

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Wednesday, March 29

**School Breakfast:** Boscus breakfast stick, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Lasagna hot dish, corn, romaine salad, fruit, tea bun.

**Senior Menu:** Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, California blend vegetables, lemon tart bar, whole wheat bread.

Large Group Music Contest in Aberdeen

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Lenten meal at 6 p.m. (League serves), Worship at 7 p.m.

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

**United Methodist, Groton:** Community Coffee Time from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with free coffee and rolls; Kid Zone at 3:30 p.m., Confirmation at 6 p.m., Lenten Service at 7 p.m. with coffee and dessert following.

## Thursday, March 30



### 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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### 2017 Groton Area Elementary

**Kindergarten Roundup (Screening) for children turning**

**5 on or before September 1, 2017**

**Friday, March 31**

Parents of children who will be turning 5 on or before September 1, 2017 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time. If your child is currently attending Junior Kindergarten they will not be screened.

Packets will be sent home this week with a scheduled time and additional paperwork that will need to be completed.

Kindergarten Roundup will take place at the Groton Area Elementary School. Please check in at the office.

**Sperry Stump Removal** Tyler: 605/216-8431  
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TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

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## Padfield steps down, Clocksene steps up as food service director

Chuck Padfield will be stepping down as the school's cook after 28 years on the job at Groton Area. Padfield presented his final report to the school board Tuesday night. This past week, the school lunch program had its federal inspection and Padfield said it was a very good report. Only a couple of minor issues were reported and will be taken care of. After an executive session, the board hired Brandon Clocksene to follow in Padfield's footsteps. Clocksene will be the new food service director for the upcoming school year.

At the beginning of the meeting, a group of people came to talk about the upcoming school projects. Corey Barber gave his talk about how the district could have saved \$1 million to \$2 million in the MS/HS project. Others said a brand new elementary school building should have been built instead of sticking a bunch of money into an older building.

Reports were also heard from Loren Bahr on transportation, Mike Nehls on custodial and Beth Gustafson on wellness and health services.

The music and band directors came to make their presentation on the proposed trip to Orlando.

A committee will be formed to review and study the progress of the current first grade class and make recommendations. There are 50 students in the first grade class.

The resignation of Brian Gravatt as bus driver was accepted and a request by the St. John's Lutheran Preschool to use a school bus for a trip to the Watertown Zoo on May 3 was approved.

## For Sale

City of Groton is taking sealed bids on 2 used John Deere 725 mowers, 250 lbs. of grass seed sold in bags of 50 lbs., and 3 propane cylinders-100 lb. until Mar 29. Send bid with your name to City Hall, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445 in envelope marked bid. Call 397-2690 for more info.



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## Argumentative Essays On the MS/HS Proposed Building Project Written by GHS Students

### By Jackson Cogley

Have you ever walked into a room and smelled sewer gas? I bet very few of you have and if you have, you know that it's not very pleasant is it? That is what it's like walking into Mrs. Seibel's room sometimes. In addition the Groton Area High School is getting very old and is not keeping up with the ways to teach. If we build the new school it will put our learning techniques into the 21st century. Today I am going to tell you why I think they should build a new school.

The class sizes in our school are growing. They are getting much bigger than what the class sizes were when the school was built. Some of the teachers are having trouble because if the class is too big they would have to bring in chairs for them to sit in because we wouldn't have the right amount of desks. To add to that some of things that our teachers would like to do in the classrooms like fun projects cannot be done do to how small a lot of the classrooms are.

The way education facilities are today is much different from when the school was built. Which means if the new school gets built we will be learning in a 21st century way. We would have things such as study steps and a genius bar.

When I come in the morning and I walk into Mrs. Seibel's room, the sewer smell overwhelms me and I am forced to cover my nose with my shirt. It's not just me that smells it it's the whole class that complains. One day it was so bad we had to go down to the gym and have class because the smell was so bad.

The bad side about building the new school is the cost. The cost of the school would be \$13.8 million. To pay that much money the taxpayers would have to pay more tax money. Farmers would be the ones who would have to pay the biggest cost of the school.

Today, I told you about the smell in Mrs. Seibel's room, how small the classrooms are, and what some of the new facilities we put us in the 21 Century for learning. Now, if you ever want to come visit our school, please join us but be prepared to smell sewer gas.

### by Paxton Bonn

Have you ever seen one of your friends get knocked down but then get back up again? Well if you have now imagine seeing that friend never get back up again; that friend could be some of the farmers in our community if we build this school it could destroy their lives. Most people are thinking of a better education instead of thinking of the people it could destroy. Today I am going to argue why we shouldn't build a new school.

In my opinion, building this new school shouldn't cost \$14 million. The architectural design of this building is absurd. I don't know a single student who cares about how the school looks until their in it, so why would we need a building that looks like it should be in a big city not a small town. The building should be as simplistic as possible, but still look appealing. Right now the building we have looks fine from the outside so they should copy that but just make it bigger.

Now onto the main reason on why I don't want this vote to pass, the property tax that we already pay would go up \$0.50 per acre. Now depending on how much land you own and how much that land is worth this could cost way too much especially in this economy where most farms are struggling due to low corn and cattle prices, and taxing them more would only hurt them.

On the other, most people will say the electrical, plumbing, and heating are bad, but does that mean we should build a brand new school? That's basically like saying well the heat's not working let's build a new house. Instead of building a brand new school we could just renovate it. That option would cost half of what they want to build the new building for.

In conclusion the new school is way too expensive and would be cheaper just to renovate, the taxes that would be in place would hurt only farmers and that is what the people in town aren't thinking about, so if you agree with me please vote down the building of a new school.

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## By Braden Freeman

From paint cracking off the walls to sewer smells the Groton Area High School needs to fix these problems and they found a way to do just that. If we are planning to build a new school we need to identify all of our problems with this school. In this essay you will learn about those problems and about why we should build a new school.

The first problem I will talk about is that we have found mice in classrooms and have found feces in the water fountain before. One day our water fountain was taken down but none of the students knew why, but the teachers did. That water fountain was replaced shortly after this incident. Also, some of the teachers have put down those sticky mice traps to stop mice from entering their classrooms.

The second problem is that the building is 82 years old! This building has been here since 1934 and is running out of its life expectancy. In some of the rooms the ceiling is falling apart. Additionally, in some of the rooms there are electricity problems and the teachers cannot stand it anymore! Paint is starting to chip off and everything is starting to wear out. Soon enough if we kept the old school we would be paying more to fix all the rooms than just building a new school.

The third problem is that the classrooms are way too small and it is hard for teachers to teach the large number of students. This is one of the teacher's worst nightmares ever! As teachers they need a lot of equipment and supplies for the school year, but it's hard to store all of these essential needs because they don't have enough space. Even the band room has a fairly difficult time storing instruments, music, and other things. This is one of the top priorities for teachers across the school.

The fourth problem is that there is a sewer smell. During the warm parts of the seasons there are sewer smells. This is a big problem because it causes some of the students not being able to concentrate due to the reeking smell.

The fifth problem is that there is heating and air conditioning problems which everyone knows about. Everyone relies on the blowers to either heat or cool them. In the winter it either doesn't work at all or it blows out cold air to where everyone freezes. In addition, in the summer it either blows out way too much cold air to where everyone is freezing or warm air. Everyone complains about this and I bet that the majority of the staff does too! This is a major problem in our school.

Now here are some of the opposing viewpoints on why we shouldn't build a new school. Of course one of the reasons is the cost of it, and being in debt until 2036 doesn't sound so appealing either. You're probably asking yourself, "Why not just replace everything in the school and not build new one?" In my opinion, we could, but wouldn't it be better if we tore it all down and rebuilt it? Plus, we would have to build on anyways if we wanted larger classrooms.

Today you have learned about all the problems from the reeking sewer smells to how old our building is. There are indeed quite a few problems with our school and everyone knows this so even if it's going to cost a lot of money it's going to have to be done sooner or later, so we might as well start paying for it right now. "Don't be afraid to change, you may lose something good, but you may gain something better." Anonymous

## By Tanae Lipp

Have you ever been so hot and miserable that you couldn't focus on what you were doing? Have you ever smelled something that was so awful that you couldn't handle it? Sometimes it is that hot and smelly in our classrooms, and it makes it hard to concentrate on our schoolwork. Our school has many problems including being too cold, or too hot, terrible sewer smell, asbestos problems, black mold, crowded classrooms and many others. The Groton High School has not been redone since 1934. No matter what, we would have to spend 4.4 million dollars on what really needs to be fixed, so why shouldn't we fix all of the problems? Today I am going to tell you why Groton should build a new high school.

My first reason why we should build a new school is that the classrooms are too small for all the students. Often, kids have to sit on the back of the room, not in a desk but on a plain chair, because there is not enough room for desks. This can make the person sitting in that chair uncomfortable and distracted.

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"Many classrooms are too small to accommodate the student-teacher ratios", this was suggested by the State's new funding formula. The classrooms are also too small to do activities. Sometimes teachers want to do fun things with us to help us understand what we are learning better, and it makes it hard to do with the small classrooms. We now have computers for our classes and it is hard to fit our computer, book, and notebook to fit on the desk. Teachers have suggested that we get bigger desks, but we don't even have room for the small desks that we have now. In fact, the size and suitability of the classrooms are in the red for adequacy, which means that it does not meet the standards that it should.

Another reason that we need a new school is because it can get very hot and smell like sewer in our classrooms. One day, it could be really hot, and the next day it could be really cold in the school. Our heating system is not reliable and could break down at any given moment. If this were to happen in the middle of the school year, we would have to go to school later into the summer. Sometimes, you walk into a class and you instantly can smell the sewer, no matter what the teacher has tried to do to get rid of it. It makes it hard to focus on what they are teaching because all you can think about is that awful smell.

If you were a teacher looking for a place to teach, would you want to teach at an old, 1934 building, or would you rather teach at a new, modernized school? I know I would want to teach at the new one! If we build this new school, teachers would want to come teach here, and if there are more teachers, you could have more classes. More classes that we could offer include photography, interior designing, French and many others. We could get classes that we have not been exposed to, which can help further our education. As well as getting more classes, the more teachers we have, the smaller the class sizes could be. Research shows that students in smaller classes have higher grades and perform better on exams.

There are many other health problems with our school as well. Some of which include: asbestos (which can cause cancer) and black mold. Black mold can make you very sick. Meri Erickson's classroom has black mold in it and she has gotten very sick every year. Her sicknesses that she has have been proven to be an effect from black mold. Asbestos is found in the stage in the old gym. This problem is very hazardous because it is proven that it can cause cancer.

On the other hand, some people do not want the new, modernized school to be built. They don't want it to be built because taxes will go up. This is a bad thing for many landowners and that is the reason they do not want to pay more. But would you rather pay a little bit more each year and have your child have a great education and place to learn in? Or would you rather pay a little less and have your kid have to learn in a very hot, or at times very cold, smelly place?

Today, I gave you many reasons that the new building should be built. Some of the reasons include: the classrooms are too small, it can get very hot or very cold in the school, there is often times it smells like sewer, we could get more classes to help educate us further, and the health issues of this school. There are many issues with our school, and the longer we wait, the more expensive it will be.

**By Erin Unzen**

Should We Build a New School?

Should a new, modernized school be built in replace of our old, 1934 building? Do we need a change to help further our education? Well, as Buckminster Fuller once said, "The best way to predict the future is to design it." Sewer smells, hot rooms, small spaces, and a lack of natural light are just a few of the many issues that need to be fixed in our school building. Many students and teachers agree that our school has many problems. What's the solution to these problems? A new building! Today, I am going to talk about why we I feel that we should build a new school in replace of the 1934 building.

First, I am going to talk about the lack of space in our school and the natural light problem. Each classroom is extremely small, and it makes focusing and concentrating hard. We aren't able to move around and do activities because there is not enough room. Also, in some of the classes we aren't able to bring our book bags because there is not enough space for everyone to put them. If we build a new school, the classrooms will double, making every room very spacious. We also lack natural light in our school. I feel that windows help keep us awake and focused. It is nice to be able to have the sun shining into the

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classrooms.

Next, I am going to talk about the sewer smells in our school and our heating and cooling problems. In multiple areas of the school, sewer smells can often be smelt. These smells are unpleasant to smell, and they make focusing hard. Also, we have trouble with our heating and cooling. In fact, each year we have a hard time getting our heating system to work. No matter if we end up building a new school, we would still have to spend \$4.4 million on ventilation and electrical systems that have exceeded their useful life. Some days the classrooms are extremely hot, and other days they are very cold. This constantly changing temperature makes classrooms uncomfortable. It is hard to concentrate when you are very cold or very hot.

Now, I am going to talk about the new opportunities that this new building will bring. A brand new school building is a great way to attract new teachers. Hopefully, we can get enough to teachers to be able to have new classes such as photography, interior designing, and many more new classes. New classes create new opportunities for us and helps us build our future. These classes help us to get more hands-on lessons and experiences. Also, new technology will hopefully be offered at our school. Overall, I believe this new school will help further our education.

In contrast, some people think that this school is not a good idea. They don't like that taxes will be raised. In my opinion, you can't put a price on our education. In order to get a new school, we will have to raise taxes, but it isn't going to raise them that much. Another reason that people think that we shouldn't build a new school is that this building is a "historical building." The plan is to incorporate the old bricks and parts of the building into the new design. Therefore, we would still have a new, modern building but would also have the historic parts built in with it.

In conclusion, I think that this new school plan is a great idea! Not only will it be a great and safe environment, but it will help to grow our education. We would no longer would have to smell sewer smells, have uncomfortable temperatures, not enough space, and a lack of natural lighting. New opportunities and advanced technology will be offered at this new school. This new school would be a great place for us students to learn and be at! It we want to build our future, then a new building is just the way to do it!



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

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## Today in Weather History

March 29, 1982: An early season Tornado briefly touched down at Swett, South Dakota (11 miles west of Martin). The tornado overturned and heavily damaged a mobile home. One person was slightly injured, and another barely escaped injury, as he left the trailer just seconds before the storm struck.

March 29, 1998:

1848: Niagara Falls eased to a trickle during the late afternoon and then became "silent" for 30 hours. Most people noticed the silence on the morning of the 30th. This is the only time in recorded history that both Falls stopped flowing. An ice jam at the neck of Lake Erie and the Niagara River entrance between Fort Erie, Ontario Canada, and Buffalo, NY, was caused by the wind, waves, and lake currents. People even ventured into the gorge, discovering relics like weapons from War of 1812. A supercell thunderstorm produced 13 tornadoes across southern Minnesota. The strongest tornado was an F4. Two people died during this tornado event.

1886: Rainfall amounts of 6-12 inches occurred over northwest Georgia in a 3-day period from March 29 through April 2. This caused record flooding on the Oostanaula and Etowah Rivers that merge to form the Coosa River. Floodwaters up to 11 feet deep covered portions of Broad Street in Rome with extensive record flooding. The stage height reached 40.3 feet. Flood stage is 25 feet. This record flood and another major flood in 1892 prompted the citizens of Rome to raise the town by 12 feet. This feat was accomplished by bringing in thousands of wagon loads of dirt. An official rainfall amount of 7.36 inches was recorded on this day in Atlanta. The 7.36 inches is the most Atlanta has seen in one day since record keeping began in 1878.

1920 - Clear Spring, MD, received 31 inches of snow in 24 hours to establish a state record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1921 - The temperature in Washington D.C. dropped from 82 degrees to 26 degrees thus ending an early spring. (David Ludlum)

1935 - A severe duststorm blanketed Amarillo, TX, for 84 hours. During one six hour period the visibility was near zero. (28th-31st) (The Weather Channel)

1942: A slow-moving low-pressure system brought 11.5 inches of snow to the nation's capital on March 29, 1942. It still stands as the highest March snowfall on record in Washington, D.C. on a single calendar day. Also, Baltimore, Maryland recorded a very impressive total of 21.9 inches of snow on the same day. On the flip side, eight days later, the temperature in D.C. soared to 92 degrees on April 6, 1942, and it remains the highest temperature on record for April 6.

1945 - Providence, RI, hit 90 degrees to establish a March record for the New England area. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms spawned tornadoes in Mississippi, and produced high winds and heavy rain in Louisiana. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 92 mph at Houma LA, and caused a million dollars damage in Terrebonne Parish. Avondale LA was deluged with 4.52 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Severe thunderstorms in the Lower Mississippi Valley spawned a tornado which injured two persons at Bunkie LA, and produced high winds which down a large tree onto a trailer at Bastrop LA claiming the life of one child and injuring another. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced torrential rains in northeastern Texas and southwestern Arkansas. Longview TX reported 14.16 inches of rain. More than eleven inches of rain at Henderson TX caused a dam to give way, and people left stranded in trees had to be rescued by boat. Total damage in northeastern Texas was estimated at 10 to 16 million dollars. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2007: If thunder is heard, one should go to a lightning safe area. A high school athlete was struck and killed by lightning at a track meet in Carbondale, Illinois. A bolt or 2 had been seen miles away, and a distant rumble of thunder was heard before the deadly strike.

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 62 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 56 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 57 °F



## Another Mild Day In Store!

Follow us on *Social Media*

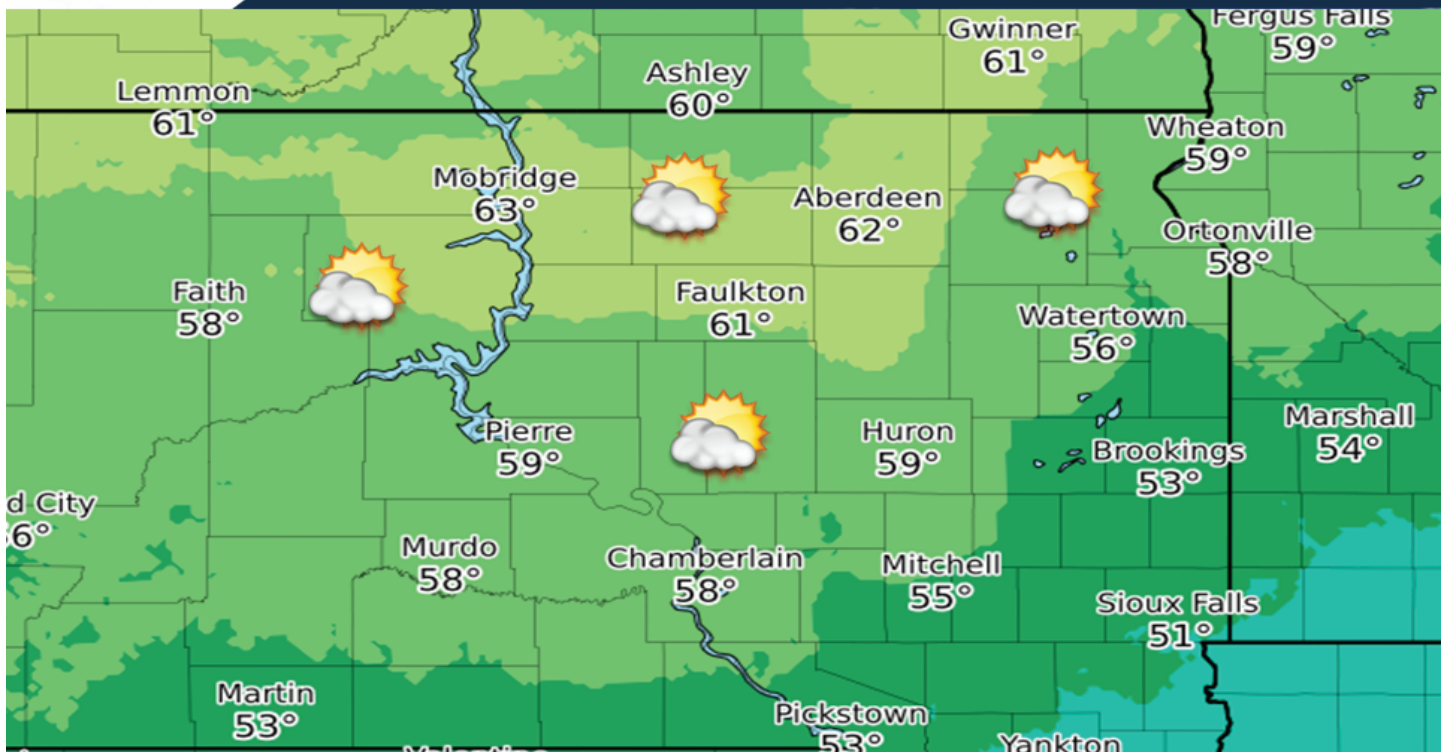
[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 03/29/2017 at 5:39AM

Mostly cloudy skies this morning will gradually give way to increasing sunshine through the day. Dry conditions can be expected, with highs rising into the upper 50s to low 60s. Southeast breezes will be felt across the region as well.



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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 59.3 F at 3:17 PM

Low Outside Temp: 33.2 F at 3:32 AM

High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 2:57 PM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 78° in 1986

Record Low: -9 in 1969

Average High: 46°F

Average Low: 25°F

Average Precip in March.: 1.06

Precip to date in March.: 0.59

Average Precip to date: 2.08

Precip Year to Date: 0.59

Sunset Tonight: 7:58 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:17 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Mar 29, 2017, issued 4:47 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## AN ATTITUDE FOR GRATITUDE

James and his grandmother were having a wonderful day at the beach. The wind was gentle, the sun warm and the crowd friendly. It was a delight for her to watch James as he splashed in the waves not far from where she was relaxing.

Suddenly a large wave came crashing over James and pulled him into the water and out of her sight. In fear and anguish she shouted, "Oh, God, I'll do anything You ever ask me if You will only save my grandson and return him safely to shore. Please God – help me."

The very next wave brought James back to shore safely, but a bit frightened. Standing up and walking toward him, his grandmother gave a sigh of relief knowing he was safe. Then she put her hands on her hips and said, "O.K. God. What happened to his hat?"

Paul wrote, "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart." It seems to be much easier to "devote ourselves to prayer" than to "devote ourselves to a thankful heart." Giving thanks to someone means we are indebted to them for something.

Our God is a gracious and giving God and all that we have is the result of His goodness and grace. He stands before us with outstretched arms and open hands waiting to draw us close to Himself to protect us and provide for our every need, beginning with our salvation. Yet, too often we fail to be grateful!

Prayer: Forgive us, Heavenly Father, if we have been forgetful in expressing our gratitude to You for all You have done for us. May our thankfulness be equal to Your gifts. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

30-33-35-37-46, Mega Ball: 10, Megaplier: 5

(thirty, thirty-three, thirty-five, thirty-seven, forty-six; Mega Ball: ten; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$162 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

### South Dakota man who killed woman sentenced to 40 years

WOONSOCKET, S.D. (AP) — A Woonsocket man who admitted fatally stabbing the woman he lived with will serve 40 years in prison.

Thirty-three-year-old Matthew Novak was sentenced Tuesday for first-degree manslaughter in the death last August of 26-year-old Jennifer Gibson.

Court records say Novak grabbed a kitchen knife after arguing with Gibson. He stabbed her 10 times and slashed her neck.

The couple had three children together. Novak was arrested hours later when police converged on the home. The incident prompted a nearby school to go into lockdown.

The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2nJJAiR>) reports Judge Jon Erickson said at Novak's sentencing that the stabbing happened in the "heat of the moment" and was "not premeditated."

Gibson's sister, Amanda Gibson, said she hoped Novak would be sentenced to life in prison.

Novak's attorney had no comment.

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

### Rapid City works to improve mental health services

By MIKE ANDERSON, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A group of community leaders is throwing its efforts behind an idea to revolutionize how Rapid City provides services to its mentally ill and homeless populations, and the members are looking south to the Lone Star State for a nationally acclaimed program as the model.

The Texas program is called Haven for Hope, though the Rapid City version would probably get its own name. Based in San Antonio, Haven for Hope is a 22-acre campus that provides a wide range of social, health care, and rehabilitation services — including housing, case management and job training, all in one spot.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2nsavxf>) reports that the Rapid City Collective Impact group organized a trip for 18 leaders in law enforcement, city government and social service to visit Haven for Hope on March 7. Having returned, they are now determined to replicate the model here in the Black Hills.

Built in 2010, Haven for Hope was credited last year for reducing homelessness in San Antonio by 80 percent. According to an article in The Boston Globe, since its creation, more than 3,000 men, women and children have been placed in permanent housing after participating in Haven for Hope's programs.

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The facility also offers sleeping space that can accommodate hundreds of people at a time.

"I think that is within our reach," Rapid City Police Chief Karl Jegeris said Tuesday during a news conference at the former National American University building in Rapid City. Jegeris was part of the group that visited Haven For Hope.

"We need to set that as our bar. We need to work collaboratively to reduce homelessness by 80 percent in Rapid City. And it can be done," he said.

Also on the Texas trip was Ruby Gibson, director of Freedom Lodge, a local nonprofit that provides historical trauma therapy primarily to members of Rapid City's Native American community.

"They work from a place of radical compassion," Gibson said. "It requires a change of thinking, it requires a unification rather than a division of race, where we look at each other in a different way, where we all share the same community, and that one person's suffering, or one person's joy, is another person's joy."

Albert Linderman, director of Rapid City Collective Impact, said he was impressed with what he saw at Haven for Hope.

"We were as a group in agreement that this was a powerful display of humanity and intelligence," Linderman said. "The group of us got a vision for Rapid City."

The next step for realizing that vision, Linderman said, is for Rapid City Collective Impact and various community stakeholders to begin creating a strategic plan in the weeks ahead to hammer out potential costs and possible locations of facilities.

Linderman described three components of Haven for Hope that he thinks should be reproduced in Rapid City, one of which is in the process of being developed.

The Pennington County Health Facility being built in the former NAU building will fulfill what Linderman refers to as the "restoration" part of the Haven for Hope model. A \$14 million project slated for completion next March, the County Health Facility will put the detoxification center, the Crisis Care Center, and Health and Human Services all under one roof.

Completing the Haven for Hope model will take a greater investment in permanent affordable housing, and to help individuals craft personalized plans for securing and maintaining a workable lifestyle with ready access to the services they need.

Jegeris said he thinks the Haven for Hope approach could save Rapid City hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"(Haven for Hope) saved their community millions of dollars," Jegeris said, "by taking on this type of approach, which is a more humanitarian approach, where you're actually taking care of people and addressing root causes rather than the current condition. What we use in Rapid City, which is primarily punitive, a criminal justice approach that's very expensive, ineffective, and does not result in longstanding change."

All the pieces haven't fallen into place yet, but Linderman said he and Rapid City Collective Impact will continue to move the community conversation forward.

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

## South Dakota freshman wins NCAA championship

By ELYSE BRIGHTMAN, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — In just a few short years, University of South Dakota freshman Chris Nilsen went from a first-time pole vaulter to NCAA champion by jumping 18 feet 8.25 inches at the indoor championship in College Station, Texas on March 5.

"Everyone was just really supportive of me being there," Nilsen said. "I was the youngest one there and the fact that they knew I could hold my own was probably the best part of it."

Nilsen did more than hold his own. During the competition he said he was focusing only on his own goal, which was to jump 18 feet 4.5 inches, and once he reached that height he looked to see what the other jumpers had reached.

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"My coach Derek Miles and I like to look at it as keeping your head down throughout the whole competition and once we've jumped what we want to jump we will put our heads up and see who is still in the competition," he said. "Once I've done that I looked up and realized I was the only one left, so we just kind of started going from there."

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2ovzFup>) reports that the winning mark was 18 feet 4.5 inches that he cleared on the second attempt, but Nilsen wasn't finished there. He continued to clear the bar without competition until the final 18 feet 8.25 inches, which tied his personal best height.

He entered the NCAA championships with the top mark, but knew that didn't mean an automatic win. "Coming in with the top mark I definitely knew that I had a good chance to win, but the pole vault, the sport itself, is ridiculously inconsistent with how things go," he said. "The person can come in with the number one mark and still not make a bar and get last place, so I wasn't expecting to win, but I knew I had a decent chance of doing so."

It may have been Nilsen's first college championship, but he is not new to winning, in fact he has won every meet he's competed in as a Coyote and has picked up six Summit League Athlete of the Week honors and two Athlete of the Month awards during the indoor season.

"My favorite win would probably be the USD alumni meet because after I jumped a personal record of 18 (feet) five (inches) and my whole team rushed me on the pit and tackled me and that was probably the happiest I've been in my track career, so we'll call it that," he said.

Later in the season, Nilsen cleared 18 feet 8.5 inches at the Tyson Invitational on February 11 to break the American under-20 indoor record.

Nilsen's pole vaulting career started as a freshman at Park Hill High School when he joined the track team as a means to stay in shape for soccer. Originally, his plan was to play soccer in college, but that took a turn when he showed a natural talent in pole vaulting.

At the beginning of the track season, he saw the pole vaulting coach was a familiar face in a former teacher, so he approached her and asked if he could give it a try.

"My first few times I pole vaulted in high school my coach put a pole in my hand and said to take this many steps forward while running and put your arms up and hope for the best," Nilsen said. "Not exactly those words, but somewhere along those lines."

The first few attempts he said he ended up falling back on the runway. He kept getting back up with some encouragement from his coach and ended up jumping 12 feet three inches during his sophomore year.

"I used to have a form called dead beetle where I would just hunch up against the pole in a little ball and go over the bar," he said.

The final two years of high school, Nilsen starting training with a personal coach and a few months later was jumping over 15 feet, and continued to improve. By his senior year he set the national high school record at 18 feet 4.5 inches.

USD head track and field coach Lucky Huber and jumping coach Derek Miles recruited Nilsen during his junior year.

"They were really dedicated to their athletes and they take care of us really well and speaking of dedication, the team is just really dedicated. They are always here to get better," Nilsen said. "They all want to be here to get better, win championships, win medals and be the best athlete they can be. And that's what Derek and Lucky want us to be. They want us to be great people and great athletes."

Standing six-foot-five also gives Nilsen an advantage when it comes to the pole vault.

"I'm able to get on longer poles from a shorter run because I have a higher take off angle. My hand is somewhere like eight feet in the air that makes it a steeper takeoff angle which makes it easier for me to roll poles or make them go forward easier," he said.

Nilsen uses a pole that is 16 feet nine inches long.

The outdoor track and field season began last Friday at the Baldy Castillo Invitational in Tempe, Arizona and Nilsen picked up right where he left off.

Nilsen broke an 11-year-old USD outdoor pole vault record by 11 inches with a jump of 18 feet 6.25

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inches as he blew the field away by a foot and half. The previous USD record was 17 feet 8.5 inches, which Nilsen cleared on his first jump of the day and the season is just getting started.

"A lot of people tend to vault higher outdoors just because they have been vaulting for a longer period of time," he said.

Nilsen picked up the Summit League athlete of the week and has been on the Bowerman watch list since the beginning of March. The Bowerman is presented by the US Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches Association and is the highest honor in collegiate track and field presented annually to the most outstanding male and female athlete in the nation. He ranks No. 2 in the world for under-20 pole vaulters, according to the Summit League.

As long as he can stay healthy, Nilsen is looking to continue improving his heights and maybe make another appearance at the outdoor championships in June in Eugene, Oregon.

"Stay healthy and jump some high bars and hopefully win another national championship and just keep doing what I'm doing and stay consistent in my heights," Nilsen said.

Nilsen and the Coyotes will be in Vermillion for a dual meet with South Dakota State on April 8.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## Volunteers come together for North Dakota radio station

By SHANNON MARVEL, Aberdeen American News

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — Nestled on the Coteau des Prairies on the outskirts of Sisseton stands a radio tower that was once adorned with a lone eagle feather, placed on top of the tower to symbolize good fortune.

The eagle feather was one of five left to Tom Wilson by his elders. Wilson gave the other four to people close to him throughout the years, but he held onto the last one, knowing it was meant to go somewhere special. He realized that place was atop the tower that would give life to the first community radio station on the Lake Traverse Reservation.

In June 2011, KXSW 89.9 FM went on air for the first time with Wilson as the main DJ and manager.

The Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2nrPGSJ>) reports that the station office is on the Sisseton Wahpeton College campus, but Wilson sets no limits when it comes to where he'll broadcast from.

At the start of each day, he smudges the microphone with sage and greets listeners in the Lakota language.

"I smudge the microphone so positive things will go through the airwave," he said.

From 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., the station plays powwow music, which is Native American singing, drumming and dancing from spiritual social gatherings.

"People get to hear that while going to work," Wilson said. "School buses listen to it, even the Head Start (program), because it relaxes the kids when they hear the powwow music."

Current hits and those from decades past, including blues, alternative rock, country and pop, are played throughout the rest of the day and night between scheduled programs.

Technology allows anyone with an internet connection to tune in. And KXSW will livestream or broadcast just about any community happening.

"We just started the livestream this last month. Otherwise, we were doing Facebook Live, but that has its limitations," Wilson said.

When a fire broke out Feb. 10 in the Sisseton High School gym while classes were in session, Wilson was on scene to report on the incident via Facebook Live, letting parents and residents know the children were safe as the scene played out.

The station has an eclectic blend of programs to appeal to as many local listeners as possible.

"(Last) summer, in late August, I was at the National Museum of the American Indian in New York, and we did an afternoon broadcast interviewing some of the workers there," he said. "It was pretty neat, because they said it was the first time a radio station ever did that."

Wilson also livestreams local sporting and other events.

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He and eight volunteers work at the station.

One of those people is Sam Williams, a junior at Sisseton High School.

Williams, 17, is Wilson's right-hand man and has been volunteering for four years.

"I can rely on him," Wilson said of Williams. "I can call him and say, 'Can you record this onto the computer right away?' I had the chairman call me once to put out a statement during the storm this past winter, but I was in Connecticut. (Williams) got it on right away."

Williams credited his work ethic and knowledge to his mentor.

"(Wilson) showed me everything that he does, and I just kind of picked it all up from what he's taught me. He's a pretty good teacher," Williams said.

Williams began volunteering when he was only 13.

"It's really affected my life in a positive way," he said. "It's kept me out of trouble, it's kept me busy and it's something I love to do."

One of Williams' fondest memories was when a special person called to request a song.

"When I first started going on the radio, my mom called in a song for me on my birthday, and it was pretty touching," he recalled.

The song was "Imagine" by John Lennon.

Now, Williams has his own music program Monday nights from 6 to 8 p.m., during which he plays the latest chart-topping hits.

The variety of music played is what Williams said makes the radio station unique when compared with others.

"I think the most enjoyable thing out there is just the music, you know? We play a wide variety of music, and there's a lot of different programs that we play, too. It's nice to hear different things once in a while," he said.

Wilson laments the lack of interest in volunteering at the station, especially among the youth.

"The students and the volunteers we have now are all experienced, and it's like the community is scared to be on the radio," he said.

"I always go around and say, 'Hey, you should volunteer,' to high school students and college students, because that looks good on your resume. That has a lot of pull, believe it or not," Wilson said.

He has made the station a homey place. A large Native American star quilt hanging on the wall is the first thing to greet visitors. Along another wall, shelves display Wilson's collection of antique radios and record players next to a Beatles poster.

Now, almost six years in, Wilson keeps working to expand the station's offerings.

"We're actually going to livestream our council meetings for the first time so people can actually watch," he said.

"I'm not a big fan of prerecording things because I like things raw. Everything I do is live. If somebody comes in and wants to sing or perform, it's done live."

"We do have specialty shows on here, like (Thursday) morning we had 'Getting Real With Life on the Rez,' and this boy walks in and said he had cancer," Wilson said.

The teenager had stopped by the station after hearing Wilson discuss racial and social issues with author and American News columnist Lawrence Diggs of Roslyn. The discussion prompted the boy to share his story.

"He found out he and his brother had the same type of cancer that killed their dad. So, they had the option of getting their stomach removed or be dead by the time they're 22," Wilson said.

"He told us that he was pretty heavy before he got cancer and they removed his stomach and now he's thin. Now everybody wants to be his friend, when he had only three friends before. So he said, 'I see the difference now.' He talked about coping with cancer and losing his dad, then he sang a song."

Impromptu storytelling happens often on the radio's airwaves, which helps foster connections within the community on topics that might otherwise be considered taboo.

"At random, I'll just bring somebody in who wants to talk," Wilson said.

"I brought one of my cousins in who was hooked on meth, and I wanted to ask her the questions that

everyone is afraid to ask. So I said, 'Sit there, we'll do video on livestream too,' and I asked her questions like how easy is it to get meth. And she said it's easier to get it than pot," Wilson said.

He asked his cousin to share her story and inform the community about meth with the hope that it might help someone else who is struggling with meth addiction.

"She's been off it for eight months now, so I brought her on for other people to watch," he said. "I told her, 'If only one person gets inspired from you talking about this then it's well worth it.'"

No stranger to hardships, Wilson recalled being homeless in Minneapolis when he was a teenager in high school.

His said his parents were missionaries who died when he was young.

Wilson fondly reminisced about the music scene and artists in the Twin Cities, which are commemorated by a portrait of Prince that hangs high on his office wall.

Although Wilson will never get a chance to livestream a performance by Prince, who died last year, the DJ continues to explore different ways to connect with listeners.

So far, the station has provided a positive and uniting experience, which Wilson credits to one simple rule: "We do not discuss politics in any of our programs," he said.

The station was the idea of a group of community members affiliated with the college who wanted community radio. A board was created in 2007, with Wilson as a member. But it took years to complete the Federal Communications Commission paperwork for a license.

With KXSW established and ready to embrace even more technology, there might be a next step. Wilson said there are plans to start a local TV station.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## Sioux Falls church becomes fastest-growing in nation

By MEGAN RAPOSA, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Adam Weber didn't want to be a pastor.

Nearly 11 years later, he's leading the fastest-growing United Methodist Church in America.

Embrace Church began on a September night in 2006 with a meeting of 32 people. Today, the church has five physical locations, thousands of worshippers and an online church of about 2,000 people.

From the beginning, Weber worked to grow the church one person at a time, with a focus on meeting people where they are in life both spiritually and physically.

"We don't try to be anybody but ourselves," Weber said.

Weber's commitment to that mission and his ability to reach young people has propelled Embrace to be a leader in the Sioux Falls faith community as well as an example of the power of word-of-mouth and online engagement in building a brand.

"I think people sense an authenticity about our church," said Travis Waltner, pastor of the Embrace campus in Tea. "We don't try to come off as holier-than-thou. We make a lot of mistakes, and we've got a lot of issues in our own lives."

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2mZvNnL>) reports that Weber, a S.D. native, was 24 years old and pursuing his master's degree in Kentucky when his pastor asked him if he wanted to start a church.

"I said, 'No,'" said Weber, now 34, chuckling at the memory as he sits in the church office on 57th Street near Southeastern Avenue.

His pastor encouraged him to pray about it and give it a trial run. The two men would each send out an email announcing the new church service, and they'd see what happened.

On Sept. 4, 2006, 32 people showed up for what became the first-ever Embrace Church service.

Though it was an initial success, it took time for Embrace to hit its stride in terms of growth. For the first three years, the congregation didn't grow above 100 members, and the church was on the verge of closing.

"Those are the three years that no one else sees," Weber said.



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Then, one week in 2009, Embrace moved both its location (to a spot in the Fellowship of Christian Athlete's building on 69th Street and Cliff Avenue) and its evening service to the morning.

That was the tipping point.

"We doubled in one morning," Weber said.

It was around that time that Tyler Goff and his wife began attending Embrace. Goff said he'd heard from a friend that he should check out Embrace, but he joked that he had been procrastinating it because of his love for Sunday Night Football.

Now, Goff not only attends Sunday morning services, but he's a part of several small groups that meet throughout the week.

"We've developed really good friendships with a lot of the people there through small groups," Goff said.

After switching to morning services, Embrace saw nothing but growth. The church moved from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes building to its current location near 57th Street and Southeastern Avenue in 2011.

That building filled quickly, and over the next five years the church grew to more than 4,000 members across five locations, including a church in St. Croix, Minnesota.

The growth wasn't spurred by a desire to become a mega-church, Weber said. It's come from a desire to always reach one more person.

His Sunday sermons urge parishioners to spread the story of Jesus to just one more person, and his mission quickly spread through the church.

Ask most anyone at Embrace how they started going to the church, and their answer will almost always start with, "I heard from a friend."

Alecia Martinez, a student at the University of Sioux Falls, began attending Embrace in 2014 after seeing a Facebook friend post a photo of the church bulletin.

Martinez moved to Sioux Falls from Sibley, Iowa, for college, and she spent her freshman year "shopping" for the right church.

When she saw the Embrace bulletin on Facebook, it piqued her interest.

"I figured, oh, OK, this looks a little more modern," Martinez said. "That's when I went and checked it out."

After she began going regularly, Martinez has invited friends and family to come to Embrace with her. She stayed with the church because she appreciates the "contemporary" feel and the almost concert-style praise and worship music.

The Sunday sermons often encourage Embrace worshippers to invite their friends and share the messages from the services, but Martinez said she invites people to Embrace not because she feels pressured to, but because she wants to.

"You want the people you love to experience something you live," she said.

Reaching one person at a time doesn't just happen through word of mouth.

It's all about meeting people where they are, and for the young worshippers like Martinez who make up the majority of Embrace's congregation, where they are is online.

Weber started the church's online presence alongside the church's own beginning.

He said trying to target young people and ignoring social media is like taking a job in Mexico and refusing to learn Spanish.

"You're saying you're not willing to speak their language," Weber said.

Embrace has a following of more than 33,000 on Facebook and more than 13,000 on Twitter.

While Weber downplays social media as a factor in the church's exponential growth, it's hard to ignore that type of following in a space where not many churches operate.

Weber shared the story of a person who tweeted that they were new to Sioux Falls and looking for a church. The only respondents were people who went to Embrace, followed by a tweet from the official Embrace Church saying something like, "See you Sunday."

It's not just the social media that's engaging worshippers online. Embrace's online campus has given rural churches and families a chance to bring the Embrace service remotely.

A family in Sioux City tunes into the online church services, as does a woman in Paris.

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In Salem, a town of about 1,300 people, a group of 115 get together each Sunday at a local church to stream the Embrace service.

"Growth is people sharing," Weber said.

And people who go to Embrace really love to share.

Weber's stories about Embrace's growth carry a common theme.

He didn't want to be a pastor, but he took a chance and started Embrace.

He was uncertain about whether the church could afford its building on 57th Street, but the church grew so quickly that the building not only filled, but overflowed with worshippers.

When approached about writing a book, he was not sure it was a good idea, but now he's published a book on prayer, "Talking with God," with the Christian branch of Penguin Random House.

Weber's path with Embrace has involved many leaps of faith, but each risk has paid off.

"As a Christian, when I really step out in faith, when we take that one step out," Weber said. "God promises to meet us in that place."

Weber doesn't know if Embrace will continue to grow at the current rate. He's considered new locations in Fargo, Sioux City or another branch in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. But he's not looking to be a mega-church.

Embrace has stayed true to its mission thus far, and Weber wants to keep that going in the future.

"Our hope is only to continue reaching one more person," he said. "I mean that wholeheartedly."

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

## Oversight panel says new juvenile commitments have fallen

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An oversight panel that monitors South Dakota's juvenile justice overhaul says that new juvenile commitments to the Department of Corrections have dropped significantly since it passed in 2015.

The oversight group's first annual report released Tuesday says that new commitments to the department declined 43 percent — from 193 to 110 — between fiscal years 2015 and 2016, which ended June 30.

Daugaard says the overhaul focused on reducing costs while improving public safety and holding juveniles accountable. He says the state is making progress by providing better support services for youth and families, increasing the use of diversion programs and expanding community-based programming.

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## South Dakota man accused of shooting trooper sentenced

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. (AP) — A rural Kimball man will serve 30 years in prison for shooting and seriously wounding a South Dakota Highway Patrol officer during a standoff two years ago.

Forty-four-year-old Donald London was sentenced Tuesday to 75 years in prison, but 45 years of the

sentence were suspended.

London asked for the officers' forgiveness before he was sentenced. The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2ngmJIC>) reports London told wounded trooper John Koenig "there's not an hour of the day that goes by" that he doesn't think about what he did.

Last month London pleaded guilty but mentally ill to three counts of aggravated assault. The January 2015 standoff at the London family farm lasted more than a day and eventually involved 130 law officers. Judge Bruce Anderson says Koenig still suffers physically from the shooting.

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

## **Tribes' battle over Dakota Access pipeline not over**

**By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — American Indian tribes fighting the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline said Tuesday that the pumping of oil into the pipe under their water source is a blow, but it doesn't end their legal battle. Industry groups say the imminent flow of oil through the pipeline is good news for energy and infrastructure.

The comments come after Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners said Monday that it has placed oil in a section of the pipeline under a Missouri River reservoir that's upstream from the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota. It was the final piece of construction for a pipeline that will carry crude from western North Dakota's Bakken oil fields 1,200 miles (1930 kilometers) through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution point near Patoka, Illinois. The pipeline should be fully operational in about three weeks, according to company spokeswoman Vicki Granado.

"We need to build pipelines, roads, rail and transmission lines to grow our economy and secure our nation's energy future," North Dakota Republican U.S. Sen. John Hoeven said.

Cheyenne River Sioux Chairman Harold Frazier said Sioux tribes in the Dakotas still believe they ultimately will persuade a judge to shut down the pipeline that they maintain threatens cultural sites, drinking water and religion.

"My people are here today because we have survived in the face of the worst kind of challenges," he said. "The fact that oil is flowing under our life-giving waters is a blow, but it hasn't broken us."

Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault called oil under the lake "a setback, and a frightening one at that." But he and Phillip Ellis, spokesman for the Earthjustice environmental law nonprofit, which is representing that tribe, said they are confident in the court case.

"The flow of oil under Lake Oahe is a temporary reminder of the pain this pipeline has perpetrated to those that have stood with Standing Rock and the devastation it has wreaked on sacred tribal sites, but hope remains," Ellis said.

ETP maintains the pipeline is safe and disputes the tribes' claims.

The legal battle isn't confined to the Dakotas. In Iowa, the state chapter of the Sierra Club and a group of landowners are appealing a lawsuit challenging the pipeline to the Iowa Supreme Court. The crux of that dispute is whether the pipeline benefits the public in that state and whether the government was right to allow ETP to use eminent domain to obtain land for the project.

"Resistance is more than just the Lake Oahe crossing," said environmental lawyer Carolyn Raffensperger, executive director of the Science and Environmental Health Network and chairwoman of the Iowa chapter of the Sierra Club.

ETP wrapped up construction on the pipeline this month after receiving permission from the U.S. government in February for the Lake Oahe work, which had been held up several months by protests and the legal dispute. The Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the Missouri River for the government, rescinded a planned environmental study that President Barack Obama's administration had ordered and gave ETP permission to complete the pipeline at the urging of President Donald Trump.

"This is a public triumph for President Trump and his commitment to support U.S. energy and economic development," said Craig Stevens, spokesman for the MAIN Coalition, made up of agriculture, business and labor entities that benefit from Midwest infrastructure projects.

Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, a trade group that represents nearly 500 energy companies including ETP, said the pipeline will "have a significant impact on Bakken transportation going forward."

North Dakota is the second-biggest oil producer in the U.S., after Texas. At capacity, the pipeline will be able to transport half of the state's daily oil production of about 1 million barrels. Once the oil reaches Patoka, Illinois, it will be pumped into an existing pipeline that will take it to terminals in Texas, according to Granado, the ETP spokeswoman.

ETP has said in court documents that it has long-term transportation contracts with nine companies to ship oil through the pipeline. It could move enough oil to fill 500 or more railroad cars each day, according to the company. It is generally cheaper to move oil by pipeline than by rail, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

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

## After legislative defeat, gun bill backers to keep pushing

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bid to let people carry concealed handguns without a permit fell short during the 2017 legislative session in heavily conservative South Dakota, but supporters said Tuesday that its passage is only a matter of time.

House lawmakers failed Monday to muster enough support to overcome a veto from Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who won't run again in 2018 because of term limits. Daugaard has said the state's current gun laws are reasonable.

Rep. Lynne DiSanto, the bill's main sponsor, said that she intends to return next session — Daugaard's last — with a permitless concealed carry proposal. Daugaard's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen, said in an email that the governor has "concerns with the concept," but will wait to commit to opposing a bill filed next session until he can see it.

"Worst case scenario, we wait, and we get it through with our next governor," said DiSanto, a Republican from Box Elder.

Two high-profile Republicans planning 2018 bids for governor, U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and Attorney General Marty Jackley, have expressed support for such legislation.

"I take the Second Amendment seriously and believe provisions, like constitutional carry, can help to protect and even strengthen this right for South Dakotans," Noem said in a statement.

Jackley said that he supports concealed carry laws that offer greater flexibility for law-abiding citizens and include stronger enforcement safeguards to improve public safety. Those safeguards include addressing people convicted of violent and drug crimes and those suffering from mental illness, Jackley said.

Right now, it's a misdemeanor for someone to carry a concealed pistol or to have one concealed in a vehicle without a permit. At the end of February, there were 92,850 active regular and enhanced permits in South Dakota, according to the Secretary of State's office.

Northern State University political science professor Jon Schaff said that South Dakota is a "strong pro-gun state" amenable to this type of change and as other states pass such legislation, it builds momentum in that direction.

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum recently signed legislation that will allow most adults to carry a hidden firearm without a permit, making it one of about a dozen "constitutional carry" states.

The South Dakota Legislature is going to get more pro-gun in the next election, and there are no major candidates yet for governor who oppose such legislation, said Zach Lautenschlager, a vice president at the National Association for Gun Rights.

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The organization claims about 18,000 members in South Dakota together with its state affiliate, South Dakota Gun Owners.

"I think the handwriting's on the wall," Lautenschlager said. "This bill is going to pass. It's just a question of who wants to stand in the way and suffer for it."

## Guilty plea entered in fatal stabbing on SD reservation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Wanblee man has pleaded guilty in a fatal stabbing on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Leon Between Lodges admitted stabbing Leonard Sitting Up with a knife last May after the victim and his friends drove by the defendant's house and shouted comments which upset him. Those comments weren't disclosed.

Between Lodges later got in fight with the victim and others outside the house and stabbed Sitting Up once in the chest. The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2nIJyYj>) reports Between Lodges pleaded guilty last Friday to second-degree murder. He also pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon for stabbing another man during the altercation.

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

## Driver runs out of gas again after stealing squad car

TULARE, S.D. (AP) — A driver who called for help after running out of gas is accused of stealing a deputy's squad car in South Dakota and leading authorities in a pursuit before once again running out of fuel.

Troy James is charged with felony grand theft in Spink County. Officials say James called for assistance Monday about 4 a.m. on Highway 281 near Tulare, saying his car had stopped and he apparently ran out of fuel.

Sheriff Kevin Schurch tells the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2ouU1nx>) the responding deputy tried to detain James because he was acting bizarrely and James pushed the officer out of the squad and took off. Schurch says James was apparently armed.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol and officers from other counties joined in pursuing James who was eventually caught about 140 miles away.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## It's over: Britain files for divorce from the European Union

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The United Kingdom filed for divorce from the European Union on Wednesday, overturning four decades of integration with its neighbors, demolishing the notion that EU expansion is inevitable and shaking the foundations of a bloc that is facing challenges to its identity and its place in the world.

Britain's top envoy to the EU, Tim Barrow, hand-delivered a letter to European Council President Donald Tusk formally triggering a two-year countdown to the final split.

"This is an historic moment from which there can be no turning back," Prime Minister Theresa May told lawmakers in the House of Commons. "Today the government acts on the democratic will of the British people."

Tusk tweeted that "after nine months the UK has delivered," followed by a photo of Barrow handing him the letter in front of British and EU flags in Brussels.

For Britons who voted to leave the bloc in a referendum nine months ago, it was a time for celebration.

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"In my opinion, this is the greatest moment in modern British history," said Brendan Chilton, general secretary of the pro-Brexit group Labour Leave. "We are finally beginning the process by which we leave the European Union, restore our Parliament and once again become a sovereign nation."

For "remain" campaigners, it was time to fight for a divorce settlement that preserves what they see as key benefits of EU membership, including free trade in goods and services and the right to live and work anywhere in the bloc.

"The phony war is over," said Joe Carberry, co-director of the pro-EU pressure group Open Britain. He said Britain had decided that it would leave the bloc — but "the issue of how we will leave, and the democratic checks and balances along the process of the negotiations, remains unresolved."

For Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the EU's executive Commission, Britain's departure is "a failure and a tragedy."

The loss of a major member is destabilizing for the EU, which is battling to contain a tide of nationalist and populist sentiment and faces unprecedented antipathy from the new resident of the White House.

It is even more tumultuous for Britain. For all the U.K. government's confident talk of forging a close and friendly new relationship with its neighbors, it cannot be sure what its future relationship with the bloc will look like — whether businesses will freely be able to trade, students to study abroad or pensioners to retire with ease in other EU states. Those things have become part of life since the U.K. joined what was then called the European Economic Community in 1973.

It's not even certain that the United Kingdom will survive the exit intact. Scotland's parliament voted Tuesday to back First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's call for a referendum on independence within two years. Scottish voters backed remaining in the EU in last year's vote, and Sturgeon insists Scotland must not be "taken down a path that we do not want to go down without a choice."

May insists "now is not the time" for a referendum, setting her on course for a showdown with the Edinburgh administration just when the U.K. government wants to devote all its energies to the EU talks.

The trigger for all the economic and constitutional uncertainty is Article 50, a previously obscure clause of the EU's Lisbon Treaty that allows a member state to withdraw from the bloc. The two sides now have until March 2019 to agree on a divorce settlement and — if possible — establish a new relationship between Britain, the world's fifth-largest economy, and the EU, a vast single market stretching over 27 countries and half a billion people.

Brexit Secretary David Davis — the man charged with leading Britain's side in the talks — has called it "the most complicated negotiation in modern times, maybe the most complicated negotiation of all time."

Tusk has said that within 48 hours he will respond with a draft negotiating guidelines for the remaining 27 member states to consider. Leaders of those nations will then meet on April 29 to finalize their negotiating platform before instructing the EU's chief negotiator, French diplomat Michel Barnier.

Then Barnier will sit down with his British counterpart, Davis, who has said the first item on the agenda will probably be: "How we do this?"

As in many divorces, the first area of conflict is likely to be money. The EU wants Britain to pay a hefty bill — Juncker put it at around 50 billion euros (\$63 billion) — to cover pension liabilities for EU staff and other commitments the U.K. has agreed to.

British negotiators are sure to quibble over the size of the tab.

Davis said Monday that Britain will "meet our international obligations," but added: "I don't think we are going to be seeing that sort of money change hands."

Juncker has said the EU will not try to punish Britain for leaving.

"I do not think we will get anywhere by clobbering the British, insulting them and driving too hard a bargain," he said in a speech this month. But, he added, "There can be no cherry picking either. .... You are either in or out."

Negotiations will soon hit a major contraction: Britain wants "frictionless" free trade, but says it will restore control of immigration, ending the right of EU citizens to live and work in Britain. The EU says Britain can't have full access to the single market if it doesn't accept free movement, one of the bloc's key principles.

Both Britain and the EU say a top priority will be guaranteeing the rights of 3 million EU citizens living in Britain, and 1 million Britons living elsewhere in the bloc.

The two sides also appear to disagree on how the talks will unfold. EU officials say the divorce terms must be settled before negotiators can turn to the U.K.'s future relationship with the bloc. British officials want the two things discussed simultaneously.

May has suggested that if talks stall she could walk away, saying that "no deal for Britain is better than a bad deal for Britain."

That prospect alarms many British businesses. If Britain crashed out of the EU without a trade deal it would fall back onto World Trade Organization rules, meaning tariffs and other barriers to trade.

Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee has warned that the British government has not done enough for the "real prospect" that talks may break down, ending in no deal and "mutually assured damage" to both Britain and the EU.

Even if talks go well, EU leaders say there is little chance a final agreement on relations between the two parties will be reached by 2019. Some say it could take a decade.

May insists that Britain is not turning its back on Europe. She says the U.K. wants "a new and equal partnership" with "our friends and allies in the EU." She wants the U.K.'s exit to be "smooth and orderly." She will start to find out soon whether that is wishful thinking.

Carberry, from Open Britain, accused the government of offering an unrealistic picture of the costs of Brexit.

"They are saying everyone's going to get free money and a free pony, basically," he said. "The government is going to need to start being up front with people about the risks and outline more clearly how they are going to mitigate against those risks."

But Labour Leave's Chiltern predicted that soon "the chest-beating will stop and actually you'll get down to cool, hard diplomacy and we'll get a good deal."

"It is in the interests of both parties to get this done as quickly as possible and as amicably as possible," he said.

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Follow Jill Lawless on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/JillLawless>

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Associated Press writers Danica Kirka in London, Raf Casert in Brussels and Monika Scislowska in Warsaw contributed to this story.

## **Kushner, taking new White House role, faces rare scrutiny**

**By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JOSH BOAK, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jared Kushner has been a power player able to avoid much of the harsh scrutiny that comes with working in the White House. But this week he's found that even the president's son-in-law takes his turn in the spotlight.

In a matter of days, Kushner, a senior Trump adviser, drew headlines for leaving Washington for a ski vacation while a signature campaign promise fell apart. The White House then confirmed he had volunteered to be interviewed before the Senate intelligence committee about meetings with Russian officials. At the same time, the White House announced he'll helm a new task force that some in the West Wing have suggested carries little real influence.

Kushner became the fourth Trump associate to get entangled in the Russia probe. North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr, the chairman of the intelligence committee, said Tuesday that Kushner would likely be under oath and would submit to a "private interview" about arranging meetings with the Russian ambassador and other officials.

The news came as the White House announced Kushner would lead a new White House Office of American Innovation, a task force billed as a powerful assignment for Kushner. But the task force's true

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power in the White House remained unclear, according to a half-dozen West Wing officials and Kushner associates who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The official White House line is that the group would have sweeping authority to modernize government, acting as strategic consultants who can draw from experiences in the private sector — and sometimes receive input from the president himself — to fulfill campaign promises like battling opioid addiction and transforming health care for veterans. White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Monday that it would “apply the president’s ahead-of-schedule-and-under-budget mentality” to the government.

But others inside and outside the White House cast doubt on the task force’s significance and reach, suggesting it was a lower priority for the administration and pointing out that similar measures have been tried by previous presidents with middling success. The assignment revived lingering questions about whether Kushner had opted to focus his time on a project that would put him at some distance from some Trump’s more conservative and controversial policy overhauls.

The announcement came just days after Kushner and his wife, Ivanka Trump, were photographed on the ski slopes of Aspen, Colorado, as the GOP health care deal began to unravel amid protests from conservative Republicans that it did not go far enough in replacing President Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act. Kushner rushed back to Washington on Friday but it was too late to save the bill, which was scuttled hours later by House Speaker Paul Ryan.

Two people close to Kushner vehemently denied the president was upset at his son-in-law for being absent, saying Trump had given the trip his blessing. And a senior White House official insisted the timing of the task force announcement was planned weeks in advance.

Kushner, who has been at his father-in-law’s right hand since the campaign, has long been viewed as a first-among-equals among the disparate power centers competing for the president’s ear. Kushner, who routinely avoids interviews, draws power from his ability to access Trump at all hours, including the White House residence often off-limits to staffers.

His portfolio is robust: He has been deeply involved with presidential staffing and has played the role of shadow diplomat, advising on relations with the Middle East, Canada and Mexico. Though Kushner and Ivanka Trump have been spotted with some frequency on the Washington social circuit, the president’s son-in-law is routinely in the office early and leaves late, other than on Fridays when he observes the Sabbath.

While those close to Trump flatly state that Kushner, by virtue of marriage, is untouchable, this is a rare moment when he has been the center of the sort of political storm that has routinely swept up the likes of White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, chief of staff Reince Priebus and senior counselor Kellyanne Conway. It points to a White House whose power matrix is constantly in flux.

Kushner has been closely allied with senior counselor Dina Powell and National Economic Council director Gary Cohn, the former Goldman Sachs executive and a registered Democrat. That group has, at times, been at odds with conservatives led by Bannon, who to this point has been the driving force behind the White House’s policy shop.

When Kushner officially joined the administration in January as a senior adviser, it was suggested that the real estate heir would draw upon the private sector to streamline and modernize government. His task force has been meeting since shortly after the inauguration and started talking to CEOs from various sectors about ways to make changes to entrenched federal programs.

“Jared is a visionary with an endless appetite for strategic, inventive solutions that will improve quality of life for all Americans,” said Hope Hicks, Trump’s longtime spokeswoman.

A list supplied by the White House of some of those who have met with Kushner reads like a who’s who of the American business world, including Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Tim Cook of Apple and Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase. Kushner usually does more listening than talking in the meetings, largely avoiding ideological arguments while asking questions about efficiency and best practices, according to a person who has attended a gathering but is not authorized to discuss private conversations.

But the Trump team is hardly the first seeking to improve how the government operates. The Reagan administration tasked the Grace Commission in 1982 with uncovering wasteful spending and practices,



while the Clinton administration sought its own reinvention of government in 1993 with what was initially called the National Performance Review. Previous commissions have not produced overwhelming results in changing the stubborn bureaucracy, casting some doubt on what Kushner's team can accomplish.

Philip Joyce, a professor of public policy at the University of Maryland, said the domestic spending cuts in Trump's budget blueprint suggest that this new committee would most likely focus more on shrinking the government than improving its performance.

Even then, any change would be unlikely to deliver significant budget savings compared to reforming entitlement programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

"It's not the main thing we ought to be focusing on," Joyce said. "It's at the margins of the big issues facing the country, certainly in terms of the budget."

Lemire reported from New York. Additional reporting by Catherine Lucey.

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

## House sends bill to Trump blocking online privacy regulation

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress has sent President Donald Trump legislation that would kill an online privacy regulation, a move that could eventually allow internet providers such as Comcast, AT&T and Verizon to sell the browsing habits of their customers.

The Federal Communications Commission rule issued in October was designed to give consumers greater control over how internet service providers share information. But critics said the rule would have stifled innovation and picked winners and losers among Internet companies.

The House voted 215-205 to reject the rule. The Senate had already voted to block it.

The vote is part of an extensive effort that Republicans have undertaken to void an array of regulations issued during the final months of Democratic President Barack Obama's tenure. But the vote was closer this time with 15 Republicans siding with Democrats in the effort to keep the rule in place.

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Republicans put profits over the privacy concerns of Americans.

"Overwhelmingly, the American people do not agree with Republicans that this information should be sold, and it certainly should not be sold without your permission," Pelosi said. "Our broadband providers know deeply personal information about us and our families."

Internet companies like Google don't have to ask users' permission before tracking what sites they visit. Republicans and industry groups have blasted that discrepancy, saying it was unfair and confusing for consumers.

But proponents of the privacy measure argued that the company that sells you your internet connection can see even more about consumers, such as every website they visit and whom they exchange emails with. That information would be particularly useful for advertisers and marketers.

Undoing the FCC regulation leaves people's online information in a murky area. Experts say federal law still requires broadband providers to protect customer information — but it doesn't spell out how or what companies must do. That's what the FCC rule aimed to do.

The Trump-appointed chairman of the FCC, Ajit Pai, is a critic of the broadband privacy rules and has said he wants to roll them back. He and other Republicans want a different federal agency, the Federal Trade Commission, to police privacy for both broadband companies like AT&T and internet companies like Google. GOP lawmakers said they care about consumer privacy every bit as much as Democrats did.

Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy of California said the FTC has acted as America's online privacy regulator since the dawn of the internet. He called the rule an effort to strip the agency of that role.

"The internet has become the amazing tool that it is because it is largely left untouched by regulation\_and that shouldn't stop now," McCarthy said.

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Republican Rep. Kevin Yoder of Kansas parted ways with his Republican colleagues on the issue. He said the privacy protections were "commonsense measures" that would have ensured internet users continue to have control over their personal information.

"We don't want the government having access to our information without our consent, and the same goes for private business," Yoder said.

Broadband providers don't currently fall under FTC jurisdiction, and advocates say it has historically been a weaker agency than the FCC.

The American Civil Liberties Union urged Trump to veto the resolution, appealing to his populist side.

"President Trump now has the opportunity to veto this resolution and show he is not just a president for CEOs but for all Americans, said the ACLU's Neema Singh Guliani.

Republicans repeatedly discounted the privacy benefits generated by the rule. Over the last two months, they've voted to repeal more than a dozen Obama-era regulations in the name of curbing government overreach. The criticism of their efforts was particularly harsh Tuesday.

"Lawmakers who voted in favor of this bill just sold out the American people to special interests," said Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. BREXIT DAY: BRITAIN SET TO FILE FOR EU DIVORCE

After 44 years of ups and downs with the European Union, Prime Minister Theresa May will send a letter to the European Council formally triggering a two-year countdown to the final split.

### 2. HOW TRAVEL BAN IS IMPACTING RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Schools including the University of Central Florida have admitted a large number of Iranian graduate students and losing them would be a blow to science programs, AP finds.

### 3. WHY PEOPLE OF RAQQA ARE TERRIFIED

Some 300,000 residents of the Islamic State group's de facto capital in Syria are trapped by the militants using them as human shields or confused as to where to run from airstrikes.

### 4. FEDERAL JUDGE WEIGHING LONGER BLOCK TO TRAVEL BAN

Hawaii says the policy discriminates against Muslims, while the government says it falls within Trump's power to protect national security.

### 5. WHERE 'TRUMP COMMUNITY' ALARMS CONSERVATIONISTS

They predict that the overall development in West Java, including a massive theme park, will overwhelm a refuge for some of Indonesia's most threatened species.

### 6. 'EVERY DAY, I'M REMINDED THAT I'M JEWISH'

Former California congressional candidate Erin Schrode saw her email and social media accounts polluted with slurs and disturbing images from internet trolls.

### 7. ENVIRONMENTALISTS VOW TO FIGHT CLIMATE ACTIONS

The groups say they'll file lawsuits and help to mobilize public backlash to plans by Trump to roll back U.S. efforts to curb global warming.

### 8. WHAT END TO ONLINE PRIVACY MEANS

The legislation could eventually allow internet providers such as Comcast, AT&T and Verizon to sell the browsing habits of their customers.

### 9. WHO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS IS PRESERVING

Pioneering rap group N.W.A. and retired Los Angeles Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully are among this year's additions to the prestigious National Recording Registry.

### 10. MAJOR CHANGES COMING TO NFL GAMES

Fewer commercial breaks per quarter and a revamping of video replay could mean an enhanced flow of play.

## N.W.A., Vin Scully to be preserved by Library of Congress

By BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — First it became the basis for an Oscar-nominated movie. Now, "Straight Outta Compton" — the groundbreaking album from rap group N.W.A. and a one-time flashpoint in the nation's culture wars — has been selected for the prestigious National Recording Registry.

The album was one of 25 additions to the registry announced Wednesday by the Library of Congress, and it wasn't the only one with a Los Angeles connection. Baseball play-by-play from Vin Scully, who retired last year after calling Dodgers games for 67 years, will also join the national library's trove of recordings, which are selected for their historical, artistic or cultural significance.

The library chose Scully's call of the final meeting between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants at Manhattan's Polo Grounds in 1957. Both teams would depart for California after that season.

"It's a rather imposing call to realize that something that you have done would technically live forever in the Library of Congress," Scully, 89, told The Associated Press from his home in Hidden Hills, California. "It was a particularly meaningful game for me anyway, so to have it picked up and put for posterity is rather humbling and, at the same time, overwhelming."

Plenty of standards are joining the registry too, including Judy Garland's version of "Over the Rainbow," the Eagles' 1976 greatest-hits collection and Don MacLean's elliptical 1971 folk song "American Pie."

Released in 1988, "Straight Outta Compton" influenced a generation of rappers with its raw lyrics about gang violence and the drug trade in south central Los Angeles. It achieved platinum sales without radio airplay and captured the attention of white America. The incendiary track "F--- tha Police" was denounced by right-wing politicians and prompted a warning letter from the FBI to the group's record label.

The album was also one of the first to receive a parental advisory label for explicit content, the outgrowth of a group started by Tipper Gore, then-wife of future vice president Al Gore. But the controversy has long since faded and critics consistently rank it as one of the best hip-hop albums ever made.

While N.W.A. brought the L.A. sound to the world of rap, Scully is an L.A. transplant who moved west with the Dodgers. He was 29 years old when he called his last game at the Polo Grounds, which was about 20 blocks from his grammar school, and he captured the melancholy of the moment.

"I wanted that game to take forever, which is a little different. Today, everyone talks about, and maybe not the fans, but certainly those of us broadcasting and writing, we're always talking about how long the game is. Baseball is now trying to see if they can't speed things up," Scully said. "But as a kid way back, and even as a broadcaster, I remember saying, 'Take it easy fellas, be slow, let's squeeze all of the juice out of this game before we finally close the curtain on it.'"

Recordings picked for the registry are preserved at the library's vast audio-visual vault in Culpeper, Virginia. If they have already been preserved elsewhere, the library collaborates with those studios or archives to ensure they will be available to future generations.

This year's selections date back as far as 1888. That's when Col. George Gouraud, a Civil War hero and friend of Thomas Edison, used his newly acquired wax-cylinder phonograph to record the voices of prominent poets, scientists, musicians and politicians, including William Ewart Gladstone, the future prime minister of Britain, and Sir Arthur Sullivan of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Other additions to the registry include Barbra Streisand's 1964 recording of the song "People," from the musical "Funny Girl"; the late David Bowie's 1972 concept album "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars"; the original-cast recording of the musical "The Wiz" (1975); and Sister Sledge's inclusive anthem "We are Family" (1979).

"I believe 'People' touched our common desire to relate to others with love and caring, and I've always tried to express this in my renditions of this magical song," Streisand said in a statement.

Garland, too, felt the magic of "Over the Rainbow," which was released as a single in 1939 after she sang the ballad in "The Wizard of Oz." The song won an Academy Award, and she continued singing it throughout her career, crediting its "childlike, wistful quality" to composer Harold Arlen.

The Eagles, on the other hand, weren't too enthusiastic about "Their Greatest Hits," which was released in 1976 against the band's wishes. But it became their biggest success and remains one of the top-selling

albums of all time. The California soft-rock group was also recognized at last year's Kennedy Center Honors.

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

## Fans can look forward to some major changes in NFL games

By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Time to celebrate?

NFL fans could see an enhanced flow of play and fewer restrictions on how demonstrative players can be in their jubilation after big plays.

At the busy league meetings Tuesday, owners passed several rules changes, adopting resolutions they believe will speed the game and improve player safety. They also put off until their May gathering in Chicago potentially allowing a bit more creativity in player celebrations.

Commissioner Roger Goodell asked that any adjustments in the rules be tabled so he could meet with players to "bring clarity to the rules while allowing players more ability to celebrate" while avoiding over-the-top demonstrations. He can expect lots of feedback from those players.

The team owners, who on Monday approved the Oakland Raiders' move to Las Vegas, were apprised of ways the overall time of games can be shortened. Much of that will come through a reduction in the number of commercial breaks per quarter.

But a change in handling officiating of video replays also will serve that purpose, as well as provide more consistency in making calls, the league believes.

Referees will now watch replays on the field using Surface tablets, eliminating "going under the hood" to watch on television monitors. League officiating chief Dean Blandino and his staff in New York will make the final decisions on those calls, with input from the referee, who in the past was the ultimate arbiter after consulting with league headquarters.

"We've been doing this for three seasons, since 2014," Blandino said of the centralized reviews. "It's worked in the replay process."

Blandino, who has two assistants who also can make the final decisions at the officiating headquarters, said he has no concern about being undermanned during a heavy schedule.

There are plenty of other things fans can look for in 2017:

—"Leapers" trying to block field goals or extra points have been outlawed.

That was a slam dunk, and passed unanimously.

"To a person, the players association was quick to say 'we don't like this play,'" competition committee chairman Rich McKay said. "That absolutely always plays a part in our decision. It was an easy play to get out."

—Made permanent was the rule disqualifying a player who is penalized twice in a game for specific unsportsmanlike conduct fouls. McKay noted that just because ejections and suspensions for egregious hits have been made a permanent rule instead of a one-year deal doesn't mean the league has a problem. The committee believes suspensions are "the ultimate detriment to players" and will curb any further incidents.

—Crackback blocks by a backfield player who goes in motion no longer are legal.

—An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for committing multiple fouls during the same down with the purpose of manipulating the game clock will be instituted.

Unchanged is the length of overtime in the regular season; a proposal to drop it from 15 minutes to 10 was tabled, a subject likely to be addressed at the May meetings in Chicago.

Giants coach Ben McAdoo agreed when asked if a 10-minute overtime could make it more difficult for both sides to have a possession, as now required if the receiving team in OT doesn't score a touchdown on its first series.

Also tabled was eliminating the mandatory summer cutdown to 75 players, which would leave only one cut at the end of preseason.

Voted down were suggestions to permit coaches to challenge any officials' decisions other than scoring plays and turnovers, which automatically are reviewed. Washington's proposal to move the line of scrimmage to the 20-yard line instead of the 25 if a kickoff is sent through the uprights was defeated.

Withdrawn were proposals to award a third coaches' challenge as long as a team was correct on one of its first two challenges instead of on both; eliminating the maximum of three challenges entirely; and permitting a club to negotiate and reach a contract with a head coaching candidate anytime during the postseason. Now, there is a specific window for interviewing such candidates, whose season must be over before they can be hired.

The league also discussed allowing players and coaches on the sidelines to use the tablets to watch video, but that was not on the voting agenda Tuesday. For now, they can only look at still photos on the tablet.

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

## US judge to hear arguments on longer block to travel ban

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A federal judge in Hawaii who temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's revised travel ban planned to hear arguments Wednesday on whether to extend his order until the state's lawsuit works its way through the courts.

But even if U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson does not issue a longer-lasting hold on the ban, the temporary block would stay in place until he rules otherwise. Legal experts say it is unlikely Watson would side with the Trump administration.

The state says the policy discriminates against Muslims, while the government says it falls within Trump's power to protect national security.

Here's a look at what led up to Wednesday's hearing in Honolulu:

### THE TEMPORARY ORDER

This month, Watson prevented the federal government from suspending new visas for people from six Muslim-majority countries and freezing the nation's refugee program. The ruling came just hours before the ban was to take effect.

Watson, nominated to the bench by former President Barack Obama in 2012, agreed with Hawaii that the ban would hurt the state's tourism-dependent economy and that it discriminates based on nationality and religion.

Trump called the ruling an example of "unprecedented judicial overreach."

The next day, a judge in Maryland also blocked the six-nation travel ban but said it wasn't clear that the suspension of the refugee program was similarly motivated by religious bias.

The federal government appealed the Maryland ruling to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and sought to narrow the Hawaii ruling.

### WHAT DOES HAWAII WANT?

The state has urged Watson to extend his ruling until the lawsuit is resolved.

"And after the repeated stops and starts of the last two months, it would ensure that the constitutional rights of the plaintiffs, and of Muslim citizens throughout the United States, could be finally and fully vindicated," lawyers for the state said in a court filing.

Ismail Elshikh, the imam of a Honolulu mosque, has joined the legal challenge, saying the ban would prevent his Syrian mother-in-law from visiting family in the U.S.

### WHAT DOES THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION WANT?

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The Department of Justice opposes Hawaii's request to extend Watson's temporary order. But the department said that if the judge agrees, he should narrow the ruling to cover only the part of Trump's executive order that suspends new visas for people from Somalia, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Libya and Yemen.

Hawaii's lawsuit doesn't show how the state would be harmed by other sections of the ban, including suspending the refugee program, government attorneys said in court papers.

Other parts of the travel ban "do not apply to plaintiffs at all, but instead simply facilitate the government's ability to identify and fix potential gaps in the nation's vetting procedures," Trump lawyers wrote.

Trump's revised executive order involves "a detailed review of the national security risks that pose the greatest threats to the nation, and it then provided targeted measures to address those security risks in a religiously neutral manner," government lawyers say in court documents.

## CAN AN APPEALS COURT AFFECT THE HAWAII RULING?

The president is asking the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to put the ruling by the judge in Maryland on hold while it considers the case.

The Richmond, Virginia-based appeals court will hear arguments May 8. If the court sides with the federal government, it would not have a direct effect on the Hawaii ruling, legal experts said.

The Trump administration's best bet for saving the travel ban is to have the case go before the U.S. Supreme Court, said Richard Primus, a professor of constitutional law at the University of Michigan law school.

"What a ruling in 4th Circuit in favor of the administration would do is create a split in authority between federal courts in different parts of the country," he said. "Cases with splits in authority are cases the U.S. Supreme Court exists to resolve."

## Felony charges for 2 who secretly filmed Planned Parenthood

By ANDREW DALTON, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California prosecutors on Tuesday charged two anti-abortion activists who made undercover videos of themselves trying to buy fetal tissue from Planned Parenthood with 15 felonies, saying they invaded the privacy of medical providers by filming without consent.

The charges against David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt of the Center for Medical Progress come eight months after similar charges were dropped in Texas.

State Attorney General Xavier Becerra, a longtime Congressional Democrat who took over the investigation in January, said in a statement that the state "will not tolerate the criminal recording of conversations."

Prosecutors say Daleiden, of Davis, California, and Merritt, of San Jose, filmed 14 people without permission between October 2013 and July 2015 in Los Angeles, San Francisco and El Dorado counties. One felony count was filed for each person. The 15th was for criminal conspiracy to invade privacy.

Daleiden said in an email to The Associated Press that the "bogus" charges are coming from "Planned Parenthood's political cronies."

"The public knows the real criminals are Planned Parenthood and their business partners," Daleiden said.

The conversations included officials from Planned Parenthood and StemExpress, a California company that provides blood, tissue and other biological material for medical research and had received fetal tissue from Planned Parenthood.

In one of the pair's videos, Daleiden poses as "Robert Sarkis" of the phony Biomax Procurement Services and is shown discussing liver tissue with the chief executive of StemExpress at a Northern California restaurant.

Abortion opponents said the recordings showed Planned Parenthood was illegally harvesting and selling the organs. Planned Parenthood said the videos were deceptively edited to support extremists' false claims.

"As we have said from the beginning, and as more than a dozen different state investigations have made

clear: Planned Parenthood has done nothing wrong, and the only people who broke the law are those behind the fraudulent tapes," said Mary Alice Carter, interim vice president of communications for Planned Parenthood, in a statement.

In April of last year, Daleiden said in a Facebook post that California Department of Justice agents raided his home, seizing all of his video footage along with personal information.

Since then the case had gone largely quiet, with virtually no revelations about the investigation and no indication that the charges were coming before they were filed Tuesday in San Francisco Superior Court.

The case is one of the first of high-profile prosecutions for Becerra, who left the U.S. House to take over for Kamala Harris after she became a U.S. Senator.

Daleiden and Merritt had previously been indicted in Texas on similar charges in January of 2016, but all of the charges were eventually dropped by July as prosecutors said a grand jury had overstepped its authority. The grand jury had originally been convened to investigate Planned Parenthood, but after finding no wrongdoing turned around and indicted Daleiden and Merritt instead.

The videos reignited the American abortion debate when they were released in 2015, and increased Congressional heat against Planned Parenthood that has yet to subside.

## In Trump's White House drama, Priebus is favorite target

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the behind-the-scenes drama of who's up and who's down in Donald Trump's White House, chief of staff Reince Priebus is playing a starring role.

Priebus, a genial Midwesterner with deep ties to the Republican establishment that Trump toppled, has faced questions about his future since the day he set foot in the White House. And the focus on him is intensifying following Trump's failure to get enough GOP lawmakers to support a White House-backed health care bill, an embarrassing blow for the new president.

There's blame to spare for the health care debacle at both the White House and on Capitol Hill. But Priebus is a particularly rich target, given that his value to Trump is tied to his relationships with GOP lawmakers, many of whom were elected during his six years as chairman of the Republican National Committee.

"Reince doesn't have a magic wand," said Henry Barbour, a friend and Republican national committeeman. "He doesn't have an ability to make people do what they don't want to do — and he doesn't want to."

Priebus' standing in the White House has broad implications for Trump's agenda. Beyond Vice President Mike Pence, he represents the president's most direct link to the traditional underpinnings of the Republican Party and is the buffer between the fiery nationalists and the more liberal New Yorkers who also occupy top White House jobs.

Trump has voiced confidence in Priebus in recent conversations with associates, including after House Speaker Paul Ryan pulled the health care bill off the floor Friday, and White House officials say the two men appear to have developed a comfortable relationship.

During the Republican primary, Priebus, 45, often remarked to colleagues that he spoke with Trump more than any of the other 17 GOP candidates. The president likes to make good-natured digs at Priebus in public remarks, joking about his "crazy name" and telling a meeting of auto industry executives that his chief of staff might end up running a car company someday.

For laughs, Trump will sometimes recount a tense exchange with Priebus at one of the campaign's lowest moments: the release of a video in which Trump is heard making predatory comments about women. During an emergency campaign meeting, Priebus told Trump he should either drop out of the race or risk dragging down Republican candidates across the country.

Steve Bannon, Trump's senior adviser, said it's not Priebus' grim — and ultimately inaccurate — warning that stuck with the president. It's the fact that Priebus showed up at all, given the intense pressure at the time for Republican leaders to abandon the party's nominee.

"Reince had the courage to get on a train in Washington, D.C., go to Penn Station, go to Trump Tower

and come to the meeting," Bannon said. "That's courage."

Bannon, who was also considered for the chief of staff job, has grown unexpectedly close to Priebus and has distanced himself from the criticism by Breitbart News, the far-right website Bannon ran before joining Trump's campaign.

"They've got their heroes, they've got their villains, it's never going to change," Bannon said of Breitbart. He vouched for Priebus' populist credentials, saying, "When left to his own devices, he's not really that establishment."

Priebus inspires intense loyalty among those who worked with him at the RNC, several of whom followed him to the White House, including press secretary Sean Spicer. They describe him as a workhorse who is determined to unite the disparate factions of Trump advisers.

"He wants input, he wants buy-in, he wants people to feel like they're part of the process," said Katie Walsh, who worked alongside Priebus at the RNC and is now deputy chief of staff at the White House.

But one White House official said Priebus' approach backfired early in the administration, leaving the impression that he was a pushover who didn't have full control of the staff. His style has also created uncertainty on Capitol Hill, where Republican lawmakers sometimes get conflicting messages from top White House officials, including during the health care debate and on a tax overhaul.

A GOP leadership aide said Priebus himself appears to be less involved in shaping the details of Trump's agenda and more focused on trying to get White House officials on the same page. The aide was among about a dozen White House officials, Trump associates and congressional aides who spoke about Priebus, some on the condition of anonymity in order to disclose private conversations.

Priebus is said to be sensitive to the criticism that has sprouted up about him, particularly when it's focused on his competency and management of the West Wing. That's created a mild sense of paranoia among his allies, according to another White House official, leading them to respond in outsized ways, both privately and publicly.

"He's somebody that always hears footsteps," the official said of Priebus.

He's had to adjust the traditional role of chief of staff to fit a highly unconventional president. Unlike many of his predecessors, Priebus spends much of his day by Trump's side and typically sits in on his meetings with CEOs and other outside visitors.

Kellyanne Conway, Trump's White House counselor, said that's a function of a president who can make decisions in those meetings that the chief of staff needs to know.

"This is a president that allows a lot of access," Conway said. For Priebus, she said, "it requires a lot more physical presence."

Priebus supporters say he has moved to tighten the reins in the West Wing in recent weeks, leading crisper discussions in his daily 8 a.m. staff meeting and taking a tougher line with those who veer from the day's plans.

"Reince has been on a learning curve in the executive branch, he's never been there," said Chris Ruddy, a friend of Trump's and among those who have been publicly critical of Priebus. "There's a settling in that's taken place."

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

## White House calls for domestic cuts to finance border wall

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is proposing immediate budget cuts of \$18 billion from programs like medical research, infrastructure and community grants so U.S. taxpayers, not Mexico, can cover the down payment on the border wall.

The White House documents were submitted to Congress amid negotiations over a catchall spending bill that would avert a partial government shutdown at the end of next month. The package would wrap up



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\$1.1 trillion in unfinished spending bills and address the Trump administration's request for an immediate \$30 billion in additional Pentagon spending.

The latest Trump proposal, disclosed Tuesday, would eliminate \$1.2 billion in National Institutes of Health research grants, a favorite of both parties. The community development block grant program, also popular, would be halved, amounting to a cut of \$1.5 billion, and Trump would strip \$500 million from a popular grant program for transportation projects. Some of that money would help pay for parts of the wall.

Like Trump's 2018 proposed budget, which was panned by both Democrats and Republicans earlier this month, the proposals have little chance of being enacted.

But they could create bad political optics for the struggling Trump White House, since the administration asked earlier for \$3 billion to pay for the Trump's controversial U.S.-Mexico border wall and other immigration enforcement plans. During the campaign, Trump repeatedly promised Mexico would pay for the wall, a claim the country has disputed.

"The administration is asking the American taxpayer to cover the cost of a wall — unneeded, ineffective, absurdly expensive — that Mexico was supposed to pay for, and he is cutting programs vital to the middle class to get that done," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "Build the wall or repair or build a bridge or tunnel or road in your community? What's the choice?"

The roster of cuts were sent to Capitol Hill as a set of options for GOP staff aides and lawmakers crafting a catchall spending bill for the ongoing budget year, which ends Sept. 30.

Those talks are intensifying, but Senate Republicans are considering backing away from a showdown with Democrats over whether to fund Trump's request for immediate funding to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Senate Democrats have threatened to filibuster any provision providing money for the wall. And many Republicans aren't very enthusiastic about it and say the White House hasn't given them many specifics to go on.

"I'd like to hear the details. What is this wall?" asked Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Asked about including Southern border wall financing in the broader spending package, Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., a key negotiator, said: "They will not pass together. That's just my view."

Blunt added, "My view is there's a path to get 60 votes" in the Senate, the total required to overcome a Democratic filibuster. Blunt is a member of the Senate GOP leadership team and a major player on health and human services accounts.

The government would shut down except for some functions at midnight April 28 without successful action on spending. GOP leaders are eager to avoid a politically damaging shutdown, especially in the wake of last week's embarrassing failure to pass the Trump-pushed bill to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law.

Negotiators have made progress on the core elements of a dozen must-do funding bills, but have ignored the White House's list of cuts in doing so.

But the White House badly wants funding for the Mexico wall and hasn't fully engaged in the Capitol Hill negotiations. Pitfalls lay ahead in the talks, and the situation is especially fragile because of divisions among GOP ranks and uncertainty over who's playing the lead role at the White House on the particulars of budget work.

According to new details sent to Congress, the administration wants immediate funds to complete an existing barrier in the Rio Grande Valley, \$500 million to complete 28 miles of border levee wall near McAllen, Texas, and \$350 million for construction along two segments near San Diego.

Other cuts include \$434 million to immediately eliminate a program to encourage community service opportunities for senior citizens, eliminating \$372 million in remaining funding for heating subsidies for the poor, and cutting \$447 million in transit grants.

White House budget office spokesman John Czwartacki said the proposals were not being shared with the media. A Capitol Hill aide described the cuts to The Associated Press, speaking only on condition of anonymity because the budget document is not yet public.

## Head of Trump-Russia probe under fire, won't step down

By EILEEN SULLIVAN and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House intelligence committee refused Tuesday to step away from its investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, as fresh political allegations brought new cries of protest from Democrats.

Asked if he should recuse himself, committee chairman Devin Nunes responded, "Why would I?" Later in the day, the White House vehemently denied a report that it had sought to hobble the testimony of a former acting attorney general before Nunes canceled the hearing where she was to speak.

President Donald Trump's spokesman, Sean Spicer, lashed out at reporters, claiming they're seeing conspiracies where none exist.

"If the president puts Russian salad dressing on his salad tonight, somehow that's a Russian connection," he suggested.

The embattled House committee is conducting one of three probes into the election campaign, its aftermath and potential contacts between Trump officials and Russians. The Senate intelligence committee is doing its own investigation, and since late July the FBI has been conducting a counterintelligence investigation into Russia's meddling and possible coordination with the Trump campaign.

Nunes' decision to cancel Tuesday's hearing was the latest in a series of actions that Democrats contend demonstrate that his loyalty to Trump is greater than his commitment to leading an independent investigation. The California Republican, who was a member of Trump's presidential transition team, has said he met with a secret source last week on White House grounds to review classified material that showed Trump associates' communications had been captured in "incidental" surveillance of foreigners in November, December and January.

Nunes would not name the source of the information, and his office said he did not intend to share it with other members of the committee.

Nor would he disclose who invited him on the White House grounds for the meeting. He described the source as an intelligence official, not a White House official. In an interview on CNN, he suggested the president's aides were unaware of the meeting.

Trump has used Nunes' revelations to defend his unproven claim that Barack Obama tapped phones at Trump Tower. In a series of tweets Monday night, Trump said that instead of probing his associates, the committee should be investigating his Democrat opponent Hillary Clinton's ties to the Kremlin.

"Trump Russia story is a hoax," he tweeted.

Adding to the swirl of questions was the publication of a series of letters dated March 23 and March 24 involving a lawyer for former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates.

Yates, along with former CIA Director John Brennan and former director of national intelligence James Clapper, had agreed to testify publicly before the House intelligence committee.

The canceled hearing would have been the first opportunity for the public to hear Yates' account of her role in the firing of Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

The letters from lawyer David O'Neil, published by The Washington Post, appeared to be in response to a meeting O'Neil had at the Justice Department on March 23 in advance of the hearing.

In them, O'Neil pushes back against what he says is Justice Department guidance on what Yates could say about conversations she had with Trump — conversations the department indicated could be covered by executive privilege.

"We believe that the Department's position in this regard is overbroad, incorrect, and inconsistent with the Department's historical approach to the congressional testimony of current and former senior officials," O'Neil wrote in a March 23 letter to Justice Department official Samuel Ramer. He also wrote that Yates' testimony would cover details that others have publicly recounted.

The Justice Department responded to O'Neil saying that the question of what privileged conversations Yates could discuss was ultimately up to the White House.

Spicer on Tuesday said the White House never sought to stop her. "We have no problem with her tes-

tifying, plain and simple," he said.

O'Neil declined to comment Tuesday, and a Justice Department spokeswoman did not return a message seeking comment.

Yates was fired in January as acting attorney general after she refused to defend the Trump administration's first travel ban. She alerted the White House in January that Flynn had been misleading in his account of a December phone call with the Russian ambassador to the United States in which economic sanctions against Russia were discussed. Flynn was ousted after those discrepancies were made public.

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said that White House meddling is not helping to "remove the cloud that increasingly is getting darker over the administration."

Democratic members of Nunes' House committee said his ability to lead a bipartisan probe is compromised.

"It's irregular, to be benign about it, to have a lead investigator kibitzing with the people being investigated," said Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn.

House Speaker Paul Ryan reiterated his support for Nunes, and Nunes himself said all of the controversy was standard for Washington.

"It's the same thing as always around this place — a lot of politics, people get heated, but I'm not going to involve myself with that," he said.

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Associated Press writers Stephen Ohlemacher and Erica Werner contributed to this report.

## Chinese anger, fears exposed in France after police killing

By THOMAS ADAMSON and CHRIS DEN HOND, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Chinese immigrants and China's government are protesting a police killing in Paris that prompted violent street clashes and exposed the fears and frustrations of France's large Asian community.

Protesters gathered Tuesday in northeast Paris for a second day of demonstrations over the fatal shooting of a Chinese man in his apartment, and police launched an internal investigation into a death that took on diplomatic implications.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China had summoned a representative of the French embassy in Beijing Tuesday and urged French officials to "get to the bottom of the incident as soon as possible."

Chinese authorities "hope that Chinese nationals in France can express their wishes and demands in a reasonable way," Hua said.

Residents and police gave conflicting accounts of what happened before the man was shot to death by police on Sunday evening.

Police said an officer fired in self-defense during a raid after the man wounded an officer with a "bladed weapon." Rumors circulated among Chinese immigrants that 56-year-old Shaoyo Liu was in front of his children while cutting up fish with scissors and had not hurt anyone.

Protesters outraged by the killing and baton-wielding police clashed for several hours on Monday night. Three police officers were injured and 35 protesters arrested, authorities said Tuesday.

With chants of "murderers" and candles that spelled "opposition to violence" lining the road, scores of demonstrators broke down barricades, threw projectiles and set fire to cars.

Authorities said 26 demonstrators were held for participating in a group planning violence, six for throwing projectiles, and three others for violence against police that saw a police car damaged by arson.

Witnesses said that one man of Chinese origin was injured in the clashes, according to China's state-run Xinhua News Agency.

France's Foreign Ministry responded Tuesday by calling the security of Chinese in France "a priority."

The ministry confirmed that an inquiry has started to shed light on the circumstances of the shooting.

The move did not calm some 100 people from Paris' Asian community who gathered at the police station

on Tuesday afternoon, including families and friends of people detained the night before.

"Justice must be done, the killer must be punished!" the protesters shouted.

A meeting of the Chinese community in Paris was planned to discuss possible further actions.

France is home to Europe's largest population of ethnic Chinese, a community that routinely accuses police of not doing enough to protect it from racism.

In September, 15,000 people rallied in the French capital to urge an end to violence against the Asian community after the beating death of Chinese tailor Chaolin Zhongh called attention to ethnic tensions in Paris immigrant suburbs. The victim's lawyer said the August 2016 attack was ethnically motivated.

"Chinese are victims of racist attitudes in France, especially from other ethnic groups," Pierre Picquart, an expert on China at the University of Paris VIII, said. "They are targets for crime because they often carry cash and many don't have residence permits, so can be threatened easily. They're angry with police for not protecting them enough."

"Chinese people do not like to protest or express themselves publicly, so when we see them like this, it means they are very, very angry. They've had enough of discrimination," Picquart added.

He estimated that there are 2 million people of Chinese origin living in France, a country with a population of about 66 million.

The recent killing and clashes came after thousands of people marched in Paris to condemn the alleged rape in February of a young black man by police.

The alleged incident in the Paris suburb of Aulnay-sous-Bois turned the 22-year-old, identified only as Theo, into a symbol for minorities standing up to police violence.

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Associated Press writer Louise Watt in Beijing and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

## NFL owners revamp video replay for officiating

By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — NFL owners got busy Tuesday passing several rules changes, adopting resolutions they believe will speed the game and enhance player safety, and perhaps even allow for more personality in player celebrations.

One day after approving the Oakland Raiders' move to Las Vegas, the owners sped up discussions on dozens of subjects.

That led to a change in handling officiating of video replays; eliminating "leapers" trying to block field goals or extra points; adding protections for defenseless receivers running their routes; and further discussions with the players about loosening restrictions for on-field celebrations.

The NFL also extended bringing touchbacks out to the 25-yard line for another year; made permanent the rule disqualifying a player who is penalized twice in a game for specific unsportsmanlike conduct fouls; and tabled reducing overtime in the regular season from 15 minutes to 10, a subject likely to be addressed at the May meetings in Chicago.

Referees will now watch replays on the field using Surface tablets, eliminating "going under the hood" to watch on television monitors. League officiating chief Dean Blandino and his staff in New York will make the final decisions on those calls, with input from the referee, who in the past was the ultimate arbiter after consulting with league headquarters.

"We've been doing this for three seasons, since 2014," Blandino said of the centralized reviews. "It's worked in the replay process."

Blandino, who has two assistants who also can make the final decisions at the officiating headquarters, said he has no concern about being undermanned during a heavy schedule.

The leaper rule was a slam dunk, and passed unanimously.

"To a person, the players association was quick to say 'we don't like this play,'" competition committee chairman Rich McKay said. "That absolutely always plays a part in our decision. It was an easy play to get out."

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Commissioner Roger Goodell asked that adjustments in the strength of rules limiting player celebrations be tabled so he could meet with players to “bring clarity to the rules while allowing players more ability to celebrate” while avoiding over-the-top demonstrations. That proposal likely will be revisited in May.

McKay noted that just because ejections and suspensions for egregious hits have been made a permanent rule instead of a one-year deal doesn’t mean the league has a problem. The committee believes suspensions are “the ultimate detriment to players” and will curb any further incidents.

Also tabled was eliminating the mandatory summer cutdown to 75 players, which would leave only one cut at the end of preseason.

Voted down were suggestions to permit coaches to challenge any officials’ decisions other than scoring plays and turnovers, which automatically are reviewed. Washington’s proposal to move the line of scrimmage to the 20-yard line instead of the 25 if a kickoff is sent through the uprights was defeated.

Other actions taken Tuesday included:

- Crackback blocks by a backfield player who goes in motion are now banned.
- Creating an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for committing multiple fouls during the same down with the purpose of manipulating the game clock.
- Allowing teams to interview or hire an employee of another team during the season if the other team consents.

—Modifying some bylaws regarding bringing draft-eligible players to clubs’ facilities; changed procedures for returning a player to the active ranks from lists such as physically unable to perform, non-football injury or non-football illness; and tightened the restrictions on what is considered a local workout before the draft.

Those local workouts worked against teams with few major colleges in the area or players who are residents, citing Green Bay vs. Miami.

Withdrawn were proposals to award a third coaches’ challenge as long as a team was correct on one of its first two challenges instead of on both; eliminating the maximum of three challenges entirely; and permitting a club to negotiate and reach a contract with a head coaching candidate anytime during the postseason. Now, there is a specific window for interviewing such candidates, whose season must be over before they can be hired.

The league also discussed allowing players and coaches on the sidelines to use the tablets to watch video, but that was not on the voting agenda Tuesday. For now, they can only look at still photos on the tablet.

“We’re pleased to build on our partnership with the NFL and help lead the digital transformation of the game with today’s approval of NFL referees conducting video reviews on Surface this upcoming season,” said Jeff Tran, director of sports marketing and alliances at Microsoft.

“The introduction of Surface to this aspect of the game will improve consistency and accuracy of decisions and also speed up the overall review process to enhance the viewing experience for fans.”

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

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 29, the 88th day of 2017. There are 277 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On March 29, 1867, Britain’s Parliament passed, and Queen Victoria signed, the British North America Act creating the Dominion of Canada, which came into being the following July.

On this date:

In 1638, Swedish colonists settled in present-day Delaware.

In 1790, the tenth president of the United States, John Tyler, was born in Charles City County, Virginia.

In 1792, Sweden’s King Gustav III died, nearly two weeks after he had been shot and mortally wounded

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by an assassin during a masquerade party.

In 1912, British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, his doomed expedition stranded in an Antarctic blizzard after failing to be the first to reach the South Pole, wrote the last words of his journal: "For Gods sake look after our people."

In 1936, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler claimed overwhelming victory in a plebiscite on his policies.

In 1943, World War II rationing of meat, fats and cheese began.

In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted in New York of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union. (They were executed in June 1953.) The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I" opened on Broadway.

In 1962, Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time. (Johnny Carson debuted as host the following October.)

In 1971, Army Lt. William L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murdering 22 Vietnamese civilians in the My Lai (mee ly) massacre. (Calley ended up serving three years under house arrest.) A jury in Los Angeles recommended the death penalty for Charles Manson and three female followers for the 1969 Tate-La Bianca murders. (The sentences were later commuted.)

In 1973, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1984, under cover of early morning darkness, the Baltimore Colts football team left its home city of three decades and moved to Indianapolis.

In 1992, Democratic presidential front-runner Bill Clinton acknowledged experimenting with marijuana "a time or two" while attending Oxford University, adding, "I didn't inhale and I didn't try it again."

Ten years ago: A defiant, Democratic-controlled Senate approved, 51-47, legislation calling for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq within a year (however, supporters of the bill were unable to muster enough votes to override a promised veto by President George W. Bush). Veteran diplomat Ryan Crocker was sworn in as the new U.S. ambassador to Iraq. West Virginia beat Clemson, 78-73, for its first NIT title in 65 years.

Five years ago: A divided House approved, 228-191, a \$3.6 trillion Republican budget recasting Medicare and imposing sweeping cuts in domestic programs. Stanford routed Minnesota 75-51 to win the NIT title.

One year ago: In the clearest sign yet of the impact of Justice Antonin Scalia's death, labor unions won, on a tie vote, a high-profile Supreme Court dispute they had seemed all but certain to lose. President Barack Obama told the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit in Atlanta that opioid abuse needed to be a higher-priority issue for the federal government. A man described as "psychologically unstable" hijacked a flight from Egypt to Cyprus, threatening to blow it up; his explosives turned out to be fake and he surrendered with all passengers released unharmed after a bizarre, six-hour standoff. Oscar-winning actress Patty Duke, 69, died in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

Today's Birthdays: Author Judith Guest is 81. Former British Prime Minister Sir John Major is 74. Comedian Eric Idle is 74. Composer Vangelis is 74. Basketball Hall of Famer Walt Frazier is 72. Singer Bobby Kimball (Toto) is 70. Actor Bud Cort is 69. Actor Brendan Gleeson is 62. Actor Christopher Lawford is 62. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Earl Campbell is 62. Actress Marina Sirtis is 62. International Gymnastics Hall of Famer Kurt Thomas is 61. Actor Christopher Lambert is 60. Rock singer Perry Farrell (Porno for Pyros; Jane's Addiction) is 58. Comedian-actress Amy Sedaris is 56. Model Elle Macpherson is 54. Movie director Michel Hazanavicius (mee-SHEHL' ah-zah-nah-VEE'-see-oos) is 50. Rock singer-musician John Popper (Blues Traveler) is 50. Actress Lucy Lawless is 49. Country singer Regina Leigh (Regina Regina) is 49. Country singer Brady Seals is 48. Former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs is 46. CBS News correspondent Lara Logan is 46. Actor Sam Hazeldine is 45. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jennifer Capriati is 41. Actor Chris D'Elia is 37. Pop singer Kelly Sweet is 29.

Thought for Today: "To silence criticism is to silence freedom." — Sidney Hook, American philosopher and author (1902-1989).