

Groton Daily Independent

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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

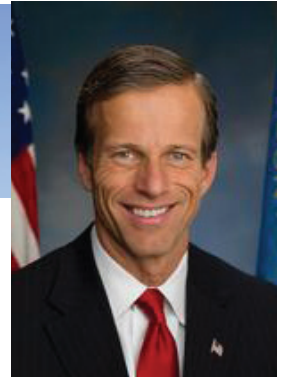
Senior Menu: Chicken Tetrastazine, Green beans, honey fruit salad, vanilla pudding, whole wheat bread.

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

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



John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



An Overly Regulated America

Many Americans are still reeling from the lingering effects of the Obama economy, and for them, it doesn't matter that economists believe the recovery began (at least on paper) several years ago. For the last eight years, good jobs and opportunities for workers were hard to find. The labor force was at historic lows, inflation far exceeded wage growth, and the economy barely limped along. While some people predict this stagnation will continue for the next several years, there are steps we can take today to get our economy growing again, like by rolling back overly burdensome regulations.

No matter where I traveled in South Dakota over the last few years, I almost always heard from people about the regulatory hurdles created by federal government agencies and the effect they had on families and businesses. The one example I heard most frequently was the now-infamous Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. It would have amounted to one of the largest federal land grabs in history. The flawed rule was snagged in legal battles throughout most of the latter years of the Obama administration, and I'm glad President Trump took early and quick action to ensure this poorly crafted rule would never see the light of day.

Not all rules and regulations are bad, but it's things like WOTUS that give the federal bureaucracy a bad name.

Congress and the administration have already started rolling back some of the burdensome regulations that were implemented during the Obama administration. Most recently, Congress eliminated a regulation that imposed unnecessary requirements for businesses that bid on federal government contracts and another that restricted energy production on federal land, among others. These aren't the last regulations that we'll eliminate either.

Obamacare and its pages of regulations, mandates, and taxes is another area where Congress is working quickly to provide relief for businesses and the American people. It's a broken law that has failed to live up to its most fundamental goal of providing low-cost, high-quality care. I support repealing and replacing Obamacare because I believe we can implement better policies that can actually deliver where Obamacare fell so short. Not only would a new and improved system help families and individuals, but it would help small businesses that have been bogged down by Obamacare's red tape, too.

Regulations are like traffic lights in a busy town. If you don't have any traffic lights, it's difficult for people to get from one location to another safely. But if you add too many, you slow down people's progress unnecessarily and make it difficult for them to get anywhere. It's when you strike the right balance – some lights but not too many – that everyone moves effectively, efficiently, and safely. Right now when it comes to federal regulations, we're like the town with too many lights. We need to focus on removing these roadblocks if we want to put our economy on a path to long-term health.

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Repealing and Replacing Obamacare

When we talk about healthcare, we're talking about something that is very personal to people. It's why I've so often



looked for ways to put you, the patient, in control of your own healthcare. Since Obamacare came into play, however, rising costs, shrinking options and increased bureaucratic involvement has resulted in control being taken away from patients and their doctors.

I've heard from thousands of South Dakotans about the burdens placed on them by Obamacare. For instance, a retired teacher from Sisseton saw her premiums increase from \$350 to \$500 per month while her out-of-pocket threshold increased from \$5,000 to \$6,000. Higher costs, worse coverage.

A Sioux Falls small business owner had once tried to cover 60 percent of his employees' premium costs. But after Obamacare, premiums rose to the point that this benefit wasn't affordable anymore.

A family in Haakon County reached out to me after their premiums increased 200 percent. A family in Milbank saw costs for their son's insurance rise from \$89 per month to more than \$300. A woman in Rosholt pays almost \$250 more per month for a plan that doesn't include the benefits she used most often.

While I could go on and on with stories like this, I understand others have felt greater security because of Obamacare's provisions. For years, we have fought to offer relief to those hurt worst by Obamacare. The Independent Payment Advisory Board, which could have led to rationed care for seniors, was gutted. The 1099 mandate was eliminated and some of the most burdensome taxes were delayed. Even after the tweaks, however, Obamacare remains beyond repair.

Earlier this month, House Republicans put forward a new vision for health care: one that offers Americans from all walks of life the freedom and flexibility to get the health coverage their family needs. This legislation came about after years of debate and the final stages were completed in close collaboration with President Trump and his administration.

The legislation eliminates Obamacare's individual and employer mandates. It abolishes 14 Obamacare taxes that take \$1 trillion from American taxpayers every decade. This includes taxes on prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and medical devices as well as the Health Insurance Tax, based on legislation I authored, which could cost the average family nearly \$5,000 over the next decade if it isn't repealed.

The flawed Obamacare subsidies left many behind, so this legislation replaces them with monthly tax credits for low- and middle-income Americans. These credits range from \$2,000 to \$14,000 per year, depending on a person's age and family size. You will finally be able to choose the plan that's right for you – even if that means cheaper catastrophic coverage, which is something Obamacare didn't allow you to do. In addition to the tax credit, states will receive new resources to help people out and Health Savings Accounts will be enhanced and expanded to grant you even more flexibility.

At the same time, health insurers still won't be able to deny coverage or charge more money based on pre-existing conditions and young people will be allowed to stay on their parents' insurance until 26.

There is a lot packed into this legislation, so I encourage you to read through it yourself at www.ReadTheBill.gov

Shortly after the language was released, the House Ways and Means Committee, which I'm a member of, had the opportunity to go through section-by-section and debate any edits folks thought should be made to the part of the bill that fell under our jurisdiction. Once all the committees sign off, the full House of Representatives will have the opportunity to debate and vote on the bill. We expect this process to play out over the next few weeks.

As I mentioned before, I understand healthcare is very personal and it's for this reason I believe you should be in control of it. That's ultimately why I'm fighting through this process to finally repeal and replace Obamacare.

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SCHURING CARD OF THANKS

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

Kayla Schuring

EMPLOYMENT

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

Full-Time Job Opportunity

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



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

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State Officials Of All Stripes Upholding IM 22 Promise

During the first few weeks of the 2017 Legislative Session, Initiated Measure 22 dominated the headlines. The 14,000-word initiated measure became the center of attention because of the constitutional problems it posed and the bizarre unintended consequences it would create. For example, IM 22 could have been read to say that a teacher in Sioux Falls would be a criminal if her husband is a state legislator.

Leaving Initiated Measure 22 in place was not a viable option, due to its constitutional issues and other problems. It could not be enforced as written. Another option was to repeal Initiated Measure 22, and return to the old laws. That was also not a good option, because it would have ignored the will of the voters.

I joined legislators in following a middle path. Together we repealed the unworkable law and made a promise to honor the voters' intent.

Legislators brought forward proposals aimed at the citizens' expectation of honest government, an open and transparent campaign finance system, and a legislative process which allows lobbyist influence only through their arguments. As I write this, four of these proposals are on their way to my desk.

Democratic Rep. Karen Soli's House Bill 1076 creates a government accountability board to hold formal hearings on state government matters. The board is made up of four retired judges who will have the ability to consider allegations against state officials and 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 this proposal which was widely supported.

The lobbyist gift ban bill proposed by Speaker Mark Mickelson is also on its way to my desk. This bill prohibits public officials from accepting expensive gifts from lobbyists.

Two other measures, House Bill 1052 and Senate Bill 27, have passed both houses. House Bill 1052 expands whistle blower protections for state employees and Senate Bill 27 deals with conflicts of interest and increases the penalty for illegal use of public funds.

I support all of these bills, and by the time you read this, the measures may already have been signed into law. As I write this, there are other IM 22 replacement bills dealing with ethics and campaign finance which will likely pass also.

State officials of all stripes undertook the difficult work of replacing Initiated Measure 22 with constitutional, workable legislation that meets the goals advanced by IM 22. 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. As session comes to a close, I'm pleased with these accomplishments.

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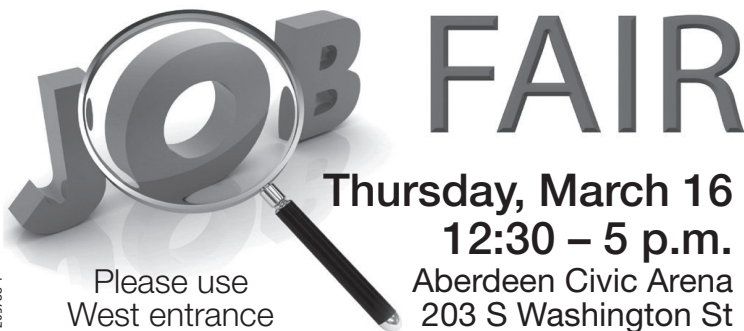


The Groton Independent office is moving from the house back to downtown at 21 N Main. The process of organizing the balloons up on a wall for easy viewing has begun. The Independent office will also serve as headquarters for the fitness center, the rental apartments upstairs and the laundromat.

Come meet with local hiring businesses!

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

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A Better Plan for America's Health Care

When many of us ran for Congress, we promised voters that we would repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act—or Obamacare. With Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress and a president in office willing to work with us, we are finally able to make good on that promise. The House of Representatives recently introduced legislation to repeal Obamacare and replace it with a patient-centered plan to improve competition within the marketplace and help make health care more affordable for all Americans. This bill, the American Health Care Act, appears to contain many provisions we are in favor of, but it will need to be carefully reviewed, considered and possibly amended before it is approved.

Since being enacted in 2010, Obamacare has failed the American people. Millions lost the plan they enjoyed, health care costs continue to skyrocket, and new taxes and mandates have crippled the budgets of families and businesses. In South Dakota alone, the number of health insurance providers has shrunk from 17 to only two today because insurers lost so much money on Obamacare. Additionally, South Dakotans enrolled in Obamacare plans saw their premiums increase 37 percent just in the last year. We are watching Obamacare collapse under its own weight.

Americans shouldn't be forced to pay for expensive health insurance that they don't like, want or need. The replacement legislation calls for eliminating the individual mandate and the employer mandate. I support this provision, as it will protect Americans from having to purchase costly insurance plans that aren't a good fit for them or their families. I am supportive of a number of other provisions in the American Health Care Act, including eliminating the Medical Device Tax, net investment tax and health insurance taxes.

Additionally, the American Health Care Act includes language to allow children to stay on parents' plans until age 26 and allows for folks to contribute more money to Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). This is a great option for young people or healthy people who may choose to enroll in a high deductible plan, as they are more likely to utilize only the health care services that they need. The American Health Care Act would continue to allow individuals with preexisting conditions to keep their coverage as long as they stay insured. It is important that any replacement plan approved by Congress allows for a transition period, where people can move to different plans without losing health care coverage. Our intention is to also include assurances for guaranteed portability, guaranteed renewability and no lifetime caps on any health insurance policy. This is an important provision that will protect those individuals who need health care coverage the most.

The American Health Care Act allows for competition, choice and incentives to strengthen the insurance markets, promoting competitive pricing.

I value the input of South Dakotans and other stakeholders as we continue to carefully review the American Health Care Act. The bill text can be found at www.readthebill.gop. I encourage those interested to read through it and share with me your thoughts, questions or concerns. Visit my website, www.rounds.senate.gov, to connect with me. Making significant changes to health care in the United States is a great undertaking, and we want to be sure we're doing it correctly, which may take some time. We won't be able to repeal and replace Obamacare overnight because we want to do it in a responsible manner. That means taking into account public input and being sure we know exactly what the bill contains before we vote on it.

Today in Weather History

1888 - A blizzard paralyzed southeastern New York State and western New England. The storm produced 58 inches of snow at Saratoga NY, and 50 inches at Middletown CT. The blizzard was followed by record cold temperatures, and the cold and snow claimed 400 lives. New York City received 20.9 inches of snow, Albany NY reported 46.7 inches. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1954 - A blizzard raged from eastern Wyoming into the Black Hills of western South Dakota, while a severe ice storm was in progress from northeastern Nebraska to central Iowa. The ice storm isolated 153 towns in Iowa. Dust from the Great Plains caused brown snow, and hail and muddy rain over parts of Wisconsin and Michigan. (11th-13th) (The Weather Channel)

1967 - A tremendous four day storm raged across California. Winds of 90 mph closed mountain passes, heavy rains flooded the lowlands, and in sixty hours Squaw Valley CA was buried under 96 inches (eight feet) of snow. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S., with gale force winds along the Middle Atlantic Coast. A storm in the Pacific Northwest produced rain and gale force winds. Crescent City CA received 2.27 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A powerful storm produced high winds and heavy snow in the Upper Mississippi Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Winds gusting to 70 mph produced snow drifts six feet high in Minnesota, and sent twelve foot waves on Lake Superior over the breakwalls of the ship canal at Duluth MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - An early season heat wave continued in the southwestern and central U.S. Nineteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Wichita Falls TX, which six days earlier reported a record low of 8 above, reported a record high of 95 degrees. Childress TX was the first spot in the country in 1989 to hit the century mark. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed from the Southern and Central Plains to the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast, with afternoon highs in the 70s and 80s. Seventy-six cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Downtown Baltimore MD was the hot spot in the nation with a record high of 95 degrees, which smashed their previous record for the date by nineteen degrees. Other re-

cord highs included 89 degrees at Washington D.C. and 90 degrees at Raleigh NC. (The National Weather Summary)

2006 - High school senior Matt Suter survives being blown 1,307 feet by a tornado. (The exact distance is determined by NWS GPS.) The twister rips open his grandmother's mobile home and tosses Suter into the night, launching him over a barbed wire fence and eventually depositing him on the soft grass in an open field. He suffers only a head wound from being hit by a lamp. The Weather Doctor's Diary



livestream

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 13, 7 p.m.

City Council Meeting








School Board Meeting

gdilive.com

Groton Daily Independent

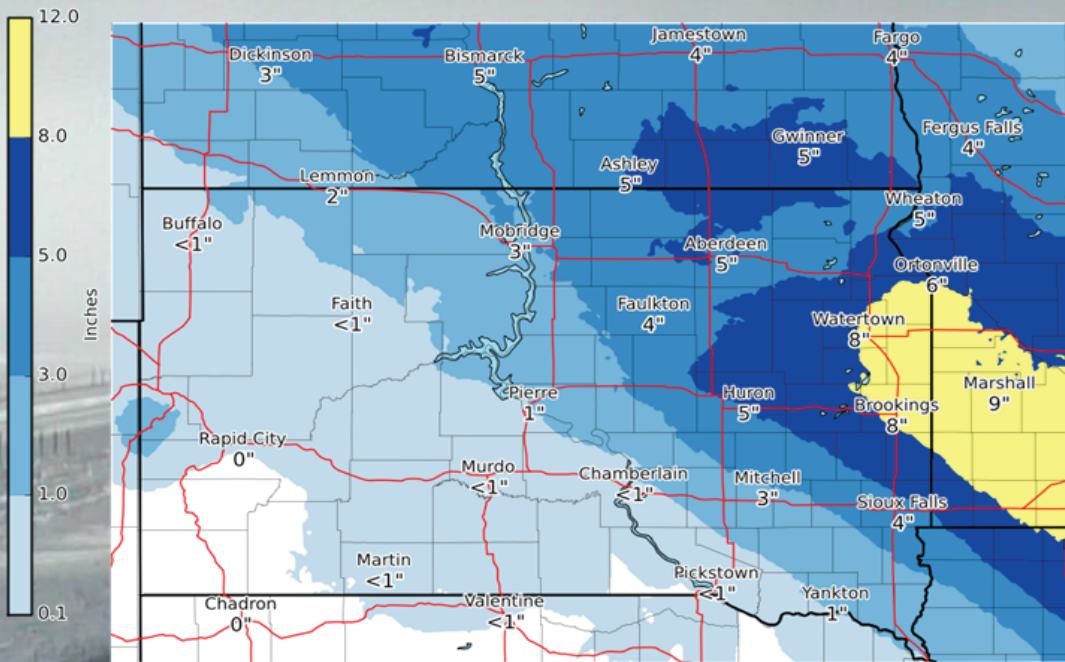
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Winter Weather Advisory

Today		Tonight		Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
								
100%	70% → 20%		20%					
Heavy Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Snow Likely and Patchy Blowing Snow then Slight Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny		
High: 21 °F	Low: 6 °F	High: 18 °F	Low: 7 °F	High: 25 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 33 °F		

Winter Storm Brings Heavy Snow

Highest accumulations across northeast SD & west central MN



HEAVY SNOW



BLOWING SNOW



HAZARDOUS TRAVEL

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 3/12/2017 5:32 AM Central

Published on: 03/12/2017 at 5:42AM

A low pressure system will bring snowfall to much of the region today. The heaviest snowfall is expected across parts northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota, including the I-29 corridor near Watertown. North northeast winds ranging from 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 30 or 35 mph will be possible. Visibility will be reduced under the heavier bands of snow and travel may become difficult. Snow will gradually come to an end tonight. High pressure and dry conditions will return Monday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 16.7 F at 4:01 PM

Low Outside Temp: 5.6 F at 7:46 AM

High Gust: 15.0 Mph at 1:45 AM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 72° in 1934

Record Low: -20 in 1897

Average High: 38°F

Average Low: 18°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.36

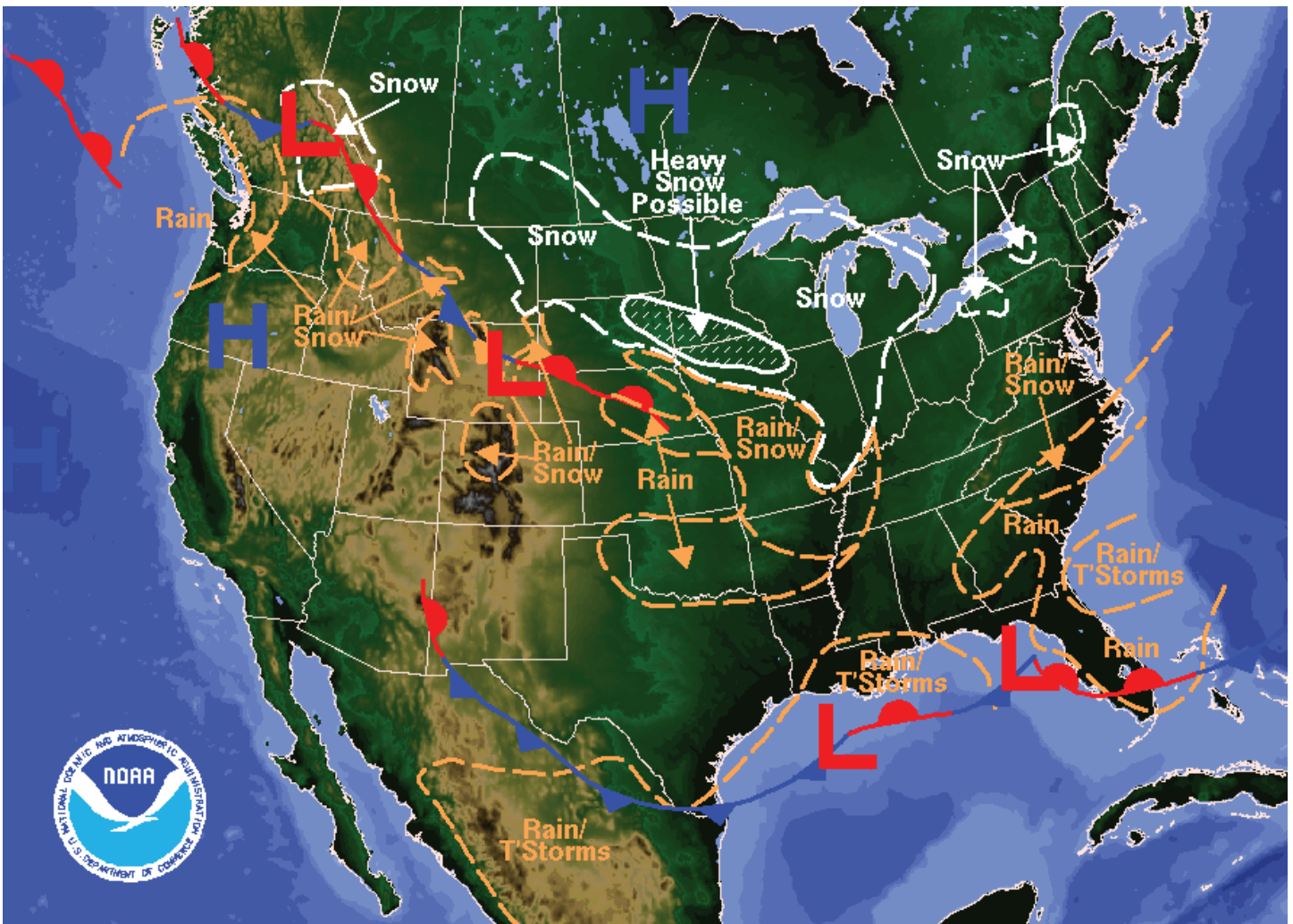
Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.38

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 7:36 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:49 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Mar 12, 2017, issued 4:48 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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GRACE AND GUIDANCE

Whenever I look into the eyes of a new born child or watch as little hands and arms reach out for love and affection, I realize, once again, the true meaning of helplessness and hope. It is impossible for that little one to care for itself. Infants know no one or nothing and have to depend completely on others for everything.

And that little one does not know that he or she has only one life to live. Since it is impossible to relive one second of our lives or retrace one step that we take, it is critical to know that God has provided a path and a plan for each of us.

His Word states very clearly, "It is not in man to direct his steps!" If it is not in ourselves, where do we find the directions that each of us need in our lives?
In the Lord!

An insightful king once declared, "He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name!"

If we allow God to guide us and to guard us, He will. But He can only do this if we allow Him to govern our lives. If we choose to go our own way and do our own thing, we cannot expect God to protect us and provide for us. We cannot blame Him for the problems we create, the tragedies that occur or the disasters that await us if we refuse His Lordship!

Our Shepherd has a plan for each of us that will lead us to peaceful meadows and quiet streams.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to surrender our lives completely to You so we may enjoy the good things in life that You have planned for each of us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 23:3 He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

11-13-17-23-31

(eleven, thirteen, seventeen, twenty-three, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$31,000

Hot Lotto

08-16-32-34-38, Hot Ball: 1

(eight, sixteen, thirty-two, thirty-four, thirty-eight; Hot Ball: one)

Estimated jackpot: \$4.63 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$119 million

Powerball

01-26-41-50-57, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 2

(one, twenty-six, forty-one, fifty, fifty-seven; Powerball: eleven; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$104 million

St. Thomas More wins 4th straight state A girls championship

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — St. Thomas More reeled off 12 straight points to start the second half Saturday and cruised to a 47-36 win over Lennox and its fourth straight South Dakota Class A girls basketball title.

Aislinn Duffy had 16 points and Jayden Bies added 13 points and seven rebounds for the Cavaliers (24-0). It was the closest game for St. Thomas More at the state tournament.

The Cavaliers shot 35 percent while holding Lennox (22-3) to 23 percent. Lennox was playing in its first championship game since 1996 and its third all time.

Lennox was paced by Riley Peters and Rianna Fillipi with 13 points apiece.

Lennox led 18-14 at the half, but everything turned in the third quarter when the Cavaliers outscored the Orioles 17-5.

Sully Buttes wins state Class B tournament title

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Racquel Wientjes scored 25 points and Chloe Lamb added 19 to lead Sully Buttes to a 69-48 win over Sanborn Central-Woonsocket in the South Dakota Class B girls basketball title game on Saturday.

Wientjes made nine of 13 shots from the field, including five 3-pointers. Lamb was 7 for 12 from the free throw line and added two 3-pointers.

The first quarter ended in an 18-18 tie but Sully Buttes (25-1) took control in the second quarter as it outscored the Hawks 15-5 and pulled away through the second half.

Sanborn Central-Woonsocket (24-2) got 23 points and eight rebounds from Myah Selland. The Hawks outrebounded the Chargers 28-20, but Sully Buttes shot 60 percent from the field.

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Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

State A Tournament

Seventh Place: Dell Rapids 59, Little Wound 54

Fifth Place: Hamlin 63, Madison 54

Third Place: Webster 57, Vermillion 37

Championship: St. Thomas More 47, Lennox 36

State B Tournament

Seventh Place: Avon 45, Timber Lake 41

Fifth: New Underwood 43, Parker 32

Third Place: Ethan 60, Warner 42

Championship: Sully Buttes 63, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 48

South Dakota lawmakers deal with ethics bills, short funds

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers navigated lower-than-anticipated tax collections to pass a lean state budget, capping a difficult legislative session dominated by the repeal and patchwork replacement of government-ethics regulations that voters imposed in November.

Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard spent part of Friday signing a raft of ethics bills into law before lawmakers closed out the main part of the 2017 session. The replacement measures captured the best of the voter initiative while "avoiding the worst," said Daugaard, who signed off on killing the overhaul last month.

The defunct ballot measure instituted a public campaign finance system, created an ethics commission and tightened campaign finance and lobbying laws. GOP lawmakers contended those provisions were unconstitutional. The embattled law wasn't in effect as Republicans were challenging it in court.

In its place, the governor signed proposals to create a narrower government watchdog board, impose less-strict limitations on the gifts that officials can accept from lobbyists and re-instate a two-year ban on private lobbying for many after they leave state government. Lawmakers have passed other ethics bills including a task force to study campaign finance.

The divisive repeal — one day an airplane circled the Capitol for hours with a banner that read "Shame on you! Respect our vote!" — followed a rocky start to session. Within two weeks of the Jan. 10 opening, a Republican lawmaker who admitted having sexual contact with two interns had resigned.

Members dealt with sluggish state tax collections caused by low inflation, less spending in the farm economy and e-commerce transactions that avoid sales taxes. Before heading home, lawmakers passed a state budget for the upcoming fiscal year that includes roughly \$1.59 billion in general state spending, nearly \$30 million — or about 1.7 percent — below the budget plan Daugaard proposed in December.

"We got the balanced budget," House Majority Leader Lee Qualm said. "Now, I understand there's some people who wish we could have spent more, but we did a lot of work."

Even with the austerity, lawmakers did approve creative funding for key upgrades — with a full price tag of well over \$50 million — to the Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, which does daily food safety tests and diagnostics for disease in pigs, cattle and other livestock. It's largely being funded by a plan from agriculture groups to redirect property tax relief for agricultural land to the project.

Ahead of possible protests over the Keystone XL oil pipeline, the Legislature agreed to make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for someone to stand in the highway to stop traffic or to trespass in a posted emergency area. The bill was a scaled-back version of a measure the governor championed amid concerns about large demonstrations like the ones in North Dakota over the Dakota Access pipeline.

Filed under fights averted, a bill that would have restricted which locker rooms transgender students could use was scuttled before it had its first hearing. Last year, Daugaard vetoed a broader bill that included bathrooms.

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This year, Daugaard did sign into law broad legal protections for faith-based organizations that refuse based on their religious beliefs to place children in certain households.

The Legislature will return to Pierre March 27 to decide whether to accept or override any vetoes that come from the governor.

Lawmakers are expected to take on a pair of likely vetoes of bills that would allow guns in the state Capitol and let people carry concealed handguns without a permit.

The Capitol carry bill — which would allow people who have an enhanced permit to carry in the building — came with a memorable moment this year when a House lawmaker whose committee was debating it hit a panic button just to see how quickly authorities would respond.

Republican Rep. Lynne DiSanto, who sponsored the constitutional carry bill, said supporters are prepared to try to override a veto.

“If the bill does not go into law, we will be back next year twice as hard,” she said. “This issue will not be going away any time soon.”

Tough budget, ethics bills big in South Dakota 2017 session

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Legislature ended the main part of the 2017 session after passing a state budget hamstrung by lower-than-expected tax collections. The repeal and partial replacement of a voter-imposed government ethics overhaul also dominated discussions at the Capitol.

Here’s a look at some of the issues lawmakers considered this year:

ETHICS INITIATIVES

Republican lawmakers repealed a ballot measure that created a public campaign finance system, established an ethics panel and tightened lobbying and campaign finance laws. They argued that the initiative campaign was deceptive and said that the measure was likely unconstitutional.

Lawmakers passed bills intended to replace provisions of the initiative, but supporters of the ethics overhaul say that the Legislature’s replacements fall short of what the voters passed.

SCANDAL

Not long after the session’s start, a lawmaker who admitted to having sexual contact with two interns resigned. Former Republican Rep. Mathew Wollmann said that both interns were over age 21 and that the contact during the 2015 and 2016 sessions was consensual.

STATE FUNDING

Lawmakers dealt with lower-than-anticipated revenues when crafting a state budget for fiscal year 2018. It includes roughly \$1.59 billion in general state spending — nearly \$30 million lower than Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s December budget plan. Still, lawmakers managed to give minor increases for education and providers, and roughly \$1 million in additional money for the state employee health plan.

ANIMAL LAB

Even with the austerity, lawmakers did approve creative funding for key upgrades — with a full price tag of well over \$50 million — to the Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory. It’s largely being funded by a plan from agriculture groups to redirect property tax relief for agricultural land to the project.

PROTEST BILL

Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s public safety bill addressing potential oil pipeline protests in South Dakota is on his desk. The administration says the measure is based on lessons North Dakota officials learned from large demonstrations over the Dakota Access pipeline.

BALLOT CASH

After an election season with 10 ballot questions that attracted millions of dollars from out-of-state

groups, lawmakers weighed — but didn't pass — a pair of avant-garde bills that would have placed new regulations on ballot measure campaigns. One would have forced nonprofit advocacy groups to reveal top donors if the groups contributed significant sums of money to initiative campaigns, while the other would have restricted the flow of out-of-state money into the races.

DIVISIVE BILLS

Averting a repeat of last year's fight over transgender students, a bill that would have restricted which locker rooms transgender students could use was scuttled. But, the governor did approve new legal protections for adoption agencies and foster groups that cite religious reasons for denying services.

GUNS

Two concealed-carry bills are likely to offer a chance to override expected vetoes from Dugaard when lawmakers return to the Capitol later this month. One would allow people who have an enhanced permit to bring concealed handguns into the Capitol, while the other would let people who can legally carry a concealed handgun in South Dakota to do so without a permit.

Semi rollover kills passenger, sends driver to hospital

BUFFALO, S.D. (AP) — One person died and another was injured in a one-vehicle crash south of Buffalo, near the South Dakota and North Dakota border.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a 24-year-old man lost control of a 2005 Freightliner semi-tractor he was driving without a trailer. The Friday morning crash killed a 60-year-old passenger, who was not wearing a seatbelt and was partially ejected from the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver was transported to a hospital in Bowman, North Dakota, for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

The names of the two men have not been released.

Ousted S. Korea leader arrives back home, expresses defiance

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Ousted South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Sunday expressed defiance toward the corruption allegations against her as she vacated the presidential palace and returned to her home two days after the Constitutional Court removed her from office.

In her first public comments since the court's ruling, Park said in statement, "Although it will take time, I believe the truth will certainly come out."

Park will likely face a direct investigation soon by prosecutors who already consider her a criminal suspect over suspicions that she colluded with a confidante to extort money and favors from companies and allowed the friend to secretly interfere with state affairs.

Upon her return home, Park was greeted by hundreds of supporters who thunderously chanted her name and waved the South Korean flag as her bodyguard-flanked black sedan slowly rolled into a path near the house. Park smiled and waved from inside the car and then got out and exchanged brief words with members of her party before going inside the house.

In her statement, which was read to reporters by Min Kyungwook, a lawmaker from her political party and also her former spokesman, Park expressed gratitude to her supporters and apologized for "failing to fulfill my duty as president."

Prior to Sunday, she earlier had apologized for putting trust in her jailed friend, Choi Soon-sil, but strongly denied any legal wrongdoing.

The Constitutional Court formally removed Park from office on Friday, upholding an impeachment motion filed by lawmakers in December, which followed weeks of massive protests by millions of people calling for her ouster.

The ruling ended a power struggle that had consumed the nation for months and marked a stunning

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downfall for Park, who convincingly defeated her liberal opponent in 2012 with overwhelming support from older South Koreans, who remembered her dictator father as a hero.

Park no longer has immunity from prosecution and may face criminal charges including extortion, bribery and abuse of power.

Hundreds of Park's supporters stood near her private home for hours on Sunday before she vacated the Blue House. They waved the South Korean flag and photos of Park and her late father, Park Chung-hee, singing the national anthem and shouting "Nullify impeachment!"

Workers were earlier seen unloading a television, washing machine, bed and other household items from trucks and carrying them into Park's house.

South Korea now has to elect a new president by early May. Opinion polls show liberal Moon Jae-in, who lost to Park in 2012, as the favorite to become the country's next leader.

House committee wants evidence for Trump's wiretap claim

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House intelligence committee is asking the Trump administration for evidence that the phones at Trump Tower were tapped during the campaign as its namesake has charged.

President Donald Trump asserted in a tweet last week: "Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!" He continued the allegation against former President Barack Obama in other tweets but offered no evidence.

On Saturday a senior congressional aide said the request for evidence by Monday was made in a letter sent by the committee chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., and the panel's ranking Democrat, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., according to the aide, who wasn't authorized to discuss the request by name and requested anonymity.

Obama's director of national intelligence, James Clapper, has said that nothing matching Trump's claims had taken place, but that has not quelled speculation that Trump's communications were monitored by the Obama administration. Trump has asked Congress to investigate.

Early this week, Schiff said the committee would answer the president's call to investigate the claim. He also said that he would ask FBI Director James Comey directly when he appears later this month before the full committee, which is investigating Russian activities during the election.

"We should be able to determine in fairly short order whether this allegation is true or false," Schiff told reporters Tuesday evening at the Capitol.

Nunes has said that so far he has not seen any evidence to back up Trump's claim and has suggested the news media were taking the president's weekend tweets too literally.

"The president is a neophyte to politics — he's been doing this a little over a year," Nunes told reporters earlier this week.

Other lawmakers have asked for similar evidence.

Declaring that Congress "must get to the bottom" of Trump's claim, Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., asked Comey and Acting Deputy Attorney General Dana Boente to produce the paper trail created when the Justice Department's criminal division secures warrants for wiretaps.

Libya's deepening split finds battleground at oil terminals

By BRIAN ROHAN, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Hundreds if not thousands of armed men are converging on Libya's main oil shipping terminals, which the rival powers in the country's east and west are fighting to control in a battle being watched by global oil markets.

The struggle for the Ras Lanuf refinery and nearby Sidr depot threatens to spiral into an all-out conflict between east and west. Already, it has seen the bloodiest fighting yet between the two camps: Around 40 troops from the east were killed over four days as militias backed by western factions stormed the area last Friday, losing a handful of casualties.

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Now forces from the east loyal to military strongman Khalifa Hifter are massing nearby, threatening a new assault to wrest back the facilities, which are nominally in the hands of the Tripoli government.

In another worrying step, the eastern parliament on Tuesday voted to withdraw support from the United Nations peace deal that created the Tripoli government in January 2016 in hopes of ending years of chaos in the North African country. The withdrawal of support further undermines the government, which has had difficulty asserting authority even in Tripoli.

The following is a look at the Libyan players, the oil terminals at the center of the fight and what could happen next:

THE EAST

Hifter, an army general, former CIA asset and U.S. citizen who lived nearly 20 years in American exile, is the most powerful figure in the east, touting himself as the champion against Islamic militants in Libya — though his enemies accuse him of aiming to become a new dictator like Moammar Gadhafi, who was overthrown and killed in the country's 2011 Arab Spring revolt. He has talked of marching to take Tripoli to unite the country, hinting that he aims to rule. He opposed the government set up by the U.N. peace deal because it would have pushed him out as head of the military.

The general is backed by Egypt and Russia, but Washington under the Obama administration kept him at arm's length. One key question in his future will be whether the U.S. warms up to him under President Donald Trump, who has sounded more favorable to Egypt and more open to dealing with regional strongmen.

He commands a collection of militias and eastern tribal forces as well as the remnants of the Libyan National Army, including Gadhafi-era officers. Hifter is also allied to the eastern-based parliament, which was the last legislature to be elected in Libya and had to flee east when opponents took over the west in 2014.

Hifter's forces seized the oil facilities last year. The Obama administration had joined the U.N. in calling on him to hand them over to the Tripoli government. Hifter had seemed more inclined to use them as a bargaining chip to force a rewriting of the peace accord.

But now that they have been wrested from him by force, he may resort instead to an all-out fight against Tripoli. His army says it is massing forces east of the terminals, awaiting orders. Their strength is unclear but they can call on reserves of thousands of eastern Libyan fighters and tribesmen and are backed by Libyan and foreign air support. Hifter travels regularly to Cairo and insiders have said he flew there shortly after losing control of the terminals.

THE WEST

The Tripoli government was created under the U.N. deal in hopes of ending the east-west split. Instead, it has become just another player in that divide, reliant on its militia allies to have any authority.

Chief among those allies are the militias of the neighboring city of Misrata, the strongest and most cohesive fighting force in the west. The Misrata militias provide security for the Tripoli government and it was they who earlier this year captured the Islamic State group's main stronghold, Sirte, effectively defeating for now the extremists' attempt to extend their caliphate to Libya.

The international community has tried to bolster the Tripoli government — particularly Italy, which is heavily invested in Libya's oil sector and has a military presence in the capital in the form of an army hospital that treated Misrata fighters during the battle against IS.

It was a newly formed militia that retook the oil facilities at Ras Lanouf and Sidr. The Benghazi Defense Brigades, as it is called, depicts itself as an eastern-based force, made up of former rebels and Islamic militants recently defeated by Hifter's forces in the eastern city of Benghazi. But it is clearly linked to the west, with some Misrata fighters in its ranks — and its commanders recently held a press conference in Misrata.

The Brigades handed the oil facilities over to the control of the Tripoli government, which has ordered its National Petroleum Guards under Brig. Gen. Idris Abukhamada — the official guard force for oil infrastructure — to deploy at the sites.

OIL IMPACT

Oil prices have dropped over the past week because of growing U.S. supplies, frustrating OPEC attempts

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to bolster the price by curbing production. While the supply glut is the biggest factor dominating the market, the Libya fighting has potential to put some upward pressure on prices.

It did so when the Brigades took Ras Lanouf and Sidr last week, forcing the shutdown of the maritime export terminals there, Libya's largest. That spooked the markets, causing a brief blip of higher prices. The facilities remain closed, causing some reduction in Libya's production, which in February had reached 700,000 barrels a day.

Oil is Libya's only real source of revenue, and it has been trying to rebuild the industry, though it remains but a shadow of the 1.6 billion barrels a day produced in 2011. While the oil facilities have changed hands several times over the past years, the revenues have continued to flow into the central bank based in Tripoli, an arrangement accepted by all parties that for the moment is not in doubt.

Heavier fighting at the facilities could further scare traders, especially if infrastructure is damaged.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN NEXT

The ball appears to be in Hifter's court. His forces could face only weak opposition if they stormed Ras Lanouf and Sidr, protected only by the official oil guard units.

But the impact could be much wider.

Until now, the powers in east and west have largely avoided fighting directly, instead battling through proxies. Storming the oil facilities would be a direct assault by Hifter on the internationally backed Tripoli government since it officially holds them now. Hifter would likely be seen as flouting the United Nations and European countries, which have called for a cease-fire.

That opens the door to further possible escalations. How far Hifter goes depends on whether he finds international supporters, but he could try to carry out his threats to move against Tripoli, pitting him against Misrata's powerful fighters.

Now-fired Preet Bharara boasts of 'absolute independence'

By LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A defiant Manhattan federal prosecutor who says "absolute independence" was his touchstone for over seven years as he battled public corruption announced he was fired Saturday after he refused to resign.

Preet Bharara, 48, revealed his firing on his personal Twitter account. Several hours later, it was learned President Donald Trump had reached out through a secretary on his staff to Bharara on Thursday but the two men never spoke.

The attempted contact — described by a person told about the conversations who requested anonymity — continued the unusual dynamic between Trump and the high profile prosecutor that stretched to Nov. 30, when Bharara emerged from a Trump Tower meeting with Trump to say the then-president-elect had asked him to stay on the job.

The person who requested anonymity because of the talks' private nature said the secretary late Thursday left a voicemail asking Bharara to call back. Bharara reported the call to Sessions' chief of staff, Joseph "Jody" Hunt, who agreed it was best that Bharara not speak directly with Trump, the person said. Bharara then called the White House, telling the secretary he had spoken to the Justice Department and it was agreed he and Trump should not speak.

Bharara was informed he was fired by Dana Boente, the acting deputy attorney general, shortly after it became widely known that he did not intend to step down in response to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' request that leftover appointees of former President Barack Obama quit.

"I did not resign. Moments ago I was fired," Bharara said in a tweet.

In a statement later, he said: "Serving my country as U.S. Attorney here for the past seven years will forever be the greatest honor of my professional life, no matter what else I do or how long I live. One hallmark of justice is absolute independence, and that was my touchstone every day that I served."

He said current Deputy U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim will serve as acting U.S. attorney.

The Justice Department late Saturday confirmed Bharara was no longer U.S. attorney but declined to

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expound.

Meanwhile, Michigan Rep. John Conyers, the House Judiciary Committee's top Democrat, requested Saturday that the committee receive a summary of probes linked to Trump, whether they touch on his administration, transition, campaign and organization, "so that we can understand the full implications of this weekend's firings."

He said he suspected Bharara "could be reviewing a range of potential improper activity emanating from Trump Tower and the Trump campaign, as well as entities with financial ties to the president or the Trump organization."

Bharara was appointed by former President Barack Obama in 2009. In frequent public appearances, Bharara has decried public corruption after successfully prosecuting over a dozen state lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans alike.

Sessions' decision to include Bharara's name on the list of 46 resignations of holdovers from the Obama administration surprised Manhattan prosecutors.

While it is customary for a new president to replace virtually all of the 93 U.S. attorneys, it often occurs at a slower pace. Sessions lost his position as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Alabama in a similar sweep by then-Attorney General Janet Reno in 1993.

Robert Morgenthau, a Democratic U.S. attorney in Manhattan, famously held out for nearly a year after Republican President Richard Nixon's 1969 inauguration, saying he needed to see some important cases through. He ultimately left in January 1970, after the White House declared he was being replaced and announced a nominee.

New York Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat, said in a statement Friday that he was "troubled to learn" of the resignation demands, particularly of Bharara, since Trump called him in November and assured him he wanted Bharara to remain in place.

Bharara met Trump Nov. 30, saying afterward he'd been asked to remain in the job. Bharara, once lauded on the cover of Time magazine as the man who is "busting Wall Street" after successfully prosecuting dozens of insider traders, has in recent years gone after over a dozen state officeholders, — including New York's two most powerful lawmakers.

It also recently was revealed that his office is investigating the financial terms of settlements of sexual-harassment claims against Fox News by its employees.

The request from Sessions came as Bharara's office is prosecuting former associates of Democratic Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo in a bribery case. Also, prosecutors recently interviewed New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio as part of a probe into his fundraising. The mayor's press secretary has said the mayor is cooperating and that he and his staff had acted appropriately.

The request for resignations came after Trump last weekend claimed Obama tapped his telephones during last year's election. FBI Director James Comey privately asked the Justice Department to dispute the claim because he believed the allegations were false. Bharara worked for Comey when he was U.S. attorney in Manhattan under President George W. Bush.

Annemarie McAvoy, a former Brooklyn federal prosecutor, said it was not surprising Trump might want Bharara gone since there's a good chance any subpoena seeking information about Trump campaign links to Russians would go through his office. She said it was also possible Trump wanted "to take out as many people as they can in the prior administration given the leaks and problems that they're having."

Last week, the quick-witted Bharara initiated a new personal Twitter feed and sent an ominous message in which he linked an AP video of a Senate hearing focusing on whether federal prosecutors were fired for political reasons.

"This Senate hearing on political interference @DOJ was 10 yrs ago today," Bharara wrote. "Is that me in the background? Boy I've aged."

Associated Press writers Sadie Gurman and Julie Pace in Washington and Jennifer Peltz in New York contributed to this report.

Turkey-Dutch relations shatter after Turkish visits banned

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

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — The escalating dispute between NATO allies Turkey and the Netherlands hit a new low Sunday, with a Turkish minister escorted out of the country less than a day after Turkey's foreign minister was denied entry, prompting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to call the Dutch "Nazi remnants."

The diplomatic clash was over plans by Turkish government officials to campaign in the Netherlands for a referendum back home. Family and Social Policies Minister Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya had arrived in the country from Germany but was prevented from entering Turkey's diplomatic compound in Rotterdam, setting up a standoff with armed police. She was later sent under escort back to Germany.

As she was approaching the German border, Kaya wrote that "the whole world must take action against this fascist practice! Such a treatment against a woman minister cannot be accepted."

The Dutch were equally angry and Prime Minister Mark Rutte called Erdogan's Nazi comment "a crazy remark," while Rotterdam mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb said the Turkish consul general was guilty of a "scandalous deception" after he allegedly denied that the minister was coming despite government warnings to stay away.

"He lied to us and didn't tell the truth," the mayor said. "The deception worsened when they drove in different columns to Rotterdam" to try to fool Dutch authorities.

Hundreds of pro-Turkey protesters scuffled with police into the night in Rotterdam.

The diplomatic clash with Kaya came after Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu was barred from landing in the Netherlands on Saturday and Turkish officials closed off the Dutch Embassy and called its ambassador no longer welcome.

The Dutch barred Cavusoglu from entering because of objections to his intention to attend a rally in Rotterdam for a referendum on constitutional reforms to expand Erdogan's powers, which the Dutch see as a step backward from democracy. Turkish officials have been campaigning in various European cities with Turkish populations before the April 16 vote.

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

Erdogan told a rally in Istanbul that the Dutch "do not know politics or international diplomacy." He compared them to "Nazi remnants, they are fascists."

Erdogan had earlier this month already compared German policies to "Nazi practices," after German municipalities canceled several campaign events by Turkish officials last weekend.

He told a rally in Istanbul Saturday: "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."

In the evening, a Turkish foreign ministry official who spoke on customary anonymity said the Dutch Embassy in Ankara and its consulate in Istanbul were closed off because of security reasons.

The official said entries and exits were closed to the two locations. Similar precautions were taken at the Dutch charge d'affaires' house and the ambassador's residence.

The Turkish foreign ministry also said that it doesn't want to see the Dutch ambassador, who is out of the country, return to his post for some time because of the increasingly divisive dispute with the Netherlands.

In a written statement early Sunday, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said his country will strongly respond to the Dutch actions.

"There will be a stronger reprisal against the unacceptable treatment toward Turkey and ministers who have diplomatic immunity," Yildirim said.

Cavusoglu said he arrived in Metz, France, late Saturday, where he was expected to address crowds on Sunday.

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

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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 next Wednesday 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.

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?"

Zeynep Bilginsoy reported from Istanbul.

Storm to hit Northeast; blizzard watch for NYC, Boston

By KAREN MATTHEWS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sunny days and T-shirt-wearing temperatures made it appear winter had made an early exit. But it's not finished with us yet — at least in the Northeast where a powerful storm with high winds and up to a foot of snow is expected next week.

Forecasters at the National Weather Service said Saturday there's a blizzard watch for coastal regions including New York City and Boston for Monday night into Tuesday. There also is a winter storm watch for a larger area that includes much of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, upstate New York and New England.

The severe weather comes just a week after the region saw temperatures climb into the 60s in what looked like a sign of balmy spring. The chilly weather and snow some areas got on Friday was just a teaser.

"It's a noticeable difference. It's going to be a cold week," said Brian Hurley, a meteorologist at the weather service's Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland.

Hurley said the forecast for severe weather is mostly confined to the eastern U.S., north of Washington, D.C.

The blizzard watch for the New York metro area encompasses New York City along with Long Island, coastal Connecticut and southern Westchester County.

Carlie Buccola, a weather service meteorologist based on Long Island, said a snowfall of 12 to 18 inches is predicted for the area along with sustained winds up to 30 mph with gusts up to 50 mph. Visibility could be a quarter mile or less, Buccola said.

Other areas, including the lower Hudson Valley and northeastern New Jersey, also could get 12 to 18 inches of snow, she said. Those areas are not under a blizzard watch because high winds and low visibility are not expected.

Those blizzard conditions are possible in southern Rhode Island and coastal Massachusetts from Boston to Plymouth.

Washington is not officially under a winter storm watch but Hurley said it's possible the city could get 4 to 8 inches of snow.

S. Korea mulls constitutional overhaul following Park ouster

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean politicians want to ensure that the country never again sees a leader like Park Geun-hye, who was booted from office over an explosive corruption scandal.

But they are far apart on whether doing so would require rewriting the country's 3-decade-old constitution, a treasured symbol of the bloody transition from dictatorship to democracy.

Several parties, including conservatives scrambling to distance themselves from Park, say South Koreans should vote in a new constitution in addition to a new president in early May. They say the shocking downfall of Park, who may face criminal charges over extortion and bribery, shows that the constitution

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places too much power that is easily abused and often goes unchecked into the hands of the president.

Their proposal for a new constitution is based on power-sharing, where the president is limited to handling foreign affairs and national security and leaves domestic affairs to a prime minister picked by parliament.

However, the party of liberal Moon Jae-in, whose opinion polls show as the clear favorite to become South Korea's next leader, opposes a quick constitutional revision and accuses rival parties of plotting a short-cut to power.

The discussions about rewriting the constitution are ironic in that they come after a historic effort to protect it. Lawmakers voted to impeach Park in December on grounds that she "gravely violated" the constitution written in 1987, after the government of military strongman Chun Doo-hwan caved in to months of massive protests and accepted demands for presidential elections.

The debate also raises a fundamental question for South Koreans as they mull a new political landscape following Park's demise: Was it a flawed, imperious presidential system that allowed Park to abuse her powers, or a culture that long treated elected heads of states like kings?

The future of the constitution has instantly emerged as a major political topic after the Constitutional Court removed Park on Friday and triggered a two-month presidential race.

Kweon Seong Dong, a lawmaker from the conservative Bareun party and chief prosecutor in Park's impeachment trial, touted his party's line immediately after the ruling.

"We need a constitutional revision based on power-sharing," Kweon said. "Absolute power absolutely corrupts."

Critics refuse to see the court's decision to uphold Park's impeachment as proof that the constitution works as it is. They include none other than one of the court's justices, Ahn Changho.

In a supplementary opinion written into Park's ruling, Ahn found the constitution responsible for an "imperial presidency" that breeds "deplorable political customs," such as abuse of power and corruptive ties with the country's biggest companies, which have a tradition of bribing politicians for business favors.

Ahn said the president simply has too much power over the appointment of government officials, making of laws and policies, budget planning and other decisions, which lawmakers find difficult to check for most of the single five-year term.

"Our country has a winner-takes-it-all representative system where those who win an election, even by just one vote, obtain imperial political power and those who don't get swept to the side and are neglected," Ahn wrote.

A constitutional change would need the support of two-thirds of the 300-seat parliament and then pass a national referendum.

Moon, who's likely to be the presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, the largest in parliament, says he is open to discussions about constitutional revision, but opposes any changes that take place before or simultaneously with the upcoming presidential election.

He says that two months is too short to properly rewrite the constitution, which not only lays out fundamental principles for power and governance, but also defines the basic rights of citizens.

Besides proposing power-sharing between the president and prime minister, the parties backing a constitutional overhaul also call for the next president's term to be reduced to three years so that a presidential vote can coincide with a parliamentary election in 2020. By then, the parties want a president to be able to serve two four-year terms or a six-year single term.

Some experts question whether South Korea's Constitution is really at fault for power-drunk presidents.

On paper, it seems that the South Korean president domestically has significantly less power than, say, the president of the United States. The South Korean president can't issue executive orders without the consent of lawmakers. The president does appoint a large number of government officials, but needs lawmakers' approval when seating the prime minister, Seoul's No. 2 job.

It's hard to say a system for checks and balances isn't there when lawmakers and a court just combined to kick out a sitting president. This wasn't the first time South Korean lawmakers tried to remove a president either, although the Constitutional Court reinstated late President Roh Moo-hyun in 2004.

Perhaps, Park's saga is less of a reflection of the country's constitution than of a rigidly hierarchical culture, where people find it extremely difficult to disobey instructions from above, even when they are inappropriate or unlawful.

The scandal has inspired Democratic Party lawmaker Ki Dong-min to propose a law he says is aimed at allowing government workers to refuse "unjust" orders from their bosses. But when a society needs a special law so that people could avoid breaking other laws, then probably laws aren't what the problem is about.

"South Korea's imperial president wasn't created by laws, but by custom and culture," Won-Ho Park, a Seoul National University politics professor, wrote in a newspaper column.

"The secret to why our president can influence so many things, even the appointment of public university presidents or the personnel decisions of private companies, could perhaps be found in our culture that calls presidential authority as the 'great power' and presidential contenders 'hidden dragons,'" he said.

Follow Kim Tong-hyung at www.twitter.com/KimTongHyung

Trump praises arrest of 'troubled person' at White House

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

POTOMAC FALLS, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday praised the U.S. Secret Service for doing a "fantastic job" apprehending a "troubled person" who climbed a fence and was approaching a south entrance to the White House while Trump was inside the executive mansion.

It was the first known security breach at the White House since Trump took office nearly two months ago.

Washington, D.C., police identified the intruder as Jonathan Tran, 26, of Milpitas, California.

When approached by a Secret Service officer on the south grounds about 11:38 p.m. Friday and asked whether he had a pass authorizing him to be in the restricted area, Tran replied, "No, I am a friend of the president. I have an appointment," the police report said.

Asked how he got there, he said he "jumped the fence."

The Secret Service said in a statement that the intruder, whom it did not identify, had climbed an outer perimeter fence near the Treasury Department and East Executive Avenue. He was arrested without further incident, the agency said.

Authorities found two cans of Mace on Tran, including one inside his jacket pocket, according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court. Tran was also carrying a U.S. passport, an Apple laptop computer, a book written by Trump and a letter he had written to the president, the complaint said.

"Secret Service did a fantastic job last night," Trump said Saturday from his golf club in Northern Virginia. He described the intruder as a "troubled person" and the situation as "very sad." Trump was briefed on the matter Friday night, said his spokesman, Sean Spicer.

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly was also briefed on the incident, the Secret Service said. Kelly was among several Cabinet secretaries and senior White House staff members who attended a working lunch with the president at the Trump National Golf Club.

In the letter found on Tran, he mentioned "Russian hackers" and said he had information of relevance, according to the criminal complaint. He alleged that he had been followed, that his phone and email communications had been read by third parties, and that he has been called schizophrenic.

The Secret Service said a search of the north and south White House grounds found "nothing of concern to security operations." Standard practice is to turn intruders over to the local police department.

Video surveillance footage shows Tran jumping a fence near the Treasury Department adjacent to the White House security fence, the complaint said. At one point, Tran is seen hiding behind a White House pillar before proceeding to the South Portico entrance.

Friday's security breach follows a series of similar lapses that took place during the eight years that Barack Obama was president. An especially embarrassing breach came in September 2014 when an Army

veteran with mental health issues scaled a fence on the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the White House and made it deep inside the building, to the East Room, before the Secret Service could detain him.

The Obamas were not at home at the time. The incident was one of several breakdowns by the Secret Service that ultimately led to the resignation of the agency's director, Julia Pierson, the following month. Trump has to find someone new to lead the agency: Joseph Clancy, a former agent who came out of retirement to succeed Pierson and stabilize the law enforcement agency, announced his second retirement last month.

Trump said he brought the Cabinet secretaries, White House staff and some of their spouses to the club for a working lunch to discuss the military, the economy, health care and other issues.

Besides Kelly, joining Trump were Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, White House chief of staff Reince Priebus, chief strategist Steve Bannon and Spicer. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was absent.

"We're having some great discussions," Trump said. "The economy is doing very, very well. Generally speaking we're doing very well." He talked about inheriting "a mess" when he took office, but said everything would be "straightened out fast."

Associated Press writer Matt Barakat in McLean, Virginia, contributed to this report.

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Pence appeals for complete GOP support for health overhaul

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence appealed for total GOP congressional support for a White House-backed health overhaul during a brief visit Saturday to Kentucky, where the Republican governor and junior senator are among the plan's skeptics.

"This is going to be a battle in Washington, D.C. And for us to seize this opportunity to repeal and replace Obamacare once and for all, we need every Republican in Congress, and we're counting on Kentucky," Pence said at an energy company where business leaders had gathered.

He said President Donald Trump would lean on House Republicans — including two Kentucky lawmakers in the audience, Reps. Andy Barr and Brett Guthrie — to vote to replace former President Barack Obama's law.

Pence's trip was part of an effort to reassure conservatives who have raised objections to the House plan. In a sign of the high stakes, Pence's motorcade passed a long line of demonstrators who chanted, "Save our care."

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

The former Indiana governor has been the chief salesman for Trump's push to jettison the Affordable Care Act. The House is expected to vote on the bill in less than two weeks, but faces resistance from critics within the GOP, including Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who has called the initial draft "Obamacare Lite."

Even before the legislation was released, Paul placed a copy machine outside the room where House Republicans were drafting the bill and asked for a copy — all to draw attention to the secrecy of the plan.

GOP Gov. Matt Bevin has said his state cannot afford to pay for a growing Medicaid program, which has cost Kentucky 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 told reporters Friday that, like Paul, he was not impressed with the initial proposal in the House.

But on Saturday he said that while there were different views on how to change the law, "ultimately these differences of opinion will be rectified." He said all could agree that "change has to come — the system is broken."

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"Now I know that not every politician in Kentucky supports our plan," Pence said, mentioning former Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear but neither Paul nor Bevin.

After greeting Pence at the airport, Bevin and his children and their friend got an impromptu tour of Air Force Two, and Pence later told business leaders: "I was for Matt Bevin before it was cool."

Democrats have praised 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.

The event at the Harshaw Trane facility was in the hometown of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., whom Pence praised as "a true friend to me, to our president, and to the people of America." McConnell, however, did not attend due to a scheduling conflict.

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

Dream on, but just make it somewhat snappier this weekend

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dream on. Just make it snappier this weekend.

In most of the United States, you're on the clock to lose an hour's sleep Saturday night. The trade-off: gaining more evening light in the months ahead, when the weather warms and you want to be outdoors.

Daylight saving time officially was re-emerging at 2 a.m. local time Sunday.

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 Nov. 5.

Daylight saving time covers 238 days, or about 65 percent of the year, according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is part of the Commerce Department.

Online:

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

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, March 12, the 71st day of 2017. There are 294 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 12, 1947, President Harry S. Truman announced what became known as the "Truman Doctrine" to help Greece and Turkey resist Communism.

On this date:

In 1857, the original version of Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Simon Boccanegra" was poorly received at its premiere in Venice, Italy. (Verdi offered a revised version in 1881.)

In 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA had its beginnings as Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Georgia, founded the first American troop of the Girl Guides.

In 1925, Chinese revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen died.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his 30 radio addresses that came to be known as "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.

In 1938, the Anschluss merging Austria with Nazi Germany took place as German forces crossed the border between the two countries.

In 1940, Finland and the Soviet Union concluded an armistice during World War II. (Fighting between the two countries flared again the following year.)

In 1951, "Dennis the Menace," created by cartoonist Hank Ketcham, made its syndicated debut in 16 newspapers.

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In 1967, Gen. Suharto became Acting President of Indonesia, replacing President Sukarno.

In 1971, Hafez Assad was confirmed as president of Syria in a referendum.

In 1980, a Chicago jury found John Wayne Gacy Jr. guilty of the murders of 33 men and boys. (The next day, Gacy was sentenced to death; he was executed in May 1994.)

In 1993, Janet Reno was sworn in as the first female U.S. attorney general. A three-day blizzard that came to be known as "The Storm of the Century" began inundating the eastern third of the U.S. A series of bombings in Mumbai, India, killed 257 people (the explosions were allegedly masterminded by India's most wanted man, Dawood Ibrahim).

In 2003, Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who vanished from her bedroom nine months earlier, was found alive in a Salt Lake City suburb with two drifters, Brian David Mitchell and Wanda Barzee, who are serving prison terms for kidnapping her.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush promoted free trade as a salve to Latin America's woes as he spoke out against poverty during a visit to Guatemala; the president then traveled to Mexico. Masked Palestinians kidnapped BBC reporter Alan Johnston at gunpoint in Gaza City. (He was released several months later.) R.E.M. and Van Halen were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: A day after the massacre of 16 Afghan civilians by a U.S. soldier, President Barack Obama called the episode "absolutely tragic and heartbreaking," while Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called it "inexplicable." Greece implemented the biggest debt write-down in history, swapping the bulk of its privately-held bonds with new ones worth less than half their original value.

One year ago: Ted Cruz won most of the delegates at stake in Republican county conventions in Wyoming; Marco Rubio won the GOP presidential caucuses in Washington, D.C. A 26-year-old man was taken into custody on suspicion of crashing his snowmobile into two Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race teams, killing one dog and injuring at least three others; Arnold Demoski later pleaded guilty to assault, reckless endangerment and driving under the influence.

Today's Birthdays: Politician, diplomat and civil rights activist Andrew Young is 85. Actress Barbara Feldon is 84. Broadcast journalist Lloyd Dobyns is 81. Actress-singer Liza Minnelli is 71. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is 70. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 69. Former Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., is 69. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 68. Actor Jon Provost (TV: "Lassie") is 67. Author Carl Hiaasen (HY'-ah-sihn) is 64. Rock musician Steve Harris (Iron Maiden) is 61. Actor Jerry Levine is 60. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 60. Actor Jason Beghe is 57. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 57. Actor Titus Welliver is 56. Former MLB All-Star Darryl Strawberry is 55. Actress Julia Campbell is 54. Actor Jake Weber is 54. Actor Aaron Eckhart is 49. CNN reporter Jake Tapper is 48. Rock musician Graham Coxon is 48. Country musician Tommy Bales (Flynnville Train) is 44. Actor Rhys Coiro is 38. Country singer Holly Williams is 36. Actor Samm (cq) Levine is 35. Actress Jaimie Alexander is 33. Actor Tyler Patrick Jones is 23. Actress Kendall Applegate is 18.

Thought for Today: "Home' is any four walls that enclose the right person." — Helen Rowland, American writer, journalist and humorist (1876-1950).