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Friday, April 7

State Student Congress in Pierre
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Groton FFA CDE

United Methodist: MOMS Group at 9:30 a.m.

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, beets, peach upside down cake, whole wheat bread.

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

United Methodist: MOMS Group, 9:30 a.m.

School Lunch: Pizza, green beans, fruit, broccoli and dip.

Saturday, April 8

ACT Test, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at GHS
State Show Choir in Aberdeen

United Methodist: Focus Days at Conde UMC.

Sunday, April 9

POPS Concert at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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

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

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

United Methodist Parish: Worship in Conde at 9 a.m., coffee fellowship time at 10 a.m. and worship in Groton with Sunday School singing at 11 a.m., Sunday School begins after children's sermon in church.

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

Monday, April 10

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study at 6:30

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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Members of the Department of Transportation held a meeting Thursday at the Groton Community Center. Locals in attendance were Ken's Food Fair store manager Lionel Brummer, Dairy Queen owner Dale Grenz, City Councilman David McGannon and Yvonne Lorenz from the Groton Vet Clinic.

DOT holds first meeting

Work has started on US12 in Groton with the Department of Transportation holding its first meeting Thursday at the community center. There will be weekly meetings at 1 p.m. on Thursdays at the Groton Community Center and future meetings will be carried live on GDILIVE.COM.

It was stated that through Monday will be the worst for traffic congestion on US 12. The entrance into the Dairy Queen is blocked off, so entrance there will be through MJ's. Ken's will also have entrance issues, especially with delivery trucks. There was discussion of making 12th Avenue behind Ken's a 2-way street during construction.

The work on US 12 is expected to be completed by July 1; however, the DOT is concerned about several utilities that are in the way. They said that James Valley has been doing a great job getting everything organized and having a plan for its utilities. The same cannot be said for the other companies. Northwestern has gas lines and it is going to take time to get them moved. MidContinent has several issues to deal with including raising its cabinet on the northeast corner of US12 and SD37 by three feet.

You better start planning a different route if you use Broadway in Groton. Starting May 5th, Broadway will be blocked off from US12 to Railroad Avenue. There will be at least two cross roads that will remain open between the west side of town and the east side. Those crossings will vary during construction.

The Safe Route to School sidewalk is expected to be done fairly quickly. That goes from Fourth Avenue on the west side of First Street, north to Fifth Avenue, then on the north side of Fifth Avenue from First Street over to Lincoln Street.

The DOT officials on hand said they will work with the businesses to make the transitions as easy as possible.



GT Robotics at US Championship Event

The GT Robotists are competing at the Create US Open Robotics Championship in Council Bluffs. Four of Groton's five teams qualified for this tournament. This tournament has some of the United States' best robotics teams competing for bragging rights of being the best in the US.

From left to right: Andrew Marzahn, Noah Tullis, Jacob Lewandowski, Isaac Smith, Tanner McGannon, Hunter, River Pardick, Dragr Monson, Tyler Iverson, Landon Marzahn, Dan Feist, Travis Townsend, Thomas Cranford. (Photo by Renee Marzahn)

Vote "Yes" on the bond

To the Editor:

As a taxpayer, resident, and former Groton Area School board member, I'd like to address some of the voiced concerns of the new elementary school remodel/addition project and high school bond issue vote next week. The Groton School board needs to be commended for the due-diligence they have done on both projects. The efforts to gather concerns, ideas, and plans has spanned for over one year. The elementary school was deemed overwhelmingly the first area that needed to be addressed by the public, staff, and administration. Both a new building and a total remodel/addition were considered, with the project that is to start in May chosen as the most cost effective effort. That project will address most of the suggestions that were compiled by the several listening meetings with the community and staff plus the detailed analysis by the consulting firm hired by the Board of Education.

The April 11th bond issue is the next positive step forward for our progressive school district. I've heard concerns varying from the bidding process to the design of the new building. From my research, the process has had proper council from the Groton School Attorney Rodney Freeman and was handled according to what is required by SD state law. After the bond issue passes, it will allow the school board to move forward with the final design and specs of the new building with bidding the fall/winter of 2017. The building illustration is a conceptual drawing so there will be ample time to address design concerns during the next stage of the process.

Our school district has always been considered one of the top school districts in the state with an excellent staff and administration plus a progressive thinking school board. To keep up with the changing educational environment, replace an aging structure, and to continue to be a school district that is a magnet for top educators and students, I would encourage a positive vote on the bond issue next week.

Roger Rix

Death Notice: Ralph Sippel

Ralph Sippel, 90, of Groton passed away April 6, 2017 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Death Notice: Dwayne Coon

Dwayne Coon, 80, of Groton passed away April 6, 2017 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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Today in Weather History

April 7, 2001: Ten inches to two feet of snow fell in central South Dakota in a five-day period, beginning April 8th. Many roads became impassable. Several businesses, government offices, and schools closed on the 11th. Twenty-four inches fell at Ree Heights and Gettysburg, 20.0 inches at Faulkton, 18.0 inches at Kennebec, 16.0 inches at Pierre, and 10.0 inches at Doland.

1926: Lightning started a disastrous oil fire at San Luis Obispo, California, which lasted for five days, spreading over 900 acres, and burned over six million barrels of oil. Flames reached 1000 feet, and the temperature of the fire was estimated at 2,500 degrees. The fire spawned thousands of whirlwinds with hundreds the size of small tornadoes. One vortex traveled one mile to the east-northeast of the blaze, destroying a small farmhouse and killing two people. Damage totaled \$15 million dollars.




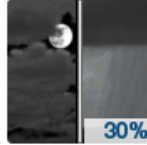



1948: Six tornadoes ripped through Northern Illinois and Indiana; mainly across the southern and eastern suburbs of Chicago. The hardest hit was from a tornado that moved east from near Manteno, IL to near Hebron, IN. This storm left four people dead; three in Grant Park, IL and one near Hebron, IN with 67 injuries and over a million dollars damage. Other strong tornadoes in the area moved from near Coal City, IL to Braidwood, IL and from Calumet City, IL into Indiana. Further south, two strong tornadoes occurred across the northern parts of Champaign and Vermilion Counties in Illinois.

1980: Severe thunderstorms spawned tornadoes that ripped through central Arkansas. The severe thunderstorms also produce high winds and baseball size hail. Five counties were declared disaster areas by President Carter. A tornado causing F3 damage also affected St. Louis and St. Charles counties in Missouri producing \$2.5 million dollars in damage.

2010: The record heat that affected the region on April 6-7 included 93 degrees at the Washington-Dulles Airport on April 6, the earliest 90-degree reading on record. On April 7, Newark, New Jersey, shattered its daily record by seven degrees when the maximum temperature rose to 92 degrees. The Northeast ended up with its second warmest April in 116 years.

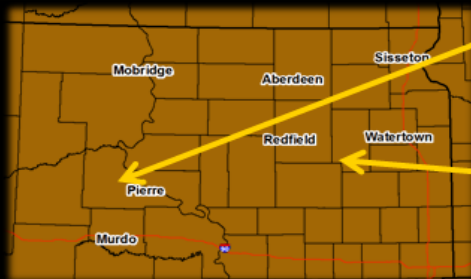
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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Rain Likely	Rain/Snow Likely and Breezy then Rain Likely
High: 71 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 64 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 45 °F

Dry + Strong South Winds + Very Warm Temperatures =

Very High to Extreme Fire Danger Today
(grassland fire danger index)



Warmest and Driest West (Extreme Fire Danger)

Highs 65 to 83°

Strongest Winds East

South winds gusting up to 40 mph

Avoid Burning



Don't Carelessly Discard Cigarettes



Use Caution with Farm Equipment



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 4/7/2017 4:11 AM Central

Published on: 04/07/2017 at 4:12AM

Very High to Extreme Fire Danger this afternoon, as very dry conditions combine with strong south winds, and well above normal temperatures. The warmest and driest conditions are expected across portions of central South Dakota, with the strongest winds gusting up to 40 mph across eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. Avoid burning, don't carelessly discard cigarettes, and use caution with farm equipment.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 55.9 F at 5:59 PM

Low Outside Temp: 24.7 F at 7:07 AM

High Gust: 11.0 Mph at 11:31 AM

Snow: Precip: 0.070

Today's Info

Record High: 86° in 1988

Record Low: 4° in 1936

Average High: 52°F

Average Low: 28°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.32

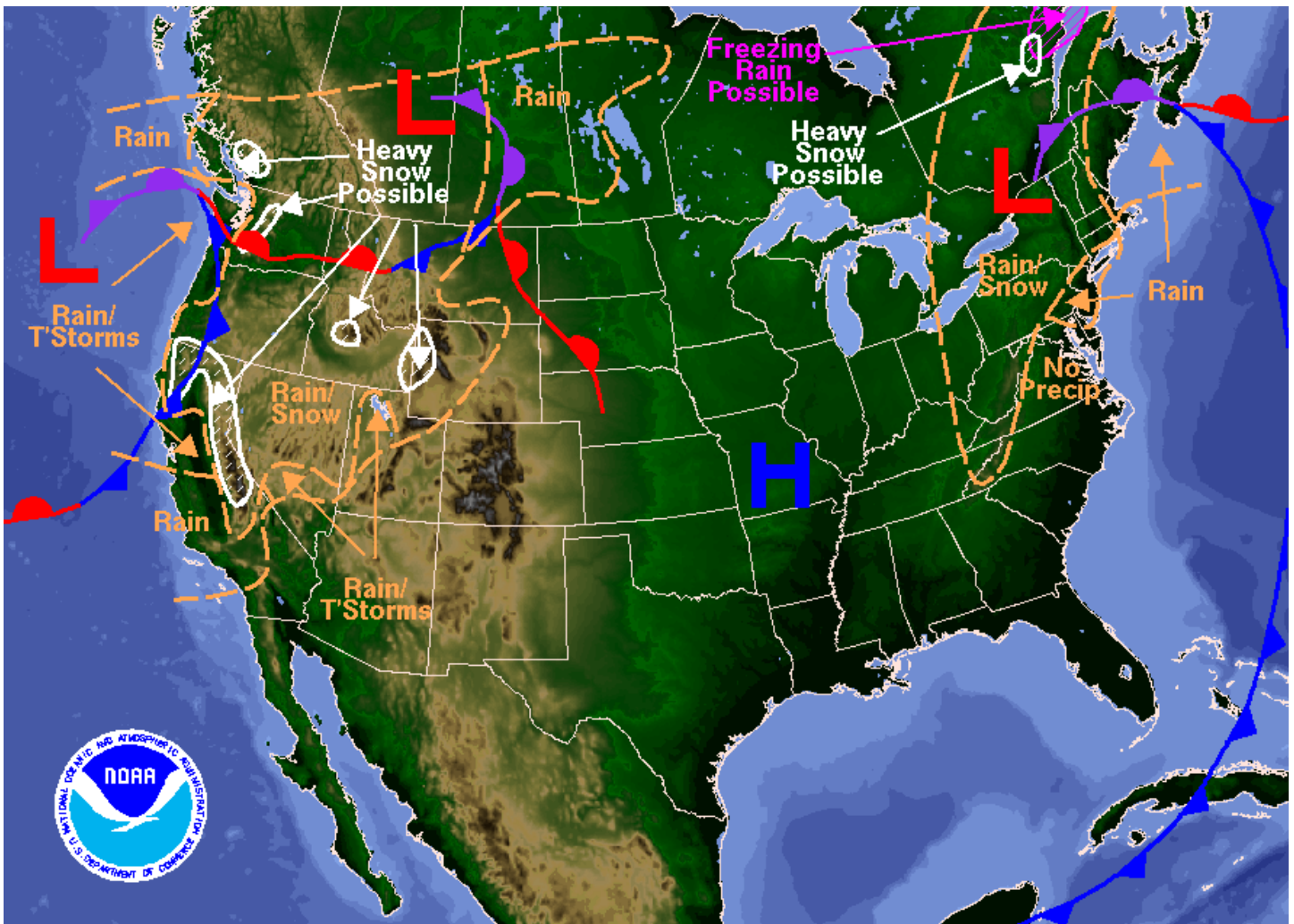
Precip to date in April.: 0.07

Average Precip to date: 2.50

Precip Year to Date: 0.66

Sunset Tonight: 8:09 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:00 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Apr 07, 2017, issued 4:47 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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NOW OR NEVER

A soldier was assigned the responsibility of driving a senator from the airport to a military installation. Between the baggage claim area and the vehicle he noticed an elderly lady struggling to pull her suitcase behind her. He immediately went to her rescue and pulled the suitcase until they met her waiting family. He then paused to help a young mother secure her child in a stroller. After that he helped a man who was having a difficult time opening the door to the restroom.

Impressed, the senator asked, "How is it that you see so many people who need help and immediately go to their rescue?"

After a moment of silence he replied quietly, "During my tour of duty in Vietnam it was my job to clear minefields. I never knew if my next step would be my last. It was there that I learned to get the most out of every moment because, in life, it's now or never."

Paul summed it up this way: "Share each other's troubles and problems because if you do so you will obey the law of Christ." We, as Christians, have a responsibility to God and to anyone we know who is faced with a difficult situation to help them. It can be as simple as opening a door or as complex as helping them through the loss of a loved one.

The size of the problem does not matter to God. It is the willingness of His children to help those in need.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, for eyes that see the needs of others, ears that hear the cries of others, a heart that is open to others and hands that are willing to help others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

News from the Associated Press

Death penalty to be sought against 2 slaying suspects

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors say they will seek the death penalty against two defendants in the alleged murder for hire of a Rapid City woman two years ago, should those suspects be convicted.

Twenty-seven-year-old Jonathon Klinetobe and 36-year-old Richard Hirth are charged with multiple felonies including first-degree murder in the May 2015 stabbing death of 22-year-old Jessica Rehfeld. Her body was found in a remote grave near Rockerville last summer.

Rehfeld was the ex-girlfriend of Klinetobe. He and Hirth both have pleaded not guilty.

Two other people have pleaded guilty in the case to being accessories, and 25-year-old David Schneider pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in January.

Farm Rescue nonprofit expanding into Nebraska, its 6th state

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A Plains farm aid nonprofit that has steadily grown since being launched in North Dakota a dozen years ago is expanding into its sixth state.

Farm Rescue will provide free haying and hay-hauling help to Nebraska farmers in need this year, as it continues providing services to farmers in both Dakotas, Montana, Minnesota and Iowa.

In those states, the organization has provided crop planting and harvesting assistance and hay help for more than 400 farm families since 2005.

Farm Rescue doesn't dole out cash. It has about 1,100 volunteers from around the country who do the actual physical work for farmers who have suffered a major injury, illness or natural disaster. The organization is currently taking applications for spring assistance in all of the states in which it works.

Activists: Beer stores near Indian reservation should close

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Four Nebraska beer stores on the border of a South Dakota Indian reservation should close because the area doesn't have sufficient law enforcement to respond to the frequent fights, drunken driving and other crimes in the tiny village, opponents of the liquor stores said Thursday.

Their testimony came during a hearing before state alcohol regulators who are considering whether renew their licenses to sell alcohol in Whiteclay, a northwest Nebraska village with nine full-time residents.

The stores sold the equivalent of 3.5 million cans of alcohol last year because they are near the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, home of the Oglala Lakota Tribe, which is plagued with alcoholism. Critics of the stores blame Whiteclay for the tribe's high rates of fetal alcohol syndrome and poverty. The town draws regular panhandlers who are known to loiter, fight and pass out in fields lined with dirty clothes and empty beer cans.

Tatewin Means, the tribe's attorney general, said the problems in Whiteclay spill over into the reservation, but Nebraska law enforcement seldom works with the tribe's police force. Means said the tribe currently has about 25 officers to patrol a reservation with 40,000 people that's geographically larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined.

"It's been a nonexistent collaboration," Means said in sworn testimony to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

Means said tribe members who are released from the nearby jail frequently go to Whiteclay, in violation of their probation, but the tribe has no authority to arrest them again in Nebraska and local law enforcement doesn't help.

Bruce BonFleur, who lives and runs a faith ministry in Whiteclay, said he doesn't believe the town has adequate law enforcement. BonFleur said conditions are so unsanitary that he once had to leave his of-

fice because the smell of human waste outside was overwhelming. His wife, Marsha BonFleur, said she had encountered a woman who claimed to have been gang-raped but was too scared to report the crime.

"Nearly everyone who's on the street is in some state of intoxication," Bruce BonFleur said.

Sheridan County Sheriff Terry Robbins disputed allegations that his deputies ignore the problems. He said deputies spend an average of 90 minutes to two hours a day in Whiteclay, but acknowledged under questioning that deputies don't visit every day. Deputies dedicate more time during the 1st and 15th of each month, when tribe members receive government benefit checks, he said.

If deputies see a person passed out in the street, "We get them up, see if they need medical attention, and try to see if we can get them home," Robbins said.

Nebraska State Patrol Investigator Rob Jackson said the patrol has received four formal complaints against the stores in the last two years, but he wasn't able to substantiate any of them. Jackson, based in Scottsbluff, said he inspected the four stores last year and never found any liquor law violations.

Andrew Snyder, an attorney for the beer stores, noted that Nebraska law enforcement currently has no way to look up tribal arrest warrants in its system.

Abram Neumann, who moved to Whiteclay in 2015 as part of a faith ministry, recounted a March 28 encounter in which he had to bandage a man who had been wounded in a knife fight. He said he saw the man the next day and his wounds appeared infected, so he persuaded him to go to the hospital.

Then in an April 2 incident in the village, Neumann said he saw a man nearly get run over by his girlfriend. He said the woman jumped out of the car and started beating the man.

Owners of the four beer stores said they haven't broken any laws. They also said they've seen a sharp increase in law enforcement over the last year.

Earlier this month, the Nebraska attorney general's office said it had filed 22 citations against the businesses for selling to bootleggers, failing to cooperate with investigators and other liquor-law violations. Those allegations are set for a separate hearing in May and can't be used as evidence in the license-renewal case.

Clay Brehmer, who owns Stateline Liquors in Whiteclay, said he doesn't sell to people who are regularly on the street and shoos away drinkers who stand too close to his store.

"I tell my employees to not let anyone stand out front, not let anyone loiter," he said.

Follow Grant Schulte on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

Sanford Health wants \$9M from federal government

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Health Plan has filed a lawsuit alleging the federal government owes it nearly \$9 million in payments under a program included in former President Barack Obama's federal health care law.

The program, which lasted from 2014 to 2016, established "risk corridor" payments to health insurers to help offset any uncertainties of selling individual insurance plans on the newly created exchanges, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2nHLGMB>) reported.

Sanford Health serves South Dakota, North Dakota and Iowa.

Congress prohibited the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from using certain accounts to make risk corridor payments, resulting in insurers nationwide foregoing billions of dollars.

Government officials said they were confident the program would be revenue neutral, with profits from high-revenue insurers offsetting losses from low-revenue insurers. But the program's first year saw profits at \$362 million and losses at \$2.87 billion.

"Sanford Health Plan has followed the law and brought high-quality, affordable health insurance to the people of South Dakota, North Dakota and Iowa," Sanford chief marketing officer Cindy Morrison said. "Unfortunately, the government has not met its payment obligations, and Sanford Health Plan has brought this lawsuit in order to ensure that the government lives up to its end of the bargain."

Sanford is joining about 20 other insurance companies in filing suit in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. In a past case brought by Moda Health Plans, Judge Thomas Wheeler found the government had a con-

tractual obligation to make the payments.

"There is no genuine dispute that the government is liable to Moda," Wheeler wrote. "Whether under status or contract, the court finds that the government made a promise in the risk corridors program that it has yet to fulfill."

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

Longest serving Carnegie library gets upgrades

By SHANNON MARVEL, Aberdeen American News

REDFIELD, S.D. (AP) — After 115 years as a literary haven for the residents of Spink County, the library in Redfield has the distinction of being the longest continually serving Carnegie library in the state.

During the early 1900s, a wealthy industrialist named Andrew Carnegie donated hundreds of thousands for the construction of 25 libraries throughout South Dakota. A grant for \$10,000 funded Redfield's Carnegie Library in 1902.

An addition was built in 2008, which doubled the space. The remodel was designed to preserve the library's original architecture, according to assistant librarian Linda Keller.

Since, generous donations have funded restoration projects, including the most recent restoration of a geometric skylight centered atop of the building's domed ceiling.

Stonehouse Stained Glass Studio of Avon restored the leaded glass skylight. The project cost \$7,054 and was paid for by two generous anonymous donations, Keller said.

The original library building is the west side where distinguished oak columns and woodwork decorate the walls. Original solid oak shelves, tables and chairs still provide seating for patrons.

One of the larger tables is a reminder that the library doubled as the city office during its earliest years.

The Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2oeHfg4>) reports Betty Baloun, the head librarian since 1982, said the Redfield City Council had a meeting in the library only a few years ago.

"It was neat to see them seated at the table where the city council probably held their meetings at a hundred years ago," Baloun said.

Over the past 35 years, she has checked out books to several generations of Redfield residents. For now, she's on leave for an undetermined amount of time to deal with a health issue.

Baloun, a Hoven native whose love for reading inspired her to become a librarian, recalled the ironic reputation of a book titled "I Am Lost."

"Practically every time it's been checked out it's been lost," she said.

A glass cabinet holds the library's most precious books that tell the history of Spink County.

One of those books includes the account of Abigail Gardner, who was held captive for 84 days before being released in Spink County. That was in 1857. There's a memorial 2 miles north of Redfield at the spot she was released.

Another history book includes stories from a pioneer era feud between Ashton and Redfield. Dubbed The Spink County Civil War, there was nearly bloodshed as the two towns battled to be the county seat.

Baloun, Keller, assistant librarian Mary Ellen Rische, story hour teacher Amanda Evans and six part-time employees work at the library.

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

'Face' of Southern Hills tourism to retire from state park

By TOM GRIFFITH, Rapid City Journal

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — On March 23, Craig Pugsley for the last time turned off the lights in his modest office at Custer State Park's headquarters, ending a 40-year career with the state Game, Fish & Parks Department and leaving the only job he's ever really known.

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In his four-decade stint, first as park planner, then as long-time interpretive director, Pugsley has helped refine and define the 110-square-mile preserve and illuminate the beauty of the Black Hills for millions of prospective visitors. In so doing, some have even called him the "face" of Southern Hills tourism.

For others, Pugsley's long-term commitment to the remarkable park and his tireless efforts to foster public-private partnerships that have bolstered visitation numbers, expanded the visitor season and enhanced all Custer State Park has to offer, leaves out the bonds of myriad friendships established over time and ignores any mention of the kind of guy who would bring a stranded motorist home for the night.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2oFLRNi>) reports that born Sept. 9, 1952, in Huron to Eugene and Grace Pugsley, a banker and homemaker, the young Pugsley headed straight for South Dakota State University after graduating from high school, where he earned his degree in 1975 in environmental geography with an emphasis on wildlife, forestry and park management.

Pugsley lived in the dorms for four years, served as president of the inter-residential hall council and became involved in campus politics. After earning his undergraduate degree, he pursued a master's degree in geography with a concentration on recreational planning. But a job opening for a park planner at Custer State Park captured his attention in December 1976, and he interviewed for the position. It would change his life.

After returning from a quick Christmas trip to visit a brother in Michigan, Pugsley returned home to find a note by his phone that said Custer State Park Director "Tal Lockwood thinks you're his man." Abandoning his master's thesis for a \$5.48 an hour position, Pugsley enlisted the help of two friends to move to the Black Hills and, on Jan. 7, 1977, he arrived at the park to start his new job. He quickly discovered they weren't expecting him.

"I checked in at the park and they said, 'Oh, you're here already,'" Pugsley recalled last week while sitting in a Rapid City coffee shop. "They weren't totally ready for my arrival. But I was just excited to have the job my dad always said I should have."

After being assigned a house in the park and a basement office, Pugsley had been working two weeks on developing interpretive components of the park's new master plan when a forester wandered into his office and asked him what he was still doing there.

"Well, I work here," Pugsley responded. "He thought I was an intern."

Those initial experiences later led Pugsley to develop a six-day orientation program for all new employees, as well as seasonal workers and volunteers, where they receive "a well-rounded overview" of the park as well as an introduction to partnerships Pugsley helped establish with the city of Custer and its chamber, Crazy Horse Memorial, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, South Dakota Tourism and the U.S. Forest Service.

The orientation program was one of Pugsley's many successes. When he arrived so many years ago, the park had a lone Florida couple who served as summer campground hosts. Today, the park allots 40 full-service campsites to hosts and averages 80 volunteers per year.

"The coolest thing is we've integrated those volunteers into virtually every program in the park," Pugsley said with pride. "They not only serve as campground hosts, but virtually staff four visitor centers within the park and assist park office administration, law enforcement, maintenance and resource management.

"By having volunteers, it's provided us the opportunity to increase levels of service to guests by tenfold. It's allowed us to meet or exceed our guests' expectations."

Each fall, in a ritual as regular as falling leaves, thousands of people gather on hillsides surrounding Custer State Park's corrals to await the arrival of a scene straight out of the Old West, as 1,300 American bison stampede across the prairie in the annual Buffalo Roundup. Last year, an estimated 21,000 spectators witnessed the event.

But it was not always that way.

In the late 1970s and early '80s, the park's Buffalo Roundup attracted a mere handful of interested people, growing to a couple of hundred. But Pugsley recognized the potential of the event to bring attention to the park and its resource management objectives. With the acquiescence of park directors (he's served under seven) and the support of park staff, it grew to monumental proportions and now is a mainstay that has

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helped extend the fall season of Black Hills tourism.

"Craig shouldered a major part of that burden of accommodating those growing pains and the safe handling of that many people amid a wild herd of 1,300 stampeding buffalo," said former park Director Rollie Noem, who worked with Pugsley from 1985 to 2005. "The planning and coordination was a huge task, and it continues to grow. The intricacies of coordination — the flow, parking, motorcoaches, logistics, Porta-Potties, traffic direction, medical services, media relations, an arts festival held in conjunction with the roundup — all could be tied to Craig's coordination.

"The roundup has become a premiere tourist event for South Dakota because of the work Craig put in as much as any one individual," Noem said.

Other former and current co-workers of Pugsley describe a committed individual who, while working hard and keeping the interests of the park at the forefront, never failed to add a bit of levity to his surroundings.

Bradley Block, now chief of interpretation at Jewel Cave, worked as a CSP naturalist with Pugsley for 11 years, describing him as "by far the best supervisor with whom I ever worked."

"Frankly I've worked with a number of fantastic people, but Craig was one of those guys who got back to you — a friend-boss as much as an actual manager, and that's something today," Block said this week. "He was so good at planning ahead. He's just a planner, and that's a rare trait."

Block couldn't help but laugh as he described a prank he and Pugsley performed on co-worker Dee McCarthy, now assistant park manager. McCarthy had just purchased a new Mazda Tribute and, while parked in the lot near her office, the same red squirrel kept returning to her engine compartment, chewing on wires and causing mayhem. Eventually someone suggested she keep her hood up while she was at work.

"Craig and I knew it was really bugging her, so we drove to the visitor center and took a red squirrel taxidermy mount that was posed like it was eating a pine cone," Block recalled. "We got staff to distract Dee, and Craig and I placed that squirrel like it was perched on her engine near the radiator, and it was looking back right at Dee's window.

"We ran back into Craig's office trying not to laugh like some schoolboys. She eventually turned around, uttered some expletives at the squirrel and ran out there," he said. "She couldn't understand why the squirrel wasn't running away. Craig and I laughed so hard we about vomited."

In hindsight, Block and McCarthy said those antics created a spirit of camaraderie and a tight team that worked in tandem on behalf of the park.

"We're like family," said McCarthy, who has worked under Pugsley's direct supervision for a quarter-century. "I've known Craig since his boys were little. Now they are all grown up. We've not only had a good working relationship, we've had a great friendship."

Richard Miller, who served as park director for a decade before retiring in 2011, said Pugsley's experience helped him find his way after he was named to the post.

"I was the new kid on the block and Craig had a wealth of experience," Miller said. "I valued his input and his help. Craig was a great colleague, fun to be around, as long as you wanted to listen to hunting and fishing stories."

For his part, in retirement the 64-year-old Pugsley said he hoped to devote more time to developing the foundation for future hunting and fishing stories. He'd like to spend more time with his two children and travel more with Celine, his wife of 34 years, though she's still working as a para-professional at a Rapid City Catholic elementary school. And he'd like to enjoy some spring walleye fishing on the Missouri River, hunt sage grouse in Montana and man a blind for the opening of the East River duck hunting season, something he's never been able to do because it occurs on the same weekend as the Buffalo Roundup.

With no desire to fly south with the snowbirds in winter, Pugsley said he'd remain in South Dakota and likely would be a frequent visitor to Custer State Park, though, "I don't want to be a pain to anybody."

And, as Craig Pugsley switches off the light in his office this afternoon and scans the Ponderosa pines and rock outcroppings for free-roaming wildlife on his way home, he said he'd carry with him a backpack of fond memories for an alpine oasis in which he's spent nearly two-thirds of his life. He'll also recall many of his favorite moments in Custer State Park.

"I remember one time I was coming back from a Black Hills, Badlands & Lakes meeting in Rapid City,

rushing to get back to the park office to answer my next 30 emails," Pugsley said, his eyes wandering to the horizon. "I was driving through the east entrance to the park and there was this SUV from Illinois stopped, its occupants watching as a big bull buffalo sauntered across the roadway right in front of them.

"The three kids in the back got out of their seatbelts and were tracking the buffalo when one of the kids noticed me behind them, pointed at the buffalo, then pointed at me, as if he didn't want me to miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience they were having. It's always reminded me of why Custer State Park is here — to provide those memorable moments to millions of visitors who pass through the park gates."

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

Sioux Falls school helps English language learners

By MEGAN RAPOSA, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The squeaking of markers filled the room, interspersed with sniffles and the rustling of two-dozen second graders shifting as they sat cross-legged on the floor of Anne Sullivan Elementary School.

Teacher Erica Tumbleson shared words of encouragement and advice to the kids as they worked on their own small whiteboards to figure out how many more pennies Franco and Sally need to have \$1 if they each have 35 cents already.

No two boards looked alike.

Some students broke down the numbers into smaller numbers to combine and count up to 100. Others used lines and dots to visualize the problem. More still used some combination of strategies.

These students, like many others at Anne Sullivan, have the odds stacked against them when it comes to their learning.

Most are on free or reduced lunches, meaning they come from low-income families, and about three in 10 don't speak English as their first language. Both of these factors correlate with lower scores on state standardized tests.

But at Anne Sullivan, these students are succeeding.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2oK2EEO>) reports that the school's English language learners (ELLs) are scoring higher than their peers at both the state and district level, which earned Anne Sullivan national recognition as a National Title 1 Distinguished School, an award given to only two schools in each state.

So, what's working at Anne Sullivan, and could the same techniques help lift ELL test scores at other schools?

The unsatisfying answer shows the limits of data-driven teaching: charts and graphs can't capture the myriad of variables that affect student achievement, which makes Anne Sullivan's success all the more special, albeit impenetrable.

Teachers and administrators are reluctant to pin it on any one factor. But something in the combination of reading intervention strategies, data visualization and a focus on relationship building has created a recipe for success for the school's 667 students.

Anne Sullivan was a pioneer in data-driven instruction for the district, but even with the tremendous amount of data available about each student's progress, it's difficult to pinpoint which strategies are helping ELLs students succeed.

The school uses a variety of means to help students, including reading intervention time, the use of data and a focus on forming relationships.

"If we knew exactly what it was that was turning the key, we would all do it," said Demi Moon, director of federal programs for the Sioux Falls School District.

Anne Sullivan received its national Title 1 distinction based on recommendations from the South Dakota Department of Education, which looked mainly at the ELL test data, said Title 1 State Director Shannon Malone.

Translating those successes to other schools throughout the state can be "extremely difficult," Malone said.

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Even from one classroom to the next, it's difficult to assess which intervention strategy helped the lesson "click" for the student.

"There's a million things that teachers do in a day," said Instructional Coach Bryan Conner. "They're constantly having to make decisions that fit the needs of their class, and what works in one classroom can't just translate and work in another classroom."

The school's use of data-driven instruction is not unique, nor are its intervention strategies for ELLs. But somewhere between the data walls and the one-on-one relationships, students are learning.

"Buildings take on the personality of their leadership and of their staff," Moon said. "A lot of times, it's a mindset."

At Anne Sullivan, that mindset emphasizes building relationships.

The school focuses on students as individuals with unique learning needs and works to find out what they know and what they need to learn, said Principal Kirk Zeeck.

"It's hard, and it takes a lot of time, but it's worth it," Zeeck said.

Anne Sullivan first became a Title 1 school in 2005, meaning the school receives additional funding. Sioux Falls has 11 of South Dakota's more than 300 Title 1 schools.

"We spend anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per pupil in Title money within our Title schools," Moon said.

All of that money has to be focused on reading and math.

If schools at the top of the Title 1 list are the highest need, Anne Sullivan falls near the bottom, Moon said. About 67 percent of students last year received free or reduced meals (the district's metric to determine poverty levels), compared to 100 percent of students at Title 1 schools Hawthorne, Terry Redlin and Lowell Elementary Schools.

While those schools have a higher poverty level, Anne Sullivan does have the highest percentage of ELLs in the district, just slightly higher than Hawthorne Elementary School in the 2015-16 school year.

And those students require special attention in the regular classroom.

Before her math lesson, Tumbleson spent her planning period working with other second-grade teachers and an instructional coach to collaborate on an upcoming reading lesson.

It's a long, detail-oriented process in which the teachers all lay out the goal of the lesson_what they want students to be able to do_and work backwards from there.

Collaboration is a key ingredient in Anne Sullivan's success, but what helps make that collaboration more effective is the school's use of data-driven instruction.

It's a teaching model of that focuses on tracking student progress individually and specifically throughout the course of the year.

To understand how it works, Zeeck uses the metaphor of two people going to the doctor.

One person goes to the doctor annually for a checkup. The doctor tells that person how healthy they are and gives suggestions for how they can improve.

The second person waits until they are 80 years old, and then they see a doctor.

"And then there's not much more you can do about it," Zeeck said.

So, instead of waiting until a final report card or assessment test to see if a student is reading and doing math at grade level, teachers in data-driven instruction models work closely to assess student progress on a daily basis.

At Anne Sullivan, teachers have an entire room dedicated to student data and learning objectives. The back wall is a grid of student photos, placed according to their proficiency.

Teachers always know exactly where their students are in their learning, and they can tailor their lessons accordingly to make sure the students below proficiency are catching up, and the students who are proficient aren't bored.

"We are able to understand those learners better than we ever have before," Zeeck said.

Anne Sullivan has also focused not only on tracking student data, but also on making that data visible to students.

Walking through the hallways, there are displays of which classrooms have had perfect attendance that week.

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There's a bulletin board with a collage of New Year's resolutions from teachers just down the hall from a display of which teachers went to which college, intended to encourage students to see college as the next step in their education when they graduate high school.

Teachers also use "data walls" in their own classrooms to track student progress in ways they can see.

Tumbleson, who teaches in the same classroom she sat in as a student when she herself was a second-grade Anne Sullivan student, lets students color in squares on strips of paper hanging in the classroom based on the number of spelling words they get correct.

If they get them all right, they can add a sticker to one square.

"They track their own growth," she said.

Tumbleson doesn't take anything for granted when working with her second-grade students.

Language is a barrier for some of her students, and she cannot assume that they'll know the words she's using.

She gave the example of telling a student, "Go get the red crayon off the back counter."

"Do they know what the color red is? Do they know what a crayon is? Do they know the 'back' table? ... Just those simple vocab words, a lot of students even at the second-grade level don't know yet," Tumbleson said.

To help students understand, Tumbleson uses different ways to communicate. She uses hand gestures, visual cues and basic words. She's also repeats instructions multiple times.

On a Monday morning in February, two dozen second-graders sat cross-legged in her classroom with their squeaky markers and their math problem.

"Franco has 35 pennies and Sally has 35 pennies. How many pennies do they need to have 100 pennies?"

At every step, Tumbleson gave direction. She walked around the room giving words of encouragement to students who solve the problem and advice to those struggling.

"Good strategy," she said to one student, telling others, "You've got step one, now work on step two."

When it comes time for students to solve the problems themselves, Tumbleson, with her stern but supportive teacher voice, repeats several times the instructions for students as they move from the floor to their desks.

The assignment is on page 308 of the student workbook_a direction that takes some students several tries to get correct.

Throughout the lesson, Tumbleson is taking mental notes about what students can and cannot do and adapting directions accordingly. Sometimes, that's as simple as helping a student find the right page.

"I'm differentiating my instructions," Tumbleson said. "So I'm teaching and meeting the needs of all of my students specifically where they are."

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

Research begins on sturgeon species

By NICK LOWREY, The Pierre Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Something prehistoric thrashed against the boat.

It made a dull thump against the aluminum hull as Conservation Technician Jeremy Pasbrig grabbed its spiny tail and lifted it from the waters of Lake Sharpe on a Tuesday morning in 2017. The same basic fish, a shovelnose sturgeon, could have been pulled from a river 70 million years ago.

It looked the part, too. Exaggerated, bony plates called scutes formed a sharp ridge down its spine and made a sort of armored triangle down its back. The scutes developed spikes the closer they got to the tail. The fish's head was triangle-shaped and resembled a spearhead or shovel.

It wasn't hard to imagine the fish that Jeremy Pasbrig was holding swimming in the same rivers regularly crossed by such prehistoric North American titans as the tyrannosaurus rex. The shovelnose sturgeon, as well as the roughly 26 other sturgeon species around the globe, haven't changed terribly much since the time of the dinosaurs.

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Jeremy Pasbrig was pulling the sturgeon out of Lake Sharpe as part of a SD Game, Fish and Parks Department research project. The project is being helmed by Chelsea Pasbrig, a fisheries biologist whose work focuses on non-game fish species.

"Nobody's ever looked at the population here," Pasbrig said.

The Pierre Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2o2jLZj>) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists shovelnose sturgeon as a threatened species, partially because they look much like pallid sturgeon. Pallid sturgeon are critically endangered and the USFWS didn't want any anglers mistaking them for shovelnose sturgeon. If an angler were to catch a member of either species, they'd have to throw it back.

Both pallid sturgeon and shovelnose sturgeon are native to the Missouri River. They long ago adapted to living in riverine environments and, for the pallid sturgeon, that became something of an Achilles heel with the damming of the Missouri River. Pallid sturgeon can't reproduce without lots of moving water.

Shovelnose sturgeon, on the other hand, appear able to spawn in Lake Sharpe. At least, the GF&P crew out trout-lining for sturgeon this spring has been able to catch plenty of them. In the first two days of trying to catch sturgeon, Chelsea Pasbrig said, biologists caught 64 and 78 respectively. Between her boat's first two trout lines on March 21, seven sturgeon were boated.

Shovelnose sturgeon, unlike some sturgeon species which can live for 50 years or more, only live to be about 20.

"We know there's been recruitment here because it's been more than 50 years since the dams were built," Chelsea Pasbrig said.

Getting a good idea of just how well shovelnose sturgeon are faring in Lake Sharpe is one of the study's goals. So is figuring out a way to estimate the size of the population, Chelsea Pasbrig said.

To that end, GF&P has been setting twenty 110-foot lines, each with 20 hooks baited with large night-crawlers. The lines were set to sit overnight on the bottom of the lake. March is a good time to trout-line for sturgeon, Chelsea Pasbrig said, because sturgeon are easier to target exclusively. On March 21, for example, three catfish and a carp were the only fish besides sturgeon that the biologists caught.

Once in the boat, each sturgeon was placed in a large tank to await being weighed, measured and marked. Each fish was implanted with a numbered tag, then had it's left pectoral and tail fins clipped as additional markers. The pectoral fin clip will be used to help age the fish. Both fins eventually will regrow, Chelsea Pasbrig said.

Once all the vital statistics were recorded, each sturgeon was sent on its way. As of March 21, none of the already-marked fish had been recaptured, Chelsea Pasbrig said.

Another piece of the sturgeon study is looking at the species' movements in Lake Sharpe. In May, 25 sturgeon will be implanted with radio telemetry tags. A series of passive receivers already has been placed throughout Lake Sharpe for similar studies on other species.

Chelsea Pasbrig and her fellow GF&P biologists will collect data through the rest of 2017 and repeat the tagging process again next year. The goal is to gather data over several years and present results from the study to the public in about five years.

There is potential that anglers might get the chance to harvest shovelnose sturgeon in the future, Chelsea Pasbrig said.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

After repeal, ethics law supporters to push ballot amendment

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Supporters of a voter-imposed government ethics initiative repealed just months after it passed plan to return to the ballot in 2018 with an anti-corruption constitutional amendment, the sponsoring group said Thursday in a rebuke of Republican lawmakers who scrubbed the initiative from law.

The group, Represent South Dakota, said in a statement that supporters view it as a necessary response to the Legislature's "brazen repeal" of the government ethics overhaul during the 2017 legislative session.

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Lawmakers passed bills intended to supplant provisions of the initiative, but backers of the overhaul have said the Legislature's replacement measures fell short of what the voters passed in 2016.

"This is about protecting the will of the people," Represent South Dakota spokesman Doug Kronaizl said. "It's about standing up to establishment politicians and returning power to everyday South Dakotans."

If passed, the amendment would largely be protected from legislative tampering.

It would tighten campaign finance and lobbying restrictions, create an independent ethics commission and prevent the Legislature from altering or rejecting laws approved by voters without returning to the ballot. The plan would also require that laws changing the ballot question process pass a public vote.

At least 10 states, albeit not South Dakota, have provisions to protect citizens' initiatives from state lawmakers, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

For example, Alaska and Wyoming lawmakers can't repeal an initiative within two years. It takes a two-thirds majority in Arkansas and Nebraska to amend or repeal, while the California Legislature can't repeal or amend an initiated statute unless the measure specifically allows it.

The 2016 ballot question created an ethics commission and public campaign funding, but it wasn't in effect when it was repealed in February as Republicans were challenging it in court. The constitutional amendment doesn't include the public campaign finance provisions.

Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said in an email that the 2016 initiative was "unconstitutional and legislators had no choice but to replace it with something workable."

Ben Lee, state director of Americans for Prosperity-South Dakota, a group that opposed the 2016 ballot measure and cheered its repeal, said lawmakers worked hard this session to come up with anti-corruption laws that met what the voters said they wanted.

"It appears that the folks at Represent.Us aren't going to like any law that they didn't write themselves, even though what the Legislature put forth this year addressed their largest concerns," said Lee, referring to the Massachusetts-based group that funded the initiative.

Represent South Dakota said it has filed the proposal with the Legislative Research Council, one step in the process to put it before voters. Supporters would have to submit nearly 28,000 valid signatures to the secretary of state by November 2017 for the amendment to appear on the 2018 ballot.

Kronaizl said supporters hope to start collecting signatures in June.

1-vehicle crash in Sanborn County kills 27-year-old woman

HURON, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash in Sanborn County has killed a woman.

Authorities did not immediately identify the 27-year-old victim. They say she was driving a sport utility vehicle that went off state Highway 37 and rolled.

The crash happened about 10 p.m. Wednesday, 10 miles south of Huron. The woman died at the scene. She was alone in the vehicle.

US strike on Syria is widely hailed, but angers Russia

By ZEINA KARAM and SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — World leaders rallied around the United States after it launched a missile strike early Friday on a Syrian air base in response to this week's chemical attack, while Russia condemned the move as "aggression" and suspended crucial coordination with Washington in Syria's congested skies.

The overnight missile attack, which marked the first time the U.S. has directly targeted Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces, was condemned by his allies in Russia and Iran but welcomed by the Syrian opposition and its supporters, who expressed hope it signaled a turning point in the devastating six-year-old civil war.

The bombing represents Trump's most dramatic military order since taking office and thrusts the U.S. administration deeper into the complex Syrian conflict. The Obama administration threatened to attack Assad's forces after previous chemical attacks, but never followed through. Trump called on "all civilized nations" to join the U.S. in seeking an end to the carnage in Syria.

About 60 U.S. Tomahawk missiles hit the Shayrat air base, southeast of Homs, a small installation with

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two runways, where aircraft often take off to bomb targets in northern and central Syria. The U.S. missiles hit at 3:45 a.m. (0045 GMT) Friday morning and targeted the base's airstrips, hangars, control tower and ammunition areas, U.S. officials said.

They were fired from two warships in the Mediterranean Sea, in retaliation for Tuesday's deadly chemical attack, which officials said used chlorine mixed with a nerve agent, possibly sarin.

Assad's office called the U.S. missile strike "reckless" and "irresponsible." The Syrian military said at least seven people were killed and nine wounded in the strike. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition monitor, also put the death toll at seven, including a general and three soldiers.

The Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin believes the U.S. strike is an "aggression against a sovereign state in violation of international law." Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin believes the U.S. launched the strikes under a "far-fetched pretext."

"Washington's move deals a significant blow to the Russia-U.S. relations, which are already in a deplorable shape," Peskov said. He added that the attack creates a "serious obstacle" for creating an international coalition against terrorism.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said it is suspending a memorandum with Washington — signed after Russia began an air campaign in support of Assad in September 2015 — under which the two countries exchange information about sorties over Syria.

The Kremlin later moved to diminish the attack, saying that just 23 of 59 cruise missiles reached the air base, destroying six Syrian jets but leaving the runway intact. Moscow also confirmed it had been informed of the attack in advance.

A U.S.-led coalition has been bombing Islamic State targets in Syria since 2014, while Russia's air force has been striking both extremist groups and Syrian rebels in order to aid Assad's forces.

Saudi Arabia and Turkey, which support the Syrian opposition, welcomed the missile strike, with Riyadh calling it a "courageous decision" by Trump. Iran called it a "dangerous" unilateral action that would "strengthen terrorists" and further complicate the conflict.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Assad's government "must be removed from leading Syria as soon as possible, and the best way to do that is by starting the transitional process."

The British government says it was informed in advance about the strike and firmly supports the American action.

Prime Minister Theresa May's office says the action was "an appropriate response to the barbaric chemical weapons attack launched by the Syrian regime, and is intended to deter further attacks." France, Italy and Israel also welcomed the strikes.

A Syrian opposition group, the Syrian Coalition, said the U.S. attack puts an end to an age of "impunity" and should herald the start of a larger campaign against Damascus.

Maj. Jamil al-Saleh, a U.S.-backed rebel commander based in the area where the U.S. attack took place, told The Associated Press he hoped the strike would be a "turning point" in the six-year-old war, which has killed an estimated 400,000 people.

Assad's government had been under mounting international pressure after the chemical attack, which killed 87 people, including 31 children. Even Russia has said its support is not unconditional.

Syria rejected the accusations, and blames opposition fighters for stockpiling the chemicals. Russia has said the toxic agents were released when a Syrian airstrike hit a rebel chemical weapons arsenal on the eastern outskirts of Khan Sheikhoun, and that blame should not be apportioned until a full investigation has been carried out.

Russia's intervention in Syria since September 2015 has turned the balance of power in Assad's favor, and Moscow has used its veto power at the Security Council on several occasions to prevent sanctions against Damascus.

Trump had said the chemical attack crossed "many, many lines," and put the blame squarely on Assad's forces. Speaking Thursday on Air Force One, Trump said the attack "shouldn't have happened, and it shouldn't be allowed to happen."

A survivor of the chemical attack on Khan Sheikhoun told the AP he hopes the U.S. missile attack puts an end to government airstrikes, creating a safe area for civilians.

Alaa Alyousef, a 27-year old resident of Khan Sheikhoun, said the U.S. missile attack "alleviates a small part of our suffering," but he said he worried it would be an "anesthetic" that numbs their pain and saves face for the international community.

"What good is a strike on Shayrat air base alone while we have more than 15 other air bases," he said. Alyousef lost at least 25 relatives in the chemical attack.

The U.S. had initially focused on diplomatic efforts, pressing the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution drafted with Britain and France that would have condemned Syria's suspected use of chemical weapons. But the vote was canceled because of differences among the 15 members.

Associated Press writers Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this report.

Trump defends attack on Syria; demands 'end the slaughter'

By JULIE PACE, VIVIAN SALAMA and LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump cast the United States assault on a Syrian air base as vital to deter future use of poison gas and called on other nations to join in seeking "to end the slaughter and bloodshed in Syria."

The U.S. blasted the air base Thursday night with a barrage of cruise missiles in fiery retaliation for this week's gruesome chemical weapons attack against civilians.

It was the first direct American assault on the Syrian government and Trump's most dramatic military order since becoming president just over two months ago. The strikes also risk thrusting the U.S. deeper into an intractable conflict that his predecessor spent years trying to avoid.

Announcing the assault from his Florida resort, Trump said there was no doubt Syrian President Bashar Assad was responsible for the chemical attack, which he said employed banned gases and killed dozens.

"Assad choked out the lives of helpless men, women and children," Trump declared.

The U.S. strikes — 59 missiles launched from the USS Ross and USS Porter — hit the government-controlled Shayrat air base in central Syria, where U.S. officials say the Syrian military planes that dropped the chemicals had taken off. The U.S. missiles hit at 8:45 p.m. in Washington, 3:45 Friday morning in Syria. The missiles targeted the base's airstrips, hangars, control tower and ammunition areas, officials said.

The Syrian military said at least 6 people were killed and several were wounded in the strikes on the air base.

Trump ordered the strikes without approval from Congress or the backing of the United Nations. U.S. officials said he had the right to use force to defend national interests and to protect civilians from atrocities.

Syrian state TV reported a U.S. missile attack on a number of military targets and called the attack an "aggression."

The U.S. assault marked a striking reversal for Trump, who warned as a candidate against the U.S. being pulled into the Syrian civil war that began six years ago. But the president appeared moved by the photos of children killed in the chemical attack, calling it a "disgrace to humanity" that crossed "a lot of lines."

U.S. officials placed some of the blame on Russia, one of Syria's most important benefactors. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, in Florida with Trump, said Moscow had failed in living up to a 2013 agreement that was intended to strip Syria of its chemical weapons stockpiles.

"Either Russia has been complicit or Russia has been simply incompetent in its ability to deliver on its end of the agreement," Tillerson said.

The U.S. Tomahawk missiles, fired from warships in the Mediterranean Sea, targeted an air base in retaliation for the attack that America believes Syrian government aircraft launched with the nerve agent sarin mixed with chlorine gas. The president did not announce the attacks in advance, though he and

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other national security officials ratcheted up their warnings to the Syrian government throughout the day Thursday.

The strike came as Trump was hosting Chinese President Xi Jinping in meetings focused in part on another pressing U.S. security dilemma: North Korea's nuclear program. Trump's actions in Syria could signal to China that the new president isn't afraid of unilateral military steps, even if key nations like China are standing in the way.

"This clearly indicates the president is willing to take decisive action when called for," Tillerson said.

Trump has advocated greater counterterrorism cooperation with Russia, Assad's most powerful military backer. Just last week, the Trump administration signaled the U.S. was no longer interested in trying to push Assad from power over his direction of a conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and led to the worst refugee crisis since World War II.

U.S. officials portrayed the strikes as an appropriate, measured response and said they did not signal a broader shift in the Trump administration's approach to the Syrian conflict.

"The intent was to deter the regime from doing this again," said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, the Pentagon spokesman. "It will be the regime's choice if there's any more, and it will be based upon their conduct going forward."

Still, the assault risks plunging America into the middle of Syria's conflict, complicating the safety of the hundreds of U.S. forces fighting a separate campaign against the Islamic State group in the north of the country. If Assad's military persists in further gas attacks, the Trump administration might logically pursue increased retaliation.

Russia and Iran, Assad's allies, pose other problems. Russian military personnel and aircraft are embedded with Syria's, and Iranian troops and paramilitary forces are also on the ground helping Assad fight the array of opposition groups hoping to topple him.

Before the strikes, U.S. military officials said they informed their Russian counterparts of the impending attack. The goal was to avoid any accident involving Russian forces.

Nevertheless, Russia's Deputy U.N. ambassador Vladimir Safronkov warned that any negative consequences from the strikes would be on the "shoulders of those who initiated such a doubtful and tragic enterprise."

The Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin believes that the U.S. strike on a Syrian air base is an "aggression against a sovereign state in violation of international law."

The U.S. also notified its partner countries in the region prior to launching the strikes.

Trump's decision to attack Syria came three-and-a-half years after President Barack Obama threatened Assad with military action after an earlier chemical weapons attack killed hundreds outside Damascus. Obama had declared the use of such weapons a "red line." At the time, several American ships in the Mediterranean were poised to launch missiles, only for Obama to abruptly pull back after key U.S. ally Britain and the U.S. Congress balked at his plan.

He opted instead for the Russian-backed plan that was supposed to remove and eliminate Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles.

The world learned of the chemical attack earlier in the week in footage that showed people dying in the streets and bodies of children stacked in piles. The international outcry fueled an emotional response from Trump, who appeared to abandon his much-touted "America First" vision for a stance of humanitarian intervention, akin to that of previous American leaders.

Trump seemed to rapidly reconsider his feelings about Assad, saying: "He's there and I guess he's running things, so something should happen."

The show of force in Syria raises legal questions. It's unclear what authority Trump is relying on to attack another government. When Obama intervened in Libya in 2011, he used a U.N. Security Council mandate and NATO's overall leadership of the mission to argue that he had legal authority — arguments many Republicans opposed. Trump can't rely on either justification here.

Unclear also is whether Trump is adopting any broader effort to combat Assad. Under Obama, the

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United States largely pulled back from its support for so-called "moderate" rebels when Russia's military intervention in September 2015 led them to suffer a series of battlefield defeats. Instead, Obama sought to work with Russia on a negotiated transition.

Trump and his top aides had acknowledged in recent days the "reality" of Assad being in power, saying his ouster was no longer a priority. But the chemical weapons attack seemed to spur a rethink. In Florida on Thursday, Tillerson said of Assad, "There's no role for him to govern the Syrian people."

Hoffman, McGirt lead Masters heading into 2nd round

By PETE IACOBELLI, AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Charley Hoffman and William McGirt were the first to take advantage of Dustin Johnson's absence at the Masters.

The odds are they won't be the last.

Hoffman had a 7-under 65 to dominate a wind-swept opening round. His four-shot lead over McGirt is the largest at Augusta National after the opening round in 62 years.

But with conditions expected to improve through the weekend, there's a host of capable challengers looking to fill the void left by the withdrawal of Johnson, the world's No. 1 player and a heavy favorite at the season's first major.

Hoffman acknowledged he was simply trying to make pars in the tricky conditions — gusts approached 40 mph, flung hats off patrons' heads and sent egg-salad sandwich wrappers blowing across greens and fairways — so he wouldn't shoot himself out of the event.

He did that, and then some.

Hoffman found himself in better spots than he hoped and "was able to convert those birdies and turn it into a fantastic round."

He had birdies on seven of his final 11 holes to surge past McGirt, whose gutsy 69 looked like it might rule the round.

"It's one of those things where I almost wanted to sign my card and go back to the first tee today," McGirt said.

Lee Westwood, perhaps the best player without a major, was next at 2-under. The group at 1-under including three-time Masters champion Phil Mickelson, Olympic gold medalist Justin Rose and former PGA champion Jason Dufner.

Some other things to keep an eye on in Friday's second round:

NO NUMBER 1: Dustin Johnson was the overwhelming favorite. He had won his past three events — two of them World Golf Championship titles — and felt he was in as good a shape as ever coming to Augusta National. But he injured his back falling down some steps Wednesday at his rental home. He made the difficult decision to withdraw. "I don't feel there's any chance of competing," he said. His absence opens the doors for, well, take your pick.

MICKELSON'S START: Phil Mickelson, 46, is hoping to catch the same lightning that Jack Nicklaus mustered to win the 1986 Masters at the same age. And Mickelson got off to a positive start with a rousing eagle on No. 2 and a birdie two holes later. The winds caught up with Lefty during a middle stretch where he made four bogeys in seven holes. He rallied with a pair of birdies to finish at 71, among just 11 players to break par heading into Friday.

SPIETH'S BIG NUMBER: For a second straight year, Jordan Spieth put up a crazy number at Augusta. This time, he minimized the damage. In 2016, Spieth had a quadruple bogey 7 on the par-3 12th in the final round to give away his likely green jacket. On Thursday, he took another quad with a 9 on the par-5 15th. He followed that gaffe with a birdie-2 on the 16th and was at 75, certainly still with a chance to pick up more ground in the second round.

WESTWOOD'S TURNAROUND: Lee Westwood started with a disastrous front nine, then caught fire with five straight birdies on the back to finish with a 70 — good for third on the leaderboard. "I wasn't too

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disappointed," Westwood said of shooting 3-over par the first nine holes. "I was just trying to not make any silly mistakes on 10, 11, 12, and play my way out of the tournament."

IT'S WINDY: Don't think the winds were bad at Augusta National on Thursday? Then talk to Thomas Pieters, who held the lead at 5-under for a time early before a pair of double bogeys on the back nine dropped him to even-par 72. "If you catch the wrong gust at the wrong time, then you look stupid, like I did on 12," Pieters said. "But that's just Augusta, I guess." The winds are expected to be a factor again on Friday, just not as much.

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. US HITS SYRIAN AIR BASE WITH TOMAHAWK MISSILES

The attack of some 60 missiles blasted an air base where U.S. officials say the Syrian military launched a deadly chemical attack earlier this week.

2. 'END THE SLAUGHTER AND BLOODSHED IN SYRIA'

President Trump calls on other nations to join the U.S. in seeking to halt the Syrian civil war that began six years ago.

3. GORSUCH ON VERGE OF HIGH COURT NOMINATION

If the Senate approves the Supreme Court nominee as expected, the new justice will likely be the decisive vote in upcoming cases including hot topics such as race and school choice.

4. TRUMP, XI MEET IN SHADOW OF MISSILE ATTACK

The White House downplays expectations for a breakthrough between the U.S. and China leaders on issues like trade and tariffs, insisting the summit is mostly an introductory meeting.

5. WHAT JOBS REPORT MIGHT REVEAL ABOUT ECONOMY

Economists forecast that employers added a decent if less-than-spectacular 180,000 jobs last month.

6. WHERE COLLEGES ENJOY A BOOM IN DEMAND

The number of creative writing bachelor's programs spikes from 161 in 2008 to 592 in 2013, according to the Association of Writers & Writing Programs.

7. NAZI-PLUNDERED ARTWORK RETURNS TO OWNER'S HEIR

Max Liebermann's "Basket Weavers" is being shipped back to the American descendants of its original Jewish owner.

8. SAMSUNG SEES BIG JUMP IN PROFIT DESPITE SCANDAL

Even as the scion of South Korea's Samsung business empire appears in court on bribery charges, the company sees its first-quarter profits rise 48 percent on strong smartphone sales.

9. WHY POSTAL WORKERS ARE SUFFERING MORE DOG BITES

Canine attacks on mail carriers rose last year to 6,755, up 206 from the previous year due to an increase in online package deliveries.

10. WHO'S OUT OF MASTERS

Augusta is rocked by the withdrawal of Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 golfer, after he tumbles down a staircase at his rental home, injuring his back.

Egyptians recount sexual harassment, angering conservatives

By HEBA AFIFY, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Hundreds of Egyptian women and girls have come out to denounce sexual harassment and share personal stories about it on social media, breaking a taboo and raising the ire of some in the country's conservative majority.

In posts on Facebook and Twitter from the weekend to Wednesday, rare, candid stories focused on women's first experiences of harassment, almost all of which occurred in childhood and some involving

family members and teachers.

The campaign promoted by a recent university graduate laid bare a phenomenon endemic to the streets of Egypt's crowded cities, where over the years women have faced sexual harassment by men or groups of men at a variety of public gatherings, protests or celebrations.

"I didn't know that there were so many others who went through this, I realized I wasn't alone," said 18-year-old high school student Haidi Gamal, who recounted three physical harassment incidents around the age of six by a relative, older schoolmates and a grocery shop owner.

She said she chose to speak out about harassment because many do not believe it is so widespread, and she wanted people in her circle to know. "I thought if someone that they know writes about it, they'll believe it," she said.

One woman recounted being assaulted by her own grandfather, and another by an emergency doctor who was treating her while she was in critical condition. Several reported being punished by parents and terrorized into silence when they recounted the incidents.

Alaa Emad is one of those who revived the Arabic hashtag, "The first harassment attempt was at the age of ... "

"We've gone from women not talking about it, to telling stories about it on their own Facebook pages, and some people don't like that," says Emad, adding that despite being insulted and attacked with some hateful messages from strangers, the participation showed that attitudes were slowly changing.

Those denouncing the campaign repeated common justifications for sexual harassment overheard in Egypt: that women are responsible for inviting it through provocative clothing or actions. Others advised women to keep such stories to themselves to protect their honor and preserve their country's image.

"This is a filthy, useless hashtag. What do we care how and when people harassed you? You are at fault just like the harasser," one said.

Another social media user lamented the openness of women about their experiences, saying: "Women have become so crude, Muslim women are better than to disgrace themselves like this."

The magnitude of Egypt's sexual violence problem came to light in the years following the 2011 popular uprising that overthrew long-time autocrat Hosni Mubarak, when mass rape and sexual assault occurred during several protests.

Since then, organized efforts by civil society to combat the phenomenon encouraged women to be more outspoken about it, despite the insistence of a large sector in society to deny its existence.

In a rare acknowledgement of sexual violence by an official, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi visited one of his female supporters in the hospital the day after she was severely assaulted during celebrations of his election in June 2014.

However, the problem persists. Last Friday, videos filmed by bystanders and posted online showed dozens of men surrounding and sexually harassing a woman in the province of Zagazig in north Cairo, before the police rescued her.

Romanian tourist hurt in London attack has died

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A 31-year-old Romanian tourist who was knocked into the River Thames from Westminster Bridge during an attack on Britain's Houses of Parliament more than two weeks ago has died, London police said Friday.

Andreea Cristea was rescued from the cold river after the attack, in which British attacker Khalid Masood drove a rented SUV into pedestrians on the bridge and then fatally stabbed an unarmed police officer outside Parliament.

Her death brings the death toll from the attack to five, plus Masood, who was shot dead by police.

Cristea's boyfriend Andrei Burnaz suffered a broken foot in the attack.

Her family and Burnaz described Cristea as "our shining ray of light that will forever keep on shining in our hearts," and said they would be donating to charity all the money raised to help her since the March 22 attack.

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"After fighting for her life for over two weeks, our beloved and irreplaceable Andreea — wonderful daughter, sister, partner, dedicated friend and the most unique and life-loving person you can imagine — was cruelly and brutally ripped away from our lives in the most heartless and spiritless way," they said in a statement.

They said there are no words to describe the emptiness they feel and thanked medical personnel for their round-the-clock help.

Police said she had been receiving extensive treatment in a London hospital since the attack but that life support was withdrawn Thursday afternoon.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where Cristea was treated, said it was "greatly saddened" by her death.

Footage taken at the time showed Cristea falling into the river during the attack. Witnesses saw her lying face-down in the Thames before she was rescued and rushed to an emergency room for emergency surgery after being diagnosed with a blood clot on the brain.

Burnaz needed surgery on his foot but has been discharged from the hospital. He was seen in a wheelchair at a memorial service for victims held last week.

Also killed in the attack were Utah man Kurt Cochran, 54; Britons Leslie Rhodes, 75, and Aysha Frade, 44; and 48-year-old police officer Keith Palmer.

Dozens of people were wounded.

Police believe 52-year-old Masood, who had convictions for violence, acted alone and was motivated by Islamist extremism.

5 things to watch for in Friday's US jobs report for March

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Can the U.S. economy deliver a third straight month of robust job growth?

The year began with a burst of hiring — 238,000 jobs added in January and 235,000 in February, along with solid pay growth. It all added up to a picture of confident employers and ample opportunities for job applicants with the right qualifications.

The question now is whether businesses extended that streak or held back a bit on hiring in March. Economists have forecast that employers added a decent if less-than-spectacular 180,000 jobs last month and that the unemployment rate remained at a low 4.7 percent.

The Labor Department will release the March jobs report at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time Friday.

The economy appears to have slowed in the first three months of the year, though most economists expect a rebound in the current April-June quarter. A strong March job gain would bolster those hopes.

Consumer and business sentiment has soared since the November presidential election, but the increased optimism hasn't yet accelerated growth. Consumers actually slowed their spending in January and February, when adjusted for inflation. Any such pullback tends to exert a drag because consumers account for about 70 percent of the economy.

Businesses have been ordering more high-cost manufactured good since fall, a reflection of stepped-up investment. But those orders slipped in February and remain below levels of a year ago.

Still, some areas of the economy are humming: Developers are building more homes, with construction starts up 7.5 percent in January and February compared with a year earlier. And home sales reached their highest level in a decade in January before slipping a bit in February.

What's more, for the first time in years, overseas growth stands to boost the U.S. economy. Germany's factories enjoyed a surge in orders in February. The rest of Europe, as well as Japan, is reporting faster growth, and China is stabilizing after fears about its outsize debts roiled markets last year.

Here are five things to look for in Friday's jobs report:

IS VIGOROUS HIRING BEING SUSTAINED?

March's jobs data could help address one question: Has hiring noticeably accelerated from last year's average of about 185,000? Or were the sharp gains in January and February a temporary gift?

Many economists expect hiring to fall back eventually to last year's pace or even lower as the unemploy-

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ment rate declines and companies struggle to fill jobs. Yet hiring could remain strong if more Americans come off the sidelines and start looking for work again. The proportion of Americans who are either working or looking for work remains far below pre-recession levels.

ARE MORE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR WORK?

Still, more Americans have returned to the job market in the past 18 months. The proportion of Americans 16 or older either working or looking for work has ticked up to 63 percent from a four-decade low of 62.4 percent in September 2015.

Should that trend continue, it could help sustain brisk job growth. Yet there would also be other, less welcome consequences: More job hunters could mean that employers would face less pressure to raise pay to find workers. That could hold back wage increases and possibly consumer spending, too.

HOW FAST IS PAY RISING?

Average hourly pay rose 2.8 percent in February from 12 months earlier, slightly below a seven-year high of 2.9 percent reached in December. Still, that's much higher than the meager raises workers received for most of the economic recovery.

Many economists forecast that pay rose in March at roughly the same pace from a year earlier. A faster increase could spook policymakers at the Federal Reserve, because companies typically seek to offset higher pay by raising prices. Inflation topped the Fed's target of 2 percent in February for the first time in five years. Faster pay gains could lead the Fed to raise short-term interest rates more quickly.

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

The weather might have restrained hiring in March for two reasons. First, unseasonably high temperatures in January and February goosed construction hiring: Building sites remained open, rather than having to close because of snow. Construction companies added 98,000 jobs in those two months, more than double the pace in the same two months last year.

That could mean that builders now won't need to add jobs as they traditionally do during spring, which could restrain job growth in March or future months. Separately, last month's snowstorms in the Northeast and Midwest might have kept some employees of retail, construction and other industries at home.

WILL GOVERNMENT PAYROLLS FALL?

President Donald Trump has imposed a hiring freeze on federal agencies, which many economists expect will cause job losses as workers who leave aren't replaced. Yet so far, the government is still showing small gains: The federal government added 2,000 workers in February and 4,000 in January.

Gorsuch heads for confirmation as Senate tears up own rules

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch, is headed for confirmation after Republicans tore up the Senate's voting rules to allow him to ascend to the high court over furious Democratic objections.

Democrats denounced the GOP's use of what both sides dubbed the "nuclear option" to put Gorsuch on the court, calling it an epic power grab that would further corrode politics in Congress, the courts and the United States. Many Republicans bemoaned reaching that point, too, but they blamed Democrats for pushing them to it.

"We will sadly point to today as a turning point in the history of the Senate and the Supreme Court," Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York declared on the Senate floor Thursday.

"This is going to be a chapter, a monumental event in the history of the Senate, not for the better but for the worse," warned Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a senior Republican.

The final confirmation vote on Gorsuch is expected Friday, and he should be sworn in soon to hear the

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final cases of the term. He was nominated by Trump shortly after the January inauguration.

The Senate change, affecting how many votes a nominee needs for confirmation, will apply to all future Supreme Court candidates, likely ensuring more ideological justices chosen with no need for consultation with the minority party. Trump himself predicted to reporters aboard Air Force One that "there could be as many as four" Supreme Court vacancies for him to fill during his administration.

"In fact, under a certain scenario, there could even be more than that," Trump said. There is no way to know how many there will be, if any, but several justices are quite elderly.

Even as they united in indignation, lawmakers of both parties, pulled by fierce political forces from left and right, were unwilling to stop the confirmation rules change.

The maneuvering played out in a tense Senate chamber with most members in their seats, a rare and theatrical occurrence.

First Democrats tried to mount a filibuster in an effort to block Gorsuch by denying him the 60 votes needed to advance to a final vote. That was successful only briefly, as Gorsuch fell five votes short. Then Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., raised a point of order, suggesting that Supreme Court nominees should not be subjected to a 60-vote threshold but instead a simple majority in the 100-member Senate.

McConnell was overruled, but he appealed the ruling. And on that he prevailed on a 52-48 party-line vote. The 60-vote filibuster requirement on Supreme Court nominees was effectively gone, and with it the last vestige of bipartisanship on presidential nominees in an increasingly polarized Senate.

The developments were accompanied by unusually bitter accusations and counter-accusations. And yet in many ways the showdown had been pre-ordained, the final chapter in years of partisan warfare over judicial nominees.

In 2005, with the Senate under GOP control, Republicans prepared to utilize the "nuclear option" to remove the filibuster for lower-court nominees. A bipartisan deal at the time headed off that change. But then in 2013, with Democrats in charge and Republicans blocking President Barack Obama's nominees, the Democrats did take the step, removing the filibuster for all presidential appointments except the Supreme Court.

McConnell accused Democrats of forcing his hand by trying to filibuster a highly qualified nominee in Gorsuch, 49, a 10-year veteran of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver with a consistently conservative record.

But Democrats were unable to pull back from the brink, partly because they remain livid over McConnell's decision last year to block Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, who was denied even a hearing after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016. Instead McConnell kept Scalia's seat open, a calculation that is now paying off for Republicans and Trump.

Even as Graham and other senior Republicans lamented the voting change, McConnell and some allies argued that all they were doing was returning to a time, not long ago, when filibusters of judicial nominees were unusual, and it was virtually unheard-of to try to block a Supreme Court nominee in that fashion.

Some senators fear that the next to go could be the legislative filibuster, one of the last remaining mechanisms to force bipartisan cooperation on Capitol Hill. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Democrat Chris Coons of Delaware were circulating a letter to colleagues Thursday in support of keeping the filibuster in place for legislation.

With his final vote set for Friday, Gorsuch counts 55 supporters: the 52 Republicans, along with three moderate Democrats from states that Trump won — Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Donnelly of Indiana.

Associated Press writers Mark Sherman and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

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Trump, Xi meet again - in shadow of missile strikes on Syria

By VIVIAN SALAMA and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — North Korea's nuclear ambitions and the U.S-China trade imbalance as well as other points of tension between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are being overshadowed by the U.S. missile strikes on Syria.

Nonetheless, the two leaders are meeting for a second day at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate as planned Friday. Their first-night summit dinner wrapped up shortly before the U.S. announced the missile barrage on an air base in Syria in retaliation against Syrian President Bashar Assad for a chemical weapons attack against civilians caught up in his country's long civil war.

Ahead of the Thursday night dinner with their wives, Trump said he and Xi already had had a long discussion and had "developed a friendship," and then joked, "I have gotten nothing, absolutely nothing."

The White House downplayed expectations for a breakthrough on issues like trade and tariffs, insisting that the 24-hour summit is mostly an introductory meeting for the two leaders. Within Trump's administration, divisions remain over how to approach China.

Still, the crisis in North Korea was a top priority for Trump in the meetings with Xi. The American president told reporters traveling with him to Florida that he thinks China will "want to be stepping up" in trying to deter North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

While Trump would not say what he wants China to do specifically, he suggested there was a link between "terrible" trade agreements the U.S. has made with China and Pyongyang's provocations. He said the two issues "really do mix."

Trump has said that if China doesn't exert more pressure on North Korea, the U.S. will act alone. The missile strikes on Syria bring more weight to that statement.

Both as a candidate and president, Trump has taken an aggressive posture toward China, labeling Beijing a "tremendous problem" and arguing that lopsided trade deals with China shortchange American businesses and workers. Last week, the president predicted in a tweet that his meeting with Xi would be "very difficult."

Ahead of the summit, Trump signed a pair of executive orders focused on reducing the U.S. trade deficit, an apparent shot at China, which accounted for the vast bulk — \$347 billion — of last year's \$502 billion trade deficit.

For his part, Xi was expected to seek assurances that Trump will not interfere in the territorial dispute over the South China Sea or question the "One China" policy by reaching out to Taiwan's leader again, as Trump did during the transition.

Follow Vivian Salama at <http://twitter.com/vmsalama> and Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, April 7, the 97th day of 2017. There are 268 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 7, 1917, American entertainer and songwriter George M. Cohan, galvanized by America's entry into World War I the day before, wrote his rousing call to arms, "Over There."

On this date:

In 1788, an expedition led by Gen. Rufus Putnam established a settlement at present-day Marietta, Ohio.

In 1862, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

In 1927, the image and voice of Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover were transmitted live from Washington to New York in the first successful long-distance demonstration of television.

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In 1939, Italy invaded Albania, which was annexed less than a week later.

In 1947, auto pioneer Henry Ford died in Dearborn, Michigan, at age 83.

In 1957, shortly after midnight, the last of New York's electric trolleys completed its final run from Queens to Manhattan.

In 1962, nearly 1,200 Cuban exiles tried by Cuba for their roles in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason.

In 1967, "The Death of a President," William Manchester's detailed reconstruction of the events surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was published in book form by Harper & Row after being serialized in Look magazine.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he was deferring development of the neutron bomb, a high-radiation weapon.

In 1984, the Census Bureau reported Los Angeles had overtaken Chicago as the nation's "second city" in terms of population.

In 1994, civil war erupted in Rwanda, a day after a mysterious plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi; in the months that followed, hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsi and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu extremists.

In 2001, NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft took off on a six-month, 286 million-mile journey to the Red Planet.

Ten years ago: A Russian rocket carrying American billionaire Charles Simonyi roared into the night skies over Kazakhstan, sending its three occupants on a trip to the international space station. "B.C." comic strip creator Johnny Hart died in Nineveh, New York, at age 76. Actor Barry Nelson died in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, at age 89.

Five years ago: The U.S. warned Syria it wouldn't be able to deceive the world about compliance with a cease-fire that was just days away, as regime forces pounded more opposition strongholds in an apparent rush to crush resistance before troops had to withdraw. A massive avalanche engulfed a Pakistani military complex in a mountain battleground close to the Indian border; all 140 people on the base died. CBS newsman Mike Wallace, 93, died in New Canaan, Connecticut.

One year ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin denied any links to offshore accounts and described the Panama Papers document leaks scandal as part of a U.S.-led plot to weaken Russia. In a brazen assault near the Syrian capital, Islamic State militants abducted 300 cement workers and contractors from their workplace northeast of Damascus. "American Idol" crowned 24-year-old Trent Harmon its 15th and final winner as the influential TV show came to an end.

Today's Birthdays: Media commentator Hodding Carter III is 82. Country singer Bobby Bare is 82. Rhythm-and-blues singer Charlie Thomas (The Drifters) is 80. California Gov. Jerry Brown is 79. Movie director Francis Ford Coppola is 78. Actress Roberta Shore is 74. Singer Patricia Bennett (The Chiffons) is 70. Singer John Oates is 69. Former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is 68. Singer Janis Ian is 66. Country musician John Ditttrich is 66. Actor Jackie Chan is 63. College and Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Tony Dorsett is 63. Actor Russell Crowe is 53. Christian/jazz singer Mark Kibble (Take 6) is 53. Actor Bill Bellamy is 52. Rock musician Dave "Yorkie" Palmer (Space) is 52. Former football player-turned-analyst Tiki Barber is 42. Actress Heather Burns is 42. Christian rock singer-musician John Cooper (Skillet) is 42. Actor Kevin Alejandro is 41. Rock musician Ben McKee (Imagine Dragons) is 32. Actor Ed Speleers is 29. Actor Conner Rayburn is 18.

Thought for Today: "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't — you're right." — Henry Ford (1863-1947).