

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 1 of 34

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dakota Brush Ad
- 1 - DQ Help Wanted
- 2- Bills signed into law
- 4- Classifieds
- 4- Sundial Manor hiring
- 4 - GDI Living Heart Fitness Ad
- 5- Deer Management Plan for review
- 5- Hands-only CPR Training in schools
- 6- Freeman selected for MS All State Band
- 6- Aberdeen Area Job Fair
- 7- Upcoming GDI Live Events
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Local Weather Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 9- Today's Weather Climate
- 9- National Weather map
- 10 - Daily Devotional
- 11- News from the Associated Press



DAIRY QUEEN HELP WANTED

Dairy Queen in Groton is now hiring. If you're looking for a fun job with part-time hours, flexible scheduling, please stop in for an application.

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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Sunday, March 12

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, March 13

Senior Menu: Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rice and raisins, whole wheat bread.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, wedge fries, fruit, carrots and dip, breadstick.

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Groton Community Center

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

Tuesday, March 14

Senior Menu: Chicken Tetrastazine, Green beans, honey fruit salad, vanilla pudding, whole wheat bread.

School Lunch: Tomato soup, grilled cheese, broccoli and drip, fruit.

School Breakfast: Bosc's breakfast stick, fruit, juice, milk.

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

Gov. Dugaard Signs More Bills Into Law

PIERRE, S.D. – In addition to the Initiated Measure 22 replacement measures, Gov. Dennis Dugaard signed the following bills into law Friday. For more information about a certain bill, click on the bill number.

- [HB 1001](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding prison or jail population cost estimates.
- [HB 1014](#) – An Act to make an appropriation for the purchase of land by the South Dakota Department of the Military for use by the South Dakota Army National Guard and to declare an emergency.
- [HB 1063](#) – An Act to repeal certain provisions relating to the payment of special assessments.
- [HB 1090](#) – An Act to define certain fees incident to the extension of credit.
- [HB 1092](#) – An Act to revise certain alcoholic beverage licensing provisions concerning the manufacturing and sale of cider.
- [HB 1097](#) – An Act to revise certain unemployment insurance contribution rates, to provide for an unemployment insurance administrative fee, and to provide for the distribution of the fee.
- [HB 1101](#) – An Act to increase the penalty for performing an abortion of an unborn child capable of feeling pain.
- [HB 1103](#) – An Act to allow for service by publication for certain paternity and child custody actions.
- [HB 1113](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding protection orders.
- [HB 1141](#) – An Act to provide for a legislative task force to consider certain legislation proposed to revise provisions regarding the constitutional amendment, initiative and referendum process in South Dakota.
- [HB 1143](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding underage prostitution.
- [HB 1147](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding concealed carry permits and to declare an emergency.
- [HB 1155](#) – An Act to revise the penalty for aggravated assault with the intent to disfigure the victim.
- [HB 1184](#) – An Act to exempt certain persons working in postsecondary technical institutes from collective bargaining provisions.
- [HB 1191](#) – An Act to require cooperation with the Division of Child Support as a condition of eligibility for the SNAP program.
- [SB 22](#) – An Act to exempt certain unmanned aircraft systems from the requirement to be registered as aircraft.
- [SB 23](#) – An Act to revise the authority of the Transportation Commission to make loans from the state highway fund to local governments for highway and bridge construction and maintenance purposes.
- [SB 29](#) – An Act to provide for the use of mobile breath alcohol testing in the 24/7 sobriety program.
- [SB 34](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions related to securities held as unclaimed property and to declare an emergency.
- [SB 44](#) – An Act to revise the definition of individuals with a serious emotional disturbance.
- [SB 60](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the sale of consumers power district assets.
- [SB 74](#) – An Act to exempt the elected members of the governing board of any federally recognized Indian tribe from the requirement to register as lobbyists.
- [SB 81](#) – An Act to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or possession of alcohol in a powdered, condensed, or other concentrated form under most circumstances.
- [SB 82](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the review of juvenile corrections.
- [SB 84](#) – An Act to provide for the suspension of the probationary period for juvenile probationers under certain conditions.
- [SB 86](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the deposit of county funds.
- [SB 88](#) – An Act to revise the definition of an electric transmission facility.
- [SB 90](#) – An Act to repeal certain provisions related to certain prior statements of a witness subject to discovery and to establish the rationale and effect of the repeal.
- [SB 98](#) – An Act to revise provisions regarding deadlines for municipal election recounts.
- [SB 99](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the petition signature requirements for municipal

elections.

[SB 102](#) – An Act to require that the name and telephone number of an organization fighting to end sex trafficking be given, in writing, to any woman seeking an abortion.

[SB 113](#) – An Act to require certain provisions to be met before distribution of the 911 emergency surcharge revenue and to revise the effective date for the sunset clause provisions that lower the 911 emergency surcharge and revise the method of distributing funds.

[SB 136](#) – An Act to permit and regulate the practice of licensed certified professional midwives.

[SB 140](#) – An Act to require schools to provide instruction in hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

[SB 143](#) – An Act to create an off-sale delivery license and to allow certain off-sale licensees to deliver alcohol.

[SB 145](#) – An Act to provide limitation on liability for certain architects and engineers.

[SB 149](#) – An Act to provide certain protections to faith-based or religious child-placement agencies.

Gov. Daugaard Signs IM 22 Replacement Measures

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard this morning signed five measures to replace concepts of Initiated Measure 22 which were supported by the public.

“State officials of all stripes undertook the difficult work of replacing Initiated Measure 22 with constitutional, workable legislation that meets the goals advanced by the IM 22,” said Gov. Daugaard. “Public servants from West River and East River, on the right and the left, and in the legislative and executive branches came together on these bills.”

Among the bills signed was House Bill 1073, the lobbyist gift ban bill brought by Speaker Mark Mickelson. HB 1073 prohibits legislators, statewide elected officials and heads of Executive Branch agencies from accepting pricey gifts from lobbyists.

“Proponents of IM 22 sold the measure by promoting a perception that state lawmakers are receiving expensive gifts from lobbyists. The speaker’s bill addresses that concern by helping to ensure a legislative process which allows lobbyist influence only through their arguments,” the Governor said.

Gov. Daugaard also signed House Bill 1076, Rep. Karen Soli’s bill to establish a government accountability board. The board is made up of four retired judges and has the authority to turn issues of concern over to the Division of Criminal Investigation. Rep. Soli worked with her colleagues across the aisle and Executive Branch officials to form the proposal.

In addition to [HB 1073](#) and [HB 1076](#), the Governor also signed:

[HB 1052](#) – An Act to provide certain protections for public employees.

[HB 1165](#) – An Act to provide for annually updated financial interest statements for any person elected to statewide or local office.

[SB 131](#) – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning the period of time certain persons are prohibited from lobbying after leaving office.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 4 of 34

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, 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

South Dakota's Deer Management Plan Available for Review

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has completed a draft of the South Dakota White-Tailed Deer and Mule Deer Management Plan for 2017-2023 and is currently seeking review and comment from the public from now until April 16, 2017.

This draft management plan provides a background on deer ecology, past management and research, challenges for balancing population levels between hunter and landowner desires, and objectives and strategies to guide deer management over the next several years.

"With approximately 78,000 unique deer license applicants, there's an obvious interest and demand for deer hunting opportunities," stated Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator. "South Dakota's diverse landscape provides habitat for both white-tailed and mule deer. Recent public opinion surveys and a diverse stakeholder group provided useful information in the development of this comprehensive plan and we are now seeking feedback from the public."

The draft management plan and information from the stakeholder group meetings can be found online at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/deer/deer-management-plan.aspx>. Written comments on the draft plan can be sent to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501, or emailed to DeerPlan@state.sd.us. Comments must be received by April 16, 2017, and include your full name and city of residence.

SOUTH DAKOTA BECOMES 36TH STATE TO REQUIRE HANDS-ONLY CPR TRAINING IN SCHOOLS

Governor Dennis Daugaard Signs **SB 140**, the CPR in Schools Bill

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Dennis Daugaard signed Senate Bill 140 yesterday, making South Dakota the 36th state in the nation to require that every high school student in the state receive training in Hands Only CPR prior to graduation.

The new law adds more than 10,000 Hands-Only CPR-trained young adults to South Dakota communities each year by requiring that schools offer a 30-minute Hands-Only CPR training class within a required course at some point in the students' high school career. Individual school districts maintain control over when the course is offered, keeping local control over curriculum decisions. In addition, the trainings are offered to schools at no charge through a partnership with the South Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association. Local EMS agencies have agreed to provide the trainings to school districts free of charge.

"Having a new generation of lifesavers in our communities will have an incredible ripple effect for years to come," said Eric Van Dusen, President of the South Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association. "We know that young adults trained in CPR at school will save lives by knowing what to do during those precious few minutes after someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest."

Nearly 424,000 people have sudden cardiac arrest outside of a hospital every year, and only 10.4 percent of them survive, most likely because they don't receive timely CPR. Given right away, CPR doubles or triples survival rates. Teaching students Hands-Only CPR in a rural state like South Dakota could save thousands of lives by filling our communities with young adults trained to give cardiac arrest victims the immediate help they need to survive until EMTs arrive.

"In addition to saving lives, this legislation will also give high school students the opportunity to have hands-on training and exposure to a career in healthcare and, possibly, on their local EMS agency. Our rural areas have a need for trained healthcare workers, and by exposing kids to Hands-Only CPR training, we are giving them an important glimpse into a potential career field," said Van Dusen.

SB 140 unanimously passed the Senate last month and passed the House last week with a vote of 65-3. The bill was originally sponsored by 12 senators and 10 house members. Senator Larry Tidemann was the lead sponsor of the bill in the Senate and Representative Jean Hunhoff was the lead sponsor of the bill in the House.

Freeman selected to MS All State Band for the 2nd year!

On March 3-4, 8th grader Braden Freeman represented Groton Area in the 18th Annual SDMEA's Middle School All State Band. The event was located in Huron, SD for 2017 year. The audition process for this band requires sending in a recording of a chromatic scale, a selected major and minor scale, an etude in 4/4 time and an etude in 6/8 time. It was stated that over 500 auditions were sent in this year, which was a higher number than previous years. Braden is a two year Middle School All State Band Member on the tuba.

The guest conductors for this prestigious event was Mrs. Mary Goheen and Mr. Dale Nelson, both retired teachers. Braden had the opportunity to work with both directors but his main one was with Mr. Dale Nelson. Nelson recently retired after a 40-year band-directing career, and he continues to be an active adjudicator and clinician in South Dakota.

The final concert received many standing ovations complete with a full house seating at Huron High School.

Congratulations Braden!

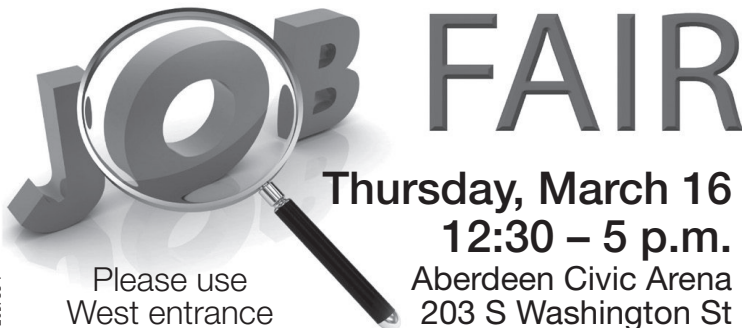


Pictured are MS Band Director Desiree Yeigh, Braden Freeman and HS Band Director Austin Fordham.

Come meet with local hiring businesses!

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

2017 ABERDEEN AREA



Let the Department of Labor and Regulation help you prepare

Write your resume • Fill out applications • Practice interviewing skills

Sponsored By:

- South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation
- Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
- Aberdeen Area Human Resource Association
- Aberdeen Development Corporation
- Aberdeen News Company
- Northern State University, Career Development and Placement Center
- Dakota Broadcasting, LLC
- Hub City Radio
- The Training Place Corporation

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605.626.2340

americanjobcenter



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Today in Weather History

March 11, 1991: A developing winter storm, centered to the south of the Black Hills, caused heavy snow to fall on the northern Black Hills the evening of March 11 until the morning of March 12th. Snowfall totals of 3-9 inches were reported, including 9 inches at Custer, 8 inches at Deerfield, and 8 inches at Lead.

March 11, 2011: A very intense low-pressure area moving across North Dakota brought widespread blizzard conditions to central and northeast South Dakota. The low-pressure area brought 1 to 3 inches of snowfall to the region. This new snow combined with 30 to 50 mph winds with gusts to 60 to 70 mph brought widespread whiteout conditions. Traffic was brought to a standstill with many motorists having to be rescued and taken to a shelter. Hundreds of cars were stranded on mainly Highway 12 and Interstate-29. Two people traveling on Highway 10 in McPherson County told about how they became stuck and were picked up by another vehicle and that it took them over 2 1/2 hours to travel just a few miles to safety. Interstate-29 was closed from Watertown to Sisseton from 6 pm on the 11th until noon on the 12th. Many events were affected including the Girls State Basketball Tournament in Watertown. There were several overturned semis along with several vehicle accidents across the area. Some of the highest wind gusts included 56 mph at Watertown; 58 mph at Mobridge, Sisseton, and Faulkton; 59 mph at Aberdeen; 61 mph at Bowdle; 66 mph near Hillhead, and 71 mph west of Long Lake.

88: The Great Blizzard of 1888 paralyzed the east coast from the Chesapeake Bay to Maine on March 11 through the 14th. The blizzard dumped as much as 55 inches of snow in some areas, and snow drifts of 30 to 40 feet were reported. An estimated 400 people died from this blizzard.

1897: The coldest March reading at Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada occurred as the temperature dropped to 38 degrees below zero.

1911: Tamarack, California reported 451 inches of snow on the ground, a record for the U.S.

1990: Forty-four cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Record highs included 71 degrees at Dickinson and Williston, North Dakota and 84 degrees at Lynchburg Virginia, Charleston, and Huntington West Virginia. Augusta Georgia and Columbia South Carolina








... tied for honors as the hot spot in the nation with record highs of 88 degrees.



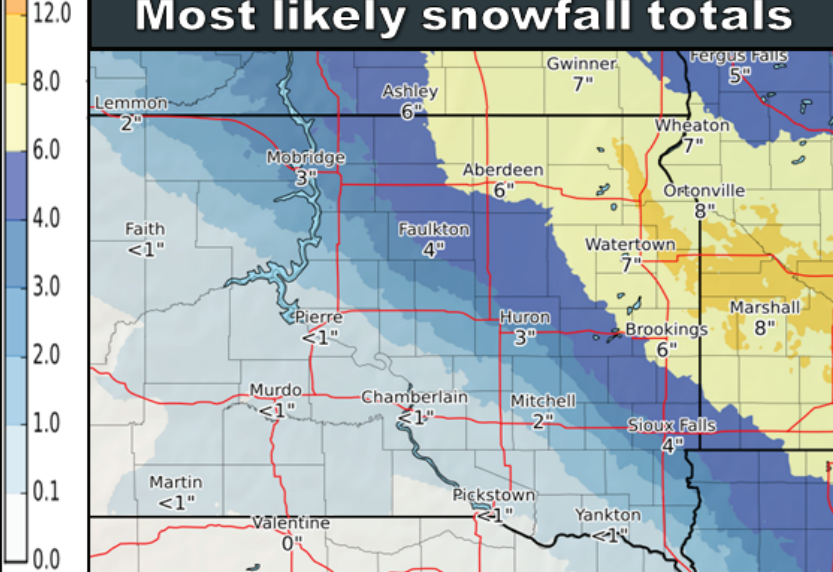
livestream
Upcoming Events
Monday, March 13, 7 p.m.
City Council Meeting
School Board Meeting
gdilive.com

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 8 of 34


Today	Tonight	Sunday		Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
 50%	 70%	 90%	 60%			
Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy then Snow Likely	Heavy Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Snow Likely and Areas Blowing Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 19 °F	Low: 9 °F	High: 25 °F	Low: 11 °F	High: 20 °F	Low: 5 °F	High: 25 °F


Most likely snowfall totals



Significant Snow Sunday

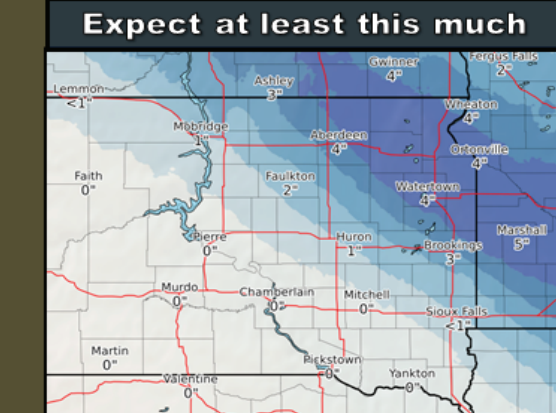
Heavy Snow across E SD and S MN

 Sunday into Sunday evening

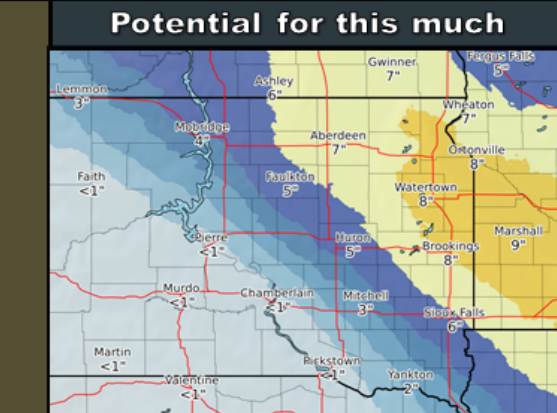
 Snow and Blowing Snow


Breezy Sunday

Expect at least this much



Potential for this much





NWS Aberdeen, SD

Published on: 03/11/2017 at 4:59AM

Light snow will end this morning. After a brief period of dry weather this afternoon and evening, the next storm system will dive across western Nebraska Sunday afternoon. It will spread 3 to 8 inches of snow across eastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota, before ending Monday morning. Lighter amounts around 2 inches or less, are anticipated west of a line from Moberg to Miller. Updated snowfall maps can be found at: www.weather.gov/abr/winter

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 9 of 34

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 24.8 F at 12:00 AM

Low Outside Temp: 6.3 F at 11:54 PM

High Gust: 20.0 Mph at 11:40 AM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 68° in 1911

Record Low: -24 in 1948

Average High: 37°F

Average Low: 18°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.30

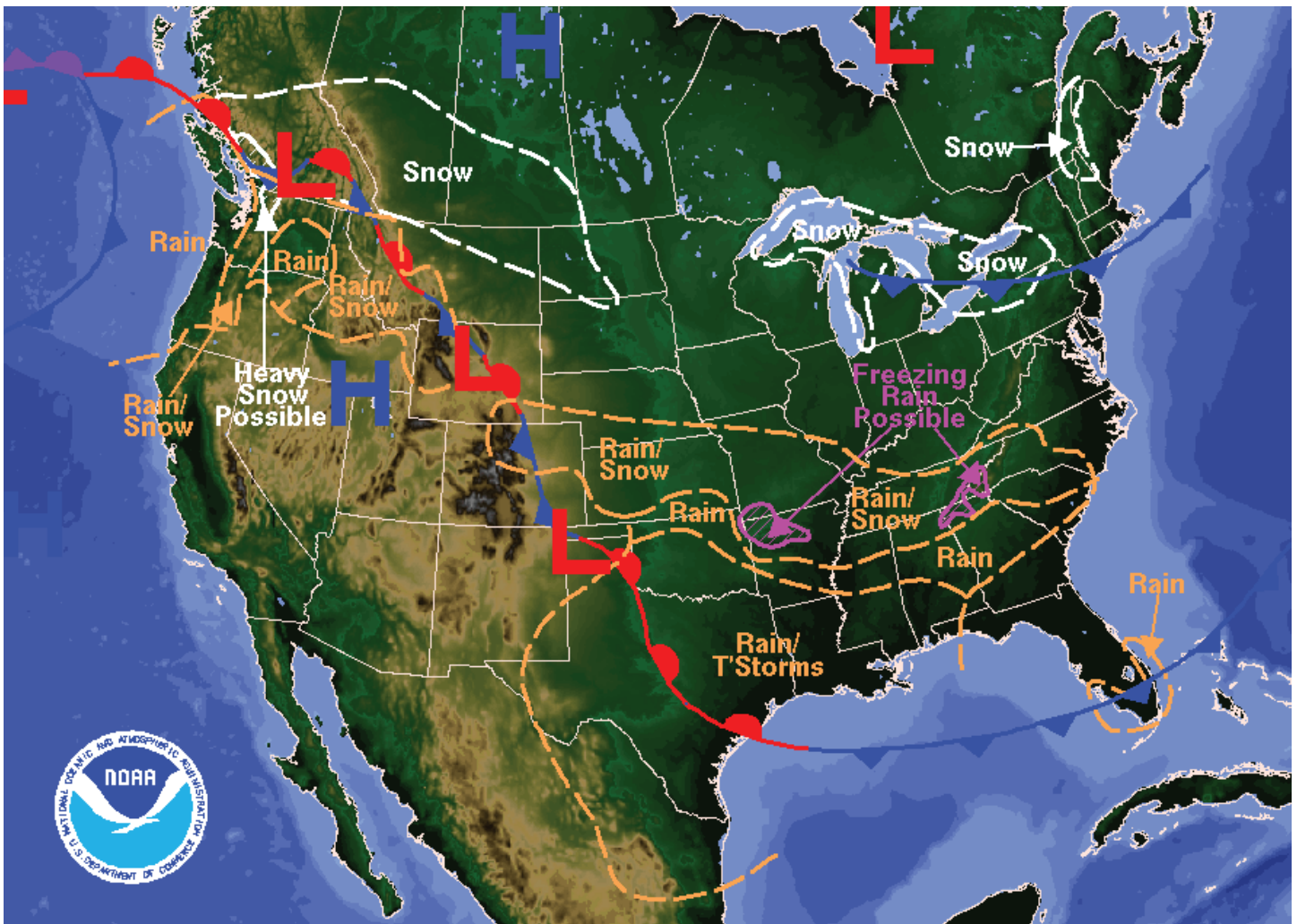
Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.32

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 6:33 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:53 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Mar 11, 2017, issued 3:57 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 10 of 34



BLURRED VISION

A famous physician who specialized in working with alcoholics and other addicts was lecturing a group of young medical students. During his lecture on addictive substances and intoxicants, one of them raised his hand and asked, "Is it true that alcohol enables people to do things better?"

After thinking for a moment, the insightful physician replied, "No, it does not. But it does make them less ashamed of doing things badly or doing bad things."

Actually, God's Word presents the results of drinking alcohol much clearer. A verse in Proverbs from The Living Bible states its dangers in these terms: "Wine gives false courage, hard liquor leads to brawls; what fools men are to let it master them."

Alcohol depresses people's convictions and removes the restraints that govern behavior. It "frees" individuals to behave in ways that are destructive and damaging to themselves and others. The commitment to do what is right and avoid what is harmful and destructive is blurred and distorted. Seeing the beauty of decency and purity vanishes. Care and concern for others is lost in the fog of forgetfulness and harm and injustice replaces what was once right and just.

Although there are many who would defend the use of alcohol, in the final analysis, it is defenseless.

Prayer: Lord, You want us to have sensitive hearts, keen minds, helpful hands and purposeful lives. All of this vanishes when we consume substances that take from us the ability to discern what You want us to do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

News from the Associated Press

New Rapid City project aims to provide affordable housing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A newly proposed residential project in Rapid City aims to provide much-needed affordable housing.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2mcrl0Z>) that developer Hani Shafai wants to build between 80 and 100 multifamily apartments and about 70 to 75 single-family residential units that Shafai classifies as “affordable workforce housing.”

The units would be priced between \$140,000 and \$190,000.

The Rapid City Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission on Thursday gave preliminary approval to a change of zoning and a preliminary subdivision plan for the proposed 48-acre Johnson Ranch subdivision in east Rapid City.

The commission ordered a traffic impact study after some residents complained about an expected increase in vehicle traffic on South Valley Drive once the development is completed.

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

Mitchell prepares to begin \$15.7 million project

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — One of Mitchell’s main thoroughfares is getting a big upgrade.

The Mitchell Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2m7RCS9>) reports the city and the South Dakota Department of Transportation will begin a three-year, \$15.7 million project to improve Burr Street in April.

According to Jay Peppel, area engineer for the South Dakota Department of Transportation, the need for the project came after concerns arose about deteriorating pavement and safety at the intersection of Norway Avenue and Burr Street.

The project will include a new concrete surface, roadway lighting, signals, curb and gutter work and the addition of sidewalks.

In late March, business owners and residents will have the opportunity to review the contractor’s schedule, receive information about the project and ask questions about any possible concerns.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Sioux Falls schools to teach students coding

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls School District has approved a nearly \$1.3 million contract with a company to teach students about computer coding.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2nk9t5d>) reports the contract with Code to the Future will create computer science immersion in three elementary schools this fall and in two middle schools in 2019.

The company will train teachers and principals in how to bring coding and computer science into the existing curriculum.

Board member Doug Morrison hopes the program attracts students to the district. He also says the program is expected to give students from all backgrounds a chance to gain computer science and critical thinking skills for future jobs.

In addition to the contract, the district will need to spend about \$250,000 on upgrading technology. Morrison says it’s worth it.

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

South Dakota university looks to add hotel

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota Discovery District is hoping to add a hotel to its 80-acre research park.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2mbto69>) reports the district requested for proposals Monday from developers for a multi-story hotel in the park in northwest Sioux Falls.

District President Rich Naser Jr. says the continued growth of the northwest Sioux Falls area allows a good opportunity to build a hotel with close access to Interstate 29.

The potential hotel is expected to help support the district's research, education and business tenants.

The Discovery District is a public-private effort between the University of South Dakota, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, the city of South Sioux Falls, the Board of Regents and Forward Sioux Falls.

Letters of interest are due March 27 and proposals April 28.

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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

State A Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

Hamlin 53, Dell Rapids 44

Madison 55, Little Wound 38

Semifinal

Lennox 57, Vermillion 50

St. Thomas More 42, Webster 30

State B Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

New Underwood 51, Timber Lake 31

Parker 56, Avon 36

Semifinal

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 55, Warner 49

Sully Buttes 37, Ethan 35

South Dakota Legislature approves \$4.55 billion state budget

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Legislature approved a roughly \$4.55 billion state budget Friday, giving small funding increases to education and health care providers for the upcoming fiscal year.

The House voted 63-4 to pass the budget as the 2017 legislative session's main run came to an end. Earlier Friday, the Senate voted 33-2 for the measure that sets state spending for the 2018 budget year, which starts July 1.

The Republican-held Legislature dealt with lower-than-anticipated state tax collections caused by low inflation, less spending in the farm economy and e-commerce transactions that avoid sales taxes. Law-makers last month settled on state revenue targets significantly lower than those Gov. Dennis Daugaard included in his December budget address.

The budget for the next fiscal year includes roughly \$1.59 billion in general state spending, nearly \$30 million — or about 1.7 percent — below the governor's December budget plan. The approved budget includes minor 0.3 percent increases for education and providers, and roughly \$1 million in additional money for the state employee health plan.

"Obviously, it's not much, but it's certainly better than nothing, and so we lived up to our end of the bargain, which for a while we didn't know if we could do," said House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a Republican.

Daugaard in December had sought 1 percent increases in those key areas for fiscal year 2018, but state revenues continued to decline.

Mary McCorkle, president of the South Dakota Education Association, said that about a week ago, the teachers union thought state funding for education might be flat. She credited lawmakers with financing even a modest increase.

"I think that's a message that even though times in our state are tough and the revenue is not what we would all like it to be for the good of the state, that education is important and in those tight times, they are doing the very best that they can do to move us forward," she said.

The budget calls for spending roughly \$1.63 billion in federal funds and \$1.33 billion in other state money such as highway funding. The Legislature focuses mostly on how to spend the roughly \$1.59 billion portion of the budget financed with general state taxes.

Absent from the budget debate Friday were strident partisan attacks, and the measure passed overwhelmingly in both chambers. Democratic Rep. Dan Ahlers said lawmakers didn't get everything they wanted this year, but he said they did "move the needle forward."

Lawmakers are set to return to Pierre on March 27 for the session's final day to decide whether to accept or override vetoes that could come from Daugaard.

Vikings bolster tackles by signing Riley Reiff, Mike Remmers

By DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have accomplished their most obvious offseason goal, bringing in two new tackles to bolster a lagging offensive line.

After finalizing their contract with former Detroit left tackle Riley Reiff on Friday, the Vikings swiftly signed former Carolina right tackle Mike Remmers before he finished his free agent visit to team headquarters.

Reiff was a first-round draft pick (23rd overall) by the Lions in 2012, the same year Remmers went undrafted out of Oregon State. At this point, though, draft status and career path do not matter.

Remmers received a five-year contract worth as much as \$30 million, with \$10.5 million guaranteed, according to his agent Brett Tessler. Reiff, who appeared in 78 of 82 games with the Lions, including the postseason, has a deal, according to multiple reports, worth a maximum of \$58.75 million, including \$26.3 million guaranteed.

The 6-foot-6, 305-pound Reiff grew up with Vikings games on the family television every fall weekend across the state line in South Dakota. He faced them twice per season with the Lions, making Minnesota a natural fit for his first time as a free agent. The feeling was mutual for a team embarking on another rebuild for an offensive line that fell apart last year.

"I love playing in the black-and-blue division," Reiff said.

He was a left tackle until last season, when the Lions drafted Taylor Decker in the first round (16th overall) and moved Reiff to the right side.

"I'll do whatever the coaches ask. I came from a good system at Iowa, and they taught us to be ready at any position," Reiff said. "I'm just excited to be here and ready to meet the guys and get to work."

Reiff acknowledged his favorite team as a youth was the Oakland Raiders, following his father's allegiance instead of his mother's devotion to the nearby Vikings. The mail carrier who covered their home in Parkston, South Dakota, was a Raiders fan, too, often lingering during deliveries to regale Reiff about the silver and black.

Chad Greenway, the recently retired Vikings linebacker who also played at Iowa, grew up in Mount Vernon

about a half-hour drive from Parkston. They've been in touch over the years by virtue of their common interests, and Greenway checked in with a congratulatory message on Thursday when word of the deal with the Vikings first emerged.

South Dakota pride, allegiance to the Iowa Hawkeyes and now playing for the Vikings. They've got plenty to get behind together.

Oh, and there was one more allure for Reiff about playing for Minnesota.

"I'm excited," he said, "about the hunting and fishing here, too."

Reiff and Remmers will be in the spotlight this season, coming off last year's disarray when 12 players saw regular-season action for the Vikings on the five-spot line, and eight unique starting combinations were used. Those numbers became as ubiquitous in the analysis of 2016 as the 5-0 start that ended in an 8-8 finish.

Remmers was with the Vikings briefly at the end of the 2013 season. He finally became a full-time starter in 2015 after all his bouncing around the league and reached the Super Bowl with the Panthers, though struggling to block Denver's Von Miller, who took the big game's MVP honor in a 24-10 victory by the Broncos.

"I think this crazy ride it's been for me," Remmers said, "has really helped me develop into the person and the player that I am today."

Remmers filled in at left tackle for the last 13 games in 2016 after Michael Oher went out with a concussion. The native of Portland, Oregon, has started 42 consecutive games, including five in the playoffs, since hooking on with the Panthers in 2004. He's also spent time with the Broncos, Buccaneers, Chargers and Rams.

"My wife's been really supportive. She's always been there for me," Remmers said. "There were definitely some times where I thought that I was done playing football. I'm just very happy and thankful that I can continue in my career."

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

South Dakota governor signs religious adoption protections

By HANNAH WEIKEL, Associated Press

South Dakota joined three other states Friday that have enacted laws giving broad legal protections to faith-based organizations that refuse based on their religious beliefs to place children in certain households.

Before signing the bill, Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard said he was concerned private child-placement agencies acting in the best interest of a child could be subject to a lawsuit when denying placement to someone in a "protected class," such as members of the LGBT community. He hopes the legislation would forestall that.

Before Friday, Daugaard was mum on the measure that supporters say preemptively protects religious adoption and foster care agencies from things like state funding cuts, revoked licenses and denied contracts if South Dakota were to eventually ban discrimination based on sexual orientation as several other states have done.

Libby Skarin, policy director of ACLU South Dakota, said Daugaard's decision shows South Dakotans that he cares about private agencies more than the needs of children. She said the group is exploring legal challenges to the new law and is encouraging kids and adults who feel negative impacts to step forward.

Human Rights Campaign Legal Director Sarah Warbelow said in a statement that Daugaard's action "signals the potential of a dark new reality for the fight for LGBTQ rights."

Religious agencies in Massachusetts, Illinois, California and Washington D.C. ended adoption services after states passed non-discrimination laws that include sexual orientation. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Alan Solano, a Republican from Rapid City, said he doesn't want the same thing to happen in South Dakota, though such a proposal hasn't garnered much support in the state.

Jim Kinyon, executive director of South Dakota's Catholic Social Services, has said that the legislation

attempts to ensure the state doesn't discriminate against faith-based organizations for their "sincerely held" beliefs.

Critics think the bill could limit child-placement in the state and could invite costly federal litigation by cementing in state law the right to discriminate against same-sex couples, single parents and even households that observe a different religion.

South Dakota joins Michigan, North Dakota and Virginia to pass so-called religious exemption bills concerning adoption and foster care. It's first since the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage.

Legislatures in Alabama, Texas and Oklahoma are considering similar "religious exemption" bills this year but only South Dakota's as approved it.

Pine Ridge woman pleads guilty in strangling death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge woman has pleaded guilty in the strangling death of another woman on the Indian reservation.

Twenty-four-year-old Elizabeth Ann LeBeau pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and admitted to holding down Emily Bluebird's hands as she was being strangled by LeBeau's boyfriend in January 2016.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2mKaiaB>) that LeBeau's boyfriend, Fred Quiver, is also scheduled to plead guilty to accessory to second-degree murder.

They have offered different stories about what happened to Bluebird.

Second-degree murder is punishable by up to life in prison.

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

Opponents of Dakota pipeline bring message to Trump

By BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With options dwindling to stop construction of the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline, American Indians and their supporters brought their message to President Donald Trump on Friday with rallies outside the White House and his Washington hotel.

Even if the pipeline is completed, the protest movement has been successful because it has called attention to the issue of tribal sovereignty, participants said.

The final, disputed section of the pipeline would pass under a reservoir that provides drinking water to the Standing Rock Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux reservations. The tribes and their supporters say the pipeline threatens their religious rights and water supply.

Tom Goldtooth, executive director of the Indigenous Environmental Network, said Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners would ultimately pay a price for disregarding the tribes' religious beliefs.

"We have not lost this battle," Goldtooth said. "Nothing will ever go right for those corporations. It's only a matter of time before it will fall flat on its face."

A federal judge this week declined to halt construction of the final section of the pipeline, meaning oil could begin flowing through it as early as next week. The disputed section would pass under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. The pipeline stretches from North Dakota to Illinois.

The Obama administration halted construction of the pipeline, but Trump gave it the green light to start again with an executive order. A court hearing in the ongoing legal fight against the pipeline is not expected until at least April.

Hundreds of people participated in Friday's march, which began at the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters. The agency manages the Missouri River and last month gave Energy Transfer Partners permission to finish the project. Protesters also erected a teepee outside Trump's hotel.

The rally revealed divisions among the pipeline opponents. Dave Archambault, the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, was booed and heckled by some in the crowd who called him "DAPL Dave" and

accused him of being complicit with the bulldozing of a camp where thousands of protesters had lived.

"We are not defeated. We are not victims," Archambault said. "An obstacle is also an opportunity."

Mark Charles, a Navajo writer, speaker and activist who lives in Washington, said the activism around the pipeline has drawn new attention to the "dehumanization" of Native Americans. He and other protesters called on the Catholic Church to revoke 15th-Century documents that they said underpinned the treatment of Indians as inferior.

"America has to decide, does it want to be a nation where 'We the People' means all the people?" Charles said. "We need to stop talking about how great we are."

Follow Ben Nuckols on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/APBenNuckols>.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard signs raft of ethics measures into law

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed a raft of bills into law Friday meant to replace provisions of an ethics initiative approved by voters that Republican lawmakers repealed this legislative session.

Daugaard, a Republican, said in a statement Friday that South Dakota officials advanced "workable legislation" that meets the initiative's goals. Supporters of the ethics overhaul say that the Legislature's replacements fall short of what the voters passed.

Here's a look at some of the new laws the governor approved:

WATCHDOG PANEL

The new State Government Accountability Board will be able to investigate statewide officeholders and executive branch employees on allegations including bribery and theft of public funds. Under the measure, if the board believes a crime has been committed, the matter would be referred to state authorities. In other cases, the panel would have options including issuing reprimands or making recommendations to the governor.

GIFT BAN

Daugaard signed a bill imposing an annual \$100 limit on gifts that legislators and other public officials can 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.

COOLING OFF PERIOD

The governor approved stricter lobbying regulations that bar many officials from private lobbying for two years after leaving state government, doubling the previous one-year prohibition. It applies to former elected officers, department or agency heads and other officials.

REBUTTAL

Doug Kronaizl, a spokesman for pro-initiative group Represent South Dakota, said that the gift limitation is "full of exceptions." He said that the watchdog panel doesn't come close to having the same tools and oversight than the commission the voters imposed.

"What the voters are being given is far weaker than what they demanded," Kronaizl said. "We don't feel that (the initiative) was replaced."

Family raises money to get hiker's body back from Peru

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Family and friends of a Rapid City woman who died hiking to Macchu Picchu

are raising money to bring her body back home from Peru.

Multiple fundraising efforts around the area were created to help Whitney Stevens' family raise nearly \$20,000 to get her body from Peru, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2mtRhIN>) reported.

Stevens, along with her friend Molly Goin, embarked on the five-day trek from Mollepata, Peru, to the historic Incan city of Macchu Picchu on Feb. 27. On their hike's third day, a previous storm caused the dirt beneath Stevens to give way, resulting in her fatal fall from the mountainside into the raging Urubamba River below.

"She was one of the most resilient and adaptable humans I think I've ever met," Goin said. "Her ability to make her friends feel like family was overwhelming."

She said Stevens was a former National Guard member who served in Iraq and Kuwait from July 2011 to May 2012, so pushing through difficult terrain and physically trying circumstances were no problem.

"She was able to conquer literally any task that was presented to her with such positivity and optimism," Goin said. "She was one of the most positive people regardless of what was going on in her life."

To help the Stevens family, the Black Hills Credit Union established the Whitney Stevens Memorial Fund. A GoFundMe campaign that already has nearly \$6,000 pledged was also created. A local car salesman, Zach Branich, along with local salon Bridget's Hot Trendz Salon have started fundraising efforts to contribute to the memorial fund.

Stevens' mom, Roberta Ellis-Stevens, said she will always remember the way her daughter would light up a room when she entered.

"It will always be that smile," she said. "Every picture you see of her, she's smiling and she's got that glow."

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

Turkey-Dutch relations take dip after Turkish visit banned

By MIKE CORDER, RAF CASERT and ZEYNEP BILGINSOY, Associated Press

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Turkey and the Netherlands sharply escalated a dispute between the two NATO allies on Saturday as the Dutch blocked a campaign visit by the Turkish foreign minister, prompting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to call them "fascists."

The Netherlands withdrew the landing permission for Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu because of objections to his intention to rally in Rotterdam for a Turkish referendum on constitutional reforms to expand presidential powers, which the Dutch see as a step backward from democracy.

"They do not know politics or international diplomacy," Erdogan told a rally in Istanbul. "These Nazi remnants, they are fascists," he added, as the crowd booed.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte called it "a crazy remark, of course. But I understand they are angry but this is of course way out of line."

Erdogan told a rally in Istanbul: "You can stop our foreign minister's plane all you want, let's see how your (diplomatic) planes will come to Turkey from now on." Cavusoglu also referred to possible sanctions, and Rutte said consultations under such threats were impossible, forcing him to bar the visit.

The government said it withdrew the permission because of "risks to public order and security," causing Cavusoglu to say: "so is the foreign minister of the Turkish republic a terrorist?"

He added that "we will give them the response they deserve."

Cavusoglu, who was speaking at Istanbul's airport, didn't say where his next European destination was. French authorities say he's scheduled to travel to the northern city of Metz on Sunday.

Around 100 people marched in Istanbul to protest the Dutch decision, with demonstrators placing a black wreath in front of the Dutch Consulate amid a heavy police presence.

Turkish officials have been campaigning in various European cities before the April 16 referendum.

The state-run Anadolu news agency said the Family and Social Policies Minister decided to go to Rotterdam via road from Germany, but police closed off the road in front of the Turkish consul-general's

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 18 of 34

residency. Dutch authorities couldn't immediately confirm the information.

The diplomatic row comes at a time when relations between Turkey and the European Union, of which the Netherlands is a member, have been steadily worsening, especially in the wake of Erdogan's actions since last year's failed coup.

More than 41,000 people have been arrested and 100,000 civil servants fired from their jobs.

Cavusoglu said that "unfortunately Europe and several countries in Europe, the Netherlands being in the first place, they are reminiscent of the Europe of World War II. The same racism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, we see all the crimes against humanity in today's politics."

The dispute also comes just days before the Netherlands goes to the polls in a March 15 election for the lower house of Parliament. The campaign has been dominated by issues of identity, with anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders set to make strong gains.

After Wilders accused the government of a weak response to Turkish plans to send ministers to the Netherlands to campaign, he insisted it was his pressure which made the difference.

"Great! Thanks to heavy PVV- pressure a few days before the Dutch elections our government did NOT allow the Turkish minister to land here!!," he said in a Twitter message, referring to his Party for Freedom. He later added "I am tell all Turks in the Netherlands that agree with Erdogan: GO to Turkey and NEVER come back!!."

Earlier Saturday, Cavusoglu said "Wilders is racist, fascist, Nazi, like a Nazi." Citing comments that Wilders wanted action against Muslims, Cavusoglu said: "What are you going to do? Are you going to kill them, burn them or what?"

The Dutch government said it does not object to meetings in the Netherlands to give information about the Turkish referendum, "but these meetings should not add to tensions in our society and everybody who wants to organize a meeting must adhere to instructions from authorities so that public order and security can be guaranteed."

It said the Turkish government "does not want to respect the rules in this matter."

Zeynep Bilginsoy reported from Istanbul.

Twin blasts kill 40 near religious sites in Syria's capital

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Twin blasts Saturday near holy shrines frequented by Shiites in the Syrian capital Damascus killed at least 40 people and wounded over a hundred, most of them Iraqis, according to Syrian and Iraqi officials.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks. Islamic State militants have carried out similar attacks before against Shiite shrines in the Syrian capital and elsewhere. Extremist Sunni groups, such as IS, view Shiites as apostates and consider shrines a form of idolatry.

Syrian State TV aired footage from the scene showing blood-soaked streets and several damaged buses in a parking lot, apparently where the explosions went off near Bab al-Saghir cemetery. The cemetery is one of Damascus' most ancient and is where several prominent religious figures are buried.

Interior Minister Mohammed al-Shaar visited the wounded in local hospitals. He said 40 were killed and 120 were wounded. He said the attacks targeted civilians, including Arab visitors, who were touring area's shrines.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that at least 40 Iraqis were killed and 120 wounded. Ministry spokesman Ahmed Jamal said buses carrying Iraqi pilgrims to the shrines were targeted. He said a crisis response team has been formed to expedite the identification and transport of the killed and wounded.

"The ministry calls on the international community to condemn this heinous terrorist crime that targeted civilian Iraqi visitors to the holy shrines. It also urges a firm and decisive stand against the takfiri groups responsible for them," Jamal said in a statement. Takfiri is an Arabic derogatory term referring to extrem-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 19 of 34

ist Sunni Muslims — such as members of the Islamic State group — who accuse other Muslims of being infidels.

Iraqi, Iranian and other Asian Shiites often visit shrines in Syria.

U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria Ali al-Za'tari condemned the attacks, saying "targeting civilians is a terrorist act, condemned and rejected by anyone who has a conscience in this world."

Lebanon's Hezbollah group also condemned the attacks, saying they stem from a "Takfiri ideology that uses religion as a cover to stab religion and believers everywhere."

There were conflicting reports about what caused the explosions. State news agency SANA said the blasts were caused by bombs placed near the cemetery and that at least 33 were killed and more than a hundred wounded.

Lebanon's Al-Manar TV quoted Syrian officials saying twin suicide attacks killed 40. The military media arm of Hezbollah, Lebanon's militant group close to Damascus, said two suicide bombers blew themselves up 15 minutes apart near the shrines, leading to the large number of casualties. Arab TV Al-Mayadeen, airing the conflicting reports, also said at least 40 were killed. The area was sealed after the explosions.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition monitoring group with activists on the ground, said at least 46 were killed in the twin explosions. The group said the first blast came after a suicide bomber blew himself up among the pilgrims near the shrines. It was not clear what caused the second explosion, the group said, adding that the death toll is likely higher because dozens were wounded.

Mohammed Haytham al-Hosseini, head of the National Hospital in Damascus, told pro-government Sama TV that 41 killed arrived to his facility. He said at least three wounded were in critical condition.

A similar attack in Damascus last year targeted one of the most revered Shiite shrines and was claimed by Islamic State militants.

Bab al-Saghir is one of the seven gates of the old city of Damascus and houses a cemetery where a number of early Islam religious figures, including family members of Prophet Muhammad and figures revered by Shiites, are buried.

Also Saturday, Syria's President Bashar Assad said in an interview that his military's priority is to reach the Islamic State group's de-facto capital of Raqqa — toward which U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces are also advancing.

The interview with Hong-Kong based Phoenix TV was aired Saturday and shared by the Syrian Presidency website. Assad said another IS stronghold, Deir el-Zour, may be targeted in parallel.

Syria's battlefields have become increasingly crowded. U.S.-led coalition forces in collaboration with Syrian Kurdish fighters as well as Turkish troops and Syrian allies and Syrian government troops, backed by Russia and Iran, are all converging to clear northern Syria of the remnants of Islamic State militants. In some incidents, the teeming battlefield has caused friction between rival groups, as well as several civilian casualties.

Assad said that "in theory" he shares the same priority with U.S. President Donald Trump of fighting terrorism but that they have had no formal contact yet. He said Russia, a major ally, hopes it can urge the U.S. and Turkey to cooperate with Moscow and Damascus in the fight against terrorism in Syria. Assad's government views all armed opposition as terrorist groups.

Assad said all foreign troops on Syrian soil without invitation or consultation with the Syrian government are considered "invaders."

Meanwhile, Syria's armed opposition groups called for postponing a meeting planned and sponsored by Russia and Turkey, scheduled to take place in the Kazakh capital Astana next week. In a statement, the rebel groups said violations of a Russia-backed cease-fire have persisted, and called for the meeting to be rescheduled for after March 20, when a limited cease-fire expires.

Associated Press writers Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria and Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad contributed to this report.

Time marches on, with a little bit more skip this weekend

WASHINGTON (AP) — Time marches on, with a bit more skip this weekend.

Daylight saving time officially re-emerges at 2 a.m. local time Sunday for most of the United States, so it's best to advance your clocks by 60 minutes before bed.

You'll lose an hour's sleep Saturday night, but gain more evening light in the months ahead, when the weather warms and you want to be outdoors.

No time change is observed in Hawaii, most of Arizona, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Standard time returns on Nov. 5.

The Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology says daylight saving time covers 238 days, or about 65 percent of the year.

Online:

National Institute of Standards and Technology: <http://tinyurl.com/jm8zoum>

Pence to make case for health care overhaul in Kentucky

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence is taking the Trump administration's case for a health care overhaul to Kentucky, where one of the state's GOP senators has been a leading critic of the White House-backed plan and the governor is unimpressed with the current proposal to replace the Obama-era law.

Pence planned to tour an energy services company Saturday with Republican Gov. Matt Bevin, part of an effort to reassure conservatives who have raised objections to the House GOP health care proposal that would scrap elements of former President Barack Obama's law.

Pence has been the chief salesman for President Donald Trump's push to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The House is expected to vote on the bill in less than two weeks but faces fierce resistance from critics, including Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., who has called the initial draft "Obamacare Lite." Several influential conservative groups such as Heritage Action, FreedomWorks and the Club for Growth have come out against the plan.

Pence suggested this week that the Trump administration was open to negotiating changes to the bill, telling Fox News' Bret Baier that the House legislation, which was introduced this week and was cleared by two committees, was simply the start of the process.

Around the time that Pence landed in Louisville, Trump tweeted: "We are making great progress with healthcare. ObamaCare is imploding and will only get worse. Republicans coming together to get job done!"

Conservatives have urged the White House to halt the extra money Obama's law gives states to expand the federal-state Medicaid program for 70 million low-income people. The GOP bill would end that additional funding in 2020 except for those already in the program, but conservatives want to accelerate that to 2018 to save money.

In Kentucky, Democrats have praised former Gov. Steve Beshear's use of the health care law to drive down the state's uninsured rate and his smooth rollout of kynect, the state-run exchange, even while Obama struggled with the national release of healthcare.gov.

But Bevin, Beshear's successor, has warned that the state cannot afford to pay for its growing Medicaid program, which has cost the state millions more than initially expected and now covers more than 25 percent of the state's population. He has dismantled Kentucky's state-based exchange but indicated he would not favor eliminating the federal health insurance exchange.

Bevin said Friday he would tell Paul that "we support their effort to fix this problem," but that he was not a fan of the initial proposal. The governor told reporters that Paul "is not impressed with what has currently been offered. Truth be told, I'm not either. So I'm with him."

Paul has been among the Senate's foremost critics of the bill. Even before the legislation was released, he brought a copy machine outside of the room where House Republicans were drafting the bill and asked for a copy, all to draw attention to the secrecy of the plan.

Trump, who faced Paul in the GOP presidential primaries last year, made a pitch for persuasion on Twitter, writing that he was sure Paul would "come along with the new and great health care program."

The event at the Harshaw Trane facility is in the hometown of Senate Majority Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who was not attending due to a scheduling conflict.

On Twitter follow Ken Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

New administration seeks resignations of 46 US attorneys

By ERIC TUCKER and SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions is seeking the resignations of 46 U.S. attorneys who were holdovers from the Obama administration.

Many of the federal prosecutors who were nominated by President Barack Obama have already left their positions, but the nearly four dozen who stayed on in the first weeks of the Trump administration have been asked to leave "in order to ensure a uniform transition," Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said Friday.

"Until the new U.S. attorneys are confirmed, the dedicated career prosecutors in our U.S. attorney's offices will continue the great work of the department in investigating, prosecuting and deterring the most violent offenders," she said in a statement.

By Friday evening, U.S. attorneys around the country — including New Jersey, Rhode Island, Minnesota and Montana — had publicly announced their resignations.

It's fairly customary for the 93 U.S. attorneys to leave their positions after a new president is in office, but the departures are not automatic and don't necessarily happen all at once.

One U.S. attorney appointed by President George W. Bush, Rod Rosenstein of Maryland, remained on the job for the entire Obama administration and is the current nominee for deputy attorney general in the Trump administration.

A Justice Department spokesman, Peter Carr, said President Donald Trump has asked Rosenstein and Acting Deputy Attorney General Dana Boente, who has served as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, to stay on.

The action was similar to one taken in 1993 by Attorney General Janet Reno, who soon after taking office in the Clinton administration sought the resignations of the U.S. attorneys appointed by President George H.W. Bush. At the time, Sessions was the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Alabama.

Tim Purdon, a former U.S. attorney for North Dakota in the Obama administration, recalled that President Barack Obama permitted Bush appointees to remain on until their successors had been appointed and confirmed.

"The way the Obama administration handled it was appropriate and respectful and classy," he said. "This saddens me because many of these people are great public servants and now they are being asked to leave."

U.S. attorneys are federal prosecutors who are nominated by the president, generally upon the recommendation of a home-state senator, and are responsible for prosecuting federal crimes in the territories they oversee. They report to Justice Department leadership in Washington, and their priorities are expected to be in line with those of the attorney general.

Sessions took perhaps a veiled swipe at their work in a memo earlier this week, saying that prosecutions for violent crime have been on the decline even as the number of murders has gone up. The demand for resignations seems a way to ensure he will have a team of new federal prosecutors more likely to share his agenda.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 22 of 34

Friday's announcement came months after Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney for Manhattan and one of the most prominent federal prosecutors, said he'd been asked by Trump to stay on and that he intended to. Bharara's office declined to comment Friday.

Montana's U.S. Attorney Mike Cotter said he received a phone call from Boente telling him "the president has directed this."

"I think it's very unprofessional and I'm very disappointed," he said. "What happened today on Friday, March 10, that was so important that all Obama appointees who are US attorneys need to be gone?"

"I gotta write that (resignation) letter. It's going to be a one-liner," he added.

Associated Press writer Matt Volz in Helena, Montana, contributed to this report.

S.Koreans celebrate Park's removal, but ousted leader silent

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A day after a court removed her from power over a corruption scandal, ousted South Korean President Park Geun-hye maintained her silence on Saturday as her opponents and supporters divided the capital's streets with massive rallies that showed a nation deeply split over its future.

Park has been unseen and unheard from since the Constitutional Court's ruling on Friday, which ended a power struggle that had consumed the nation for months. Park, whose fate was left in the court's hands after her parliamentary impeachment in December, has yet to vacate the presidential Blue House, with her aides saying they need more time to prepare for her return to her private home in Seoul.

Carrying flags and candles and cheering jubilantly, tens of thousands of people occupied a boulevard in downtown Seoul to celebrate Park's ouster. Meanwhile, in a nearby grass square, a large crowd of Park's supporters glumly waved national flags near a stage where organizers, wearing red caps and military uniforms, vowed to resist what they called a "political assassination."

Police had braced for violence between the two crowds after three people died and dozens were injured in clashes between police and Park's supporters after the ruling on Friday. Nearly 20,000 police officers were deployed on Saturday to monitor the protesters, who were also separated by tight perimeters created by hundreds of police buses.

The anti-Park protesters shouted "The candles have won!" and "Arrest Park Geun-hye!" as they began marching toward the Blue House. The protesters, who held candles during their massive evening demonstrations in recent months, loosely call themselves the Candle Force.

The court's decision capped a stunning fall for the country's first female leader. Park rode a wave of lingering conservative nostalgia for her late dictator father to victory in 2012, only to see her presidency crumble as millions of furious protesters filled the nation's streets.

While the ruling might have irrevocably derailed Park's political career, analysts saw defiance in her silence, saying that Park was perhaps hoping to use the growing anger of her followers to rebuild support.

"By being quiet, she's making it loud and clear that she won't accept the court's ruling," said Yul Shin, a professor at Seoul's Myongji University. "Nobody knows when she will leave the Blue House, but maybe she wanted to see how large the crowd was tonight at the pro-Park rally."

The ruling allows possible criminal proceedings against the 65-year-old Park — prosecutors have already named her a criminal suspect — and makes her South Korea's first democratically elected leader to be removed from office since democracy replaced dictatorship in the late 1980s.

It also deepens South Korea's political and security uncertainty as it faces existential threats from North Korea, reported economic retaliation from a China furious about Seoul's cooperation with the U.S. on an anti-missile system, and questions in Seoul about the Trump administration's commitment to the U.S.-South Korea security alliance.

South Korea must hold an election within two months to choose Park's successor. Liberal Moon Jae-in,

who lost to Park in the 2012 election, currently enjoys a comfortable lead in opinion polls.

Kim Yong-deok, the chief of the National Election Commission, said Saturday that the election would be managed "accurately and perfectly" and urged the public to participate in a vote that would "determine the fate of the Republic of Korea," referring to South Korea's formal name.

The Constitutional Court accused Park of colluding with longtime confidante Choi Soon-sil to extort tens of millions of dollars from businesses and letting Choi, a private citizen, meddle in state affairs and receive and look at documents with state secrets. Those allegations were previously made by prosecutors, but Park has refused to undergo any questioning, citing a law that gives a sitting leader immunity from prosecution.

It is not clear when prosecutors will try to interview her.

Prosecutors have arrested and indicted a slew of high-profile figures over the scandal, including Choi and Samsung's de facto chief, Lee Jae-yong.

Park's lawyer, Seo Seok-gu, who had previously compared her impeachment to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, called the verdict a "tragic decision" made under popular pressure and questioned the fairness of what he called a "kangaroo court."

Some of Park's supporters reacted with anger after the ruling, shouting and hitting police officers and reporters with plastic flag poles and steel ladders and climbing on police buses. Police and hospital officials said three people died while protesting Park's removal, including a man in his 70s who died early Saturday after collapsing near the court.

Associated Press writers Hyung-jin Kim and Foster Klug contributed to this report.

A robust February jobs report points to resilient US economy

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers added a robust 235,000 jobs in February and raised pay at a brisk pace — signs that a resilient economy has given many companies the confidence to hire in anticipation of solid growth ahead.

With the unemployment rate dipping to a low 4.7 percent from 4.8 percent, the job market appears to be fundamentally healthy or nearly so.

Friday's employment report from the government showed that more people began looking for jobs last month, an encouraging sign that they've grown confident about their prospects. Hiring was strong enough to absorb those new job seekers as well as some of the previously unemployed.

The picture of an economy on solid footing nearly eight years after the Great Recession ended has made it all but certain that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates next week and signal the likelihood of additional rate hikes ahead.

February's jobs report was the first to cover a full month under President Donald Trump. During the presidential campaign, Trump had cast doubt on the validity of the government's jobs data, calling the unemployment rate a "hoax."

But just minutes after the report was released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time, Trump retweeted a news report touting the job growth.

Later in the day, his spokesman, Sean Spicer, quoted Trump as saying of the jobs reports: "They may have been phony in the past, but they are very real now," a comment that incited laughter, including from Spicer himself, during a press briefing.

Economists were mainly encouraged by the employment data.

"It's hard to find much to dislike in the February jobs report," said Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan Chase, said.

About a quarter of the job gains occurred in construction, which added 58,000 jobs, the most in a decade. Unseasonably warm weather likely inflated that figure, economists said. Last month was the second-warmest February since 1895, according to the Commerce Department.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 24 of 34

Some economists cautioned that last month's outsized job gains might be hard to sustain. If warm weather did help elevate construction hiring in February, for example, it might also have the effect of subtracting from job growth that would normally occur in early spring.

"There will probably be some weather payback in March," Ted Wieseman, an economist at Morgan Stanley, said in an email.

Mining, which includes oil and gas drilling, added 7,700 jobs last month, the most in nearly three years. Energy companies have increased drilling in response to higher oil prices, reversing nearly two years of job losses. Oil prices have dropped this week, though.

And as unemployment declines, hiring typically slows as the pool of available workers shrinks. Many small businesses are complaining that they cannot find workers with the qualifications they need. This trend could weigh on hiring in coming months.

Stock prices fluctuated throughout the day Friday, and the Dow Jones industrial average closed up a modest 44 points.

The February jobs data likely provided the final piece of evidence the Fed needed to raise rates after its next policy meeting Wednesday. It would be the Fed's third rate hike in 15 months. The Fed's inclination to tighten borrowing rates reflects how far the economy has come since the central bank cut its benchmark short-term rate to zero in 2008 and kept it there for seven years to support a fragile economy.

In December, Fed policymakers had forecast that they would raise rates three times this year. Those increases could lead eventually to higher loan rates for homes and cars as the economy further solidifies its gains. Economists said Friday's hiring data increases the probability of additional rate hikes.

"There are few factors more important to consumers than jobs," said Russell Price, an economist at Ameriprise Financial. "Overall, consumers are in great shape to support an accelerated pace of economic growth."

Average hourly pay rose 2.8 percent year over year in February, a decent gain though slightly below historical averages. In a healthy economy, wages typically rise at a roughly 3.5 percent annual pace.

Though most of the job market's scars from the Great Recession have healed, some have still not. The number of part-time workers who would prefer a full-time job but can't find it remains nearly 25 percent above its level before the recession began in 2007.

That's a big reason why an alternate measure of unemployment, which includes those involuntary part-time workers as well as people who have stopped job-hunting, was 9.2 percent last month. That is well below its peak but is still higher than before the recession.

Still, business confidence has risen since the presidential election, possibly in anticipation of tax cuts and deregulation from the Trump administration. A survey by the National Federation of Independent Business found small business optimism at a 12-year high in January.

Vicki Holt, CEO of Proto Labs, which makes parts for automakers, medical device and aerospace companies, says her clients' outlook has brightened.

"Our customer base is really excited about the general climate and support for manufacturing from the administration," Holt said. "And that helps us."

The United States is also benefiting from steadier economies overseas. Growth is picking up or stabilizing in most European countries as well as in China and Japan.

Recent pay growth in the United States partly reflects higher minimum wages that took effect at the start of the year in 19 states, economists said. In addition, steady job gains tend to raise pay as employers compete for workers.

Turkey's determination against Kurds alienates US, Russia

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Turkey achieved a milestone in its goals in Syria: It established a foothold in the heart of the country's north after driving Islamic State militants away from its borders and seizing al-Bab, one of the extremist group's major strongholds and a major supply route.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 25 of 34

But Turkey's determination to also push back the Kurds is alienating the other big players in Syria — Russia and the United States — and threatens to undermine the fight against IS in the imminent assault on Raqqa.

Ankara's threats to attack the nearby town of Manbij, held by U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces, prompted Washington to deploy new troops in the area to prevent Turkish advances. Turkey's Syrian allies have been fighting the Kurds around the town, reportedly with Turkish cover, raising the possibility of frictions with the Americans.

At the same time, Turkish forces shelling Kurds hit Syrian government forces, whose patron Moscow reportedly has advisers in the area.

As a result, Ankara has effectively unified Russia and the U.S. in the goal of limiting Turkish expansion in the north. Syria experts say Ankara has lost influence to realize its aim of pushing the Kurdish forces back to the east of Manbij across the Euphrates. Moreover, Washington is pushing ahead with partnering with the Kurdish-led forces in the planned attack on Raqqa, despite Turkish opposition.

"Turkey's valuable leverage" to disrupt that alliance "has been tossed away as the Russian military and U.S. Special Forces moved last week in Syria's Manbij to prevent Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces from attacking the city," wrote Ragip Soylu, a Washington-based Turkish columnist for the pro-government English language Daily Sabah newspaper.

From the start, Turkey's goal with its military incursion into Syria has been to push IS militants back from its border and prevent Kurdish forces from holding contiguous territory from east to west across the border. Turkey considers the main Syrian Kurdish force, the People's Protection Forces, or YPG, as terrorists since they are linked to Kurdish insurgents in Turkey.

Capturing al-Bab last month met both those aims. Turkish forces and allied Syrian fighters marched into al-Bab after the militants withdrew following a grueling fight that lasted over two months and claimed dozens of Turkish soldiers. With al-Bab in its hands, Turkey blocked the Kurds from joining territory they hold to the east and the west.

But from the very start, a chief goal was Manbij, a small but crowded town 40 kilometers east of al-Bab that is the birthplace of one of the Arab world's most prominent classical poets. When the U.S.-backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces captured the town from IS in August, Turkey sent its troops into Syria, complaining to the Americans that the Kurdish forces must retreat east across the Euphrates.

"Turkey has always set the Euphrates as a red line," Noah Bonsey, an analyst with the International Crisis Group, said in a telephone interview. "The problem is it will be a huge gamble to really do that with US, Russia and YPG, who are a proficient fighting force."

In a new move, U.S. military moved in with small number of troops now positioned on the western outskirts of Manbij to prevent an escalation of violence between its two allies. Calling it a mission to "reassure and deter," U.S. officials say the troops, with light combat vehicles and visible American flags, are to keep a lid on the tensions brewing in the increasingly crowded battlefield.

U.S. Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, of the anti-IS coalition, said all the forces acting in Syria have converged "within hand-grenade range of one another."

"We encourage all forces to remain focused on the counter-ISIS fight and concentrate their efforts on defeating ISIS and not toward other objectives that may cause the coalition to divert energy and resources away from Raqqa," Townsend said last week. He suggested Turkey has no reason to be in the Manbij area. "With the liberation of al-Bab, Turkey has now secured its border from ISIS."

Meanwhile, as Turkish troops and their Syrian allies advanced east of al-Bab and threatened to move on Manbij, Russia brokered a deal that effectively created a buffer zone between them and Kurdish-led forces by handing over some villages to Syrian government troops.

On Thursday, Syrian government media said Turkish shelling killed a number of its troops. Kurdish officials said Turkish advances continued even despite the buffer zone.

Ilham Ahmed, a senior official with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, blamed Russia and the United States for emboldening the Turkish push toward Manbij: The U.S. coalition by providing the Turkish

forces with air cover during the assault on al-Bab, and Moscow by agreeing to let Turkey take over al-Bab despite a Syrian government push to liberate the town.

Now with both U.S. forces and Russian advisers in the area, Turkey is not letting up, she said. "In all the wars the Americans took part in, their forces' presence has some prestige, status, and confrontations are avoided."

Turkey ultimate intention in pressuring Manbij may be to keep the SDF out of the Raqqa offensive. Ankara has repeatedly demanded to the U.S. that the Kurds not be involved in taking the city, which is the Islamic State group's de facto capital. Fighting at Manbij ties down SDF fighters that could go to the Raqqa campaign.

Ahmed said if the U.S. wants the Raqqa campaign to move ahead, "they must protect Manbij."

"All of this is a reminder of the risk in a rushed attempt to get to Raqqa If Turkish interests are not at least placated to some extent," said Bonsey of the International Crisis Group.

Turkey has a number of ways it could disrupt a Raqqa campaign, he said. "There is a lot that can go wrong."

Trauma to lives, economy from tsunami persists 6 years on

TOKYO (AP) — Six years ago, more than 18,000 people died or went missing as a tsunami triggered by a massive quake engulfed coastal areas of northeastern Japan. Tens of thousands more people's lives were unraveled when they lost family members, friends, homes and livelihoods. The displacement widened as entire communities fled after meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant.

Japan is marking the anniversary of the disaster Saturday with somber ceremonies in Tokyo and in cities and towns in the northeast. Most of the towns devastated in the March 11, 2011, disasters have only partially rebuilt, and local authorities are struggling to finance construction. Meanwhile, despite an abundance of jobs thanks to the rebuilding, the population in most of the region is falling.

Here are some measures of progress in Japan's recovery:

RECONSTRUCTION: The government spent 26 trillion yen (\$220 billion) in recovery and rebuilding from 2011-2015, but is due to slash that to only 6.5 trillion yen in 2016-2020. Reconstruction has been hampered by a shortage of workers, and while much of the public housing planned to replace destroyed homes has been finished, about a fifth of the units stand empty.

DISPLACED FAMILIES: As many as 150,000 people fled radiation-affected areas near the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant. As of February, 123,000 were still displaced. Housing subsidies for so-called "voluntary evacuees" — those who left areas not designated as evacuation zones — are due to run out by the end of March. Japanese media say some of those families have struggled to find new housing.

THE NUCLEAR PLANT: Tokyo Electric Power Co. is struggling to decommission the wrecked plant and the estimated total cost exceeds 21 trillion yen (\$182 billion). Cleanup of nearby areas has lagged and radiation levels remain high. The cost of that cleanup has reportedly almost doubled to 4 trillion yen (\$35 billion). TEPCO officials say radiation is not leaking outside of the reactors.

FISHERIES: Many of the seaside towns in the disaster zone relied heavily on fishing and aquaculture. Data from Iwate prefecture, one of the hardest-hit areas, shows harvests of salmon and oysters still only at 40 percent of the level when the tsunami hit. Other industries, such as sea urchin and abalone, have recovered to about 80 percent of normal. The region's fisheries still employ about 14,000 people, but that's down from about 18,000 in 2010.

THE MISSING: As of Friday, 2,553 people are still missing, and occasionally teams still search the coastline

for signs of their remains. What's also missing are the many close-knit fishing hamlets and waterfronts in areas that were scoured bare by the tsunami, where only foundations remain.

St. Patrick's parade organizers will allow gay vets to march

By MARK PRATT, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Organizers of the city's St. Patrick's Day parade reversed course on Friday and said they would allow a group of gay veterans to march in this year's parade.

The South Boston Allied War Veterans Council announced on the parade's Twitter account that it had signed an "acceptance letter" that would clear the way for OutVets to participate.

A lawyer for OutVets said late Friday that the group looked forward to "marching proudly" and representing LGBTQ veterans.

"We are honored and humbled by all the outpouring of support that has been displayed for our LGBTQ veterans - who are one of the most unrepresented demographics in our veterans community," said lawyer said Dee Dee Edmondson.

An earlier vote by the council to bar OutVets from marching drew immediate condemnation from high-profile politicians, some of whom said they would not march if the gay veterans were excluded. It caused some sponsors to back out and stirred up a furor on social media.

South Boston Allied War Veterans Council member Edward Flynn said Friday night he was proud the group invited OutVets to be part of the parade. "South Boston is an inclusive community, and with this development, we are one step closer to a parade that reflects that spirit," he said.

It was unclear if the reversal of the decision was a result of a second vote by the council.

"I decided this is a wrong that has to be corrected," the parade's lead organizer, Tim Duross, told WHDH-TV.

Earlier Friday, OutVets executive director Bryan Bishop said the vets had been told the original decision to bar them was because of their rainbow symbols.

Bishop said the council offered to allow the group to march if its members did not display the rainbow flag, a symbol of gay pride, which is on their banner and their jackets.

The group said no.

"I almost fell out of the chair at that point, said, 'You gotta be kidding me,'" Bishop said.

He said OutVets has displayed the rainbow at the parade the last two years.

"It infuriates me to look at the veterans that I know, gay and straight, who have served this country with valor and honor and distinction, and just because you're a veteran who happens to be gay your service is somehow less than someone who is not of the LGBT community or someone who's not gay," he said.

Edmondson, the OutVets lawyer, earlier Friday described the acceptance letter as "generic" and said it did not make fully clear whether the gay group would be allowed to display its banner.

Another veterans group, Veterans for Peace, said it also had been denied permission to participate. That group has been trying unsuccessfully for several years to march.

OutVets was first allowed to participate in the parade in 2015, in what was seen as a groundbreaking decision after parade organizers had, for decades, resisted the inclusion of gay groups. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in 1995 upheld the council's right to bar gay groups on free speech grounds.

The council said in a statement Thursday its decision had been misinterpreted.

"The council is accepting of all people and organizations, but it will not permit messages that conflict with the overall theme of the parade," the statement said.

That decision resulted in backlash from other veterans' organizations.

The council is made up of representatives from several South Boston American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts.

The Michael J. Perkins American Legion Post said it had withdrawn from the council.

The Perkins post in a statement on its Facebook page didn't mention the OutVets decision but said it decided to withdraw because "recent efforts by several non-veteran parade volunteers to guide decision

making has resulted in the subversion of the council as an organization being led by veterans.”

Another former member of the council, the Thomas J. Fitzgerald VFW Post, assailed the council’s decision to bar OutVets.

The Fitzgerald post withdrew from the council last year over the decision to bar Veterans for Peace.

Associated Press writers Rodrique Ngowi and Bob Salsberg contributed to this report.

No. 14 Duke races past No. 6 UNC 93-83 in ACC semifinals

By MIKE FITZPATRICK, AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This time they clashed up north, and Duke took down Carolina.

Jayson Tatum scored 24 points and No. 14 Duke rallied past No. 6 North Carolina with another lightning-fast surge in the second half, capitalizing on foul trouble for Tar Heels point guard Joel Berry II and beating its fierce rival 93-83 on Friday night in the Atlantic Coast Conference semifinals.

“It’s like night and day from the one stretch when we were 1-4,” said Tatum, a freshman forward averaging 23 points in three ACC Tournament games. “We’re clicking at the right time.”

Luke Kennard had 20 points and Grayson Allen added 18 off the bench for the Blue Devils (26-8), who will play for the title Saturday night in Brooklyn against No. 22 Notre Dame, a 77-73 winner over No. 16 Florida State.

“We’ve gotten better here. That’s the main thing. We’ve gotten to know each other better,” Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

By winning the second game between the teams in seven days, fifth-seeded Duke snagged two of three in the season series against the top-seeded Tar Heels (27-7). It was their first ACC Tournament matchup since the Blue Devils won the 2011 championship game.

The rubber match this year was settled on the streets of New York City rather than Tobacco Road, some 500 miles from the Dean Dome and Cameron Indoor Stadium as the ACC brought its postseason showcase to the Big Apple for the first time.

“It was a big-time game for a while, and then it got so it was not a big-time game,” North Carolina coach Roy Williams said. “I think the most-disciplined, the best-coached team, the most-focused team is the one that won the game tonight. I didn’t do as good a job as Mike did.”

Regardless of the locale, this edition of the storied rivalry contained many of the usual elements — complete with players and roaring blue-clad fans from both teams taking issue with the officiating.

Perhaps the primary missing staple was a tense finish after Duke outscored defending champion North Carolina by 15 points during a 10-minute span while Berry was on the bench with four fouls. The decisive spurt put the Blue Devils ahead 77-70 when Allen hit Harry Giles for an alley-oop slam with 5:30 left, and they cruised home from there.

“It was brutal. I hate that I was on the bench,” Berry said. “I put the blame on me.”

Berry, the tournament MVP a year ago, scored 28 points in a win over Duke last weekend.

Kennedy Meeks had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the taller and more experienced Tar Heels, who dominated inside early but blew a 13-point lead in the second half. They squandered a chance to tie Duke for the most ACC Tournament titles and might have cost themselves a No. 1 seed in the NCAAs.

Freshman guard Frank Jackson added 15 points for Duke, which quickly climbed out of a 12-point hole in the second half of Thursday’s quarterfinal win over No. 10 Louisville.

Showing some impressive stamina, Duke won its third game in three days against a conference rival with a winning record. No team has won four games in four days at the ACC Tournament.

“Our guys are in really good shape. I was actually amazed today because Carolina really comes at you,” Krzyzewski said. “So it could have worn us out, and it didn’t.”

Back home where the schools are separated by about 10 miles, they split two intense games over the past month — with each program winning on its own court. North Carolina beat the Blue Devils 90-83 last

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 29 of 34

Saturday in the regular-season finale.

Their latest tussle took place on one of the busiest blocks in Brooklyn. And no doubt, the opportunity to showcase college basketball's best rivalry in the nation's largest media market was exactly the dream scenario the ACC envisioned when it moved its postseason tournament north this year — a touchy topic down south that boiled up again this week.

So when Duke and Carolina both won Thursday, it brought a true taste of Tobacco Road to the home of Nathan's Famous hot dogs, smack in the middle of the bustling borough that hosted baseball's most passionate regional rivalries once upon a time: Giants-Dodgers, and Yankees-Dodgers.

It was the fifth time the teams played outside the state of North Carolina — three at the ACC Tournament in Atlanta, plus a Tar Heels victory in the 1971 NIT semifinals at Madison Square Garden.

Both schools are loaded with area alumni, though, and the Barclays Center stands were bathed in both shades of blue after a snowy morning in New York, where the Empire State Building was lit in ACC school colors at sunset.

"I don't know if we're even close to being the team we're capable of being, but we're finding something about ourselves and it's something good," Duke senior Amile Jefferson said.

BIG PICTURE

Duke: Playing before a sellout crowd of 18,109, the Blue Devils improved to 13-8 against UNC at the ACC Tournament and 98-44 in the event overall, breaking a tie with the Tar Heels for the best record in the tournament's 64-year history.

North Carolina: Fell short in its attempt to become the first team to repeat as ACC Tournament champion since Duke (2009-11). The Tar Heels had won their last five semifinal games.

CAROLINA BLUE

Isaiah Hicks had 19 points for the Tar Heels and ACC player of the year Justin Jackson scored 16 on 6-of-22 shooting. ... Meeks did not score in the final 13:52.

WHERE IT STANDS

North Carolina leads the all-time series 135-110.

UP NEXT

Duke: Goes for its 20th ACC Tournament championship Saturday night against third-seeded Notre Dame. Duke won 84-74 at Notre Dame in their only regular-season meeting on Jan. 30.

North Carolina: Probably no worse than a No. 2 seed when the NCAA Tournament pairings are announced Sunday.

More college basketball coverage: <http://collegebasketball.ap.org>

3rd protester dies as S. Korea braces for more rallies

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean police on Saturday braced for more violence between opponents and supporters of ousted President Park Geun-hye, who was stripped of her powers by the Constitutional Court over a corruption scandal that has plunged the country into a political turmoil.

Three people died and dozens were injured in clashes between police and Park's supporters after the ruling Friday, according to police, which detained seven protesters for questioning.

The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency was planning to deploy nearly 20,000 officers and hundreds of buses to separate the two crowds, whose passionate rallies have divided the streets near the presidential palace in the past several weekends as the scandal worsened.

The court's decision capped a stunning fall for the country's first female leader. Park rode a wave of lingering conservative nostalgia for her late dictator father to victory in 2012, only to see her presidency crumble as millions of furious protesters filled the nation's streets.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 30 of 34

The ruling allows possible criminal proceedings against the 65-year-old Park — prosecutors have already named her a criminal suspect — and makes her South Korea's first democratically elected leader to be removed from office since democracy replaced dictatorship in the late 1980s.

It also deepens South Korea's political and security uncertainty as it faces existential threats from North Korea, reported economic retaliation from a China furious about Seoul's cooperation with the U.S. on an anti-missile system, and questions in Seoul about the new Trump administration's commitment to the countries' security alliance.

South Korea must now hold an election within two months to choose Park's successor. Liberal Moon Jae-in, who lost to Park in the 2012 election, currently enjoys a comfortable lead in opinion surveys.

Kim Yong-deok, the chief of the National Election Commission, said Saturday that the election will be managed "accurately and perfectly" and urged the public to participate in a vote that would "determine the fate of the Republic of Korea," referring to South Korea's formal name.

Park's "acts of violating the constitution and law are a betrayal of the public trust," Acting Chief Justice Lee Jung-mi said. "The benefits of protecting the constitution that can be earned by dismissing the defendant are overwhelmingly big. Hereupon, in a unanimous decision by the court panel, we issue a verdict: We dismiss the defendant, President Park Geun-hye."

Lee accused Park of colluding with longtime confidante Choi Soon-sil to extort tens of millions of dollars from businesses and letting Choi, a private citizen, meddle in state affairs and receive and look at documents with state secrets. Those allegations were previously made by prosecutors, but Park has refused to undergo any questioning, citing a law that gives a sitting leader immunity from prosecution.

It is not clear when prosecutors will try to interview her.

Park hasn't vacated the presidential Blue House yet, as her aides are preparing for her return to her private home in southern Seoul, according to her office. Park has not made a public statement on her removal.

Park's lawyer, Seo Seok-gu, who had previously compared her impeachment to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, called the verdict a "tragic decision" made under popular pressure and questioned the fairness of what he called a "kangaroo court."

Pre-verdict surveys showed that 70 to 80 percent of South Koreans wanted the court to approve Park's impeachment. But there have been worries that Park's ouster would further polarize the country and cause violence.

Sensing history, thousands of people — both pro-Park supporters, many of them dressed in army-style fatigues and wearing red berets, and those who wanted Park gone — gathered around the Constitutional Court building and a huge public square in downtown Seoul.

Some of Park's supporters reacted with anger after the ruling, shouting and hitting police officers and reporters with plastic flag poles and steel ladders and climbing on police buses. Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, the acting head of state, pleaded for peace and urge protesters to move on. Anti-Park protesters celebrated by marching in the streets near the Blue House, carrying flags, signs and an effigy of Park dressed in prison clothes and tied up with rope.

Police and hospital officials said three people died while protesting Park's removal. A man in his 70s, believed to be a Park supporter, died after a large speaker that had been mounted on a police truck fell on his head, police said. They are questioning a Park supporter who allegedly knocked off the speaker by stealing a police bus and crashing it into the truck.

Police said that another man in his 70s died early Saturday after collapsing near the court. An official from the nearby Kangbuk Samsung Hospital said another man brought from the pro-Park rally died shortly after receiving CPR at the hospital.

Prosecutors have arrested and indicted a slew of high-profile figures over the scandal, including Park's confidante Choi, top Park administration officials and Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong.

Associated Press writers Hyung-jing Kim and Foster Klug contributed to this report.

Democratic AGs step up legal fight against Trump travel ban

By MARTHA BELLISLE and JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — In stepping up legal challenges to President Donald Trump's revised travel ban, Democratic attorneys general are trying to use the court system to thwart the executive branch in the same way their GOP counterparts did under President Barack Obama.

Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson said Thursday he was asking a federal judge to find that his order last month halting the old travel ban applies to the new one, too.

Ferguson's action came a day after Hawaii launched its own lawsuit. Washington, Minnesota, Oregon, New York and Massachusetts planned to file a new complaint challenging the revised travel ban Monday. Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh announced in a statement Friday that Maryland plans to join the lawsuit filed by Washington state.

"My message to President Trump is: Not so fast," Ferguson said.

Ferguson and his fellow Democratic attorneys general are now doing what Republicans did when Obama was in office — filing lawsuits to block policies. Republican attorneys general took Obama to court over a variety of issues, most notably his health care legislation.

Attorneys general are the chief lawyers for state governments and can sue more broadly on behalf of their states. Most are elected and can act independently of their legislatures or governors, although Ferguson, for example, has the support of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, also a Democrat.

Trump's revised ban bars new visas for people from six predominantly Muslim countries: Somalia, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Libya and Yemen. It also temporarily shuts down the U.S. refugee program.

Unlike the initial order, the new one says current visa holders won't be affected, and removes language that would give priority to religious minorities.

Hawaii Attorney General Doug Chin said that the state could not stay silent on Trump's travel ban because of Hawaii's unique culture and history. Hawaii depends heavily on tourism, and the revised ban would hurt the state's economy, he said.

The courts need to hear "that there's a state where ethnic diversity is the norm, where people are welcomed with aloha and respect," Chin said.

In the original lawsuit targeting the first ban, Ferguson said it was unconstitutional and hurt the state's businesses and universities.

Ferguson said it's not the government, but the court, that gets to decide whether the revised order is different enough that it would not be covered by previous temporary restraining order.

"When a court enjoins a defendant from implementing policies, the defendant cannot evade that injunction simply by reissuing the same basic policies in a new form," Washington state Solicitor General Noah Purcell said in the state's new court filing. "Courts do not issue injunctive relief in a game of whack-a-mole, forced to start anew at a defendant's whim."

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Thursday the administration believed the revised travel ban will stand up to legal scrutiny.

"We feel very confident with how that was crafted and the input that was given," Spicer said.

Ferguson said he was pleased other attorneys general had sought to take part in the legal action. On Thursday, the Seattle judge granted Oregon's request to join Washington and Minnesota in the case opposing the travel ban; New York and Massachusetts say they'll also join the case.

All of those states except Pennsylvania and Iowa were won by Trump's Democratic challenger, Hillary Clinton, in last year's presidential election.

"We have a strong case and they are willing to join our efforts," Ferguson said of his fellow Democrats. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman in a statement called the executive order "a Muslim ban by another name."

Other states that have filed briefs supporting Washington's initial lawsuit include California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia.

Sinco Kelleher reported from Honolulu. Associated Press writers Tarek Hamada in Phoenix and Gene Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

Muhammad Ali's son says he was detained again at airport

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

Muhammad Ali Jr. was detained and questioned at a Washington airport before being allowed to board a flight to Fort Lauderdale after meeting with lawmakers to discuss a separate airport detention incident last month, a lawyer for the late heavyweight champion's son said Friday.

Ali and his mother, Khalilah Camacho Ali, were stopped at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport after returning from Jamaica on Feb. 7. They traveled to Washington on Wednesday without incident to speak to members of a congressional subcommittee on border security about that experience.

But attorney Chris Mancini said that when Ali attempted to board a JetBlue Airways flight home to Florida on Friday he was detained for 20 minutes. Mancini said Ali spoke to Department of Homeland Security officials by telephone and showed his driver's license and passport before he was allowed to board.

"None of this was happening Wednesday," Mancini said in a telephone interview Friday afternoon as he was traveling with the Alis. "Going to Washington obviously opened up a can of worms at DHS."

A spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration acknowledged the agency confirmed Ali's identity before he boarded his plane.

Spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein said Ali also was patted down because his jewelry set off a checkpoint scanner alarm.

Florida Democratic Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who was on the same flight, tweeted a photo with Ali after he was allowed to board and wrote: "On way home on DOMESTIC FLIGHT Muhammad Ali Jr. detained AGAIN ... Religiously profiling son of 'The Greatest' will not make us safe."

The mother and son, both born in the United States, have said in interviews that they believe they have been stopped because they are Muslim with Arabic names. Earlier this week, they announced a campaign for religious freedom in the spirit of the boxing icon, supported by ex-boxing greats Evander Holyfield, Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran and others. They say they are opposed to President Donald Trump's travel ban, which they feel unfairly targets Muslims.

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

This story has been corrected to show that Ali attempted to board a flight on Friday, not Wednesday.

Trump picks former FDA official to head food and drug agency

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and LAURAN NEERGAARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced Friday that has chosen a conservative doctor-turned-pundit with deep ties to Wall Street and the pharmaceutical industry to lead the powerful Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb would be tasked with Trump's goal of cutting red tape at the FDA, which regulates everything from pharmaceuticals to seafood to electronic cigarettes. Trump has called the FDA's drug approval process "slow and burdensome" despite changes to speed reviews, particularly of cutting-edge products.

Gottlieb, 44, is no stranger to the FDA — he served as a deputy commissioner under President George W. Bush. While he has frequently criticized the FDA for unnecessary regulations and urged changes to get safe and effective drugs onto the market faster, he generally has supported its overall mission.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 33 of 34

A Senate vote is required before Gottlieb can take over as head of the agency.

Gottlieb is a resident fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute and a partner in the venture capital firm New Enterprise Associates. He has spent more than a decade in Washington rotating between the worlds of government, health policy consulting and political think tanks.

Since leaving the FDA in 2007, Gottlieb has served as a board member or adviser to at least nine pharmaceutical or medical technology companies, according to his LinkedIn profile. Gottlieb is a consultant to GlaxoSmithKline's product investment board; a managing director at T.R. Winston & Company merchant bank, which specializes in health care; and a clinical assistant professor at New York University School of Medicine. He also is a policy adviser to the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship.

There are likely to be questions at his Senate confirmation hearing about how those ties might affect his decisions at the FDA.

Federal ethics rules do not require government officials to sell off their investments, but they must recuse themselves from matters that would affect those investments. As part of the federal vetting process, FDA nominees typically disclose and sell stocks, funds and other investments that could pose a financial conflict of interest.

Gottlieb generally supports reduced FDA regulation, particularly for emerging products like health apps and wearable devices like the Apple Watch. But he has never embraced libertarian-leaning proposals that would have the FDA abandon its effectiveness reviews of drugs and medical products. Under those plans, the FDA would simply approve products that appear safe, allowing the private sector to determine how well they actually treat diseases or medical conditions.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., who serves on the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees FDA funding, said the nomination sends the message that Trump is committed to "rolling back regulations and opening the floodgates to potentially dangerous drugs and medical devices."

The evaluation of medical effectiveness has been a cornerstone of the FDA's mission since the early 1960s and is universally embraced by its staff and the businesses it regulates.

"If FDA were not in business of evaluating effectiveness then these companies wouldn't be able to say much. Where companies distinguish themselves is by being able to claim that their product actually does something," said Michael Gaba, an industry attorney who specializes in FDA law.

Associated Press writer Matthew Perrone contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, March 11, the 70th day of 2017. There are 295 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Purim begins at sunset. Daylight saving time returns Sunday at 2 a.m. local time; clocks go forward one hour.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 11, 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, U.S. Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia, where he vowed on March 20, "I shall return" — a promise he kept more than 2½ years later.

On this date:

In 1861, the Constitution of the Confederate States of America was adopted by the Confederate Congress in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1867, the Giuseppe Verdi opera "Don Carlo" had its world premiere in Paris as a five-act French version titled "Don Carlos."

In 1888, the Blizzard of '88, also known as the "Great White Hurricane," began inundating the north-eastern United States, resulting in some 400 deaths.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 11, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 242 ~ 34 of 34

In 1927, New York City's legendary Roxy Theatre held its grand opening; the evening featured the premiere of the silent film drama "The Love of Sunya," starring Gloria Swanson, who was among the celebrities in attendance.

In 1935, the Bank of Canada began operations, issuing its first series of bank notes.

In 1957, Charles Van Doren's 14-week run on the rigged NBC game show "Twenty-One" ended as he was "defeated" by attorney Vivienne Nearing; Van Doren's take was \$129,000. American explorer Richard E. Byrd died in Boston at age 68.

In 1965, the Rev. James J. Reeb, a white minister from Boston, died two days after being beaten by whites during civil rights disturbances in Selma, Alabama.

In 1977, more than 130 hostages held in Washington, D.C. by Hanafi Muslims were freed after ambassadors from three Islamic nations joined the negotiations.

In 1986, the state of Georgia pardoned Leo Frank, a Jewish businessman lynched in 1915 for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan.

In 1997, rock star Paul McCartney was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

In 2004, ten bombs exploded in quick succession across the commuter rail network in Madrid, Spain, killing 191 people in an attack linked to al-Qaida-inspired militants.

In 2011, a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami struck Japan's northeastern coast, killing nearly 20,000 people and severely damaging the Fukushima Dai-ichi (foo-koo-SHEE'-mah dy-EE'-chee) nuclear power station.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, continuing his tour of Latin America, met with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe (oo-REE'-bay). Newborn Mychael Darthard-Dawodu (meh-KEHL' DAHR'-thuhd DOW'-uh-doo) was found safe in Clovis, New Mexico, a day after she was abducted from a hospital in Lubbock, Texas. (The abductor, Rayshaun Parson, was sentenced to 20 years in prison.) Actress-singer Betty Hutton died in Palm Springs, California, at age 86.

Five years ago: Sixteen Afghan villagers — mostly women and children — were shot dead as they slept by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, who later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

One year ago: Nancy Reagan's life was celebrated by 1,000 invited guests gathered at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, to pay final tribute to the former first lady who had died five days earlier at the age of 94. Keith Emerson, 71, founder and keyboardist of the progressive-rock band Emerson, Lake and Palmer, took his own life in Santa Monica, California; he was 71.

Today's Birthdays: Media mogul Rupert Murdoch is 86. Former ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson is 83. Musician Flaco Jimenez (FLAH'-koh hee-MEH'-nez) is 78. Actress Tricia O'Neil is 72. Actor Mark Metcalf is 71. Rock singer-musician Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge) is 70. Singer Bobby McFerrin is 67. Movie director Jerry Zucker is 67. Actress Susan Richardson is 65. Recording executive Jimmy Iovine (eye-VEEN') is 64. Singer Nina Hagen is 62. Country singer Jimmy Fortune (The Statler Brothers) is 62. Singer Cheryl Lynn is 60. Actor Elias Koteas (ee-LY-uhs koh-TAY-uhs) is 56. Actor-director Peter Berg is 55. Actor Jeffrey Nordling is 55. Actress Alex Kingston is 54. Country musician David Talbot is 54. Actor Wallace Langham is 52. Former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., is 52. Actor John Barrowman is 50. Singer Lisa Loeb is 49. Neo-soul musician Al Gamble (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 48. Singer Pete Drogé is 48. Actor Terrence Howard is 48. Rock musician Rami Jaffee is 48. Actor Johnny Knoxville is 46. Rock singer-musicians Benji and Joel Madden (Good Charlotte; The Madden Brothers) are 38. Actor David Anders is 36. Singer LeToya is 36. Actress Thora Birch is 35. TV personality Melissa Rycroft is 34. Actor Rob Brown is 33.

Thought for Today: "Life is easy to chronicle, but bewildering to practice." — E.M. Forster, English author (1879-1970).