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Monday, April 3

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

Senior Menu: Tater tot hotdish, green beans, orange half, sugar cookie, whole wheat bread.

7:00 pm: City Council meeting at Groton Community Center (carried live at GDILIVE.COM)

Tuesday, April 4

United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m.
Track at Ipswich at 12:30 p.m.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, macaroni salad, squash, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Wednesday, April 5

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML at 1:30 p.m., Confirmation at 3:45 p.m., Lenten Service at 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Lenten meal (Sarah Circle serves) at 6 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.

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, broccoli medley, fruit, whole wheat bread.



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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Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



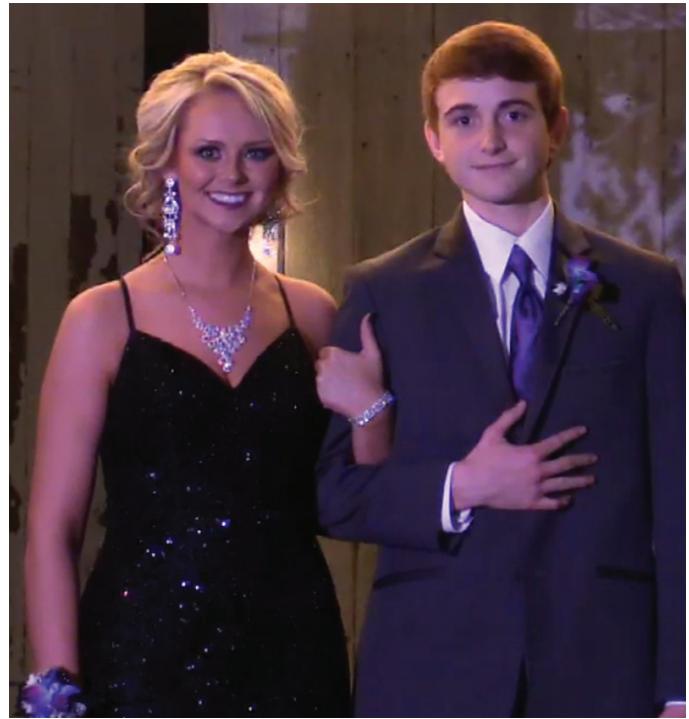
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GHS Prom Couples - Part 2



Lexi Gustafson escorted by Harley Gibbs.



Paityn Bonn escorted by Mark Leonhardt.



Jessica Adler escorted by Nick Achen



McClain Lone escorting Madison Coester.

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Kellyn Fluke escorted by Cole Johnson.



Lexie Harder escorted by Clark Gibbs.



Thane Henschel escorting AnneMarie Smith.



Erin Smith escorted by Alex Leschisin.

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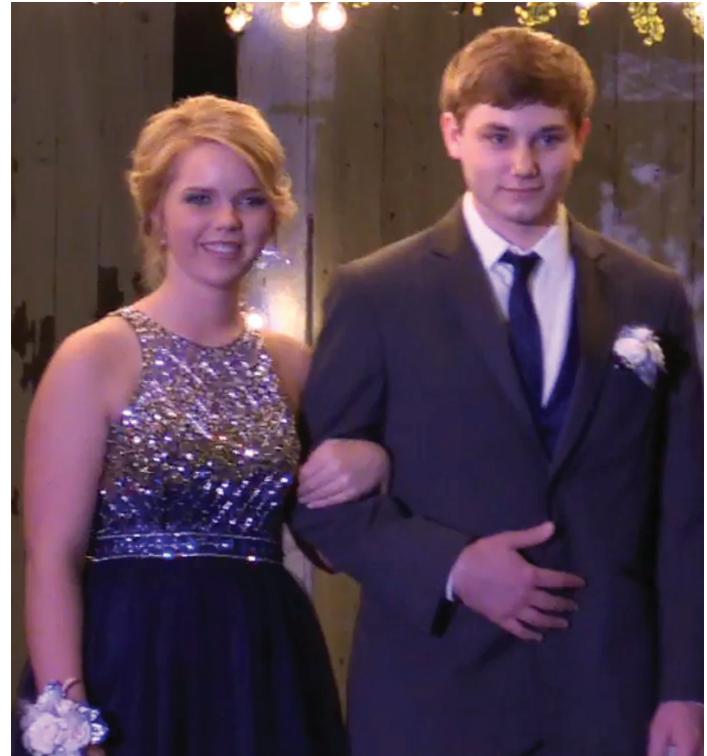
Jenifer Fjelstad escorted by Mitchell Koens.



Hattie Weismantel escorted by Micah Poor.



Sean Schuring escorting Payton Maine.



Erika Herr escorted by Trevor Saylor.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Before we get into the roster breakdown, I wanted to cover a few news items. The biggest news to come out of Vikings land this past week was a video posted by Teddy Bridgewater. The video showed the quarterback dropping back and throwing a football. There is a huge difference between throwing the ball in a park and playing an actual game, but seeing him throw still caused quite a stir. All reports indicate there is a chance Teddy may never play again, and even if he does, his injury was unique and there is no time table for his return. But he is clearly attacking his rehab with ferocity, and I am certainly not counting him out.

There is also a report that Adrian Peterson will be meeting with the New England Patriots. Personally, I don't think Peterson's style fits with New England's offense, but if there is any coach in the league who can take advantage of his skills, it would be Bill Belichick.

Harrison Smith had surgery on his ankle last week. The surgery was a success, and he should be good to go by training camp.

Now on to the roster breakdown.

The Vikings have one of the youngest linebacking corps in the league, and it got younger after the retirement of Chad Greenway. As of now, the Vikings only have five linebackers on the roster, so they will certainly be looking to add one or two during the draft or through free agency.

Anthony Barr was looking like one of the best young linebackers in the NFL in 2015, but he took a major step backwards last season. His Pro Football Focus grade was 80.1 his rookie season and 91.7 in 2015, but it dropped all the way to 43.1 last year. Barr has two years left on his rookie contract (assuming the Vikings pick up his fifth-year option), but if he plays well this season it won't surprise me to see the Vikings give him a monster extension next offseason.

Eric Kendricks was the opposite of Barr last year, taking his game to another level compared to his rookie season. His player grade was 48.3 his rookie year (2015), but jumped to 80.3 last season. Kendricks has two years left on his rookie contract, but will get a nice extension as well.

With Barr and Kendricks locking down two of the three linebacker positions, the Vikings will be looking at the following players to see who can step up and become the third starting linebacker:

Emmanuel Lamur, who was brought in as a free agent last offseason, and has tons of experience in Zimmer's defense.

Edmund Robinson, who is entering his second year in the NFL but has spent time in the Canadian Football League.

Kentrell Brothers, who was drafted by the team last year in the fifth round.

There are a few free agents who the Vikings may be interested in, including former Vikings Gerald Hodges, and Ray Maualuga, who worked under Mike Zimmer in Cincinnati.

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Today in Weather History

April 3, 1968: Heavy snowfall, up to ten inches, was accompanied by winds of over 60 mph in parts of South Dakota. Snowdrifts of up to 4 feet were reported and many roads were closed. Aberdeen was one of the hardest hit areas with 10.5 inches of snow and wind gusts of 62 mph. The strong winds and localized areas of icing caused considerable damage to utility lines.

April 3, 2003: Dry vegetation, along with windy conditions, caused a grassland burn northeast of Bath, near the James River in South Dakota, to get out of control during the early afternoon hours. Strong north to northeast winds of 20 to 35 mph caused the fire to spread quickly south along the James River. The fire became one and a half miles wide and burned six miles to the south before it was brought under control. A total of 4,000 acres were burned. The smoke from the fire could be seen from miles around and lowered visibilities enough to close State Highway 12 two different times. At one point, traffic had to be diverted on Highway 12 for six hours due to the low visibility in smoke. Also, the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad was delayed in Bristol and Andover on April 3rd because of the smoke. Twenty-one fire departments with around 250 people worked to bring the fire under control.

April 3, 2007: A sharp frontal boundary along with an upper-level disturbance brought an unusual band of heavy snow across northern South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 6 to 12 inches occurred from Eureka to Summit. Roads became snow covered or slushy making travel difficult. Due to the poor road conditions, several vehicles ended up in the ditch. Several schools and events were either postponed or canceled. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Eureka and Milbank, 7 inches at Conde, 8 inches at Hosmer, Columbia, Summit and Britton, 10 inches at Webster, and 12 inches at Waubay.

April 3, 2009: A strong area of low pressure moved across the Central Plains producing widespread snow over central and north central South Dakota. Along with the snow came strong north winds of 15 to 30 mph causing areas of blowing snow and poor visibilities. The snow and poor visibility caused some travel problems. Snowfall amounts ranged from a few inches to almost a foot of snow. Some of the snowfall amounts included; 6 inches near Presho and Okaton, Fort Thompson, and Timber Lake; 7 inches in Murdo and 16 S Ree Heights; 8 inches 14 NNE Isabel and 11 inches 3 NW Parade and 6 E Hayes.

1898: An avalanche near Chilkoot Pass, Alaska in the Yukon during the Gold Rush buried 142 people and killed 43 others.

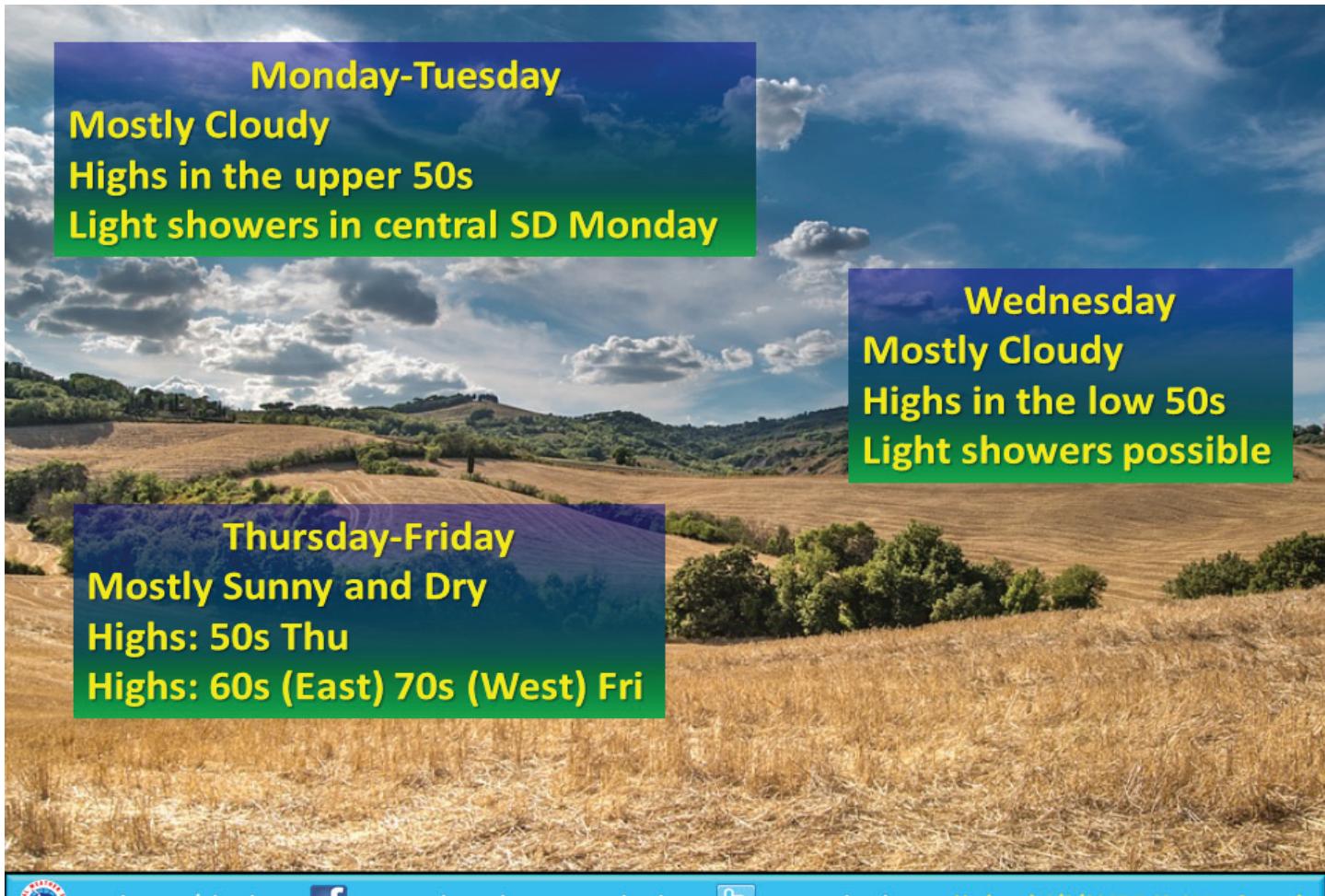
1964: KAUZ in Wichita Falls, Texas broadcast the first live television pictures of an F5 tornado moving through the city. Seven people were killed, 111 injured and 225 homes were destroyed during the twisters 5 to a 6-mile path. Extensive damage was done at Sheppard Air Force Base where three tanker planes, a hanger, the power plant, and the chapel were all destroyed. Damage estimates exceeded \$15 million dollars.

1974: A "Super-Outbreak" of tornadoes ravaged the Midwest and the eastern U.S. Severe weather erupted early in the afternoon and continued through the next day. Severe thunderstorms spawned 148 tornadoes from Alabama to Michigan, most of which occurred between 1 PM (CST) on the 3rd and 1 AM on the 4th. The tornadoes killed 315 persons, injured 5300 others, and caused 600 million dollars damage. Alabama, Kentucky, and Ohio were especially hard hit in the tornado outbreak. One tornado destroyed half of the town of Xenia, Ohio killing 34 persons. Another tornado, near the town of Stamping Ground, Kentucky produced a path of destruction a record five miles in width. A tornado raced through Guin, Alabama at a speed of 75 mph. Two powerful tornadoes roared across northern Alabama during the early evening hours, killing fifty persons and injuring 500 others. Some rescue vehicles responding to the first tornado were struck by the second.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
			 30%	 30% 30%		
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Rain	Chance Rain/Snow then Chance Rain	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 59 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 57 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 55 °F



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 4/3/2017 5:43 AM Central

Published on: 04/03/2017 at 5:51AM

Light showers will move through central South Dakota today. Highs will be in the 50s and skies will remain mostly cloudy through Wednesday, when more light showers are possible. Thursday and Friday will be sunny with highs in the 50s Thursday, and in the 60s (east) and 70s (west) Friday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 66.2 F at 4:29 PM

Low Outside Temp: 34.5 F at 3:09 AM

High Gust: 26.0 Mph at 9:47 AM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 83° in 1921

Record Low: -2° in 1975

Average High: 50°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.13

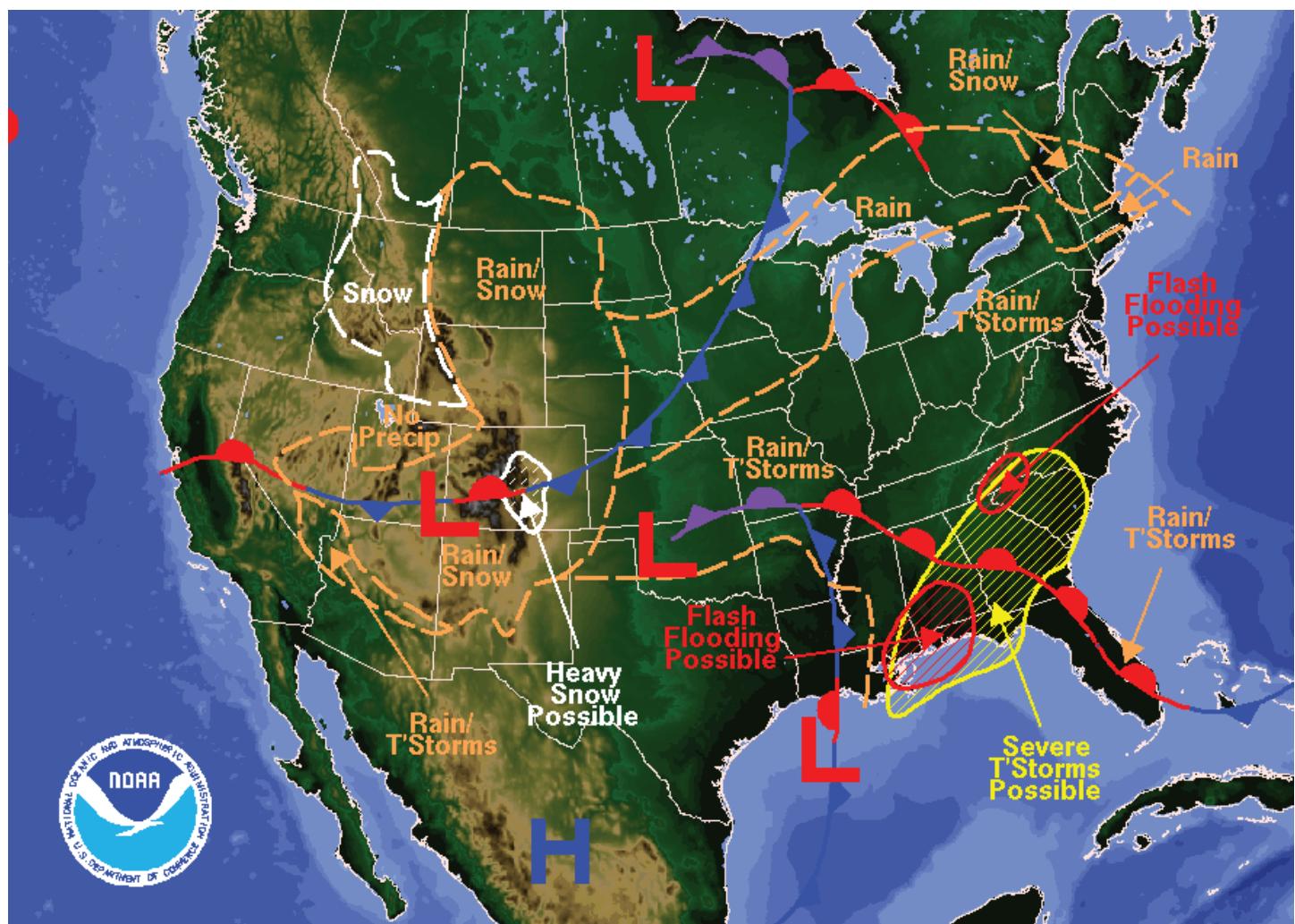
Precip to date in April.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 2.31

Precip Year to Date: 0.59

Sunset Tonight: 8:04 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Apr 03, 2017, issued 4:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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GIVING HELP – INSPIRING OTHERS

Joseph Priestly left college believing he was called to serve God as a minister. However, he soon became uncomfortable with this calling and decided to teach school. One day Benjamin Franklin visited his classroom and was very impressed with his teaching skills. At the conclusion of the class he said to Priestly, "I believe that you have the abilities to write a history of electricity. I'll help you by lending you my books and notes."

Encouraged by the generosity of Mr. Franklin, he accepted the challenge and immediately began writing a book on the history of electricity. He was so enthusiastic and excited about this project that he researched and wrote the entire book in one year. This inspired him to dedicate his life to scientific research. His research led him to the discovery of oxygen. He is also credited with developing the first carbon dioxide fire extinguisher. All because of the encouraging words of Franklin.

Paul recognized the important role of encouraging others. In his letter to the Thessalonians he encouraged them to "encourage each other and build each other up!"

At the end of a long race the runners often speak of muscles that are cramping or throats that are parched and burning as their body is about to collapse. But then the crowd begins to shout, "You can do it – keep it up – you are going to make it!" Those few words of encouragement are all they need to finish well. Be an encourager today.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to be alert to those around us who need a word of strength, hope or love to persevere in the face of adversity. Make us Your encouragers. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

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News from the Associated Press

Midwest economic survey index slips but still called healthy

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Results from a monthly survey of business supply managers show a slight slip in the economic conditions in nine Midwest and Plains states.

The Mid-America Business Conditions Index report released Monday says the overall economic index for the region dropped to 60.1 in March from 60.5 in February. It's the first index decline in five months.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says the figures still point to a healthy regional manufacturing economy.

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

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

Activation ceremony held for South Dakota Air Guard wing

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Members of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing are preparing to head overseas.

An activation ceremony was held Sunday at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. KELO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2nxy3jO>) reports the ceremony was to honor the fighter wing's members and to give their families a chance to say goodbye.

The unit is sending more than 100 airmen and women across the world. While deployed, the members will support various operations throughout U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command.

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

South Dakota officials consider Britton community center

BRITTON, S.D. (AP) — Marshall County officials are considering building a new community center in Britton.

Community members attended a public meeting Feb. 22 to hear details about the new building. Event center planning committee member Josh Kraft said about 30 people have been involved in the planning process, the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2no0LT5>) reported.

"It's an exciting project for a community our size," Kraft said.

The facility would be nearly 20,000 square feet and cost around \$3.2 million. It would also have a 160-seat theater, a multi-purpose area with a capacity of 400, a lounge area and men's and women's locker rooms. Construction could begin later this year.

Kraft said the facility could be used to hold training summits, theater events, business seminars and other community-related events.

"We concentrated on making the rest of the spaces opportunities for community groups who may or may not be able to afford a space of their own," he said.

Plans from February called for the facility to be constructed on the north end of town with a budget of about \$2.4 million. Kraft said that because the proposed location is currently part of school property, the plan would need to call for city ownership and management of the center. He said that some felt the facility should be on the south end of town, so the exact location of the center is still being determined.

The committee hopes to have final plans together in the next couple weeks, including a site plan, a budget and a construction timeline.

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

Sioux Falls to set stricter rules on rental registry

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls officials are drafting stricter rules because many landlords are not following the city's required rental registry program, a city official said.

City code enforcement manager Matt Tobias said that officials are currently drafting proposed changes to the ordinance that established the program in hopes that more landlords will comply. He said the changes would make the program have "a few more teeth," the Argus Leader reported (<http://argusne.ws/2nnRKJH>).

"It's low," Tobias said of the number of registered rentals. "We definitely would like to see it higher."

The original mandatory program created in 2003 required landlords to register every three years, but that changed in 2011.

Tobias told city councilors recently that the registry is important to his office's efforts to enforce multiple codes. He said tenants may not notify a landlord if they receive a violation notice, but if the city is aware the property is a rental, it can directly contact the property owner.

"It's another way for us to communicate with you," he said.

Councilman Greg Neitzert said the city should use text messages to notify landlords.

Councilwoman Christine Erickson, who owns rental property, said it was nice when the city contacted her about a situation in which a tenant who was supposed to mow the lawn wasn't.

"That relationship is pretty nice to have because I'm not there every single day," she said.

The changes to the ordinance are expected to be introduced to the council later this spring.

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

Dakota Access fight provides blueprint for pipeline protests

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Prolonged protests in North Dakota have failed to stop the flow of oil through the Dakota Access pipeline, at least for now, but they have provided inspiration and a blueprint for protests against pipelines in other states.

The months of demonstrations that sought to halt the four-state pipeline have largely died off with the February clearing of the main protest camp and the completion of the pipeline, which will soon be moving oil from North Dakota to a distribution point in Illinois.

Four Sioux tribes are still suing to try to halt the project, which they say threatens their water supply, cultural sites and religious rights. But they've faced a string of setbacks in court since President Donald Trump moved into the White House.

Despite the setbacks, Dakota Access protest organizers don't view their efforts as wasted. They say the protests helped raise awareness nationwide about their broader push for cleaner energy and greater respect for the rights of indigenous people.

"The opportunity to build awareness started at Standing Rock and it's spreading out to other areas of the United States," said Dave Archambault, the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, which has led the legal push to shut down the pipeline project.

As protesters left the area in southern North Dakota where the Dakota Access pipeline crosses under a Missouri River reservoir that serves as the tribes' water supply, organizers called on them to take the fight to other parts of the country where pipelines are in the works.

The tactics used in North Dakota — resistance camps, prominent use of social media, online fundraising — are now being used against several projects. They include the Sabal Trail pipeline that will move natural gas from Alabama to Florida; the Trans-Pecos natural gas pipeline in Texas; the Diamond pipeline

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that will carry oil from Oklahoma to Tennessee; and the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline that will move natural gas from Pennsylvania to Virginia.

They're also being used against projects that are still in the planning stages, including the proposed Pilgrim oil pipeline in New York and New Jersey and the proposed Bayou Bridge Pipeline in Louisiana.

Dakota Access opponents have also vowed to fight against the resurgent Keystone XL pipeline, which would move crude oil from Canada to Nebraska and on to Texas Gulf Coast refineries.

"A big part of our message was not just to nationalize the fight against Dakota Access, but to highlight regional issues that people are facing," said Dallas Goldtooth, an organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network. "To use our momentum."

The influence of the Dakota Access protest is evident in various forms. For example, some who protested in North Dakota have gone to Texas and Florida to help with those demonstrations, according to Goldtooth. The Red Warrior Society, a pipeline protest group that advocated aggressive tactics in North Dakota, is promoting resistance in other states via social media.

There are nearly a dozen accounts on the GoFundMe crowdfunding site seeking money to battle the Sabal Trail and Trans-Pecos pipelines. The Society of Native Nations, which is fighting the Trans-Pecos, used the protest camp model from North Dakota to set up a camp in Texas, according to Executive Director Frankie Orona.

"I really believe this momentum is going to stay alive," said Orona. "Standing Rock was the focal point, was the root of this movement. If we learned anything from Standing Rock, it's the power of unity. It wasn't one (tribal) nation — it was more than 400."

Hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of Dakota Access opponents congregated at the main protest camp for half a year, often clashing with police to draw attention to their cause. More than 750 people were arrested between early August and late February, when the camp was closed in advance of spring flooding season.

The prolonged protest garnered widespread and consistent attention on social media, and it has filtered down, to some degree, to the pipeline protests elsewhere. That has elevated activists' concerns from local demonstrations to a national stage, according to Brian Hosmer, an associate professor of Western American history at the University of Tulsa.

"Social media makes it more difficult to shut off the camera," he said. "In some way, they're their own reporters and they don't need the networks to report it. Social media connects the tribe; it now connects all of these separate groups."

For now, the energy industry and its allies say they're unconcerned.

The Dakota Access movement wrote the new playbook for pipeline opponents, but it might be less effective under Trump, said Craig Stevens, spokesman for the MAIN Coalition, a group of agriculture, business and labor entities that long spoke in favor of the pipeline. Trump approved its completion shortly after taking office and he has taken other steps favorable to the fossil fuel industry while rolling back Obama-era environmental protections.

U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer, a North Dakota Republican who has advised Trump on energy issues, said pipeline developers have learned to prepare for resistance, and he thinks the anti-pipeline movement will fade if protesters fail to achieve their goals and get discouraged.

Juliana Schwartz, senior campaigner for Change.org, which helps people and groups advance causes, disagrees, saying the environmental protest movement appears to be strong. A "people against pipelines" page on the group's website recently listed 16 petitions related to energy projects — mostly pipelines — in more than half a dozen states, with nearly 725,000 supporters.

"The broader movement to stop resource extraction has taken inspiration from (Dakota Access)," Schwartz said. "I think we can expect to see this trend continue as more and more communities feel that their safety and health is under threat due to the president's support of the fossil fuel industry over marginalized communities."

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Contributing to this story were Associated Press writers Justin Juozapavicius in Tulsa, Oklahoma; David Warren in Dallas; Dave Kolpack in Fargo, North Dakota; and Ken Miller in Oklahoma City.

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

Trump's son-in-law slated to make a visit to Iraq Monday

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, is due to spend Monday in Iraq with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a senior administration official said.

The official did not release additional details about the trip in which Kushner is accompanying Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford. The official said that Kushner wanted to see the situation in Iraq for himself and show support for the Baghdad government.

The administration official who provided the information late Sunday wasn't authorized to speak about confidential meetings by name and demanded anonymity.

Kushner's West Wing portfolio is robust. He has been deeply involved with presidential staffing, recently launched a task force meant to modernize government using lessons drawn from the private sector, and has played the role of shadow diplomat, advising on relations with the Middle East, Canada and Mexico.

And though Kushner had no previous diplomatic or government experience, Trump also tasked him with trying to broker a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

"If you can't produce peace in the Middle East, nobody can," Trump told Kushner at a gala a few days before his inauguration.

Kushner was also the latest Trump associate to be swept up into the ongoing probe into contacts with Russian officials. The White House confirmed last week that he had volunteered to be interviewed by the Senate intelligence committee. North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr, the committee's chairman, said that Kushner would likely be under oath and would submit to a "private interview" about arranging meetings with the Russian ambassador and other officials.

Kushner is married to Trump's oldest daughter, Ivanka. He was expected to have a major role in meetings later this week between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Trump's winter retreat in Palm Beach, Florida.

The Iraq trip was first reported by The New York Times.

Kushner's trip began against a backdrop of an ongoing investigation into civilian deaths in an area of Mosul near the site of an air-strike by U.S.-led coalition forces last month.

His visit marks an early foray for the Trump administration into the situation in Iraq and came just two weeks after Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said he was assured by the president the U.S. will accelerate its support for his country's struggle against the Islamic State group.

Al-Abadi met with Trump and Kushner in Washington recently and said he had the impression that the United States would take a more aggressive approach, although he did not say what that might entail.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis recently presented Trump with the outlines of a comprehensive approach to defeating IS and other extremist groups on a global scale, but specifics have yet to be worked out. Officials have indicated that the approach is unlikely to depart radically from the Obama administration's strategy, at least with regard to ongoing efforts in Iraq and Syria.

Iraq was part of the Trump administration's original travel ban but was removed from the revised version after a request from the Pentagon and the State Department highlighting Iraq's key role in fighting the Islamic State. The second travel ban, which restrictions immigration from six Muslim-majority countries, has been halted by a federal court. The U.S. Justice Department has announced an appeal.

Associated Press writers Vivian Salama and Catherine Lucey in Washington contributed to this report.

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

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Leftist claims win in Ecuador election; rival cries foul

By GONZALO SOLANO, Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Leftist candidate Lenin Moreno appeared to have won Ecuador's presidential election but his opposition rival refused to recognize the results, calling on his supporters to take to the streets to guard against "fraud."

Sunday's second-round runoff in the Andean nation of 16 million was being watched closely as a barometer of whether the left, which had dominated South American politics for the past 15 years, could stop a string of right-wing victories across the region.

With more than 97 percent of voting acts counted, Moreno garnered 51 percent of the vote while conservative banker Guillermo Lasso stood at just under 49 percent. A difference of about 224,000 votes separated the two candidates with a smaller number of ballots still left to count.

Lasso said he would challenge the results in all of Ecuador's 24 provinces after three exit polls showed him winning. He also questioned why results that took three days to calculate following the first round of voting in February were announced so quickly in Sunday's runoff.

"This is very sickening. We're not going to allow it," Lasso told supporters, adding that he had shared his concerns with the head of the Organization of American States in a phone conversation.

He accused President Rafael Correa of trying to install an "illegitimate" government and called on his supporters to protest peacefully but firmly.

Thousands of outraged Lasso supporters shouting "fraud" crashed through metal barricades to almost reach the entrance of the electoral council's headquarters in Quito. By midnight a few hundred protesters remained.

In Guayaquil, where Lasso is from, supporters shouted "Get out Correa!" and threw sticks at riot police in formation before being pushed back with tear gas. There were reports of small scuffles and clashes in other cities.

Correa accused Lasso supporters of trying to disavow the results and provoke violence, while the head of the electoral council, a favorite punching bag of the opposition, appealed for calm.

"Ecuador deserves that its political actors show ethical responsibility in recognizing the democratic will expressed by the people at the voting booths," National Electoral President Juan Pablo Pozo said while announcing results.

So far the only evidence of possible fraud presented by Lasso's campaign are the results in one tiny provincial voting center that it said were reversed when they were reported to electoral authorities in Quito. There was no immediate comment from the OAS, which sent a mission of electoral observers.

Moreno, meanwhile, said he would start work immediately on his transition. With Correa standing behind him, the two joined supporters in singing leftist classics in an outdoor rally.

Outside the region, the election was being closely watched by supporters of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who has been living under asylum at Ecuador's embassy in London since 2012. Before the election, Lasso had said he would evict the Australian activist, who is wanted for extradition by Sweden, within 30 days of taking office. Moreno said he would allow him to stay.

On his Twitter account shortly after the results became known, Assange took a jab at Lasso's pledge.

"I cordially invite Lasso to leave Ecuador within 30 days (with or without his tax haven millions)," he wrote.

Three exit polls had shown Lasso winning, including one that accurately predicted the first-round results and gave him a six-percentage point victory. A quick count of voting acts by a respected local watchdog found there was a technical tie with a difference of less than 0.6 percentage points separating the two candidates. The group refrained from saying which candidate had the advantage.

Correa said the exit polls had "lied."

"The moral fraud of the right-wing won't go unpunished," he wrote on Twitter.

For weeks Ecuadoreans polarized by 10 years of Correa's iron-fisted rule had been bracing for a contested vote

With Ecuador's economy slated to shrink by 2.7 percent this year as oil prices remain low, analysts had been anticipating that Lasso would rally support from the 60 percent of voters who backed anti-Correa

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candidates in the first round and join the growing list of Latin American nations — Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Venezuela — shifting to the right in recent elections.

The majority of voters also said they were hungry for change amid ongoing corruption allegations related to bribes Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht paid to officials in Correa's government and a \$12 million contracting scandal at state-run PetroEcuador.

Yet in the final weeks of the race, Moreno inched ahead in polls amid an aggressive campaign led by Correa to cast Lasso as a wealthy, out-of-touch politician who profited from the country's 1999 banking crisis. Moreno also benefited from last-minute doubts that the pro-business Lasso if elected would gut social programs that have endeared poor voters to Correa's "Citizens' Revolution."

Moreno, who has used a wheelchair since being shot in an attempted robbery two decades ago, cuts a softer image than the infamously irritable Correa which was on display Sunday night as he addressed supporters.

"It's time for peace and union. Everyone will have a new opportunity and we will seek dialogue and harmony," said Moreno. "Our hand is outstretched."

Associated Press writer Joshua Goodman in Caracas, Venezuela, contributed to this report.

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. HOW GOP PLANS TO GET GORSUCH CONFIRMATION THROUGH

McConnell is likely to change Senate rules so that Trump's Supreme Court pick can be confirmed with a simple majority in the 100-seat chamber, instead of the 60-voter threshold.

2. LENIN MORENO APPEARS HEADED TO VICTORY IN ECUADOR

But rival Guillermo Lasso refuses to recognize the results for president, calling on supporters to take peacefully to the streets to guard against "fraud."

3. WHY COLOMBIAN CITY IS VULNERABLE TO FLOODING

A 1989 hydrology report recommended that the government reinforce Mocoa's riverbanks, channel water away from the town and restore some of the forest, steps apparently not taken.

4. LOSSES FROM 2015 MINE SPILL MAY BE LESS THAN FEARED

The compensation now sought from a Colorado mine waste spill triggered by the EPA is less than half the \$1.2 billion originally claimed by those in the area and downstream, the AP finds.

5. WHAT TRUMP, EL-SISSI MAY DISCUSS

Egypt's president, visiting Washington, may seek more military aid for his country and broach the Arab League's territorial demands in exchange for peace with Israel.

6. RIGHTS GROUP SAYS ISRAEL BLOCKING ACCESS TO GAZA

Human Rights Watch says restrictions on foreign researchers trying to document abuses in the Gaza Strip call into question Israel's stated commitment to the probe.

7. WHERE SEVERE WEATHER IS HEADED

Powerful storms that killed two in Louisiana take aim at Alabama and other parts of the Southeast, bringing strong winds and heavy rains to the region.

8. TECH LEADERS LAUNCH 'NEWS INTEGRITY' NONPROFIT

Facebook and Mozilla are among the companies and organizations launching a \$14 million fund to promote news literacy and increase trust in journalism.

9. WHO STOLE SPOTLIGHT ACM AWARDS

The Backstreet Boys had the night's liveliest moment at the Academy of Country Music Awards, singing their classic "Everybody (Backstreet Back)" with Florida Georgia Line.

10. COLLEGE STARS TO LEAD EXODUS TO NBA

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After tonight's NCAA championship game, the run on one-and-done freshmen in the 2017 NBA draft has potential to go a dozen deep before an upperclassman's name is called.

Bit by bit, Trump methodically undoing Obama policies

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid the turmoil over staff shake-ups, blocked travel bans and the Russia cloud hanging overhead, President Donald Trump is steadily plugging away at a major piece of his agenda: Undoing Obama.

From abortion to energy to climate change and personal investments, Trump is keeping his promises in methodically overturning regulations and policies adopted when Barack Obama was president.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing.

Trump recently failed to fulfill his pledge to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, which continues to stand as Obama's most recognizable domestic policy achievement. Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan couldn't persuade enough fellow Republicans to back new health care legislation last month. Ryan pulled the measure just before a scheduled House vote.

Trump has had better outcomes in other areas.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Trump signed an executive order last week to deliver on his pledge to unravel Obama's efforts to curb global warming. The order launched a review of the Clean Power Plan, Obama's chief effort to curb carbon emissions by restricting greenhouse gas emissions at coal-fired power plants. Trump also lifted a 14-month-old halt on new coal leases on federal lands. The Obama administration had imposed a three-year freeze on such leases in January of last year.

The executive order covers a range of other Obama-era rules, including requirements to factor the "social cost" of carbon emissions into all regulatory actions and to crack down on methane emissions at oil and gas wells. Business groups had complained to Trump, himself a businessman, that the rules were intrusive and expensive.

INTERNET PRIVACY

Trump is expected to sign a measure soon to block online privacy regulations the Federal Communications Commission issued during Obama's final months in office. It's a first step toward allowing internet providers to sell information about their customers' browsing habits. The FCC rule was designed to give consumers more control over how companies like Comcast, AT&T and Verizon share information. Critics complained that the rule would have increased costs, stifled innovation and picked winners and losers among internet companies.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer says the rule represents the type of "federal overreach" that Trump pledged as a candidate to reverse.

ABORTION/FAMILY PLANNING

Trump is expected to sign legislation erasing another Obama rule, one that barred states from withholding federal family planning funds from Planned Parenthood affiliates and other clinics that provide abortions. The rule was finalized shortly before Obama left office in January.

The measure cleared the Senate last week with Vice President Mike Pence, who is also president of the Senate, casting the tie-breaking 51st vote in the 100-member chamber.

KEYSTONE XL OIL PIPELINE

Trump greenlighted the long-delayed project on March 24, reversing Obama's decision less than 18 months earlier. After Trump invited TransCanada, the Canadian company building the \$8 billion pipeline, to resubmit its application, the State Department approved the project, saying it would advance U.S. national interests. Obama had said the project would not.

Approval came nearly a decade after TransCanada applied to complete the 1,700-mile (2,735 kilometers) pipeline to carry oil from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

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Trump says the project will reduce costs and reliance on foreign oil, and create thousands of jobs. Obama had said it would undercut U.S. credibility in international efforts to tackle climate change.

DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

Under Obama, the Army Corps of Engineers had declined in December to allow pipeline construction under South Dakota's Lake Oahe on grounds that alternate routes needed to be considered. Native American tribes had sued to block construction, arguing that the pipeline threatened their water supply and cultural sites.

The project has moved forward again under Trump, who acted shortly after taking office. In February, the Army Corps of Engineers abandoned further study and granted an easement that was needed to complete the pipeline. Energy Transfer Partners immediately began drilling under the lake.

FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

The Trump administration is re-examining federal requirements governing the fuel efficiency of cars and trucks. In 2012, the Obama administration set fuel economy regulations for model years 2017-2025 and agreed to complete a midterm evaluation by next year. Then, days before Obama left office, the Environmental Protection Agency decided to keep stringent requirements it had set in place for model years 2022-2025.

The auto industry balked. Trump announced in Michigan that he's putting the midterm review back on track. His decision has no immediate effect but requires the EPA to determine no later than April 2018 whether the 2022-2025 standards are appropriate.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Obama was his administration's biggest cheerleader for the sweeping agreement involving the U.S. and 11 other Pacific Rim nations. But the Senate needed to ratify it, and bipartisan opposition basically doomed it before he left office.

As a candidate, Trump railed against this agreement and pledged to withdraw from it, saying he was a better negotiator and could strike better deals. Shortly after taking office, he directed the U.S. trade representative to withdraw and said he would pursue individual deals with the other countries.

ABORTION/MEXICO CITY POLICY

Trump reinstated a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information about them. Obama had lifted the ban when he took office in 2009.

Known as the "Mexico City Policy" or, by critics, as the "global gag rule," the regulation has been a political volleyball, instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984. Trump signed it one day after the 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States. The policy also prohibits taxpayer funding for groups that lobby to legalize abortion or promote it as a family planning method.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Trump has instructed the Department of Labor to delay an Obama-era rule that would require financial professionals who charge commissions to put their clients' best interests first when advising them on retirement investments. The "fiduciary rule" was aimed at blocking consultants from steering clients toward investments with higher commissions and fees that can eat away at retirement savings. The rule was to take effect this month. The financial services industry argued that the rule would limit retirees' investment choices by forcing asset managers to steer them to low-risk options.

Undoing the rule was part of a promised assault by Trump on banking rules enacted after the Great Recession. He has directed the Treasury secretary to review the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial oversight law, which he has said is a disaster. The law's aim was to keep banks from repeating practices that many blamed for the financial meltdown.

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Senate panel to vote on Trump's Supreme Court nominee

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate panel is opening a weeklong partisan showdown over President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee with Democrats steadily amassing the votes to block Neil Gorsuch and force Republicans to unilaterally change long-standing rules to confirm him.

The Republican-led Judiciary Committee meets Monday and is expected to back Gorsuch and send his nomination to the full Senate, most likely on a near-party line vote. Intent on getting Trump's pick on the high court, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is likely to change Senate rules so that Gorsuch can be confirmed with a simple majority in the 100-seat chamber, instead of the 60-voter threshold.

"Neil Gorsuch will be confirmed this week," McConnell said on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday, adding, "how that happens really depends on our Democratic friends. How many of them are willing to oppose cloture on a partisan basis to kill a Supreme Court nominee."

So far, 36 Democrats and one independent have announced they will vote to block the nomination on a procedural cloture vote — a parliamentary step to advance a legislative issue — and oppose the choice. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., who faces a tough re-election in a state Trump won handily, announced his opposition on Sunday.

"With Judge Gorsuch on the bench, I am deeply concerned that dark money will continue to drown out the voices and votes of citizens, the Court will stand between women and their doctors, and the government will reach into the private lives of law-abiding Americans. These are not Montana values, which is why I cannot support this nomination," Tester said in a statement.

Another Democrat in a Republican-dominated state who is up for re-election next year, Sen. Joe Donnelly of Indiana, announced he would support the president's nominee. Donnelly called Gorsuch, 49, a federal appeals court judge based in Denver, "a qualified jurist who will base his decisions on his understanding of the law and is well-respected among his peers."

Democrats, led by Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, have vowed to block the nominee, infuriating Republicans, who argue the action is exceedingly rare for Supreme Court choices.

Schumer said Sunday he didn't expect Gorsuch to receive the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster threat.

Although such a change in Senate rules might seem procedural or obscure, it is known on Capitol Hill as the "nuclear option" because it would amount to a dramatic departure from Senate norms of bipartisanship and collegiality.

It would not be unprecedented. In 2013, Democrats were in the majority and upset about appellate court nominees getting blocked. They pushed through a rules change lowering the vote threshold on all nominees except for the Supreme Court — from 60 votes to a simple majority.

In addition to Gorsuch, the Judiciary committee will be considering two other nominations — Rod Rosenstein to be deputy attorney general and Rachel Brand to be associate attorney general. If confirmed, they will be the No. 2 and No. 3 officials at the Justice Department under Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Congress seen as not likely to pass tax overhaul quickly

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

After their humiliating loss on health care, Republicans in Congress could use a quick victory on a big issue. It won't be an overhaul of the tax code.

Overhauling the tax code could prove harder to accomplish than repealing and replacing Barack Obama's health law. Congressional Republicans are divided on significant issues, especially a new tax on imports embraced by House Speaker Paul Ryan. And the White House is sending contradicting signals on the new tax, adding to the uncertainty.

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House Republicans also can't decide whether to move on from health care. Ryan canceled a scheduled vote on a House GOP plan after it became obvious that Republicans didn't have the votes. He said he will continue to work on the issue but one of his top lieutenants on health care, Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, says he is now "100 percent" focused on tax reform.

Ryan says Congress can work on both at the same time. It won't be easy. Here's why:

REPUBLICAN DIVIDE

House and Senate Republicans largely agree on the broad outlines of a tax overhaul. They want to lower tax rates for individuals and corporations, and make up the lost revenue by scaling back tax breaks.

But they are sharply divided on a key tenet of the House Republican plan.

The new "border adjustment tax" would be applied to profits from goods and services consumed in the U.S., whether they are domestically produced or imported. Exports would be exempt.

House GOP leaders say the tax is key to lowering the top corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent.

But good luck finding a single Republican senator who will publicly support the tax. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, is the latest in a long line of Republican senators to come out against the tax.

ABSENT DEMOCRATS

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, says he wants to work with Democrats to overhaul the tax code.

"A bipartisan bill would allow us to put in place more lasting reforms and give the overall effort additional credibility," Hatch said.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said it is bad policy to pass major legislation without bipartisan support.

"Without some meaningful buy-in, you guarantee a food fight," McConnell wrote in his memoir last year. "You guarantee instability and strife."

But in the House, Republicans haven't reached out to Democrats in any meaningful way.

WHERE'S THE WHITE HOUSE?

"Obviously we're driving the train on this," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said.

But President Donald Trump's administration has been all over the map on tax reform. Trump at one point said the House border tax is too complicated, then said it's in the mix.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told a Senate panel that "there would be no absolute tax cut for the upper class" in Trump's tax plan.

However, the plan Trump unveiled during his presidential campaign would provide big tax breaks to high-income households.

Since taking office, Trump has promised "massive" tax cuts for the middle class.

A former Treasury official under President Barack Obama says the White House needs to stake out clear goals on tax overhaul to guide the debate in Congress.

"I think it's important for the administration to signal early the general shape" of what they would like to accomplish so that there are fewer proposals vying for attention, said Michael Mundaca, a former assistant Treasury secretary now at Ernst & Young.

TAX CHANGE IS DIFFICULT

There is a reason it's been 31 years since the last time Congress rewrote the tax code. Since then, the number of exemptions, deductions and credits has mushroomed. Taxpayers enjoyed \$1.6 trillion in tax breaks in 2016 — more than the federal government collected in individual income taxes.

That huge number could provide plenty of tax breaks that lawmakers can scale back so they can lower tax rates significantly. There is just one problem — all of the biggest tax breaks are very popular and have powerful constituencies.

Nearly 34 million families claimed the mortgage interest deduction in 2016. That same year more than

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43 million families took advantage of a deduction of state and local taxes.

The House Republicans' tax plan would retain the mortgage deduction and eliminate the deduction for state and local taxes.

HEALTH CARE

Both Trump and Republicans in Congress made big campaign promises to repeal and replace Obama's health law, so the issue won't go away.

However, several players say negotiations on a way forward are non-existent. In the meantime, Trump is stoking animosity among a key voting bloc by criticizing them on Twitter.

Two factions in the House GOP had members oppose the health plan: the hard right Freedom Caucus and the moderate Tuesday Group.

Ryan has suggested that they get together to sort out their differences, but it's not happening, according to one key lawmaker.

"We are not currently negotiating with the Freedom Caucus. There was never a meeting scheduled with the Freedom Caucus. We will never meet with the Freedom Caucus," said Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y., a member of the Tuesday Group.

Trump tweeted: "The Freedom Caucus will hurt the entire Republican agenda if they don't get on the team, & fast. We must fight them, & Dems, in 2018!"

To quote a favorite saying of the president, Not nice.

Follow Stephen Ohlemacher on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/stephenatap>

APNewsBreak: Losses from mine spill may be less than feared

By DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Economic damage from a Colorado mine waste spill caused by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may be far less than originally feared after attorneys drastically reduced some of the larger claims, The Associated Press has learned.

Farmers, business owners, residents and others initially said they suffered a staggering \$1.2 billion in lost income, property damage and personal injuries from the 2015 spill at the Gold King Mine, which tainted rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

But the total now appears to be about \$420 million. A single law firm that originally filed claims totaling \$900 million for a handful of New Mexico property owners told the AP it had lowered their claims to \$120 million.

It's still uncertain whether the White House and Congress — both now controlled by the GOP — are willing to pay for any of the economic losses, even though Republicans were among the most vocal in demanding the EPA make good on the harm.

Under former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, the EPA said it was prohibited by law from doing so.

Now that they're in charge, Republicans have vowed to slash spending on the environment, leaving the prospects for compensation in doubt.

An EPA-led contractor crew inadvertently released 3 million gallons (11.3 million liters) of wastewater tainted with heavy metals from the mine, polluting the Animas and San Juan Rivers. The crew was doing exploratory excavation work at the mine entrance in advance of a possible cleanup.

Stretches of waterways turned an eerie orange-yellow, and the rivers were temporarily off-limits for agriculture and water utilities, as well as fishing and boating — important contributors to the area's recreational economy. The EPA has said water quality in the rivers has returned to pre-spill conditions.

Native American reservations along the rivers also were affected.

The EPA said it received 73 claims for economic damage or personal injuries. The AP obtained copies of the claims through an open records request, although many details were redacted.

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The Albuquerque, New Mexico, law firm Will Ferguson & Associates filed claims totaling \$900 million for about a dozen residents of Aztec, a town of about 6,100 on the Animas River in northwestern New Mexico. The residents say the contaminated water damaged their wells, soil and plumbing and caused health problems including chronic intestinal pain, rashes and memory loss.

Will Ferguson, the firm's managing partner, said the \$900 million represented an opening position, and the attorneys never expected to recover that much.

Kedar Bhasker, another lawyer with the firm, said the claims were refiled in December. Bhasker called the lower amount "more reasonable."

In January, the EPA was still using the \$1.2 billion total for all the claims, which didn't reflect the law firm's revisions. EPA officials didn't immediately provide an explanation in response to emails seeking comment.

The other claims ranged from river guides asking for a few hundred dollars in lost wages to the Navajo Nation seeking \$162 million for environmental and health monitoring, among other things. The state of New Mexico asked for \$130 million in lost taxes and other revenue. The state and tribe also are suing the EPA separately in federal court.

Ten tourist-dependent businesses filed claims, saying they lost money when travelers stayed away. Farmers and ranchers said crops died because the river couldn't be used to irrigate and that they had extra expenses from hauling untainted water to livestock.

Some property owners said the value of their land plummeted because of the stigma attached to the spill.

The EPA has acknowledged responsibility for the spill but said in January that federal law prevents it from paying the claims because of sovereign immunity, which prohibits most lawsuits against the government.

The agency noted it had already spent more than \$31.3 million on the spill, including remediation work, water testing and payments to state, local and tribal agencies for their emergency response to the disaster.

But lawmakers were infuriated — especially Republicans, some of whom portrayed the spill as a glaring example of EPA mismanagement. They have pressed the new EPA chief, Scott Pruitt, to reconsider the decision not to pay damages.

At his confirmation hearings, Pruitt promised to review it. The EPA didn't immediately respond to emails and a phone call seeking comment on whether he had done so.

Republican Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said he believes Pruitt "will make good on his promise to work with me and my colleagues in resolving the outstanding issues that remain from the Obama administration's EPA."

Colorado Democrats introduced a measure in Congress in 2015, shortly after the spill, intended to allow federal compensation for economic damages, but the bill died.

Now, Congress appears to be waiting on President Donald Trump's administration to make its intentions known.

"We don't know what to expect from this administration in regard to that," said Liz Payne, a spokeswoman for Republican Rep. Scott Tipton of Colorado, whose district was hurt by the spill.

"It's still a waiting game for us at this point," she said.

Follow Dan Elliott at <http://twitter.com/DanElliottAP>. His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/dan%20elliott>.

Title or money? The give-and-take of one-and-done in hoops

By EDDIE PELLS, AP National Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — The teenager who plays hoops for a year in college and then leaves for the NBA used to be part novelty, part nuisance.

These days, it's as common as a 3-pointer and as acceptable as your office bracket pool.

Once the domain of Kentucky, Duke and few other select schools, the so-called one-and-dones now

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come from all over the country.

The run on freshmen in the 2017 NBA draft has the potential to go a dozen deep before an upperclassmen's name is called. They'll come from Tobacco Road at Duke and the Great Northwest in Washington. Only one of the dozen-plus freshmen — Gonzaga's 7-footer Zach Collins, if he goes — will be able to say he played for the NCAA title, but that doesn't really stop anybody.

"There's lots of different ways to build a program and build an elite program," said Gonzaga coach Mark Few, whose team plays North Carolina in Monday night's title game. "You can do it through attracting the greatest talent out there, or you can do it by getting good players and develop them and get them to play together."

The exception of Collins aside, Few has largely bypassed the one-and-done player. But for many coaches, the prospect of quick success is too tempting to resist. They look at John Calipari, who had three one-and-dones when Kentucky won the title in 2012. Or Mike Krzyzewski, who won it all in 2015 with three freshmen on his Duke team.

But blue-chippers do not come with guarantees.

"It's the balance of talent with running a program," says Saint Joseph's veteran coach, Phil Martelli. "To me, when those guys sit down and they have to make a decision on a guy, they're asking, 'Does the talent and what it brings balance with running a program, or running a team?' Sometimes with one-and-dones you say, 'OK, I got this guy. I have a team.'"

Others find themselves searching for a new team altogether.

Lorenzo Romar brought two one-and-dones into his program at Washington — Marquese Chriss from last year and this year's potential first pick, Markelle Fultz. He didn't get to the NCAA Tournament with either and got fired last month.

Mark Gottfried had a potential top-10 guy in this year's draft, Dennis Smith, at North Carolina State. He, too, is looking for work.

Johnny Jones brought last year's first pick, Ben Simmons, to LSU. Jones got fired, too.

"Coaches are at risk because recruiting has become bigger than life," Martelli said. "So, when you get one of those guys, then you're expected to do what Jahlil Okafor did (with the 2015 Duke team). Okafor was a one-and-done and he and Justise Winslow won a championship. But not everyone can win a championship."

Krzyzewski coaxed Okafor and Winslow to the title in 2015 after Calipari's freshmen-laden team saw its hopes for an undefeated season vanquished in the national semifinals at the hands of Wisconsin, which goes about winning in a very different way.

Badgers coach Greg Gard, an assistant on that 2015 staff, doesn't see his formula changing anytime soon.

"There are a lot of components that go into making this school a one-and-done school and that school not a one-and-done school," he said. "What's the history and tradition in the program? Does it make sense for that program? We're relatively young in terms of this."

For the few who manage to figure it out, though, it is worth the risk. Calipari, better than anyone, has mastered the art of literally restocking the roster every year.

It makes it more difficult to coach. It also keeps the Wildcats in the conversation, year in and year out.

The coach, who first proved one-and-done could work with Derrick Rose at Memphis, is among the few who acknowledge the realities of the college game: It is a business driven by talented teenagers, many of whom come from poor families. They see the NBA, not a college degree, as their way out.

"They've been given something that's going to (allow them) to do things for themselves and their families and their communities and get involved," Calipari said. "I don't take that lightly."

The biggest misconception about one-and-done is that it's the coaches who cooked up this get-rich-quick scheme. In reality, it's a product of the collective bargaining agreement between the NBA and its players. In 2005, they implemented a rule that prohibited players from being drafted unless they were 19 years old or at least a year out of high school.

If NBA commissioner Adam Silver had his way, the minimum age would be raised to 20, which would essentially require two years in college.

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For now, though, nothing is changing, and though the NCAA frets about the rule in public, it's happy with the product it delivers when the lights are brightest.

This year's tournament is the second-most watched in 23 years.

"I don't know that freshmen have as big an impact on the tournament as they do in the season," said Dan Gavitt, the NCAA executive in charge of the tournament. "But it's certainly a concern. You want young people to have as rich an academic experience as possible for as long as possible. The longer it can be, the healthier that will be for them."

For more AP college basketball coverage: <http://collegebasketball.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

Play ball! Opening day in majors, Cubs lose in title defense

By BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer

Leave it to Madison Bumgarner to get baseball off to a smashing start.

Before the World Series champion Chicago Cubs took the field and after the New York Yankees lost their sixth straight opener, Bumgarner struck.

The San Francisco ace, known for his dominant pitching in October, provided an opening day jolt by hitting not one, but two home runs Sunday for the Giants.

Not exactly what Henry Sanders came to see at Chase Field. After watching his team lose 93 times last season, the Diamondbacks fan — every fan, really — hoped this would be their season.

"It is the beginning of the year, it is baseball again. It is something I have to look forward to, it is home," Sanders said. "The Diamondbacks are tied for the top, then they work their way down. But first is the goal."

Exactly where the Cubs finished last November, winning a Game 7 thriller in Cleveland to capture their first World Series crown since 1908.

The Cubs opened Sunday night at St. Louis, and fans of the longtime rivals mixed and mingled outside Busch Stadium before the Cardinals rallied for a 4-3 win on Randal Grichuk's RBI single in the ninth.

Ted Summers and Katie Moll, both from Manchester, Missouri, walked hand in hand along the concourse. He wore a Cubs shirt, hers featured St. Louis star Yadier Molina — earlier in the day, the Cardinals catcher added \$60 million and three years to his contract.

They were still coming to grips with the Cubs wearing the crown.

"It was weird," Moll said. "I don't know how to explain it. It was just, hard to believe, I guess. Never going to happen again. It'll take another 108 years."

"I get that all the time," Summers said.

There were three games Sunday, with all the other teams in action Monday.

San Francisco wound up losing 6-5 at Arizona as new closer Mark Melancon blew a ninth-inning lead.

From Fenway Park, where snow from a weekend storm was cleared away, to Dodger Stadium, where Vin Scully will be absent from the broadcast booth for the first time since the 1950 opener, it was time to get back to business.

A sellout crowd was expected at Camden Yards, 25 years after the stadium opened in Baltimore and began a boom of retro-style ballparks.

Orioles manager Buck Showalter already envisioned a perfect ending.

"I just want the weather to be good, the beer to be cold, the baseball to be good, everybody has a great time, the Orioles win and they want to come back," he said. "In that order."

For all the optimism and excitement, there figured to be a somber pregame tone at Target Field. Before Minnesota hosted the Royals, the Twins planned a tribute to Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura, who died at 25 in a car crash during the winter.

"Obviously it's going to be tough. He's been on your minds ever since it's happened," Royals star Eric Hosmer said. "We'll see if we can lock it in for a couple of hours, try and get a win and get done with the

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game and continue to live out his legacy and celebrate his life."

The first game of the 2017 Major League Baseball season was in Tampa Bay, and the afternoon at Tropicana Field began with a minor glitch when the Yankees' replay system was a bit blurry.

Not much went right for New York once play began. Showing that spring training stats often don't mean much, the Yankees — who had the best record in exhibition play — and ace Masahiro Tanaka — who had the top ERA — got roughed up by the Rays, 7-3.

"It happens. He's human," Yankees pitching coach Larry Rothschild said.

Corey Dickerson of the Rays singled for the first hit of the new season and teammate Evan Longoria launched the first home run.

With baseball searching for ways to speed up the action, the Yankees and Rays didn't add much pace to any pace-of-play approach. Their game took 3 hours, 21 minutes.

Tom Giordano didn't seem to mind. At 91, the former big leaguer enjoyed his 71st pro opening day, now working for the Atlanta Braves as a special assistant to the general manager.

"I see my old buddies again," he said. "I just love what I'm doing."

AP Sports Writers Bob Baum, Jay Cohen and David Ginsburg, and AP freelance writer Mark Didtler contributed to this report.

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Tornado kills 2 in Louisiana as state put on 'high alert'

BREAUX BRIDGE, La. (AP) — A tornado flipped a mobile home Sunday in Louisiana, killing a mother and her 3-year-old daughter as a storm system with hurricane-force winds crawled across the Deep South, damaging homes and businesses.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards put the entire state on "high alert" and warned residents to stay off the roads. He urged people to keep their cellphones charged and close by so that they could get severe weather alerts through Monday.

"It is an extremely dangerous weather event," he said.

Parts of Arkansas and Mississippi were also under a threat of tornadoes, but the bullseye was on much of Louisiana. The system packed heavy rain, large hail and sparked flash flooding. Up to 6 inches of rain could fall in some areas.

A tornado with peak winds of 110 mph (180 kph) traveled for nearly 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) on the ground in the rural community of Breaux Bridge, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Baton Rouge, the National Weather Service reported.

St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Maj. Ginny Higgins told The Associated Press that the tornado touched down soon after a warning was issued.

"Seconds later it hit," Higgins said. "It hit the trailer, flipped it and tore its side off. There was a mother and daughter inside and both were killed."

Higgins said 38-year-old Francine Gotch and 3-year-old Nevaeh Alexander were pronounced dead at the scene. Witnesses told KLFY-TV that the father was at the store when the storm hit and returned home to find the bodies amid the splintered debris.

Relatives described those killed as a fun-loving pair who smiled frequently.

Nevaeh "was the sweetest little girl," said Sheryle Rubin, who's engaged to the girl's uncle. "She was only 3 years old but was the smartest girl in the world. She would've started school in August."

The weather agency warned that it was a "particularly dangerous situation" in Louisiana, which the governor noted was a rare high-level warning. Straight line winds could reach upward of 80 mph (130 kph) winds. Hurricanes have at least 74 mph (120 kph) winds.

"This is a statewide weather event," the governor said. "It's likely to be an all-night event. We don't

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expect the weather system to leave the state of Louisiana until sometime tomorrow morning."

Another hard-hit area in Louisiana was the city of Alexandria, where winds blew off the roof of a gas station and knocked out power to thousands, KALB reported. Customers and storm employees sought shelter in a beer cooler.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Hart in Oklahoma said there was a significant risk of weather for Mississippi and Alabama as the system keeps moving east.

Fire officials in the Texas village of Point Venture said several people witnessed an apparent funnel cloud there Sunday morning. Travis County Emergency Services District 1 Fire Chief Donnie Norman said there were several structures with severe damage.

"There was one home with pretty heavy damage. The roof was completely removed. There was one resident there at the time, but she received no major injuries," Norman said.

A Texas state trooper reported seeing a suspected tornado touch down early Sunday morning near Center Point, Texas, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) northwest of San Antonio, Texas. National Weather Service meteorologist Yvette Benavides said there were no reports of major or structural damage.

This story corrects the 3-year-old girl's name to Nevaeh, not Neville.

US ambassador says 'no love' in dealings with Russia

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations says there's no question Russia was involved in the U.S. presidential election and insists President Donald Trump would fully support strong action against the Kremlin once investigations are complete.

Speaking in television interviews broadcast Sunday, Nikki Haley contended there is no contradiction between her tough stance and Trump's repeated public statements seeking to minimize Russia's role. She said Trump "has not once" told her to stop "beating up on Russia."

She joins Defense Secretary James Mattis as Trump administration officials who have forcefully called out Russia for its actions during the 2016 U.S. campaign.

"We don't want any country involved in our elections, ever," Haley said. "We need to be very strong on that."

Russian President Vladimir Putin has denied his country meddled in the 2016 contest between Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton. While Trump himself has said he believes Russian operatives hacked Democratic Party emails during the election, he has repeatedly lambasted as "fake news" any suggestion that he or his staff had connections to Russia.

Trump continued his attacks over the weekend, tweeting: "It is the same Fake News Media that said there is 'no path to victory for Trump' that is now pushing the phony Russia story. A total scam!"

He added on Sunday: "The real story turns out to be SURVEILLANCE and LEAKING! Find the leakers."

U.S. intelligence agencies report that Russia tried to help Trump's campaign effort. The FBI as well as congressional committees are investigating whether the Russian government coordinated with Trump associates during the campaign. The White House is also trying to quell a firestorm over its behind-the-scenes role in helping the Republican chairman of the House intelligence committee, Rep. Devin Nunes, view secret intelligence reports that he says pointed to inappropriate leaking.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the panel, went to the White House on Friday to view materials that he said were "precisely the same." He declined on Sunday to describe the contents, but criticized the unorthodox disclosure to Nunes, suggesting that the material was more likely an "effort to deflect attention" and "create a cloud through which the public cannot see."

"Whenever they see the president use the word 'fake,' it should set off alarm bells," Schiff said. "I think that's really what going on here."

Trump as president persuaded Haley to leave the governorship of South Carolina to represent the U.S. at the United Nations. She said she was "beating up on Russia" over issues such as its actions in Crimea

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and its dispute with Ukraine.

When asked if she believes Trump should publicly take a harder Russia stance, she said: "Of course, he's got a lot of things he's doing."

"There's no love or anything going on with Russia right now," Haley said. "They get that we're getting our strength back, that we're getting our voice back and that we're starting to lead again, and, honestly, at the United Nations, that's the No. 1 comment I get is that they're just so happy to see the United States lead again."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who chairs the Armed Services Committee, said it was indisputable that Russia attempted to influence the U.S. election, reiterating his call for a special select committee.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he didn't think another review was necessary, citing the bipartisan work from the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"I think they clearly laid out that they're going wherever the facts take them," McConnell said, referring to Republican chairman Richard Burr of North Carolina and Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the panel. "We don't need yet another investigation. We know the FBI is looking at it from their perspective."

Dmitry Peskov, Putin's press secretary, said Russia was not worried about what any U.S. investigation might reveal. "We insist that any blaming that Russia could have been interfering in domestic affairs of the United States is slander," he said.

Haley, Peskov and McCain appeared on ABC's "This Week," Haley also was on CBS' "Face the Nation," Schiff spoke on CNN's "State of the Union," and McConnell appeared on "Fox News Sunday" and NBC's "Meet The Press."

AP White House Correspondent Julie Pace and AP writer Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.

Trump says US is ready to act alone on North Korea

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

POTOMAC FALLS, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump says that the United States is prepared to act alone if China does not take a tougher stand against North Korea's nuclear program.

Trump's comments in an interview with the Financial Times come just days before he is set to host Chinese President Xi Jinping at his Mar-a-Lago estate in South Florida. The two are expected to discuss a number of issues, including North Korea, trade and territorial disputes in the South China Sea during their meeting on Thursday and Friday.

"Yes, we will talk about North Korea," Trump told the newspaper for a story that appeared Sunday on its website. "And China has great influence over North Korea. And China will either decide to help us with North Korea, or they won't. And if they do that will be very good for China, and if they don't it won't be good for anyone."

A State Department spokesman said late Sunday that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has been in touch with a top Chinese official about the upcoming trip.

"We can confirm Secretary Tillerson spoke today by telephone to Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi regarding this week's visit of President Xi and other issues of bilateral and regional importance," the spokesman said. He discussed the upcoming visit on condition that his name not be used.

In his interview, Trump said trade was the incentive for China to work with the United States. Still, he said the United States could "totally" handle the situation in North Korea without China's help.

Asked how he would tackle North Korea, Trump said: "I'm not going to tell you. You know, I am not the United States of the past where we tell you where we are going to hit in the Middle East."

While China provides diplomatic and economic support to its neighbor, it claims that its influence over Kim Jong Un's government is limited.

The relationship between the United States and China has been uncertain since Trump's election. During his campaign he accused China of unfair trade practices and threatened to raise import taxes on Chinese goods and declare Beijing a currency manipulator, though it is unclear whether Trump will follow through

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with either threat.

Trump told the newspaper that he doesn't "want to talk about tariffs yet, perhaps the next time we meet."

Trump's ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, also offered tough talk on China, saying on ABC's "This Week" that the U.S. is pressing China to take a firmer stand regarding North Korea's nuclear program.

U.N. resolutions have failed so far to deter North Korea from conducting nuclear and missile tests. Last year, the North conducted two nuclear tests and two dozen tests of ballistic missiles.

"They need to show us how concerned they are," Haley said. "They need to put pressure on North Korea. The only country that can stop North Korea is China, and they know that."

Asked what the U.S. would do if China doesn't cooperate, Haley said: "China has to cooperate."

Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter, however, said he doubted that Beijing will cooperate.

"I've been working on the North Korea problem since 1994," Carter said on ABC. "And we have consistently asked Chinese leaders ... because they uniquely have the historical and the economic relationship with North Korea, to make a difference."

"They haven't used that influence, and so it's hard for me to be optimistic with that," he said.

Associated Press writer Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

2 Democratic senators split over support for Gorsuch

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Democratic senators on Sunday split over supporting Judge Neil Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court.

Sen. Joe Donnelly of Indiana said he would vote in favor of Gorsuch's confirmation while Sen. Jon Tester of Montana announced he would not back the federal appeals court judge based in Denver.

Donnelly became the third Democrat to break with the party as Republicans line up behind President Donald Trump's choice for the high court.

With 52 Republican senators, eight votes from Democrats or the Senate's two independents would be needed to advance the nomination and prevent a filibuster. So far, only Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia — all representing states Trump won in November and all up for re-election next year — have said they will vote to confirm Gorsuch.

Tester represents a state won by Trump and faces re-election, too, but he said Gorsuch did not directly answer questions when the two met or during the confirmation hearing. Tester said he based his decision on the judge's past cases, noting that he found troubling Gorsuch's record on privacy and that he believes Gorsuch places corporations over people.

Donnelly called Gorsuch, 49, "a qualified jurist who will base his decisions on his understanding of the law and is well-respected among his peers."

Hours before Donnelly's and Tester's announcements, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said he didn't expect Gorsuch to receive 60 votes to overcome a filibuster threat.

If Democrats mounted a filibuster, Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was expected to seek a change in Senate rules allowing a simple majority of the 100-member Senate to confirm the nomination.

"Neil Gorsuch will be confirmed this week," McConnell said on CNN's "State of the Union." He added: "How that happens really depends on our Democratic friends. How many of them are willing to oppose cloture on a partisan basis to kill a Supreme Court nominee."

Such a change in Senate rules — known as the "nuclear option" — would likely be retained in the future and thus make Supreme Court confirmations more susceptible to simple party-line votes instead of bipartisan support.

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

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Desperation sets in as flood death toll in Colombia tops 200

By ALBA TOBELLA, Associated Press

MOCOA, Colombia (AP) — Townspeople desperately searched their ruined homes and the local hospital for loved ones Sunday after a torrent of water, mud and debris swept through a city in southern Colombia, causing more than 200 deaths, many of them children, and leaving hundreds more missing and injured.

Neighborhoods were left strewn with rocks, wooden planks, tree limbs and brown muck after heavy rain caused the three rivers that surround Mocoa to rise up and surge through the city of 40,000 Friday night and early Saturday as people slept. The deluge smashed houses, tore trees out by the roots and washed cars and trucks away.

Search-and-rescue teams combed through the debris and helped people who had been clawing at huge mounds of mud by hand. Many had little left to search.

"People went to their houses and found nothing but the floor," said Gilma Diaz, a 42-year-old woman from another town who came to search for a cousin.

President Juan Manuel Santos, who visited Mocoa for a second straight day Sunday, declared the area a disaster zone and said the death toll stood at 210. But that could still rise because authorities said there were more than 200 injured, some in critical condition and people were continuing to locate remains in the debris. The president said on Twitter that 170 of the dead had been identified.

Dozens stood in the door of a hospital, hoping for news of family members who were not on the list of those confirmed dead or injured. Others frantically knocked on relatives' doors, hoping to find someone with information about their loved ones.

The disaster seemed to hit young people particularly hard. Santos said 43 of the dead identified so far were children, perhaps because youngsters were already in bed when the floodwaters struck.

Maria Cordoba, a 52-year-old resident who was trying to wash her belongings in a river, said two of her nephews, ages 6 and 11, were killed when their house was destroyed. "The mother as well was totally beaten up" but managed to save her 18-month-old baby, she said.

A rescue worker in an orange jumpsuit emerged from one search area with the body of an infant wrapped in a towel. Not far away, Abelardo Solarte, a 48-year-old resident of Mocoa, held a child's shoe as he helped clear debris.

"You have no idea how many kids there are around here," Solarte said.

Jair Echarri, who came from a nearby town to help, also struggled to comprehend the loss of so many children. "I feel an enormous sadness because it's filled with kids' things, toys, clothes, school books," he said. "I am a father and this breaks my heart."

Santos said the avalanche of water and debris also destroyed roads and bridges, knocked out power in half of the province of Putumayo, where Mocoa is located, and destroyed the area's fresh water network, creating dangerous and unsanitary conditions.

Mocoa is vulnerable to flooding. It is surrounded by the three rivers in a natural basin created by the surrounding mountains.

The danger has grown worse in recent years because of deforestation, which eliminates some protection from runoff, and because many people built their homes close to the water. But the triggering event was rainfall of more than 5 inches (130 millimeters) that began late Friday.

"The rain fell on Mocoa with an intensity and force that was without precedent and devastating," Santos said. "It rained in two hours what falls in a month in Bogota."

A 1989 hydrology report for the Agricultural Ministry warned that just such a disaster could happen unless steps were taken to reinforce the riverbanks, channel water away from the town and restore some of the forest. It was not immediately clear why those steps had not been taken.

Juan Chanchi de Ruiz, 74, said the noise of the surging flood woke her up and gave her enough time to get to higher ground. Her house was unscathed, but several neighbors' homes were heavily damaged and many people fled with some of their belongings.

"Around here, there's nobody. Everybody left," she said.

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Colombian officials pledged aid to rebuild homes, and the attorney general launched an investigation into whether local and national authorities responded adequately to the disaster. Santos also said they would launch a health and vaccination campaign in the city to prevent an outbreak of disease. "Mocoa needs to rise up from this blow," he said. "And it will."

AP FACT CHECK: Republicans thwarted high court picks, too

By CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was the Republican talking point of the Sunday talk shows: If Democrats delay Neil Gorsuch's confirmation to the Supreme Court this week, Republicans said, it would be an affront to history — the first time a nominee to the high court had been filibustered.

True? Only in a narrow sense. Partisanship has denied a Supreme Court seat to a number of nominees, most recently former President Barack Obama's choice for the court last year.

Republicans are advancing their argument about historical precedent to try to soften the ground for a possible change in Senate rules to place Gorsuch on the court. If Republicans now in control of the Senate can't get enough Democrats behind them — it takes 60 votes to end a filibuster — they may shift procedures to require only a simple majority of 51 votes. When then-majority Democrats made that switch for lower-level nominees, Republicans cried foul.

Some comments from the Sunday news programs and the larger historical perspective:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH McCONNELL, R-Ky.: "No Supreme Court justice has ever, in the history of our country, been stopped by a partisan filibuster, ever." "Fox News Sunday"

SEN. JOHN CORNYN, R-Texas: "This is unprecedented in American history, a partisan filibuster of a Supreme Court nominee." — CBS' "Face the Nation."

THE FACTS: The senators are ignoring their blockade last year of Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to the same seat Gorsuch will occupy if he's confirmed this week.

Obama nominated Garland more than a year ago but the Senate's majority Republicans put him on ice, declining to give him a hearing. A filibuster is an unlimited debate that delays a vote, and technically not what stopped Garland. But in effect, Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, said Sunday, Garland became the "granddaddy of filibusters."

McConnell and Cornyn are correct in this sense: If Democrats were to succeed in blocking Gorsuch, it would be a first for the nomination of a judge to join the court. But one previous high court nomination was killed by a filibuster, in 1968. That's when opponents of Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas stopped him from being elevated to chief justice.

When McConnell and Cornyn said no one had been stopped by a "partisan filibuster," they surely had that episode in mind. Fortas faced opposition from a coalition of Democrats and Republicans. So his ambitions were thwarted by a bipartisan filibuster.

It's only been since 1949 that nominations have been subject to a potential supermajority requirement under Senate rules. In the 19th century, the Senate used procedural votes or took no action at all on 10 high court nominees who were thwarted. Most had been chosen by so-called accidental presidents — men who ascended to the White House after the death of a president and lacked strong support in Congress.

Associated Press writers Mark Sherman and Jim Drinkard contributed to this report.

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

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Pope visits Italian region rebuilt after deadly 2012 quakes

By COLLEEN BARRY and BRIAN HENDRIE, Associated Press

CARPI, Italy (AP) — Greeted by tens of thousands of faithful, Pope Francis on Sunday visited a region of Italy that has largely been rebuilt after a pair of deadly earthquakes five years ago, an example meant to give hope to another part of the country still reeling from more devastating temblors last year.

Francis' first stop in Emilia Romagna was the quake-damaged Duomo cathedral of Carpi, where he laid a bouquet of white flowers at the foot of a statue of the Madonna. After years of restoration, the cathedral reopened just last weekend.

"There are those who remain buried in the rubble of life," the pope said in his homily before an estimated 20,000 gathered in the piazza outside the cathedral for an open-air Mass and another 50,000 who watched on large screens throughout the city. "And there are those, like you, who with the help of God rise from the rubble to rebuild."

He later visited the town of Mirandola, where the crowd including family members of people killed in a pair of 2012 earthquakes. Francis laid a bouquet of flowers at the altar of the cathedral, which is still under scaffolding five years after the quake and not functioning as a house of worship.

He thanked the people of Mirandola "for the example you gave to all humanity, the example of courage to go ahead."

The Emilia Romagna model of rebuilding from the magnitude-6.1 and magnitude-5.8 quakes that killed 28 people has often been cited as exemplary. It included bringing together politicians, entrepreneurs and bishops to decide common priorities.

The papal visit was meant to show gratitude for the region's renewal, the bishop of Carpi, Monsignor Francesco Cavina, told the Italian Bishops' Conference television TV2000. But Cavina said it also aimed to be "a sign of hope that rebuilding is possible for the people of central Italy, who unfortunately suffered what we did much more dramatically."

A magnitude-6.1 quake on Aug. 24 in Italy's central regions of Umbria, Abruzzo and Marche killed nearly 300 people, toppled churches, historic buildings and museums, and rendered many town centers uninhabitable.

It was followed by a series of quakes in October, including the strongest in Italy in nearly four decades at magnitude 6.6, that damaged a higher number of structures, but didn't provoke further deaths since the most vulnerable areas had already been evacuated.

Authorities have estimated the damage from the 2016 central Italian quakes at more than 23.5 billion euros (\$25 billion), compared with 13.5 billion euros from the 2012 Emilia Romagna temblors.

Barry reported from Milan.

Chicago police seek 2nd teen in Facebook sexual assault case

By DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — An arrest warrant has been issued for a second teenage boy in the sexual assault of a 15-year-old Chicago girl that was streamed live on Facebook, and further arrests are expected, police said Sunday.

A day after announcing the arrest of a 14-year-old boy on sexual assault and child pornography charges, police said they were looking for a 15-year-old suspect in the March 19 attack, which investigators have said involved five or six males. Investigators didn't specify how many others would likely be charged, but they did say one adult male was among them.

Police were careful not to release too many details of the ongoing investigation, but they did provide some that helped illustrate why Superintendent Eddie Johnson remained visibly upset as he has been since the investigation began.

Commander Brendan Deenihan said that the victim saw one of the suspects, whom she knew, on the

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day of the attack. She said the suspect "lured" her into the home of one of the offenders in the North Lawndale neighborhood on the city's West Side, where she also lives.

"She was not allowed to leave and she did not consent to what occurred," he said.

Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said the girl was threatened by suspects, but he would not say what those threats entailed.

Deenihan also said there were multiple cellphone videos made of the attack, not just the one streamed live on Facebook that was viewed by about 40 people — none of whom reported it.

"It disgusts me that we have people who would look at those videos and not pick up a phone and dial 911," he said.

Deenihan declined to say if either of the teens who are already facing charges streamed the live video. But the charges against the 14-year-old — aggravated criminal sexual assault, manufacturing of child pornography and dissemination of child pornography — suggest that he shot video or took photographs of the attack, Guglielmi said.

Last month, the girl's mother told The Associated Press that her daughter received online threats following the attack and that neighborhood kids were ringing her doorbell looking for the girl, who hasn't returned to the neighborhood. On Sunday, Deenihan said police were investigating what he called "social media bullying" and that detectives have "executed social media search warrants" in the case.

He said the girl is traumatized and reluctant to talk about the attack, and that she's going to need help for a long time. After the news conference, Guglielmi said city officials and the Cook County State's Attorney's office have relocated the girl to a "safe place," but he declined to elaborate.

Oxford wins boat race after WWII bomb removed from Thames

LONDON (AP) — Hours after police removed an unexploded World War II-era bomb near the start of the course on the River Thames, Oxford reclaimed the boat race title from Cambridge on Sunday.

The bomb was discovered by a member of the public near Putney Bridge in southwest London, just meters (yards) from the starting line of the famous race between rowers from Oxford and Cambridge universities.

The ordinance was found submerged on the Chelsea shoreline Saturday and it was removed by a marine policing unit, the London police force said.

London was heavily bombed in the war, particularly during the Blitz years in 1940 and 1941, as German planes concentrated on civilian and industrial targets. Unexploded devices are still occasionally uncovered.

Oxford won the 163rd boat race by a length and a quarter in 16 minutes, 59 seconds. The course is 4 miles, 374 yards (6.8 kilometers) long.

Cambridge was denied its first back-to-back victories since 1999 but still leads Oxford 82-80 overall after a dead-heat in 1877.

The winning Oxford boat featured the Cook brothers, Jamie and Ollie, along with William Warr, who raced for Cambridge in 2015.

Oxford head coach Sean Bowden said the crew encountered significant difficulties during their preparations for the race.

"It was hard work for a long time," Bowden said. "It definitely felt like a year where we worked really hard, but nobody ever let their heads get down, and we started to turn the corner in the new year and see our progress."

Thousands watched the men's and women's rowing races, which involve eight rowers and a coxswain and are steeped in tradition.

The men's race dates to 1829, as a challenge between friends held in Henley-on-Thames and was held irregularly for the next 25 years. The race moved to London in 1836, where it takes place annually around Easter.

The women's race dates to 1927, but was only raced intermittently until the 1960s.

The Cambridge women broke a four-year cycle of Oxford wins, claiming victory in the 72nd race on

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Sunday by 11 lengths and in a record time of 18:34.
Cambridge leads Oxford 42-30 overall.

Freedom Caucus, White House feud not dissipating

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top adviser to President Donald Trump has urged the defeat of a Michigan congressman and member of a conservative group of U.S. House lawmakers who derailed the White House on legislation to repeal and replace the Obama-era health care law.

Government ethics lawyers said the tweet by White House social media director Dan Scavino Jr. violated federal law that limits political activity by government employees. The White House denied Scavino had run afoul of the law.

Two days after Trump himself tweeted a threat to the conservative House Freedom Caucus, a group of fellow Republicans, Scavino followed up Saturday by singling out Rep. Justin Amash, R-Mich., for criticism and urging Trump supporters to defeat the congressman in next year's primary election.

Scavino tweeted that Trump "is bringing auto plants & jobs back to Michigan" and Amash "is a big liability," adding: "#TrumpTrain, defeat him in primary."

Amash, who began serving his fourth House term in January, responded by retweeting Scavino and adding: "Trump admin & Establishment have merged into #Trumpstablishment. Same old agenda: Attack conservatives, libertarians & independent thinkers."

Another Freedom Caucus member criticized by Trump, Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, said the GOP health care legislation was not only poorly done, but rushed, broadly unpopular and opposed by moderates as well as conservatives. "Tweets and statements and blame don't change facts," he said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

"Let's start over," he said. "Even the president said we can get a better bill after it was postponed a week ago."

Ethics lawyers who worked for both Republican and Democratic presidents said Scavino violated the Hatch Act, a federal law that limits political activity by government employees. They said it didn't matter that Scavino tweeted from an account marked as "personal" and not from his official government Twitter account.

Daniel Jacobson, a White House lawyer under President Barack Obama, tweeted that White House staff "can't use an official or de facto govt Twitter acct (which this is) to call for defeat of a candidate. De facto means that if you tweet only about WH work from your account, it's an official account. Labeling 'personal' doesn't change that."

Richard Painter, who at one time was the chief White House ethics lawyer for President George W. Bush, called attention to the description beneath the photo on the account Scavino has designated as personal. It shows Scavino in the Oval Office, and he is identified as director of social media and a senior adviser to Trump.

"This is use of official position to influence an election," Painter tweeted. "Look at the photo and description underneath. Bush WH would have fired him."

The White House said in a statement that the tweet did not violate federal law "as it clearly comes from his personal account and not his official White House account." It said Scavino created an official account after he started working at the White House "to ensure compliance with the Hatch Act and he has taken the necessary steps to ensure there is a clear distinction between both Twitter accounts."

House Freedom Caucus members helped derail a vote last month on legislation long sought by Republicans to repeal and replace the health care law known as Obamacare. Its members argued that the bill didn't go far enough to undo the law. Some moderate Republicans also objected to the legislation, but for different reasons.

About a week after House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., pulled the bill from the House floor, Trump directed his Twitter fire on fellow Republicans.

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"The Freedom Caucus will hurt the entire Republican agenda if they don't get on the team, & fast. We must fight them, & Dems, in 2018!" Trump said Thursday. In follow-up tweets, the president singled out three Freedom Caucus members — Jordan, Rep. Raul Labrador of Idaho and the caucus chairman, Mark Meadows of North Carolina. Trump said if they "would get on board we would have both great healthcare and massive tax cuts & reform."

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

In DC visit, Egypt's el-Sissi to test 'chemistry' with Trump

By HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Making his first official visit to Washington, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's meeting this week with U.S. President Donald Trump would be a significant step in the international rehabilitation of the general-turned-politician who was kept out of the Obama White House.

But, analysts caution, there may not be much more that Egypt's president could take from Monday's White House visit, branded as historic by pro-government media at home.

There has been no official word on the specifics of the wish list el-Sissi is taking to Washington, but expectations include more military aid, designating el-Sissi's nemesis — the Muslim Brotherhood — as a terrorist group, and restoring the kind of strategic partnership Egypt enjoyed with the United States for more than 30 years.

Another issue that may arise is the Arab League's territorial demands in exchange for peace with Israel, reaffirmed last week. El-Sissi, whose country already has peace with Israel, may be in a position to help Trump push for a broad deal and gain points in Washington — but there is potential for disagreement as well.

Admittedly, the Egyptian leader has reason to be optimistic about his relations with Trump.

Former President Barak Obama kept el-Sissi at arm's length after the Egyptian leader rose to power in 2013 when, as defense minister, he led the military's ouster of the Islamist Mohammed Morsi. He was elected president a year later but has ruled with an iron grip.

Obama never invited el-Sissi to the White House, allowed his administration to repeatedly admonish his government over its human rights record and briefly suspended some U.S. military aid, which normally runs at \$1.3 billion a year.

The Egyptian media responded by accusing Obama of supporting the Brotherhood and destabilizing the country through his administration's backing of a popular 2011 uprising that ousted long-time ruler Hosni Mubarak.

In contrast, Trump and el-Sissi hit it off from their first encounter in September, when the Republican nominee spoke of "good chemistry" between them following a meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly.

The same media that vilified Obama hailed Trump as a strong leader who will treat Egypt with respect and appreciated el-Sissi's leadership. Moreover, there is expectation that a Trump administration will be far more tolerant of human rights abuses in the name of stability and counter-terrorism.

A senior White House official was non-committal on what the administration was prepared to do on military aid and the Brotherhood. Briefing reporters, he spoke of Washington's wish to sustain a "strong security assistance relationship" with Egypt.

Washington wants to use el-Sissi's visit to "reboot the bilateral relationship and build on the strong connection" the two leaders established when they met in New York, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Short-term, it is an important victory for el-Sissi," said Michael W. Hanna of New York's Century Foundation.

The Egyptian leader, Hanna said, has steadily earned international respectability in large part due to a key Western shift in the perception of Egypt and the rest of the Middle East — emphasizing stability over human rights or democratic reform.

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El-Sissi has also recently won plaudits for some painful economic reforms.

But a convergence of interests on Monday is far from guaranteed.

"Probably too much has been made of the 'chemistry' between Trump and el-Sissi — there are convergences of interest, and there is the absence of tension that existed with the Obama administration, but that's about it," said H.A. Hellyer, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council.

El-Sissi may find himself pushing back against some of the Middle East policies reportedly being considered by the Trump administration, like creating a military coalition of Sunni Arab U.S. allies against the perceived threat of non-Arab Shiite Iran. There has been talk of deeper U.S. involvement in the Saudi-led coalition's fight against Shiite rebels in Yemen, with Egypt possibly being urged to contribute forces.

Egypt has never shared Saudi Arabia's view of Iran as a looming existential threat and has also resisted pressure from Riyadh to contribute troops to the war in Yemen. Trump's position on Tehran seems closer to the Saudi perspective.

Egypt, however, does see an existential threat from the turmoil in Libya, with which it shares a porous desert border. Cairo would prefer Washington more involved in the search for a political settlement unifying the country's rival administrations, thus paving the way for crushing militant groups operating there.

El-Sissi may find it difficult to afford, politically or financially, involvement in a foreign military adventure.

His country is in the middle of a deep economic crisis, his army is engaged in a tough fight in Sinai against militants led by a local affiliate of the Islamic State group and his security forces are conducting a long-term crackdown on critics while watching for any signs of public unrest fueled by the soaring cost of living.

"The weakness of the Egyptian economy and the continuing predicament over terrorism in Sinai don't leave in Egypt's hands many important cards," wrote Mohamed el-Menshawy, a U.S.-based analyst.

Another possible source of differences between Trump and el-Sissi may be the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Egypt has for decades been a staunch supporter of the Palestinians' right to statehood. El-Sissi reasserted that position when he addressed an Arab summit in Jordan last week, saying a Saudi peace plan adopted by Arab leaders in 2002 remained the basis for a settlement.

The plan provides Arab recognition of Israel in exchange for its withdrawal from lands occupied in 1967, allowing the creation of a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

Veteran columnist Raghida Dergham wrote in the pan-Arab daily Al-Hayat Friday that Trump could push el-Sissi to abandon this initiative and convince other Arab countries to de-emphasize the Palestinian issue.

"What the American president wants from Egypt is to remove the Palestinian question from Arab priorities and marginalize the Arab initiative, which cannot be delivered by el-Sissi," she wrote.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, April 3, the 93rd day of 2017. There are 272 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 3, 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces began their final assault on Bataan against American and Filipino troops who surrendered six days later; the capitulation was followed by the notorious Bataan Death March.

On this date:

In 1776, George Washington received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Harvard College.

In 1860, the legendary Pony Express began carrying mail between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. (The delivery system lasted only 18 months before giving way to the transcontinental telegraph.)

In 1869, Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16, premiered in Copenhagen.

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Missouri, by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

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In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, New Jersey, for the kidnap-murder of Charles Lindbergh Jr.

In 1946, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander held responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist communism.

In 1965, the United States launched the SNAP-10A nuclear power system into Earth orbit; it was the first nuclear reactor sent into space.

In 1968, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.

In 1979, Democrat Jane M. Byrne was elected mayor of Chicago, defeating Republican Wallace D. Johnson.

In 1982, Maryland college student Stephanie Roper, whose car became disabled, was kidnapped, raped, tortured and killed by two men. (The case inspired creation of the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation to lobby for victims' rights.)

In 1996, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) was arrested at his remote Montana cabin. An Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard. Former Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes, the first black elected mayor of a major U.S. city, died at age 68.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush denounced Democrats for going on spring break without approving money for the Iraq war with no strings; he also criticized House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for visiting Syria. An ex-con shot and killed his ex-girlfriend at the CNN headquarters complex in Atlanta before being wounded by a security guard. (Arthur Mann was later convicted of murdering Clara Riddles and sentenced to life without parole.) A high-speed French train broke the world speed record for conventional rail trains, surpassing 357.2 mph. After a nine-year title drought, Tennessee's Lady Vols captured a seventh national title, beating Rutgers 59-46.

Five years ago: Mitt Romney tightened his grip on the Republican presidential nomination, sweeping primaries in Wisconsin, Maryland and Washington, D.C. In a speech to the annual meeting of The Associated Press, President Barack Obama accused Republican leaders of becoming so radical and rigid that even the late Ronald Reagan could not win a GOP primary if he were running today. Baylor finished off an undefeated season with an 80-61 win over Notre Dame in the NCAA women's basketball championship game.

One year ago: An international coalition of media outlets published the "Panama Papers," thousands of pages of leaked documents relating to offshore accounts that revealed attempts by world leaders, celebrities and businesses to dodge taxes in their home countries. A southbound Amtrak train struck a piece of heavy equipment just south of Philadelphia and derailed; two Amtrak workers were killed. Jason Aldean beat Luke Bryan and Miranda Lambert for entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas; Chris Stapleton cleaned house in other categories.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Doris Day is 95. Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is 87. Conservationist Dame Jane Goodall is 83. Actor William Gaunt is 80. Songwriter Jeff Barry is 79. Actor Eric Braeden is 76. Actress Marsha Mason is 75. Singer Wayne Newton is 75. Singer Tony Orlando is 73. Comedy writer Pat Proft is 70. Folk-rock singer Richard Thompson is 68. Country musician Curtis Stone (Highway 101) is 67. Blues singer-guitarist John Mooney is 62. Rock musician Mick Mars (Motley Crue) is 61. Actor Alec Baldwin is 59. Actor David Hyde Pierce is 58. Rock singer John Thomas Griffith (Cowboy Mouth) is 57. Comedian-actor Eddie Murphy is 56. Rock singer-musician Mike Ness (Social Distortion) is 55. Rock singer Sebastian Bach is 49. Rock musician James MacDonough is 47. Olympic gold medal ski racer Picabo Street is 46. Actress Jennie Garth is 45. Actor Jamie Bamber is 44. Actor Adam Scott is 44. Christian rock musician Drew Shirley (Switchfoot) is 43. Comedian Aries Spears is 42. Actor Matthew Goode is 39. Actress Cobie Smulders is 35. Rock-pop singer Leona Lewis is 32. Actress Amanda Bynes is 31. Actress-comedian Rachel Bloom is 30. Actress Hayley Kiyoko is 26.

Thought for Today: "Nothing spoils a good party like a genius." — Elsa Maxwell, American socialite (1883-1963).