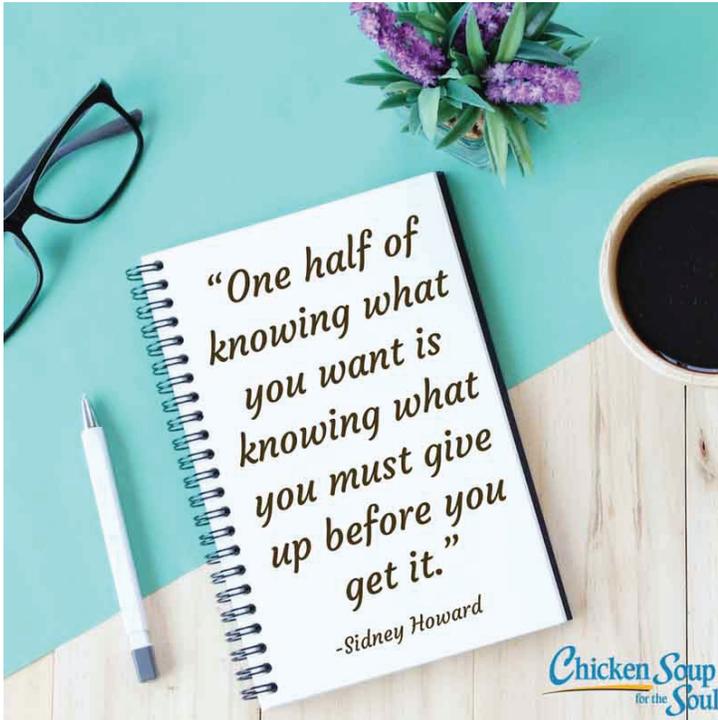


# Groton Daily Independent

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## A Riddle

**There were five men going to church and it started to rain. The four that ran got wet and the one that stood still stayed dry.**

**How did the one stay dry?**

**(answer at the end of the AP News)**



[www.harrmotors.com](http://www.harrmotors.com)

605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

**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**

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Harr Motors Ad
- 1- SunDial Help Wanted Ad
- 1- A Riddle
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 2- South Dakota Activates the "Blue Alert" System
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Wolves Student-Athletes Record Sixth Straight Semester Above 3.30
- 3- Olson and Gallegos Notch Wins in NSIC Opening Loss to Augustana
- 4- Gov. Dugaard Announces \$10.758 Million for Environmental Projects
- 5- 2018 Tax Filing Season Begins Jan. 29, Tax Returns Due April 17; Help Available for Taxpayers
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- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- 2018 Community Events
- 16- News from the Associated Press



## 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.

## South Dakota Activates the "Blue Alert" System

PIERRE, S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley announced today that the State of South Dakota has added the Blue Alert system to their statewide notification systems. A Blue Alert is activated when there is a suspect at large who has killed or caused serious injury to a law enforcement officer or if an officer has been abducted or is missing.

"Anyone who seriously harms or kills law enforcement officers in the line of duty poses danger to all", said Jackley. "The Blue Alert system will allow quick distribution regarding safety information and details about a subject to the citizens in the State."

The Blue Alert system uses the existing Amber Alert network to broadcast warnings. Partners in this system include the South Dakota Bureau of Information and Telecommunications, South Dakota Public Broadcasting, Central South Dakota Communications and the Division of Criminal Investigation. We would also like to recognize the Rapid City Police Department for their work in advocating the need for this statewide system.

The activation of the Blue Alert comes at the request of a law enforcement agency that is investigating an offense against a law enforcement officer. The following criteria must be met:

1. An individual has threatened a law enforcement officer with a deadly weapon, has used a deadly weapon against a law enforcement officer, has caused a law enforcement officer to suffer serious bodily injury or death, or the officer has been abducted or is missing while on duty;
2. The individual has fled the scene of the offense and there is sufficient descriptive information of the suspect, including any relevant vehicle and license tag information available for broadcast;
3. The law enforcement agency investigating the offense has determined the individual poses a threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel; and
4. Dissemination of available information to the public may help avert further harm or assist in the apprehension of the suspect.

1302 E. Hwy 14, Suite 1 Pierre, SD 57501 605-773-3215

<http://attg.sd.gov>

Our current state notification systems include:

South Dakota Amber Alert Plan- Statewide notification to South Dakota law enforcement and South Dakota media to disseminate specific details to the public to assist in locating an abducted child.

Endangered Missing Advisory (EMA) - A partnership between law enforcement and local broadcasters who notify the public about missing and endangered persons. It is designed for those instances when a missing person does not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert.

-30-

## 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**

## Wolves Student-Athletes Record Sixth Straight Semester Above 3.30

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University athletic department heads into the new year after a stellar fall in the classroom. The department posted a 3.30 cumulative GPA, marking the sixth straight semester over a 3.30.

“Our student-athletes continue to excel at the highest levels in the classroom and be leaders in the campus community,” noted Josh Moon, Director of Athletics. “To achieve a 3.30 or above, average GPA for the past six semesters says a lot about the culture of academic excellence that is in place at NSU. I would like to congratulate all of our student-athletes, and thank our coaches and faculty for their continued commitment to the success of our student-athletes.”

Leading the department as a whole was the Wolves softball team with a 3.66 cumulative mark. They were closely followed by the women’s cross country team notching a 3.64 GPA. Swimming and women’s basketball tallied semester marks of 3.52 and 3.51, while volleyball and women’s track and field came in at 3.49 and 3.42. Soccer rounded out the women’s side coming in at 3.13 for the semester.

The basketball team led the way on the men’s side, and tallied the seventh highest GPA overall, with a 3.37. Baseball and men’s cross country followed at 3.19 and 3.14, while men’s track and field and football recorded semester GPA’s of 3.07 and 3.02.

In addition, a total of 125 student-athletes earned above a 3.5 GPA for the semester, with 23 of those individuals notching a perfect 4.0.

## Olson and Gallegos Notch Wins in NSIC Opening Loss to Augustana

Sioux Falls, S.D.- The Northern State University wrestling team fell to No. 21 Augustana in the NSIC opener 36-6. With the loss the Wolves drop to 1-4 overall and 0-1 in the NSIC. Tanner Olson and Diego Gallegos notched the two wins for the Wolves.

Olson faced off against Bruce Lemon in his first match of the season, wrestling at 157 pounds. Olson opened the match with a takedown in the first period, however Lemon tied things at 2-all in the second. The Wolves senior chose down to open the third period and notched an escape, coming away with the 3-2 decision victory.

Gallegos went up against Austin Ward in the 197-pound match. He led 4-2 following the first period after two takedowns. The two went scoreless through the second period, as Gallegos racked up riding time. He chose down to open the third and notched an escape, as well as a riding time point for the 6-2 decision win.

Northern returns to action next Saturday from the Midwest Duals as they face Chadron State (9 a.m.), Lindenwood (10:30 a.m.), Western State (12 p.m.), and the host Nebraska-Kearney (1:30 p.m.) from Kearney.



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")**

## Gov. Dugaard Announces \$10.758 Million for Environmental Projects

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Dugaard says the state Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved \$10.758 million for water, wastewater, solid waste and recycling projects. The board met today over the Digital Dakota Network.

The \$10.758 million total includes \$937,000 in grants and \$9.821 million in low-interest loans.

The grants and loans awarded by the board are administered through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“I am pleased to announce that this financial assistance is available,” said Gov. Dugaard. “These grant and loan awards will result in better drinking water, improved wastewater treatment and enhanced protection of the environment.”

Grants were awarded to:

Brown County, \$490,000 grant for landfill cell construction

James River Water Development District, \$275,000 grant for south central watershed restoration project

Loans were awarded to:

Sioux Falls, \$8.829 million loan that provides \$8.4 million for Terry Avenue and 43rd Street storm water upgrades and \$429,000 for nonpoint source improvements in the Big Sioux River basin

TC&G Water Association, Inc., \$500,000 loan amendment for drinking water system improvements

Tyndall, \$374,000 loan for Maple Street sanitary sewer replacement

Grant and loan packages were awarded to:

Vermillion, \$20,000 for recycling collection trailer purchase, which includes a \$10,000 grant and \$10,000 loan

Watertown, \$270,000 for landfill storm water improvements, which includes a \$162,000 grant and \$108,000 loan

The grants and loans were awarded from DENR’s Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program and Solid Waste Management Program.

The Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program, funded in part by revenues from the Petroleum Release Compensation Tank Inspection fee and the sale of lotto tickets, provides grants and loans for water, wastewater and watershed projects.

The State of South Dakota and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fund the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, which provides low-interest loans for public drinking water system projects. The State of South Dakota and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fund the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program, which provides low-interest loans for wastewater, storm water and nonpoint source projects.

The Solid Waste Management Program provides grants and loans for solid waste disposal, recycling and waste tire projects. The Legislature annually appropriates dedicated water and waste funding for the Consolidated and Solid Waste programs through the Governor’s Omnibus Water Funding Bill.

## **2018 Tax Filing Season Begins Jan. 29, Tax Returns Due April 17; Help Available for Taxpayers**

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced today that the nation's tax season will begin Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 and reminded taxpayers claiming certain tax credits that refunds won't be available before late February.

The IRS will begin accepting tax returns on Jan. 29, with nearly 155 million individual tax returns expected to be filed in 2018. The nation's tax deadline will be April 17 this year – so taxpayers will have two additional days to file beyond April 15.

Many software companies and tax professionals will be accepting tax returns before Jan. 29 and then will submit the returns when IRS systems open. Although the IRS will begin accepting both electronic and paper tax returns Jan. 29, paper returns will begin processing later in mid-February as system updates continue. The IRS strongly encourages people to file their tax returns electronically for faster refunds.

The IRS set the Jan. 29 opening date to ensure the security and readiness of key tax processing systems in advance of the opening and to assess the potential impact of tax legislation on 2017 tax returns.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that, by law, the IRS cannot issue refunds claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) before mid-February. While the IRS will process those returns when received, it cannot issue related refunds before mid-February. The IRS expects the earliest EITC/ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or on debit cards starting on Feb. 27, 2018, if they chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with the tax return.

The IRS also reminds taxpayers that they should keep copies of their prior-year tax returns for at least three years. Taxpayers who are using a tax software product for the first time will need their adjusted gross income from their 2016 tax return to file electronically. Taxpayers who are using the same tax software they used last year will not need to enter prior-year information to electronically sign their 2017 tax return. Using an electronic filing PIN is no longer an option. Taxpayers can visit [IRS.gov/GetReady](http://IRS.gov/GetReady) for more tips on preparing to file their 2017 tax return.

### **April 17 Filing Deadline**

The filing deadline to submit 2017 tax returns is Tuesday, April 17, 2018, rather than the traditional April 15 date. In 2018, April 15 falls on a Sunday, and this would usually move the filing deadline to the following Monday – April 16. However, Emancipation Day – a legal holiday in the District of Columbia – will be observed on that Monday, which pushes the nation's filing deadline to Tuesday, April 17, 2018. Under the tax law, legal holidays in the District of Columbia affect the filing deadline across the nation.

The IRS also has been working with the tax industry and state revenue departments as part of the Security Summit initiative to continue strengthening processing systems to protect taxpayers from identity theft and refund fraud. The IRS and Summit partners continued to improve these safeguards to further protect taxpayers filing in 2018.

### **Refunds in 2018**

Choosing e-file and direct deposit for refunds remains the fastest and safest way to file an accurate income tax return and receive a refund. The IRS expects more than four out of five tax returns will be prepared electronically using tax software.

The IRS still anticipates issuing more than nine out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days, but there are some important factors to keep in mind for taxpayers.

By law, the IRS cannot issue refunds on tax returns claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit before mid-February. This applies to the entire refund — even the portion not associated with the EITC and ACTC.

The IRS expects the earliest EITC/ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or on debit cards starting on Feb. 27, 2018, if those taxpayers chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with the tax return. This additional period is due to several factors, including banking and financial

systems needing time to process deposits.

After refunds leave the IRS, it takes additional time for them to be processed and for financial institutions to accept and deposit the refunds to bank accounts and products. The IRS reminds taxpayers many financial institutions do not process payments on weekends or holidays, which can affect when refunds reach taxpayers. For EITC and ACTC filers, the three-day holiday weekend involving Presidents' Day may affect their refund timing.

The Where's My Refund? tool on IRS.gov and the IRS2Go phone app will be updated with projected deposit dates for early EITC and ACTC refund filers in late February. Taxpayers will not see a refund date on Where's My Refund? or through their software packages until then. The IRS, tax preparers and tax software will not have additional information on refund dates, so Where's My Refund? remains the best way to check the status of a refund.

### **IRS Offers Help for Taxpayers**

The IRS reminds taxpayers they have a variety of options to get help filing and preparing their tax return on IRS.gov, the official IRS website. Taxpayers can find answers to their tax questions and resolve tax issues online. The Let Us Help You page helps answer most tax questions, and the IRS Services Guide links to these and other IRS services.

Taxpayers can go to IRS.gov/account to securely access information about their federal tax account. They can view the amount they owe, pay online or set up an online payment agreement; access their tax records online; review the past 18 months of payment history; and view key tax return information for the current year as filed. Visit IRS.gov/secureaccess to review the required identity authentication process.

In addition, 70 percent of the nation's taxpayers are eligible for IRS Free File. Commercial partners of the IRS offer free brand-name software to about 100 million individuals and families with incomes of \$66,000 or less.

The online fillable forms provide electronic versions of IRS paper forms to all taxpayers regardless of income that can be prepared and filed by people comfortable with completing their own returns.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) offer free tax help to people who qualify. Go to IRS.gov and enter "free tax prep" in the search box to learn more and find a nearby VITA or TCE site, or download the IRS2Go smartphone app to find a free tax prep provider. If eligible, taxpayers can also locate help from a community volunteer. Go to IRS.gov and click on the Filing tab for more information.

The IRS also reminds taxpayers that a trusted tax professional can provide helpful information and advice. Tips for choosing a return preparer and details about national tax professional groups are available on IRS.gov.

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**GROTON AREA SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #06-6  
School Board Meeting January 8, 2018  
7:00 PM  
GHS Conference Room**

**AGENDA:**

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

1. Act on appointment of Kara Pharis to Board of Education for remainder of Kelly Kjelden's term expiring June 30, 2018.

2. Installation of Kara Pharis and appointment to "ad hoc" committee.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of minutes of December 11, 2017 school board meeting as drafted or amended.

2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as fiscal agent.

3. Approval of November District bills for payment.

**OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.

2. Approval of December 2017 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments

3. Approval of December 2017 School Transportation Report

4. Approval of December 2017 School Lunch Report

5. School Board Committee Reports:

a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder

b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Deb Gengerke

c. Negotiations: Steve Smith, Grant Rix, Marty Weismantel

6. Consideration of Change Orders.

a. Contract Addendum #1 – FJJ.

7. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Set date and time for annual school board election – April 10, 2018 (7:00 AM – 7:00 PM), and authorize Business Manager Weber to designate officials, with voting precincts in Andover, Bristol, Columbia, and Groton. [3 – year terms expiring: Vacant seat awaiting appointment and Mr. Weismantel]

2. Proposal from parent representatives for district sponsorship of SD High School Clay Target League as a club sport for the spring of 2018. [Stephan Wright]

3. Review SD Department of Public Safety Fire and Life Safety Surveys conducted on Monday, December 18, 2017.

4. Executive Session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel issues.

ADJOURN

## **Today's Events**

**Basketball Double Header with Hamlin in Groton**

**Girls JV at 4 p.m.**

**Boys JV at 5 p.m.**

**Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m.**

**Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.**

**Varsity Games to be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM**

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## Fort Pierre man claims \$390,000 Lucky for Life prize

Pierre, S.D. – Fort Pierre resident Bill Rose rang in the new year by becoming South Dakota's first big winner of the Lucky for Life lotto game.

Rose claimed the game's second highest prize of \$390,000—he also had the option of receiving \$25,000 a year for the rest of his life. Rose purchased his big winner at Lynn's Dakotamart in Fort Pierre, earning a prize with odds of 1-1813,028. Lynn's Dakotamart will receive \$500 for selling the winning ticket.

Lucky for Life is a relatively new game in South Dakota, as sales throughout the state began June 5, 2017. The new game caught Rose's attention immediately, and his increased play over time paid off in a big way.

"I had been playing it off and on, but I started playing it more frequently, lately. I have been buying tickets every week," Rose said. "The game appealed to me because you have a bit better of a chance of winning than some of the other games."

After the Dec. 4, 2017, drawing, Rose wasted little time in discovering his big win. He notes that he checked his tickets the next day before relaying the good news to his wife, Barb.

"I was checking my tickets the next morning, and found out that I had won. I told Barb that I won, and she didn't believe me at first," Rose said.

As for what he's going to do with his winnings, Rose notes that he will take care of some bills before ultimately deciding what to do with the rest.

"The best part about winning is not having to worry about money for a little while," Rose said. "I plan on paying down some debt, and thinking about what to do with the rest for a while."

In claiming his prize to begin the new year, Rose became the South Dakota Lottery's first big winner of 2018. He plans on continuing to play in the future, and he left a bit of advice for current players.

"You can't win if you don't play," Rose noted.



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](mailto: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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## Johnsons are Fourth Place GDI Lighting Festival Contest Winners

The Matt and Casey Johnson at 225 E. 11th Ave. of Groton won fourth place in the GDI Lighting Festival Contest. They received a \$10 gift certificate for both Subway and the Groton Dairy Queen from the Groton Daily Independent. Pictured are Julianna Kosel on the left and Jeslyn Kosel on the right. In the middle are Matt Johnson holding Bentley and Casey Johnson holding Paisley. (Photo by Tina Kosel)



## Two place at Roncalli MathCounts Competition

The Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Countdown Competition was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. Students from Aberdeen area schools participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen. Four separate countdown competitions were held simultaneously in the gymnasium. Two Groton students earned places in their respective brackets of the competition. Stella Meier placed fourth in her eighth grade bracket, and Cole Simon earned third place in his seventh grade bracket.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. Simmons hosts the next junior high competition on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.



**Stella Meier**



**Cole Simon**

## Rounds Accepting Summer 2018 Internship Applications

**\*\*Deadline is Feb. 15, 2018\*\***

PIERRE— U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) today announced that he is currently accepting internship applications for summer 2018. The deadline to apply for internships in his Washington, D.C., Pierre, Rapid City and Sioux Falls offices is Feb. 15, 2018. College credit is available.

Duties in the Washington, D.C., office may include tracking legislation, researching bills, attending committee hearings and briefings, leading tours of the U.S. Capitol, handling constituent phone calls, sorting mail and providing legislative support. Duties in the South Dakota offices include researching constituent inquiries and requests, participation in outreach activities, assisting staff on special projects, handling phone calls and constituent requests and sorting mail. In all offices, students will work closely with constituents and staff, polish their research and writing skills and gain an in-depth understanding of a Senate office.

Interested college students should complete the online internship application and submit a resume no later than Feb. 15, 2018. Resumes should be submitted to intern coordinator Rebecca Herman at [rebecca\\_herman@rounds.senate.gov](mailto:rebecca_herman@rounds.senate.gov). Information about the internship program, along with the application, can be found online at [www.rounds.senate.gov/internships](http://www.rounds.senate.gov/internships).

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## Today in Weather History

January 5, 1994: A low-pressure system traveled from the Dakotas, across southern Minnesota and to the Great Lakes Region, from the late morning of the 5th, through the early evening of the 7th. By the early evening hours on the 7th, up to three and one-half feet of snow had fell along the higher terrain of Lake Superior. The storm also produced heavy snow across parts of central Minnesota. Six inches or more occurred across much of central Minnesota. In west central Minnesota, Wheaton and Artichoke Lake received 5 inches, with 6 inches at Browns Valley.

January 5, 2012: Numerous record high temperatures were broken across central and northeast South Dakota along with west central Minnesota throughout the week. Some of the records were broken by as much as 12 to 17 degrees and had been held for 80 to 90 years. Aberdeen surpassed their all-time record high for January by 3 degrees with 63 degrees on Thursday, January 5th. Kennebec tied their all-time record high for January with 70 degrees on January 5th. Click [HERE](#) other records.

1835 - It was a record cold morning in the eastern U.S. The mercury at the Yale Campus in New Haven CT plunged to 23 degrees below zero, and reached 40 below in the Berkshire Hills of Connecticut. (David Ludlum)

1884: One of only two days in history during which the temperature at Louisville, Kentucky, never rose above zero. The low was 20 degrees below with a high of 1 below zero.

1892: From the History of Fayetteville Georgia, "Another traumatic event occurred in Fayetteville on the evening of January 5, 1892, about six o'clock in the evening. A terrible tornado or cyclone struck the town of Fayetteville just as many had sat down for dinner. The storm killed three people and injured many more as its raging force destroyed numerous residences, outbuildings, and structures including the academy, as well as killing abundant livestock. The event was written about as far away as Savannah."

1904 - Bitterly cold air gripped the northeastern U.S. Morning lows of -42 degrees at Smethport PA and -34 at River Vale NJ established state records. (The Weather Channel)

1913 - The temperature at the east portal to Strawberry Tunnel reached 50 degrees below zero to tie the record established at Woodruff on February 6, 1899. (David Ludlum)

1962: Two tornadoes, about 100 yards apart and each making paths about 100 yards wide followed parallel paths from southeast to northwest through the edge of the Crestview, Florida's residential area. These tornadoes killed one and injured 30 others.

1982 - A three day rainstorm in the San Francisco area finally came to an end. Marin County and Cruz County were drenched with up to 25 inches of rain, and the Sierra Nevada Range was buried under four to eight feet of snow. The storm claimed at least 36 lives, and caused more than 300 million dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - A massive winter storm spread heavy snow from the southwestern U.S. into the Rockies. In Utah, the Alta ski resort reported a storm total of 42 inches of snow. Winds gusted to 64 mph at Albuquerque NM. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

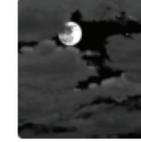
1988 - Thunderstorms helped produce heavy snow in the Lower Great Lakes Region. Snow fell at the rate of four to five inches per hour, and snowfall totals ranged up to 69 inches at Highmarket NY. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

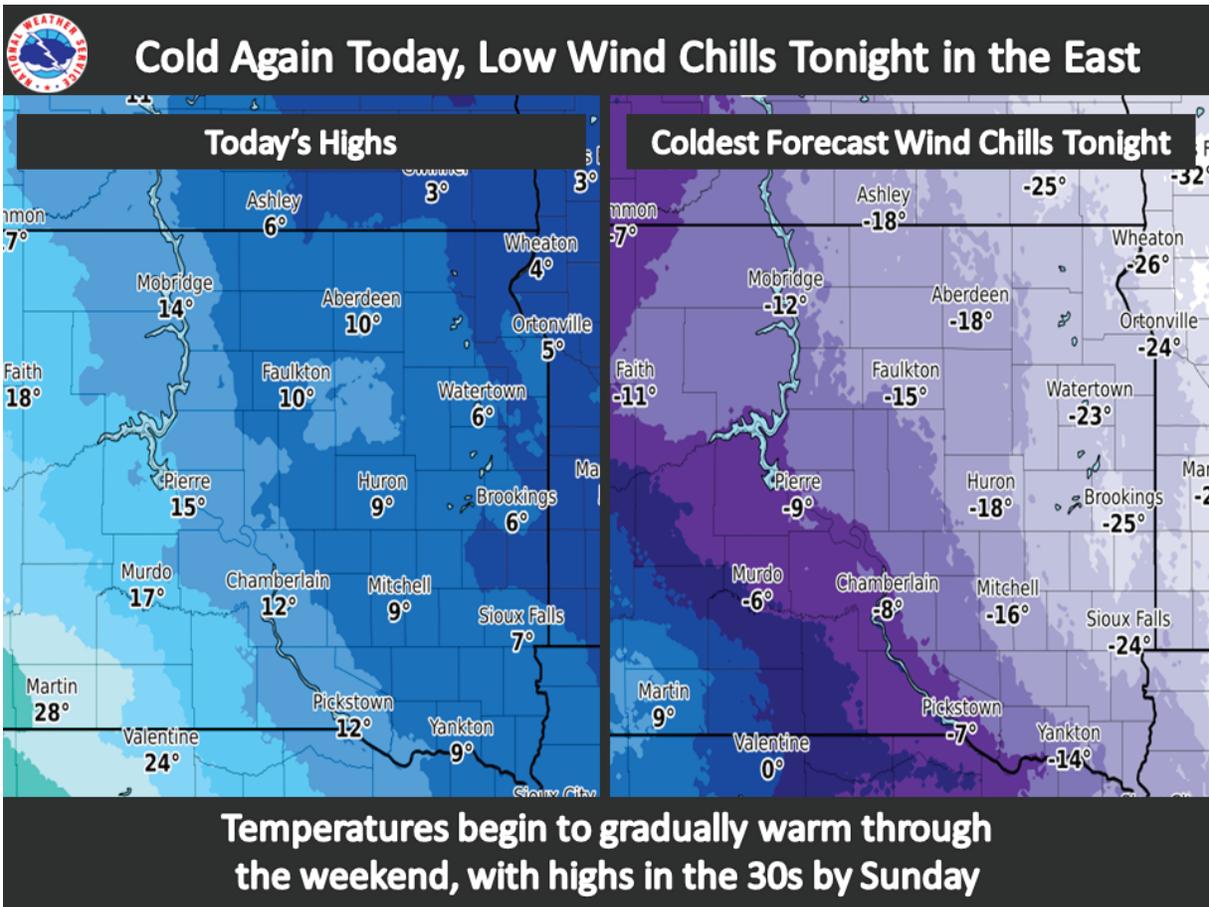
1989 - A strong Pacific cold front produced heavy snow and high winds in Nevada. Winds gusted to 80 mph north of Reno, while up to two feet of snow blanketed the Lake Tahoe ski area. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Central Gulf Coast Region. New Orleans, LA, was drenched with 4.05 inches of rain in 24 hours. An overnight storm blanketed the mountains of northern Utah with up to eleven inches of snow. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Cold	Mostly Cloudy	Patchy Blowing Snow and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 5 °F	Low: -1 °F	High: 19 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 35 °F	Low: 18 °F	High: 31 °F



High pressure over Minnesota will keep cold temperatures in place today, with highs in the single digits and teens. The coldest readings will be felt over eastern areas. Southerly winds will increase tonight and through the day Saturday. These winds will bring very cold wind chills tonight, especially for eastern areas where readings will range from 15 below to 25 below zero.

# Groton Daily Independent

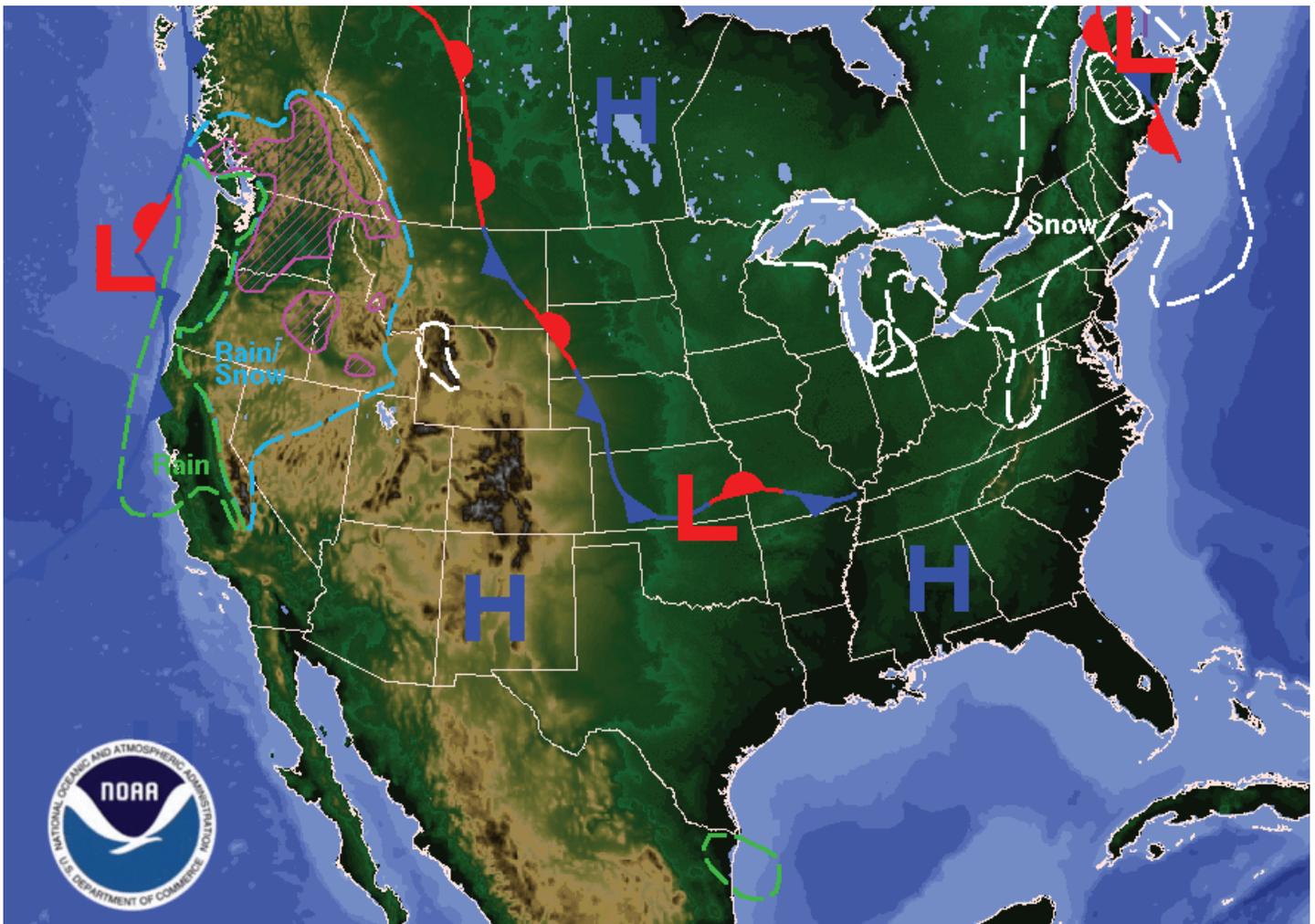
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 15.0 at 2:45 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 3.4 at Midnight**  
**Wind Chill: -6.0 at 5:33 AM**  
**High Gust: 13 at 12:16 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 63° in 2012**  
**Record Low: -32° in 1924**  
**Average High: 22°F**  
**Average Low: 2°F**  
**Average Precip in Jan: 0.09**  
**Precip to date in Jan: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.09**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:05 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Jan 05, 2018, issued 4:33 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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## CAN GOD REALLY?

"Can God really clean up the mess in my life? Am I so important to Him that He would hear my voice above all the other voices that call on Him every day? Do I make a difference to Him when so many others seem to have more significant issues than I? Should I really bother Him if I don't really have much faith? Can God do a few miracles for me? If I don't have money to give will He still hear me?"

We often hear of God's power but question whether or not He can do what He says He is able to do. Sometimes when we ask the question can God we do so with hope and other times with hopelessness even resignation wondering if He really is a can do God!

In Psalm 78:19 our writer makes an interesting statement: "They spoke against God" because they questioned His ability when the Israelites who were walking in the wilderness had no food. They even asked, "Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?" They questioned God's ability to do something when they saw nothing. But God can do anything with nothing. Perhaps they forgot about Creation: "In the beginning God created" everything – and He did it from nothing. Nothing!

God has unlimited resources and might that exceed anything we can imagine. And we must not forget His unlimited love! So, when we add His resources to His might and mix in His love then add His wisdom with the plan He has laid out for each of us, it is not "CAN GOD" – it is GOD CAN! Our God is a CAN DO GOD!

Prayer: Father, may we realize that the only reason our prayers go unanswered is because we lack faith in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 78:19 They even spoke against God himself, saying, "God can't give us food in the wilderness.

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## 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

## News from the Associated Press

### **Q&A: Plan to expand offshore drilling draws cheers, jeers**

**By DAVID KOENIG and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The energy industry is cheering the Trump administration's proposal to open nearly all U.S. coastlines to offshore oil and gas drilling, saying it will reduce U.S. dependence on foreign supplies and create jobs.

Independent experts are dubious. They cite strong opposition — even from Republicans — to some ocean drilling and question whether oil companies will invest in expensive new offshore projects when there are abundant reserves in shale on the U.S. mainland.

Questions and answers for the administration's proposal — the most expansive offshore drilling proposal in decades — along with potential roadblocks and what it could mean for U.S. energy production.

#### WHAT'S THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL?

The administration announced a new five-year plan for energy leases in federal waters. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said it would promote responsible energy development, boost jobs and pay for coastal conservation efforts. The plan proposes 47 leases starting in 2019 that Zinke said would open up 90 percent of U.S. offshore reserves to development by private companies.

The plan calls for expanded drilling in the Arctic and off the Atlantic coast and would open up waters off California for the first time in more than three decades. Drilling would be allowed from Florida to Maine in areas that have been blocked for decades.

An effort to expand offshore leasing was expected ever since last April, when President Donald Trump signed an executive order encouraging more drilling rights in federal waters to help the U.S. achieve "energy dominance" in the global market.

#### WHAT DOES THE ENERGY INDUSTRY THINK?

Industry groups praised the plan. The American Petroleum Institute's Erik Milito said it would increase national energy security, encourage economic growth, help consumers and create thousands of new jobs.

The Independent Petroleum Association of America said opening new areas to leasing would increase knowledge about potential resources and help companies make decisions about where to invest while boosting development of America's abundant energy resources.

#### WHAT DO ENVIRONMENTALISTS THINK?

A coalition of more than 60 environmental groups immediately denounced the plan, saying it would cause "severe and unacceptable harm" to America's oceans, coastal economies, public health and marine life.

"These ocean waters are not President Trump's personal playground. They belong to all Americans and the public wants them preserved and protected, not sold off to multinational oil companies," said a statement from members of the coalition, which included the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the League of Conservation Voters.

#### WHAT DO THE COASTAL STATES SAY?

Some lawmakers in coastal states support offshore drilling, but in some states even Republicans were critical of the Trump proposal.

In Florida, Republican Gov. Rick Scott asked for an immediate meeting with Zinke. Rep. Brian Mast, a conservative Republican who represents a coastal district north of Miami, said oil drilling off the Florida coast "puts our economy, environment and marine life at risk."

Republican Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland asked the administration to withdraw proposed leases off his state's coast.

Democratic governors along the West Coast blasted the plan. In a joint statement, California Gov. Jerry Brown, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee vowed to "do whatever it takes to stop this reckless, short-sighted action."

#### WILL THE PLAN BE APPROVED?

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Thursday's proposal is a draft. There will be a period for public comments, and environmentalists and possibly officials in some coastal states are likely to sue. Some sensitive or politically unpopular parts of the plan, like drilling off California, could be jettisoned. Final approval is unlikely for months or even years.

## DOES THE U.S. NEED THE OIL?

The oil industry likes the idea that these areas, long off-limits, could someday be home to drilling rigs. But interest in developing them right away would be stronger if oil were still over \$100 a barrel, as it was in 2014, instead of current prices hovering around \$60 per barrel.

"There will be some selective interest, but it's going to be limited in this price environment and the continued growth of shale," said Brian Youngberg, an oil-industry analyst with Edward Jones.

Advances in pumping oil and natural gas from shale formations have spurred huge growth in the U.S. energy industry. More efficient vehicles, tougher policies to limit climate change, and the growth of renewable energy mean that demand for oil could peak — although there are huge differences of opinion about when that might happen.

## WOULD IT INCREASE U.S. PRODUCTION?

Even if the administration's leasing program is reduced by the comment process or lawsuits, experts think it could boost production, but not for several years at least.

Jason Bordoff, an energy expert at Columbia University and a former Obama administration official, said the size of the Trump administration's proposal is huge. "You're not going to see this much of the offshore opened to drilling or lease sales," he said.

Still, Bordoff believes some new areas are likely to be opened and that "could have an impact on U.S. production. But this is pretty far down the road — likely well into the 2020s."

Koenig reported from Dallas.

## Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Bowman County, N.D. 60, Harding County 56

Corsica/Stickney 55, Platte-Geddes 46

Crawford, Neb. 64, Edgemont 32

Dell Rapids 55, Beresford 26

Douglas 49, St. Thomas More 45

Ethan 66, Avon 44

Freeman Academy/Marion 61, Centerville 35

Harrisburg 75, Yankton 54

Hill City 59, Custer 37

Kimball/White Lake 56, Hanson 52

Menno 46, Mitchell Christian 40

Newell 47, Sundance, Wyo. 45

Oelrichs def. Sioux County, Neb., forfeit

Rapid City Christian 66, Wall 34

Rock Valley, Iowa 56, Lennox 42

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 54, Watertown 52

Sully Buttes 86, Highmore-Harrold 62

Timber Lake 68, Edmunds Central 23

Upton, Wyo. 59, Lead-Deadwood 29

Wakpala 81, Tiospaye Topa 37

Warner 49, Ipswich 44

Webster 56, Deuel 55

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Wessington Springs 56, Sunshine Bible Academy 46  
Winnebago, Neb. 69, Dakota Valley 68  
Big East Conference Tournament  
First Round  
Baltic 44, Chester 42  
Flandreau 66, Howard 25  
Parker 59, Garretson 39  
Sioux Valley 73, McCook Central/Montrose 34  
CNOS Classic  
Winnebago, Neb. 69, Dakota Valley 68  
GIRLS BASKETBALL  
Arlington 46, Estelline 22  
Avon 51, Ethan 46  
Bison 35, Takini 28  
Burke/South Central 47, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 38  
Castlewood 62, Clark/Willow Lake 23  
Crow Creek 63, Chamberlain 33  
Dakota Valley 67, Tea Area 44  
Dell Rapids 54, Beresford 44  
DeSmet 55, Colman-Egan 10  
Deubrook 56, Dell Rapids St. Mary 42  
Edgemont 32, Crawford, Neb. 29  
Elkton-Lake Benton 56, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 11  
Faulkton 58, Herreid/Selby Area 55  
Florence/Henry 49, Wilmot 48  
Freeman 71, Bridgewater-Emery 63  
Freeman Academy/Marion 46, Centerville 35  
Gregory 53, Lyman 52, OT  
Harrisburg 55, Yankton 30  
Heart River, N.D. 52, Harding County 21  
Hill City 46, Custer 40  
Hitchcock-Tulare 58, Northwestern 40  
Kimball/White Lake 56, Colome 34  
Lake Preston 55, Hendricks, Minn. 38  
Lead-Deadwood 52, Upton, Wyo. 21  
Lennox 61, Rock Valley, Iowa 52  
Little Wound 72, Kadoka Area 61  
McLaughlin 61, Stanley County 32  
Menno 47, Mitchell Christian 11  
Miller 42, Mobridge-Pollock 20  
Philip 34, New Underwood 27  
Potter County 59, Dupree 40  
Sioux County, Neb. 50, Oelrichs 44  
Sioux Falls Christian 71, Canistota 34  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 46, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 35  
Timber Lake 68, Edmunds Central 29  
Tiospaye Topa 82, Wakpala 63  
Tri-Valley 48, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 38  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 63, Bon Homme 36

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Vermillion 57, Canton 29  
Wall 38, Rapid City Christian 15  
Wessington Springs 49, Sunshine Bible Academy 32  
West Central 61, Elk Point-Jefferson 53  
White River 55, Marty Indian 53  
Winner 65, Todd County 56  
Wolsey-Wessington 48, James Valley Christian 35

## **Name chosen for merged agriculture co-ops in Dakotas**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The boards of two large agriculture co-ops in the Dakotas that are merging have come up with a new name.

When North Central Farmers Elevator and Wheat Growers join forces on Feb. 1, the organization will be known as Agtegra.

Members of the two co-ops voted last September to merge. North Central has about 2,400 members in South Dakota and North Dakota, while Wheat Growers has 5,100 members in the two states.

## **Official: Doctor flying missing plane may have lacked oxygen**

**By DAVID WARREN, Associated Press**

DALLAS (AP) — A doctor volunteering for a dog rescue operation who failed to land his small plane at an airport in Central Texas as planned and was later tracked by fighter jets flying over the Gulf of Mexico appeared unresponsive and may have been suffering from a lack of oxygen, officials said Thursday.

The Coast Guard identified the pilot of the Cirrus SR22T as Dr. Bill Kinsinger, who took off from Wiley Post Airport in Oklahoma City on Wednesday after filing a flight plan to land in Georgetown, Texas, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of Austin.

It's unclear why the plane never landed in Georgetown. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Lynn Lunsford said the plane kept flying and was last observed on radar 219 miles (352 kilometers) northwest of Cancun, Mexico, flying at 15,000 feet (4,600 meters).

Coast Guard spokeswoman Lexie Preston in New Orleans said Thursday that Coast Guard aircraft are searching for the plane in a broad area off the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

After Kinsinger stopped responding to air traffic controllers, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, launched two F-16 fighters from a base in Houston and made contact with the plane, NORAD spokesman Michael Kucharek said. The fighters flew in front of the five-seater plane, dropped flares and performed other military maneuvers in an effort to gain the pilot's attention, but Kinsinger, who was the only person on board, appeared to be unresponsive, he said.

The F-16s became low on fuel and were replaced by two F-15 fighters from New Orleans. The F-15s stayed with the plane for a time but later returned to base because of darkness and their proximity to Mexican air space. Kucharek said NORAD coordinated with the Coast Guard to take over monitoring the plane. The Guard, which was relying on the FlightAware website, lost track of the plane when it stopped transmitting a signal, Coast Guard Petty Officer Travis McGee said.

"We didn't deem the plane to be a threat and that's normally what we're looking for," Kucharek said.

The Eighth Coast Guard District, referencing a NORAD report, said Kinsinger appeared to be suffering from hypoxia, in which the brain is deprived of adequate oxygen. The condition can cause confusion, nausea, breathlessness and hallucinations. If left untreated, it can be fatal.

According to FAA regulations, a civil aircraft pilot flying solo must use supplemental oxygen if flying for longer than 30 minutes above 12,500 feet (3,800 meters), and for an entire flight if flying above 14,000 feet (4,300 meters).

The executive director of the Oklahoma Medical Board, Lyle Kelsey, said Kinsinger is an anesthesiologist who serves on the board and lives in Edmond, Oklahoma. FAA records show the plane belongs to Abide Aviation, which is registered to Kinsinger's home address.

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Kinsinger was flying a rescue mission for the nonprofit Pilots N Paws when his plane went missing, according to flight coordinator Monica Marshall, who said she was tracking his progress when radar indicated he had veered hundreds of miles off course. Pilots N Paws has a fleet of volunteer pilots with private planes who transport dogs in need of rescue, shelter or a new home.

"He was the type of guy that went above and beyond," Marshall said. "If someone bailed on an assignment then he would just stretch and do it for you."

A message left for a brother of Kinsinger was not immediately returned.

This is not the first recorded instance of a pilot losing consciousness due to a lack of oxygen.

The National Transportation Safety Board determined that a pilot suffered from hypoxia while flying golfer Payne Stewart and three others on a private plane from Florida to Texas in 1999. The plane veered off course and later crashed in South Dakota, killing them all.

AP writers David Koenig in Dallas and Jill Bleed in Little Rock, Arkansas, contributed to this report.

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Jan. 4

County correct to restore security funding

It is a sad state of affairs when front-line Pennington County employees are concerned about safety at the workplace. Yet, apparently that is the case at the county's administration building on Kansas City Street.

The Treasurer's Office, the Auditor's Office, the Register of Deeds, the Equalization Department and other offices where emotions can run high are in the building that has a sheriff's deputy stationed near the front desk to respond quickly to calls for service and send a message to those with an attitude.

That sense of security, however, was threatened by budget cuts and county employees responded by pleading with the County Commission to restore the funding.

Their concerns and the abusive behavior of some local residents came to light after the commission approved cutting the \$72,869 from Sheriff Thom's 2018 budget, which would have removed security beginning Jan. 1 from the building where property taxes and vehicle license fees and excise taxes are paid and other transactions occur daily.

According to employees who made arguments to the County Commission, they have been sworn at, received obscene gestures and even witnessed fights among people standing in line.

Their only line of defense has been a sheriff's deputy whose presence greets all who enter the building. "They get upset with us and get angry," said Register of Deeds Donna Mayer. "All we have to do is look at the officer that's over there at the desk."

What is happening to civility here? Why does anyone believe it is OK to threaten county employees who are just doing their jobs? And people getting in fights while standing in line? That's not even acceptable in our schools where students are learning to be adults.

At the same time, the lack of decency exhibited at the county administration building seems to be a symptom of what is happening across the country.

The political parties, their loyal partisans and special interest groups skirmish daily in a war of words that stokes emotions and lowers the bar. President Trump fuels the fire with tweets that criticize people across the spectrum and personally insults his many targets. On Tuesday, he kicked off the new year by launching 17 tweets, including his already infamous my nuclear button is bigger than your button barb aimed at North Korea's Kim Jong Un, a dictator who threatens this country with nuclear war. Social media is frequently anything but social having become a haven for angry Americans.

Whether it is national discord or more personal reasons that sow discontent here, it can't be tolerated at the county administration building. The County Commission listened to its employees and restored the security funding, which needed to be done for the employees and those who conduct business there.

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American News, Aberdeen, Jan. 3

When convenience fees are anything but

Many of us choose not to use ATMs that charge service fees. Why pay when you have the option of using one for free?

Unfortunately, parents who want to make online payments for lunch in the Aberdeen School District don't have an option. MySchoolBucks, the online and smartphone app service the district uses, charges a "convenience fee" of \$2.49 each time parents add money to their kids' lunch accounts.

Granted, parents can also send a check with kids or stop by the District Service Center to replenish accounts for no additional charge. But school business hours often conflict with parents' work schedules. And for many (most?), online payments are an expected service, not an add-on convenience.

At first glance the fee might not seem like a big deal. It might not hurt families that are financially able to add money each month. At the end of the school year, those 35 or so bucks probably aren't a huge deal.

But let's think about who it adversely affects.

For those who can't make up-front payments that far in advance, the fee can add up. For a family with two kids in elementary school and another in middle school, the cost of lunch would average about \$180 a month. People who live paycheck to paycheck probably find it easier to budget \$45 a week to cover those meals. Those are the families apt to pay more when using MySchoolBucks online or via app.

If a family had to reload a lunch account 30 times a year, for instance, that's \$135. It all adds up.

On average, it costs about \$400 for a student to get lunches through the course of a school year. That's evidence that Aberdeen public schools have done an excellent job of keeping costs for lunch low. But there should thought given to the families that could pay an extra third to MySchoolBucks.

Our public schools most often do a great job of being aware of and advocating policy that keeps costs down for all families, especially those who might be struggling financially. We ask only that if those who can afford it least are paying the most in "convenience fees," officials keep as many options as possible in play.

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Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, Jan. 2

Ethics Measures: Public Vs. Pierre?

South Dakotans may have the chance to repeat history this November.

And so, too, may South Dakota legislators.

On Friday, the secretary of state's office certified a new initiative targeting government corruption. The initiative will appear as Amendment W on this November's ballot ...

Well, maybe. The approval of the initiative for the ballot could still be challenged. The deadline for that is Jan. 29.

Who would challenge it?

A reasonable guess might be the same people who scuttled Initiated Measure 22 (IM 22) after it was passed by voters in 2016. As you recall, several state lawmakers opposed the measure — which placed restrictions of lobbyists, limits on donations and created an ethics commission — and took it to court on the grounds that portions of it were unconstitutional. Lawmakers then scrapped the measure during last winter's legislative session. While some ethics measures were subsequently passed as a means of at least trying to honor the spirit of IM 22, the overall outcome still irritated a lot of voters. And that opened the door for Amendment W.

The image of lawmakers repealing a publicly approved measure to limit government corruption was not a good or encouraging one. Neither are some legislative stirrings since then to make it tougher for citizens to place measures on the ballot. One proposal making the rounds would bar out-of-state money to be used in initiative campaigns, while another proposal would make it more difficult to enact constitutional changes through public votes. Both ideas would need to be approved by voters in order to be enacted.

Frankly, it's little wonder that such efforts by lawmakers are criticized as the "political establishment's ongoing effort to undermine and disrespect South Dakota voters," according to Doug Kronaizl of the group Represent South Dakota.

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Thus, Amendment W seems like the latest prodigious yank in a tug of war between voters and lawmakers, which may be an unfair way to characterize it, but the perception does exist. While the voters have voiced their support for ethics reform — albeit with just 51 percent support for IM 22, which is still a majority — several lawmakers have continually worked to resist the measures. Some of the reasons for this may be sound, but the spirit of what voters want should not be dismissed.

The best guess at this point (and this could change) is that Amendment W stands a good chance of passage this November, and this time, probably with more than 51 percent of the vote. The fate of IM 22 will haunt the ethics debate in this state for some time to come.

If some lawmakers decide to challenge Amendment W's existence, and/or proceed with passing measures that make it tougher for voters to generate change via the ballot box, the public's displeasure will mushroom.

So, the tug of war continues as we move from 2017 into 2018. And right now, there's no end in sight.

## **Governor seeks extension of special session lake use law**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is asking South Dakota legislators to extend a law that governs the use of lakes on private land for recreation, an issue that has long vexed landowners and outdoor enthusiasts.

Lawmakers during a special legislative session last year approved a compromise on so-called nonmeandered waters. But the law is set to expire in June, meaning lawmakers will have to revisit the issue. The 2018 legislative session starts next week.

The governor's office proposed a bill this week that would move the law's expiration date to 2021. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has received good feedback on the measure, and Daugaard believes it should be given more time to work, according to the governor's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen.

Nonmeandered waters are bodies of water that weren't specially designated during government surveys in the late 1800s. Some private property has since flooded, forming new, unofficial bodies of water and creating good fishing. But that has come at the cost of farmland and pastures lost by agriculture producers.

The new law restored access to nearly 30 specific lakes for public recreation hampered after a 2017 state Supreme Court decision. State officials intervened after the high court said the Legislature needed to decide the extent the public could use the waters on private land for recreation.

The law also says lakes on private property are open for recreational use unless a landowner installs signs or buoys saying an area is closed, though property owners could still grant permission to use the water.

## **Arsenal of weapons found at shooting suspect's home**

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — Police in South Dakota investigating a couple drive-by shootings in Iowa say they found dozens of guns, including fully automatic weapons, and thousands of rounds of ammunition in the home of the suspect.

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office says investigators determined the teen suspected of firing at two homes in Lyon and Sioux counties in Iowa last month lived in Brandon.

Sheriff's Capt. Jason Gearman tells KSFY-TV a search of the teen's home turned up about 80 guns, including tactical weapons, night vision and infrared optics, along with high-end body armor. Gearman says the weapons had been obtained legally with many purchased in the last three to five months.

Authorities say the teen has been arrested. A woman who lived in the home was arrested on a charge of child endangerment. The case is still under investigation.

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Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

## East Coast braces for a deep freeze following massive storm

By PHILIP MARCELO, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — East Coast residents are bracing for a deep freeze a day after a massive winter storm slammed the region with heavy snow, hurricane-force winds and coastal flooding.

Forecasters predict that record-breaking cold air and strong winds will set people's teeth chattering like castanets from the mid-Atlantic to New England on Friday and that the frigid weather will hang around through the weekend.

"This is chilly, chilly stuff," Brian Hurley, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland, said on Thursday.

The arctic blast could make temperatures feel as low as minus 15 degrees from Philly to Beantown on Friday and make residents of states like Maryland and Virginia shiver from temps ranging from 10 degrees to 15 degrees. Coastal areas in the Northeast, Hurley said, may experience numbing single digits.

The storm began two days ago in the Gulf of Mexico and first struck the Florida Panhandle. By Thursday it was wreaking havoc as blizzard warnings and states of emergency went into effect along the Eastern Seaboard. Wind gusts hit more than 70 mph (113 kph) in places and some areas saw as much as 18 inches (46 centimeters) of snow.

The storm caused school and business closings, airline and rail service cancellations or reductions and thousands of utilities outages, many of them restored quickly. Some ferry services even had to be shut down along the Canadian coast.

In the South, the winter weather forced portable toilets to be put in place outside Mississippi's Capitol after pipes burst and it caused iguanas to become sluggish and topple from trees in South Florida. Residents of southeast Georgia were treated to a rare half foot of snow (15 centimeters).

In New England, the powerful winds brought coastal flooding that reached historic levels in some communities with icy water overflowing piers, streets and restaurants and stranding some people who had to be rescued.

At least seven people died in weather-related accidents.

Four people were killed in North Carolina and South Carolina after their vehicles ran off snow-covered roads, authorities said. Another fatality was reported near Philadelphia when a car could not stop at the bottom of a steep, snow-covered hill and slammed into a commuter train. A passenger in the vehicle was killed. No one on the train was hurt.

In Virginia, a girl was struck by a pickup truck while sledding and a 75-year-old man was hit by a snow plow while clearing business parking lots, authorities said. Both died at hospitals from their injuries, police said.

Some of the most painfully cold weather is still to come, Hurley said.

In northern New England, temperatures will be below zero this weekend. The high in Burlington, Vermont, on Saturday may only be minus 5 degrees, he said.

With the wind chill, it could feel as cold as 30 degrees below in those areas, a dangerous level that could potentially lead to frostbite exposure, warned Carl Erickson, an AccuWeather meteorologist based in State College, Pennsylvania.

The South won't be spared, either. Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia can expect temperatures around 15 degrees to 20 degrees, Hurley said. Northern Florida will be in the 20s to low 30s.

Sunday morning should bring the coldest temperatures from Portland, Maine, to Washington, D.C. "That's when you'll see records being challenged or broken, with temperatures at or near zero in many places," Hurley said.

More seasonable weather is expected to return early next week with temperatures in the high 30s and near 40s, he said. For some, it will feel downright balmy.

## Hard-line cleric says social media fed Iran protests, unrest

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A hard-line cleric leading Friday prayers in Iran's capital called on the Islamic Republic to build its own social media, blaming people taking advantage of the apps to fuel the unrest that followed days of protests over the country's flagging economy.

Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami's comments show the power the internet has wielded amid the demonstrations that began on Dec. 28 and quickly spread across the country.

With travel restricted across Iran, a nation of 80 million people roughly two-and-a-half times the size of Texas, online videos and images posted by activists have served as one of the few ways of seeing the demonstrations in a country where all radio and television stations are state-run.

However, such images represent only a moment in time and can be mischaracterized as well, which makes seeing what's going on that much more difficult.

"Cyberspace was kindling the fire of the battle," Khatami said. "When cyberspace was closed down, the sedition was stopped. The nation does not support a social network that has its key in the hands of the United States."

Amid the unrest and anti-government rallies that began last week, Iran has also seen three days of pro-government demonstrations, with crowds in the tens of thousands. A similar rally followed Friday prayers in Tehran.

On Thursday, Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said about 42,000 people at most took part in the week of anti-government protests, saying they went on as long as they did because of the "leniency, restraint, tolerance and interaction" of the government. He did not elaborate.

Fazli's comments marked the first government estimate of participation in the protests and appeared timed so authorities could contrast it against the mass crowds brought together for the pro-government demonstrations.

Amid the unrest, Iran blocked access to the messaging app Telegram, which protesters have used to share videos and plan their rallies. Estimates suggest the app has 42 million users in Iran alone and its disruption appears to have affected the protests.

The Trump administration has acknowledged looking at ways to help Iranian protesters access social media, but hasn't made any decisions on how to do so. Meanwhile, President Donald Trump himself has repeatedly tweeted praise for the protesters, infuriating Iranian officials.

Later Friday, an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council, called for by the United States, is expected to discuss the ongoing unrest.

With council members divided in their views of the demonstrations that have roiled the Islamic Republic, it's not yet clear how the discussion will take shape or what might come out of it.

At least 21 people have been killed in the unrest surrounding the protests, which began last week over rising food prices and Iran's flagging economy before spreading to cities across nearly all of Iran's provinces. Authorities have described the protests as waning.

Iran on Thursday directly blamed a CIA official for the protests. The Trump administration has denied having any hand in the protests, and the CIA declined to comment.

Khatami repeated those CIA accusations during his sermon to thousands in Tehran, saying Israel and Saudi Arabia backed the American efforts that used Iranian exile groups, like the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq.

State television reported on Friday that Iranian security forces arrested three suspected MEK members in the city of Boroujerd, some 300 kilometers (185 miles) southwest of Tehran. It said the team was involved in "many sabotage activities," in recent days, without elaborating.

The MEK did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Khatami called for internet apps to have their servers in Iran and the Iranian government to oversee their operations. He also said those who burn Iran's flag should face the death penalty.

Many in Iran learned of the flag burning at protests through online videos.

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Associated Press writer Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellap](http://www.twitter.com/jongambrellap) . His work can be found at <http://apne.ws/2galNpz> .

## 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. WHAT TRUMP HAD LAWYER DO

The president directed his White House counsel to tell Attorney General Jeff Sessions to not recuse himself from the Justice Department's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign, a source tells AP.

### 2. SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH ON KOREAN PENINSULA

Seoul and Pyongyang meeting face-to-face next week is a positive sign after last year's spiraling threats of nuclear war, but the Koreas have a long history of failing to move past their deep historical animosity.

### 3. ANOTHER REASON THEY'RE PROTESTING IN IRAN

Chants are going up against the military's involvement in Syria, as demonstrators say Tehran is sending its young men to fight and die in Syria and spending billions of dollars on the military.

### 4. EAST COAST RESIDENTS BRACE FOR DEEP FREEZE

Record-breaking cold air is forecast a day after a massive winter storm slammed the region with heavy snow, hurricane-force winds and coastal flooding.

### 5. INDEPENDENT EXPERTS DUBIOUS TO OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

They cite strong opposition — even from Republicans — to some ocean drilling and question whether oil companies will invest in expensive new projects when there are abundant reserves in shale on the U.S. mainland.

### 6. FEDERAL POT POLICY CHANGE SPARKS CONFUSION, CRACKDOWN FEARS

The buzz kill long dreaded in the marijuana industry came just days after California opened what is expected to be the world's largest legal pot market.

### 7. ISLAMIC PRAYER ACTIVISTS BRING NEW DAWN TO GAZA

Hamas-linked religious activists launch a new campaign in the Gaza Strip, bringing Islamic call to prayers to residents' doorstep.

### 8. HOW TO COMBAT HIGHER CABLE BILLS

You can threaten to ditch your cable company in hopes of getting a discount or cut the cord altogether and subscribe to online services like YouTube TV, DirecTV Now and Sling TV.

### 9. 'JEOPARDY' HOST HAS SURGERY FOR BLOOD CLOTS ON BRAIN

Alex Trebek, 77, assured fans in a Facebook video he'd be back reading clues to contestants soon.

### 10. SERENA WILLIAMS SKIPPING AUSTRALIAN OPEN

The 23-time major champion says she's not in top form and decided not to defend her title at Melbourne Park four months after giving birth to her first child.

## AP source: Trump had lawyer urge Sessions not to recuse self

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump directed his White House counsel to tell Attorney General Jeff Sessions to not recuse himself from the Justice Department's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The conversation between Don McGahn, the president's White House counsel, and Sessions took place on the president's orders and occurred just before the attorney general announced that he would step aside from the ongoing inquiry into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election, according to a person with knowledge of the interaction. Two other people confirmed details of the conversation between

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McGahn and Sessions.

All three people spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press to avoid publicly discussing an ongoing investigation.

The episode is known to special counsel Robert Mueller and his team of prosecutors and is likely of interest to them as they look into whether Trump's actions as president, including the May firing of FBI Director James Comey, amount to improper efforts to obstruct the Russia investigation. Investigators recently concluded a round of interviews with current and former White House officials, including McGahn and former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus.

The New York Times first reported that Trump had McGahn lobby Sessions against a recusal.

Reached Thursday evening, Trump personal attorney John Dowd said, "I know nothing about that," and hung up. Jay Sekulow, another of the president's personal lawyers, did not immediately respond to a phone message seeking comment.

The White House also did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Sessions announced on March 2 that he would recuse himself from the Russia probe. He said at the time that he should not oversee any investigation into a campaign for which he was an active and vocal supporter, though the recusal also followed the revelation that he had had two previously undisclosed interactions during the 2016 campaign with the Russian ambassador to the United States. At his Jan. 10 confirmation hearing, he had said he had no meetings with Russians.

But soon before the announcement, with White House officials anticipating that Sessions might be poised to step aside, McGahn spoke to Sessions by phone and urged him against recusing himself from the investigation.

During the conversation, according to people familiar with the matter, McGahn argued to Sessions that there was no reason or basis at that time for him to recuse. One person said McGahn also told him that recusal would do nothing to resolve concerns over whether Sessions had given a misleading answer at his confirmation hearing.

Sessions ultimately declined the urging, and McGahn ultimately accepted the conclusion of officials who believed that Sessions should recuse.

Sessions' recusal left Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein in charge of the Russia investigation. But once Trump fired Comey two months later, Rosenstein appointed Mueller, the former FBI director, to run the investigation and to report to him.

Four people, including Trump's former campaign chairman and national security adviser, have been charged so far in the investigation.

The Sessions recusal has been a sore spot for Trump for months, with the president publicly deriding the decision and lamenting his selection of the former Alabama senator as his attorney general.

In a July interview with The Times, Trump said, "Well, Sessions should have never recused himself, and if he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me before he took the job, and I would have picked somebody else."

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Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

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Associated Press writers Chad Day and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

## Let the Games begin? Why Kim Jong Un might be interested

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — With little time to spare, North and South Korea are preparing to hash out Kim Jong Un's offer to send a delegation to next month's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

Skeptics are calling the offer, floated by Kim during his annual televised New Year's address, a cynical tactic to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul, while optimists see it as a sign of hope that Kim has decided to dial back his defiance and come in from the cold.

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The answer probably lies somewhere in between.

But why, after a year marked by the test of his country's most powerful nuclear bomb to date and a record number of missile launches, is Kim starting off 2018 by proposing talks across the Demilitarized Zone?

## WHAT'S ON THE TABLE

Kim stressed in his speech that 2018 will be an important year for the Korean nation.

The North will be marking the 70th anniversary of its Sept. 9 founding and the South's hosting of the games, Kim said, "will serve as a good occasion for demonstrating our nation's prestige" and "we earnestly wish the Olympic Games a success."

To that end, he suggested Pyongyang send a delegation and "adopt other necessary measures." He presented all of it in a familiar framing — saying the Korean people must work together on their own toward reunification to "frustrate the schemes by anti-reunification forces within and without."

In North Korea-speak, that means anti-Pyongyang hardliners in the South and the United States and its allies.

Kim did not say what kind of a delegation he has in mind. But North Korea quickly restored a hotline with the South that had been cut off for two years to allow communications to resume. South Korean President Moon Jae-in applauded the gesture and the two sides are set to meet on Tuesday at the border village of Panmunjom for the time since December 2015.

## TAKING SEOUL'S TEMPERATURE

Just about the time the Olympics will be wrapping up and the Paralympics getting underway, tens of thousands of U.S. and South Korean troops would normally be staging the world's biggest annual war games.

This year, however, Moon convinced President Donald Trump to postpone them until everything is over.

The exercises feature the United States' most advanced weaponry and in recent years have included training for "decapitation" strikes on Kim himself. In his New Year's address, Kim pointedly referred to that, claiming the U.S. can't launch an attack "on me or our country" now that North Korea has a viable nuclear deterrent.

Kim would love to see the war games called off for good. Or at least scaled down.

With their postponement, he might believe Moon may be willing to go further down that path. And if Moon isn't, Kim can say he tried and use that as a justification for launching more missiles or space-bound rockets and maybe even trying another nuclear test later this year.

The bottom line: it never hurts to take Seoul's temperature every now and then.

Engaging directly with Seoul does, in fact, tend to complicate things for Washington. Sanctions, meanwhile, are taking their toll. Easing tensions would give Kim breathing room to boost the domestic economy.

One of his key projects — also mentioned in the New Year's speech — is developing tourism in the Wonsan-Kumgang area on North Korea's east coast. Kim already built a luxury ski resort there and doesn't want to see it go to waste. With Trump's North Korea travel ban now in effect, Pyongyang might be thinking of wooing tourists from the South.

Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, had some success with that idea from the late 1990s until 2008, when a South Korean housewife was shot dead for wandering into a restricted zone.

## UNUSUAL, BUT NOT UNPRECEDENTED

For sure, North and South Olympic rivalry runs deep.

The North boycotted the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul and instead hosted the World Festival of Youth and Students, a sort of socialist equivalent, the following year. The Koreas tried marching together under a "unification flag" in three Olympics, but that didn't stick. The blue-and-white flag last flew at the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

North Korea isn't a big Winter Olympics country to begin with. It has only sent teams to eight and won only two medals: a silver in 1964 and a bronze in 1992. Both were won by women, in speed skating and short track skating.

Still, it's not unprecedented for the North to send athletes to major competitions in the South.

Kim sent a full team to the Asian Games in Incheon in 2014 and dispatched three of his top lieutenants

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to attend the closing ceremony and meet with the South's unification minister. Whatever progress was made in those talks seems to have dissipated soon after the trio went home, however.

ANY CHANCES OF GOLD?

Well, not really.

It isn't entirely clear if Kim intends to send athletes to Pyeongchang or just officials.

There might still be some wiggle room, but only two athletes, pair skaters Ryom Tae Ok and Kim Ju Sik, are qualified to go. Skating to the Beatles' song "A Day in the Life" for their short program, the two won North Korea's first medal — a bronze — at the Asian Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan in February last year.

Nevertheless, Kim Jong Un likes sports.

Following the example of former Soviet bloc countries like East Germany, Kim has elevated the role of sports to a new level for North Korea, lavishing praise and rewards on medal-winning athletes while the official media catalogues each win in international competition as proof of the nation's ideological superiority and physical grit.

"Upon receiving the New Year Address made by respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, sportspersons in the DPRK are filled with firm determination to achieve fresh victory," its state-run news agency reported Tuesday, using the acronym for the North's official name.

The report went on: "It is the determination and will of all sports officials, players and coaches to produce more excellent results in international games this year."

Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter: @erictalmadge.

## Dow 25,000: Index keeps rolling with another milestone

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average burst through the 25,000 point mark Thursday, just five weeks after its first close above 24,000.

The Dow passed five 1,000-point barriers in 2017 on its way to a 25 percent gain for the year, as an eight-year rally since the Great Recession continued to confound skeptics.

Strong global economic growth and good prospects for higher company earnings have analysts predicting more gains, although the market may not stay as calm as it has been recently.

The Dow has made a rapid trip from 24,000 points on November 30, partly on enthusiasm over passage of the Republican-backed tax package, which could boost company profits this year with across-the-board cuts to corporate taxes.

"For a long while in 2017 I would say the biggest driver was excitement and anticipation over tax reform, but at a certain point I think there was a handover to global economic growth really helping to carry the stock market," said Invesco Chief Global Markets Strategist Kristina Hooper.

Big gains in U.S. blue chip companies have powered the Dow's relentless rise to new heights over the past year, including an 87 percent gain in aerospace giant Boeing, a 70 percent rise in construction equipment maker Caterpillar and a 49 percent increase in Apple.

The Dow, which was founded in 1896 and is the oldest barometer of the U.S. stock market, has nearly quadrupled in value from its low during the financial crisis in early 2009. But the global economy and spending by people and businesses and governments were much slower to recover than stocks were.

"Instead of fiscal stimulus, we relied on monetary policy stimulus, which inflates asset prices as opposed to the overall economy," Hooper said. Stocks have continued to climb as investors saw signs economic growth was finally improving.

Technology companies, which put up some of the biggest gains in the last year, continued to lead the market higher. And there was more good economic news Thursday: A report showed private U.S. businesses added 250,000 jobs last month, with smaller businesses adding 94,000.

The Dow, which tracks 30 big U.S. companies, rose 152.45 points, or 0.6 percent, to 25,075.13.

The Standard & Poor's 500, a much broader index that professional investors prefer to use as their

benchmark for large U.S. stocks, rose 10.93 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,723.99.

The Nasdaq composite, which is heavily weighted with technology and biotech companies, added 12.38 points, or 0.2 percent, to 7,077.91. All three indexes set record highs a day earlier.

The Nasdaq reached a milestone of its own this week, closing above 7,000 points for the first time Tuesday.

Indexes in some developing countries have done even better than those in Europe and the U.S. over the past year. Brazil's benchmark Bovespa is up 28 percent over the past year and the Hang Seng index in Hong Kong is up 39 percent.

Bond prices fell, sending yields higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.45 percent from 2.44 percent. Higher bond yields are good news for banks because they can charge higher interest rates on mortgages and other kinds of loans.

President Donald Trump said Thursday that the Dow could reach 30,000, which would take another 20-percent jump. Few on Wall Street expect stocks to climb that much any time soon. Stocks already did far better than most observers expected last year, and corporate earnings aren't rising fast enough to justify that kind of climb.

## Trump-Bannon feud lays bare new fissure in fractious GOP

By ZEKE MILLER and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The acrimony surrounding former White House adviser Steve Bannon's very public break with President Donald Trump escalated Thursday, suggesting a permanent split between the president and the pugilistic strategist who helped put him in the Oval Office.

The new fissure in an already fractious Republican Party cast doubt on Bannon's hopes to foment a movement centered on "Trumpism without Trump."

It already has cost him a key backer. Rebekah Mercer, the billionaire GOP donor and Breitbart co-owner, issued a statement Thursday distancing her family from Bannon.

"I support President Trump and the platform upon which he was elected," she said. "My family and I have not communicated with Steve Bannon in many months and have provided no financial support to his political agenda, nor do we support his recent actions and statements."

White House officials described the president as furious at Bannon's criticisms, laid out in an explosive new book that quoted the former aide as questioning Trump's competence and describing a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower between Donald Trump Jr., Trump campaign aides and a Russian lawyer as "treasonous" and "unpatriotic."

On Twitter Thursday night, Trump said the book was full of "lies, misrepresentations and sources that don't exist." He also came up with a new nickname for Bannon: "Sloppy Steve."

A parade of administration officials and allies worked to discredit Bannon as a disgruntled has-been. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders went so far as to suggest that Bannon ought to be booted from Breitbart, the populist website he helps run.

"I certainly think that it's something they should look at and consider," she said.

Bannon had helped Trump form a coalition of anti-establishment Republicans, blue-collar working class and economic nationalists that launched him to the White House, but Trump had long ago grown frustrated that Bannon seemed to be overstepping his role as a staffer.

The self-appointed keeper of Trump's nationalist flame during the president's first six months in office, Bannon had soured on the president even before he was pushed out of the White House for feeding the perception that he was Trump's puppeteer.

None of Bannon's close associates was willing to speak publicly about the fallout but privately conceded that the explosive comments may forever tarnish his brand. Bannon's political appeal had been deeply tied to the perception that he was an ally of Trump's. Those close to Bannon feared that the connection had been permanently severed.

Bannon was preparing to launch a nonprofit organization designed to help give Trump's brand of conservatism populism a permanent base. It's unclear how Bannon's new rift with the president, and the

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related impact on major donors, will affect the organization, dubbed Citizens of the American Republic.

Current and former White House officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations, said Bannon had miscalculated by attacking the president and his family. Much of Bannon's political clout, they argue, stemmed from the assumption that he was acting with the imprimatur of the president, even if Trump wasn't visibly in lockstep.

Some Trump allies also expressed satisfaction that Bannon appeared to be finally cast out of the president's inner circle.

"Bannon has no contingent," former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Wednesday between media interviews to defend Trump. On Thursday, Gingrich echoed Trump's charge that Bannon had "lost his mind."

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a longtime punching bag for Bannon, reveled in the aide's break with the president. "I'd like to associate myself with what the president had to say about Steve Bannon yesterday," he said mischievously Thursday.

Since leaving the White House, Bannon spent much of his time courting donors to help finance his self-declared war on the Republican establishment. He vowed to find Republican challengers for virtually every GOP senator seeking election this fall, chiefly for the purpose of electing candidates who would remove McConnell as majority leader.

Bannon publicly backed conservative challengers in Arizona, Nevada, Wisconsin, Mississippi and New York, where House challenger Michael Grimm issued a statement denouncing the ex-adviser's comments as "baseless attacks" that were "beyond disturbing."

Others who have received boosts from Bannon, including Arizona Senate candidate Kelli Ward and potential Mississippi Senate challenger Chris McDaniel, were more circumspect, wary of alienating either faction of the party's insurgent grassroots.

Bannon's political standing was already weakened after he went all-out last month to support failed Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore despite multiple allegations of sexual misconduct against Moore.

Doubling down on Moore left Bannon politically "incapacitated," said Steven Law, president and CEO of the super PAC led by McConnell.

"The only concern left was whether the president might give Bannon a temporary lease on life," he said. "But this repudiation was so methodical and so absolute that it really slams the door on that."

White House aides have tried to look past other loaded comments from Bannon in recent months while seeking to marshal his political following on the president's behalf.

But they warned Bannon's allies over the last 24 hours that Trump would likely never take his calls again. However, there are few absolutes in Trump's orbit, White House aides acknowledge, and he has been known to bury the hatchet with those he perceived to have wronged him.

Some Trump allies even encouraged him to welcome Bannon back into his good graces.

"You can either excise him or shun him, which I don't think is the best recommended strategy, or tell him to knock it off and bring himself back into the fold," Anthony Scaramucci, the former White House communications director, said on MSNBC.

Trump coolly noted Thursday that his full-throated counterassault appeared to have its desired effect on Bannon.

"He called me a great man last night," Trump said, referring to Bannon's radio show appearance. "He obviously changed his tune pretty quick."

Michael Wolff's book, "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House," quickly shot atop Amazon's best-seller list, and the publisher moved up its release date by four days, to Friday.

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Associated Press writers Scott Bauer in Madison, Wis., Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa, and Nicholas Riccardi in Denver contributed to this report.

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## In small breakthrough, Koreas will meet for talks on Tuesday

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The rival Koreas will sit down for their first formal talks in more than two years next week to find ways to cooperate on the Winter Olympics in the South and to improve their abysmal ties, Seoul officials said Friday. While a positive sign after last year's threats of nuclear war, the Koreas have a long history of failing to move past their deep animosity.

The announcement came hours after the United States said it will delay annual military exercises with South Korea until after the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, next month. The exercises infuriate North Korea, which claims they are an invasion rehearsal, although South Korea and the United States have repeatedly said they are defensive in nature.

On Friday morning, North Korea sent a message saying it would accept South Korea's offer to meet at the border village of Panmunjom next Tuesday to discuss Olympic cooperation and how to improve overall ties, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles North Korean matters. Panmunjom is where a North Korean soldier dashed across the border into the South in November. He is recovering after being shot five times by his former comrades.

Unification Ministry spokesman Baik Tae-hyun said he expects the two Koreas will use a recently restored cross-border communication channel to try to determine who will head their respective delegations next week.

Any dialogue between the Koreas is seen as a positive step. But critics say the North's abrupt push to improve ties may be a tactic to divide Seoul and Washington and weaken international pressure and sanctions on Pyongyang.

In his New Year's address Monday, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said he was willing to send a delegation to the Winter Olympics but he also said he has a "nuclear button" on his desk to fire atomic weapons at the United States. President Donald Trump quickly responded that he had a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" of his own.

Past breakthroughs to ease Korean tensions have often ended with renewed animosities. It's likely the North will refrain from provocations during the Games. But tensions could return afterward because the North has no intention of abandoning its weapons programs and the United States will not ease its pressure on the country, analysts say.

The Trump government on Thursday said its springtime military drills with South Korea will be held from March 8-18 following the Feb. 9-25 Olympic Games. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis insisted the delay was a practical necessity to accommodate the Olympics, not a political gesture.

The White House said Trump approved the postponement in consultation with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who said he suggested the drills' delay to the United States.

Moon, a liberal, has been pushing to improve strained ties and restore stalled cooperation projects with North Korea since his inauguration in May, though he joined U.S.-led international efforts to apply more pressure and sanctions on the North.

Moon's government wants North Korea to take part in the Winter Olympics. But North Korea is not strong in winter sports and none of its athletes have been qualified to compete in the Games. It needs to acquire additional quotas by the International Olympic Committee to come to South Korea. Baik said North Korea is expected to hold talks with IOC officials next week.

The Trump administration has said all options are on the table to end the North Korean nuclear standoff, including military measures, but Moon has repeatedly said there cannot be another war on the Korean Peninsula. Critics say these differences may have led Kim to think he can drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington as a way to weaken international pressure on the country.

The United States stations about 30,000 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War that ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. North Korea has cited the U.S. military presence and its regular drills with South Korea as proof of American hostility that compels it to pursue nuclear weapons.

Last year, North Korea carried out its sixth and most powerful nuclear test and test-launched three intercontinental ballistic missiles as part of its push to possess functioning nuclear missiles capable of striking

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the U.S. mainland. The repeated weapons tests earned the North toughened U.N. sanctions, and Kim and Trump exchanged threats of nuclear war and crude personal insults.

## Blizzard rolls up the East Coast, with cold blast to follow

By PHILIP MARCELO and DAVE COLLINS, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A massive winter storm roared into the East Coast on Thursday, dumping as much as 17 inches of snow in some areas and unleashing hurricane-force winds and historic flooding that closed schools and offices and halted transportation from the Carolinas to Maine.

Forecasters expected the storm to be followed immediately by a blast of face-stinging cold that could break records in more than two dozen cities and bring wind chills as low as minus 40 degrees this weekend.

Blizzard warnings and states of emergency were in wide effect, and wind gusts hit more than 70 mph (113 kph) in places. In parts of New England, snow fell as fast as 3 inches per hour.

Four people were killed in North and South Carolina after their vehicles ran off snow-covered roads, authorities said. Another fatality was reported near Philadelphia when a car could not stop at the bottom of a steep, snow-covered hill and slammed into a commuter train. A passenger in the vehicle was killed. No one on the train was hurt.

In New Jersey, Orlando Igmtat's car got stuck in a snowbank along the Garden State Parkway in Tinton Falls as he drove to work at Verizon. He waited a half hour for a tow truck to pull him out.

"I didn't expect it (the storm) was going to be a heavy one. That's why I went to work today. I'm going to stay in a hotel tonight," he said.

More than 100,000 homes and businesses lost power at some point Thursday. While many outages were restored by the day's end, officials from the mid-Atlantic to New England warned that those numbers might climb again as strong wind gusts and frigid temperatures continue through Saturday.

In New England, the powerful winds brought coastal flooding that reached historic levels in areas. The frigid waters overwhelmed fishing piers, streets and restaurants, and stranded people in homes and cars, prompting dozens of evacuations and rescues.

In Portland, Maine, the high tide nearly matched the 14.17-foot reported during the infamous Blizzard of 1978 that walloped the Northeast.

In Boston, icy harbor waters poured into downtown streets near popular tourist and business areas. The National Weather Service said the waters reached "within a few tenths of an inch" of record levels and local officials across coastal Massachusetts braced for further tidal surges.

"We saw the water going over the sea wall, which was really scary," said Boston resident Sonia Calderon. "I don't know what kind of damage that's going to cause, but it's a little scary just to think about it."

Mayor Marty Walsh said some of the areas hadn't seen flooding in 30 years. "If anyone wants to question global warming, just see where the flood zones are," the Democrat remarked.

Schools, businesses and ferry services in parts of the Canadian coast were also shut down. Nova Scotia Power said it had more than 1,000 people at the ready in its biggest-ever pre-storm mobilization of personnel and resources.

The flight-tracking site FlightAware reported more than 5,000 canceled flights across the United States. Those included more than two-thirds of flights in and out of New York City and Boston airports.

Rail service was affected too. Amtrak operated a modified schedule between New York and Boston. Northeast Regional Service between Washington, D.C., and Newport News/Norfolk, Virginia, was canceled.

Some people took the weather in stride.

Mark Schoenenberger, a 45-year-old NASA engineer who lives in Norfolk, Virginia, put on his cross country skis so he could make a half hour trip to the bagel shop for some breakfast for his family.

"It's like 'Yay, I get to go out,'" he said.

The only concern he seemed to have was telecommuting while his kids were home from school. But "it's just noise," he said.

Waiting just behind the storm was a wave of bracing cold.

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The National Weather Service said record low temperatures were predicted for 28 major cities across the northeast by dawn Sunday.

Boston expected a low around minus 11 overnight Saturday into Sunday. Portland, Maine, and Burlington, Vermont, could see minus 16 and 19, respectively, the weather service said.

The massive storm began two days ago in the Gulf of Mexico and first struck the Florida Panhandle.

Some meteorologists described it as a "bomb cyclone," a term that comes from the process of bombogenesis, when the barometric pressure drops steeply in a short period.

As the storm wound its way through the Deep South early Thursday, it brought plummeting temperatures that caused highway closures in South Carolina and water main breaks in Mississippi.

Mississippi's largest city, Jackson, was put under a precautionary boil-water notice and portable toilets were placed outside the state Capitol because some of the toilets would not flush.

In Florida, it was so cold iguanas fell from their tree perches in suburban Miami. The reptiles became immobile when temperatures dipped below 40 degrees Fahrenheit (5 degrees Celsius).

As the storm rumbled through New England Thursday afternoon, Marcus Slaga hunkered down at a hotel bar in Boston's partly flooded Seaport District. The 44-year-old sushi chef said his morning flight to Austin, Texas, was among the many canceled.

"I was hoping to wear shorts by this weekend," Slaga laughed. "Now, I'm stuck here for a couple of more days."

Collins and Susan Haigh reported from Connecticut. Associated Press writers Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia, Martha Waggoner in Raleigh, North Carolina, Michelle R. Smith in Providence, Rhode Island, Michael Casey, Rodrique Ngowi and Mark Pratt in Boston, Anthony Izaguirre in Philadelphia, Frank Eltman in Farmingdale, New York, and Julio Cortez in Tinton Falls, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

## Ex-New Jersey Gov. Byrne, too ethical for mobsters, dies

By **BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI, Associated Press**

Former two-term Gov. Brendan Byrne, who mobsters said was too ethical to be bribed and who authorized the law permitting gambling in Atlantic City, has died at age 93.

Byrne, a Democrat, died Thursday at a home in Livingston, his son Tom Byrne said. He suffered an infection that went into his lungs and "was too weak to fight," the son said.

Byrne built his reputation as a crusading prosecutor and held numerous governmental positions during more than 30 years of public service. He also signed New Jersey's first income tax into law and authorized the law permitting gambling in Atlantic City during his two terms as the state's chief executive.

He won his first term as governor in 1973, beating Republican state Rep. Charles W. Sandman Jr. by more than 700,000 votes. His campaign was helped by an FBI surveillance tape that showed mobsters discussing how Byrne, the Essex County prosecutor in the 1960s, was too ethical to be bribed.

In a New York Post headline, Byrne was proclaimed "The Man the Mob Couldn't Buy." That slogan ended up on bumper stickers that reminded voters in the Watergate era that not all politicians were unscrupulous.

Fellow politicians on Thursday remembered Byrne for his honesty and integrity.

Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, said Byrne had "an extraordinary career of public service" and did his job "with integrity, honesty, intelligence, wit and flair." State Senate President Steve Sweeney, a Democrat, said New Jersey had lost one of its "most politically courageous public leaders."

After taking office, Byrne began to tackle the contentious issue of how to finance the state's public education system after a 1973 state Supreme Court decision declaring that the state's method of funding public education through local property taxes, along with state and federal aid, violated a clause in the state Constitution guaranteeing a "thorough and efficient" education.

Byrne proposed the income tax to satisfy the court's order, but the idea was unpopular with residents and lawmakers and was not approved by the Legislature until July 1976, after the court ordered all public schools closed until a new funding source was in place.

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Despite the controversy over the income tax, Byrne easily won re-election in 1977, beating GOP state Sen. Raymond H. Bateman by nearly 300,000 votes.

During his first term, Byrne signed legislation creating the state Department of the Public Advocate and the state Department of Energy.

In 1976, he authorized a referendum that led to the approval of legalized gambling in Atlantic City, a once-popular resort area that had fallen on hard times by the early 1970s. Money earned through the casinos has since been used to revitalize parts of the city and rebuild neighborhoods and for other projects across the state.

Long after Byrne left office, he continued to be an active voice and weighed in on several issues, including gubernatorial elections and matters involving Rutgers University.

Byrne was back in the news in February 2010, when a man on a London street punched him in the face. Byrne, then 85, suffered facial cuts and soreness but declined hospital treatment afterward.

In February 2015, Byrne and three other former New Jersey governors urged the state Senate to delay a vote on Christie's nominee for a panel overseeing a massive pine reserve. The bipartisan group of ex-governors claimed the nomination would "undermine the independence" of the commission, but the senate approved the nominee for the job.

Byrne, who was born in West Orange, attended Seton Hall University for a year before enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1943. He served as a pilot for two years, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and other honors before returning to New Jersey and entering Princeton University, where he graduated in 1949.

Byrne then enrolled at Harvard Law School, earning his degree in 1951 and entering private practice. Gov. Robert B. Meyner, also a Democrat, named Byrne an assistant counsel in 1955, and a year later Byrne became Meyner's executive secretary.

In 1959, Byrne was appointed Essex County prosecutor, a post he held for nine years. After serving a two-year stint as president of the state's Board of Public Utilities, he was appointed state Superior Court judge in 1970 and became assignment judge for Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. He resigned that post in 1973 after announcing that he would run for governor.

After leaving office in 1982, he became a senior partner at a law firm in Roseland.

## Asian stocks up as Dow breaks record, Koreans agree to talk

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were moderately higher on Friday after the Dow Jones finished above 25,000 for the first time overnight and North and South Korea agreed to hold talks in a sign of easing animosities. Investors' focus was on the upcoming U.S. jobs reports.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.2 percent to 23,547.78 and South Korea's Kospi gained 0.7 percent to 2,485.32. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index inched up 0.1 percent to 30,748.07 while China's Shanghai Composite Index added 0.2 percent to 3,391.52. Australia's S&P/ASX advanced 0.6 percent to 6,115.90. In Southeast Asia, stocks were mostly higher.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Global growth is currently the dominant theme for equity markets," Rick Spooner, chief market analyst at CMC Markets, said in a daily commentary. "If the latest U.S. employment data beats expectations, it could validate this theme and lend weight to the stock market rally."

US JOBS: The U.S. government is due to release its December jobs report later in the day. Analysts forecast that American employers added 195,000 jobs and the unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent. Earlier Thursday, a report showed private U.S. businesses added 250,000 jobs last month, with smaller businesses adding 94,000.

KOREAS: On Friday, the rival Koreas agreed to hold their first official dialogue in more than two years next week to find ways to cooperate on the upcoming Winter Olympics in the South. Earlier, the United States and South Korea have agreed to delay annual joint military exercises until after the Winter Olympics.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock markets finished higher on Thursday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose

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0.6 percent to finish at 25,075.13. The Standard & Poor's 500 gained 0.4 percent to 2,723.99. The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite added 0.2 percent to 7,077.91.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 8 cents to \$61.93 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 38 cents to close at \$62.01 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 7 cents to \$68.00 per barrel in London. On Thursday, it rose 23 cents to \$68.07 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 112.83 yen from 112.76 yen. The euro climbed to \$1.2074 from \$1.2068.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2018. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1953, Samuel Beckett's two-act tragicomedy "Waiting for Godot," considered a classic of the Theater of the Absurd, premiered in Paris.

On this date:

In 1066, Edward the Confessor, King of England, died after a reign of nearly 24 years.

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Virginia.

In 1895, French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)

In 1905, the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals was incorporated in New York State.

In 1925, Democrat Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming took office as America's first female governor, succeeding her late husband, William, following a special election.

In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Massachusetts, at age 60. Construction began on the Golden Gate Bridge. (Work was completed four years later.)

In 1943, educator and scientist George Washington Carver died in Tuskegee, Alabama, at about age 80.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed assistance to countries to help them resist Communist aggression in what became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

In 1964, during a visit to the Holy Land, Pope Paul VI met with Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople in Jerusalem.

In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pennsylvania, home. (UMWA President Tony Boyle and seven others were convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, the killings.) "All My Children" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating Elizabeth Dole to succeed Drew Lewis as secretary of transportation; Dole became the first woman to head a Cabinet department in Reagan's administration, and the first to head the DOT.

In 1998, Sonny Bono, the 1960s pop star-turned-politician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing at the Heavenly Ski Resort on the Nevada-California state line; he was 62.

Ten years ago: Republican Mitt Romney won the Wyoming caucuses, picking up eight delegates; in a debate three days before the New Hampshire primary, Romney clashed with Mike Huckabee on foreign policy and John McCain on immigration. In a Democratic faceoff, Hillary Rodham Clinton accused campaign rival Barack Obama of changing his positions on health care and "a number of issues"; Obama replied that he'd been "entirely consistent" in his position. New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady won The Associated Press 2007 NFL MVP award.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama hailed a last-minute deal with Congress that pulled the country back from the "fiscal cliff," but warned in his Saturday radio and Internet address that he would not compromise over his insistence that lawmakers lift the federal debt ceiling.

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump, in a series of tweets, urged Republicans and Democrats to

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"get together" to design a replacement for President Barack Obama's health care law. Four black people in Chicago were charged with hate crimes in connection with a video broadcast live on Facebook that showed a mentally disabled white man being tortured. Friends and family members gathered at the next-door homes of Debbie Reynolds and daughter Carrie Fisher in the Hollywood Hills for an intimate memorial to mourn the late actresses.

Today's Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 90. Actor Robert Duvall is 87. Juan Carlos, former King of Spain, is 80. Singer-musician Athol Guy (The Seekers) is 78. Former talk show host Charlie Rose is 76. Actress-director Diane Keaton is 72. Actor Ted Lange (lanj) is 70. Rhythm-and-blues musician George "Funky" Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 69. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 68. Former CIA Director George Tenet is 65. Actress Pamela Sue Martin is 65. Actor Clancy Brown is 59. Singer Iris Dement is 57. Actress Suzy Amis is 56. Actor Ricky Paull (correct) Goldin is 53. Actor Vinnie Jones is 53. Rock musician Kate Schellenbach (Luscious Jackson) is 52. Actor Joe Flanigan is 51. Dancer-choreographer Carrie Ann Inaba is 50. Rock musician Troy Van Leeuwen (Queens of the Stone Age) is 50. Actress Heather Paige Kent is 49. Rock singer Marilyn Manson is 49. Actor Shea Whigham is 49. Actor Derek Cecil is 45. Actress-comedian Jessica Chaffin is 44. Actor Bradley Cooper is 43. Actress January Jones is 40. Actress Brooklyn Sudano is 37. Actor Franz Drameh is 25.

Thought for Today: "Wisdom is divided into two parts: (a) having a great deal to say, and (b) not saying it." — Author unknown.

**Riddle Answer: It was a body in a coffin with the bearers.**