

Groton Daily Independent

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A Riddle

I'm a word that's hardly there. Take away my start, and I'm an herbal flair.

What am I?

(answer at the end of the AP News)

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Midwest Masonry Ad
- 1- SunDial Help Wanted Ad
- 1- A Riddle
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 2- GBB action from last night
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Notice of Special Meeting
- 3- Olde Bank is closing
- 4- City Council Meeting Minutes
- 4- Silver Skates Ad
- 6- Game, Fish and Parks Unveils New Website
- 7- SDDP Executive Director Responds to State of the State Address
- 8- South Dakota Farm Family Enjoys 4-H Tradition Together
- 10-11- Arctic Air Returning
- 12- Today in Weather History
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- 14- Today's Weather Info
- 14- National Weather Map
- 15- Daily Devotional
- 16- 2018 Community Events
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Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**



Job Opening

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

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

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Jennie Doeden sneaks past Waubay-Summit's Kelsey Pearson. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Harleigh Stange is being guarded by Zoey Wohlleber. Waubay-Summit defeated Groton Area in girls' basketball action Tuesday night. See related story on next page. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

☆☆☆ \$1,500 for CNAs ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ \$3,000 for LPNs ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ \$4,500 for RNs ☆☆☆

Alzheimer's Care Unit Director Medication Aid

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



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Groton City Council will be meeting in special session on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Community Center. The purpose of this meeting is for Executive Session – Personnel – 1-25-2 (3).

Gun Show

GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association 16th Annual ABERDEEN Gun Show. New location. Saturday, February 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, February 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dakota Event Center on LaMont East. Roger Krumm 701-851-0129. (...0203)

Olde Bank Floral & More is Closing

The Olde Bank Floral & More, located in downtown Groton, will be closing its doors. Kellie Townsend, owner, posted on their official Facebook page yesterday, "With sad and heavy hearts - we are announcing that Olde Bank Floral will be closing."

Mustangs run past Tigers

Waubay-Summit is now 8-0 on the season after posting a 52-37 non-conference win over the Groton Area Tigers. The game was played Tuesday evening at the Groton Area Arena.

The Mustangs led at the quarterstops at 14-10, 22-19 and 35-31. Groton Area had several opportunities to take the lead, but just as quickly, the Mustangs would pull away.

Jennie Doeden led the Tigers with 13 points followed by Miranda Hanson with 10, Eliza Wanner had five, Harleigh Stange four, Payton Maine three and Jessica Bjerke two.

Bjerke had nine of the team's 30 rebounds, Hanson had three of the team's seven steals, Doeden had six of the team's 11 assists, the Tigers had 14 turnovers and 13 fouls. Groton Area made 12 of 29 field goals, three of 16 three-pointers and one of three free throws.

Eighth grader Zoey Wohlleber led the Mustangs with seven three-pointers for 21 points. Kelsey Pearson added 15, Makayln Zirbel had 10, Emily Ollerich had four and Sammy Swanson added two points.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 33-30. Kaycie Hawkins led the Tigers with 10 points followed by Eliza Wanner with eight, Nicole Marzahn six, Kenzie McInerney five and Tady Glover and Sam Geffre each had two points.



All auto owners!

Save \$2-\$4 /tank

& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon

Super Premium E30's

94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower

maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;

*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices/locations.

***Farmers Union's**

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

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Groton City Jan. 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2018

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 pm at the Community Center for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Opp, Blackmun, McGannon, Peterson, Glover and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Finance Officer Hope Block, Attorney Drew Johnson, Kathy Sundermeyer, Terry Herron, Dwight Zerr, and Shawn Lambertz.

The minutes were approved as read on a motion by Blackmun, and seconded by Glover. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by McGannon to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

Payroll, \$21,896.69, Employee salaries; Executive, \$567.61, ; Administrative, \$3,452.69, ; Public Safety, \$8,257.31, ; Public Works, \$9,619.08, ; First State Bank, \$8,705.05, SS and WH ; April Ablen, \$102.01, Dep flex; AFLAC, \$356.62, Employee insurance; American Leagion, \$700.00, Employee xmas party rental and food; Ameripride, \$72.92, Rug rent; Beulah Hoops, \$200.00, HWH rebate Heartland; Car Quest, \$36.68, Lube, oil filters; City of Groton, \$225.23, Xmas lite winners, postage; Colonial Life, \$320.78, Employee insurance; Dwight Zerr, \$54.16, Med flex; EMC, \$91.21, Employee life insurance; Gene Loeschke, \$200.00, HWH rebate Heartland; Guardian Insuarance, \$258.53, Employee insurance; Hope Block, \$93.00, Med flex; JGE, \$718.45, Wire brush for skid loader; MACs, \$36.53, Neoprene, cable ties; Metering & Technology Soln, \$494.04, Meter supplies for Elem School; NW Energy, \$10.00, Natural gas; Pipe Masters, \$14,604.10, Sewer line cleaning, lift station cleaning; Runnings, \$129.97, Waterproof gloves, grinder blade switch; S&S Lumber, \$211.34, Gloves, tool basket, gift cert, primer, paint, brushes, 2 linear delta transmitters; SD Assoc of Rural Water, \$575.00, Dues 2018; SD Dept of Env & Nat Res, \$1,500.00, Discharge WW fee; SD Dept of Health, \$258.00, Water testing; SD Municipal Electric Assoc, \$1,123.00, Dues 2018; SD Municipal League, \$1,350.47, Dues 2018; SD Police Chiefs Assoc, \$97.04, Dues 2018; SD Retailers Assoc, \$150.00, Dues 2018; SD Retirement , \$10,802.79, Employee retirement; SD State Treasurer, \$8,753.15, November sales tax; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$530.00, Employee retirement; Shawn Lambertz, \$288.00, HWH rebate Heartland & med flex; Tactical Solutions, \$4,945.00, Speed trailer; Uline, \$1,629.00, 3 bike racks; US Postal Service, \$225.00, Presorted prices fee; Verizon Wireless, \$42.61, Dump cam comm; Web Water, \$11,453.97, 2,713,600 gal; Weber Landscaping, \$14,348.06, Cemetery tree project; Wellmark, \$14,122.11, Employee health insurance; Wellmark, \$12,706.60, Employee health insurance; Groton Independent, \$42.10,



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

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

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

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

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Minutes and ordinance; Dan Richards, \$100.00, Santa at PMS; Drew Johnson, \$925.00, Legal fees 12/17; Vickie Schulkoski, \$112.35, Mileage - Banyon training; SD Dept of Env & Nat Res, \$36.00, Certifications; NECOG, \$1,584.93, Dues 2018; Heartland, \$87,061.78, Power 12/17; WAPA, \$25,781.72, Power 12/17; A&B Business Solutions, \$162.05, Copier Rent; Full Circle Ag, \$940.70, Dsl 115 gal; Groton Vet Clinic, \$9.90, Nitrile gloves.

Herron and Zerr reported doing some snow removal, working on the ice rink, cleaning the community center, getting mower quotes, fixing some meters that had froze up, working on the lift stations and getting ready for spring. Herron and Zerr left the meeting after their reports.

Lambertz reports doing house checks for load management, and presented a list of equipment that needs to be replaced or repaired. He also discussed the agreement with NorthWestern Energy that will soon be filed.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Glover to send Lambertz to the Superintendent & foreman conference in Watertown from March 6-7. All members present voted aye.

Lambertz left the meeting at this point.

Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to recognize the following volunteers and employees and thank them for their service. All members present voted aye.

Baseball volunteers: Lars Hanson, Matt Locke, Tasha Dunker, Steve Giedt, Travis Antonson, Brenda Waage, David Blackmun, Mitchell Locke, Bary Keith, Jerry Locke, Jarod Fliehs, Doug Hamilton, Joe Foertsch and Steve Diegel;

Planning and Zoning Commission members @ \$25/meeting or \$50/special meeting: Les Hinds, Gordon Nelson, Jeff Steen, and Chris Khali;

Elected Officials: Mayor Scott Hanlon @ \$625/mon; Council Members: David McGannon, David Blackmun, Ed Opp, Karyn Babcock, Jay Peterson, and Burt Glover @ \$3,000/year;

City Employees: Hope Block, Finance Officer @ \$22.50/hr; Peggy Locke, Deputy Finance Officer @ 21.22/hr; April Abeln, Assistant Finance Officer & Police Secretary @ 20.79/hr;

Stacy Mayou, Police Chief @ 5054.14/mon; Jerry Bjerke, Asst Chief @ 4551.82/mon; Justin Cleveland, Police Officer Level 1 @ 4384.38/mon; David Hunter, Police Officer Level 2 @ 3889.34/mon;

Terry Herron, Public Works Coordinator & Street & Water Supt @ 28.35/hr; Dwight Zerr, Wastewater Supt @ 25.14/hr; Shawn Lambertz, Electric Supt @ 36.95/hr; Dan Sunne, Electric Lineman @ 31.85/hr; Branden Abeln, Asst Street Supt @ 23.21/hr; Paul Kosel, Technology Specialist @ 24.55/hr;

Hannah Lewandowski, Warming House Manager @ \$9.25/hr + \$250/mon; and Erin Unzen, Tanae Lipp, Lee Iverson, Dragr Monson, Alexis Hanten, Anthony Schinkel, Jasmine Schinkel, Taylor Holm and Kellie Jones, Warming House Attendants @ \$8.65/hr.

Mayor Hanlon appointed Cody Lindgren as a Planning and Zoning Commission member with a term expiring January 2021.

Hanlon also reappointed Jeff Steen as the secretary of the Planning and Zoning Commission with a new term expiring January 2023.

Council announced the April 10th election date with two-year terms expiring:

Dave Blackmun

Dave McGannon

Burt Glover

Moved by Peterson and seconded by Glover to allow Hanlon to sign the 2018 South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance agreement. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Opp and seconded by Peterson to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:35 pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:20pm.

Moved by Opp and seconded by Glover to announce a special meeting January 10, 2018 at 7:00pm. All members present voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Hope Block, Finance Officer

Game, Fish and Parks Unveils New Website

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is inviting visitors to explore its new website at <https://gfp.sd.gov/>.

“The new website has been designed to provide the ultimate user-friendly experience with improved navigation and functionality throughout; connecting hunters, anglers, campers and other outdoor enthusiasts with their next outdoor experience and ensuring they have the most accurate digital content to do so,” said Calley Worth, GFP digital content strategist. “The website was created with the user experience firmly in mind using the latest technology compatible with today’s browsers and mobile devices.”

Extensive research through customer surveys, online feedback, one-on-one focus group conversations as well as trends and analytics provided information on how to structurally design and format content.

Key features include:

- Enhanced events calendar with state park events, season dates, application openings, fishing tournaments, open house meetings and more;

- A complete list of forms and permits with more than half of the previous paper versions being replaced by online versions;

- A central location for all maps;

- Specific visitor feedback from each park; and

- Frequently asked questions.

In addition, a new mobile app will also launch later this month that features a digital backpack so users can customize it with favorite maps, licenses and handbooks. The app will provide the ability to view maps offline if the user is in an area with little to no cell phone service. Residents and nonresidents will be able to sign up for notifications regarding hunting season start and end dates and application opening and closing dates. Users need to know that this new mobile app is designed for Android systems 6 and up and iOS systems 10 and up and that they may need to update their software if the app does not download to this new version.

Learn more about the new website and when the official mobile app will be unveiled by following us on Facebook or on Twitter at @SDGameFishParks.

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SDDP Executive Director Responds to State of the State Address

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Democratic Party released the following statement from Executive Director Sam Parkinson in response to today's State of the State Address by Governor Dennis Daugaard: "40 years of one-party rule has led to one budget shortfall after another, a state government plagued by scandal and which regularly overturns the expressed will of the voters, a state educational system falling behind our neighbors, and a state economy where working families are struggling to get ahead. South Dakotans deserve better leadership than they have received from the Republican establishment in Pierre. South Dakota Democrats are fighting for a state government and a state economy that works for everyone, not those at the top, like the powerful and well-connected special interests who have way too much power in Pierre. It's time for a change in leadership; this November, South Dakotans will remember who is fighting for them and who is fighting for the special interests."

Here's a look at how the Republican leadership in Pierre has failed the people of South Dakota:

Working families are having to work harder to make ends meet, and many are falling behind.

SD is top in the nation in multiple-jobholding rates, according to most recent estimates available – We're at 9.1% and the national average is 4.9%

We rank second in the nation in the percentage of our families where both spouses are in the workforce – We're at 61.7% and the national average is 51.2%.

We're 42nd in the nation for median earnings for men and 41st for women, and women in South Dakota earn about \$10,000 less than men on average.

We have the 7th highest percentage of our elderly population below the poverty level.

We have an infant mortality rate higher than the national average.

South Dakota has the largest employment gap between American Indians and Whites in the nation.

In 2016, the employment rate of White adults in South Dakota was 35.2 percentage points higher than for American Indian adults.

South Dakota ranked 49th in the nation for proportion of American Indian adults working at just 45.2% in 2016. By comparison, 80.4% of White adults were at work—the second highest proportion in the nation.

State government isn't working as it should.

There's a profound lack of accountability, and the state isn't making the smart investments to support an innovative and dynamic economy.

SD has been ranked 3rd-most corrupt state in the nation.

SD has been named one of the 10 least innovative states in the nation by Forbes.

Under our current system of politics as usual, our economy is sputtering.

Our low unemployment rate (3 %) can't overcome other fundamental weaknesses:

South Dakota's economy shrank 0.3% from Quarter 1 to Quarter 2 in 2017. Iowa was the only other state with a negative GDP (-0.7%) in Q2 of 2017.

South Dakota's economy has now shrunk in three (3) consecutive quarters (-2.9 in Q4 of 2016, -5.9 in Q1 of 2017, and -0.3 in Q2 of 2017).

Since 2011, Gov. Daugaard's first year in office, through 2016, SD's per capita GDP growth has been 0.2% (an average of 0.04% a year).

During that period the overall per capita GDP growth in the United States has been 6% - 30 times faster than South Dakota's.

The only neighboring state which has underperformed South Dakota during this period is Wyoming.

In 2016, South Dakota's per capita personal income grew just 0.4%, below the national average of 2.5% in metro areas and 1.0% non-metro areas.

Per capita personal income fell in 45 South Dakota counties in 2016 and rose in only 21 counties.

South Dakota Farm Family Enjoys 4-H Tradition Together

By Lura Roti for SDSU Extension/iGrow.org

World Dairy Expo 1985 opened Mike Frey's mind up to the dairy industry beyond South Dakota's borders. A 14-year-old member of the state 4-H Dairy Judging Team, Mike returned to his family's Claremont dairy farm with a clear vision for his future career.

"That experience really propelled me. I knew I wanted to return to our dairy farm," explains Mike, who together with his parents, Kenneth and Janet, and his wife, Sara, milks 200-head of cows and raises corn, soybeans and alfalfa.

Expanding youth's knowledge of the world around them is just one reason Mike remained actively involved in 4-H. Even before he and Sara became parents, 26 years ago Mike signed up to lead the Friendly Fellows/ Daisies 4-H Club - the club he grew up in.

"I just love volunteering. It makes me feel good when I can see kids benefiting from some of the same experiences I took part in as a kid. And, knowing that as a leader I have a small part in helping them - not just my own kids, but other peoples' kids too," Mike says. "Young people are our future. I feel it's important to do my part to lead them in the right direction."

His wife, Sara agrees. "4-H is really something that helps kids become more well-rounded adults," she says.

Sara is also a 4-H alumna. In fact, the couple met showing 4-H dairy cattle together at the State Fair. They reconnected in college.

"I joke that my pick up line was, 'don't I know you from showing cattle at the State Fair,'" Mike shares.

Today, in addition to showing and judging dairy cattle like their parents, Mike and Sara's high school-age sons, Dylan and Colin also compete in 4-H public speaking, static exhibits and have served as club officers.

"I've gained a lot of responsibility," explains Dylan, a senior in high school. "Getting an animal ready for the fair takes a lot of time and work. It's fun when I take exhibits or animals to the fair and get ribbons - to see my hard work pay off. And, keeping records has taught me to be organized."



4-H alumni, Sara and Mike Frey on their family's Claremont dairy farm. Mike has served as a leader of the Friendly Fellows/ Daisies 4-H Club for more than 25 years. The couple's sons, Colin and Dylan, continue the family tradition and are actively involved in 4-H. (Courtesy Photo)

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The 18-year-old adds that he values the friendships he has made through 4-H. "I've built friendships with people from all over the state and country," explains Dylan, who was among a group of South Dakota 4-H teens selected to travel to D.C. to attend the National 4-H Citizen Washington Focus trip. "It was interesting to see firsthand how our government is run and learn how bills are written. I realized our lawmakers are doing a lot more than I thought they did."

As a 4-H member, his dad, attended the same conference. "It was fun to compare notes," explains Mike, who attributes the leadership and service experience he gained through 4-H with motivating him to advocate for the dairy industry.

"Through 4-H I did a lot of public speaking, gained leadership skills when I served as state 4-H council president. Those experiences made me feel comfortable speaking in public," Mike says.

Today, Mike leads annual farm tours for area schools and participates in the Midwest Dairy SpeakOut Program sharing his family's farm story and providing information on the dairy industry with community groups. He is also a graduate of South Dakota Ag & Rural Leadership.

"Not many people live on dairy farms anymore. Even if they grew up on one, a lot of things have changed in the last 30 to 40 years, which is why I like to let people know about today's dairy operations," Mike explains.

In 2016, Mike had the opportunity to return to the World Dairy Expo, this time as a chaperone and coach, when his son, Dylan earned a place on the state 4-H dairy judging team.

"It was interesting to return 30 years later and it made me feel good to see our son benefiting from the same experiences I had as a 4-H member," Mike said.

In October 2018, Mike will return to the World Dairy Expo for a third time with his youngest son, Colin, who earned a position on the state 4-H Dairy Judging Team.

To learn how you can become involved in 4-H as a member or volunteer, contact your local SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor. A complete listing can be found online at www.iGrow.org under the Field Staff listing.



Colin (left) and Dylan Frey fit a dairy calf before a show at the Brown County Fair. The boys continue the 4-H legacy their parents, Mike and Sara began. The Frey family operates a third-generation dairy farm near Claremont. (Courtesy Photo)

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Arctic Air Returning

Tonight into at least early Next Week

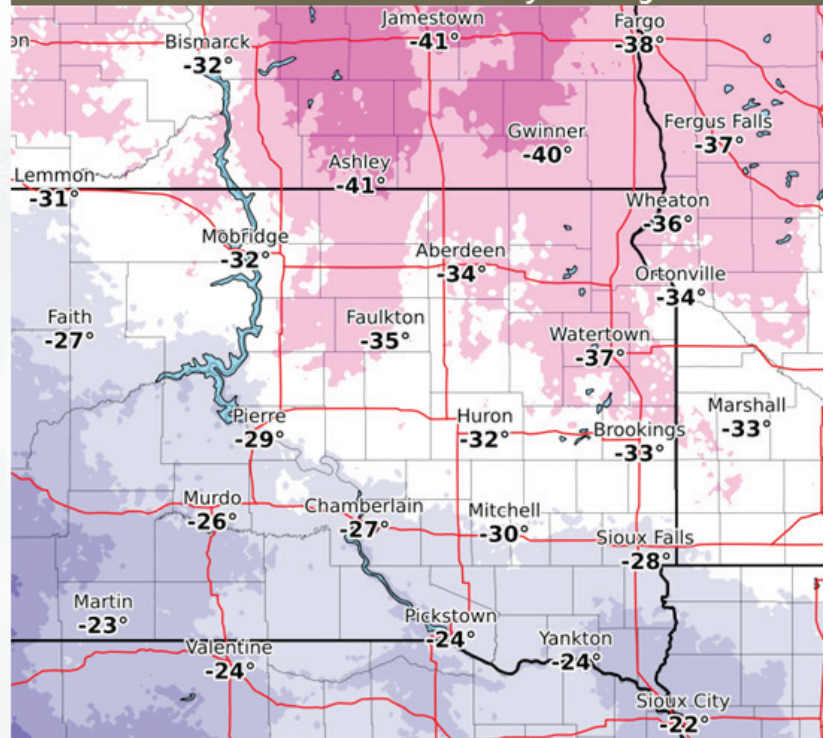
*Dangerous
Wind Chills*

Temperatures

Today	<i>Highs: 30s</i> <i>Lows: -2 to +4°</i>
Thursday	<i>Highs: 2 to 10°</i> <i>Lows: -16 to -1°</i>
Friday	<i>Highs: -2 to +9°</i> <i>Lows: -20 to -10°</i>
Saturday	<i>Highs: -5 to +8°</i> <i>Lows: -18 to +3°</i>
Sunday	<i>Highs: 5 to 25°</i> <i>Lows: -15 to -4°</i>
Monday	<i>Highs: 5 to 25°</i> <i>Lows: -21 to -7°</i>

Lowest Wind Chills

coldest Saturday morning



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
1/10/2018 5:17 AM

Published on: 01/10/2018 at 5:21AM

Cold Arctic air will remain in place into early next week. Dangerous wind chills will be possible most nights, with the coldest conditions Saturday morning, when wind chill values may fall to around -40 along the North Dakota and South Dakota border. Check out your latest forecast at www.weather.gov/abr



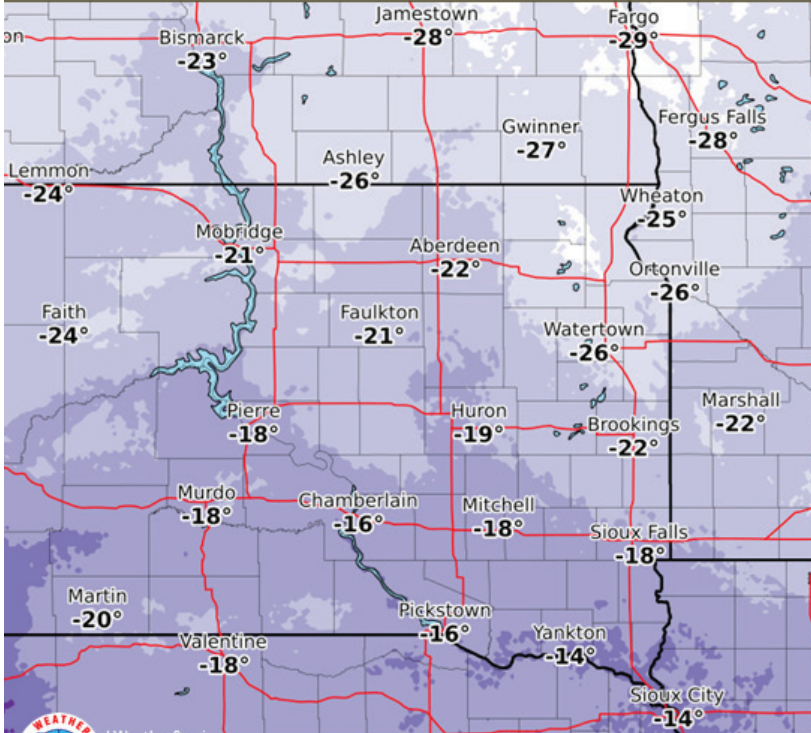
Tonight

Arctic Air Returning

*Dangerous
Wind Chills
over northern SD
and western MN*

Lowest Wind Chills

Tonight into Thursday Morning



Temperatures falling into the single digits below and above zero

Wind Chills of -14 to -29°



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
1/10/2018 5:30 AM

Published on: 01/10/2018 at 5:31AM

Temperatures will fall into the single digits below and above zero tonight. Combined with gusty north to northwest winds, wind chill values will fall to -14 to -29 degrees late tonight through Thursday morning. The lowest wind chill values are expected across over northern South Dakota and West Central Minnesota. Check out your latest forecast at www.weather.gov/abr

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Today in Weather History

January 10, 1911: The temperature at Rapid City, South Dakota plunged 47 degrees in just fifteen minutes.

January 10, 1975: An intense area of low pressure moved from eastern Iowa through eastern Minnesota. The storm center set many low pressure records as it moved across eastern Minnesota. New snow of 3 to 6 inches across much of Minnesota began to blow and drift on the morning of the 10th and then developed into a full blown blizzard with heavy snowfall developing. The blizzard continued over all of the state through the 11th with winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts of 60 to 80 mph. Drifts up to 20 foot high developed in west central Minnesota paralyzing activity. Snowfall amounts from 1 to 2 feet occurred. Numerous roads were closed due to drifting and low visibility. Numerous sustained power outages occurred, particularly in rural sections. Thousands of people were stranded with 168 people trapped in a train in Willmar. Wind chills ranged from 50 below to 80 below behind the storm. Extensive losses to life and property occurred. There were 35 deaths during the storm and many injuries. Tens of thousands of livestock and poultry losses also occurred with 140 farm buildings damaged or destroyed. Losses to livestock and property were over 20 million. It took 11 days to clear some areas. Shelter was provided for nearly 17,000 people.

In South Dakota, snow began to fall on the 10th in the afternoon and then the winds increased and reached blizzard conditions by evening. These severe blizzard conditions continued on through the 11th and through the morning of the 12th. Wind chills fell to 50 below to 70 below zero. Many cars stalled on roads due to poor visibility, icy roads, and blowing and drifting snow. Eight people lost their lives. Thousands of livestock and poultry were lost. During the blizzard, a 2000 foot radio and TV antenna just east of Sioux Falls collapsed.

January 10, 2000: High winds gusting to over 60 mph caused some spotty damage across central and north central South Dakota. Near Mobridge, the high winds blew a semi-tractor-trailer off the road and tipped it over while it was heading westbound on Highway 12. The semi tractor-trailer sustained quite a bit of damage as a result. The high winds also damaged the windmill at the museum in Mobridge breaking off the tail and bending several of the blades. Some high wind reports include; 56 mph at McLaughlin, 58 mph at Onida and Mobridge, and 63 mph at Pierre.

1800 - Savannah, GA, received a foot and a half of snow, and ten inches blanketed Charleston SC. It was the heaviest snowfall of record for the immediate Coastal Plain of the southeastern U.S. (David Ludlum)

1911 - The temperature at Rapid City, SD, plunged 47 degrees in just fifteen minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1949: Snow was reported at San Diego, California for the first time since 1882. Snow was noted even on some of the beaches in parts of the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

1975 - The "Storm of the Century" hit Minnesota. A severe blizzard moved northward across the state producing up to two feet of snow. High winds drove wind chill readings to 80 degrees below zero, and at Duluth MN the barometric pressure dipped to 28.55 inches. The storm, which claimed 35 lives, occurred on the 102nd anniversary of the infamous "Pioneer Blizzard" in Minnesota. (David Ludlum)

1982: Bitterly cold weather was found across Illinois. Of the 109 weather reporting stations in the state, 48 of those reported lows of 20 degrees below zero or colder. Some of the coldest temperatures included 27 below zero at Rockford, 26 below zero at Chicago, and 25 below zero at Kankakee and Peoria.








1987 - Bitter cold air invaded the Rocky Mountain Region, with subzero readings reported as far south as Gallop NM. Pocatello ID reported a record low reading of 14 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary)

1988 - A storm in the northwestern U.S. produced wind gusts to 97 mph at Netarts OR, and up to two feet of snow in the mountains of Oregon. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

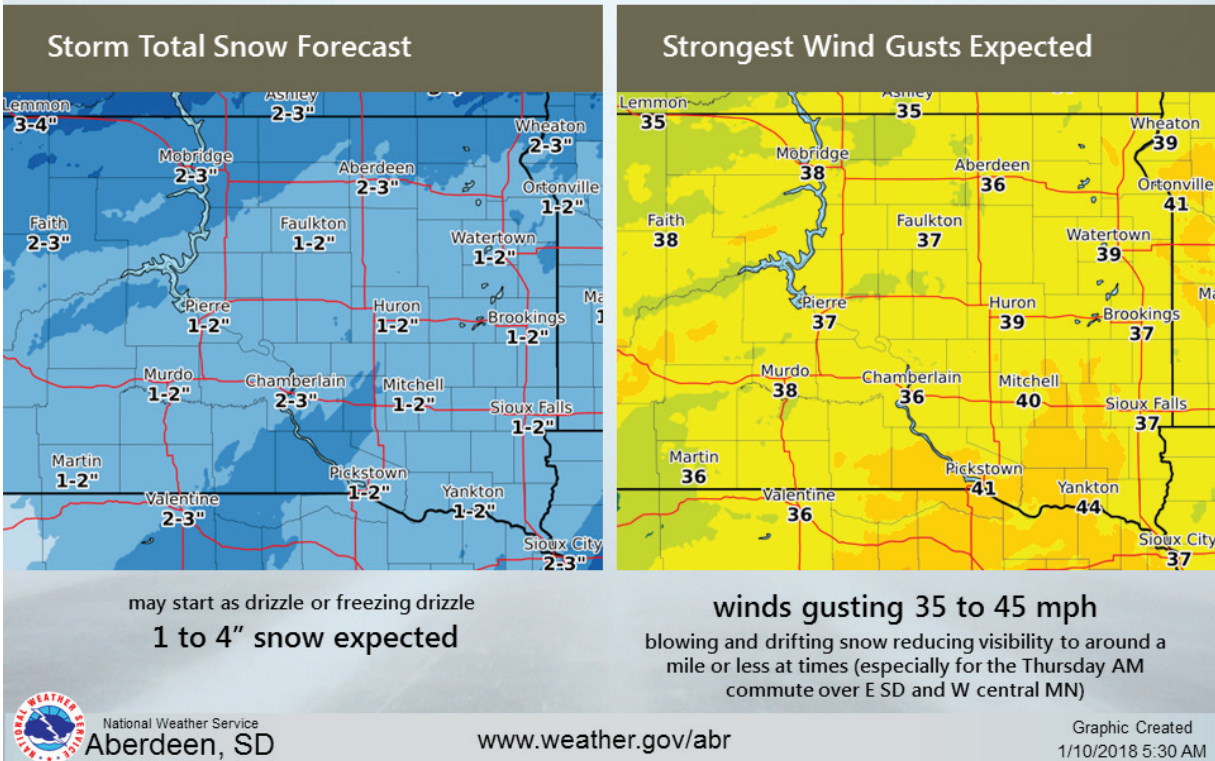
1989 - The first documented January tornado of record in Utah struck the south part of Sandy. Asphalt shingles were driven one half inch into a fence. (The Weather Channel) Clear skies, light winds, and up to 24 inches of snow cover, allowed the temperature to plunge to 45 degrees below zero at Roseau MN, and to -43 degrees at Warroad MN. The afternoon high at Grand Forks ND was 16 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
20%	90%	20%		40% → 70%		
Patchy Fog then Chance Wintry Mix and Patchy Fog	Snow and Areas Blowing Snow	Slight Chance Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Increasing Clouds	Chance Snow then Snow Likely	Mostly Cloudy	Cold
High: 35 °F	Low: 1 °F	High: 4 °F ↓	Low: -13 °F	High: 0 °F	Low: -19 °F	High: -5 °F

Snow and Wind Tonight into Thursday Morning



Published on: 01/10/2018 at 5:30AM

Snow and wind will return to the area today (early this afternoon over north central South Dakota, and later this evening across eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota). While light drizzle or freezing drizzle will be possible at the onset, precipitation should quickly change over to snow. Snowfall of 1 to 4 inches is expected. Winds gusting as high as 35 to 45 mph will combine with the falling snow to produce reduced visibilities tonight into early Thursday morning. A slow morning commute will be possible over eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Check out your latest forecast at www.weather.gov/abr

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 43 at 3:20 PM

Low Outside Temp: 18 at 6:32 AM

Wind Chill

High Gust: 13

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 56° in 2012

Record Low: -30° in 1978

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan: 0.17

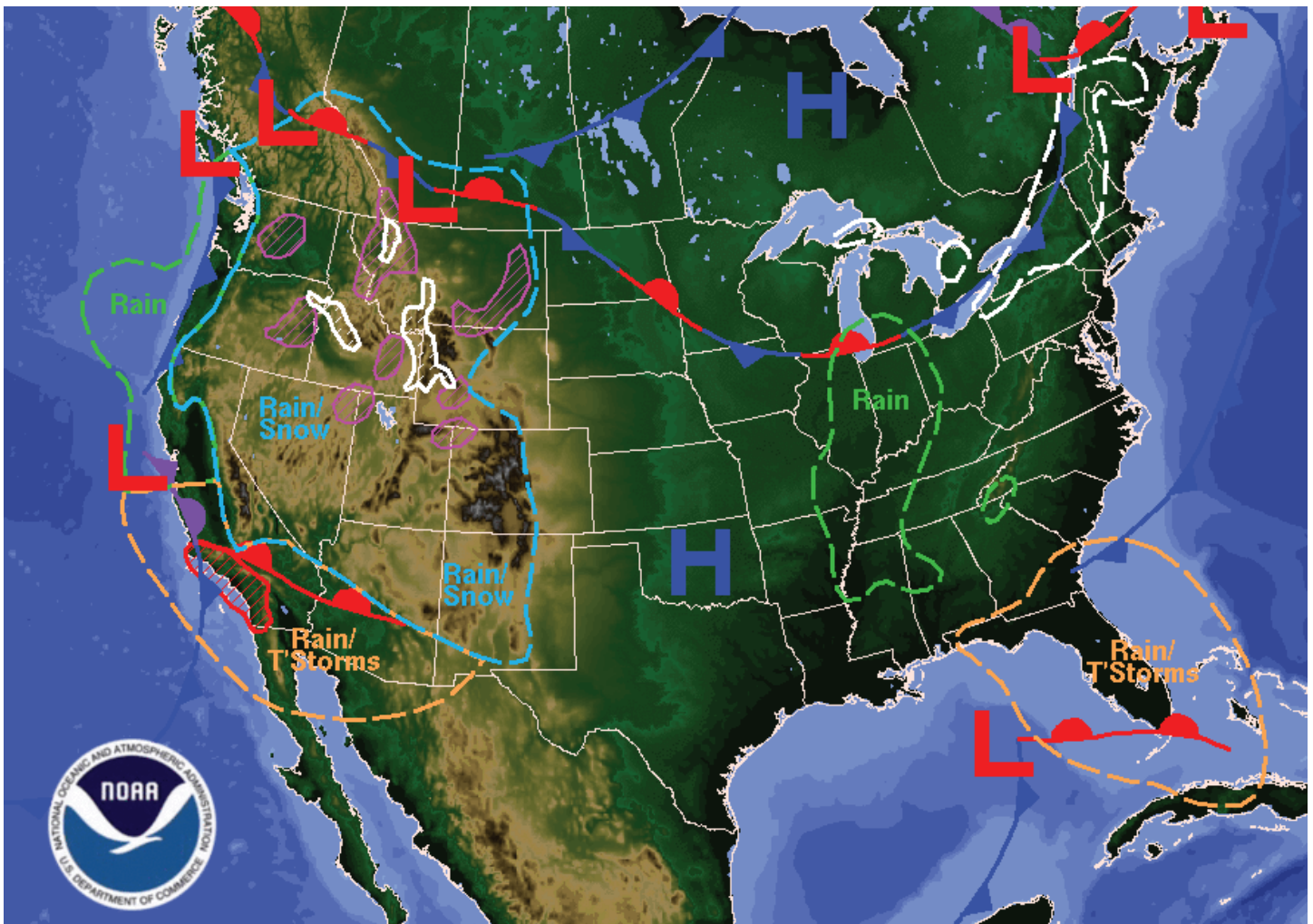
Precip to date in Jan: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.17

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:11 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jan 09, 2018, issued 5:26 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)



HEART TRANSPLANTS

Following a horrible accident, one of the victims who was in critical condition was medevacked to the emergency department of a hospital in a large metropolitan city. As the staff was removing his shirt, they noticed the name "Jesus" tattooed across his chest in large red letters. Quite amazed the ER nurse said to the attending physician, "From the way he looks and how he's dressed and his lack of cleanliness, I would assume that the name 'Jesus' on his chest is only skin deep."

If we who are Christ's disciples are to be worthwhile witnesses of God's Message, His name on us must be more than skin deep. It must be heart deep. Not only is His name to be on our lips but penetrate every area of our lives. Not only should it come out of our mouths, but it should be obvious in everything we do. The psalmist said, "But they would flatter Him with their mouths, lying to Him with their tongues, their hearts were not loyal to His covenant."

Perhaps we can understand what the psalmist was talking about when we think of those who sing, "I Love to Tell the Story" but never witness to anyone. Or, someone who sings, "Have Thine Own Way Lord" with everyone but me. Or, "Take My Life and Let It Be" – yes, let it be right where it is – please don't bother me. I'm too busy.

Unfortunately, the church has far too many members who say one thing with their mouths and another thing with their lives.

We need to "transplant" His heart in our hearts.

Prayer: Grant us, Father, a heart like Jesus, the mind of Christ and a life that is controlled by the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 78:36 But all they gave him was lip service; they lied to him with their tongues.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 53, Brookings 47
Aberdeen Christian 69, Webster 53
Aberdeen Roncalli 70, Tiospa Zina Tribal 65
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 58, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 55
Bon Homme 57, Freeman 32
Bowman County, N.D. 65, Lemmon 45
Brandon Valley 56, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 52
Britton-Hecla 56, Warner 44
Canton 64, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 50
Clark-Willow Lake JV 62, Milbank Area 60
Corsica/Stickney 61, Mitchell Christian 31
DeSmet 68, Howard 39
Deuel 53, Arlington 42
Elk Point-Jefferson 65, Lennox 57
Elkton-Lake Benton 47, Waverly-South Shore 39
Florence/Henry 51, Wilmot 38
Great Plains Lutheran 54, Estelline 36
Gregory 63, Wagner 43
Harding County 75, Dupree 28
Highmore-Harrold 51, Faulkton 47
Irene-Wakonda 73, Alcester-Hudson 12
Lower Brule 74, Sunshine Bible Academy 42
McCook Central/Montrose 52, Beresford 39
Miller 63, Redfield/Doland 46
Parker 73, Dell Rapids St. Mary 40
Rapid City Christian 63, Bison 45
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 47, Kimball/White Lake 43
Scotland 62, Centerville 35
Sioux Falls Christian 77, Dell Rapids 40
Sioux Falls Lincoln 75, Yankton 53
Sioux Falls Washington 52, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 40
Sioux Valley 95, Hamlin 67
Sisseton 74, Ortonville, Minn. 67
Spearfish 68, Belle Fourche 49
Sturgis Brown 80, Hill City 52
Tea Area 57, Tri-Valley 45
Winner 58, Valentine, Neb. 33

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 56, Brookings 26
Aberdeen Roncalli 63, Tiospa Zina Tribal 26
Arlington 39, Deuel 36
Belle Fourche 39, Spearfish 28
Beresford 52, Baltic 12

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Bowman County, N.D. 52, Harding County 30
Chester 42, Colman-Egan 30
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 64, Takini 21
Colome 47, Jones County 34
Dakota Valley 51, West Central 45
Elkton-Lake Benton 47, Waverly-South Shore 39
Estelline 42, Great Plains Lutheran 41
Flandreau 61, Garretson 32
Freeman 71, Bon Homme 49
Hamlin 61, Sioux Valley 45
Harrisburg 47, Mitchell 43
Ipswich 51, Northwestern 44
Kadoka Area 63, Philip 36
Kimball/White Lake 54, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 45
Langford 52, Eureka/Bowdle 41
Leola/Frederick 55, Herreid/Selby Area 50
Little Wound 56, Bennett County 23
Lower Brule 64, Sunshine Bible Academy 57
Madison 61, Vermillion 56
McCook Central/Montrose 65, Hanson 45
Menno 63, Canistota 38
Miller 47, Redfield/Doland 32
Potter County 48, Stanley County 35
Scotland 56, Centerville 32
Sioux Falls Lincoln 41, Yankton 35
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 57, Sioux Falls Washington 47
St. Thomas More 65, Custer 32
Timber Lake 64, McIntosh 37
Todd County 79, White River 50
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 42, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 28
Wagner 42, Gregory 32
Warner 60, Britton-Hecla 18
Waubay/Summit 52, Groton Area 37
Winner 75, Valentine, Neb. 35
White River Tournament
First Round
Edgemont 41, Hot Springs 33
Faith 79, Upton, Wyo. 25
Moorcroft, Wyo. 60, Newell 56
Oelrichs 42, Rapid City Christian 31

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

16-29-31-65-67, Mega Ball: 23, Megaplier: 3

(sixteen, twenty-nine, thirty-one, sixty-five, sixty-seven; Mega Ball: twenty-three; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Man arrested after chase now charged with killing his mother

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man arrested after a South Dakota chase in which authorities say his mother's body was found in the SUV he was driving is now charged with murder in California.

Court records show 30-year-old Tosten Walsh Lommen was charged Monday in Riverside County in the death of his mother, 58-year-old Michelle Walsh.

The Rapid City Journal in South Dakota reports that authorities allege Lommen killed his mother sometime around Dec. 30. Investigators believe both were living in Walsh's home in Palm Springs, California.

Authorities say South Dakota troopers discovered Walsh's body in the back of the sport utility vehicle that Lommen was driving after he was arrested following a Jan. 1 chase on Interstate 90. He remains jailed in South Dakota on charges of eluding authorities and drunken driving.

California authorities plan to seek Lommen's extradition. It's unclear if he has an attorney who could comment.

United adding direct flight between Rapid City and Newark

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — United Airlines is adding a seasonal direct flight between Rapid City and Newark, New Jersey.

The weekly Saturday flight through United's regional carrier Republic Airways will link the Black Hills to metropolitan destinations in the northeast and mid-Atlantic states.

The flight on a 76-passenger jet will begin June 23 and continue through Sept. 8.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the Rapid City airport has seasonal nonstop flights to Chicago, Atlanta and Charlotte, and year-round flights to Denver, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Houston and Dallas.

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

Panel to examine Legislature's anti-harassment rules

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A panel of South Dakota lawmakers will examine the Legislature's rules after news reports about sexism and harassment related to the statehouse.

Senate President Pro Tempore Brock Greenfield said Tuesday he will appoint a legislative group to look at current anti-harassment policies, changes proposed by a Democratic lawmaker and consider issues brought forward by others.

Democratic Sen. Billie Sutton had offered a plan earlier that would require the nonpartisan legislative staff agency to conduct investigations into allegations of harassment.

The proposed rules would apply to the harassment of legislators, lobbyists, interns, pages and legislative employees by people holding those positions.

Sutton says the Legislature's current harassment policy is restrictive, sparse and confusing. He is a candidate for governor.

South Dakota legislators and their staff have sexual harassment training this month.

Daugaard: South Dakota seeking Medicaid work requirement

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota is going to ask the Trump administration to allow the state to require some Medicaid recipients to work to qualify for the government-funded health coverage for the poor, Gov.

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Dennis Daugaard said Tuesday in his State of the State address.

The change would apply to about 4,500 low-income, able-bodied parents who are not caring for a child under the age of 1, Daugaard told state lawmakers gathered for the first day of the 2018 legislative session. The governor proposed piloting the new requirement in Minnehaha and Pennington counties.

"Work is an important part of personal fulfillment," Daugaard said. "By making this adjustment to our Medicaid program, we can continue to help those who need it the most and start to connect those who can work with jobs that give them that sense of self-worth and accomplishment."

Daugaard said he has asked the state Department of Social Services to pursue the work requirement waiver. The average monthly Medicaid enrollment was roughly 120,000 people last state budget year.

Joan Alker, executive director at Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families, said low-income parents are not driving the costs of the Medicaid program.

"We're talking about the very, very poorest families in a state, and applying a work requirement to these parents, the majority of whom are women, is in my judgment counterproductive, it's fiscally inefficient, and it's just downright cruel," Alker said.

During the current legislative session, the Republican-controlled Legislature will make a new state budget and take up policy proposals on issues ranging from the state's ballot question system to the use of lakes on private land for recreation. Legislators will adjourn in late March.

Daugaard asked lawmakers to extend an expiring law that restored access to nearly 30 specific lakes for public recreation that was curtailed by a state Supreme Court decision. The rules were the product of a special legislative session last year on so-called nonmeandered waters. The governor's bill would move the law's June expiration date to 2021.

House Democratic leader Spencer Hawley said he supports the extension because too little time has passed to evaluate issues with the law.

"We need to extend this," he said. "We need to work with it."

Daugaard said he's also proposing legislation that would make South Dakota microbrewers more competitive with those in surrounding states. He noted that current law caps South Dakota craft brewers at 5,000 barrels of beer annually, compared to 60,000 in Montana, 50,000 in Wyoming and 25,000 in North Dakota.

The governor's proposal would increase the limit to 30,000 barrels per year.

The governor has made workforce development a key policy focus. He said South Dakota doesn't have enough workers in many skilled fields, which is a barrier to economic growth.

Officials are encouraging high schools to expand the availability of apprenticeships, internships or job shadowing during school, Daugaard said. And he's pushing a new law to create a professional licensure reciprocity compact with other states.

Daugaard looked back on his time in office during the final State of the State address of his second term, saying he's pleased with progress on boosting teacher pay and that revenue increases for road and bridge funding are "being put to good use." The 64-year-old Republican cannot run again this year because of term limits.

"I look forward to working hard with you, over this session and over this, my last year, to make South Dakota a better place than it is today," Daugaard said.

Follow James Nord on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/Jvnord>

Court cases from coordinated 2016 pipeline protest delayed

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Several court cases stemming from a coordinated pipeline protest in four states have been delayed, including one where an appeals court is deciding whether to allow two women to argue their law-breaking was necessary to prevent a greater harm.

Eleven activists with the group Climate Direct Action were arrested on Oct. 11, 2016, when they tried to either shut down pipelines in North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Washington state or film the at-

tempts. The activists said they were protesting fossil fuels and supporting people demonstrating against the Dakota Access oil pipeline, which was still under construction.

The activists broke into private property and turned shutoff valves at five pipelines that moved oil from Canada to the U.S.

In Minnesota, prosecutors have asked a state appeals court to reverse a judge's ruling that would allow two women to use the so-called necessity defense. The defense is popular among environmental activists who argue that global warming caused by fossil fuels is the greater harm, though legal experts say it's a long-shot defense.

The appeal delayed the December trial of Seattle-area residents Emily Johnston and Annette Klapstein, who are accused of closing valves on two pipelines in northwestern Minnesota. The trial hasn't been re-scheduled, and their attorney said he doesn't expect a resolution on the appeal until spring.

Sentencing has been delayed for two men who were barred from using necessity-defense arguments. Leonard Higgins of Portland, Oregon, was convicted in November of criminal mischief and trespassing in Montana; his January sentencing was pushed to March 20 after his attorneys asked for more time, according to court documents. Seattle resident Michael Foster also was set for sentencing this month in North Dakota but the hearing was moved to February because of a timing conflict.

A Washington state case was resolved last year when Ken Ward, of Corbett, Oregon, was convicted of burglary and sentenced to two days in jail plus community supervision and community service. He, too, wasn't allowed to use the necessity defense.

The six other arrested activists were accused of filming the vandalism. Prosecutors dropped charges against two of them in Washington. Trials are pending for two others in Minnesota and one in Montana, and one activist is to be sentenced in North Dakota the same day as Foster.

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

3 Native American tribes sue opioid industry groups

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three Native American tribes in the Dakotas are suing opioid manufacturers and distributors, alleging they concealed and minimized the addiction risk of prescription drugs.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate sued 24 opioid industry groups in federal court on Monday. Defendants include drug manufacturers Purdue Pharma, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and Allergan, and distributors McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health Inc. and AmerisourceBergen Corp.

The lawsuit follows more than 70 cases filed across the country, including in Mississippi, Washington, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Ohio. It is one of the first to tie claims to the drugs' impact on Native Americans.

The Cherokee Nation launched a similar suit in April.

The tribes are being represented by former North Dakota U.S. Attorney Tim Purdon and former South Dakota U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson.

"The prescription opioid crisis has hit Indian Country hard," said Purdon. He added he is "hopeful" that other North Dakota tribes will also file suit.

The complaint noted that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that one in 10 Native Americans used prescription opioids for non-medical purposes in 2012, which is double the rate of whites.

Between 2015 and 2016, Native Americans represented almost 18 percent of opioid-related deaths and 28 percent of patients treated for opioid use in South Dakota. At the time, Native Americans made up 9 percent of the state's population.

"This epidemic has overwhelmed our public-health and law-enforcement services, drained resources for addiction therapy, and sent the cost of caring for children of opioid-addicted parents skyrocketing," said Johnson.

Allegations against the defendants include deceptive marketing, fraudulent and negligent conduct and

violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act. The complaint seeks a jury trial to determine monetary damages as well as an "abatement fund" to pay for treatment programs.

The companies hadn't responded to the suit as of Monday.

Dakota Access private security firm set for October trial

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A private security firm hired by the developer of the Dakota Access pipeline will go to trial in the fall for allegedly operating in North Dakota without a license.

North Dakota's Private Investigative and Security Board sued North Carolina-based TigerSwan last June. Court documents show a five-day trial has been scheduled beginning Oct. 8.

TigerSwan was lambasted by pipeline opponents for aggressive tactics during months of protests. The company has said its efforts were aimed at creating a safe working environment and that it's the victim of a smear campaign.

The state board is seeking administrative fines that could total thousands of dollars from the company and President James Reese for operating without a license, a misdemeanor carrying a potential sentence of 30 days in jail and a \$1,500 fine.

Sioux Falls school board addressed overcrowding

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — School board members in Sioux Falls will hire a Wisconsin company to lead discussions about overcrowded school buildings.

The marketing firm Donovan Group, of Milwaukee, will set up focus groups, conduct surveys and use other communication strategies to find out how parents, teachers and taxpayers want to address the district's need for more classroom space.

The Argus Leader says school board members have been discussing facility needs since August and have outlined enrollment projections.

Superintendent Brian Maher says the district will spend about \$36,000 for Donovan's work and hope to have a plan by summer with an eye on a fall bonding referendum.

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

2 Brandon Valley students expelled after gun incident

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — The Brandon Valley school board has expelled two high school students who brought an unloaded gun to school.

The Argus Leader reports that the high school was put on lockdown Dec. 19 after a report of a gun in the building. Authorities say one of the students apparently had brought the gun to sell to another student.

Police responded, found the gun in a backpack and arrested the two juveniles. They'll spend the remaining 96 days of the school year learning from home.

The students will have to undergo a threat assessment before the school will consider allowing them to return in the fall. If they return, they'll be placed at an alternative school.

The age and gender of the students were not released.

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

Belle Fourche city servers hacked; no data compromised

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — City officials in Belle Fourche don't believe any sensitive information was compromised when city servers were hacked.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that the attack happened Thursday. Officials believe it originated in Russia and Nigeria.

Payroll and human resources clerk Nora Erhart says the hackers locked city staff out of their computers,

but officials don't believe the hackers got any data.

Erhart says the city was able to restore the city servers with a backup system, and passwords have been changed.

Mayor Gloria Landphere says the city will work with its internet service provider on ways to prevent future attacks.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

1 of 3 suspects in custody in double homicide in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — One of three suspects wanted in connection with a double homicide in Sioux Falls has been taken into custody.

Nineteen-year-old Crystal Habben was booked into the Minnehaha County Jail early Tuesday for allegedly concealing a felony. It wasn't immediately clear if she had an attorney.

Authorities are still seeking two suspects in the Friday shooting deaths of 28-year-old Samuel Crockett and 30-year-old Corey Zephier. Police say the drug-related incident happened outside an apartment building.

Manuel Frias is being sought for first-degree murder, and Maria LeClaire is wanted for first-degree robbery. Police say they might be armed.

Burros injured in Custer State Park wildfire euthanized

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two burros that were injured in a wildfire at Custer State Park have been euthanized due to injuries suffered in the blaze.

Park officials said the burros suffered internal and external burns and were beginning to suffer from organ failure.

The Rapid City Journal reports that another burro that also suffered organ failure was put down last month. Six more burros are still being treated.

The December fire that started from a downed power line burned more than 85 square miles (218 square kilometers) in the park and beyond its borders.

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

Top issues for South Dakota Legislature in 2018

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota opened its 2018 legislative session on Tuesday with Gov. Dennis Daugaard delivering the final State of the State speech of his administration.

A look at the issues expected to command most of lawmakers' attention:

THE BUDGET IS TIGHT

Disappointing tax collections leave little room for new initiatives in the state budget. That means schools can't expect any increase in funding per student. Most state workers likely will go without raises again.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

Lawmakers are weighing a proposal that would ask voters to make it harder to pass constitutional amendments. And House Speaker Mark Mickelson has discussed blocking citizens from even pursuing constitutional amendments without the Legislature.

The ideas have some support after the 2016 election cycle, in which citizens pushed myriad initiatives and proposed amendments to the ballot, including an ethics package that legislators largely undid and rewrote.

LAWMAKER PAY

Legislators will consider a plan that would no longer have them set their own salary. Instead, legislators

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would be paid one-fifth of the median household income, whatever that is. The proposal would leave it up to voters whether to amend the constitution to make it so.

Census data from 2015 show the change would bump pay by 70 percent for the state's lawmakers, to nearly \$10,200. Supporters of the idea say low pay limits the people who can serve.

UNIVERSITY UNIONS

Faculty at South Dakota's public universities could be looking at the end of collective bargaining. Mickelson has said lawmakers will consider a proposal to do just that, arguing he doesn't think it "serves the mission of educating our kids."

Union contracts cover more than 1,300 staff members at the state's six public universities and at schools for the blind and deaf. The union negotiates on issues such as academic freedom, grievance rights, evaluation and tenure, but members can't bargain for salary and benefits.

LAKES ON PRIVATE LAND

Lawmakers will look at extending a deal governing the use of lakes on private land for recreation. The Legislature last year restored access to nearly 30 lakes for public recreation that had been disrupted by a 2017 state Supreme Court decision, but the solution was good for just about a year. A proposal from Daugaard would move the expiration to 2021.

DRUGS AND DATA

Attorney General Marty Jackley is seeking harsher penalties for methamphetamine dealing and manufacturing. The proposed changes also include tougher sentences for meth distribution if the person has things such as cash or guns and increasing penalties for distributing the drug to a minor.

Jackley also wants to require companies to inform state residents whose personal information was acquired in a data breach. The plan would require companies to notify the attorney general if it affected more than 250 residents.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

All South Dakota legislators and their staff are expected to attend sexual harassment training in January. The training comes after news reports about women who experienced sexism and harassment related to the male-dominated statehouse and a former lawmaker and lobbyist shared stories of harassment and assault. Last year, a state lawmaker who admitted to having sexual contact with two interns resigned.

GUNS AND BATHROOMS

Don't look for much on permitless concealed carry or transgender bathroom bills this year. Conservatives stymied by Daugaard in years past expect more favorable conditions after he leaves office.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Oodles of information about the Legislature, your legislators, bills, committee schedules, and more are available at the legislative website: <http://bit.ly/2Ek4IGX>

For anyone who can't get to Pierre, much of the state's business can be found live online courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting: <http://bit.ly/2AGSsbW>.

North Dakota State tops final FCS polls of the season

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — National champion North Dakota State tops both of the final Football Championship Subdivision polls of the season.

The Bison defeated James Madison 17-13 on Saturday to win their sixth FCS title in seven years.

James Madison is second in both the final STATS media poll and the final coaches poll.

The rest of the top five in the media poll is South Dakota State, Sam Houston State and Weber State.

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In the coaches poll, it's Sam Houston State third, followed by SDSU and Weber State.

New US attorney sworn into office in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officially has a new U.S. attorney.

Ronald Parsons Jr. was sworn in last Friday during a brief ceremony in Sioux Falls overseen by U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier. The Sioux Falls attorney is the 42nd person to hold the office in South Dakota.

Parsons succeeds Randolph Seiler, who retired at the end of last year. Seiler had been nominated to the post by former President Barack Obama in 2015.

President Donald Trump nominated Parsons, who was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate. He has specialized in appellate and constitutional law.

Outgoing Sioux Falls mayor won't seek higher office in 2018

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether has ruled out a run for statewide office this year.

Huether will finish his second term as mayor of the state's largest city in May, and he can't seek another term. He plans to take time off to address "personal and professional goals," which might include writing a book.

However, Huether says he won't rule out a run for higher office in the future. He's expressed interest in the past in running for governor or Congress.

Huether in 2016 changed his party registry from Democrat to independent.

SKorea open to summit with North's Kim, but it won't be easy

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM** and **KEN MORITSUGU**, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — It's been more than a decade since the leaders of the two Koreas have held a summit. Could it happen now?

South Korean President Moon Jae-in told reporters Wednesday that he remains open to a meeting with North Korea's leader, if it would improve the strained relations between their two countries and help resolve the global standoff over the North's nuclear weapons development.

It's not a new position for Moon, who took office in May, but it took on new meaning coming one day after high-level officials from the two Koreas held a rare and apparently successful meeting, agreeing on the North's participation in the upcoming Winter Olympics in the South.

A meeting between the two leaders isn't likely in the immediate future. The North's Kim Jong Un hasn't met any foreign leader since he succeeded his father in 2011, and attitudes have hardened since the only two previous Korean summits in 2000 and 2007, when South Korean presidents were pursuing a "Sunshine Policy" of trying to win over the North through engagement and aid.

Moon is a liberal who favors a diplomatic solution to the nuclear issue and whose election ended nine years of hard-line conservative rule. He was chief-of-staff to former President Roh Moo-hyun, who held the last summit with Kim's father in 2007.

Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Dongguk University in Seoul, said a meeting during Moon's five-year term is possible.

"Kim has never met any foreign leader, so it would be meaningful for him to make his first summit a meeting between Koreans," Koh said.

During the televised news conference in Seoul, Moon said "I keep myself open to any meeting including a summit," and that he would push for further talks and cooperation after Tuesday's meeting.

"To have a summit, some conditions must be established," he said. "I think a certain level of success must be guaranteed." He didn't set any specific conditions.

Moon called North Korea's participation in next month's Olympics "very desirable," but said inter-Korean

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relations cannot be improved without progress on the nuclear issue. He warned that the North would face harsher international sanctions and pressure if it resorts to new provocations, adding that "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the path to peace and our goal."

Under the deal struck Tuesday at the border village of Panmunjom, North Korea will send officials, athletes, cheerleaders, journalists and others to the Olympics in Pyeongchang, a mountainous county near the border. South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon said Wednesday he expects the delegation will include 400 to 500 people. The accord stipulates the two Koreas will actively cooperate in the Olympics to "enhance the prestige of the Korean people."

The two sides also agreed to hold military talks, and North Korea said it had recently restored a military hotline with the South, the second reopening of an inter-Korean communication channel in about a week, according to South Korean officials. All major communications had been shut down because of the tensions over the North's nuclear program.

The accords, reached at the first meeting between the rival Koreas in about two years, were widely viewed as a positive step following a year of escalating tension over Kim's rapidly advancing nuclear and missile programs. Last year, Kim and President Donald Trump exchanged bellicose rhetoric and crude insults as North Korea conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test and three tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles that put the U.S. within its range.

Trump contended that his tough stance had helped persuade the North to sit down with the South, and Moon said during Wednesday's news conference that he feels thankful to the U.S. president for helping make the talks happen.

Some warn that tensions could quickly flare again as the North still wants to expand its weapons arsenal. They also say Kim may be pushing for better ties with South Korea because North Korea is feeling the pain of U.S.-led international sanctions.

The countries have a long history of failing to follow through with rapprochement accords. In 2015, negotiators met for nearly 40 hours before announcing a deal to pull back from a military standoff caused by land mine blasts that maimed two South Korean soldiers. But animosities flared again several months later after the North Korea's fourth nuclear test.

John Delury, a China and North Korea expert at Yonsei University in Seoul, cautioned that the process is fragile, but said Tuesday's talks are opening up new diplomatic possibilities, in striking contrast to last year.

"It's still very early in this process, and we have to see how much momentum it acquires, but so far this year is definitely getting off to a very different start," he said. "You have to knock on the door to see if it will open."

Two earlier liberal presidents, Roh and his predecessor Kim Dae-jung, met with then-North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. But the conservative governments that followed them took a tougher line.

The presidency of conservative Lee Myung-bak, from 2008 to 2013, was marked by animosity, including North Korean attacks on a warship and a border island that together killed 50 South Koreans in 2010. His successor, Park Geun-hye, indefinitely suspended South Korean participation in a joint industrial park in North Korea's Kaesong city in February 2016, the last remaining major symbol of cooperation between the two.

Moritsugu reported from Tokyo. Associated Press writers Dake Kang and Youkyung Lee contributed to this report.

Dem senator's report warns of Russian meddling across Europe

By CHAD DAY and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new report by congressional Democrats warns of deepening Russian interference throughout Europe and concludes that even as some Western democracies have responded with aggressive countermeasures, President Donald Trump has offered no strategic plan to bolster their efforts or safeguard the U.S. from again falling victim to the Kremlin's systematic meddling.

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The report is the first from Congress to comprehensively detail Russian efforts to undermine democracies since the 2016 presidential election. It wastes no time in calling out Trump personally for what it describes as a failure to respond to Russia's mounting destabilization activities in the U.S. and worldwide. The report was obtained by The Associated Press in advance of its public release Wednesday.

"Never before has a U.S. president so clearly ignored such a grave and growing threat to U.S. national security," the report warns.

No Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee signed on to the 200-plus page report released by Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, the committee's top Democrat. But even without GOP backing, the report's recounting of Russian operations in 19 European nations foreshadows the still-unpublished Senate Intelligence Committee's bipartisan inquiry into Russia's role during the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Cardin said in a statement that he commissioned the report so Americans can see the "true scope and scale" of Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts to undermine democracy.

"While President Trump stands practically idle, Mr. Putin continues to refine his asymmetric arsenal and look for future opportunities to disrupt governance and erode support for the democratic and international institutions that the United States and Europe have built over the last 70 years," Cardin said.

Cardin's inquiry lays blame directly on Putin for a "relentless assault to undermine democracy and the rule of law in Europe and the United States." Concerned that Trump has failed to identify Russian aggression as a national rallying point, the report urges a "stronger congressional voice" in pro-democracy efforts and funding. The report calls for committee hearings and other bipartisan efforts to aid European nations in countering Russian aggression.

Some policy changes suggested by the report have garnered GOP interest, including the aggressive use of financial sanctions aimed at Russia and pressuring social media companies to be more transparent about Russian political messaging.

The report also pushes for the administration to fully fund and utilize the State Department's Global Engagement Center, which it says is hobbled by "a lack of urgency and self-imposed constraints" under Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

The center was created in 2016 to blunt terrorist propaganda. Its duties have expanded to include countering Russian propaganda under legislation last year from Sens. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Chris Murphy, D-Conn.

Cardin's report sketches a bleak portrait of European nations besieged by Russian encroachment. It also cites years of cyberattacks, disinformation, clandestine social media operations, financing of fringe political groups, corruption and in the extreme, assassination attempts and military operations that destabilized fledgling democratic governments in the Ukraine and Georgia. The report leans heavily on open source information as well as staff interviews with European diplomats and government officials.

Labeling Russia's activities an "asymmetric assault on democracy," the report notes that even elections in countries such as Britain, France and Germany were reportedly targeted by Moscow-sponsored hacking, internet trolling and financing for extremist political groups. The report also credits those nations and smaller European countries, such as Finland and Estonia, for responding quickly and often with effect.

Facebook officials told Cardin's investigators that Kremlin-backed trolls that stirred up political tensions on its American pages also "pursued a similar strategy in the lead up to the 2017 French political election, and likely before Germany's national election" last year.

Similarly, Finnish officials told Cardin's investigators that Finland has ramped up anti-disinformation efforts after Russian-leaning Twitter accounts "began tweeting misinformation and fringe viewpoints" before that nation's 2015 parliamentary elections — foreshadowing the surge in Russian-sourced fake Twitter accounts that proliferated during the U.S. presidential election.

Senate Intelligence Committee officials have questioned efforts of Facebook and Twitter to accurately determine the extent of Russian political messaging during the 2016 U.S. election. Cardin's team also noted alarming discrepancies between the extent of Russian troll activity found by independent researchers and far lower figures claimed by social media companies in European countries. The report advocates for social

media companies to do a better job of auditing their platforms to determine the full extent of Russian disinformation flowing across them.

Cardin's report urges Trump to set up an interagency "fusion cell" on Russian interference modeled on the National Counterterrorism Center that was created after the 9/11 attacks. The report recommends that the president convene an annual global summit modeled after similar forums on combating the Islamic State group or homegrown extremists. Rapid response teams should be formed to defend ally countries after cyberattacks, with an international treaty governing the use of cyber tools in peace time.

It calls on the government to increase the amount of aid it provides to promote democracy in Europe and publicly to expose any organized crime and corruption links to Putin. It says social media companies should be required to publicize the sources of funding for political advertisements along the same lines as broadcast and print media.

So far, the president personally has shown little interest in addressing Russia's activities. During a November trip to Asia, where he met with Putin, Trump said "he said he didn't meddle" and added: "I really believe that when he tells me that, he means it."

Other administration officials have been more skeptical of Russian behavior. Defense Secretary James Mattis has said the U.S. is prepared to deter Russian aggression in Europe and the U.S. agreed late last year to allow sales of lethal anti-tank weapons to Ukraine.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the CIA is working diligently to prevent Russia or any other U.S. adversary from interfering in future elections. "I continue to be concerned not only about the Russians but about others' efforts as well," Pompeo said.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Deb Reichmann contributed to this report.

Read the report: <http://apne.ws/dJu8IWO>

Victim search expands as California storm, mudslides kill 13

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and ANDREW DALTON, Associated Press

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP) — A storm that slammed a California coastal community is over. The search for its victims is not.

Authorities in Santa Barbara County were still trying to reach new areas and dig into the destruction to find dead, injured or trapped people after a powerful mud flow swept away dozens of homes.

At least 13 people were confirmed dead Tuesday, at least 25 were injured and at least 50 had to be rescued by helicopters.

Those numbers could increase when the search is deepened and expanded Wednesday, with a major search-and-rescue team arriving from nearby Los Angeles County and help from the Coast Guard and National Guard along with law enforcement.

They'll focus first on finding survivors.

"Right now our assets are focused on determining if anyone is still alive in any of those structures that have been damaged," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said.

The sheriff said "at least several dozen homes that have been either destroyed or severely damaged, and likely many other ones are in areas that are as-yet inaccessible."

He said it's likely they'll find more people amid that destruction.

The search for the missing — whose numbers are uncertain — will continue through the night and then intensify after daylight Wednesday, authorities said.

Most deaths were believed to have occurred in Montecito, said Santa Barbara County spokesman David Villalobos.

The wealthy enclave of about 9,000 people northwest of Los Angeles is home to such celebrities as Oprah Winfrey, Rob Lowe and Ellen DeGeneres,

Winfrey's home survived the storm and slides. In an Instagram post she shared photos of the deep mud

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in her backyard and video of rescue helicopters hovering over her house.

"What a day!" Winfrey said. "Praying for our community again in Santa Barbara."

A mud-caked 14-year-old girl was among the dozens rescued on the ground Tuesday. She was pulled from a collapsed Montecito home where she had been trapped for hours.

"I thought I was dead for a minute there," the dazed girl could be heard saying on video posted by KNBC-TV before she was taken away on a stretcher.

Twenty people were hospitalized and four were described as "severely critical" by Dr. Brett Wilson of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

The mud was unleashed in the dead of night by flash flooding in the steep, fire-scarred Santa Ynez Mountains. Burned-over zones are especially susceptible to destructive mudslides because scorched earth doesn't absorb water well and the land is easily eroded when there are no shrubs.

The torrent arrived suddenly and with a sound some likened to a freight train as water carrying rocks and trees washed away cars and trashed homes.

Thomas Tighe said he stepped outside his Montecito home in the middle of the night and heard "a deep rumbling, an ominous sound I knew was ... boulders moving as the mud was rising."

Two cars were missing from his driveway and he watched two others slowly move sideways down the middle of the street "in a river of mud."

In daylight, Tighe was shocked to see a body pinned by muck against his neighbor's home. He wasn't sure who it was.

Authorities had been bracing for the possibility of catastrophic flooding because of heavy rain in the forecast for the first time in 10 months.

Evacuations were ordered beneath recently burned areas of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. But only an estimated 10 to 15 percent of people in a mandatory evacuation area of Santa Barbara County heeded the warning, authorities said.

U.S. Highway 101, the link connecting Ventura and Santa Barbara, looked like a muddy river and was expected to be closed for two days.

The worst of the rainfall occurred in a 15-minute span starting at 3:30 a.m. Montecito got more than a half-inch in five minutes, while Carpinteria received nearly an inch in 15 minutes.

"All hell broke loose," said Peter Hartmann, a dentist who moonlights as a news photographer for the local website Noozhawk. "Power lines were down, high-voltage power lines, the large aluminum poles to hold those were snapped in half. Water was flowing out of water mains and sheared-off fire hydrants."

Hartmann watched rescuers revive a toddler pulled unresponsive from the muck.

"It was a freaky moment to see her just covered in mud," he said.

Hartmann said he found a tennis trophy awarded in 1991 to a father-son team his wife knows.

"Both of them were caught in the flood. Son's in the hospital, dad hasn't been found yet," he said, declining to name them.

The first confirmed death was Roy Rohter, a former real estate broker who founded St. Augustine Academy in Ventura. The Catholic school's headmaster, Michael Van Hecke, announced the death and said Rohter's wife was injured by the mudslide.

Montecito is beneath the scar left by a wildfire that erupted Dec. 4 and became the largest ever recorded in California. It spread over more than 440 square miles (1,140 square kilometers) and destroyed 1,063 homes and other structures. It continues to smolder deep in the wilderness.

Dalton reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers John Antczak, Michael Balsamo and Brian Melley in Los Angeles and Alina Hartounian in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Follow Weber at <https://twitter.com/WeberCM>.

US decision would hit families' pocketbooks in El Salvador

By **MARCOS ALEMAN, Associated Press**

SAN SEBASTIAN SALITRILLO, El Salvador (AP) — Every two weeks, Flor Tovar receives a lifeline in the form of cash wired from her husband living in the United States.

The money pays the \$50 rent for her modest two-bedroom home in a low-income housing development about an hour northwest of El Salvador's capital. It also covers school transportation for their two sons, the electricity, water and cable television.

Now a decision made in Washington to end temporary protected status for her husband and nearly 200,000 other Salvadorans in the U.S. has the 33-year-old Tovar and her sons wondering what a future without that income would look like. Salvadorans with the status have been given until Sept. 9, 2019, to leave the United States or face deportation.

"It is very worrisome. These people don't have the resources to come back, and the crime is terrible here," Tovar said Tuesday.

The change would affect only a fraction of the estimated 2 million Salvadorans living the United States. But the effects could be devastating for families like Tovar's who depend on the money sent home by relatives.

The Trump administration has left the door open for Congress to find a legislative solution that would allow those Salvadorans to remain in the country. Salvadorans living under the temporary protected status received it because earthquakes in 2001 made it difficult for them to return to their country. But Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen announced Monday that the U.S. has determined that the effects of those quakes are no longer a hurdle to returning.

Salvadorans transferred more than \$4.5 billion from the U.S. in 2016, accounting for 17 percent of El Salvador's economy, according to government figures. From January to November 2017, remittances were running about 10 percent above the same period the previous year. A government survey in 2016 determined that 382,734 households in El Salvador received remittances from abroad.

Tovar said that during his years in the U.S. her husband, Elias Colocho, established another family. But they remain on good terms and he continues to send money and speaks regularly with their sons. He works in construction in Richmond, Virginia, and makes a good living. In El Salvador he had worked at a bakery.

"Here there is no work, and if there is, the most you earn is \$5 a day," she said. "He has to take care of a family that he has here and the family he has in Virginia, another woman and two kids. If they come here you think he's going to be able to support two families?"

Tovar does not work and worries what will happen to her sons aged 12 and 10. They are nearing the age when gangs start to recruit. The gangs are omnipresent and she doesn't let her sons go anywhere without her. Even so, gangsters question them in the street about where they live and ask them to lift their shirts to see if they have tattoos.

Elias, Tovar's eldest, realizes what is at stake. He said that if his father has to come back they won't have the money they have now.

"He told me that he could come soon, that next year he is going to come if he can't get his immigration papers sorted out," Elias said.

Before the Trump administration's announcement, Tovar and her husband had been thinking about sending the sons to the U.S. for their safety. "But now that is not going to be possible," she said.

"I'm uncertain, devastated, worried," Tovar said. "I don't know what future awaits my sons. I had dreamed that they would live in the United States, but now that's not going to be possible."

James Franco's New York Times talk canceled amid allegations

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times has canceled a public event with James Franco days after the Golden Globe winner was accused of sexual misconduct.

The TimesTalk event scheduled for Wednesday was intended to feature "The Disaster Artist" director and star and his brother and co-star, Dave Franco, discussing the film with a Times reporter.

The Times said in a statement that "given the controversy surrounding recent allegations" it was canceling the event.

Actress Violet Paley and filmmaker Sarah Tither-Kaplan have recently accused Franco on Twitter of earlier instances of sexual misconduct.

Franco was in attendance at Tuesday's National Board of Review Awards gala in New York City to present his film's adapted screenplay award. He did not comment on the allegations. An email seeking comment from his publicist was not immediately returned.

Later during an appearance on CBS' "The Late Show," host Stephen Colbert questioned Franco about the allegations. Franco said that the things he's heard about on Twitter are not accurate but he supports people coming out and having a voice.

When asked by Colbert about how to come to some sense of the truth so that there can be a possible reconciliation between the people who have different views, Franco said that if he's done something wrong he will fix it. "I'm here to listen and learn and change my perspective where it's off, and I'm completely willing and want to," he said.

Judge blocks Trump decision to end young immigrant program

By SUDHIN THANAWALA and ANDREW DALTON, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday night temporarily blocked the Trump administration's decision to end a program protecting young immigrants from deportation.

U.S. District Judge William Alsup granted a request by California and other plaintiffs to prevent President Donald Trump from ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program while their lawsuits play out in court.

Alsup said lawyers in favor of DACA clearly demonstrated that the young immigrants "were likely to suffer serious, irreparable harm" without court action. The judge also said the lawyers have a strong chance of succeeding at trial.

DACA has protected about 800,000 people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children or came with families who overstayed visas. The program includes hundreds of thousands of college-age students.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced in September that the program would be phased out, saying former President Barack Obama had exceeded his authority when he implemented it in 2012.

On Tuesday, the Department of Justice said the judge's decision doesn't change the fact that the program was an illegal circumvention of Congress, and it is within the agency's power to end it.

"The Justice Department will continue to vigorously defend this position, and looks forward to vindicating its position in further litigation," department spokesman Devin O'Malley said in a statement.

Sessions' move to phase out DACA sparked a flurry of lawsuits nationwide.

Alsup considered five separate lawsuits filed in Northern California, including one by the California and three other states, and another by the governing board of the University of California school system.

"DACA covers a class of immigrants whose presence, seemingly all agree, pose the least, if any, threat and allows them to sign up for honest labor on the condition of continued good behavior," Alsup wrote in his decision. "This has become an important program for DACA recipients and their families, for the employers who hire them, for our tax treasuries, and for our economy."

That echoed the judge's comments from a court hearing on Dec. 20, when he grilled an attorney for the Department of Justice over the government's justification for ending DACA, saying many people had come to rely on it and faced a "real" and "palpable" hardship from its loss.

Alsup also questioned whether the administration had conducted a thorough review before ending the program.

Brad Rosenberg, a Justice Department attorney, said the administration considered the effects of ending DACA and decided to phase it out over time instead of cutting it immediately.

DACA recipients will be allowed to stay in the U.S. for the remainder of their two-year authorizations. Any recipient whose status was due to expire within six months also got a month to apply for another

two-year term.

The Justice Department said in court documents that DACA was facing the possibility of an abrupt end by court order, but Alsup was critical of that argument.

People took out loans, enrolled in school and even made decisions about whether to get married and start families on the basis of DACA and now face "horrific" consequences from the loss of the program, said Jeffrey Davidson, an attorney for the University of California governing board.

"The government considered none of this at all when they decided to rescind DACA," he said at the hearing.

The University of California said in a statement after the decision that "UC's DACA students represent the very best of our country and are a key part of California and our nation's future."

The statement says the UC system will persist in legal challenges to the end of the program and will seek permanent protection for the young immigrants.

DACA recipients are commonly referred to as "dreamers," based on never-passed proposals in Congress called the DREAM Act that would have provided similar protections for young immigrants.

"Dreamers lives were thrown into chaos when the Trump administration tried to terminate the DACA program without obeying the law," California Attorney General Becerra said in a statement after Tuesday's decision. "Tonight's ruling is a huge step in the right direction."

Dalton reported from Los Angeles.

Lawmakers seek deal on immigration, border security

By ALAN FRAM and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bargainers seeking a bipartisan immigration accord planned talks as soon as Wednesday as President Donald Trump and leading lawmakers sought to parlay an extraordinary White House meeting into momentum for resolving a politically blistering issue.

Facing a Jan. 19 deadline for averting an election-year government shutdown, negotiators were seeking a formula for reviving protections against deportation that Trump has ended for nearly 800,000 immigrants who arrived illegally in the U.S. as children. In exchange, Trump and Republicans want toughened border protections and tightened restrictions on others trying to migrate to this country.

"I'll take all the heat you want," Trump told nearly two dozen lawmakers Tuesday at the White House for a meeting that began with a startling 55 minutes in which reporters and TV cameras watched. "But you are not that far away from comprehensive immigration reform."

Trump said an immigration deal could be reached in two phases — first by addressing young immigrants and border security with what he called a "bill of love," then by making comprehensive changes that have long eluded Congress. That second bill would likely face long odds for passage, considering long-running disagreements over issues like how to handle all 11 million immigrants illegally in the U.S.

Republicans will need Democratic votes to prevent a federal shutdown in 10 days, votes Democrats have threatened to withhold without an immigration agreement. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters talks would begin as early as Wednesday, adding, "And we'll solve this problem and find common ground."

Negotiations over the DACA program may be more complicated in light of a federal judge's ruling Tuesday night to block temporarily the administration's decision to end the program. In doing so, U.S. District Judge William Alsup in San Francisco granted a request by California and other plaintiffs to let lawsuits over the administration's decision play out in court.

Alsup said lawyers in favor of DACA clearly demonstrated that the young immigrants "were likely to suffer serious, irreparable harm" without court action. The judge also said the lawyers had a strong chance of succeeding at trial.

After Trump and lawmakers spent time meeting privately, the White House and numerous lawmakers said there was agreement to limit the immediate bill to four areas. These were border security, family-based

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"chain migration," a visa lottery that draws people from diverse countries and how to revive the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

That Obama-era program has given hundreds of thousands — the so-called Dreamers — a shield from deportation and the right to work legally. Trump ended it last year but gave Congress until March 5 to find a fix, and Tuesday he signaled flexibility.

"I think my positions are going to be what the people in this room come up with," Trump said during the Cabinet Room meeting.

Trump even flashed some give on his cherished plan to build a wall along the border with Mexico, perhaps his highest profiled pledge from last year's presidential campaign. That proposal has been strongly opposed by Democrats and many Republicans as a futile waste of money.

Trump said it needn't be a "2,000-mile wall. We don't need a wall where you have rivers and mountains and everything else protecting it. But we do need a wall for a fairly good portion." He'd made similar statements last year, but this time it was in the context of negotiations for actual legislation.

Both parties were already showing signs of divisions over how much to give in upcoming talks. But one conservative foe of giving ground acknowledged the impact of Trump's support.

"There are scores of Republicans who have shifted their position to follow the president," said Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa. He said while he helped head off a bipartisan immigration effort in 2013, "I don't want to promise the result will be the same. This is more momentum than I have ever seen."

Among Democrats, Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, who attended the White House meeting, said he was open to negotiations on the four issues bargainers will address.

But Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., who was not there and like Cuellar is a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said he favored a narrow bill protecting Dreamers with perhaps something negotiable on border security.

"They took the hostage," Gallego said of Trump's action that would end Dreamers' protections. "We're not going to pay for it."

One attendee, No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Dick Durbin of Illinois, said, "The sense of urgency, the commitment to DACA, the fact that the president said to me privately as well as publicly, 'I want to get this done,' I'm going to take him as his word."

Underscoring the effort's fresh momentum, the head of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Rep. Michelle Grisham Lujan, D-N.M., said late Tuesday she was "encouraged" by Trump's words and would work "in good faith" toward a deal. Some of the group's members have taken a hard line against surrendering too much in a compromise with Trump.

Conservatives quickly sounded alarms about a process that would lead to a comprehensive agreement on immigration, a path that has long been anathema to many rank-and-file Republicans.

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., leader of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, said in a text message after the White House meeting he was "generally" opposed to a two-step process "because history would indicate the second step never happens." He later said that if the first steps included the four areas outlined by the White House, "then I could support a two-step process realizing that step one is the only thing that is guaranteed."

AP reporters Kevin Freking, Andrew Taylor and Marcy Gordon contributed.

For moms of boys, mixed emotions over sexual misconduct saga

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

Of the many American women dismayed by the wave of sexual misconduct scandals, there's a subgroup with distinctive hopes and fears: mothers of boys.

Among them are women who have sought to raise their sons, sometimes from infancy, to shun sexist mindsets and be respectful of girls. Yet even some of these mothers worry about countervailing peer pressure their sons might face. And there's uncertainty as to whether their sons' generation, as adult men, will be less likely to perpetrate or condone sexual misconduct.

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Danielle Campoamor, a New York-based writer and editor, has been wrestling with these questions even though her son, Matthias, is only 3. She says she feels extra pressure because she was sexually assaulted five years ago by a co-worker.

"I worry what kind of man I'm raising and how he'll treat woman and girls in his life," said Campoamor, 30, who already takes Matthias to events where sexual misconduct is discussed.

"Does he understand? No," she said. "But it won't be a taboo topic later on. I hope he'll have the courage to stand up for what's right."

In a recent article for the website Romper, Campoamor wrote that the scandals provide a "teachable moment" for her and Matthias.

"It is my responsibility to provide him with concrete examples of what to do, and what not to do, when he witnesses, hears about, or is a victim of sexual assault," she wrote.

Neena Chaudry, education director for the National Women's Law Center, has taken her son, now 10, to pro and college women's basketball games in greater Washington since babyhood. Chaudry says he's now a devoted fan who extols the virtues of women's sports to other boys.

"It helps him see women as strong and formidable," Chaudry wrote for the law center's blog.

A Denver mom, Cynthia Boune, said she and her husband set out early in parenthood to raise their two sons to resist sexist attitudes.

"With all the sexual harassment news, we've had a lot of family discussions and thank goodness our parenting style was validated," Boune wrote by email. "My boys were disgusted by the attitudes of predatory men."

She recalled an incident when her oldest son, now 18, was a high school freshman, and walked away when some soccer teammates laughed about a cellphone video showing a drunken girl kissing numerous boys.

"I hope now that he is older he feels secure enough to not just walk away, but to call them out on it," Boune wrote. "This is where the real work is."

Long before the latest scandals, programs emerged aimed at reducing boy-girl gender friction and curbing sexual harassment.

Among them is Coaching Boys Into Men, developed by the nonprofit Futures Without Violence. Thousands of high school and middle school coaches have been trained to convey to their players the importance of treating young women with respect and avoiding abusive behavior.

Brian O'Connor, who runs the program, says the recent scandals have boosted interest among parents who'd like it implemented at their sons' schools.

A Seattle couple, Esther Warkov and Joel Levin, are among a growing number of activists who believe the fight against sexual harassment should start in elementary school, with boys getting an early message that girls should be treated respectfully.

"Some people seem to think sexual assault starts in college — but it took them (the perpetrators) 12 years to practice," said Warkov.

She and Levin founded Stop Sexual Assault in Schools, which creates anti-sexual harassment curriculum, after their daughter allegedly was raped by a fellow student during an overnight high school field trip in 2012.

California, a pacesetter in sex education, implemented a law in 2016 that included sexual harassment as a topic public school districts must address, starting in 7th grade. Women's rights activists welcome the requirement.

"Teaching boys how they can be part of the solution is tremendously important, and it has to start in lower grades," said Noreen Farrell of San Francisco-based Equal Rights Advocates.

However, legislators and school officials in many states are wary of broaching such issues in curriculum.

"You need a lot of political will to do it," said Debra Hauser of Advocates for Youth, which contends that adolescents need "accurate and complete" sexual health information.

Hauser, who has a son and daughter in their 20s, says there's a contentious argument nationwide over which traditional male behaviors are potentially harmful and which are worth preserving.

As for boys who harass and bully, "they aren't born that way," Hauser said. "They're reflecting the culture,

the image of what a male should be.”

Author Warren Farrell, whose books about gender issues include “The Myth of Male Power” and “The Boy Crisis”, says efforts to curtail sexual harassment would benefit from more understanding of the insecurities experienced by many boys.

“In high school, a 15-year-old boy, the less mature sex, is expected to risk the rejection of the more mature sex,” Farrell said via email. “Having fewer social skills and being more likely to be a ‘failure to launch’, he may feel overwhelmed, withdraw and fall addict to the world of internet porn.”

Among Farrell’s suggestions: More dialogue between the genders, and a greater balance in sharing responsibility for initiating sexual interest.

Amy Lang, a Seattle-based sex education expert, talks about sexual harassment issues with her 17-year-old son, including how he should respond to friends’ sexist comments.

“You can say, ‘Dude, that’s not OK,’” she said. “But it’s super hard to go against the tide.”

She has learned how harassment can evolve out of now-commonplace sexting — boys sending explicit photos to girls, girls often reciprocating to their later regret.

“Many parents have their heads in the sand,” Lang said. “It doesn’t occur to them to tell their sons, ‘It’s not OK.’”

From Portland, Oregon, Lisa Frack founded a Facebook group in 2016 called Raising Feminist Sons. It now has more than 670 members.

Frack says her 14-year-old son respects her principles, but he and his friends sometimes bridle at the word “feminism” and seem untroubled by misogynistic music lyrics.

“If a friend posts a sexist Snapchat, they don’t feel they have to call it out,” she said.

Several mothers expressed hope that harassment might abate as their sons’ generation reaches adulthood. Among boys they know, they see a willingness to abandon some old gender stereotypes.

Michelle Loftus of Forest Park, Illinois — whose 5th Grade triplets include two boys and a girl — took heart from the fact that boys her sons’ age were puzzled why one of their coaches said, “Don’t throw like a girl.”

“It’s the coaches using that terminology,” she said. “Not the kids.”

Little damage as mag 7.6 quake hits in sea north of Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — One of the strongest earthquakes to hit the Caribbean in modern times struck off the coast of Honduras on Tuesday night, shaking the mainland and setting off tsunami warnings that were canceled about an hour later.

There were no early reports of serious damage or casualties on land after the quake struck shortly before 10 p.m. EST. Officials in Honduras said shaking was registered across much of the nation and there were some reports of cracks in homes in Colon and Atlantida provinces along the northern coast and Olancho in eastern Honduras.

Tsunami centers issued advisories and warnings for Puerto Rico, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Jamaica and other Caribbean islands as well as on the coasts of Mexico and Central America, cautioning that sea levels could rise from a foot to 3 feet (0.3 to 1 meter) above normal, but no tsunami materialized.

The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quake at a preliminary magnitude of 7.6. The tremor struck in the sea about 125 miles (202 kilometers) north-northeast of Barra Patuca, Honduras, and 188 miles (303 kilometers) southwest of George Town, Cayman Islands. The tremor occurred about 6 miles (10 kilometers) below the surface.

The northern coast of Honduras closest to the quake’s epicenter is sparsely populated, with much of it covered by nature reserves. The tremor was about 25 miles (44 kilometers) east of Honduras’ Swan Islands, which are unpopulated except for a small navy post.

Tuesday’s quake was one of the largest to hit the Caribbean in recorded history. The 2010 quake that devastated Haiti was magnitude 7.0.

Trump suggests 2-phase immigration deal for 'Dreamers'

By KEN THOMAS and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Searching for a bipartisan deal to avoid a government shutdown, President Donald Trump suggested Tuesday that an immigration agreement could be reached in two phases — first by addressing young immigrants and border security with what he called a “bill of love,” then by making comprehensive changes that have long eluded Congress.

Trump presided over a lengthy meeting with Republican and Democratic lawmakers seeking a solution for hundreds of thousands of young people who were brought to the U.S. as children and living here illegally. Trump last year ended the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which shielded more than 700,000 people from deportation and gave them the right to work legally. He gave Congress until March to find a fix.

Negotiations over the DACA program may be more complicated in light of a federal judge’s ruling Tuesday to block temporarily the administration’s decision to end the program. In doing so, U.S. District Judge William Alsup in San Francisco granted a request by California and other plaintiffs to let lawsuits over the administration’s decision play out in court.

The president, congressional Republicans and Democrats expressed optimism for a deal just 10 days before a government shutdown deadline. Trump said he was willing to be flexible in finding an agreement as Democrats warned that the lives of hundreds of thousands of immigrants hung in the balance.

“I think my positions are going to be what the people in this room come up with,” Trump said during a Cabinet Room meeting with a bipartisan group of nearly two dozen lawmakers, adding, “I am very much reliant upon the people in this room.” A group of journalists observed the meandering meeting for an extraordinary length of time — about 55 minutes — that involved Trump seeking input from Democrats and Republicans alike in a freewheeling exchange on the contentious issue.

“My head is spinning from all the things that were said by the president and others in that room in the course of an hour and a half,” said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. “But the sense of urgency, the commitment to DACA, the fact that the president said to me privately as well as publicly, ‘I want to get this done,’ I’m going to take him as his word.”

The head of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Rep. Michelle Grisham Lujan, D-N.M., said late Tuesday she was “encouraged” by Trump’s words and would work “in good faith” toward a deal. Some of the group’s members have taken a hard line against surrendering too much in a compromise with Trump.

The White House said after the meeting that lawmakers had agreed to narrow the scope of the negotiations to four areas: border security, family-based “chain migration,” the visa lottery and the DACA policy. Democrats and Republicans are set to resume negotiations Wednesday.

But the exchange raised questions about how far Trump would push for his high-profile border wall.

In describing the need for a wall, the president said it didn’t need to be a “2,000-mile wall. We don’t need a wall where you have rivers and mountains and everything else protecting it. But we do need a wall for a fairly good portion.”

Trump has long made that case, saying even during his campaign that his border wall didn’t need to be continuous, thanks to natural barriers in the landscape. And he has said he would be open to using fencing for some portions as well.

The unusually public meeting laid bare a back-and-forth between the parties more typically confined to closed-door negotiations. At one point, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, asked Trump if he would support a “clean” DACA bill now with a commitment to pursue a comprehensive immigration overhaul later.

Trump responded, “I would like it. ... I think a lot of people would like to see that but I think we have to do DACA first.” House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., interjected, saying, “Mr. President, you need to be clear though,” that legislation involving the so-called Dreamers would need to include border security.

The president said he would insist on construction of a border security wall as part of an agreement

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involving young immigrants, but he said Congress could then pursue a comprehensive immigration overhaul in a second phase of talks.

House Republicans said they planned to soon introduce legislation to address border security and the young immigrants. Trump said, "it should be a bill of love."

Trump's embrace of a "bill of love" brought to mind his past criticism of former GOP presidential rival Jeb Bush, who said many people come to the U.S. illegally as an "act of love." Trump's campaign posted a video at the time with a tagline that read, "Forget love, it's time to get tough!"

Conservatives quickly sounded alarms about a process that would lead to a comprehensive agreement on immigration, a path that has long been anathema to many rank-and-file Republicans.

"Nothing Michael Wolff could say about @realDonaldTrump has hurt him as much as the DACA lovefest right now," tweeted conservative commentator Ann Coulter, referencing Trump's recent portrayal in the book, "Fire and Fury."

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., leader of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, said in a text message after the White House meeting he was "generally" opposed to a two-step process "because history would indicate the second step never happens." But he later said that if the first steps included the four areas outlined by the White House, "then I could support a two-step process realizing that step one is the only thing that is guaranteed."

The president appeared to acknowledge the potential political pitfalls of pursuing a more permanent deal, telling the lawmakers, "I'll take all the heat you want. But you are not that far away from comprehensive immigration reform."

After the meeting, lawmakers from both parties appeared divided over the basic definition of Trump's bottom-line demand for a border wall.

Democratic House Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland said his party was opposed to GOP calls for \$18 billion in funding to build the wall. "It was clear in the meeting that wall did not mean some structure," he said of Trump's remarks, noting the president also mentioned fencing, cameras, and other security measures for the border.

Republicans were adamant that Trump's call "means the wall," but noted Trump acknowledged it doesn't need to cover the entire length of the border because of geographic barriers.

The immigration talks pit a president who made the construction of a border wall a central piece of his 2016 campaign against congressional Democrats who have sought to preserve the Obama-era protections for the young immigrants.

The discussions are taking place in the aftermath of Trump's public blow-up with former campaign and White House adviser Steve Bannon, one of the architects of Trump's calls for the border wall.

Bannon's break with Trump has raised concerns among some conservative Republicans that the president might reach an agreement with Democrats on the Dreamers without getting enough in return.

Trump as recently as last weekend said he wouldn't sign legislation addressing DACA unless Congress agreed to an overhaul of the legal immigration system, saying any deal must include an overhaul of the family-based immigration system as well as an end to the diversity visa lottery, which draws immigrants from under-represented parts of a world.

That would be in addition to Trump winning funding for his promised southern border wall and added border security. But in the meeting he indicated a willingness to compromise with Democrats, whose votes are needed in the narrowly divided Senate.

"The president exhibited, I thought, quite a bit of flexibility when the cameras weren't there in terms of what we do in this phase and the next phase — and an acknowledgment that a lot of things we want to do are going to be part of a comprehensive bill but not now," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., one of the attendees.

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor, Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

President Winfrey? No way, says Trump: "I'll beat Oprah"

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Winfrey? No way, says political prognosticator Donald Trump. "I'll beat Oprah," the president declared flatly at a White House meeting Tuesday — though he quickly added, "I don't think she's going to run."

Asked about all the presidential speculation suddenly swirling around Winfrey, the typically pugilistic Trump steered clear of nasty nicknames and colorful insults while sizing up such a potential celebrity showdown. "Oprah would be a lot of fun," said Trump, who added that he knows her "very well."

Trump appeared on Winfrey's long-running talk show in 1988 and again with his family in 2011, during her final season.

As Democrats encouraged Winfrey to consider a bid, her best friend, CBS News host Gayle King, said Tuesday that Winfrey is "intrigued" by the idea.

"She loves this country and would like to be of service in some way, but I don't think she's actively considering it at this time," King said, noting that she had spoken to Winfrey at length the night before. "I also know that after years of watching the Oprah show, you always have the right to change your mind."

The presidential buzz follows Winfrey's impassioned call for "a brighter morning even in our darkest nights" at the Golden Globes on Sunday night in a speech that left some viewers contemplating the idea of the Democratic Party embracing a celebrity candidate of its own to challenge Trump in 2020. Trump, of course, was a businessman-turned-reality-television-star before his extraordinary political rise.

Trump's daughter Ivanka endorsed Oprah's message, if not a political future, in a tweet Monday: "Just saw @Oprah's empowering and inspiring speech at last night's #GoldenGlobes. Let's all come together, women & men, & say #TIMESUP! #UNITED"

Winfrey, in September and October, publicly dismissed the notion of seeking the nation's highest office, though she noted that Trump's victory made her rethink the requirements of the office.

The 64-year-old media mogul has become a cultural phenomenon. She was born into a poor home in Mississippi but broke through as a television news and talk show personality in the 1980s. Over 30-plus years, she became the face of television talk shows, starred and produced feature films, and began her own network.

Trump's kind words for Oprah are not new. In a 1999 interview, he praised her as a strong choice for vice president.

Bannon to exit Breitbart News Network after break with Trump

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon is stepping down as chairman of Breitbart News Network after a public break with President Donald Trump.

Breitbart announced Tuesday that Bannon would step down as executive chairman of the conservative news site, less than a week after Bannon's explosive criticisms of Trump and his family were published in a new book.

A report on the Breitbart website quotes Bannon saying, "I'm proud of what the Breitbart team has accomplished in so short a period of time in building out a world-class news platform."

Trump lashed out at Bannon for comments made in Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House," which questions the president's fitness for office. As Trump aides called him disloyal and disgraceful, the president branded his former chief strategist on Twitter as "Sloppy Steve," an apparent reference to Bannon's often unkempt appearance, and declared that "he lost his mind" when he was pushed out of the White House last August.

The president was livid about Bannon's remarks — not just at the insults about his family, but also at his former strategist's apparent intent to take credit for Trump's election victory and political movement, according to a White House official and two outside advisers not authorized to speak publicly about internal conversations.

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After days of silence amid withering criticism from his former colleagues and his largest benefactor, Bannon tried to make amends. He issued a statement Sunday praising the president's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., whom he was quoted accusing of treasonous behavior in the book. Bannon did not apologize for his criticism of the president's daughter and son-in-law, Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, with whom he had squabbled inside the West Wing.

Bannon's departure from Breitbart came as a shock to some of his allies. One said Bannon was telling people as recently as Monday that he expected to stay on.

Bannon's breakup with Breitbart is also costing him his daily show on the conservative talk station on satellite radio network SiriusXM. The company announced it is ending its relationship with Bannon, stating its programming agreement is with Breitbart.

Inside the White House, Bannon was viewed as the keeper of Trump's nationalistic flame, charting the progress on the president's promises to his base on dry erase boards in his office. But Bannon was marginalized in the months before his ouster over Trump's concerns that the top aide was being viewed as an Oval Office puppeteer.

Trump had stayed in touch with the Breitbart head after he left the White House in August, including consulting him on last month's Alabama Senate race. But since Bannon's quotes in the Wolff book emerged, the White House began sending Republicans and conservative figures a clear message: Trump or Bannon.

The chief strategist had lost many allies in the West Wing after Chief of Staff John Kelly's staff shakeup and was blamed for some of the infighting that had paralyzed the White House. Some West Wing aides in recent days had made little effort to hide their happiness that Bannon had suffered such a public rebuke.

The White House did not immediately respond to the news of Bannon's ouster, but press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders last week called on the conservative site — which has been a steadfast backer of the president — to "look at and consider" parting ways with Bannon.

Despite the setback, Bannon has told confidants that he believes Trump, after a cooling-off period, will again seek his counsel, noting that the president often maintains contact with aides he has fired. But some Trump allies hope the president will permanently cut off his former strategist, and the fate of Bannon's insurgency against the Republican establishment is now in doubt.

On Monday, deputy press secretary Hogan Gidley said Bannon's apology did not alter his standing with the president. "I don't believe there's any way back for Mr. Bannon at this point," Gidley said.

AP Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace and AP writer Catherine Lucey contributed to this report. Lemire reported from New York.

Source: Alabama picked for new Toyota-Mazda factory in works

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Japanese automakers Toyota and Mazda have chosen the state of Alabama for a \$1.6 billion joint-venture auto plant that is to begin operating by 2021 and eventually employ about 4,000 people, a person briefed on the decision said.

The manufacturing plant is to be built in the Huntsville area in Limestone County, said the person, who asked to remain anonymous because the site hasn't been officially announced. Officials in the Southern state said Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey is to make a major economic development announcement on Wednesday, but they declined to elaborate.

Alabama and North Carolina apparently were finalists for the huge factory, which is expected to begin operating in 2021. It is to be able to build 300,000 vehicles per year and will produce the Toyota Corolla compact car for North America and a new small SUV from Mazda, the companies have said.

Toyota and Mazda are forming a capital alliance and splitting the cost for the plant equally. The Huntsville area already has a Toyota engine factory that employs nearly 1,500 people. The decision to pick Alabama is another example of foreign-based automakers building U.S. factories in the South. The companies have located there due largely to lower wages and to avoid the United Auto Workers union, which is stronger

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in Northern states.

After reassessing the market, Toyota Motor Corp. has changed its plan to make Corollas at a plant in Guanajuato, Mexico, now under construction, and instead will produce Tacoma pickups there, Toyota has said.

President Donald Trump had criticized Toyota for taking auto production and jobs to Mexico. With the investment, both automakers hope to prove their good American corporate citizenship and appease the Trump administration's concerns about jobs moving overseas.

But during the summer, Toyota President Akio Toyoda denied that Trump's views influenced his decision. "We have been reviewing the best production strategy for our business," he told reporters in Tokyo at the time.

Toyota and Mazda Motor Corp. also plan to work together on various advanced auto technology, such as electric vehicles, safety features and connected cars, as well as products that they could supply each other, they said.

It's difficult to predict auto sales in three years, but at present, Toyota may not need the factory for Corolla production.

U.S. sales of small cars fell nearly 10 percent last year as buyers continued a massive shift toward SUVs and pickup trucks. Corolla sales fell 14 percent for the year, to just under 309,000, according to Autodata Corp.

Still, Toyota and Mazda have said their collaboration will respect mutual independence and equality. Toyota, which makes the Prius hybrid, Camry sedan and Lexus luxury models, already provides hybrid technology to Mazda, which makes compact cars for Toyota at its Mexico plant.

The sheer cost of the plant also makes a partnership logical, as it boosts cost-efficiency and economies of scale. Working together on green and other auto technology also makes sense as the segment becomes increasingly competitive due to concerns about global warming, the environment and safety.

Associated Press Writer Kimberly Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama, contributed to this report.

If Winfrey runs, CBS News faces potential conflict

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — In an odd twist, fellow hosts of "CBS This Morning" turned to their colleague Gayle King — famous friend of Oprah Winfrey — for an interview Tuesday about whether her pal would run for president.

If a Winfrey candidacy moves beyond idle chatter, one of the leading figures on a CBS News show that prides itself on hard-nosed journalism would have a conflict of interest on a major story.

King attended the Golden Globe Awards on Sunday and said on "CBS This Morning" that she spent several hours with Winfrey after the speech that fueled political speculation. King said her friend is intrigued by the idea of a candidacy, but didn't think she was actively considering it.

CBS' Norah O'Donnell and Jeff Glor considered King's close relationship with Winfrey such common knowledge that they didn't even explain it before asking questions on Tuesday's show. The two women have been good friends since they both worked at a Baltimore television station in their early 20s.

Watching the interview was weird, CNN's Dana Bash said on that network about an hour later.

If the candidacy becomes real, "Gayle's gotta leave," responded CNN's morning host, Chris Cuomo.

Then, perhaps remembering that his brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, has been mentioned as a 2020 presidential candidate, Cuomo quickly switched gears.

"I have the right to change my opinion," he said. "Does she have to leave? Maybe she does. I guess they could do the coverage in a way where she never handles it. But it would raise questions with people."

CBS will address the issue if and when it becomes one, CBS News President David Rhodes said. The network has always been transparent in letting viewers know that Winfrey and King are friends, he said. Winfrey also works for CBS News; she does occasional stories for "60 Minutes."

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Rhodes praised King for how she handled the on-air discussion with O'Donnell and Glor.

"It's difficult to be part of the news when you cover the news and she helped people understand what was going on with the story," Rhodes said.

King's insight is useful as long as chatter about Winfrey's candidacy is a parlor game and not reality, said Al Tompkins, an instructor in broadcast journalism for the Poynter Institute.

"The relationship between King and Winfrey is well known and viewers can filter what they hear from Gayle through that filter," Tompkins said. "If Oprah did run, it would be a tougher relationship to navigate ... Today, with so many people being so skeptical or cynical of what they see, hear and read in journalism, the cleaner we can keep the lines between journalists and politicians the better."

Mark Feldstein, a journalism professor at the University of Maryland, said CBS News would have to take King off campaign stories if Winfrey were to run. That could be awkward for the show's format; the three hosts often sit at a table and discuss stories or interview newsmakers together.

"The public needs to be assured that the news they get is as objective as humanly possible," Feldstein said. "That obviously is not the case if an anchor is reporting on a close friend."

King was quoted after Winfrey's speech as saying it gave her "goosebumps." She said on the air Tuesday that it was "electrifying. It was the right person giving the right speech at the right time."

The danger of such words of praise is they can become weapons in a political environment, by people who are looking for signs of bias.

Tim Graham, director of media analysis for the conservative watchdog Media Research Center, said King's job "is like having an Oprah press spokesperson on staff. She's helping Oprah milk the speculation for all it's worth."

Some have interpreted King's comments on Tuesday as dampening that speculation. Rhodes said he'd heard no complaints about the language that she used and called concerns about it hypothetical.

After speaking on the issue Tuesday, King told viewers, "no matter what happens, I will be at CBS This Morning."

Author of Trump dossier had concerns about Russian blackmail

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former British spy who compiled a dossier of allegations about Donald Trump's presidential campaign and Russia brought the document to the FBI in July 2016 because he was worried about "whether a political candidate was being blackmailed," according to a congressional interview transcript released Tuesday.

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, revealed the transcript from an August closed-door interview with Glenn Simpson, a co-founder of the political opposition research firm Fusion GPS. The firm commissioned the dossier, which was initially paid for by a conservative website and then later by Democrats, including Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Feinstein made the transcript public over the objections of Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who called the move "confounding" in a statement shortly after Feinstein made it public. Grassley said the release could undermine attempts to interview other witnesses in the committee's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

In the transcript, Simpson said Christopher Steele, the former British spy who wrote the dossier, took it to the FBI and said his concern was "whether or not there was blackmail going on, whether a political candidate was being blackmailed or had been compromised."

The dossier is a compilation of memos written by Steele during the 2016 campaign that contained allegations of connections between Trump and Russia, including that Trump had been compromised by the Kremlin.

Trump has derided the dossier as a politically motivated hit job. Following his lead, several GOP-led committees are now investigating whether the dossier formed the basis for the FBI's initial investigations. Simpson has denied that it did and, according to the transcript, told investigators that the FBI told Steele

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that the government also had intelligence from "an internal Trump campaign source." Simpson would not name the source.

According to Simpson, Steele flew to Rome to meet an FBI agent stationed there for his second debriefing before the November election. He said the FBI contact told Steele that there was renewed interest in his research because the bureau had corroborated some of the material.

Simpson told investigators it was his understanding that the FBI "believed Chris's information might be credible because they had other intelligence that indicated the same thing and one of those pieces of intelligence was a human source from inside the Trump organization."

According to a person familiar with Simpson's testimony who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, Simpson did not mean to suggest the FBI had a direct, or witting, source of information from within the Trump campaign.

Instead, the person said Tuesday, the episode Simpson was apparently referring to involved communication between George Papadopoulos, a foreign policy adviser for the Trump campaign who has since pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, and an Australian diplomat. The New York Times reported last month that Papadopoulos told the diplomat that Russia had thousands of emails that would embarrass Clinton and that the Australians' subsequent tip to the FBI about the conversation helped persuade the bureau to investigate potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Simpson also said Steele severed his contacts with the FBI before the election following disclosures that the bureau's inquiry had found no connection between Trump campaign and Russia and concerns that it was being "manipulated for political ends by the Trump people."

Citing Republicans' attempt to discredit the dossier, Simpson had called for the release of the closed-door interviews he has done as part of congressional Russia investigations, including his interview with the Judiciary committee. He has also talked to the House and Senate intelligence committees.

Feinstein said Americans deserve to see what Simpson said.

"The innuendo and misinformation circulating about the transcript are part of a deeply troubling effort to undermine the investigation into potential collusion and obstruction of justice," Feinstein said in a statement. "The only way to set the record straight is to make the transcript public."

In a statement, Fusion GPS said it "commends Sen. Feinstein for her courage."

The disagreement between Grassley and Feinstein is further evidence of a breakdown on the panel after an initially bipartisan investigation. In an angry statement, Grassley said that "neither the special counsel, nor any other congressional committee, has released transcripts of private interviews in the course of their investigations." He is referring to special counsel Robert Mueller, who is also investigating the Russian meddling.

Other Republicans on the panel were less concerned. Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas told reporters that the release was a "good idea" and that transparency is important as they work to understand the impact of the dossier.

Grassley and Republican Sen. Lindsay Graham last week asked the Justice Department to investigate Steele, saying they had information that he may have made false statements to the government. Democrats criticized the move, saying they were targeting someone who had reported wrongdoing, not committed it.

Simpson told investigators that Steele is "basically a Boy Scout," saying he has worked with Steele on and off since 2009 and he knew him to be "a person who delivered quality work in very appropriate ways."

He also disputed Republican charges that his firm is linked to Democrats, saying the firm takes clients from both sides of the aisle.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Chad Day, Desmond Butler, Ashraf Khalil and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

Read the transcript: <http://apne.ws/Ri08w8H>

Judges: North Carolina must redraw GOP's gerrymandered map

By GARY D. ROBERTSON, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Federal judges ruled Tuesday that North Carolina's congressional district map drawn by legislative Republicans is illegally gerrymandered because of excessive partisanship that gave GOP a rock-solid advantage for most seats and must quickly be redone.

The ruling marks the second time this decade that the GOP's congressional boundaries in North Carolina have been thrown out by a three-judge panel. In 2016, another panel tossed out two majority black congressional districts initially drawn in 2011, saying there was no justification for using race as the predominant factor in forming them. The redrawn map was the basis for a new round of lawsuits.

The latest lawsuit — filed by election advocacy groups and Democrats — said the replacement for the racial gerrymander also contained unlawful partisan gerrymanders. Those who sued argued that Republican legislators went too far when they followed criteria designed to retain the party's 10-3 majority.

At the time of debate, according to the order, House redistricting chief Rep. David Lewis attempted to justify the criteria by saying "I think electing Republicans is better than electing Democrats. So I drew this map to help foster what I think is better for the country."

"We find that the General Assembly drew and enacted the 2016 plan with intent to subordinate the interests of non-Republican voters and entrench Republican control of North Carolina's congressional delegation," U.S. Circuit Court Judge Jim Wynn wrote in the majority opinion. Wynn added that the evidence shows the "plan achieved the General Assembly's discriminatory partisan objective."

In their ruling Tuesday, the judges ordered the General Assembly to approve another set of districts by Jan. 24. Candidate filing for the November congressional elections begin Feb. 12. A majority of the judges also agreed they would hire a redistricting expert to draw replacement boundaries if the legislature won't.

Through a spokeswoman, Senate Redistricting Committee Chairman Ralph Hise of Mitchell County said lawmakers plan to appeal.

There's a good chance Republicans will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to block the ruling's enforcement until the justices rule in a similar case they heard from Wisconsin in the fall. But that case involves legislative districts, not a congressional plan.

Trump administration says no oil drilling off Florida coast

By GARY FINEOUT and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Trump administration said Tuesday it would not allow oil drilling off the coast of Florida, abruptly reversing course under pressure from Republican Gov. Rick Scott.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said after a brief meeting with Scott at the Tallahassee airport that drilling would be "off the table" when it comes to waters in the eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean off Florida.

The change of course — just five days after Zinke announced the offshore drilling plan — highlights the political importance of Florida, where President Donald Trump narrowly won the state's 29 electoral votes in the 2016 election and has encouraged Scott to run for Senate.

The state is also important economically, with a multibillion-dollar tourism business built on sunshine and miles and miles of white sandy beaches.

Zinke said Tuesday that "Florida is obviously unique" and that the decision to remove the state came after meetings and discussion with Scott.

Zinke announced plans last week to greatly expand offshore oil drilling from the Atlantic to the Arctic and Pacific oceans, including several possible drilling operations off Florida, where drilling is now blocked. The plan was immediately met with bipartisan opposition on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Scott, who is expected to run for Senate later this year, came out against the Trump administration plan when it was first announced, saying his top priority is to ensure that Florida's natural resources are protected.

Other Republican governors also oppose the plan, including Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, South Carolina

Gov. Henry McMaster and Massachusetts Gov. Charles Baker.

"For Floridians we are not drilling off the coast of Florida, which clearly the governor has expressed that's important," Zinke said, adding that he knew when he announced the drilling plan last week that it would spark discussion across the country.

"Our tactic was open everything up, then meet with the governors, meet with the stakeholders so that when we shaped it, it was right," he told reporters at a news conference Tuesday night. "The president made it very clear that local voices count."

When asked what caused the administration to change its position on Florida drilling, Zinke said bluntly, "The governor."

Scott said he was pleased at the administration's change of heart.

"It's a good day for Florida," he said, adding, "I think it's very important to continue our efforts to take care of our environment."

Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson said the meeting with Zinke was "a political stunt orchestrated by the Trump administration to help Rick Scott," who Nelson said has long wanted to drill off Florida's coast.

"I have spent my entire life fighting to keep oil rigs away from our coasts. But now, suddenly, Secretary Zinke announces plans to drill off Florida's coast and (five) days later agrees to 'take Florida off the table'? I don't believe it," Nelson said in a statement. "We shouldn't be playing politics with the future of Florida."

Zinke said last week that the drilling plan called for responsible development that would boost jobs and economic security while providing billions of dollars to fund conservation along U.S. coastlines.

The five-year plan would open 90 percent of the nation's offshore reserves to development by private companies, Zinke said, with 47 leases proposed off the nation's coastlines from 2019 to 2024. Nineteen sales would be off Alaska, 12 in the Gulf of Mexico, nine in the Atlantic and seven in the Pacific, including six off California.

Industry groups praised the announcement, the most expansive offshore drilling proposal in decades. The plan follows Trump's executive order in April encouraging more drilling rights in federal waters, part of the administration's strategy to help the U.S. achieve "energy dominance" in the global market.

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

[—]Daly reported from Washington.

US stands by claim workers attacked in Cuba, maybe by virus

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States stood behind its assertion that U.S. personnel in Cuba were deliberately attacked and raised the possibility Tuesday that a virus was used, as lawmakers and even the FBI challenged the initial theory of "sonic attacks."

The lack of answers more than a year after the incidents started has emboldened Cuba's defenders to argue the U.S. can't be certain anyone was harmed intentionally — especially since no proof has been publicly presented. But top State Department officials testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said even if it wasn't a sonic attack, they were sure it was an attack of some other kind.

Fueling renewed skepticism was a new FBI report, revealed by The Associated Press Monday, saying the U.S. has found no evidence sonic waves were used to harm Americans in Havana. Officials told Congress there are many theories that haven't been ruled out — including the possibility of a virus deployed intentionally to infect the workers.

Todd Brown, assistant director for the State Department's Diplomatic Security service, did not offer any evidence for why a virus might be to blame. Other officials briefed on the investigation have told the AP previously the possibility of a virus or other pathogen has not been high on their list of suspicions.

"We are not much further ahead than we were in finding out why this occurred," Undersecretary of State

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Steve Goldstein said after the hearing. Still, he insisted that President Raul Castro's government "knows what occurred" and refuses to tell the United States.

Cuba has repeatedly and adamantly denied involvement or knowledge of any attacks. Josefina Vidal, the country's top diplomat for U.S. affairs, described Tuesday's hearing as an irresponsible effort to advance an anti-Cuban political agenda, arguing that "months of investigation have shown that there has been no attack of any sort."

"The biggest victim of today's hearing was the truth," Vidal told reporters in Havana.

But Brown said even if the strange sounds heard by the vast majority of the 24 "medically confirmed" U.S. patients didn't cause the damage, the sounds weren't necessarily unrelated.

"The acoustic element could be used as a masking piece," Brown told the senators. Last month, the AP reported investigators believed the sound might have been emitted by some type of device that harmed the Americans in another way.

Dr. Charles Rosenfarb, the State Department's chief doctor, also dismissed speculation that the illnesses were psychosomatic. He said there were "exact findings" on precise, objective medical tests that can't be easily faked.

"The findings suggest this is not an episode of mass hysteria," Rosenfarb said.

The AP has previously reported that brain abnormalities were found in the Americans who fell ill, specifically changes to the white matter tracts that form the brain's internal communication system.

It was unclear how many patients had those abnormalities. But Rosenfarb said of the 80 embassy workers and spouses tested between February and April of 2017, 16 had symptoms and "medically verifiable clinical findings" consistent with mild traumatic brain injury. The actual total is likely higher, because more Americans were tested later following additional suspected attacks.

Rosenfarb said some symptoms started "within minutes to hours of the event," including "sharp, localized ear pain," extreme fatigue, and problems focusing visually. He said for many patients, symptoms disappeared days or weeks later, but they later developed other, persistent issues including problems with memory and concentration. Hearing loss in just one ear and problems sleeping and balancing also lingered.

Of the 24 patients, 10 have returned to work at least part-time, Rosenfarb said. The rest are still in treatment.

"At this time we are unable to state whether or not the injuries may result in adverse long-term consequences to the individuals' future health or functional abilities," Rosenfarb said.

How does the U.S. know their injuries resulted from deliberate attacks? Officials said investigators, working with top academic experts, considered every possible benign explanation, such as environmental toxins. They said each had a major hole that couldn't be explained and was ultimately ruled out. In July 2017, investigators determined some "non-natural" cause must be to blame.

But what could it be? The officials told senators the U.S. government knew of no weapon, sonic or otherwise, that could produce the effects seen in the Cuba patients.

With so many unanswered questions, the Cuba mystery has become a new front in the decades-old political battle between proponents and opponents of closer ties between the U.S. and Cuba, two countries estranged for a half-century until relations were restored under President Barack Obama in 2015.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a supporter of rapprochement with Cuba, has claimed there's no evidence anyone was attacked and that the U.S. should reverse its decision to withdraw most of its diplomats from Havana. That drew an angry response from Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a vocal critic of Castro's government.

"Imagine you are one of these people who are out there working on our behalf, who have now suffered from these injuries," Rubio said. "Not only is it demoralizing, I think it's incredibly unfair to them."

Associated Press writer Andrea Rodriguez in Havana contributed to this report.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP> . Follow the AP's coverage of the Cuba mystery at <http://apnews.com/tag/CubaHealthMystery>

Former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio announces bid for Senate

By JACQUES BILLEAUD, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Joe Arpaio, the former Arizona sheriff who was spared a possible jail sentence when President Donald Trump pardoned him for disobeying a judge, announced Tuesday that he would run for the Senate seat being vacated by fellow Republican Jeff Flake.

The 85-year-old longtime lawman said the lack of support for Trump's agenda in Washington inspired him to make the bid. He also cited supporters who urged him to seek public office again after a crushing 2016 re-election defeat following six terms as sheriff of metro Phoenix. Then Trump offered the pardon last summer.

"If I go to my grave, I don't think I'd be happy if I didn't take the shot to run," Arpaio said, adding that Trump had not asked him to run.

Arpaio's plan could set up a race in which one of the president's most prominent supporters attempts to take over for one of his fiercest critics.

Flake has sparred with Trump over free trade, immigration reform and opening relations with Cuba, even while supporting parts of the president's agenda, like recent tax cuts. Trump, in turn, has denounced the senator, who is not seeking re-election after acknowledging that he could not win a GOP primary in the current political climate.

Arpaio's announcement also raised questions about whether he was serious about the Senate or if he was mainly seeking publicity. Over the years, he flirted with running for Arizona governor no fewer than five times before demurring and abandoning the idea.

Asked whether the White House supports Arpaio's candidacy, spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders declined to comment.

Arpaio said he would accept a Trump endorsement, but he would not seek it.

"If you know my history, you know they (other candidates) ask for the endorsements," Arpaio said. "You never see me with a list of endorsements."

The former sheriff's ambitions also sparked speculation that he could edge out a former state senator, Kelli Ward, in the GOP primary and could potentially create an opening for Republican Rep. Martha McSally, who colleagues have said is planning a Senate run but has not yet made an announcement.

David Berman, a senior research fellow at Arizona State University's Morrison Institute of Public Policy, said if Arpaio follows through on his announcement, his candidacy will likely hurt Ward's chances.

Arpaio will probably siphon off support from some Trump voters and tea party supporters. "I think he would wipe her out," Berman said.

Zachery Henry, a spokesman for Ward's campaign, said the campaign is not concerned that Arpaio would split the GOP vote to Ward's detriment.

Ward, who lost a 2016 GOP primary challenge to Sen. John McCain, has been endorsed by former Trump strategist Steve Bannon in her campaign to replace Flake. Trump made a favorable tweet about Ward but never formally endorsed her.

The primary to decide nominees will be in August, followed by the general election in November.

For decades, Arpaio was known for jailing inmates in outdoor tents during triple-digit heat and forcing them to wear pink underwear. He also conducted dozens of immigration crackdowns over a nine-year period, retaliated against political enemies and failed to adequately investigate more than 400 sex-crimes complaints made to his office.

Last year, he was convicted of criminal contempt of court for intentionally disobeying a 2011 court order in an immigration case.

His re-election defeat came amid a crush of criticism over the \$141 million in legal costs that Maricopa County taxpayers footed for defending him in lawsuits focused on his immigration policies, the deaths of inmates in his jails and a child sex abuse case that was botched by his department's investigators.

Arpaio endorsed Trump in 2016 and appeared alongside him at campaign appearances, including a large

outdoor event in the lawman's hometown of Fountain Hills, outside Phoenix.

Critics complained that the media-savvy lawman repeatedly stoked speculation about running for governor to stir publicity for himself and raise money for his re-election campaign as sheriff.

If Arpaio had decided to run for governor, Arizona law would have required him to resign immediately as sheriff.

Associated Press Writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report. Follow Jacques Billeaud at www.twitter.com/jacquesbilleaud. His work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/jacques%20billeaud>.

Trump faces presidential fitness test amid raised concerns

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is getting his first medical checkup since taking office, a head-to-toe exam on Friday as questions swirl about the health and fitness of the oldest person ever elected to the nation's highest office. In advance, the 71-year-old president has pushed back vigorously against suggestions he's mentally unfit, declaring himself "a very stable genius."

Trump raised concern last month when he slurred some words on national TV. When asked about it, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said questions about Trump's health were "frankly, pretty ridiculous" and blamed his slurred speech on a dry throat, "nothing more than that."

More questions have been raised in the weeks since, given the tone of some of his tweets and the reported comments of some of the people who deal with him day to day. Some were recently published in a new book about his first year, which Sanders denounced as "complete fantasy" for its portrayal of Trump as undisciplined, child-like and in over his head.

Trump was 70 when he was inaugurated a year ago to handle the 24/7 demands of being president. Ronald Reagan, who served two terms, was a year younger when he took office in 1981.

Trump took the unusual step of threatening legal action to try to suppress publication of "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House," by Michael Wolff. He then drew even more attention to the book and the debate about his fitness with weekend tweets stating that his two greatest assets in life "have been mental stability and being, like, really smart." Trump noted his success in business, reality TV and presidential politics, saying: "I think that would qualify as not smart, but genius ... and a very stable genius at that!"

The president is to fly by helicopter Friday to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center outside Washington in Bethesda, Maryland, for the exam.

There is no requirement for a president to have a physical, but modern officeholders undergo them regularly and release a doctor's report stating that they are "fit for duty."

Trump will not undergo a psychiatric exam, the White House said. Officials did not address a different type of screening, assessments of cognitive status that examine neurologic functions including memory. Cognitive assessments aren't routine in standard physicals, although they recently became covered in Medicare's annual wellness visits for seniors.

Dr. Ronny L. Jackson, a Navy rear admiral who is the president's official physician and director of the White House Medical Unit, is coordinating the exam. Jackson provided care for President Barack Obama, conducting and supervising the last of three physicals Obama had during his eight years in office.

How much of Trump's health information the public gets to see is up to him, but Sanders said she expects him to release the same kind of details as past presidents.

In September 2016, during the presidential campaign, Trump released a five-paragraph letter from Dr. Harold Bornstein, his longtime physician, in which the gastroenterologist concluded that Trump "is in excellent physical health." A year earlier, Bornstein said in a December 2015 letter: "If elected, Mr. Trump, I can state unequivocally, will be the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency."

The 2016 letter put Trump's blood pressure and cholesterol measurements in the healthy range, but he does use a cholesterol-lowering statin medication. His EKG, chest X-ray, echocardiogram and blood sugar

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were normal. The 6-foot-3 Trump weighed 236 pounds, and his body mass index, or BMI, of 29.5 put him in the category of being overweight for his height.

Trump takes Crestor for his cholesterol, a low-dose aspirin for heart attack prevention, Propecia to treat male-pattern baldness and antibiotics for rosacea. The one-page letter stated Trump's testosterone level, 441.6, was in the normal range, as were his PSA reading for prostate abnormalities and tests of his liver and thyroid.

Trump leads a largely sedentary lifestyle compared to his most recent predecessors, who ran, rode mountain bikes, played basketball or used exercise machines and lifted weights, and were significantly younger than him when they took office. Trump has said he gets most of his exercise from playing golf, which he does most weekends, driving a cart instead of walking from hole to hole.

Federal health guidelines urge people over age 65 who have no health conditions that would limit exercise to get about 2½ hours a week of moderate activity, such as brisk walking, and to do some muscle-strengthening activities at least two days a week.

As for his diet, Trump enjoys fast food, steaks well-done and with ketchup, chocolate cake and double scoops of vanilla ice cream, and reportedly downs 12 Diet Cokes a day. In a series of interviews last year, Trump showed journalists how he summons a butler to bring him a soda by pressing a red button on his Oval Office desk. In a recent book, "Let Trump Be Trump," former top campaign aides Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie described the four major food groups on Trump's campaign plane as "McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, pizza and Diet Coke."

Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland introduced a bill in April to create a commission that would study whether the president was mentally or physically unable to perform his duties. Democrat Zoe Lofgren of California followed in August with a resolution urging the vice president and Cabinet to have Trump undergo exams to assess his competence. Neither measure has advanced in Congress.

White House officials pushed back Monday against a report by the Axios news website that Trump has been starting his official days later and holding fewer meetings than earlier in his presidency. Spokesman Hogan Gidley said Trump "exhibits yeoman-like work every day in this job, whether it be up before dawn and up into the wee hours of the morning every day."

On Tuesday, the White House made a point of opening Trump's lengthy immigration meeting with lawmakers to reporters and TV cameras, a rare public look lasting nearly an hour at the president conducting a policy gathering.

Trump friend Chris Ruddy, head of the conservative news site NewsMax, says he does not know the details of Trump's schedule but "the idea that he's some sort of absentee president is ludicrous."

Barbara Perry, director of presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center, said, "There's a long history in the presidency of presidents hiding their medical infirmities, both as candidates and as presidents."

Grover Cleveland secretly had part of a cancerous jaw removed aboard a yacht in 1893 when he was said to be on a fishing trip. During the 1960 election, John F. Kennedy concealed that he suffered from a variety of conditions, including Addison's disease, which he controlled with steroids and other drugs. Woodrow Wilson had a secret stroke.

Perry said, "In the nuclear age, our lives are in the hands of our presidents. I think the American people should know everything there is to know about a president's mental and physical health."

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey and Luran Neergaard contributed to this report.

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

Supreme Court takes the wheel in 2 cases of vehicle searches

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's justices put themselves in the driver's seat Tuesday, hearing arguments in two cases involving vehicle searches, but it was unclear what routes the justices will take to resolve the cases.

One case involved Pennsylvania state troopers' stop of a rental car driven by a man who wasn't on the rental agreement. The second involved a policeman's search for a stolen motorcycle in Virginia.

"One of the things that I think is very important in these types of cases is the ability to give clear guidance not only to the courts but to the police," Chief Justice Roberts said. Justice Stephen Breyer, when trying to describe a resolution to the case, said he was "looking for something simple."

The first case involves Terrence Byrd, who was driving his fiancée's rental car on a Pennsylvania highway when a state trooper pulled him over for an alleged minor traffic violation. He acted nervous during the stop and told troopers he had a marijuana cigarette in the car, and officers decided to search the car.

Because the rental agreement didn't authorize Byrd to drive the gray Ford Fusion, troopers told him they didn't need his consent for the search. And when troopers opened the trunk, they found body armor and about 2,500 little bags of heroin. Byrd later acknowledged he planned to sell the drugs for roughly \$7,000, and a court sentenced him to 10 years in prison.

Byrd's attorneys argue his case has potential consequences for the 115 million car rentals that take place annually in the United States. They say that if the government wins, police will have an incentive to pull over a rental car driver who commits a traffic violation because police will know they can search the car if the driver isn't on the rental agreement.

Byrd tried to get the evidence from the search excluded from his case. But a court ruled that because Byrd was an unauthorized driver, he had no reasonable expectation of privacy in the car and therefore couldn't challenge the search using the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable searches. The Trump administration and courts in several parts of the country agree that's the right outcome. Other courts disagree.

On Tuesday, Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito seemed to be the most willing to side with the government while Justice Sonia Sotomayor seemed strongly sympathetic to Byrd's argument.

"If we rule that ... someone has no expectation of privacy even when the renter has given it to them, then what we're authorizing is the police to stop every rental car and search every rental car, without probable cause, that might be on the road," Sotomayor said.

Byrd's case dates to 2014, when Latasha Reed, with whom he has five children, rented a car from a Budget rental office in New Jersey. Byrd's lawyers say Reed was his fiancée and the government calls her Byrd's girlfriend, but both sides agree that the rental agreement didn't cover Byrd.

Even so, Reed handed him the keys as soon as she left the rental office. He was later pulled over while driving alone near Harrisburg. The reason a trooper gave for pulling Byrd over was that he spent too long in the left lane making a passing maneuver.

The second case the justices heard Tuesday addressed the issue of whether police need a warrant before searching a vehicle on private property outside a home.

Police arrested Austin Collins after an officer walked onto his driveway and pulled back a tarp covering Collins' motorcycle. It turned out to be stolen. The officer did not have a warrant.

Probing the extent of Virginia lawyer Trevor Cox's argument in defense of the officer's action, Roberts used some pop culture references as he wondered how far officers can go in their searches.

"I mean, if you have an automobile in the house ... Jay Leno's house, right, where he's got dozens of rare cars or the Porsche in Ferris Bueller," Roberts said, invoking the former NBC Tonight Show host and a scene from the iconic 1980s movie "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

Roberts had the right idea, but the wrong make of car. The car Bueller took for a ride was a Ferrari.

___ Associated Press writer Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

___ Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

Israeli leader's son under fire again for strip club banter

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's embattled Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced a new scandal Tuesday after a recording emerged of his 26-year-old stay-at-home son joyriding at taxpayer expense to Tel Aviv strip clubs with his super-rich buddies and bragging about how his father pushed through a controversial gas deal.

The 2015 recording, aired Monday night on Israel's top-rated news broadcast, sparked public outrage over its misogynistic content and raised questions over why a state-funded bodyguard and driver were necessary to facilitate such debauchery. The often combative younger Netanyahu issued a quick apology, saying the remarks did not represent the values he was raised on and were made under the influence of alcohol.

But the fallout was swift. A pair of opposition lawmakers appealed to the attorney-general to investigate Yair Netanyahu's security needs, saying it was "disgraceful that public funds fuel a culture of women's exploitation." Others piled on. "Even big kids say what they hear at home," said Eitan Cabel of the opposition Labor party.

In the recording, Netanyahu and his friends recount their night out on the town and make disparaging comments about strippers, waitresses and other women, including one of Netanyahu's former girlfriends.

He is also heard drunkenly bragging to the son of an Israeli oil tycoon about how the prime minister advanced a bill in parliament that the younger Netanyahu appears to believe delivered billions of dollars to his friend's father — an embarrassing blow to the premier, who stands accused of accepting a fortune's worth of cigars and champagne from rich supporters.

At one point, Yair Netanyahu cryptically refers to 400 shekels (about \$115) paid to a prostitute. "Speaking of prostitutes, what's open at this hour?" he asks his friends, before they settle on a well-known bistro. "It's possible the waitresses there go with the flow," he adds.

One of his buddies, Roman Abramov, even jokes that the security guard, who was privy to the banter, would have to be killed if he ever left his job so the conversation wouldn't leak.

Most of the public outcry, however, involved the younger Netanyahu's comments to the son of Israeli tycoon Kobi Maimon about how the prime minister advanced a controversial gas deal in parliament that benefited his father.

"My dad arranged \$20 billion for your dad, and you're whining with me about 400 shekels," Yair Netanyahu says, referring to money he borrowed in a strip club.

Adding to the public anger was the fact that the salacious outing took place on the eve of the Jewish Sabbath — and was aired just as Netanyahu's government was passing unpopular legislation to curb business on the Sabbath under pressure from ultra-Orthodox Jewish coalition partners.

The prime minister, who has repeatedly attacked the media as his legal troubles have mounted, issued a typical response after the recordings were released, calling them the height of a media-orchestrated witch hunt aimed at ousting him and saying the press had stooped to unprecedented "persecution, bloodletting and shaming."

"We have no intention of addressing the cheap and malicious gossip regarding snippets of jokes that were made after a night of drinking that don't reflect Yair's positions and were taken out of context from an illegal and tendentious wiretap," read a statement from the family.

But on Tuesday, Netanyahu softened his rhetoric, saying that his son's comments were the result of alcohol consumption and that he was raised to respect women.

The Netanyahu family's perceived hedonism and sense of entitlement has gotten them in trouble before, with repeated inquiries into their conduct. Israeli police say the prime minister is suspected of fraud, breach of trust and bribes in a pair of cases.

One involves reportedly more than \$100,000 worth of cigars and liquor that Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, received from Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan, who is said to have asked Netanyahu to press the U.S. secretary of state in a visa matter.

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Yair Netanyahu has also repeatedly drawn criticism for living a life of privilege at taxpayers' expense, hobnobbing with ultra-rich donors and making crude social media posts, all while never holding down a job.

Australian billionaire James Packer has reportedly lavished the younger Netanyahu with gifts that included extended stays at luxury hotels in Tel Aviv, New York and Aspen, Colorado, as well as the use of his private jet and dozens of tickets for concerts by Packer's former fiancée, Mariah Carey. Police are trying to determine whether these constitute bribes, since Packer is reportedly seeking Israeli residency status for tax purposes.

Israel's Channel 2 News, which broke the story of the latest scandal on Monday, said that Yair Netanyahu ended the evening with his friends by staying at Packer's luxury residence in Tel Aviv.

In further comments Tuesday, the premier said he had no connection to Maimon and was unaware of their sons' friendship. He added that his son had no knowledge of the gas deal and that his own backing of expanded natural gas extraction did nothing to benefit Maimon.

He also accused a disgruntled driver in the prime minister's office of making the illicit recording and attempting to sell it for a profit — and demanded that Channel 2 disclose how much it paid for it.

Yair Netanyahu has previously sparked controversy by posting an anti-Semitic caricature aimed at his father's critics, vulgarly confronting a woman who criticized him for refusing to pick up after his family's dog at a public park, and lashing out on Facebook at a liberal think tank with emojis of a middle finger and a pile of excrement.

Yediot Ahronot columnist Sima Kadmon said that despite his apology, the recordings show exactly what kind of person the younger Netanyahu is.

"A 26-year-old who does not work and lives at the state's expense. A young man who drags after him, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, an entire array of bodyguards that costs the Israeli public millions ... and behaves like a spoiled and pampered child," she wrote.

The new recordings may not directly harm the prime minister politically — but they add another blow to his battered public image after nearly nine years in office.

"It turns out that this barrel has no bottom," wrote Haaretz's Yossi Verter.

Follow Heller on Twitter at www.twitter.com/aronhellerap

After Olympic deal, North Korea figure skaters may lead team

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH, AP Sports Writer

They're the friendly face of North Korea, and it looks like they're coming south to the Olympics.

With sparkling costumes and winning smiles, figure skaters Ryom Tae Ok and Kim Ju Sik could lead the North Korean team in Pyeongchang, South Korea, next month after their government said Tuesday it would send athletes to the Winter Games.

Ryom and Kim are the only North Korean athletes who have qualified for the Feb. 9-25 Olympics in Pyeongchang so far. However, the International Olympic Committee could potentially hold extra invitational spots open to symbolize togetherness between the two Koreas.

Ryom and Kim almost certainly won't win a medal in the fiercely competitive world of pairs skating, but they've already won friends against a backdrop of political tension.

On their world championship debut last year in Finland, Ryom and Kim put in two spirited skates to enthusiastic applause from the crowd as they finished 15th, above one of the two U.S. pairs and a string of more experienced European competitors.

They weren't afraid to show their feelings, either. The 18-year-old Ryom punched the air with joy on finishing the short program to a Jeff Beck cover of The Beatles classic "A Day in the Life."

Ryom and her partner, Kim, embraced in their matching silver-and-black costumes before soaking up the crowd's cheers and skating off to celebrate with their coaches.

Rarely seen abroad, they have given little away about their lives, other than that they train in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang. At the world championships, Kim said he was keen to take part in "a big com-

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petition" when asked about the Olympics through a translator from his team. They wouldn't talk about visiting South Korea and walked away when asked about their choice of music.

North Korea was far from certain to compete in Pyeongchang. It boycotted the only other Olympics hosted in South Korea, the Seoul Games of 1988, and often has skipped the Winter Olympics entirely.

It hasn't won a winter medal since 1992 and its last team, in 2010, consisted of just one figure skater and one speed skater, neither of whom came close to the podium.

By contrast, North Korea punches above its weight in the Summer Olympics. It won seven medals across weightlifting, gymnastics, shooting and table tennis in 2016.

Even with a deal for North Korea to compete in Pyeongchang, the two Koreas and the IOC face some thorny issues of protocol.

Flags, anthems and the opening ceremony all will require delicate negotiation.

At the games themselves, any slip-up could spark a diplomatic incident. The North Korean women's soccer team walked off the field at the 2012 Olympics when the South Korean flag was mistakenly shown in a pre-game video package.

North and South Korean athletes have marched together at some previous Olympics during periods of warmer relations between the two governments, and South Korea has suggested a repeat in Pyeongchang. If they march separately, the South Korean team would massively outnumber the North Koreans.

For more AP coverage of the Winter Games: <http://wintergames.ap.org/>

Rome's mangy Christmas tree to be carved up into souvenirs

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Rome's pathetic Christmas tree, so droopy and dried out that residents nicknamed it "The Mangy One," will be carved up and turned into souvenirs and a lactation hut for mothers and babies, city officials said Tuesday.

In giving the downtrodden tree a new life, Rome's cabinet moved to close an embarrassing chapter in which the holiday decoration came to symbolize the city's degradation and dysfunction under its 5-Star mayor, Virginia Raggi, and the years of neglect and corruption before her.

Raggi insisted Tuesday that the tree ended up capturing the hearts of Romans and visitors alike, and that its future life would show Rome as a model of recycling.

But not even its removal went as planned. Workers on cranes started taking down ornaments Tuesday, only to put them back after getting word that a formal farewell ceremony was planned for Thursday.

The 21-meter- (70-foot-) high tree, which was lit on Dec. 8, earned its moniker soon after it was hoisted up in the middle of Rome's main square, Piazza Venezia, and started dropping its needles at an unusually fast clip.

Raggi ordered an investigation into why the needles fell off so soon, given the tree was alive when it was selected and cost 48,000 euros (\$57,000) to transport from South Tyrol, an Italian Alpine region, to the capital.

The "Spelacchio" saga was the latest headache for Raggi, who was recently indicted on charges she lied about a City Hall appointment. The trial is due to start in June. Raggi says she's innocent.

The case involves the appointment of Renato Marra as director of Rome's tourism department. Marra's brother, Raffaele Marra, headed City Hall's personnel office until his arrest in an unrelated corruption probe.

Raggi has said she alone decided on the tourism appointment, but text messages indicate Raffaele Marra had a hand in both it and the resulting salary increase for his brother.

On Tuesday, Raffaele Marra was indicted in the case for alleged abuse of office, Italy's ANSA news agency said.

Greece limits Sharia law after European Court challenge

By DEREK GATOPOULOS and COSTAS KANTOURIS, Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Lawmakers in Greece voted Tuesday to limit the powers of Islamic courts operating in a border region that is home to a 100,000-strong Muslim minority, scrapping procedures dating back more than 90 years.

The proposed law passed easily, with backing from parliament's largest political parties. It eliminates rules that referred many civil cases involving members of the Muslim community to Sharia law courts. Greek courts now will have priority in all cases.

The changes — considered long overdue by many Greek legal experts — follow a complaint a Muslim woman who lives in the northeastern Greek city of Komotini made to the Council of Europe's Court of Human Rights over an inheritance dispute.

Legislation concerning minority rights was based on international treaties following wars in the aftermath of the Ottoman empire's collapse. The Muslim minority in Greece is largely Turkish-speaking. Minority areas were visited last month by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said in a statement that the new law respects the "special characteristics" of Greece's Muslim minority, while redressing past injustices against community members "who were excluded from the legal guarantees and freedoms that all Greek citizens must enjoy."

Greek governments in the past have been reluctant to amend minority rights, as many disputes between Greece and Turkey remain unresolved.

Currently, Islamic court hearings are presided over by a single official, a state-appointed Muslim cleric.

In parliament Tuesday, Constantine Gavroglou, minister of education and religious affairs, praised opposition party support for the bill. He said the current rules stemmed "from policies that were hostile toward the minority and sought to create second-class citizens."

"This is not just a technical adjustment, it's a very important day for parliament ... because of the broad support that is key when addressing issues of democracy and people's rights," Gavroglou told lawmakers.

The extreme-right Golden Dawn party rejected the bill, arguing that it failed to adequately outline what powers would be retained by Islamic courts and did not address the issue of locally elected clerics who operate in an unofficial, but influential capacity.

Nicholas Paphitis contributed to this story. Kantouris reported from Thessaloniki, Greece.

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Iran lawmaker says some 3,700 arrested amid protests, unrest

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iranian security forces arrested some 3,700 people during widespread protests and unrest over the past two weeks, a lawmaker said Tuesday, offering a far higher number than authorities previously released.

The demonstrations, which began Dec. 28 over economic grievances, quickly spread across the country to become the largest seen in Iran since the disputed 2009 presidential election. Some protesters called for the overthrow of the government, and at least 21 people were killed in clashes.

Human rights activists outside of Iran told The Associated Press they weren't surprised by the figure as authorities also allegedly carried out so-called "preventative arrests" of students not involved in the protests. Some 4,000 arrests followed the 2009 protests.

Activists also said they had concerns about Iran's prisons and jails being overcrowded and dangerous, pointing to allegations of torture, abuse and deaths that followed the mass arrests of 2009. The New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran says at least three detainees arrested in the recent protests have already died in custody.

"Given the systematic rape and torture of detainees in 2009 in very overcrowded and inhumane condi-

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tions, we are extremely worried about the fate of these thousands of detainees and the lack of information and access by their families and lawyers," said Hadi Ghaemi, the executive director of the center. "It is a very troubling situation."

Mahmoud Sadeghi, a reformist lawmaker from Tehran, offered the new figures for those arrested in a report carried Tuesday by parliament's official news website. Authorities previously spoke of hundreds of arrests in Tehran, while other provinces offered only piecemeal figures, if any at all.

Sadeghi said 3,700 was the best number he could immediately offer, given that various security forces around the country had been involved in the arrests. Iran put more police on the streets over the arrest, including anti-riot squads, while the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard also deployed its motorcycle-riding Basij volunteer force.

Sadeghi did not elaborate, nor did he say how he came up with the figure. While reformists largely stayed away from the recent protests, releasing such figures puts pressure on their hard-line opponents who exercise control over Iran's judiciary and security services.

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli previously said about 42,000 people at most took part in the anti-government protests. Sadeghi's figure of arrested offered Tuesday would mean nearly 10 percent of those who demonstrated were arrested.

On Tuesday, authorities in Tehran released another 70 prisoners on bail after releasing an earlier batch of 70 on Sunday, Tehran prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi said, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency.

Iranian authorities have said that the protests are waning. That's in part due to the government blocking access to the popular messaging app Telegram, which demonstrators used to share images of the rallies and organize. It remains difficult for journalists and outsiders to piece together what's happening beyond Tehran, as Iran is a vast country of 80 million and travel is restricted.

Government supporters have also held several mass rallies across Iran to protest the unrest.

Similar mass arrests followed the Green Movement protests over voter fraud allegations in the 2009 re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a crackdown that saw dozens killed and others tortured in custody. Rape accusations levied against jailers at the time stunned Iran.

In these protests, the Center for Human Rights in Iran said it had documented the deaths of three detainees. One died at Tehran's Evin prison in a reported suicide. Another man detained in Arak, 235 kilometers (150 miles) southwest of Tehran, also died. His family said their son's body bore an enormous head wound "as if he had been hit with an ax," the center said.

Late Tuesday, Iran's judiciary acknowledged a death in Arak via its Mizan news agency, saying an unnamed detainee committed suicide.

The center alleges a third detainee died in custody in Dezful, 460 kilometers (285 miles) southwest of Tehran. While Iranian media has quoted a lawmaker on the Evin prison death, the death in Dezful had not been reported as of Tuesday.

Some university students separately have been arrested even though they haven't taken part in the demonstrations, said Nassim Papayianni, a London-based researcher on Iran for Amnesty International. She said authorities have described those arrests as "preventative."

The mass arrests raise questions about those detained receiving legal assistance and proper care while in custody, she said.

"We already know that many of these prisons before these arrests were overcrowded," Papayianni said. "We know that people would sleep on floors in the winter. ... There wouldn't be even sufficient food."

U.S. officials and analysts studying Iran believe conservative opponents of President Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate within Iran's clerically overseen government, started the demonstrations but quickly lost control of them.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Tuesday also blamed "Americans and Zionists" for the protests, saying money supporting them came from "one of the filthy-rich governments of the Persian Gulf."

Khamenei, however, also stressed that those with legitimate complaints about Iran's economy should

be heard.

"We should differentiate between people's righteous and honest demands on one side and barbaric and disruptive moves by another group," he said. "These should be distinguished from each other."

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

Intel CEO: Fixes on the way for serious chip security flaws

By MATT O'BRIEN, AP Technology Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Intel has big plans to steer toward new business in self-driving cars, virtual reality and other cutting-edge technologies. But first it has to pull out of a skid caused by a serious security flaw in its processor chips, which undergird many of the world's smartphones and personal computers.

Intel CEO Brian Krzanich opened his keynote talk Monday night at the annual CES gadget show in Las Vegas by addressing the hard-to-fix flaws disclosed by security researchers last week. At an event known for its technological optimism, it was an unusually sober and high-profile reminder of the information security and privacy dangers lurking beneath many of the tech industry's gee-whiz wonders.

Some researchers have argued that the flaws reflect a fundamental hardware defect that can't be fixed short of a recall. But Intel has pushed back against that idea, arguing that the problems can be "mitigated" by software or firmware upgrades. Companies from Microsoft to Apple have announced efforts to patch the vulnerabilities.

And Krzanich promised fixes in the coming week to 90 percent of the processors Intel has made in the past five years, consistent with an earlier statement from the company . He added that updates for the remainder of those recent processors should follow by the end of January. Krzanich did not address the company's plans for older chips.

To date, he said, Intel has seen no sign that anyone has stolen data by exploiting the two vulnerabilities, known as Meltdown and Spectre. The problems were disclosed last week by Google's Project Zero security team and other researchers. Krzanich commended the "remarkable" collaboration among tech companies to address what he called an "industry-wide" problem.

While Meltdown is believed to primarily affect processors built by Intel, Spectre also affects many of the company's rivals. Flaws affecting the processor chips also endanger the PCs, internet browsers, cloud computing services and other technology that rely on them. Both bugs could be exploited through what's known as a side-channel attack that could extract passwords and other sensitive data from the chip's memory.

Krzanich himself has been in the spotlight over the security issue after it was revealed that he had sold about \$39 million in his own Intel stocks and options in late November, before the vulnerability was publicly known. Intel says it was notified about the bugs in June.

The company didn't respond to inquiries about the timing of Krzanich's divestments, but a spokeswoman said it was unrelated to the security flaws.

During his presentation Monday, Krzanich also launched into a flashy and wide-ranging celebration of the way Intel and its partners are harnessing data for futuristic innovations, from 3D entertainment partnerships with Paramount Pictures to virtual-reality collaborations with the 2018 Winter Olympics and a new breakthrough in so-called quantum computing.

A self-driving Ford Fusion rolled onto the stage of the casino theater where Krzanich gave his talk. It's the first of a 100-vehicle test fleet run by Mobileeye, the Israel-based software company that Intel bought for \$15 billion last year. Mobileeye processes the information cars "see" from cameras and sensors.

A flying taxi — the German-built Volocopter — later lifted from the stage. Then came the drones, in a musical performance that Krzanich said would mark a Guinness record for the "world's first 100-drone indoor lightshow without GPS."

Reuters journalists charged with violating Myanmar law

BANGKOK (AP) — Prosecutors in Myanmar formally charged two journalists from the Reuters news agency on Wednesday with violating the Official Secrets Act, signaling the case will go forward despite international condemnation.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested Dec. 12 after police accused them of violating the colonial-era law by acquiring “important secret papers” from two policemen. The police officers had worked in Rakhine state, where security forces are blamed for rights abuses against Rohingya Muslims that sparked the exodus of some 650,000 people to Bangladesh.

Dozens of journalists wearing black waited outside the court Wednesday to protest the arrest of their colleagues, who were led into the court smiling and giving the thumbs up sign despite heavy handcuffs on their wrists.

“This is unacceptable,” Wa Lone said from the back of a police truck after the brief hearing. “I want to tell you that that they are charging us like this to stop us finding the truth. Their actions are wrong and unfair.”

The journalists’ lawyer, Than Zaw Aung, said the prosecutor formally indicted the pair and they now face up to 14 years in prison if convicted.

Than Zaw Aung said he appealed for the two to be immediately released on bail, but the judge said he would review that request and rule at the next hearing on Jan. 23.

“We are still far from the verdict,” he said.

Rights and media groups have criticized Myanmar’s new civilian government led by Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi for continuing to use colonial-era laws to threaten and imprison journalists. Such laws were widely used by the military junta that previously ruled the country to muzzle critics and the media.

Reuters Editor-in-Chief Stephen J. Adler said he was “extremely disappointed” by the charges and again called for Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo to be released immediately.

“We view this as a wholly unwarranted, blatant attack on press freedom,” Adler said in a statement. “Our colleagues should be allowed to return to their jobs reporting on events in Myanmar.”

Their detention has caused an international outcry. After they were detained, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the arrests showed how press freedom was deteriorating in Myanmar, while U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called for their immediate release.

“A free press is critical to a free society—the detention of journalists anywhere is unacceptable,” former President Bill Clinton tweeted Monday. “The Reuters journalists being held in Myanmar should be released immediately.”

The Committee to Protect Journalists also condemned Wednesday’s decision to charge the journalists.

“These criminal charges represent a giant step backward for press freedom in Myanmar,” said Shawn Crispin, the group’s senior Southeast Asia representative. “The jailing of journalists shows that Aung San Suu Kyi’s government, despite its democratic mandate, is following in the repressive footsteps of her military government predecessors. And by targeting a high-profile news organization like Reuters, it shows no journalist is safe to report on sensitive stories in Myanmar.”

Asian share prices mostly lower as Wall Street rally fades

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Share prices were mostly lower in Asia on Wednesday despite Wall Street’s extended winning streak. Chinese shares were buoyed by surging oil prices.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan’s Nikkei 225 index lost 0.1 percent to 23,816.31 and the Kospi in South Korea lost 0.3 percent to 2,502.72. Australia’s S&P ASX 200 slipped 0.5 percent to 6,104.80. But the Hang Seng index in Hong Kong jumped 0.7 percent to 31,230.37 and the Shanghai Composite index added 0.4 percent to 3,425.84. Shares fell in Taiwan and were mixed in Southeast Asia.

WALL STREET: Stocks pushed further into record territory Tuesday, with health care stocks and banks leading the gains. The S&P 500 rose 0.1 percent to 2,751.29 to equal its longest winning streak leading

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off a year since 2010. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.4 percent to 25,385.80 and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.1 percent to 7,163.58. The Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks slipped 0.1 percent to 1,560.10.

OIL RALLY: Gains in oil prices helped lift energy sector heavyweights in Hong Kong. China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. gained 2.8 percent while PetroChina added 1.9 percent and China Shenhua climbed 2.1 percent.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "The slew of positive factors creates a breeding ground for optimism as we find the U.S. market sustaining on the climb. The Dow Jones, S&P 500 and NASDAQ indices brought us fresh highs once again on Tuesday, though the carry through to Asian markets may be limited by caution ahead," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 112.29 Japanese yen from 112.65 yen late Tuesday. The euro rose to \$1.1942 from \$1.1938, and the British pound dipped to \$1.3534 from \$1.3540.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil rose 50 cents to \$63.46 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It jumped \$1.23 to settle at \$62.96 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, the international standard, added 37 cents to \$69.19 per barrel. It rose \$1.04 to settle at \$68.82 per barrel in London.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2018. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

On this date:

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1863, the London Underground had its beginnings as the Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the public with service between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') went into effect.

In 1946, the first General Assembly of the United Nations convened in London. The first manmade contact with the moon was made as radar signals transmitted by the U.S. Army Signal Corps were bounced off the lunar surface.

In 1948, future country music star Loretta Lynn (nee Webb) married Oliver "Mooney" Lynn; she was 15 at the time, he was 21 (the marriage lasted until Oliver Lynn's death in 1996).

In 1957, Harold Macmillan became prime minister of Britain, following the resignation of Anthony Eden.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society" programs as well as the war in Vietnam. That same day, Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first black person elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

In 1978, the Soviet Union launched two cosmonauts aboard the Soyuz 27 capsule for a rendezvous with the Salyut 6 space laboratory.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, attending a NATO summit meeting in Brussels, Belgium, announced completion of an agreement to remove all long-range nuclear missiles from the former Soviet republic of Ukraine.

In 2000, America Online announced it was buying Time Warner for \$162 billion (the merger, which proved disastrous, ended in December 2009).

Ten years ago: The United States lodged a formal diplomatic protest with Iran over an incident in which

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Iranian speedboats harassed U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf. President George W. Bush, visiting Israel and the Palestinian-controlled West Bank, said a Mideast peace pact would require "painful political concessions by both sides." John Kerry, the 2004 Democratic presidential nominee, endorsed Barack Obama's White House bid. Maila Nurmi, whose "Vampira" TV persona pioneered the spooky-yet-sexy Goth aesthetic, died in Los Angeles at age 85.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama nominated White House chief of staff Jack Lew to be treasury secretary. Vice President Joe Biden met with representatives from the National Rifle Association and other pro-gun groups as he worked on recommendations to curb gun violence. Major League Baseball announced it would test for human growth hormone throughout the regular season and increase efforts to detect abnormal levels of testosterone.

One year ago: An unrepentant Dylann Roof was sentenced to death in Charleston, South Carolina, for fatally shooting nine black church members during a Bible study session, becoming the first person ordered executed for a federal hate crime. President Barack Obama bid farewell to the nation in an emotional speech in Chicago. Singer Buddy Greco, 90, died in Las Vegas.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 83. Blues artist Eddy Clearwater is 83. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 83. Baseball Hall of Famer Willie McCovey is 80. Movie director Walter Hill is 78. Actor William Sanderson is 74. Singer Rod Stewart is 73. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 70. Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 69. Roots rock singer Alejandro Escovedo is 67. Rock musician Scott Thurston (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) is 66. Singer Pat Benatar is 65. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 65. Rock musician Michael Schenker is 63. Singer Shawn Colvin is 62. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 59. Actor Evan Handler is 57. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 54. Actress Trini Alvarado is 51. Rock singer Brent Smith (Shinedown) is 40. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is 39. Actress Sarah Shahi is 38. Presidential adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner is 37. American roots singer Valerie June is 36.

Thought for Today: "History must speak for itself. A historian is content if he has been able to shed more light." — William L. Shirer (SHY'-rur), American author and journalist (1904-1993).

Riddle Answer: Sparsely (No S = Parsley).