

Groton Daily Independent

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“The great thing about new friends is that they bring new energy to your soul.”

-Shanna Rodriguez



- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Groton Ford Ad
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- 1- A Riddle
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A Riddle

**What is as big as you and yet weighs nothing?
(answer at the end of the AP News)**

Put our experienced team to work for you!

GROTON
Ford
GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

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

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



Job Opening

Sun Dial Manor in Bristol is accepting applications for a Full or Part time Cook/Dietary Tech. Hours Vary. Sign-on Bonus available.

Please contact Mandy at 605-492-3615 or P.O. Box 337, Bristol, SD 57219 for more information.

Boys post triple win over Webster Area

The Groton Area boys' basketball teams posted a triple win Tuesday evening over Webster Area. The games were played at the Groton Area Arena.

The C team won its game, 28-27, the junior varsity team won its game, 42-30, and the varsity won its game, 62-49.

Three players hit double figures as the Tigers posted the Northeast Conference win. The Tigers jumped out to a 23-14 first quarter lead, 36-24 lead at half time and 49-40 lead after three quarters.

Seric Shabazz led the Tigers with 21 points, six rebounds, four assists and five steals. Brodyn DeHoet and Jonathan Doeden each had 13 points and five rebounds. Brandon Keith and Anthony Sippel each had four points, Treyton Diegel added three points and Andrew Rintala and Peyton Johnson each added two points.

The Tigers made 38 percent of its field goals while Webster Area made 43 percent. Groton Area made 17 of 29 free throws for 58 percent off of Webster Area's 23 team fouls. Webster Area made three of seven free throws for 53 percent off of Groton Area's 17 team fouls. Webster Area had 25 turnovers with 12 of them being steals. Groton Area had 12 turnovers with three of them being steals. Groton Area had an edge on the boards, 35-33.

Tigers scoring in the junior varsity game were Austin Jones and Kaden Kurtz with 11 each, Peyton Johnson with eight, Treyton Diegel and Cade Guthmiller each had five and Darien Shabazz added two points.

In the C game, Riley Thurston led the Tigers with 14 points which included three three-pointers, Jackson Cogley had four, Lucas Simon three and Chandler Larson one.

The Tigers will be hosting Hamlin in a double header.



Seric Shabazz
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

☆☆☆ \$1,500 for CNAs ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ \$3,000 for LPNs ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ \$4,500 for RNs ☆☆☆

Alzheimer's Care Unit Director Medication Aid

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365
or apply in person.



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

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Jonathan Doeden
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Brandon Keith
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Andy Rintala
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Brodyn DeHoet
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices/locations.

***Farmers Union's
PSA: Courtesy Merle
Anderson (Merle is 94
year old founder of Ace
and legendary ethanol
supporter... "because it is
the right thing to do")**

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Boys Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Webster Area

VISITOR: Webster ()

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG			3-PT		REBOUNDS										MIN	
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S		
2	Reetz, Coby	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	24:00
13	Block, Matthew	*	4	9	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	9	2	4	0	1	8:00	
14	Case, Trevor	*	4	7	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	8	0	3	0	0	24:00	
20	Holland, Braden	*	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	3	1	5	0	0	8:00	
22	Rithmiller, Braden	*	2	7	2	7	0	0	0	10	10	3	6	1	4	0	0	16:00	
10	Unknown,		1	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	3	2	0	2	0	0	8:00	
34	Moen, Austin		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	16:00	
35	Marx, Kaleb		6	10	4	5	1	2	1	3	4	3	17	1	2	0	2	24:00	
41	Prins, Jhett		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00	
42	Koslowski, Devin		2	6	0	0	0	0	2	5	7	3	4	1	1	0	0	16:00	
TEAM REBOUNDS									1	4	5								
Team Totals			20	47	6	17	3	7	7	28	35	23	49	6	25	0	3	160	

Total FG% - 1st: 10/24 0.417 2nd: 10/23 0.435 Game: 0.426 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/10 0.300 2nd: 3/7 0.429 Game: 0.353 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/2 0.500 2nd: 2/5 0.400 Game: 0.429 (1,0)

HOME: Groton ()

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG			3-PT		REBOUNDS										MIN
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	
11	RINTALA, ANDREW	F	1	6	0	2	0	2	1	1	2	4	2	1	4	0	0	8:00
20	KEITH, BRANDON	F	1	4	0	0	2	2	4	0	4	1	4	0	0	0	1	16:00
42	DEHOET, BRODYN	C	4	12	1	8	4	6	1	4	5	3	13	1	3	0	4	16:00
4	DOEDEN, JONATHAN	G	5	10	2	4	1	2	1	4	5	5	13	2	3	0	1	24:00
5	SHABAZZ, SERIC	G	5	10	3	7	8	12	2	4	6	2	21	4	1	0	5	24:00
3	SIPPEL, ANTHONY		2	6	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	24:00
10	LANE, MARSHALL		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	24:00
12	SHABAZZ, DARIEN		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
22	GUTHMILLER, CADE		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
40	JOHNSON, PEYTON		0	0	0	0	2	4	1	2	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	8:00
55	DIEGEL, TREYTON		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									0	2	2							
Team Totals			19	50	7	25	17	29	11	22	33	17	62	8	13	0	12	160

Total FG% - 1st: 12/27 0.444 2nd: 7/23 0.304 Game: 0.380 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 4/14 0.286 2nd: 3/11 0.273 Game: 0.280 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 8/18 0.444 2nd: 9/11 0.818 Game: 0.586 (5,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Webster	14	10	16	9	49
Groton	23	13	13	13	62

Last FG: Webster 4th-08:00, Groton 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Webster by 5 1st-08:00, Groton by 16 3rd-08:00
 Score tied: 0 times, Lead changed: 3 times

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Boys Junior Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Webster Area

VISITOR: Webster ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
3 Schimmel,	*	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	4	0	1	32:00
33 Schlotte,	*	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	0	0	3	0	0	16:00
34 Unknown,	*	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	9	0	3	0	0	32:00
35 Marx, Kaleb	*	3	8	1	6	0	2	0	1	1	3	7	0	4	0	0	24:00
41 Unknown,	*	2	7	0	0	0	0	2	6	8	3	4	0	4	1	1	16:00
15 Mork,		1	3	1	3	0	0	0	2	2	3	3	0	1	0	0	24:00
21 Pereboom,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0:00
23 Keller, Jaydon		2	6	0	2	0	0	2	1	3	0	4	1	1	0	0	16:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								1	1	2				1			
Team Totals		13	32	4	14	0	2	6	15	21	16	30	3	21	1	2	160

Total FG% - 1st: 5/18 0.278 2nd: 8/14 0.571 Game: 0.406 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/8 0.125 2nd: 3/6 0.500 Game: 0.286 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 0/0 0.000 2nd: 0/2 0.000 Game: 0.000 (1,0)

HOME: Groton ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
12 SHABAZZ, DARIEN	F	0	3	0	2	2	2	0	3	3	1	2	0	5	0	1	32:00
34 JONES, AUSTIN	F	5	8	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	11	2	0	0	0	24:00
40 JOHNSON, PEYTON	C	2	6	0	0	4	6	0	1	1	1	8	1	2	0	0	16:00
14 KURTZ, KADEN	G	3	3	2	2	3	4	1	1	2	1	11	0	1	0	0	24:00
22 GUTHMILLER, CADE	G	1	2	1	2	2	5	1	2	3	0	5	2	0	0	1	32:00
32 LARSON, CHANDLER		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
50 TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0:00
55 Unknown,		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	8:00
56 Diegel, Treyton		2	6	1	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	1	0	0	16:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								2	2	4				1			
Team Totals		13	30	4	12	12	19	5	14	19	6	42	5	11	1	3	160

Total FG% - 1st: 7/12 0.583 2nd: 6/18 0.333 Game: 0.433 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/5 0.600 2nd: 1/7 0.143 Game: 0.333 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/6 0.333 2nd: 10/13 0.769 Game: 0.632 (4,0)

Technical Fouls: Add (0)
 : Add (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Webster	7	4	12	7	30	
Groton	9	10	9	14	42	

Last FG: Add New Team 4th-08:00, Add New Team 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Add New Team by 4 1st-08:00, Add New Team by 13 4th-08:00
 Score tied: 4 times, Lead changed: 5 times

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Statewide Homeless Count to be Conducted in January

PIERRE –On Jan. 23, 2018, South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium (SDHHC), an affiliate of South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA), will conduct its annual statewide Point-In-Time (PIT) homeless count.

The Point-In-Time homeless count is a critical source of annual data on homeless persons and families, providing characteristics of people who are experiencing homelessness. Data from the annual PIT homeless count is used to measure homelessness on local, state, and national levels. PIT count data helps policy makers and communities measure progress, identify strengths and gaps in services, increases public awareness of homelessness, and enhances system planning and responses.

With the help of volunteers across the state, SDHHC will complete a count of homeless persons within the geographic area of South Dakota. To be effective, SDHHC divides the state into six count areas. There are coordinators in each area who will be working with agencies and volunteers to conduct the 2018 PIT count. Coordinators and their areas are listed below. If you have been involved with the count in the past, or would like to be involved, please contact the individuals in your area for more information on training and organization plans for communities.

- Sioux Falls Contact: Stacey Tieszen, Minnehaha County Department of Human Services, (605) 978-5611 or stieszen@minnehahacounty.org

- Rapid City Contacts: Barb Garcia, Rapid City Community Development, (605) 394-4181 or Barbara.garcia@rcgov.org and Andrea Denke, Community Health Center of the Black Hills, (605) 394-2230 or adenke@chcbh.org

- Minnehaha, Grant, Deuel, Codington, Hamlin, Clark, Kingsbury, Brookings, Miner, Lake, Lincoln, Moody, McCook, Turner Contacts: Arleen Weerheim, Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership, (605) 256-6518 or aweerheim@interlakescap.com and Tammie Denning 605-334-2808 or tdenning@interlakescap.com

- Beadle, Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Marshall, McPherson, Potter, Roberts, Spink, Stanley, Sully, Walworth Contact: Patrick Gallagher, GROW South Dakota, (605) 626-2565 or patrick@growsd.org

- Bennet, Butte, Corson, Custer, Dewey, Fall River, Jackson, Haakon, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Ziebach, Oglala Lakota Contact: Laurie Theilmann, Western South Dakota Community Action Partnership, (504) 348-1460 or Laurie@wsdca.org

- Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Lyman, Mellette, Sanborn, Todd, Trip, Union, Yankton, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld Jones Contact: Darcie Bultje, Rural Office of Community Services, (605) 487-7634 or dbultje@Rocsinc.org



The Carnival of Silver Skates theme for January 2018 is
"80 Years of Memories".

We would like to honor the former skaters who have
passed away.

Please contact Tina at the Groton Independent at 397-6397 or
email her at tina@grotonsd.net to share the name of someone you
would like remembered at this year's carnival.

Thank you for helping us to honor those who started this great
community tradition.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman
Secretary**

Carve Out Time For Our Veterans!

Every holiday season I seem to over indulge in the pies, cookies, candies, and anything sweet. It just seems to be part of the holidays! Even if my resolution is to lose fifteen pounds, when the holidays roll around the resolution is forgotten and the foodie in me marches forward!

Every new year gives us an opportunity to make changes in our lives, make new resolutions, appreciate all the blessings we've been given, and add a new chapter in our book of life. There are new questions to be asked and new answers to be discovered about ourselves.

As we turn our calendars to 2018, please keep our veterans in your hearts. Include in your list of resolutions, a goal to reach out and support our veterans. Each month as you tear a leaf off your calendar, please ask yourself two questions – "Did I carve out time this month for veterans and what opportunities do I have next month to show them my appreciation?"

Veterans pledged their allegiance to our country by serving in the military and fighting for America's freedom. Whether it's a family member, friend or complete stranger; veterans need your support. I'm asking all of you to, each month, carve out time to support our veterans.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Public Comment Notice for Renewal of Home & Community-Based Services

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities is seeking public comment on revisions to the Community Hope Opportunity Independent Careers Empowerment Success (CHOICES) Medicaid waiver program.

Revisions to the CHOICES program include:

- Updates to residential, employment and case management services;
- Revisions to participant assessment and stakeholder engagement processes; and
- Performance measures updates.

The public comment period opens Jan. 8 and ends on Feb. 7, 2018.

Comments can be emailed to Colin.Hutchison@state.sd.us or submitted by phone at 605-773-3438.

For more information, please visit <http://dhs.sd.gov/developmentaldisabilities/default.aspx>.

The CHOICES waiver delivers home and community-based services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through Community Support Providers and Conflict-Free Case Managers.

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Today in Weather History

January 3, 1997: A powerful area of low pressure and deep Arctic high pressure brought almost all winter elements to central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota from the afternoon of the 3rd to the morning of the 5th. The storm began with widespread freezing rain, especially over northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota, where significant accumulations of ice occurred on roads, trees, and power lines. Late in the evening of the 3rd, the freezing rain changed to sleet and then snow, with substantial snowfall accumulations of 6 to as much as 27 inches by late on the 4th. As the deep Arctic high pressure pushed in through the morning and afternoon of the 4th, northwest winds increased to 25 to 45 mph gusting to 55 mph creating widespread blizzard conditions, drifts up to 20 feet, and wind chills from 40 to 70 below. The massive accumulation of ice and snow across parts of central and mainly across northeast South Dakota resulted in the roof collapse of over 150, mostly rural, buildings. The roofs collapsed onto farm machinery and livestock with a lot of the machinery damaged and a lot of livestock injured or killed. The collapse of so many buildings from snow and ice was believed to be the first in this area. On most other buildings, the snow had to be shoveled or blown off. One man was killed in west central Minnesota as he was trying to shovel snow off the roof of a building. One roof collapse near Lake Poinsett, seven west of Estelline, killed four horses, damaged a boat, and flattened a car. The huge snow drifts buried a few homes during the storm. Many power outages also occurred across parts of central and northeast South Dakota as power lines and poles were downed from the heavy ice accumulation. Some people were without power for several days in the extreme cold conditions. The cities of Miranda, Rockham, Zell, Garden City, Bryant, Vienna, Glenham, Hazel as well as other cities were without power for many hours. Some of the communities were out of power for up to 2 days.








In Aberdeen, heavy snow blocking a furnace exhaust vent sent three family members to the hospital for carbon monoxide poisoning. Also, in Aberdeen, the snowmobile club, the drift busters, were called upon for the first time in several years to deliver medicine, take patients to the hospital, and carry essential workers to work and home. Emergencies were difficult to respond to, taking many hours to short distances. Throughout central and northeast South Dakota, many businesses and grocery stores were closed. Interstates 29 and 90 were both closed for a few days along with most state highways. The rest of the roads were either blocked by huge drifts or had one-lane traffic. Snow plows were called off the roads until conditions improved and when they did start to clear the roads, they worked 12 to 18 hour days. Many vehicles went into the ditch, with mainly minor injuries. Some people had to be rescued. Travelers and truckers were stranded for several days until the roads opened. When Interstate-29 reopened, there was a logjam of vehicles for 3 miles. One Watertown policeman said he has never seen a log jam as bad as this in 28 years. Area airports were closed or flights were canceled or delayed. The mail was delayed for several days, most activities were canceled or postponed, and many schools closed on the 6th. The heavy snowfall from this storm brought the widespread snowpack up to 2 to 5 feet. For the winter season so far, the area had record snowfall and record cold. Some of the snowfall amounts include, 6 inches at McLaughlin, 8 inches 22 SSW Keldron and 4 NW Onida, 9 inches at Pollock, Timber Lake, Highmore, Mobridge, and Kennebec, 10 inches at Castlewood, Clear Lake, Miller, Fort Thompson, and Clark. Snowfall amounts of 1 to over 2 feet include, 12 inches at Eureka, and Redfield, 13 inches at Selby and Aberdeen, 14 inches at Pierre and Roscoe, 15 inches at Ortonville MN, 16 inches at Mellette and Browns Valley, MN 18 inches at Faulkton and 1 ENE Stephan, 20 inches at Webster, 22 inches at Britton, 24 inches at Sisseton, 26 inches 10 NW Britton, and 27 inches at Wheaton.

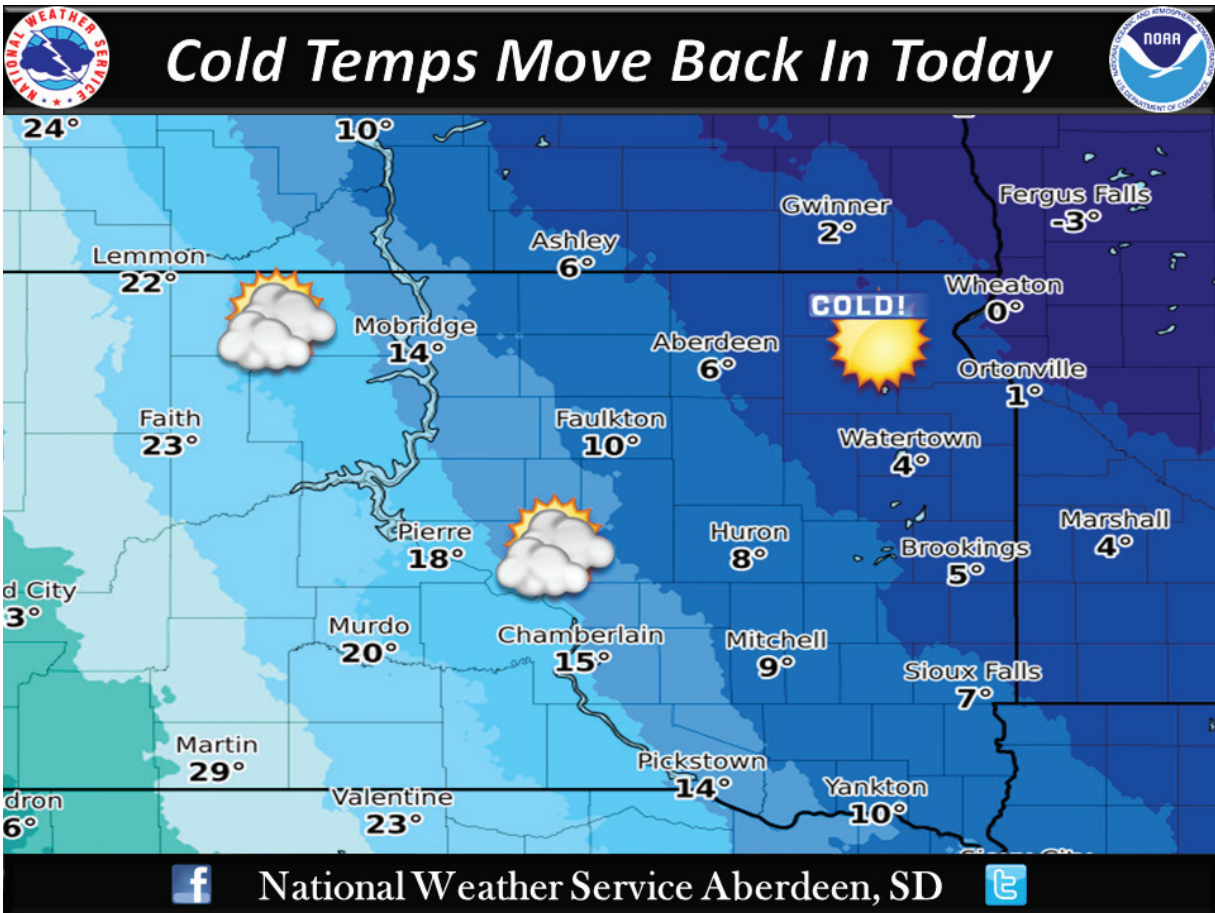
1883: A remarkably brilliant meteor display occurred on the night of January 3rd. The phenomenon was observed at stations in Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. This meteor was described as having resembled a large, bright ball of fire.

1949: During the late afternoon hours, an estimated F4 tornado destroyed the town of Warren, Arkansas. This tornado killed 55 people and injured more than 250 others. The destruction of the Bradley mill displaced 1,000 employees.

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Cold	Increasing Clouds	Slight Chance Snow	Scattered Flurries	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 5 °F	Low: -10 °F	High: 9 °F	Low: -2 °F	High: 12 °F	Low: 2 °F	High: 24 °F



Surface high pressure over the region today will bring colder temperatures back to the area, although winds will remain fairly light. Highs will range from the single digits across eastern areas, to the teens and 20s farther west over western and central South Dakota. Skies will be mostly cloudy across central South Dakota, while more sunshine will be found for eastern areas.

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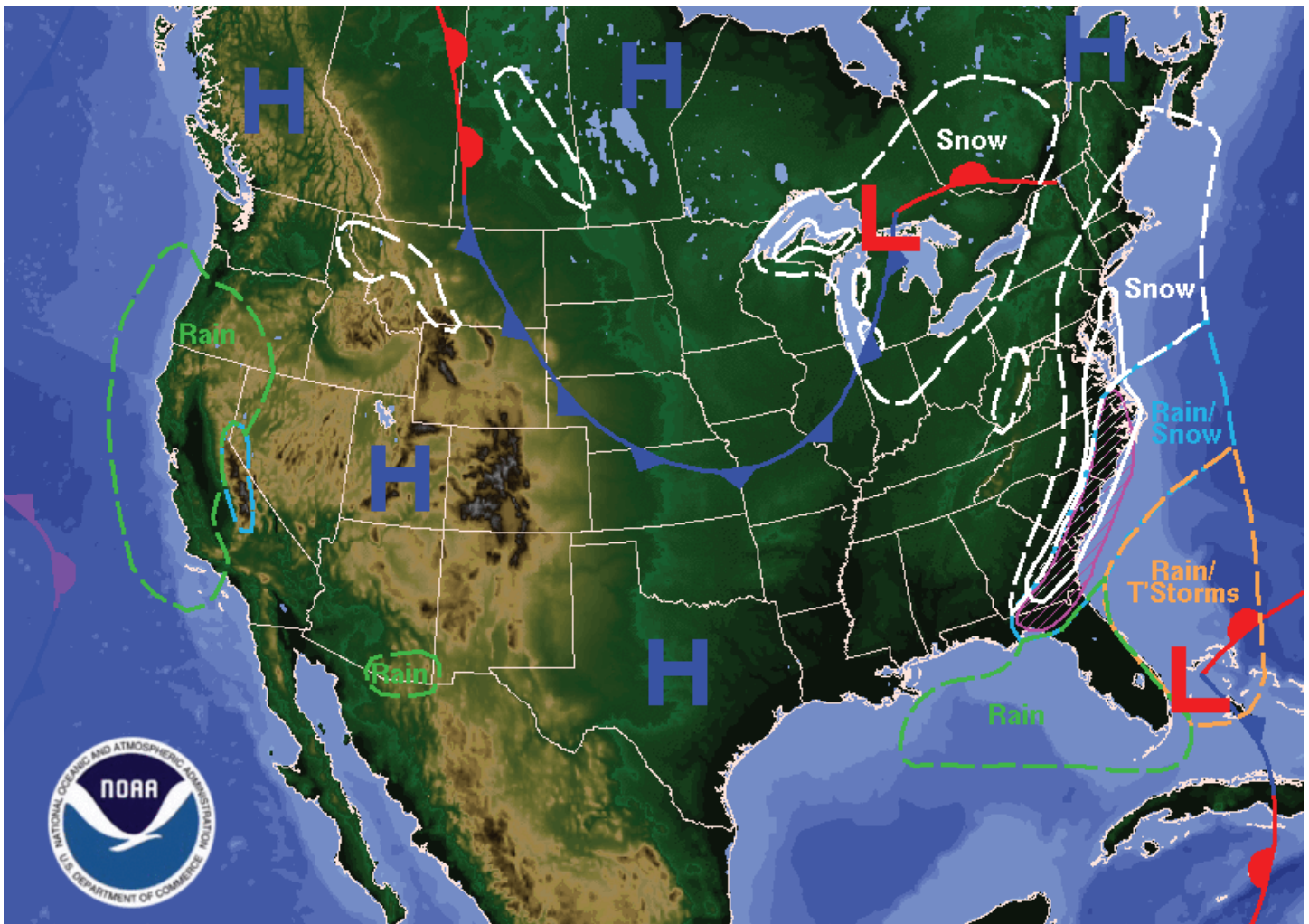
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 21.6 at 5:30 PM
Low Outside Temp: -21.7 at Midnight
Wind Chill: -41.0 at 5:38 AM
High Gust: 38 at 7:31 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 51° in 1962
Record Low: -34° in 1912
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan: 0.06
Precip to date in Jan: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.06
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:03 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Jan 03, 2018, issued 4:35 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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DIVINE DIRECTIONS

It is always wise to think before we talk and ask God to guide our words. And it is important to look to the Lord for insight before we leap into the unknown. It is certainly critical to pray before we proceed with any plan. If we ever fear we are failing it's time to fall on our knees and ask God to come to our rescue. Looking to the Lord for His directions will give us confidence that we are following His will for our lives and can then count on His presence. To make the right choice we must listen for God's voice.

Not only is God interested in who we are but what we do. He is no more interested in the foreign missionary than he is the shop mechanic. He is no more concerned for a preacher than He is a politician. We read in His Word that "God so loved the world" – and that means everyone on it! That assures us that He has a plan for every life and will reveal His plan to those who willingly search for it and carefully follow it.

But one plan does not fit all any more than one size fits all. He has a different plan for each of us and various methods to speak to us. For some it may be a sermon, for others a passage of Scripture. He may speak quietly during a moment of worship or boldly during a time of sickness.

We must always be alert for His voice. He constantly speaks to each of us and wants to lead us on the path He has designed for us. As He was with the Israelites then so He is with us now: "He guided with a cloud by day and light from a fire all night." His presence is constant.

In daylight or darkness, He waits to be our guide.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, that You will guide and guard us, equip and enable us to do what You call us to do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 78:14 In the daytime he led them by a cloud, and all night by a pillar of fire.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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News from the Associated Press

'Like a hurricane': Coastal streets deserted in winter storm

By **RUSS BYNUM**, Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — A brutal winter storm dumped snow, sleet and freezing rain from normally balmy Florida up the Southeast seaboard Wednesday, delivering a white coating that some cities hadn't seen in decades.

Cars spun out of control on icy overpasses from Texas to Georgia. The water park at Disney World and other Florida theme parks closed because of the unusually cold temperatures, adding to the misery of a dayslong bitter cold snap across the country.

Forecasters warned that conditions could worsen, especially in the Northeast.

A winter storm warning extended from the Gulf Coast in Florida's "Big Bend" region all the way up the Atlantic coast. Forecasters said hurricane-force winds blowing offshore on Thursday could generate 24-foot seas. Coastal flooding, downed trees and power lines were possible along the East Coast.

Schools in the Southeast called off classes just months after being shut down because of hurricane threats, and police urged drivers to stay off the roads in a region little accustomed to the kind of winter woes common to the Northeast.

In Savannah, famed for its lush downtown parks and trees draped in Spanish moss, native William Shaw used baby steps to shuffle along a frozen road from his home to the post office.

"It almost seems the town is deserted just like in the last hurricane. There's no one on the street. It's got a little eerie feeling," said Shaw, 65.

The coastal city that hasn't seen measurable snowfall since February 2010 was expecting up to 2 inches (5 centimeters) of snow and sleet Wednesday. Dump trucks spread sand on bridges and major streets ahead of the storm and police closed a major causeway and several bridges because of ice.

In Tallahassee, Florida, Michigan transplant Laura Donaven built a snowman 6 inches (15 centimeters) tall. The city tweeted that snow fell there for the first time in 28 years.

"It was very neat to see. It had been since the early '90s since we got any snow like that," said the 41-year-old hair salon owner. "I made a snowball and threw it at my dad."

Authorities closed a stretch of Interstate 10 near the capital because of wintry precipitation.

The National Weather Service said snow and freezing rain was expected to spread up the coast to the Carolinas and warned that icy roads and low visibility could make driving treacherous. Accumulations of 3 to 5 inches (8 to 13 centimeters) were possible in eastern North Carolina.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal declared a state of emergency through Friday for 28 counties. School systems on the Alabama coast waived uniform requirements so students could bundle up.

In central Florida, the state's largest theme parks announced that water attractions such as Disney's Typhoon Lagoon, Universal Orlando's Volcano Bay and SeaWorld's Aquatica were closed. Temperatures are running well below normal for this time of year, and the lows are expected to hover right around freezing.

In other parts of the U.S., dangerously cold temperatures have been blamed for at least a dozen deaths as well as freezing a water tower in Iowa and halting ferry service in New York.

The National Weather Service issued wind chill advisories and freeze warnings covering a vast area from South Texas to Canada and from Montana through New England. Temperatures dropped as low as minus 19 degrees (minus 28 Celsius) in Lafayette, Indiana.

"The temperatures are certainly extreme, but we've seen colder," said Joseph Nield, a meteorologist in Indianapolis, noting that the all-time low temperature in Indiana was minus 36 (minus 38 Celsius) in 1994.

Nevertheless, the cold is nothing to trifle with, forecasters warned.

Forecasters warned of frost bite and hypothermia in Chicago, where wind chills of minus 35 degrees (minus 37) were predicted, Atlanta hospitals reported a surge in emergency room visits for hypothermia and other ailments as temperatures plunge well below freezing.

Warming shelters were opened across the South as freeze watches and warnings blanketed the region, including hard freeze warnings for much of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Plunging temperatures in Texas brought rare snow flurries as far south as Austin, and accidents racked up on icy roads across the state. In the central Texas city of Abilene, the local police chief said more than three dozen vehicle crashes were reported in 24 hours.

Making the most of the South's bitter cold snap, the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro offered discounted tickets for those willing to brave the cold to see polar bears frolic in their kind of weather, along with Arctic foxes and elk. African elephants, lions and gorillas were sheltered out of public view because of the dangerously low temperatures.

Associated Press reporters Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Tammy Webber in Indianapolis; Jeff Martin in Atlanta; Freida Frisaro in Miami; Brendan Farrington and Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Florida;

Attorney general to propose harsher meth dealing penalties

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley will unveil his priorities Wednesday for the upcoming 2018 legislative session, asking South Dakota lawmakers to impose harsher penalties for methamphetamine dealing and manufacturing, require disclosure of data breaches to affected state residents, and change human trafficking laws.

The bills would also clarify sex offender registration requirements and enact tougher consequences for drug dealers whose product kills another person. The session starts next week and runs until late March.

"The manufacture and distribution of illegal drugs creates both a public health and safety concern," Jackley said in a statement. "Anyone who manufactures and distributes illegal drugs that result in a death should be held accountable."

A proposal cracking down on meth dealing would make distribution and manufacturing a more serious felony with a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine, up from 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$20,000.

Other proposed changes include enacting harsher sentences for meth distribution if the person has things such as cash or firearms and increasing penalties for distributing the drug to a minor.

On data breaches, Jackley plans to offer a measure that would require companies to inform South Dakota residents whose personal information was acquired by an unauthorized person within 45 days of discovering the security intrusion. A breach affecting more than 250 state residents would require notification of the attorney general.

"South Dakota needs a fair reporting law which is not burdensome and requires consumers to be informed of the loss of their personal information," Jackley said.

Jackley and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem are Republicans competing to succeed GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who can't run again because of term limits.

The Republican primary election is in June after what is expected to be an intense campaign. State Senate Democratic leader Billie Sutton has also entered the 2018 race.

Rapid City updating city law regulating pawnshops

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City Council has updated city law regulating pawnshops and secondhand dealers.

The Rapid City Journal reports the new rules that will take effect later this month include heightened restrictions on who can own and operate such businesses.

The city also is expanding the list of criminal convictions that would cause an applicant to lose or be denied a license. The new list specifies violent crimes including murder, manslaughter, rape and aggravated assault; drug-related offenses; and weapons offenses.

Police Chief Karl Jegeris says that currently, a decision to deny or revoke a license is largely a judgment call.

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The new rules also require digital photographs to be taken of all jewelry purchased or received. Most area pawnshop operators say the changes won't have a big impact on their business.

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

Carbon monoxide leak closes part of Mitchell's Main Street

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A carbon monoxide leak inside a tattoo shop prompted the temporary closure of a portion of Mitchell's Main Street.

The Daily Republic reports that emergency responders and officials with NorthWestern Energy responded to Hardcore Inc. shortly before 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Fire Department Battalion Chief Steve Nedved says an unvented water heater in the building's basement caused carbon monoxide to get sucked into a furnace.

Carbon monoxide is a potentially deadly gas. No one was inside the building at the time and no injuries were reported.

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

and Stephen Morton in Savannah contributed to this story.

Police: Sioux Falls stabbing motivated by fight over woman

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a stabbing at an apartment in Sioux Falls happened during a dispute over the suspect's girlfriend.

Sioux Falls police spokesman Sam Clemens says a 42-year-old man has been arrested on a possible charge of aggravated assault. Clemens says police were called to a Sioux Falls hospital Sunday night after a man showed up with a stab wound to the chest. Police say a woman drove the man to the hospital. His condition was not immediately available.

Clemens says the 49-year-old victim was talking or flirting with the suspect's girlfriend which led to the confrontation. Police say a knife was recovered outside the apartment building.

Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 56, Huron 39
Bon Homme 65, Tri-Valley 51
Brandon Valley 73, Mitchell 57
Bridgewater-Emery 70, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 49
Canistota 53, Mitchell Christian 30
Castlewood 65, Lake Preston 44
Chamberlain 53, Winner 50
Crow Creek 83, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 78
Dakota Valley 58, Sergeant Bluff-Luton, Iowa 57, OT
Dupree 49, Tiospaye Topa 45
Groton Area 62, Webster 49
Hamlin 50, Florence/Henry 42
Hanson 46, Wagner 38
Herreid/Selby Area 80, Edmunds Central 32
Irene-Wakonda 64, Menno 41

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Miller 70, DeSmet 57
Mt. Vernon 65, Platte-Geddes 62
Parker 71, Freeman 39
Scotland 53, Gayville-Volin 52
Sioux Falls Christian 67, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 66, OT
St. Francis Indian 75, Bennett County 47
Stanley County 55, Highmore-Harrold 48
Sturgis Brown 86, Lead-Deadwood 34

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 54, Huron 37
Aberdeen Roncalli 62, Redfield/Doland 36
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 52, Freeman Academy/Marion 36
Avon 70, Colome 31
Bennett County 48, Hay Springs, Neb. 40
Brandon Valley 45, Harrisburg 41
Bridgewater-Emery 62, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 57
Castlewood 70, Lake Preston 34
Chester 59, Dell Rapids St. Mary 44
Corsica/Stickney 42, Parkston 31
Dell Rapids 62, Garretson 35
DeSmet 59, Miller 38
Faith 62, Lemmon 34
Flandreau 67, Howard 35
Hamlin 59, Florence/Henry 38
Hanson 53, Wagner 23
Irene-Wakonda 62, Menno 36
McCook Central/Montrose 61, Beresford 36
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 52, Platte-Geddes 48
Red Cloud 68, Pine Ridge 62
Scotland 58, Gayville-Volin 34
Sergeant Bluff-Luton, Iowa 52, Dakota Valley 36
Sioux Falls Lincoln 64, Sioux Falls Washington 53
Sturgis Brown 52, Lead-Deadwood 21
Sully Buttes 58, Mobridge-Pollock 32
Timber Lake 52, Harding County 37
Tri-State, N.D. 63, Britton-Hecla 37
Tri-Valley 53, Bon Homme 35
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 67, Viborg-Hurley 36
Warner 54, Ipswich 44
Waverly-South Shore 69, Wilmot 43
West Central 56, Tea Area 37
Winner 55, Chamberlain 24

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

01-42-47-64-70, Mega Ball: 22, Megaplier: 4

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(one, forty-two, forty-seven, sixty-four, seventy; Mega Ball: twenty-two; Megaplier: four)
Estimated jackpot: \$343 million

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$440 million

Bitter cold tests winter-wise, delivers shock to South

By TAMMY WEBBER, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Bitterly cold temperatures gripped much of the nation on Tuesday, testing the mettle of even winter-wise northerners and delivering a shock to those accustomed to far milder weather in the South.

The cold has been blamed for at least a dozen deaths, prompted officials to open warming centers in the Deep South and triggered pleas from government officials to check on neighbors, especially those who are elderly, sick or who live alone.

In St. Louis, where temperatures dipped 30 degrees below normal, Mayor Lyda Krewson warned it was “dangerously cold.”

“It’s important that people look out for anyone in need of shelter,” she said.

The National Weather Service issued wind chill advisories and freeze warnings covering a vast area, from South Texas to Canada and from Montana to Maine. The arctic blast was blamed for freezing a water tower in Iowa, halting a ferry service in New York and even trapping a swan in a Virginia pond.

At the same time, a heatwave swept into the country’s northernmost state: Anchorage, Alaska, tied a record high on Tuesday of 44 degrees (7 Celsius) — at the same time Jacksonville, Florida, was a mere 38 degrees (3 Celsius).

Indianapolis Public Schools canceled classes after the city tied a record low for the day — set in 1887 — of minus 12 degrees (-24 Celsius). The northwest Indiana city of Lafayette got down to minus 19 (-28 Celsius), shattering the previous record set in 1979. Many local residents noticed a hum, which Duke Energy said was caused by extra power surging through utility lines to meet electricity demands.

Although temperatures have been lower in Indiana — the all-time low was minus 36 (-38 Celsius) in 1994 — the current frigid weather is unusual because of how long it’s lasted, experts said.

“It has just been relentlessly cold since Christmas,” said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the private Weather Underground.

And it’s nothing to trifle with, forecasters warned.

The cold has been blamed in at least 12 deaths in the past week. Police in St. Louis said a 54-year-old homeless man found dead in a trash bin Monday evening apparently froze to death as the temperature dropped to negative 6 degrees (-21 Celsius).

Two other suspected cold-related deaths occurred in Wisconsin: a 27-year-old woman’s body was found Monday evening on the shore of Lake Winnebago, and a 57-year-old man was found dead Sunday in a parking structure in Madison.

With Chicago-area wind chills expected as low as negative 35 degrees (-37 Celsius), forecasters warned of frost bite and hypothermia risks. They urged residents to take precautions, including dressing in layers, wearing a hat and gloves, covering exposed skin and bringing pets indoors.

“You thought you were cold last year. You thought you were cold last month. But you weren’t cold. Now you’re cold,” said Jeanne Rivera, of Crystal Lake, Illinois, who was in Chicago on Tuesday to visit an art exhibit. “It hurts. It hurts the face.”

In Tennessee, corrections officials at a maximum security prison used portable heaters and extra blankets to keep inmates and employees warm after the facility lost hot water pressure Monday, causing its boiler to go offline. A spokeswoman didn’t provide a timeline for its return.

In Texas, advocates for the homeless fanned out Tuesday across Houston to provide blankets and other warm gear as the National Weather Service issued a hard freeze warning until Wednesday for parts of

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the state.

Atlanta hospitals were seeing a surge in emergency room visits for hypothermia and other ailments as temperatures plunged below freezing. The temperature in Atlanta fell to 13 degrees (-11 Celsius) before dawn Tuesday.

"We have a group of patients who are coming in off the street who are looking to escape the cold — we have dozens and dozens of those every day," said Dr. Brooks Moore, associate medical director in the emergency department of Grady Health System, which operates Georgia's largest hospital in Atlanta.

Warming shelters opened amid freeze watches and warnings in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

In Savannah, Georgia — where January's average high is 60 degrees (16 Celsius) — the temperature hovered at 30 (-1 Celsius) at noon Tuesday. It was cold enough for icicles to dangle from the ornate wrought-iron fountain in Forsyth Park at the edge of the city's downtown historic district.

The city could see up to 2 inches (5 centimeters) of snow and sleet on Wednesday. That would be the first measureable snow since February 2010.

"I've never seen icicles in Savannah, period," said Sean Dempsey, a local restaurant manager who wore a hat, gloves and a thick coat to walk his dogs Tuesday. "I'm pretty sure last year at New Year's lots of families were in the park playing catch, Frisbee football and stuff like that."

Along the East Coast, the cold was expected to worsen behind a winter storm brewing in the Atlantic and Caribbean. Forecasters don't think the storm will hit the coast, but parts of the Northeast will likely get sustained high winds, waves and some snow, forecasters said. And behind that storm is even colder weather than what the East Coast is feeling now.

"For the Northeast, this weekend might be the coldest of the coldest with the storm," said Jason Furtado, a University of Oklahoma meteorology professor. "We could be ending (the cold snap) with a big hurrah."

One area of reprieve: Phoenix, where residents wore short-sleeve shirts and flip-flops as temperatures topped out in the 70s.

"Don't let the people on the East Coast know how nice the weather is here today," said Mark O'Malley, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Phoenix.

Associated Press reporters contributing to this report include Jim Salter in St. Louis; Jeff Martin in Atlanta; Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia; Rachel D'Oro in Anchorage, Alaska; Teresa Crawford in Chicago; and Seth Borenstein in Washington.

South Dakota trooper: Body found in blanket after car chase

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Highway Patrol officials found a dead woman wrapped in a blanket in an SUV stopped after a high-speed chase with a drunken driver from California, a trooper said in a court affidavit filed Tuesday.

A state court complaint says 30-year-old Tosten Walsh Lommen, of Santa Cruz, faces charges including aggravated eluding and drunken driving. Attorney General Marty Jackley's office said in a statement that state authorities are investigating the "suspicious death" after the woman's body was found during a search of the vehicle Lommen was driving.

The Pennington County Clerk of Courts office says Lommen's bond has been set at \$2.5 million. It wasn't immediately clear if Lommen has a defense attorney to speak on his behalf about the case.

Lommen — who last year petitioned in California to change his full name to Israel — is being held in the Pennington County Jail.

Trooper Jeremy Biegert said in the court affidavit that a Highway Patrol sergeant initiated a traffic stop Monday after observing Lommen driving over 100 mph on I-90 in western South Dakota. Biegert said he joined the pursuit after recording the vehicle's speed at 118 mph.

The vehicle, which is registered to someone else, eventually came to rest in a ditch after officials used spike strips to destroy both front tires, Biegert said. He said Lommen attempted to flee on foot before getting pulled from a chain link fence and handcuffed on the ground.

Biegert said he smelled alcohol, and a breath test found Lommen had a blood alcohol level of 0.142, which is above the DUI threshold of 0.08. Officials allegedly found a growler that smelled of alcohol and prescription bottles in the SUV.

Biegert said officials found the woman's body in the rear of the vehicle. Attorney General spokeswoman Sara Rabern said in an email that officials are working to identify the body. She said the investigation is still ongoing when asked if authorities know why it was in the vehicle.

South Dakota attorney general to announce 2018 session bills

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley is set to unveil legislation on data breaches and addressing methamphetamine use in South Dakota.

Jackley will announce his legislative package for the 2018 session on Wednesday at press events in Sioux Falls and Rapid City. The session starts next week and ends in late March.

Jackley and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem are Republicans competing to succeed GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who can't run again because of term limits.

The Republican primary election is in June 2018 after what is expected to be an intense campaign. State Senate Democratic leader Billie Sutton has also entered the 2018 race.

Woman's body found in vehicle following pursuit

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Officials say Highway Patrol troopers found the body of a woman in a vehicle they eventually stopped on the interstate in western South Dakota after a pursuit that reached speeds of more than 100 miles per hour.

Authorities say the driver, a 30-year-old California man, was arrested after he tried running from the vehicle after it came to a stop along I-90 in Rapid City Monday.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Tuesday his office is conducting an investigation into the woman's death. A trooper tried stopping the speeding vehicle on I-90 near Spearfish about noon on New Year's Day. The pursuit continued for nearly 50 miles and reached speeds of 118 mph before officers used stop spikes to disable the vehicle's tires.

Officers found the woman's body after arresting the man.

200 acres to be added to Black Hills National Cemetery

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Senate has passed a bill that significantly expands the Black Hills National Cemetery.

About 200 acres of land currently held by the Bureau of Land Management will be transferred to the 107-acre national cemetery. The additional land is northwest of the current cemetery along Interstate 90 near Sturgis.

About 28,600 veterans and their loved ones are buried at the cemetery which opened in 1948. The cemetery's assistant director Jerome Smith tells the Rapid City Journal that 903 people were buried in fiscal 2017. The cemetery also includes veterans from Wyoming, Nebraska and Montana.

A companion version of the cemetery expansion bill passed the House earlier.

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

Report cites December rise in Midwest economic conditions

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A business conditions index for nine Midwest and Plains states rose over the past month, pointing to continuing improvement in regional economic conditions, an economist said in a report released Tuesday.

The Mid-America Business Conditions Index climbed to 59.0 from 57.2 in November, the report said. The October figure was 58.8.

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"Although the inflation gauge is elevated, I would characterize the region as having a 'goldilocks' economy," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey. "That is not so hot as to push the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates at a stepped-up pace, but not so cool as to slow employment gains."

The regional wholesale inflation gauge cooled to a still strong 71.3 from November's 71.4, reflecting the regional inflationary pressures.

"Even though both our regional wholesale inflation index and the U.S. inflation gauge are elevated, I expect the Federal Reserve to forgo a short-term interest rate hike at the next meeting of their rate-setting committee on Feb. 1." Goss said. But he also said he expected a quarter-point increase at the March 15 meeting.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Looking ahead six months, the December business confidence index rose to 73.2 last month from 71.9 in November.

"Healthy profit growth, still low interest rates and the recently passed tax reform package pushed business confidence to its highest level since January 2011," Goss said.

The regional jobs picture showed improvement as well, as the December employment index climbed to 57.7, compared with 53.6 in November.

"Over the past 12 months, the regional manufacturing sector has added approximately 29,000 jobs, a 2.1 percent expansion," Goss said. "This annual regional manufacturing growth rate significantly exceeds the 1.5 percent growth for U.S. manufacturing."

Midwest economy: December state-by-state glance

By The Associated Press

The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates an expanding economy over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for December:

Arkansas: The December overall index for Arkansas jumped to 56.8 from November's 51.9. Components of the index were new orders at 70.1, production or sales at 56.3, delivery lead time at 56.7, inventories at 48.6 and employment at 52.3.

Iowa: The Iowa overall index dipped to 54.3 in December from 55.2 in November. Index components were new orders at 63.4, production or sales at 56.9, delivery lead time at 49.0, employment at 53.0 and inventories at 49.3.

Kansas: Kansas' overall index climbed to 62.0 last month, a regional high, and up from November's 58.0. Index components were new orders at 72.4, production or sales at 63.9, delivery lead time at 57.0, employment at 60.5 and inventories at 56.3.

Minnesota: December's overall index for Minnesota slipped to 56.8 from November's 57.8. Index components were new orders at 69.5, production or sales at 63.4, delivery lead time at 49.0, inventories at 49.3 and employment at 53.0.

Missouri: Missouri's overall index fell to 55.3 last month from 59.2 in November. Index components were new orders at 60.5, production or sales at 54.6, delivery lead time at 46.4, inventories at 55.6 and employment at 59.2.

Nebraska: The overall index rose to 57.6 last month in Nebraska from 54.8 in November. Index compo-

nents were new orders at 67.2, production or sales at 59.9, delivery lead time at 52.4, inventories at 52.2 and employment at 56.2.

North Dakota: North Dakota's overall index climbed to 55.1 in December from 52.3 in November. Index components were new orders at 53.1, production or sales at 62.3, delivery lead time at 44.5, employment at 58.8 and inventories at 56.6.

Oklahoma: The state's overall index slipped to 59.3 from November's 60.8. Index components were new orders at 69.3, production or sales at 61.4, delivery lead time at 54.2, inventories at 53.8 and employment at 57.9.

South Dakota: South Dakota's overall index hit 58.2 in December, compared with 55.4 in November. Index components were new orders at 65.2, production or sales at 58.3, delivery lead time at 55.8, inventories at 57.2 and employment at 54.5.

Broken pipe causes minor flooding at Mitchell arts center

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A broken sprinkler system pipe caused minor flooding at the Mitchell High School Performing Arts Center on New Year's Day.

Fire Department Battalion Chief Ben Vanden Hoek told The Daily Republic that everyone inside left the building, and the sprinkler system was shut off. There was no fire — Vanden Hoek says a system malfunction likely caused the pipe to break.

Mitchell Technology and School Security Director Dan Muck said damage was concentrated to only a small part of the building, and he doesn't expect a lengthy cleanup process.

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

Rapid City man pleads guilty to illegally hunting lions

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man accused of illegally hunting mountain lions by baiting them with dead deer has pleaded guilty.

The Rapid City Journal reports 39-year-old William Colson VI recently pleaded guilty to four misdemeanors related to prohibited hunting and unlawful possession of a big game animal. Each offense is punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

It's against state law to bait lions, as well as to collect, possess and transport dead deer without permission from state wildlife officials.

Colson was charged in February along with Rapid City resident Mason Hamm. Hamm's case is ongoing. He's due in court next month.

Colson also has pleaded guilty to illegally possessing lions and deer in a related case. He's to be sentenced in both cases next month.

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

Pro-government rallies held in Iran after week of unrest

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Tens of thousands of government supporters took to the streets across Iran on Wednesday as authorities tried to project a sense of stability after a week of nationwide protests sparked deadly clashes and calls for the downfall of the Islamic Republic.

But even as state television broadcast swooping helicopter shots showing support among Iran's 80 million people for its clerically overseen government, videos emerged showing the anti-government unrest that has swept major cities has also spread to the countryside.

The violence has killed at least 21 people and seen hundreds more arrested by authorities. Demonstra-

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tors' videos corresponded with Associated Press reporting from outside of Iran, though individual activists remain unreachable and the protests for now appear leaderless. It was not clear if new protests were held Wednesday or if the videos showed earlier incidents.

The past week's protests have been the largest since the disputed 2009 presidential election, which ended in bloodshed. While many Iranians denounce the violence that has accompanied some demonstrations, they echo the protesters' frustration over the weak economy and official corruption.

The government "should not punish the guilty and the innocent alike," said Mohammad Hossein Vakili, a 20-year-old computer science student in Tehran who has struggled to find meaningful work and who joined in peaceful protests.

"Why should they arrest someone like me when I protest the rise of the price of eggs?" he said.

The protests began Dec. 28 in Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city and a bastion for hard-liners, initially focusing on Iran's flagging economy and rising food prices. Now, they've morphed into demands for wholesale change in Iran's theocratic government.

On Wednesday, state TV reported pro-government demonstrations in dozens of cities and towns, including Ahvaz, the capital of the oil-rich province of Khuzestan, the Kurdish town of Kermanshah in the country's west and Qom, the religious capital of Shiite Islam in Iran.

All those cities have seen protests in recent days.

The pro-government crowds included women wearing the all-encompassing black chador, the occasional man in military fatigues and Shiite clerics wearing black turbans identifying them as descendants of the Prophet Muhammad. Some claimed online that government employees had been instructed to take part, something Iranian media did not discuss.

The English-language Press TV broadcast Wednesday's pro-government rallies live, saying they sought to "protest the violence that has taken place over the last few nights in cities." State TV said the demonstrations served as an "answer to the protests," which it blamed on "servants of the U.S."

Among the slickly produced signs carried by supporters at Wednesday's pro-government rallies were ones targeting Israel, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Tuesday blamed the protests on meddling by "enemies of Iran."

Some demonstrators also held aloft pictures of U.S. President Donald Trump with a bright red "X" through his face. Trump has tweeted several times over the last few days in support of the anti-government protests, comments that have angered many Iranians given his travel ban barring them from getting U.S. visas, as well as his comments over the nuclear deal.

The 2015 agreement, in which Iran curbed its nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of some international sanctions, remains popular in Iran, but one of the central grievances of the protesters is that average Iranians have seen few benefits from it.

Trump kept up with the tweets Wednesday, writing: "Such respect for the people of Iran as they try to take back their corrupt government."

He added: "You will see great support from the United States at the appropriate time!"

The United Nations' high commissioner for human rights, meanwhile, called on Iran to investigate all deaths in the protests and act "with great care so as not to further inflame violence and unrest."

"The Iranian authorities must respect the rights of all demonstrators and detainees, including their right to life, and guarantee their safety and security," Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein said in a statement.

Iranian officials have downplayed the strength of the protests. Turkish officials on Wednesday said Iran's President Hassan Rouhani told his Turkish counterpart during a phone call that he hopes the protests "will end in a couple of days." Rouhani's office did not mention the comment.

State TV quoted the chief of the powerful Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari, as saying Wednesday marked "the end of the sedition."

It remains difficult for journalists to piece together what's happening beyond the capital, especially as the government has blocked both the photo-sharing app Instagram and the messaging app Telegram, which protesters have used to organize their demonstrations and share footage.

But online videos that emerged Wednesday appeared to show continued protests in the provinces.

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One showed protesters in Shahinshar, 315 kilometers (200 miles) south of Tehran, throwing objects at a base of the Basij, a volunteer force affiliated with the paramilitary Guard. A gunshot and muzzle flash could be seen in the footage taken in Isfahan province, where there have been days of protests.

Another series of videos showed protesters in the city of Noor Abad, some 360 kilometers (225 miles) southwest of Tehran, offering a glimpse into how demonstrations can turn violent.

In the footage, protesters are seen tearing down a poster bearing the image of Khamenei and his late predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who led the 1979 Islamic Revolution. After a cut, demonstrators are seen coming to the aid of another protester, who appears seriously wounded. Activists said the man died, though the AP had no way to verify that.

In anger, the protesters set fire to an overturned ambulance, shouting as the flames rose into the night sky.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

'Like a hurricane': Coastal streets deserted in winter storm

By **RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press**

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — A brutal winter storm dumped snow, sleet and freezing rain from normally balmy Florida up the Southeast seaboard Wednesday, delivering a white coating that some cities hadn't seen in decades.

Cars spun out of control on icy overpasses from Texas to Georgia. The water park at Disney World and other Florida theme parks closed because of the unusually cold temperatures, adding to the misery of a dayslong bitter cold snap across the country.

Forecasters warned that conditions could worsen, especially in the Northeast.

A winter storm warning extended from the Gulf Coast in Florida's "Big Bend" region all the way up the Atlantic coast. Forecasters said hurricane-force winds blowing offshore on Thursday could generate 24-foot seas. Coastal flooding, downed trees and power lines were possible along the East Coast.

Schools in the Southeast called off classes just months after being shut down because of hurricane threats, and police urged drivers to stay off the roads in a region little accustomed to the kind of winter woes common to the Northeast.

In Savannah, famed for its lush downtown parks and trees draped in Spanish moss, native William Shaw used baby steps to shuffle along a frozen road from his home to the post office.

"It almost seems the town is deserted just like in the last hurricane. There's no one on the street. It's got a little eerie feeling," said Shaw, 65.

The coastal city that hasn't seen measurable snowfall since February 2010 was expecting up to 2 inches (5 centimeters) of snow and sleet Wednesday. Dump trucks spread sand on bridges and major streets ahead of the storm and police closed a major causeway and several bridges because of ice.

In Tallahassee, Florida, Michigan transplant Laura Donaven built a snowman 6 inches (15 centimeters) tall. The city tweeted that snow fell there for the first time in 28 years.

"It was very neat to see. It had been since the early '90s since we got any snow like that," said the 41-year-old hair salon owner. "I made a snowball and threw it at my dad."

Authorities closed a stretch of Interstate 10 near the capital because of wintry precipitation.

The National Weather Service said snow and freezing rain was expected to spread up the coast to the Carolinas and warned that icy roads and low visibility could make driving treacherous. Accumulations of 3 to 5 inches (8 to 13 centimeters) were possible in eastern North Carolina.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal declared a state of emergency through Friday for 28 counties. School systems on the Alabama coast waived uniform requirements so students could bundle up.

In central Florida, the state's largest theme parks announced that water attractions such as Disney's Typhoon Lagoon, Universal Orlando's Volcano Bay and SeaWorld's Aquatica were closed. Temperatures are running well below normal for this time of year, and the lows are expected to hover right around freezing.

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In other parts of the U.S., dangerously cold temperatures have been blamed for at least a dozen deaths as well as freezing a water tower in Iowa and halting ferry service in New York.

The National Weather Service issued wind chill advisories and freeze warnings covering a vast area from South Texas to Canada and from Montana through New England. Temperatures dropped as low as minus 19 degrees (minus 28 Celsius) in Lafayette, Indiana.

"The temperatures are certainly extreme, but we've seen colder," said Joseph Nield, a meteorologist in Indianapolis, noting that the all-time low temperature in Indiana was minus 36 (minus 38 Celsius) in 1994.

Nevertheless, the cold is nothing to trifle with, forecasters warned.

Forecasters warned of frost bite and hypothermia in Chicago, where wind chills of minus 35 degrees (minus 37) were predicted, Atlanta hospitals reported a surge in emergency room visits for hypothermia and other ailments as temperatures plunge well below freezing.

Warming shelters were opened across the South as freeze watches and warnings blanketed the region, including hard freeze warnings for much of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Plunging temperatures in Texas brought rare snow flurries as far south as Austin, and accidents racked up on icy roads across the state. In the central Texas city of Abilene, the local police chief said more than three dozen vehicle crashes were reported in 24 hours.

Making the most of the South's bitter cold snap, the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro offered discounted tickets for those willing to brave the cold to see polar bears frolic in their kind of weather, along with Arctic foxes and elk. African elephants, lions and gorillas were sheltered out of public view because of the dangerously low temperatures.

Associated Press reporters Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Tammy Webber in Indianapolis; Jeff Martin in Atlanta; Freida Frisaro in Miami; Brendan Farrington and Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Florida; and Stephen Morton in Savannah contributed to this story.

Severe storm batters western Europe; 1 dead, 15 injured

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A violent storm packing winds up to 100 mph (160 kph) battered parts of western Europe on Wednesday, derailing trains, toppling trees and halting flights. Authorities said one person was killed and at least 15 others were injured in France and Switzerland.

The high winds played havoc on transport, derailing trains in Switzerland and Germany and leaving hundreds of thousands of homes across France, Switzerland, Britain and Ireland without power.

Officials said one skier was killed in the French Alps after being hit by a falling tree in Morillon in Haute-Savoie.

Several people were injured when a train was blown off the tracks near Lenk, a town south of Bern, the Swiss capital, local media reported. In western Germany, a train derailed near Luenen when it crashed into a tree that had fallen onto the tracks, according to the dpa news agency. No injuries were reported.

The storm forced the cancellation of flights at Zurich and Basel airports and toppled a truck on a Swiss highway. Thousands of households at Lake Zurich were left without power, and firefighters were called to help with toppled trees blocking streets and flooding due to heavy rain.

Swiss police say several people were stuck inside a cable car that halted in the ski resort of Pizol in the Swiss Alps. St. Gallen police said several rescue teams were trying to get them out. High winds prompted ski lifts to stop running at other Swiss resorts as well.

In England, the storm brought hail and lightning. Overturned vehicles forced officials to close portions of three major highways. Some bridges were also shut down.

Extremely high tides caused the partial collapse of a harbor wall in Cornwall in southwestern England, bringing seawater flooding in.

The country's main weather forecaster, the Met Office, says gusts reached 100 mph in Cumbria, 280 miles (450 kilometers) northwest of London, early Wednesday.

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The storm battered northern France with winds surpassing 90 mph (145 kph) some of the worst gusts to hit the country in years. Many people posted photos of destroyed cars, collapsed scaffolding and uprooted trees on social media.

France's national electricity provider says the storm left some 200,000 households without electricity, including 30,000 in the Paris region.

In the Paris region, a falling tree hit a car and seriously injured one person, while another resident was seriously hurt falling from a building. In all, the Interior Ministry said 15 people in France were injured, with four in serious condition, following accidents caused by high winds.

Strong winds also caused delays at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, as extra precautions were taken to safely get travelers into aircraft.

In Germany, highways near Duisburg and Juelich in the west were partially blocked because of toppled trees and flooding. The zoos in Munich and Augsburg in Bavaria closed for the day and the railway going up Germany's tallest mountain, the Zugspitze, was shut down because of the storm.

In neighboring Austria, a ski jumping practice in Innsbruck was cancelled due to the strong winds and snow.

Thomas Adamson in Paris and Kirsten Grieshaber in Berlin contributed.

N. Korea reopens cross-border communications with S. Korea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reopened a key cross-border communication channel with South Korea for the first time in nearly two years Wednesday as the rivals explored the possibility of sitting down and talking after months of acrimony and fears of war.

The sudden signs of easing hostilities, however, came as President Donald Trump threatened Kim with nuclear war in response to his threat earlier this week.

In his New Year's address Monday, Kim said he was willing to send a delegation to next month's Winter Olympics in South Korea. But he also said he has a "nuclear button" on his desk and that all U.S. territory is within striking distance of his nuclear weapons, comments Trump latched onto Tuesday when he boasted of a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" than Kim's.

The two leaders exchanged crude insults last year, as the North received new U.N. sanctions over its sixth and most powerful nuclear test explosion and a series of intercontinental ballistic missile launches.

The recent softening of contact between the rival Koreas may show a shared interest in improved ties, but there's no guarantee tensions will ease. There have been repeated attempts in recent years by the rivals to talk, but even when they do meet, the efforts often end in recriminations and stalemate.

Outside critics say Kim may be trying to use better ties with South Korea as a way to weaken the alliance between Washington and Seoul as the North grapples with toughened international sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs.

Kim's latest announcement, which was read by a senior Pyongyang official on state TV, followed a South Korean offer on Tuesday of high-level talks with North Korea to find ways to cooperate on next month's Winter Olympics in the South and discuss other inter-Korean issues.

Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the state-run Committee for the Peaceful Reunification, cited Kim as welcoming South Korea's overture and ordering officials to reopen a communication channel at the border village of Panmunjom. Ri also quoted Kim as ordering officials to promptly take substantial measures with South Korea out of a "sincere stand and honest attitude," according to the North's state TV and news agency.

South Korea quickly welcomed Kim's decision and later confirmed that the two Koreas began preliminary contacts on the channel. During their 20-minute communication, liaison officials of the two Koreas exchanged their names and examined their communication lines to make sure they were working, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

Since taking office last May, South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in has pushed hard to improve ties

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and resume stalled cooperation projects with North Korea. Pyongyang had not responded to his outreach until Kim's New Year's address.

Relations between the Koreas soured under Moon's conservative predecessors, who responded to the North's expanding nuclear program with hard-line measures. All major rapprochement projects were put on hold one by one, and the Panmunjom communication channel had been suspended since February 2016.

Moon has joined U.S.-led international efforts to apply more pressure and sanctions on North Korea, but he still favors dialogue as a way to resolve the nuclear standoff. The Trump administration says all options are on the table, including military measures against the North. Moon has repeatedly said he opposes any war on the Korean Peninsula.

Some observers believe these differences in views may have led Kim to think he could drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington as a way to weaken their alliance and international sanctions.

Talks could provide a temporary thaw in strained inter-Korean ties, but conservative critics worry that they may only earn the North time to perfect its nuclear weapons.

After the Olympics, inter-Korean ties could become frosty again because the North has made it clear it has no intention of accepting international calls for nuclear disarmament and instead wants to bolster its weapons arsenal in the face of what it considers increasing U.S. threats, analysts say.

Trump boasts of 'nuclear button' but doesn't really have one

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump boasted that he has a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" than North Korean leader Kim Jong Un does — but the president doesn't actually have a physical button.

The president's Tuesday evening tweet came in response to Kim's New Year's address, in which he repeated fiery nuclear threats against the United States. Kim said he has a "nuclear button" on his office desk and warned that "the whole territory of the U.S. is within the range of our nuclear strike."

Trump mocked that assertion, writing, "Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

But despite ratcheting up the tension, Trump doesn't really have a nuclear button.

The process for launching a nuclear strike is secret and complex and involves the use of a nuclear "football," which is carried by a rotating group of military officers everywhere the president goes and is equipped with communication tools and a book with prepared war plans.

If the president were to order a strike, he would identify himself to military officials at the Pentagon with codes unique to him. Those codes are recorded on a card known as the "biscuit" that is carried by the president at all times. He would then transmit the launch order to the Pentagon and Strategic Command.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump sounded open to the possibility of an inter-Korean dialogue after Kim made a rare overture toward South Korea in a New Year's address. But Trump's ambassador to the United Nations insisted talks would not be meaningful unless the North was getting rid of its nuclear weapons.

In a morning tweet, Trump said the U.S.-led campaign of sanctions and other pressure were beginning to have a "big impact" on North Korea. He referred to the recent, dramatic escape of at least two North Korean soldiers across the heavily militarized border into South Korea. He also alluded to Kim's comments Monday that he was willing to send a delegation to the Winter Olympics, which will be hosted by South Korea next month.

"Soldiers are dangerously fleeing to South Korea. Rocket man now wants to talk to South Korea for first time. Perhaps that is good news, perhaps not - we will see!" Trump said, using his derisive moniker for the young North Korean leader.

In response to Kim's overture, South Korea on Tuesday offered high-level talks on Jan. 9 at the shared border village of Panmunjom to discuss Olympic cooperation and how to improve overall ties. The South said Wednesday that North Korea's state-run radio station announced the North would reopen a cross-

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border communication channel.

If there are talks, they would be the first formal dialogue between the Koreas since December 2015. Relations have plunged as the North has accelerated its nuclear and ballistic missile development that now poses a direct threat to America, South Korea's crucial ally.

The U.S. administration, however, voiced suspicions that Kim was seeking to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington. Pyongyang could view a closer relationship with Seoul as a way for reducing its growing international isolation and relief from sanctions that are starting to bite the North's meager economy.

"We won't take any of the talks seriously if they don't do something to ban all nuclear weapons in North Korea," U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told reporters at the United Nations. "We consider this to be a very reckless regime. We don't think we need a Band-Aid, and we don't think we need to smile and take a picture."

North Korea has been punished with unprecedented sanctions at the U.N. over its weapons programs, and Haley warned Tuesday of more measures if the North conducts another missile test.

South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in has supported Trump's pressure campaign against North Korea, but he's less confrontational than the U.S. president and favors dialogue to ease the North's nuclear threats. Moon has long said he sees the Pyeongchang Olympics as a chance to improve inter-Korean ties.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the U.S. would keep "maximum pressure" on North Korea to give up its nukes. South Korea shares that same goal, she said.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

2 Democrats to be sworn in as senators, narrow GOP majority

By KEVIN FREKING and KIMBERLY CHANDLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two new Democrats will be sworn in to the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, narrowing the Republican majority and complicating efforts by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to advance the White House's legislative agenda before the midterm elections in November.

Doug Jones, the first Alabama Democrat elected to the Senate in a quarter century, is one of two new members who will take the oath of office on the Senate floor at noon. The other is Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, who was appointed to replace Al Franken following the Democrat's resignation over accusations of sexual misconduct. Smith also plans to compete in the special election taking place in November to complete the final two years of Franken's term.

They will narrow the Republican majority to 51-49.

Jones, 63, will represent one of the most conservative states in the nation and is stressing his desire to work with both parties. He will be under pressure to find some areas of agreement with Republicans and has cited the funding of infrastructure improvements as one possible avenue.

"I will be an independent voice and work to find common ground with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get Washington back on track and fight to make our country a better place for all," Jones said after defeating Republican Roy Moore in a special election rocked by allegations of sexual misconduct against Moore. Jones will take the seat once held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Before the Senate seat belonged to Sessions, it belonged to the man Jones considered his mentor, the late Sen. Howell Heflin. Jones worked for Heflin as a staffer after graduating from law school in 1979. Heflin was the last Democrat to represent Alabama in the U.S. Senate.

Jones said for that reason, Wednesday will feel something like a homecoming, bringing his career full circle. During the swearing-in, Jones will be wearing a pair of Heflin's cufflinks. Jones plans to place one of Heflin's cigar boxes in his office.

"To be able to have done the things I've done and end up back here is just a remarkable thing," Jones said. "I am looking forward to getting my feet wet and getting to know my colleagues and jumping into the action."

Jones said he is hopeful that he comes to the Senate with a "little bit of a voice" because of the atten-

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tion on the Alabama race.

"There are a lot of people who didn't vote for me, and I hope they will keep an open mind because I am going to try to be the best senator I can for the state to try to move the state forward as a whole and not just one particular group or philosophy," he said.

Jones made it clear during the campaign that he was opposed to the GOP's efforts to repeal President Barack Obama's signature health care overhaul, the Affordable Care Act. He said the efforts would drive up costs and lead to the closure of more rural health care facilities in the state. "That is a nonstarter," Jones said.

Smith, 59, served as chief of staff to Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton before becoming his No. 2 when the previous lieutenant governor declined to seek a second term.

Smith is known largely as a liberal Democrat who has maintained connections to the state's large and politically powerful business community.

Once the senators take the oath of office, they reprise the event at a ceremony with family and friends in the Old Senate Chamber, once the home to the U.S. Senate and later to the U.S. Supreme Court from 1860 to 1935.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale is expected to join Smith at the ceremony.

Jones said former Vice President Joe Biden, who headlined Jones' campaign kickoff rally, and former Attorney General Eric Holder are expected to be among his guests Wednesday.

Chandler reported from Montgomery, Ala.

Fed-up passenger sought fast track on Ryanair wing

MADRID (AP) — A passenger on a delayed Ryanair flight from London who apparently got fed up waiting to get off a plane after it landed in the southern Spanish city of Malaga surprised fellow passengers by using the emergency exit to jump onto a wing.

The incident on New Year's Day took place 30 minutes after the flight from Stansted Airport landed.

The man, who has not been named but is said to be a non-Spanish citizen, was coaxed back onto the plane while police were called.

Fellow passenger Fernando del Valle Villalobos, who videoed the incident, said he heard the man say he got fed up waiting.

"I was astonished," del Valle, 25, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

He said the passengers were standing in the aisle waiting to get off the plane when the man "very calmly asked permission to get past, opened the emergency exit, looked out, saw the wing, went back for his back-pack."

Later, he said the captain came out and asked the man why he had done it and del Valle heard him say clearly that he was sick of waiting inside. The passengers, except the man in question, were kept a further 15 minutes on the plane before being let off.

Police said Wednesday that they have opened a complaint against the man for breaching security.

Ryanair said the incident was now in the hands of Spanish authorities.

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. KIM MAKES OVERTURE TO SEOUL

The North Korean leader reopens a key cross-border communication channel with South Korea for the first time in nearly two years as the rivals explored the possibility of talks after months of acrimony and fears of war.

2. NUKE BUTTON BOAST FALLS SHORT OF REALITY

Trump brags that he has a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" than Kim Jong Un does — but

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the U.S. president doesn't actually have a physical button.

3. SENATE GETTING 2 NEW DEMOCRATS

The move narrows the GOP majority and complicates efforts by Mitch McConnell to advance the White House's legislative agenda before the midterm elections.

4. HOW THIS PROTEST DIFFERS FROM 2009

A new wave of demonstrations is blazing around Iran, this one with smaller crowds, but more widespread, angry over a failed economy and more willing to demand that Iran's cleric-led system be brought down.

5. WHAT TRUMP IS THREATENING TO DO

Citing the stalled Mideast peace process, the president is considering cutting off U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority, sparking outrage and accusations of "blackmail."

6. WHITE HOUSE MAY BE SHIFTING COURSE ON 'DREAMERS'

The Trump administration would consider immigration legislation that includes a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young people.

7. SOUTH BRACING FOR WINTER BLAST

Brutal winter weather that's brought subzero temperatures to parts of the U.S. is threatening to dump snow and ice across parts of the South that rarely see flurries, much less accumulation.

8. MORMON CHURCH LEADER DIES AT 90

Thomas S. Monson's presidency was marked by his noticeably low profile during a time of intense publicity for the church, including Mitt Romney's campaigns for the Republican presidential nomination.

9. WHO IS EYEING A POLITICAL RESURGENCE

By possibly running for Orrin Hatch's seat in Utah, Mitt Romney sees opportunity to bring new moral conscience to Republicans in Washington.

10. ARIZONA FIRES FOOTBALL COACH AMID HOSTILE WORKPLACE CLAIM

Rich Rodriguez says the investigation concerned a former administrative assistant who threatened a \$7.5 million lawsuit alleging harassment.

Q&A: Is there a chance for a breakthrough with the Koreans?

By FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — After one of the most fraught years on the Korean Peninsula in recent memory — threats of war amid North Korea's strongest-ever nuclear bomb test and repeated missile launches — an unexpected, very tentative interest in peace seems to have broken out.

In rapid succession: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un floats the idea in a New Year's speech of better ties with his southern rival. Maybe, he says, he'll even send a delegation to next month's Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Seoul quickly offers to meet and talk. And on Wednesday, the North announces that Kim views the South's offer positively and the two sides begin preliminary contact on a newly reopened cross-border communication channel.

Is it an elaborate ruse by the North? Wishful thinking in the South?

Some answers to questions about what it may all mean:

Q: How likely is it that the two sides will actually meet?

A: There's a pretty good chance, though meeting is the easy part.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has favored better ties with North Korea for years, and he campaigned on pledges to take a softer line than his conservative predecessors.

Moon was a top aide for a previous liberal president who maintained a so-called "Sunshine Policy" toward Pyongyang, with large amounts of aid shipped to the North and the two sides pursuing cooperative tourism and business programs.

Although Moon, who took office in May, has been pushed into a hard-line stance by the North's repeated missile and nuclear tests, he would clearly like dialogue.

The North's Kim, on the other hand, has shown little interest in pursuing peace since taking power in late 2011. That said, he has made repeated suggestions about improving ties in past New Year's speeches.

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Skeptics will point out that he mixed his peace overtures with threats of war and has conducted weapons tests within weeks of past speeches.

There's also suspicion that Kim will use any talks as cover to continue perfecting an arsenal of nukes that can reliably hit the U.S. mainland, and that his overture is mainly meant to disrupt ties between Seoul and Washington so he can weaken international pressure and sanctions.

Q: Why is it so difficult for the Koreans to make peace once they sit down and talk to each other?

A: Seven decades of simmering animosity and bloodshed is the short answer.

The Koreans were divided in 1945 at the end of World War II into a U.S.-controlled southern side and a Soviet-controlled north. Three years later, the division became formal with the founding of the opposing republics. Two years after that, the North launched a surprise invasion and the Koreans fought, with the help of the United States, the United Nations and China, one of the bloodiest wars of the 20th century.

Since then, there has been steady bloodshed, though mostly from the North, including assassinations, kidnappings and, in 2010, attacks blamed on North Korea that killed 50 South Koreans.

When the history is this bloody, and the two sides are squared off across the most heavily armed border in the world, every detail is usually contested.

Q: Even if they meet, is there any chance for a breakthrough?

A: Any time the Koreans talk it's a victory of sorts, especially after the misery of last year.

Still, the rivals have done this dance many times before, and their talks don't have the best track record when it comes to results, often blowing up before anything really gets done.

If there are talks, the first round will likely be lower-level discussions meant to set up a higher-level meeting. Previous such talks have bogged down on matters of protocol, for instance, with one side objecting to the "rank" of a proposed participant.

If a next round is decided upon, the actual negotiations of what to do about Olympic cooperation would begin. But with decades of accrued animosity between them, nothing is guaranteed.

Q: What about President Donald Trump's tweet in which he taunted Kim Jong Un, who'd earlier said he has a nuclear button on his desk, by boasting of a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" than Kim's.

A: For the time being, both Koreans are ignoring it.

Trump's tweets worried South Koreans at first, but they are becoming used to them. President Moon will likely prefer to focus on the rare signs of rapprochement with the North.

The North, however, rarely lets an insult pass, though there's a chance it could keep its outrage against Trump separate from whatever its intentions are with the South.

Foster Klug is the AP's bureau chief in Seoul and has covered the Koreans since 2005. Follow him at @apklug

Homeland chief: Wait and see on citizenship for immigrants

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Trump administration would consider immigration legislation that includes a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young people, the U.S. Homeland Security secretary said Tuesday, while emphasizing no decision on that issue has been made and a border wall remains the priority.

Congress is considering three options, including citizenship or permanent legal status for people who were temporarily shielded from deportation, Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said in an interview.

Details on qualifying for citizenship, including on how many years to wait and other requirements, would have to be addressed.

Asked whether the president would support citizenship, she said, "I think he's open to hearing about the

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different possibilities and what it means but, to my knowledge, there certainly hasn't been any decision from the White House."

In September, Trump said he wouldn't consider citizenship for DACA recipients — an Obama-era program that Trump said last year he was ending. He gave Congress until March to deliver a legislative fix.

The options being considered by Congress include permanent residency, residency for a certain amount of time — perhaps three or four years, subject to renewal — and citizenship, Nielsen said.

"It will be interesting to see where (Congress) can get comfortable with what they mean by what is a permanent fix but the idea would be that you move away from a temporary status," she said.

In October, the president presented congressional leaders with a long list of demands to accompany protection for DACA recipient, many of which Democrats greeted with a thud.

The secretary said she was hopeful the White House and Congress can reach a deal that includes border and immigration enforcement measures. She said building a wall along the Mexico border was "first and foremost," and the administration wanted to end "loopholes" on issues that include handling asylum claims and local police working with immigration authorities.

"I remain optimistic. You have to be," Nielsen said. "It's very important. The American people have said they wanted it. I think we should find common ground. The devil's in the detail."

Nielsen said she and other senior administration officials would discuss a potential deal with members of Congress this week, and the president would take it up in a meeting Wednesday with congressional leaders on legislative priorities for 2018.

The secretary spoke hours after the president blasted Democrats for "doing nothing" to protect DACA recipients. Trump tweeted that "DACA activists and Hispanics will go hard against Dems, will start 'falling in love' with Republicans and their President! We are about RESULTS."

Nielsen, who visited prototypes of Trump's proposed border wall in San Diego, said the president would request \$1.6 billion next year for the barrier, in addition to \$1.6 billion he is seeking this year to build or replace 74 miles (118 kilometers) in California and Texas.

"It's all a down payment," she said. "This is not going to get us the whole wall we need but it's a start."

Trump has met stiff Democratic opposition to the wall, a central campaign pledge. Barriers currently cover 654 miles (1,046 kilometers), or about one-third of the border, much of it built during George W. Bush's presidency.

Nielsen said closing enforcement "loopholes" was also a priority. She mentioned refusals by some local police to honor requests from federal authorities to detain people in the country illegally; special legal protections for unaccompanied children who enter the country illegally and are not from Mexico or Canada; and criteria for passing an initial screening on asylum claims.

Nielsen said she believed any permanent protection for DACA recipients should be limited to the hundreds of thousands who qualified during the three years it was in effect, not anyone who would meet the criteria if it were still in place. She said it should include permission to work.

"Everybody wants to find a solution - a permanent solution - to DACA," she said. "I mean I really haven't talked to anybody who has said, 'Nah, we don't want to do that.'"

Nielsen faces a Monday deadline on whether to extend permission for about 200,000 Salvadorans to remain in the country with temporary protected status, which is designed to protect foreigners fleeing natural disasters. In November, her predecessor said she was ending temporary status for Nicaraguans and granted a six-month extension for Hondurans.

Nielsen said she spoke with El Salvador's top diplomats about how their return would be carried out and said others have gone home to start small businesses. She expressed wariness of temporary extensions.

"Getting them to a permanent solution is a much better plan than having them live six months, to 12 months to 18 months," she said.

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

Trump threatens to cut off US aid to Palestinian Authority

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acknowledging his push to broker peace in the Middle East has stalled, President Donald Trump on Tuesday appeared to threaten to cut off U.S. aid money to the Palestinian Authority, asking why the U.S. should make “any of these massive future payments” when the Palestinians are “no longer willing to talk peace.”

Trump, in a pair of tweets, said the U.S. pays “the Palestinians HUNDRED OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS a year and get no appreciation or respect.”

“They don’t even want to negotiate a long overdue ... peace treaty with Israel,” he wrote.

Trump infuriated Palestinians and Muslims across the Middle East when he announced late last year that the U.S. would consider Jerusalem the capital of Israel and move its embassy there, upending decades of U.S. policy and igniting protests.

While the Palestinians haven’t closed the door to a potential deal with Israel, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said the announcement had destroyed Trump’s credibility as a Mideast peace broker, calling the decision “a declaration of withdrawal from the role it has played in the peace process.”

Tuesday’s tweets mark a tacit admission by Trump that his decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has thrown a wrench into his administration’s plans to restart the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians, which he had dubbed “the ultimate deal.”

Trump tasked son-in-law Jared Kushner to restart the effort, and brought his former attorney, Jason Greenblatt, into the White House to lead the negotiations. Trump’s Mideast peace team had held meetings with Israeli, Palestinian and Arab leaders for nearly a year ahead of an expected peace proposal.

But by recognizing Israel’s claim to Jerusalem, Trump was seen by the Palestinians as siding with Israel on the most sensitive issue in the conflict. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem — which Israel captured in 1967 — for their capital.

Trump said his decision merely recognized the reality that Jerusalem already serves as Israel’s capital and wasn’t meant to prejudge the final borders of the city.

In his tweets, Trump argued his decision had taken “Jerusalem, the toughest part of the negotiation, off the table, but Israel, for that, would have had to pay more.”

When Trump declared Jerusalem to be Israel’s capital, he insisted, counterintuitively, that the move would improve, not hurt, prospects for clinching a peace deal.

In the days after the decision, Trump administration officials said the strategy was based on the notion that Israel had lost faith in the U.S. as a committed partner during the Obama administration. With trust in Washington restored, Netanyahu’s government would be more inclined going forward to make tough concessions that would ultimately be needed for a peace deal, the U.S. officials argued at the time, and Israeli officials quietly indicated that they could potentially do so.

No one spelled out, however, what the Palestinians would receive in return.

Trump on Tuesday also issued a threat to cut off foreign aid dollars to an unspecified list of countries that don’t reciprocate.

“It’s not only Pakistan that we pay billions of dollars to for nothing, but also many other countries, and others,” Trump wrote, appearing to reference a Jan. 1 tweet lambasting Pakistan for failing to do enough to combat terror groups while taking U.S. aid. “No more!” Trump had tweeted Monday.

Trump’s language marks a striking departure from decades of bipartisan American practice and reflects Trump’s transactional view of global affairs. U.S. leaders of both parties have long utilized foreign assistance dollars — a minor percentage of the overall budget — to promote American interests abroad, alleviate humanitarian crises and support oppressed peoples.

Trump’s envoy to the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley, foreshadowed Trump’s warning earlier Tuesday at the U.N. Security Council. Haley said the president doesn’t want to give more funds “until the Palestinians are willing to come back to the negotiation table.”

“We still very much want to have a peace process. Nothing changes with that. The Palestinians now

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have to show they want to come to the table," Haley said. "As of now, they're not coming to the table, but they ask for aid. We're not giving the aid. We're going to make sure that they come to the table."

Since a Dec. 21 U.N. vote condemning Trump's Jerusalem decision, U.S. officials have been weighing various options for retaliating against the Palestinians for pushing the resolution, which passed by a 128-9 margin.

Those options, which were to be discussed by Trump's top national security aides at a meeting next week, included several involving cutting off some or all aid to the Palestinian Authority. Another option would cut funding to the U.N. agency that provides services to the Palestinians in places like Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon.

The talks are in their very early stages, with no determination yet of a fixed amount or percentage of assistance to be cut, according to officials familiar with the discussions.

However, the officials noted that only a relatively small amount of the more than \$220 million that the U.S. was planning on sending to the Palestinians in the current budget year actually goes to the Palestinian Authority. Most of that assistance flows to non-governmental groups that are involved in building civic organizations that promote good governance, anti-corruption efforts, and health and education projects.

The officials said one possibility would be to redirect aid from the Palestinian Authority to those groups. Similar proposals were envisioned for the U.N. relief agency for Palestinians, the officials said, noting that Palestinian children in Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon would be disproportionately affected by an immediate and complete cut-off.

Chris Gunness, a spokesperson for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, said it had not been informed of any changes to U.S. funding at this time.

One basket of money that is unlikely to be affected is security assistance that helps the Palestinian Authority coordinate police cooperation with Israel, the officials said. They spoke on conditions of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about internal deliberations.

Associated Press writers Josh Lederman and Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2018. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 3, 1868, Japan's Meiji (may-jee) Restoration re-established the authority of the emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as shoguns; the upheaval paved the way for Japan's drive toward becoming a modern power.

On this date:

In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X.

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1870, groundbreaking took place for the Brooklyn Bridge.

In 1911, the first postal savings banks were opened by the U.S. Post Office. (The banks were abolished in 1966.)

In 1938, the March of Dimes campaign to fight polio was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who himself had been afflicted with the crippling disease.

In 1946, William Joyce, the pro-Nazi radio propagandist known as "Lord Haw-Haw," was hanged at Wandsworth Prison in London for high treason.

In 1958, the first six members of the newly formed U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held their first meeting at the White House.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President

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John F. Kennedy, died in a Dallas hospital.

In 1977, Apple Computer was incorporated in Cupertino, California, by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Mike Makkula Jr.

In 1980, conservationist Joy Adamson, author of "Born Free," was killed in northern Kenya by a former employee.

In 1993, President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the START II missile-reduction treaty in Moscow. (However, the agreement ultimately fell apart.)

Ten years ago: Illinois Sen. Barack Obama won Democratic caucuses in Iowa, while Mike Huckabee won the Republican caucuses. After nearly 27 years in prison, Texas inmate Charles Chatman, 47, was set free by a judge because of new DNA evidence showing he'd been wrongly convicted of rape. Pop star Britney Spears was hospitalized after a child custody dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline resulted in an hours-long standoff with police. The No. 8 Kansas Jayhawks won the Orange Bowl by defeating No. 5 Virginia Tech 24-21.

Five years ago: Students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, reconvened at a different building in the town of Monroe about three weeks after the massacre that had claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and six educators. The new 113th Congress opened for business, with House Speaker John Boehner re-elected to his post despite a mini-revolt in Republican ranks. No. 5 Oregon beat No. 7 Kansas State, 35-17, in the Fiesta Bowl.

One year ago: Ford Motor Co. canceled plans to build a new \$1.6 billion factory in Mexico, and said it would invest at least some of the savings in new electric and autonomous vehicles. The national president of the NAACP and five others were arrested after staging a sit-in at the Alabama office of Sen. Jeff Sessions, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for U.S. attorney general. It was announced that Fox News star Megyn Kelly would be leaving the network to work at NBC News.

(Stations: Lloyd, single name, is correct)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dabney Coleman is 86. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 82. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Hull is 79. Singer-songwriter-producer Van Dyke Parks is 75. Musician Stephen Stills is 73. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 72. Actress Victoria Principal is 68. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 62. Actress Shannon Sturges is 50. Actor John Ales is 49. Jazz musician James Carter is 49. Contemporary Christian singer Nichole Nordeman is 46. Musician Thomas Bangalter (Daft Punk) is 43. Actor Jason Marsden is 43. Actress Danica McKellar is 43. Actor Nicholas Gonzalez is 42. Singer Kimberley Locke (TV: "American Idol") is 40. Actress Kate Levering is 39. NFL quarterback Eli Manning is 37. Actress Nicole Beharie is 33. Pop musician Mark Pontius (Foster the People) is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lloyd is 32. Pop-rock musician Nash Overstreet (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 32. Actor Alex D. Linz is 29.

Thought for Today: "No one asked you to be happy. Get to work." — Colette, French author (1873-1954).

Riddle Answer: Your Shadow