger Catherine Lawton, said the relatives appreciated that the Australian government had invited them to such a memorial service.

"The government didn't have to do that and it was very special that they wanted to do something to ensure our families didn't feel forgotten," Maguire said.

Chester declined to comment on a suggestion by some relatives of raising funds to continue a private search of the ocean floor.

"I'm not going to offer advice to those who want to fund-raise privately to extend the search, but from the Australians government's perspective, the search remains suspended," Chester told The Associated Press.

Australia's prime minister at the time of the tragedy, Tony Abbott, said in a newspaper interview last month that areas north and south of the searched zone should also be examined.

"When you've got nearly 240 people missing, the greatest mystery of modern times, as long as there is any reasonable prospective place to search, you just keep searching," Abbott told New Corp. Australia.

Abbott, who remains a government lawmaker, said the most plausible scenario was that a pilot had deliberately crashed the plane. A pilot could have flown the plane further south than the area searched, Abbott said. Abbott had not responded by Wednesday to a request for comment.

A lawsuit filed in the United States on behalf of the families of 44 people on board Flight 370 alleges a series of catastrophic electrical and other failures may have led to the crash.

The lawsuit, filed Friday against Boeing in U.S. District Court in South Carolina, names seven malfunctions, from an electrical fire to depressurization of the plane's cabin, that could have led to the crew losing consciousness, the plane's transponder stopping its transmission and the plane flying undetected until it crashed after running out of fuel.

## Women's March organizers call for 'A Day Without a Woman'

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Organizers of January's Women's March have called for women to take the day off and encouraged them not to spend money to show their economic strength and impact on American society.

"A Day Without a Woman" on Wednesday is the first major action by organizers since the nationwide marches held the day after President Donald Trump's inauguration that drew millions of women into the streets in protest against misogyny, inequality and oppression. Though it is unclear how many women could participate, thousands across the country have signaled their support and interest online and to employers.

The event coincides with the U.N.-designated International Women's Day, and organizers say they want to "stand with women around the globe" who supported their efforts Jan. 21 with similar protests in cities around the world.

Spokeswoman Cassidy Findlay said organizers were inspired by the recent "Day Without an Immigrant" protests held last month. She said the action is aimed at highlighting the effect of women on the country's socio-economic system and would demonstrate how the paid and unpaid work of women keeps households, communities and economies running.

"We provide all this value and keep the system going, and receive unequal benefits from it," Findlay said.

Findlay said it is important for white women to be in solidarity with minority women.

"Throughout history, the strikes that have the biggest impact are the ones when people who are already the target of oppression participate," she said. "It's when women of all backgrounds strike and stand together that we're really going to see the impact."

Unlike the Women's March, Wednesday's protest focuses on the absence of women, who are being steered to local rallies and community groups and away from work or shopping in stores or online. Organizers also are asking women to wear red to signify love and sacrifice.

More than a million people, mostly women, turned out nationwide for the Women's March. In New York, organizers are planning a gathering in Central Park at noon. International Women's Day rallies also are planned in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Washington and Berkeley, California.

School districts including Prince George's County in Maryland, the Alexandria City Public Schools in Virginia and Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools in North Carolina, have canceled classes in anticipation of employee participation. In Utah, as many as 1,000 women are expected to gather at the Capitol to remind lawmakers they are watching their actions on women's issues.

In Providence, Rhode Island, the municipal court plans to close because the demonstration in the city would leave the court without enough staff to open. Lovely Monkey Tattoo, a woman-owned tattoo parlor in Whitmore Lake, Michigan, is offering female-centric tattoos with messages like, "Nevertheless, She Persisted" for \$50 to \$100, with proceeds going to the Ann Arbor chapter of Planned Parenthood.

Some businesses have said they will either close or give female employees the day off. The event website provides templates for "out of office" emails, and an employer letter. The site has had more than a half-million visitors, and more than 60,000 had clicked on the letter template by Tuesday afternoon.

Organizers noted that only a fourth of participants in the Women's March signed up in advance to participate.

The role of women in American society is significant. According to the U.S. Census, women make up more than 47 percent of the workforce and are dominant in such professions as registered nurses, dental assistants, cashiers, accountants and pharmacists. They make up at least a third of physicians and surgeons, as well as lawyers and judges. Women also represent 55 percent of all college students.

Still, American women continue to be paid less than men, earning 80 cents for every dollar a man makes. The median income for women was \$40,742 in 2015, compared with \$51,212 for men, according to census data.

A Day Without A Woman: <https://www.womensmarch.com/womensday/>

Associated Press writers Phuong Le in Seattle, Mike Householder in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Michelle Smith in Providence, Rhode Island, 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>.

## China says NKorea could suspend nukes for halt in US drills

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN and GILLIAN WONG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's foreign minister said Wednesday that North Korea could suspend its nuclear and missile activities in exchange for a halt in joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, in an unusually public proposal that analysts said showed Beijing's growing alarm over the tensions.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said frictions between the North and Washington and Seoul were like "two accelerating trains" headed at each other, with neither side willing to give way.

"The question is: Are the two sides really ready for a head-on collision?" Wang told reporters. "Our priority now is to flash the red light and apply the brakes on both trains."

Wang said China has proposed that as a first step to defusing the looming crisis, the North might halt its nuclear program development and missile testing if the U.S. and South Korea suspended their military drills.

"This suspension-for-suspension can help us break out of the security dilemma and bring the parties back to the negotiating table," Wang said, describing the approach as trying to address all parties' concerns in a "synchronized and reciprocal" manner.

North Korea first floated the proposal in 2015, but it was swiftly dismissed by Washington and Seoul, who say the two issues are unrelated. Their view is that North Korea's nuclear and missile program is in violation of U.N. resolutions whereas the joint U.S.-South Korea drills are a long-standing practice, analysts say.

Chinese scholars said Beijing has privately discussed this proposal with the countries involved but Wang's move to make it public could be a sign that China plans to take a more aggressive approach to the issue to prevent it from spinning out of control.

"China is becoming an utterly important victim of the turbulent situation on the Korean Peninsula, therefore it has unprecedentedly expressed its views in public," said Guo Rui, international relations expert at Jilin University.

China has been stepping up pressure on North Korea, its once-close Communist ally, to give up its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Last month, Beijing suspended all coal imports from North Korea for the rest of the year, a move that deprives the North of an important source of foreign currency. Beijing wants the U.S. in return to restart long-stalled negotiations with North Korea.

Wang's move to publicize Beijing's proposal could also be directed at Washington ahead of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's visit to China later this month.

"Raising such a proposal without seeking the views from the U.S. and South Korea will likely bring pressure to Tillerson's upcoming visit to China," said Cheng Xiaohe, an international relations expert at Renmin University in Beijing. "Talking about it publicly also indicates that China is hoping to have some achievement."

A White House official downplayed Wang's suggestion, saying China has made similar proposals in the past. The official was not authorized to discuss the policy publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The South Korean government had no immediate response to Wang's comments Wednesday.

Wang likely renewed the dual suspension proposal in the hopes that President Donald Trump might see it as an alternative approach, said John Delury, a North Korea expert at Yonsei University's Graduate School of International Studies in Seoul.

"Wang Yi is putting it out there for Trump, saying 'here's an off-ramp to the current tensions,'" Delury said in a telephone interview from Seoul.

With tensions rising again, attitudes among officials and North Korea watchers are now diverging over how to approach the North, Delury said. While some want greater engagement, others are calling for

stronger measures, possibly including military action, he said.

Trump, meanwhile, has yet to articulate a clear policy toward the North, other than to tweet that he wouldn't let it obtain nuclear weapons to attack America.

"The proposal is the same, but the context is different," Delury said.

Wang, who answered a range of questions at a briefing on the sidelines of China's annual national legislative sessions, also urged South Korea to suspend deployment of a U.S. anti-missile system, saying Seoul had made a "wrong choice."

Washington and Seoul say the system is defensive and not meant to be a threat to Beijing. China is opposed to the system, saying it would allow U.S. radar to peer deep into its territory and monitor its flights and missile launches.

"We urge some forces in South Korea not to keep insisting on taking this path, otherwise the result can only be damage to others and harm to yourself," Wang said.

Associated Press researcher Yu Bing contributed to this report.

## Wildfires in 4 states kill 6, force thousands from homes

By ROXANA HEGEMAN and JIM SUHR, Associated Press

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP) — Crews grappling with vexing wildfires that have charred hundreds of square miles of land in four states and killed six people soon may get a bit of a break: Winds are forecast to ease from the gusts that whipped the flames.

Bill Bunting, forecast operations chief for the Oklahoma-based Storm Prediction Center, said Tuesday the powerful wind gusts that fanned the wildfires in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas should diminish to about 10 to 20 mph on Wednesday. He said temperatures should top in the 70s, with afternoon humidity low.

"These conditions will make it somewhat easier for firefighting efforts, but far from perfect. The fires still will be moving," Bunting told The Associated Press. "The ideal situation is that it would turn cold and rain, and unfortunately that's not going to happen."

In addition to those four states, conditions were ripe for fires in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. That followed powerful thunderstorms that moved through the middle of the country overnight, spawning dozens of suspected tornadoes, according to the National Weather Service.

Kansas wildfires have burned about 625 square miles of land and killed one person. The Kansas Highway Patrol said Corey Holt, of Oklahoma City, died Monday when his tractor-trailer jackknifed as he tried to back up because of poor visibility on a Kansas highway, and he succumbed to smoke after getting out of his vehicle. Two SUVs crashed into the truck, injuring six people, state trooper Michael Racy said.

Most of the state's charred land is in Clark County, where 30 structures were damaged, said Allison Kuhns, a county emergency management office spokeswoman. About half of those structures are near Englewood, one of two communities evacuated. Kuhns said there also have been significant cattle losses as entire ranches were engulfed.

That fire started in Oklahoma, where it burned an estimated 390 square miles in Beaver County. Officials say a separate blaze scorched more than 155 square miles of land in neighboring Harper County, Oklahoma, and was a factor in the death of a woman who had a heart attack while trying to keep her farm near Buffalo from burning.

The largest evacuations elsewhere were in Reno County, Kansas, where 10,000 to 12,000 people voluntarily left their homes Monday night, said Katie Horner, a state Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman. She said 66 people were in shelters Tuesday in Hutchinson, 40 miles northwest of Wichita.

Among them was Shelley Wilson, who fled Monday with her disabled son and pets from a blaze encircling her farm outside of Hutchinson. She returned later that night with her adult daughter to retrieve her tractor.

"I don't know if I have a home," Wilson said at the shelter Tuesday as her daughter did her best to lighten her mood. "In case I needed to rebuild, I wanted to at least have my tractor."

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Retiree Sheryl Stessen said she grabbed her cat and fled her apartment on the outskirts of Hutchinson when she saw the fire quickly go from a puff of smoke to a big, orange ball.

"Most of us are generally grumpy," she said Tuesday. "I just want to go home."

Several hundred more people evacuated their homes in Russell, Ellsworth and Comanche counties, in central Kansas.

In the Texas Panhandle, three fires burned about 500 square miles of land and killed at least four people. One of them near Amarillo threatened about 150 homes, while a larger fire in the northeast corner of the Panhandle near the Oklahoma border was 50 percent contained as of late Tuesday morning, according to Texas A&M Forest Service. That larger fire was responsible for a death on Monday, authorities said Tuesday without providing details.

A wildfire in Gray County, also in the Texas Panhandle, killed three ranch hands trying to save cattle, said Judge Richard Peet, the county's head administrator. One of the three apparently died of smoke inhalation Monday night and the other two were badly burned and died on the way to hospitals, he said.

Forest Service spokesman Phillip Truitt said as many as four firefighters were hurt battling the fires Monday. He provided no details on their conditions Tuesday morning.

In northeastern Colorado near the Nebraska border, firefighters battled a blaze that burned more than 45 square miles and was 50 percent contained Tuesday. Officials said the fire had destroyed at least five homes and 15 outbuildings, with no serious injuries.

Dry conditions and strong winds had put the region at risk for wildfires. All of eastern Colorado is classified as either moderately or abnormally dry along with major parts of Kansas, almost all of Oklahoma and some of northern Texas, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

After several years of drought, Kansas got good to great rain the last two summers. But the taller grass provides more fuel to burn.

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Suhr reported from Kansas City, Missouri. Associated Press writers Heather Hollingsworth in Kansas City, Missouri; John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas; Dave Warren in Dallas; and Colleen Slevin in Denver contributed to this report.

## Daring nighttime raid turns to deadly trap in Mosul

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE** and **ANDREA ROSA**, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Hours after Mosul's municipal complex was declared liberated by the country's top military commanders and U.S.-led coalition officials, the wounded began pouring into a small frontline clinic just a few hundred meters away.

"Daesh had everything planned," said Hamza Daoud of the Federal Police who helped rush his wounded comrades out of a battered Humvee and onto stretchers in the garden of an abandoned building.

"As we first advanced there was no resistance (from the Islamic State group), but once we entered, they woke up," Daoud said, explaining he was only able to get out by ramming through a makeshift roadblock.

"We were stuck there, nothing could reach us. I barely escaped. The snipers hit my car twice but I never touched the brakes once," he said.

Iraqi forces launched a daring nighttime raid in the early hours of Tuesday morning on the sprawling complex of municipal buildings in western Mosul along the Tigris River. Beginning just after midnight, Iraq's emergency response division, an elite arm of the Federal Police, led the attack. Initially advancing some half a dozen blocks past the front line in armored vehicles, but breaching the complex itself on foot.

After facing very little resistance, regular Federal Police units followed and by 6:30 a.m. Tuesday morning an Iraqi flag had been hoisted above the tallest government building.

From the roof of an abandoned school acting as a forward base on the edge of Mosul's Tayran neighborhood, Maj. Gen. Ali Alami said the Nineveh governorate complex burning on the horizon behind him was liberated and fully cleared.

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He traced his troops' advances on a tablet showing a satellite map of Mosul — boasting of their quick progress — but the markers showed that the soldiers has just pushed up the two main roads leading to the complex and hadn't cleared the dozens of tightly packed homes on either side.

Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Rasheed Yar Allah, who commands army operations in Nineveh province, praised the Federal Police as heroes and Brett McGurk, the special envoy for the U.S.-led anti-IS coalition hailed the advance in a statement posted to Twitter.

But by 11:00 a.m. clashes inside the compound had intensified and commanders behind the front were getting frantic radio calls for help. Three bulldozers had broken down trying to remove roadblocks, hundreds of troops were trapped and they needed reinforcements.

Sgt. Azam Ibrahim of the Federal Police was one of the first to enter the complex, but he and most of his unit fled as the first wave of counterattacks intensified. In the confusion he dropped his side arm before speeding back to his base.

"All of a sudden (IS fighters) began popping up everywhere," he said, "they emerged from nowhere."

Snipers began to fire down on Iraqi forces from the buildings above and previously concealed suicide car bombs rammed their convoys. Ibrahim said he was trapped in the complex for hours as IS fighters moved out from un-cleared neighborhoods and cut the routes his forces used to enter.

Commanders said the hasty advances were intended to give them the element of surprise, but the blunder shows how Iraqi forces continue to struggle with conducting methodical urban operations under political and military pressure for a speedy wrap up to the Mosul war.

The fight for Mosul's west is expected to be the most difficult yet for Iraq's military. The operation to retake the city was launched in October and in January the eastern side was declared fully liberated.

Initial advances in Mosul's western neighborhoods have been slow as Iraqi forces attempt to conduct simultaneous operations that force IS to spread out their defenses.

As IS counterattacks on the municipality ballooned, Iraqi forces responded with artillery Tuesday. A pair of helicopters fired down onto the complex and airstrikes could be heard throughout the day. The sky above the municipality filled with thick black smoke.

Civilians trickled out of the area carrying their possessions in overstuffed suitcases.

"The situation is not good honestly, there is so much destruction," Iman Issam said as she fled with her teenage daughter.

By afternoon, Federal Police units were being sent from the Tayran base to try and free the hundreds of troops in and around the municipality buildings and the front line clinic was receiving casualties in waves.

As one Humvee arrived, two men were pulled from the backseats, their uniforms soaked through with blood. Both were suffering from gunshot wounds. One man had been shot in the leg, the other shot twice in his side causing major bleeding.

The man shot in the side had been hit while trying to drag an injured friend to safety. Medics bandaged his wounds and hooked him up to an intravenous drip, but within minutes he died. Four doctors lifted him into a dark blue body bag and moved him to the ground. A fellow soldier piled the man's uniform and boots beside his body.

Speaking from just outside the municipality complex, Federal Police Brig. Gen. Fakher Al Bahadri said he ordered his forces to quickly push deep into Mosul and take the municipality buildings in order to "surprise" the enemy and overcome obstacles posed by western Mosul's terrain. The city's west is much more densely populated than the east and streets are narrow, preventing Iraqi forces from largely fighting from inside their armored vehicles.

"The plan was stupid," Daoud, the Federal Police soldier who brought two casualties to the clinic Tuesday afternoon, said. "I don't know why we did that."

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Associated Press writer Salar Salim contributed to this report.

## Malaysia: N. Korean's family may be scared to come forward

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's prime minister said Wednesday that relatives of Kim Jong Nam, the long-exiled half brother of North Korea's ruler, may be too scared to come forward to provide DNA samples following his mysterious poisoning death in a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur.

Prime Minister Najib Razak spoke a day after a stunning breakdown in diplomatic ties between Malaysia and North Korea over the investigation into Kim's death on Feb. 13. Najib said his country still wants to negotiate with Pyongyang despite the increasingly bitter dispute.

"This is sensitive matter, best conducted in secrecy," he said, adding that authorities are still trying to get DNA samples from Kim's immediate family to formally identify his body.

"Maybe they are scared to come forward," Najib said.

Two women swiped Kim's face with VX nerve agent as he waited for a flight home to Macau last month, Malaysian authorities say. The investigation has infuriated North Korea, which has dismissed the inquiry as politically motivated.

Many speculate that North Korea somehow orchestrated the attack, which it denies. Malaysia has never directly accused Pyongyang of being behind the hit.

The dispute took a surprising turn on Tuesday, when North Korea announced that it was blocking all Malaysians from leaving the country until a "fair settlement" of the case.

Malaysia responded in kind and barred North Koreans from exiting its soil.

Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said Wednesday that Malaysia is willing to negotiate.

"So far, we believe they are going to act rationally," he said. "We believe what is important for us is to maintain our diplomatic relationship with them because I think what is important is the safety of our citizens in Pyongyang."

Najib has denounced North Korea's order "an abhorrent act, effectively holding our citizens hostage" and a violation of international law.

"I can't think of anything like this" happening for years, said Lalit Mansingh, a New Delhi-based scholar and longtime top Indian diplomat, said of North Korea's directive. "This is way out of normal diplomatic practice."

But North Korea has a long history of surprising the international community.

"It's the North Korean way of doing things — dramatic intimidating gestures and then waiting for the other side to plead for some concessions," said Leszek Buszynski, a national security scholar at Australian National University who has written extensively on North Korean diplomacy.

Officials in Kuala Lumpur say there are 11 Malaysians currently in North Korea: three working at the embassy, two U.N. employees and six family members. About 1,000 North Koreans are believed to be in Malaysia, until recently one of the few countries where North Koreans could travel without a visa.

North Korea's surprise order came Tuesday morning, when the official Korean Central News Agency said the country was banning Malaysians from leaving "until the safety of the diplomats and citizens of (North Korea) in Malaysia is fully guaranteed through the fair settlement of the case."

It was not clear, however, what would constitute a "fair settlement."

North Korea said Malaysia's diplomats and citizens "may work and live normally" during the temporary exit ban.

Malaysia is searching for seven North Korean suspects in connection with Kim's assassination, including a North Korean diplomat. Police say three suspects are believed to be in hiding at the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, a hulking concrete mansion behind a wall streaked with water stains.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said Malaysia would not raid the embassy, which is protected under diplomatic law, but would wait for the suspects to emerge.

"We will wait. We will wait, and if it takes five years we will wait outside. Definitely somebody will come out," Khalid said.

Malaysia has said the two women who poisoned Kim were recruited by a team of North Koreans. A

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Malaysian autopsy found that Kim was killed with VX, a nerve agent and banned chemical weapon that causes convulsions and leaves victims unable to breathe. North Korea is widely believed to possess large quantities of chemical weapons, including VX.

The women, one from Vietnam and the other from Indonesia, were quickly caught and have been charged with murder. Both say they were duped into thinking they were playing a harmless prank.

Custody of the body has become a flashpoint. Malaysia says it needs to conduct DNA tests to formally identify the body, but North Korea says it has no right to keep the body of a North Korean citizen.

Kim, who was in his mid-40s, had lived abroad for years and had reportedly never met younger half brother, North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un.

Associated Press writers Tim Sullivan in New Delhi and Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 8, the 67th day of 2017. There are 298 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On March 8, 1917, Russia's "February Revolution" (referring to the Old Style calendar) began in Petrograd; the result was the abdication of the Russian monarchy in favor of a provisional government that was overthrown later the same year by the Bolsheviks. Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, 78, creator of the rigid airships bearing his name, died in Berlin. The U.S. Senate voted to limit filibusters by adopting the cloture rule.

On this date:

In 1702, England's Queen Anne acceded to the throne upon the death of King William III.

In 1817, the New York Stock & Exchange Board, which had its beginnings in 1792, was formally organized; it later became known as the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1854, U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry made his second landing in Japan; within a month, he concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

In 1874, the 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, died in Buffalo, New York, at age 74.

In 1930, the 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft, died in Washington at age 72.

In 1942, Imperial Japanese forces occupied Rangoon (Yangon) during World War II.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines arrived to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1966, Nelson's Pillar, a 120-foot-high column in Dublin honoring British naval hero Horatio Nelson, was bombed by the Irish Republican Army.

In 1979, technology firm Philips demonstrated a prototype compact disc player during a press conference in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

In 1983, in a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Orlando, Florida, President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire."

In 1999, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 84.

In 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239 people on board, vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off a massive search. (To date, the fate of the jetliner and its occupants has yet to be determined.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush arrived in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as he began a 6-day tour of Latin America. House Democrats unveiled legislation to require the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq by the fall of 2008; the White House said President Bush would veto it. In his first news conference since taking over command of U.S. forces in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus said insurgents were seeking to intensify attacks and that it was "very likely" additional U.S. forces would be sent to areas outside Baghdad where



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militant groups were regrouping.

Five years ago: Syria's deputy oil minister (Abdo Husameddine) announced in a video that he had defected from President Bashar Assad's regime. Jesse Owens was posthumously made an inaugural member of the IAAF Hall of Fame more than 75 years after he won four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. (Owens, Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and nine others were the first athletes to be honored by the IAAF in its newly created Hall of Fame.) James T. "Jimmy" Ellis, 74, the frontman for The Trammps who released "Disco Inferno," died in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

One year ago: Democrat Bernie Sanders breathed new life into his longshot White House bid with a crucial win in Michigan's primary while Hillary Clinton breezed to an easy victory in Mississippi; Republican Donald Trump swept to victory in Michigan, Mississippi and Hawaii, while Ted Cruz carried Idaho. Sir George Martin, the Beatles' urbane producer who guided the band's swift, historic transformation from rowdy club act to musical and cultural revolutionaries, died at age 90.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sue Ane (correct) Langdon is 81. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 79. Baseball player-turned-author Jim Bouton is 78. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 73. Actor-director Micky Dolenz (The Monkees) is 72. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 71. Pop singer Peggy March is 69. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice is 64. Jazz musician Billy Childs is 60. Singer Gary Numan is 59. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 58. Actor Aidan Quinn is 58. Country musician Jimmy Dormire is 57. Actress Camryn Manheim is 56. Actor Leon (no last name) is 54. Rock singer Shawn Mullins (The Thorns) is 49. Neo-soul singer Van Hunt is 47. Actress Andrea Parker is 47. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 44. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 41. Actress Laura Main is 40. Actor James Van Der Beek is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 39. Actor Nick Zano is 39. Rock singer Tom Chaplin (Keane) is 38. Rock musician Andy Ross (OK Go) is 38. Actress Jessica Collins is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kristinia (kris-teh-NEE'-ah) DeBarge is 27.

Thought for Today: "Contemplation seems to be about the only luxury that costs nothing." — Dodie Smith, English playwright (1896-1990).