

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 185 ~ 1 of 43



“THERE IS NO PERSON
LIVING WHO ISN'T
CAPABLE OF DOING
MORE THAN THEY
THINK THEY CAN DO.”

-HENRY FORD

A Riddle

**I am four letters long, I can be seen in the sky, I am the ocean & I am the sea. Can you guess me?
(answer at the end of the AP News)**

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Olde Bank Floral Ad
- 1- SunDial Help Wanted Ad
- 1- A Riddle
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 2- Prairie Mixed Bowling
- 2- NDSU Dean's List
- 2- Gun Show Ad
- 2- Death Notice: Janice Herman
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Arts Advocacy Day celebrates importance of the arts
- 4- Take Precautions Now for Icy, Snowy Commute
- 4- Silver Skates Ad
- 6- Historical Supreme Court Reports 1879-1923 available online from State Library
- 6- Upcoming Events
- 7- GFP Going Paperless for Three Hunting and Fishing Applications
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- 10- Yesterday's Weather
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- 10- National Weather Map
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

Fresh flowers, silks, home decor



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& so much more

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www.oldebankfloral.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

Closed

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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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Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Chipmunks 11, Foxes 10, Shih Tzus 9, Cheetahs 9, Coyotes 5, Jackelopes 4

Men's High Games: Brad Larson 233, Mike Wiley 221, Mike Siegler 214, Ron Belden 205, 204, Brad Waage 204, Roger Colestock 204

Women's High Games: Sue Stanley 167, Karen Spanier 158, 155, Angie Carlson 155

Men's High Series: Brad Larson 574, Mike Siegler 556, Ron Belden 552

Women's High Series: Karen Spanier 456, Sue Stanley 446, Vicki Walter 437

NDSU dean's list

Fargo, N.D., Jan. 10 — Area South Dakota students were among the 4,197 North Dakota State University students to be placed on the fall 2017 dean's list.

A student must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify for the dean's list.

Mariah E. Gustafson, Nursing, from Frederick was named to the Dean's List.

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)

Death Notice: Janice Herman

Janice Herman, 72, of Conde passed away Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at the Salem Care and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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

Arts Advocacy Day celebrates importance of the arts

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

Each year artists, arts administrators and citizens who understand the importance of South Dakota's creative culture gather in Pierre during the legislative session for Arts Advocacy Day. This year the event falls on Thursday, February 8—and you are invited to join in the celebration of our state's arts scene.



This year's Arts Advocacy Day will be the last for Governor Dennis Daugaard, who has been a consistent supporter of arts programs and South Dakota's diverse cultural environment throughout his two terms as governor. From the presentation of the biennial Governor's Awards in the Arts to the dedication of Dignity in Chamberlain, Governor Daugaard has spoken eloquently and often about the vitality and diversity of our state's artistic and cultural heritage.

We will also be celebrating the support of the South Dakota Legislature, which created the South Dakota Arts Council over a half century ago to promote the arts throughout the state. Our legislators have continued to support the mission and the programming of the Arts Council, helping to bring artists and artistic experiences to school children and communities in every corner of South Dakota.

We're hoping that community arts supporters and representatives from arts centers, museums and performance venues will join us in Pierre on February 8. We'll be celebrating in a variety of ways, including a performance by the T.F. Riggs Chamber Choir, singing a cappella music in a variety of different styles during the noon hour. The South Dakota Arts Council and Arts South Dakota will serve refreshments during the performance, and will present packets of information about the arts in South Dakota to legislators and state officials, along with notecards featuring art from the Congressional High School Art Competition winner.

Advocating for the arts is a vital component of celebrating our creative culture. If you can't make it to Pierre on February 8, consider letting your state senator or congressional delegate know how important the arts are to you, your community—and to the future of South Dakota.

For more about the arts in South Dakota, visit www.arts-southdakota.org.



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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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Take Precautions Now for Icy, Snowy Commute

AAA South Dakota offers tips for winter driving, vehicle care and emergency car kit preparedness

Jan. 10, 2018 – Weather forecasts are calling for a wintry mix of sleet, and snow overnight and into Thursday morning across South Dakota. This winter blast may create dangerous driving conditions late tonight and for the morning commute. AAA South Dakota anticipates a large increase in emergency roadside service calls as the cold front sweeps through and weather conditions deteriorate, with slide-offs and crashes due to slick roads expected, and battery/non-start problems due to the cold also likely.

Hazardous storms and inclement weather are a factor in more than half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter, according to research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. AAA South Dakota is encouraging drivers to be prepared.

Winter precipitation may challenge drivers even before they attempt to leave home tomorrow morning.

AAA recommends drivers take action before icing conditions begin:

Protect vehicle: If possible park car inside garage or under a cover like a carport.

Dry and lubricate surfaces: Wipe down and dry weather strips and surfaces around doors and windows. Apply a lubricant (WD40, cooking spray and even Vaseline work well) to the weather stripping to prevent freezing.

Windshield wipers: Pull wipers away from your windshield to prevent them from freezing to the windshield.

Use the right windshield washer solvent: Make sure windshield washer solvent is the correct type for winter. Summer rated solvents will freeze and can cause cracking and serious damage to the washer reservoir.

AAA offers these tips after icing conditions affect vehicles:

Ice coated windshield/windows: NEVER pour hot water on windshield or windows – this can cause the glass to break. Use vehicle defrosters to melt ice for easier removal. Don't use windshield wipers to remove ice – this will damage the blades.

Frozen windows: Do not continue to push the power window buttons if the window is frozen, it can damage the mechanics inside the door and can also cause the window to break.

Frozen locks: Never use water to thaw frozen locks, instead use commercial deicing products or heat the key and lock with a hair dryer. A lighter can also be used to heat the key.

Frozen windshield wipers: If windshield wipers are frozen to the windshield, use the heater and defroster



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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to melt the ice before turning the windshield wipers on. When you arrive at your destination, remember to pull the windshield wipers away from the windshield to prevent refreezing.

Drivers are urged to use caution if wintry weather occurs because snowy or ice-coated roadways can be treacherous.

"Motorists should heed travel warnings and stay home unless they must venture out," AAA South Dakota spokeswoman, Marilyn Buskohl said. "AAA is reminding anyone who must drive on icy or snow covered roads to adjust their driving behaviors for the conditions and to go nowhere – not even a short distance - without a full tank of gas, a fully charged cell phone (loaded with the AAA Mobile App) and a fully stocked emergency kit."

DOWNLOADABLE WINTER DRIVING VIDEO B-ROLL

AAA offers the following safe driving tips for winter weather:

Slow down: Accelerate, turn and brake gradually. Adjust your speed to the road conditions and leave yourself ample room to stop. Allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.

Do not tailgate: Normal following distances of three to four seconds on dry pavement should be extended to a minimum of eight to ten seconds when driving on slippery surfaces. The extra time will provide additional braking room should a sudden stop become necessary.

Watch the traffic ahead: Slow down immediately at the sight of brake lights, fishtailing cars, sideways skids or emergency flashers ahead.

Never use cruise control on slippery roads: Patches of ice can cause unexpected wheel spin and use of cruise control can slow driver response.

Avoid unnecessarily changing lanes: This increases the chances of hitting a patch of ice between lanes that could cause loss of vehicle control.

Use extreme caution on bridges and overpasses: Black ice typically forms first in shaded areas of the roadway and on bridges and overpasses that freeze first and melt last. Although the road leading up to a bridge may be fine, the bridge itself could be a sheet of ice.

Move Over: Move over one lane for law enforcement and emergency roadside personnel assisting motorists. It is the law. If you are unable to move over, slow down.

Carry a winter weather kit in your car: Contents should include a fully charged cellphone (and car charger), ice scraper, blanket, warm winter clothing, flashlight with extra batteries, jumper cables, a bag of kitty litter or sand for traction, reflective triangles/flares, snow shovel and extra drinking water and snacks.

Tips for Braking on Ice:

Minimize the need to brake on ice: If you're approaching a stop sign, traffic light or other area where ice often forms, brake early on clear pavement to reduce speed. Maintaining control of your vehicle is much more difficult when braking on ice-covered roadways.

Control the skid: In the event of a skid, ease off the accelerator and steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go.

If your car has an anti-lock braking system (ABS): Do not remove your foot from the brake during a skid. When you apply the brakes hard enough to make the wheels lock momentarily, you will typically feel the brake pedal vibrate and pulsate back against your foot. This is normal and the system is working as designed. Do not release pressure on the pedal or attempt to "pump" the brakes.

If your car does not have an anti-lock braking system: Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to modulate the pressure applied to the brake pedal so the brakes are at the "threshold" of lockup but still rotating.

AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to 58 million members nationwide and nearly 97,000 members in South Dakota. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a not-for-profit, fully tax-paying member organization works on behalf of motorists, who can now map a route, find local gas prices, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app (AAA.com/mobile) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information, visit www.AAA.com.

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Historical Supreme Court Reports 1879-1923 available online from State Library

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota State Library recently added a collection of historical Supreme Court Reports 1879-1923 to the library's digital collections site. The Supreme Court collection is comprised of reports of cases decided in the Supreme Court of the State of South Dakota. The documents are text searchable.

The reports are accessible by visiting the South Dakota State Library Digital Collections website at <https://cdm16384.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/> and clicking the SD State Agency Historical Publications link, or by searching the library catalog. Collections on this site include historical as well as current state agency digital publications. Items are added regularly.

In addition to the Supreme Court Reports, other collections recently added to the digital repository include:

- Journal of the House 1889-1921
- Journal of the Senate 1890-1921
- Session Laws of SD 1891-1921
- Railroad Commissioners Reports 1890-1916

Many of today's state publications are "born digital" and therefore stored and catalogued electronically for easy retrieval. However, there remains more than a century of print resources that remain solely in print and on State Library shelves. The State Library's next scheduled digitization project is digitizing the South Dakota Codified Law books.

The South Dakota State Library is a division of the Department of Education. Call 1-800-423-6665 or visit library.sd.gov for more information.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Groton Area will be hosting Sisseton in girls' basketball action. Sisseton does not have enough girls for a C team, so junior varsity game will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the varsity game.

Then on Friday, the Groton Area boys will travel to Sisseton. The C game is scheduled to start at 5 p.m. with the junior varsity starting at approximately 6 p.m. and the varsity game at approximately 7:30 p.m. The debate team will be at the Silver Bowl in Sioux Falls. The wrestling team will be at Philip High School with the tourney to start at 3 p.m. CT

On Saturday, Jan. 13, the boys will be playing with the following schedule at the Redfield Shoot-out: Parkston vs. Flandreau Indian at noon, Little Wound vs. Warner at 1:30 p.m., Aberdeen Christian vs. Platte-Geddes at 3 p.m., Timber Lake vs. Redfield-Doland at 4:30 p.m. and Dell Rapids vs. Groton Area at 6 p.m.

Also on Saturday, the wrestling team will be at Philip for the tournament starting at 10 a.m. CT. There will be a seventh and eighth grade basketball jamboree in Groton with Britton-Hecla, Leola-Frederick, Northwestern and Webster coming to town, starting at 10 a.m.

There is open gym on Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for JK through eighth grade and from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for sixth grade through seniors.

On Monday, Jan. 15, Langford Area will come to Groton Area with the junior varsity game starting at 6:30 p.m. followed by the varsity match.

Tuesday, Jan. 16, the Ipswich boys' basketball teams will be coming to Groton. Seventh grade plays at 3 p.m., eighth grade at 4 p.m. followed by the C game at 5:15, the junior varsity and the varsity thereafter.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, marks the end of the first semester.

GFP Going Paperless for Three Hunting and Fishing Applications

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) recently announced that they will not distribute printed applications for paddlefish, spring turkey and special buck seasons in 2018.

Due to the decreased demand for paper applications, GFP will not print the standard run of paper applications for the seasons associated with paddlefish, spring turkey or special buck. In 2016, 24,041 applications were received for these seasons. Of that total, 1,514 (6%) were submitted using paper applications. A small number of applications will be printed to distribute to regional wildlife offices for walk-in customers who may still need to submit the paper version.

“We send a large quantity of applications to our licensing agents across the state, and they’re just not getting used,” said Shon Eide, GFP licensing program administrator. “Individuals who wish to still submit a paper application can do so by downloading the PDF off the website, print and mail it to the Fort Pierre licensing office. With this change, we continue to encourage individuals to apply for these (and other) seasons online at gfp.sd.gov.”

At this time, these are the only three applications that will not be printed. GFP will monitor customer input and feedback to help chart the course for future paper applications.

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Today in Weather History

January 11, 1980: A strong area of low pressure resulted in strong winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts to 70 mph across Minnesota on the 11th and 12th. Blowing and drifting snow made roads hazardous or impossible. The strong winds also caused some damage. There were areas in western Minnesota that had a lot of blowing dirt.

January 11, 1995: A combination of an ice storm, heavy frost accumulation, and strong winds over a period of several days caused widespread damage to electrical systems resulting in power outages across central and north central South Dakota. The first ice storm occurred on the 11th and the 12th. In the days following, widespread fog developed and resulted in heavy additional deposits of ice and frost on power lines and other surfaces. Much of the damage occurred when strong winds, mainly from the 16 through the 18th, caused the heavily weighted power lines and poles to collapse. Power outages lasted as long as eight days. Several electric cooperatives had never experienced damages of this magnitude. Some traffic accidents resulted from the icing, and many vehicles slid off the roads. Property damage estimated at 3.5 million dollars.

January 11, 2009: A vigorous, but fast moving winter storm system moved through the Dakotas last night and early today. Although snow accumulations from the storm only ranged from 1 to 4 inches, strong winds behind the system produced significant blowing and drifting snow and widespread blizzard conditions across the area. Reports from trained spotters and law enforcement indicated visibility dropped to below one quarter mile for several hours, and near zero (white-out conditions) in many rural or unsheltered areas. Sustained north to northwest winds at many locations was 20 to 35 mph, with peak wind gusts as high as 60 to 65 mph. Also, as the arctic airmass surged into the region, temperatures fell some 30 degrees from early this morning to mid-afternoon. Click [HERE](#) for webcam images.

1898: An estimated F4 tornado struck the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas just before midnight. The tornado, which touched down about 100 miles southwest of town, killed 55 people and injured 113 others along its track. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the Monthly Weather Review.

1918: An incredibly strong area of low pressure brought snow and bitter cold temperatures to Chattanooga, Little Rock, and Shreveport. Birmingham, Alabama picked up an inch of snow. In far southeastern Alabama, an estimated F3 tornado virtually damaged every building in the town of Webb. The tornado leveled one rural school, killing one teacher and seven students.

1963: An F2 tornado was reported in Scott County Indiana, north of Louisville, Kentucky. It was on the ground for 5 miles north of Scottsburg and damaged or destroyed several homes and barns.

1972 - Downslope winds hit the eastern slopes of the Rockies in northern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. Boulder CO reported wind gusts to 143 mph and twenty-five million dollars property damage. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm in the northeastern U.S. buried the mountains of central Vermont with up to 26 inches of snow, and snowfall totals in Maine ranged up to 27 inches at Telos Lake. Winds gusted to 45 mph at Newark NJ and Albany NY. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Snow and high winds in Utah resulted in a fifty car pile-up along Interstate 15. Winds in Wyoming gusted to 115 mph at Rendezvous Peak. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - A cold front which the previous day produced 21 inches of snow at Stampede Pass WA and wind gusts to 75 mph at Mammoth Lakes CA, spread snow across Colorado. Totals in Colorado ranged up to 17 inches at Steamboat Springs. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Strong northwesterly winds associated with a deep low pressure system crossing the Upper Great Lakes Region ushered cold air into the central U.S. Winds gusted to 72 mph at Fort Dodge IA, and wind gusts reached 75 mph at Yankton SD. Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in northwestern Minnesota. Squalls produced heavy snow in parts of Upper Michigan and northern Lower Michigan, with 16 inches reported at Wakefield. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2008 - Iraqis in Baghdad woke up to the novelty of falling snowflakes as the city experienced its first snowfall in about 100 years. (NCDC)

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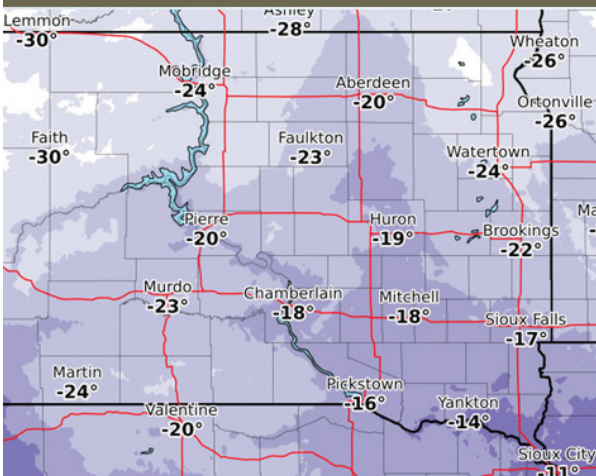
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Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery	Partly Cloudy	Chance Snow	Partly Cloudy	Cold	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow
High: 3 °F ↓	Low: -13 °F	High: -1 °F	Low: -22 °F	High: 2 °F	Low: -7 °F	High: 17 °F

Cold and Windy

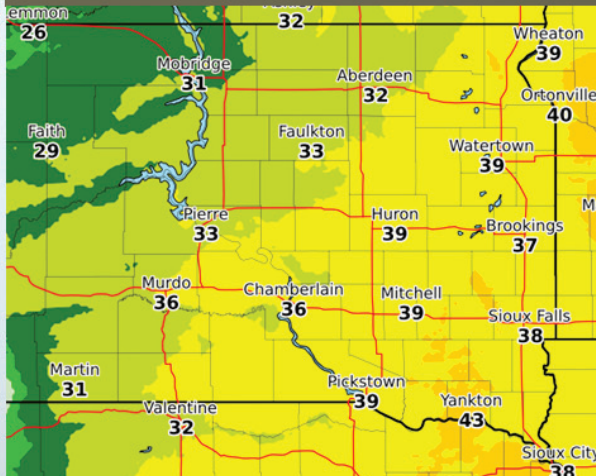
Arctic Air Moving In: Highs in the single digits below and above zero Today

Morning Wind Chill Values



Dangerous morning wind chills over N SD and western MN

Strongest Wind Gusts Expected Today



winds gusting 30 to 40 mph with blowing and drifting snow still possible over E SD and W MN winds diminishing west to east today

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created 1/11/2018 3:17 AM

Published on: 01/11/2018 at 3:21AM

Cold Arctic air is moving in, with high in the single digits below and above zero today. Winds still gusting 30 to 40 mph and the cold air will combine to produce dangerous morning wind chills over mainly northern South Dakota and western Minnesota this morning. Winds will diminish west to east today, with blowing and drifting snow also diminishing. Get your most up to date forecast at www.weather.gov

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 35.2

Low Outside Temp: 8.6

Wind Chill

High Gust: 29

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 55° in 1987

Record Low: -31° in 1912

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan: 0.19

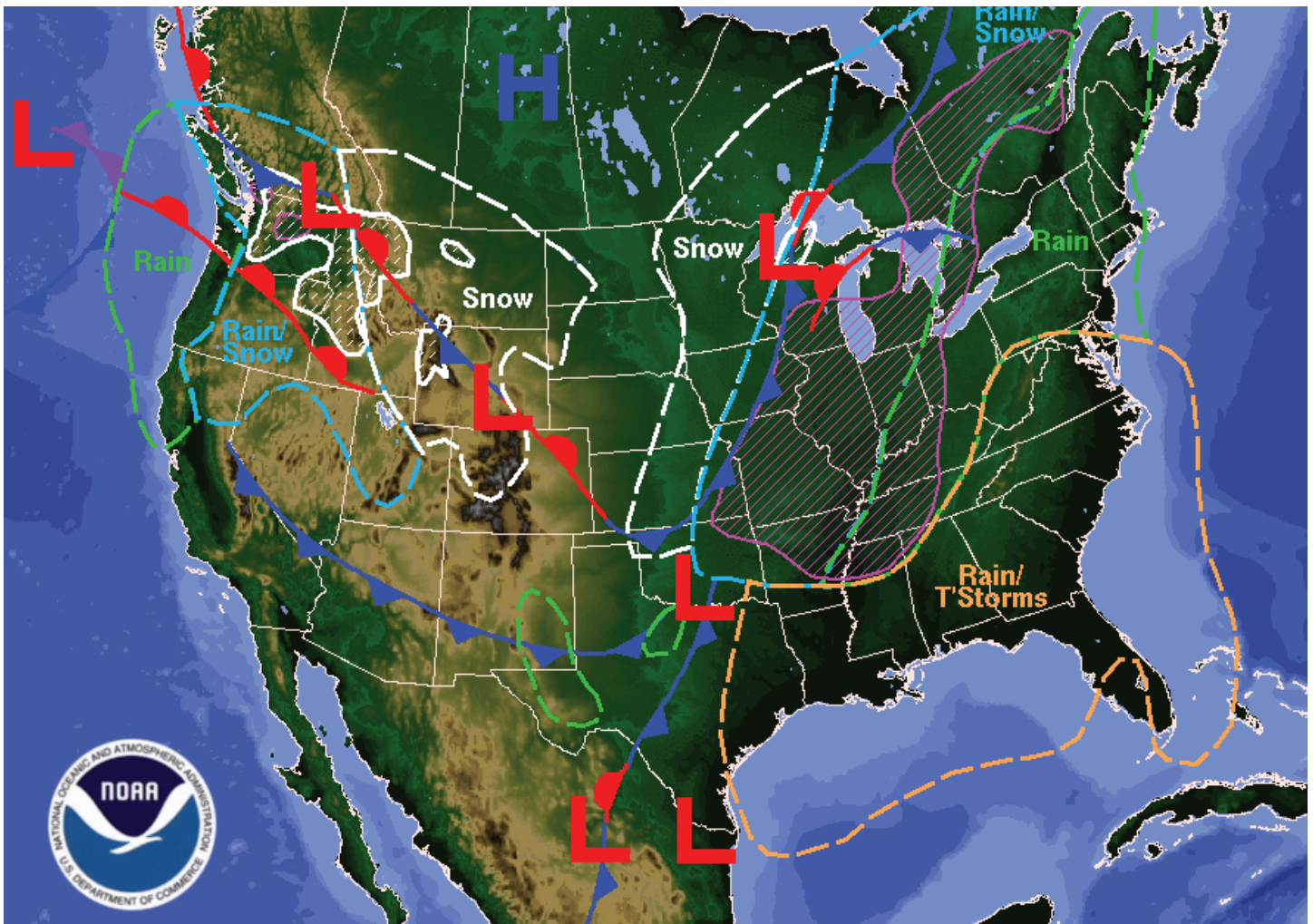
Precip to date in Jan: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.19

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:12 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:11 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Jan 11, 2018, issued 5:04 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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WHAT'S IN YOUR MOUTH?

Few of us enjoy going to a dentist. The first words we usually hear are, "Open your mouth wide, please." Most of us from our previous experiences with dentists would rather keep our mouths shut.

When the Psalms were written there were different ways to show favors to individuals. For example, if a king wanted to extend a favor to a guest he would sometimes say, "Open your mouth wide," and then fill it with gems or sweets.

Our King said to us in Psalm 81, "Open wide your mouth and I will fill it!" What an unusual statement. Yet, when we think of it, our King's love is limitless and His might is measureless and His knowledge of our needs is ever on His mind!

What an encouragement to pray. When we pray we open our mouths and express our needs and desires to God. If, when we pray, we are earnest and expect God to hear us and if we have been obedient to His teachings and if in our prayers we are asking Him to bless our requests in a way that will honor Him, surely He will respond positively to our requests.

God is able and anxious to meet our every need. If we have a loved one who has not accepted His grace, or if we have a need for food on our tables, or if we have a spouse or parent or child who is suffering with a disease that some say is incurable – are all gifts He is willing to grant us. We most never forget that God is able and anxious to hear us and help us if we "open our mouths wide in prayer."

Prayer: Give us faith, Heavenly Father, to accept Your Word as "truth we can believe in" whenever we pray. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 81:10b Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

News from the Associated Press

Lawmakers in numerous states face sexual misconduct claims

By The Associated Press

Numerous state lawmakers across the country have been accused of sexual misconduct or harassment during the past year. Those who so far have resigned or faced other consequences:

RESIGNED FROM OFFICE

1. Alaska: Rep. Dean Westlake, submitted resignation letter Dec. 15 after being accused by several women of inappropriate behavior.
2. California: Assemblyman Matt Dababneh, resigned effective Jan. 1 after a lobbyist said he pushed her into a bathroom during a Las Vegas social event and engaged in lewd behavior in front of her.
3. California: Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra, resigned in November after allegations that he had kissed or groped multiple women without their consent.
4. Florida: Sen. Jack Latvala, resigned effective Jan. 5 following allegations of sexual misconduct raised by multiple women.
5. Minnesota: Sen. Dan Schoen, resigned effective Dec. 15 following several allegations from women.
6. Minnesota: Rep. Tony Cornish, resigned effective Nov. 30 following several allegations, including from a lobbyist who said he repeatedly propositioned her for sex.
7. Mississippi: Rep. John Moore, resigned in December after multiple women made complaints against him; the House speaker's office said he had been facing an investigation led by an outside lawyer.
8. Nevada: Sen. Mark Manendo, resigned in July after a law firm concluded that he violated the Legislature's anti-harassment policy and behaved inappropriately toward female staffers and lobbyists.
9. Ohio: Sen. Clifford Hite, resigned in October after being accused of sexually harassing a female state employee.
10. Oklahoma: Rep. Dan Kirby, resigned in February after two former assistants alleged he sexually harassed them, including one with whom he had reached a confidential wrongful-termination settlement that included a \$44,500 payment from House funds.
11. Oklahoma: Sen. Ralph Shortey, resigned in March and later pleaded guilty to a federal charge of child sex trafficking after being accused of hiring a 17-year-old boy for sex.
12. Oklahoma: Sen. Bryce Marlatt, resigned in September after being charged with sexual battery for allegedly groping an Uber driver who picked him up from a restaurant in the capital city.
13. South Dakota: Rep. Mathew Wollmann, resigned in January 2017 after admitting to sexual contact with two interns, which a legislative panel said was a violation of rules.
14. Tennessee: Rep. Mark Lovell, resigned in February as a House ethics panel concluded that he had violated the Legislature's sexual harassment policy.

OTHER ACTIONS

1. Arizona: Rep. Don Shooter, suspended in November as chairman of the appropriations committee pending an external investigation into allegations that he sexually harassed a female colleague.
2. California: Sen. Tony Mendoza, agreed Jan. 3 to take a one-month paid leave of absence during an investigation into allegations that he behaved inappropriately with three young women who worked for him.
3. Colorado: Rep. Steve Lebsack, replaced Jan. 9 as chairman of the House Local Government Committee after allegations he sexually harassed a female lawmaker.
4. Illinois: Sen. Ira Silverstein, resigned in November as majority caucus chairman after a victims rights advocate publicly accused him of sending inappropriate messages to her.
5. Kentucky: House Speaker Jeff Hoover, resigned from his leadership post Jan. 8 after secretly settling a sexual harassment complaint with a female legislative aide and acknowledging he sent inappropriate text messages to her.

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6. Kentucky: Rep. Jim DeCesare, removed from a legislative committee chairmanship in November after signing a secret sexual harassment settlement.

7. Kentucky: Rep. Brian Linder, removed from a legislative committee chairmanship in November after signing a secret sexual harassment settlement.

8. Kentucky: Rep. Michael Meredith, removed from a legislative committee chairmanship in November after signing a secret sexual harassment settlement.

9. Massachusetts: Senate President Stan Rosenberg, stepped aside in December from his leadership position pending an investigation by an independent law firm. The firm is looking into whether he violated any rules following a media report alleging that his husband sexually abused several men, including some who had dealings with the Legislature.

10. New Mexico: Sen. Michael Padilla, ousted in December as Democratic majority whip by the caucus after decade-old allegations that he had sexually harassed women in a prior job. Padilla also dropped out of the lieutenant governor's race.

11. New York: Assemblyman Steven McLaughlin, formally sanctioned in November by a legislative ethics panel after allegations that he asked a female legislative staffer for nude photos and leaked her name when she filed a harassment complaint.

12. Oklahoma: Rep. Will Fourkiller, advised in February to get sensitivity training and blocked from interacting with the Legislature's page program for a year after being accused of making inappropriate comments to a high school page in 2015.

13. Oregon: Sen. Jeff Kruse, removed from committees in October and told in a letter from the Senate president not to touch women after new accusations that he had inappropriately touched female colleagues. He faces an ongoing Senate investigation.

14. Pennsylvania: Sen. Daylin Leach, announced in December that he will "step back" from his campaign for a congressional seat after allegations that he behaved inappropriately toward female employees and campaign aides. Also facing a call from Gov. Tom Wolf to resign.

15. Washington: Rep. Matt Manweller, resigned as assistant floor leader and was removed as ranking member of a House committee in December. Manweller also was placed on paid leave from his job as a political science professor at Central Washington University and barred from contacting past and present students while the university investigates allegations of sexual harassment against him.

16. Wisconsin: Rep. Josh Zepnick, removed from legislative committees in December after being accused of kissing two women against their will at political events several years ago.

ALSO OF NOTE

1. Idaho: Rep. James Holtzclaw, accused in a complaint of making inappropriate comments to at least two people during the 2017 session.

2. Pennsylvania: Rep. Tom Caltagirone, facing calls by Gov. Tom Wolf to resign after reports that House Democrats authorized paying about \$250,000 to settle a sexual harassment claim from a legislative assistant against Caltagirone in 2015.

3. Rhode Island: Rep. Teresa Tanzi, publicly alleged in October that a more senior legislator had suggested that sexual favors would allow her bills to go further, but Tanzi has not publicly identified the lawmaker.

4. Florida: Sen. Jeff Clemens, resigned in October after an extramarital affair with a lobbyist. The House speaker had said that because a lobbyist is dependent on legislators, "the facts here raise a very real question of sexual harassment."

5. Kentucky: Rep. Dan Johnson killed himself in December, just days after being publicly accused of sexually assaulting a teenage girl in 2013.

State lawmakers to re-examine harassment rules, get training

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers this session will attend sexual harassment training and plan to re-examine anti-harassment rules.

The moves come after news reports about women who experienced sexism and harassment around the statehouse. The training for lawmakers and their staff — it's only required for staff — will happen in January.

Senate President Pro Tempore Brock Greenfield said this week he's appointing a legislative group to look at current anti-harassment policies, changes proposed by a Democratic lawmaker and issues proposed by others.

Democratic Sen. Billie Sutton had proposed changes that would require nonpartisan legislative staff to conduct investigations into harassment allegations.

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

Last year, a lawmaker who admitted to having sexual contact with two interns resigned.

Groups document voting rights abuses in Indian Country

By FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Election sites far from reservations. Poll workers who don't speak tribal languages. Unequal access to early voting sites.

Native Americans say they've encountered a wide range of obstacles that makes voting difficult. Advocates have been spending the last few months gathering stories from around Indian Country in hopes that tribal members can wield more influence in elections, and improve conditions among populations that encounter huge disparities in health, education and economics.

"Some of the problems they were facing actually were issues we thought we'd taken care of long ago," said OJ Semans, a Rosebud Sioux tribal member and executive director of Four Directions. "If you don't keep your eye open and the communication open, things will reverse."

Tribes successfully have challenged what they see as discriminatory voting practices around the United States. In Utah, a federal judge recently ordered school board and county commission districts redrawn after the Navajo Nation argued they were racially gerrymandered. In Nevada, the Pyramid Lake and Walker River Paiute tribes won a legal battle to improve early voting access on their reservations. Alaska Natives reached a settlement in a case that includes increased language assistance for three census areas.

Tribes often turn to the 1965 Voting Rights Act to try and force changes when working with local elections administrators doesn't work, said James Tucker, a pro-bono attorney for the Native American Rights Fund. The group is part of a coalition holding field hearings across the country ahead of the next round of redistricting and to compile what it believes will be the most comprehensive look at voting rights abuses in Indian Country.

One hearing is scheduled Thursday in Phoenix. Others are planned this year in Oregon, California, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

"What we're trying to show is people don't have equal opportunities to vote, to register to vote and to participate in Indian Country than you would see in maybe a more urban setting," Tucker said.

Native Americans didn't become U.S. citizens until 1924 but some states restricted who was entitled to vote up into the 1960s with laws saying Indians who weren't taxed, lived on reservations or were enrolled with tribes couldn't cast a ballot. Southwestern states were the last holdouts.

Barriers remain, including long drives to polling places, ballot harvesting laws, mistreatment and intimidation of tribal members at polling sites, voter identification requirements and unequal opportunities for Native Americans to serve as poll workers, said Patty Ferguson-Bohnee, director of the Arizona State University Indian Legal Clinic.

An upcoming issue in Arizona is whether counties that provided needed language assistance to tribal members will continue to do so despite recent census data saying it's not needed, she said.

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Semans said he's missed out on voting in at least one election in South Dakota because he would have had to drive at least 100 miles roundtrip to reach an early voting site off the reservation and couldn't make it on Election Day. His group and others routinely have sued over the issue, saying it's unfair and discriminatory.

"There are not that many of us," he said. "But what we did is open the door for minorities in order to use the case law to improve their voting opportunities."

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

01-08-10-28-33

(one, eight, ten, twenty-eight, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$85,000

Lotto America

33-35-40-44-49, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 2

(thirty-three, thirty-five, forty, forty-four, forty-nine; Star Ball: two; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$17.89 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

07-24-33-49-50, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 5

(seven, twenty-four, thirty-three, forty-nine, fifty; Powerball: four; Power Play: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

4 arrested in town house search but not homicide suspect

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police have arrested four people after searching a Sioux Falls town home for a man wanted in a double homicide, but the primary suspect remains at large.

Authorities believed that Manuel Frias was at the home, but he was not found Wednesday. The Argus Leader reports SWAT and police vehicles were on the scene for more than two hours.

On Tuesday night, a 30-year-old man and 26-year-old woman were arrested after a standoff at a Sioux Falls apartment that lasted several hours. Deputies were attempting to serve a warrant when they learned one of the suspects had a pistol.

The woman arrested is associated with Frias, who's being sought for first-degree murder in the shooting deaths Friday of 28-year-old Samuel Crockett and 30-year-old Corey Zephier. Police say the shooting was drug related.

Justice: Meth, prescription drugs a 'new wave of evil'

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court's chief justice says an explosion of meth and prescription drugs is a "new wave of evil" that has descended upon state residents.

Chief Justice David Gilbertson said Wednesday in his State of the Judiciary message that addiction to meth and prescription drugs continues despite efforts by law enforcement and the court system.

But he says the statewide network of drug and alcohol courts is working. Gilbertson says the courts served 462 participants in budget year 2017, up from 314 in budget year 2015.

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He says an inpatient component should be incorporated into the state's drug court program. Gilbertson was appointed to the high court in 1995 and has served as chief justice since 2001. He was re-elected in 2016 to a fifth term as chief justice by the court's justices.

Clergy, members of different faiths gather at state Capitol

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Clergy and members of several religions gathered Wednesday at the South Dakota Capitol to meet lawmakers and urge them not to denigrate people of faiths different than their own.

The prayer and outreach come after some state lawmakers last year pushed measures targeting refugee resettlement in South Dakota. David Zellmer, bishop of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, said the gathering was about "lifting up" that the freedom of religion guaranteed in the First Amendment is for everyone.

"I really want to remind our folks that we are a people of law," said Zellmer, who was among more than 50 people who prayed in the Capitol rotunda.

Taneeza Islam, executive director of the nonprofit South Dakota Voices for Peace, said she hopes lawmakers recognize the diversity in the state. She said it's important they understand the decisions made at the Capitol affect everyone in South Dakota.

"A big issue in our state is that it's easy to stereotype and vilify someone you don't have a face, I call it, 'Face to the name,'" she said. "When you don't have someone that you can say, 'Oh, I know Taneeza. She's an American Muslim. She's involved in the community. She's raising a family.'"

Last year, a bill proposed would have required the Legislature's approval for refugee resettlements in South Dakota; it was eventually changed to simply require private refugee resettlement agencies to provide an annual report to the governor and Legislature. A different resolution from Republican Sen. Neal Tapio would have expressed a lack of confidence in the resettlement program.

Tapio, who is preparing to run for U.S. House, called the interfaith group a "political movement." Tapio has said he will form an unofficial legislative work group to examine state immigration and refugee resettlement programs in South Dakota.

"We have a domestic threat that's going on right here in our country," Tapio said after the prayers. "Refugee resettlements and interfaith dialogue is a part of a war. It's a silent part. It's a part about taking away the Christian fabric of our nation. Now, some people are OK with that. That's their prerogative, but there's American patriots that want to fight."

State Capitol security was notably heightened Wednesday.

Senate commerce leader confronts Apple about iPhone slowdown

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The chairman of the U.S. Senate's commerce committee wants Apple to lift the veil on its once-secret slowdown of older iPhones.

Sen. John Thune, a South Dakota Republican, issued his request for more information in a letter sent Tuesday to Apple CEO Tim Cook.

Among other things, Thune wants to know if Apple made any effort to notify its customers that its recent software updates would make several types of iPhones released before 2017 slow down when their batteries weakened.

Thune also asked Apple whether it considered replacing the batteries for free, instead of the current discounted charge of \$29 that it began offering in late December after acknowledging how its updates affected older iPhones. He also inquired whether Apple plans to throttle aging iPhones in the future and whether it plans to let consumers know what it's doing.

Thune demanded a response by Jan. 23. Apple declined to comment.

The inquiry represents the latest backlash against Apple's decision to slow down older iPhones, a move that the company says is designed to prevent the devices from abruptly shutting down when older batteries are running low or operating in cold weather.

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Although technology analysts have mostly defended Apple's strategy as a way to make older iPhones last longer, some regulators and many consumers believe the company has been manipulating the way aging devices work to spur sales of its latest — and more expensive — models.

French authorities are investigating whether Apple is engaging in a pattern of "planned obsolescence" in violation of France law and a variety of consumer lawsuits have been filed in the U.S.

Apple has responded with an apology and reduced the price to replace batteries on older iPhones by \$50.

1 of 2 arrested after standoff linked to homicide suspect

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say one of the two people arrested following a standoff in Sioux Falls is a known associate of the primary suspect in two recent homicides.

A 30-year-old man and 26-year-old woman were arrested after Tuesday night's standoff at an apartment that lasted several hours. Minnehaha County deputies were attempting to serve a warrant when they learned one of the suspects had a pistol. The suspects initially refused to leave the apartment.

The Argus Leader says the woman arrested is associated with Manuel Frias, who's being sought for first-degree murder in the shooting deaths Friday of 28-year-old Samuel Crockett and 30-year-old Corey Zephier. Police say the shooting was drug related.

The two arrested following the standoff were taken into custody on possible drug, weapons and other charges.

Police department to launch new unit in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City Police Department is using a \$750,000 grant to create a new unit that will offer social services to help the homeless and individuals with mental health or substance abuse issues.

The Quality of Life Unit will be staffed by both police officers and social workers, and will focus its efforts in downtown Rapid City.

Assistant Police Chief Don Hedrick told the Rapid City Journal that police hope the unit will proactively address problems before there's a need for a law enforcement response.

"This will create a safer environment for everyone," said Hedrick.

Hedrick said the unit will make social services more accessible to people who may not know where or how to obtain them.

The office may become part of the Pennington County Health Facility, which is anticipated to open this June. The facility will house the county's Health and Human Services Department, the Crisis Care Center, and city and county alcohol and drug programs.

Hedrick said that the new unit and the Health and Human Services Department should be closely tied "because there's a lot of overlap between what we're doing and what they're doing."

The one-time grant was awarded last week by a nonprofit, the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Hedrick said the police department will find a way to keep financing the unit, should it perform as expected. Officials said the unit is anticipated to be in operation this summer.

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

Deer crashes into window at South Dakota health care center

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A deer left a South Dakota health care facility in worse shape than when it entered.

The American News reports the white-tailed doe crashed through a window of an empty room at Aberdeen Health and Rehab on Tuesday morning.

Marketing Director Mike Brown says the animal might have been clipped by a car on a nearby highway and spooked.

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A state wildlife officer and local animal control officer got the deer back out through the window, and it eventually fled into a park. The doe had a broken back right hoof but officials think it will be OK.

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

Raven Industries gives \$5M to SDSU for precision ag building

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls company is donating \$5 million toward building a home for the precision agriculture program at South Dakota State University.

Raven Industries President and CEO Dan Rykhus says the donation is an investment, noting the company's work in the field of precision agriculture.

SDSU offers a four-year degree in precision agriculture and two minors in the field.

The Argus Leader reports that the state Legislature must approve construction of the building on the SDSU campus in Brookings.

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

Judge won't reduce sentence for man in fatal boat crash

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge has refused to reduce the prison sentence for a Rapid City man serving five years behind bars for a fatal boat crash on Lake Pactola.

Thirty-one-year-old Jody Kreycik pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter and boating under the influence in the August 2015 crash that killed 33-year-old Gabrielle Fisher of Rapid City. He was sentenced nearly two years ago.

Kreycik asked 7th Circuit Judge Jeff Davis to modify his sentence so he could receive military veteran benefits and get treatment for a traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder stemming from his service in Iraq.

Prosecutors opposed the request, and the judge on Monday denied it.

The Rapid City Journal reports Kreycik will be eligible for parole on Feb. 16.

8 earthquakes strike along Iran-Iraq border, rattle Baghdad

By AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A series of eight earthquakes hit the Iran-Iraq border area and rattled Baghdad on Thursday, apparent aftershocks of a temblor that struck the mountainous region in November and killed over 530 people. Four people suffered minor injuries in Iran, state television reported.

The U.S. Geological Survey said seven of the quakes struck near the Iraqi city of Mandali, 120 kilometers (75 miles) northeast of the Iraqi capital. Mandali is right on the border between the two nations. The eighth hit near Mehran in western Iran, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) southeast of Mandali along the sparsely populated Zagros Mountains that divide Iran and Iraq.

All the earthquakes struck within an hour of each other, beginning at 0659 GMT. Six had a preliminary magnitude of at least 5, while two registered at magnitude 4. Scientists consider earthquakes of magnitude 5 as moderate.

Iranian authorities offered similar figures for the earthquakes on state television. All the information could change as scientists examine the data.

Iranian state television said online that people rushed into the streets as the temblors hit. In Baghdad, people felt a quake shake the Iraqi capital, followed by what felt like aftershocks.

All the earthquakes struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), according to the USGS. Earthquakes at magnitude 5 can cause considerable damage. The temblors also all were very shallow, which causes more ground shaking and potential damage, particularly in places without strict building codes.

In November, a major 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck the same region, killing over 530 people and

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injuring thousands in Iran alone. In Iraq, nine people were killed and 550 were injured, all in the country's northern Kurdish region, according to the United Nations.

Randy Baldwin, a geophysicist with the USGS' National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado, said the earthquakes all appeared to be aftershocks from the November temblor.

That area is home to many shallow faults, he said.

"It's ongoing activity there," Baldwin told The Associated Press. "If there was a stressed fault that's ready to move, they happen like that until the stresses are relieved, so it's not too unusual."

The November earthquake hit hardest in the Kurdish town of Sarpol-e-Zahab in the western Iranian province of Kermanshah, which is only 80 kilometers (50 miles) from where most of Thursday's earthquakes struck.

The region, largely rebuilt in recent decades after Iran and Iraq's ruinous 1980s war, saw many buildings collapse or sustain major damage in the November quake. While Iranian government has offered loans for those affected to rebuild their homes, many still live in tents or temporary shipping containers-style homes and face the rains and cold of winter.

Iran sits on major fault lines and is prone to near-daily earthquakes. In 2003, a 6.6 magnitude quake flattened the historic city of Bam, killing 26,000 people.

Earlier on Thursday, the USGS said a magnitude 4.9 quake hit Iran's southern province of Kerman before dawn, while another 4.6 magnitude temblor struck Wednesday night in Kermanshah province. No injuries or damage were reported.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writer Susannah George in Baghdad contributed to this report.

Another GOP governor seeks exclusion from drilling proposal

By **MATTHEW DALY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opposition to the Trump administration's plan to expand offshore drilling is mounting as Democrats from coastal states accuse President Donald Trump of punishing states with Democratic leaders and a second Republican governor asks to withdraw his state from the plan.

Democrats said Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke were being hypocritical by agreeing to a request by Florida's Republican governor to withdraw from the drilling plan, but not making the same accommodation to states with Democratic governors.

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California said on Twitter that his state, "like Florida, has hundreds of miles of beautiful coastline and a governor who wants to keep it that way. Or is that not enough for blue states?"

"If local voices matter why haven't they excluded Virginia?" asked Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va. "Is it because the governor of Florida is a Republican and the Virginia governor is a Democrat?"

The complaints came as South Carolina's Republican governor said Wednesday he is seeking an exemption from the proposed drilling expansion, a move that will test the relationship between Trump and one of his earliest supporters.

Gov. Henry McMaster told reporters that risks associated with drilling pose a serious threat to South Carolina's lush coastline and \$20 billion tourism industry.

"We cannot afford to take a chance with the beauty, the majesty and the economic value and vitality of our wonderful coastline in South Carolina," McMaster said.

Opposition to drilling is bipartisan within South Carolina's congressional delegation: All three House members who represent the state's 190 miles of coastline told The Associated Press they are against the expansion plan. Two of the three are Republicans, including Rep. Mark Sanford, a former governor who said Zinke had set a precedent by honoring Florida's request for an exemption.

"What's good for the goose is good for the gander," Sanford said, adding that Republicans should respect local wishes.

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In Virginia, GOP Rep. Scott Taylor joined Kaine and Gov.-elect Ralph Northam in opposing the drilling plan. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., called Trump's plan "a complete non-starter."

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., said on Twitter that "the only science @SecretaryZinke follows is political science. He'll reverse course to protect fellow Republicans in Florida, but not to protect coastlines and jobs across the rest of the country? Totally unacceptable."

Heather Swift, a spokeswoman for Zinke, accused Kaine and other Democrats of taking cheap shots at her boss.

"The secretary has said since day one that he is interested in the local voice. If those governors would like to request meetings with the secretary, they are absolutely welcome to do so," she said. "Their criticism is empty pandering."

As of Wednesday, only McMaster and Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper of North Carolina had requested a meeting with Zinke on offshore drilling, Swift said.

In Oregon, Democratic Gov. Kate Brown took to Twitter to ask Zinke for relief. Linking to Zinke tweet about Florida, Brown wrote: "Hey @secretaryzinke, how about doing the same for #Oregon?"

Zinke said after a brief meeting with Gov. Rick Scott, R-Fla., at the Tallahassee airport Tuesday that drilling in Florida waters would be "off the table," despite a plan that proposed drilling 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 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 of white sandy beaches.

And Florida is where Trump has a winter home in Palm Beach. Trump spent his Christmas and New Year's break at his Mar-a-Lago resort.

Former White House ethics chief Walter Shaub said Zinke's decision to exempt Florida from the drilling plan appears to be a conflict of interest for Trump.

Trump is "exempting the state that is home to the festering cankerous conflict of interest that the administration likes to call the 'Winter White House' and none of the other affected states," Shaub tweeted.

Zinke said Tuesday that "Florida is obviously unique" and that the decision to remove the state came after meetings and discussion with Scott, a Trump ally and a likely candidate for the Senate seat now held by Democrat Bill Nelson.

Nelson called Scott's meeting with Zinke "a political stunt" and said Scott has long wanted to drill off Florida's coast, despite his recent opposition.

Scott's office said he repeatedly voiced his opposition to drilling to Zinke, including at an October meeting in Washington.

"Senator Nelson and anyone else who opposes oil drilling off Florida's coast should be happy the governor was able to secure this commitment. This isn't about politics. This is good policy for Florida," said John Tupps, a Scott spokesman.

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

Democratic governors along both coasts unanimously oppose drilling, as do a number of Republican governors, including McMaster, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan and Massachusetts Gov. Charles Baker.

The five-year plan announced by Zinke would open 90 percent of the nation's offshore reserves to development by private companies.

Industry groups praised the announcement, while environmental groups denounced the plan, saying it would impose "severe and unacceptable harm" to America's oceans, coastal economies, public health and marine life.

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Associated Press writers Meg Kinnard in Columbia, S.C., Ben Finley in Norfolk, Va., and Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Fla., contributed to this report.

N Korea: Popularity of 'Fire and Fury' foretells Trump's end

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea has found good material to attack U.S. President Donald Trump: Michael Wolff's bombshell new book, "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House."

The book paints Trump as a leader who doesn't understand the weight of his office and whose competence is questioned by aides. Trump and other White House aides have blasted it as inaccurate trash. But it was the top-selling book in the U.S. last week, and its numbers are likely to grow far higher.

On Thursday, the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper, run by its ruling Workers' Party, carried an article about the book's subject matter, how Trump reacted and why it is selling so well.

Its sales reflect "rapidly surging anti-Trump sentiments in the international community," the article said. "The anti-Trump book is sweeping all over the world so Trump is being massively humiliated worldwide."

The book's popularity "foretells Trump's political demise," the article said.

Last summer, Trump threatened North Korea with "fire and fury like the world has never seen" in an exchange of taunts with the North, which claimed it was examining plans to launch missiles toward the American territory of Guam.

Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have since traded threats of war and crude insults, as the North conducted nuclear and long-range missile tests.

Trump called Kim "Rocket Man" on a "suicide mission." Kim called the 71-year-old American president "the mentally deranged U.S. dotard." In his New Year's address last week, Kim said he has a "nuclear button" that could fire weapons anywhere in the United States, and Trump responded that he has a much bigger and more powerful "nuclear button."

Recently, North Korea has taken steps toward improving ties with rival South Korea in what critics call a tactic to divide Seoul and Washington and weaken U.S.-led international pressure and sanctions on the country. On Tuesday, it had its first formal talks with South Korea in about two years and agreed to send a delegation to next month's Winter Olympics in the South and hold military talks aimed at easing front-line animosity.

But North Korea hasn't stopped its rhetoric against Trump. Last week, the North's state media called Trump a "war maniac" and "madman."

After Tuesday's inter-Korean talks, Trump said during a phone conversation with South Korean President Moon Jae-in that the United States was open to talks with North Korea "at the appropriate time, under the right circumstances," according to a White House statement.

"Fire and Fury" was released last Friday and sold 29,000 copies through Saturday, NPD BookScan told The Associated Press. Digital sales already top 250,000 and audio sales exceed 100,000, according to John Sargent, CEO of Macmillan, the parent company of the book's publisher, Henry Holt and Co. It has raised an initial announced printing of 150,000 to more than 1 million.

Hundreds search for victims of California mudslide

By MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ and ROBERT JABLON, Associated Press

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP) — Hundreds of searchers continued the grueling work Thursday of hunting for survivors and digging up bodies in the sea of mud and wreckage left by flash flooding in this wealthy coastal enclave.

Muck-spattered searchers from around the state slogged through knee-deep ooze, poking long poles into the mud to probe for victims. Search dogs clambered on shattered heaps of wood that used to be homes.

The death toll from Tuesday's pre-dawn flash flood rose to 17 on Wednesday as more bodies were found. Another 17 were still reported missing.

"It's just waiting and not knowing, and the more I haven't heard from them — we have to find them,"

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said Kelly Weimer, whose elderly parents' home was wrecked. The couple, Jim and Alice Mitchell, didn't heed a voluntary evacuation warning and stayed home Monday to celebrate Jim Mitchell's 89th birthday. Weimer hoped to find them in a shelter or hospital.

Other people were rescued after being trapped for more than a day in their homes.

Devon Crail, 39, of Santa Barbara came back to his parents' home Wednesday to gather belongings and medication they weren't able to take with them when they managed to leave that morning.

"I talked to them at about four in the morning," he said. "They had tried to open the front door to leave and the mud started pouring in. They were able to force the door closed and stuck it out until sunrise when they got out."

Search-and-rescue teams from all over California were working their way through the muck and wreckage of Montecito, a wealthy enclave of 9,000 people northwest of Los Angeles that is home to celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey. However, the flood left it strewn with mud, boulders, wrecked cars, trashed buildings and tree limbs in a scene that Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown has compared to a World War I battlefield.

By Wednesday, some 500 searchers had covered about 75 percent of the inundated area, authorities said. However, they had a long and arduous slog ahead — literally.

"A lot of the street signs are gone, the roads are impassable. It all has to be done on foot," said Deputy Dan Page, chief of the Altadena Mountain Rescue Team of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which sent help to the scene.

"We've gotten multiple reports of rescuers falling through manholes that were covered with mud, swimming pools that were covered up with mud," said Anthony Buzzerio, a Los Angeles County fire battalion chief. "The mud is acting like a candy shell on ice cream. It's crusty on top but soft underneath, so we're having to be very careful."

A dozen people were hospitalized at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and four were in critical condition, Dr. Brett Wilson said.

People in Montecito had counted themselves lucky last month after the biggest wildfire in California history spared the town. But it was the fire that led to the mudslide, by burning away vegetation.

"We totally thought we were out of the woods," said Jennifer Markham, whose home escaped damage in both disasters. "I was frozen yesterday morning thinking, 'This is a million times worse than that fire ever was.'"

Only an estimated 10 to 15 percent of residents fled when ordered and much of the damage occurred where evacuations were voluntary.

Rescue crews worked up to 12 hours a day and risked stepping on nails or shattered glass, or being exposed to raw sewage, or dealing with leaking gas, Page said.

It could take days or even longer before the work is finished. But rescuers never really abandon the idea that there might still be people out there, Page said.

"That's always our mentality: 'Hey, we're going to find someone alive,'" he said. "You never really know. You never know exactly what the human body is capable of."

In 2014, a mudslide in rural Oso in Washington state killed 43 people. The last body was found after four months.

Travis Hots, fire chief of Snohomish County Fire District 22, was on the scene in the first hour after that catastrophe.

He recalled a sea of mud so thick that crews had trouble slogging through it or so watery it was like quicksand. Helicopters were brought in to pluck up survivors while crews waded in to drag or carry out others even though they weren't sure whether they would be hit with another slide.

Some waved for help, some were trapped in semi-submerged homes and rescuers had to cut through a roof to rescue one man.

"Crews that arrived at the end of the road where the mud started could hear screaming," he said.

In Montecito, more than 50 people were airlifted to safety on the day of the slide.

Crews marked where bodies were found, often far away from a home, and used that information to guess where residents of a nearby home might have ended up as the surging mud carried or buried them.

But even people buried only a few inches under the ground might initially be missed.

"You could literally walk right past somebody because everything was gray" with mud, Hots said.

"These are generally long-term incidents. It's a slow, tedious process and it's going to take a long time to recover from," Hots said. "They're going to do the best they can for the families. Most of the emergency professionals I know work themselves to death trying to find people."

Both he and Page said even finding the dead is gratifying because it offers a sense of closure to grieving relatives.

"No mother or father, husband or wife has to drive by there and wonder, 'When is my loved one going to be found out there?'" Hots said. "Everyone was found."

Associated Press writers Amanda Lee Myers, John Antczak, Michael Balsamo, Frank Baker, Brian Melley and Andrew Dalton in Los Angeles, Alina Hartounian in Phoenix, and Aron Ranen in Montecito contributed to this report.

Amazon looks to build on 1st season of NFL streaming

By JOSH DUBOW, AP Pro Football Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Amazon had a mostly successful debut into live streaming of major sports events with increased audience and an improved viewing experience in its first season showing NFL games.

The question looking ahead is how aggressively will Amazon be in the sports streaming landscape?

"It's too soon to say," said Jim DeLorenzo, the head of Amazon Sports. "We're just in the early stages here. We were definitely pleased with the way things played out. It was great to partner with the NFL on this and we were really happy with how our customers reacted to it. But it's too soon to say this impacts our strategy going forward."

Amazon already has smaller deals with the ATP Tour to air last year's Next Gen ATP Finals and the rights to show some men's tennis tournaments to customers in the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as an upcoming deal to show beach volleyball events.

But the NFL is the biggest endeavor Amazon has made so far after paying \$50 million for the rights to stream 10 Thursday night games and an additional one on Christmas.

Amazon built on the audience Twitter had in 2016 in the first year of streaming on Thursday nights, with the averaging per minute audience for the 11 games hitting 310,000, a 17 percent increase from Twitter's numbers.

On a per capita basis, the biggest audience was in the District of Columbia, followed by Washington, Colorado, Oregon and Utah. Prime members in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and North Carolina watched for the longest amount of time.

Viewers who are already used to watching movies and scripted shows on Amazon's various platforms stayed longer on the NFL, with the average viewer watching for 63 minutes.

The feed was usually much cleaner than on Twitter or some other streaming services and was delivered even faster than some cable systems as opposed to the usual delay for online streaming.

"This was really our first step into distributing live sporting events at scale on a global basis," DeLorenzo said. "Of course there was learning. Because we're so early on in that process of distributing this kind of content to our customers, there are a number of things we can look at along the way."

Even though television audiences for the NFL dropped for the second straight year as people cut the cord and drop cable or satellite service, the streaming audience on Amazon was still a small fraction compared to the more than 10 million viewers who watched on average the Thursday night games on NBC, CBS or the NFL Network. CBS and NBC pay about \$45 million per game for the rights to their Thursday night broadcasts.

The NFL is expected to decide soon its plans for Thursday night games next season, but is expected to

once again split the package between a broadcast and streaming partner.

Amazon offered alternate language feeds for the broadcast to cater to some of the fans from more than 220 countries who tuned into the games, with feeds in Spanish, Portuguese and "U.K. English" for those less familiar with the American version of football.

"That was a fun component of what we were doing and we were glad to see customers reacted well to that as well," DeLorenzo said.

More AP NFL: www.pro32.ap.org and www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Trump group says memo supports its argument over emails

By **STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group representing President Donald Trump's transition team is pressing the General Services Administration to turn over a memo purportedly sent by an agency official to special counsel Robert Mueller's team that would offer proof that tens of thousands of emails should not have been delivered to investigators.

The transition group, Trump for America, claims in a letter sent Monday to GSA officials that an agency memo supposedly sent last June to Mueller's team provides evidence that the emails later handed over to Mueller's investigators were legally owned by the transition. The vast cache of emails should never have been delivered to the Russia election meddling investigators without Trump for America's authorization, a lawyer for the transition group wrote in the letter obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

The transition lawyer, Kory Langhofer, did not explain how the group was made aware that the GSA memo exists but said "it is our understanding" that the document was sent in June by the GSA's top lawyer, Richard Beckler, to Mueller's team. Beckler has since died. Langhofer's letter to the GSA requested the memo under the Freedom of Information Act.

"The GSA had no right to access or control the records but was simply serving as Trump for America's records custodian," Langhofer wrote. He added that the GSA "unlawfully" handed over "thousands of private and privileged (presidential transition team) emails to the Special Counsel's office, and failed to notify (Trump for America) of the production."

GSA spokeswoman Pamela Dixon declined Wednesday to comment on the transition group's letter. Peter Carr, spokesman for the special counsel, also declined to comment, citing an earlier statement that when the counsel's office obtains emails during its investigations "we have secured either the account owner's consent or appropriate criminal process."

Ken Nahigian, Trump for America's executive director, said the transition made the records request to the GSA to respond to the agency's role in the "unlawful seizure of Transition documents by Mr. Mueller."

Nahigian said the agency's cooperation with the special counsel without the knowledge of the transition "will irreversibly chill the operations of future presidential transition teams."

The GSA has typically provided office space, phones and computers to presidential transition teams in recent years. After Trump's presidential election victory in November 2016, his transition officials relied on the federal agency's site to host and archive its electronic communications. The transition's emails were slated for deletion after Trump's inauguration, but the transition asked the GSA to retain the records after receiving document requests from Congress last spring.

Some criminal law experts have expressed skepticism about the transition's claims to legal ownership of the emails, but Langhofer and other transition officials insist that Beckler had agreed with Trump for America both in phone conversations and in the sought-after memo that the emails belonged to the transition.

Langhofer said that Beckler "acknowledged unequivocally" that the transition team "owned and controlled" the emails and that "the GSA had no right to access or control the records but was simply serving as TFA's records custodian." In Beckler's absence last August, his deputy, Lenny Loewentritt, made the decision to turn over the trove of transition emails to Mueller's team — without notifying Trump for America, Langhofer said.

Langhofer said that the memo purportedly sent by Beckler would show that the GSA "covered up" Loewentritt's "unlawfulness" in giving the transition emails to the special counsel. Loewentritt told BuzzFeed last month that Beckler had made no commitment to transition officials that requests from law enforcement for materials would be routed through Trump for America. He also said there was no expectation of privacy for the transition emails.

In September, investigators for Mueller obtained tens of thousands of emails that related to 13 senior Trump transition officials. Among them was former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who pleaded guilty to one count of making false statements to FBI agents in January and is now cooperating with Mueller's investigation. Flynn was fired by Trump in February for misleading senior administration officials about his contacts with Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

Mueller so far has indicted two other Trump campaign officials and a fourth has pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

Associated Press writer Chad Day contributed to this report.

Trump: 'Unlikely' he'd submit to a Russia probe interview

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says that it "seems unlikely" that he'd give an interview in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Trump said "we'll see what happens" when asked if he'd provide an interview to Mueller's team.

"When they have no collusion and nobody's found any collusion at any level, it seems unlikely that you'd even have an interview," Trump said Wednesday during a joint news conference with the prime minister of Norway.

The special counsel's team of investigators has expressed interest in speaking with Trump, but no details have been worked out. Trump's lawyers have previously stated their determination to cooperate with requests in the probe, which has already resulted in charges against four of Trump's campaign advisers.

Trump called the investigation a "phony cloud" over his administration.

"It has hurt our government," he said. "It was a Democrat hoax."

Trump's words differed from what he said at a news conference in June, shortly after fired FBI Director James Comey had told Congress that Trump asked him for a pledge of loyalty. Trump denied that, and said he'd be "100 percent" willing tell his version of events under oath. He said he'd be "glad to" speak to Mueller about it.

The comments come after Trump had already lashed out at the investigations on Twitter Wednesday morning, urging Republicans to take control of the inquiries and repeating his claim that they are on a "witch hunt."

"There was no collusion, everybody including the Dems knows there was no collusion, & yet on and on it goes," he tweeted. "Russia & the world is laughing at the stupidity they are witnessing. Republicans should finally take control!"

In a separate tweet Wednesday morning, Trump accused Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of being "underhanded and a disgrace" for disclosing details of a dossier of allegations about his ties to Russia during the presidential campaign.

A day earlier, Feinstein, who faces a primary challenge in her re-election this year, released the transcript of the Senate Judiciary Committee's closed-door August interview with an official from the political opposition research firm Fusion GPS, which commissioned the dossier. She released the transcript of Glenn Simpson's interview over the objections of the committee's Republican chairman, Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley. She is the top Democrat on the panel.

"The fact that Sneaky Dianne Feinstein, who has on numerous occasions stated that collusion between Trump/Russia has not been found, would release testimony in such an underhanded and possibly illegal

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way, totally without authorization, is a disgrace," Trump tweeted. "Must have tough Primary!"

The material wasn't classified, and Feinstein said Wednesday that she didn't do anything illegal. And as the top Democrat on the committee, she didn't need authorization from Grassley to release it. Her staff helped conduct the interview with Simpson, who had also asked for the interview to be released.

Still, the release was a blow the two lawmakers' earlier attempts at bipartisanship on the committee's Russia investigation. Feinstein told reporters that she didn't tell Grassley beforehand, and "I owe him an apology and I will give him an apology as soon as I see him."

Grassley said in an angry news release on Tuesday that he was "confounded" by the release and argued that it could undermine attempts to get additional witnesses. By Wednesday he appeared to have softened, saying he was continuing to negotiate witnesses with Feinstein in the Russia probe.

"Listen, I screw up regularly and she doesn't owe me an apology," Grassley said.

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. That has angered Democrats, who say those probes are distractions from the Russia investigations.

Feinstein said that she was trying to set the record straight after speculation about Simpson's interview.

"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," she said. "The only way to set the record straight is to make the transcript public."

Feinstein also sits on the Senate intelligence committee, which is conducting its own investigation into the Russian interference and whether Trump's campaign was in any way involved.

Trump has often invoked Feinstein on the collusion issue. She said on CBS's "Face the Nation" on Oct. 8 that there's "no proof" yet that there was any collusion between Russia and Trump's campaign, adding: "I think that proof will likely come with Mr. Mueller's investigation."

Feinstein faces a primary from California state Senate leader Kevin de Leon. Asked about Trump's tweet, she brushed off the idea that the release had anything to do with her election.

"Oh come on," she said. "Of course not."

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, also criticized Trump's tweet, saying it "smacks of interference in investigations and I think that's inappropriate."

Also Wednesday, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller, and FBI Director Christopher Wray were on Capitol Hill to speak to Warner and the Republican chairman of the Senate intelligence panel, North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr. Neither senator would comment on the meeting's purpose.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey, Ken Thomas and Jonathan Lemire in Washington and David Pitt in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

Lawmakers renew immigration effort as a shutdown looms

By **ANDREW TAYLOR** and **ALAN FRAM**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Backed by the White House, Democratic and Republican lawmakers dug into a politically fraught search for compromise on immigration Wednesday, seeking to take advantage of a window of opportunity opened by President Donald Trump. They're under pressure to find a breakthrough before a deadline next week that could lead to a government shutdown neither side wants.

Democrats want urgent action to stave off deportation of some 800,000 immigrants currently protected by an Obama-era program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. Trump still wants his border wall, though he's toned down what that means. Conservatives are watching with a wary eye, fearing he will strike a soft compromise that could infuriate their — and his — political base heading into this year's elections.

The No. 2 lawmakers of each of Capitol Hill's quadrants of power — Republicans and Democrats in both House and Senate — touched gloves Wednesday afternoon, deputized for action at what appears to be a moment of genuine opportunity to break Washington gridlock.

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"Everybody wants to find a deal there, myself included," said Republican Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina, chairman of the stoutly conservative House Freedom Caucus. "It better be good, because that particular issue is really one of the issues that got this president elected. He can't afford to make a mistake."

The Democrats talk most about DACA, the program protecting immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children and are now here illegally. Many have only known America as their home and are viewed sympathetically in opinion polls and among most lawmakers.

Meanwhile, Republicans are heartened by an agreement to discuss other issues, such as border security and Trump's long-promised wall, as well as limiting a preferential "chain migration" system that gives advantages to the relatives of legal immigrants.

Trump no longer talks about the "big, beautiful wall" spanning the length of the U.S.-Mexico border, as he did in the election campaign, but he is demanding some elements of it as part of any agreement.

"We need the wall for security, we need the wall for safety, we need the wall for stopping the drugs from pouring in," Trump said Wednesday. "Any solution has to include the wall because without the wall, it all doesn't work."

Outside of Washington, conservative columnist and author Ann Coulter warned Trump after a White House meeting on Tuesday in which he struck a conciliatory chord on immigration.

"As he considers the utility of walls (and promises), @realDonaldTrump should consider that 'Never Trump' was toothless, but 'Former Trump' will bite," Coulter wrote on Twitter.

But inside the Capitol among the GOP rank and file, most seem to be either supportive of the negotiations or taking a wait and see approach. Everyone has long known that bipartisan talks on both immigration and increasing the crunching spending limits on both the Pentagon and domestic agencies were inevitable. It's no secret that the results of the bipartisan, leadership-driven negotiations are likely to produce results that anger the hard right, but less strident Republicans seem to be comfortable, at least so far.

"I think most like where it's going," said freshman Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska, who represents a competitive district anchored by Omaha and is sympathetic to DACA immigrants. "There's some exceptions but there's a general consensus that that is what we need to be doing. And I think that this is an area that's tailor-made for a bipartisan solution. We both want some things here."

Immigration is just one side of the equation. Also at stake is a deal on spending that would uncork tens of billions of dollars in higher Pentagon spending this year alone, along with money sought by Democrats for domestic programs. Democratic votes are needed to advance such legislation, but top Democrats including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York won't agree to a budget deal unless DACA is dealt with first.

Republicans had long fought perceptions that the two issues were tied together, but they're dropping that pretense now.

"When it comes to how conservatives react to the notion that these things are being linked in discussions, it's sort of nothing new," said Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida. "I think a lot of folks want to see the final product, but I haven't heard some wide-scale revolt to the fact that people are having discussions."

Conservatives in the think tank world said they were heartened that the negotiations had broadened to so-called chain migration and an immigration lottery that's aimed at promoting diversity.

"I think that for some people, yesterday was a bit of a shock to see just how eager (Trump) is to pass amnesty," said Roy Beck, executive director of NumbersUSA, which advocates for reduced immigration rates. "We were worried that the wall was going to be the big get. ... I think we're thrilled to be in as good a shape as we're in."

Still, frustration is brewing that Republicans aren't doing better after winning control of the White House and Congress in 2016,

"Somehow Chuck Schumer still gets to dictate, 'Oh, I get \$60 billion more in non-defense spending, and I get to determine ... DACA,'" said Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio. "How does that make any sense?"

Though both sides' leaders seem eager to settle the issue, uncertainty remains over exactly how — and by whom. Underscoring that, there were two groups of lawmakers seeking an immigration compromise: a handful of senators from both parties who've been meeting on immigration for months as well as the

No. 2 Republican and Democratic leaders who just started their gatherings.

"They want to be engaged in the conversation in hopes that it will build a bipartisan consensus," Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin, a member of both groups, said of the second-ranking leaders. Asked if this group would be helpful, he said, "Too early to tell."

Meanwhile, a group of House Republicans, led by Judiciary Committee Chairman Robert Goodlatte of Virginia, unveiled their own immigration bill Wednesday, a measure that embraces conservative goals but would seem to have little chance of ultimate passage. It would reduce legal immigration levels by 25 percent, block federal grants to "sanctuary cities" that don't cooperate with federal authorities on immigration issues and restrict the number of relatives that immigrants already in the U.S. can bring here.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Some fans of Trump and pot feel allegiances go up in smoke

By PATRICK WHITTLE, Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The Trump administration's anti-marijuana move has some members of the president's voting base fuming.

Fans of President Donald Trump who use marijuana say Attorney General Jeff Sessions' move to tighten federal oversight of the drug is the first time they've felt let down by the man they helped elect. The move feels especially punitive to Trump voters who work in the growing industry around legalized marijuana that has taken root in states of all political stripes.

It remains to be seen whether Trump's pot-loving voters will take their anger to the ballot box in 2018 and 2020. But pro-legalization conservatives are also chiding the administration's anti-pot move as an affront to personal liberties and states' rights.

"Trump needs to realize that a lot of his supporters are pro-cannabis and it would be extremely hurtful to them if he allowed Sessions to move forward with this," said Damara Kelso, a Trump voter who runs Sugar Shack Farms, a marijuana grower in Eugene, Oregon. "It's not lazy pothead stoners smoking weed all day in their parents' basement."

Sessions' move allows federal prosecutors to decide what to do when state rules conflict with federal. It comes as legalization of marijuana is at an all-time high in popularity with Republicans.

A Gallup poll from last year found 51 percent of Republicans expressed support for legalization of the drug. It was the first time a majority of GOP supporters supported the idea and represented a jump of 9 percentage points from the previous year. In the early 2000s, only about one in five Republicans agreed with legalization.

Legalization has also flourished at the state level. Maine, Nevada, Massachusetts and California all voted to make recreational marijuana use legal for adults in 2016. It is also legal in Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Alaska and Washington, D.C. Alaska and Maine gave Trump electoral votes in 2016.

Marijuana legalization is typically most popular with the libertarian-leaning wing of the Republican Party. But any such Republicans who felt Trump would be a pro-marijuana president were misguided, said Jeffrey Miron, a Harvard University economist who studies the economics of libertarianism with a focus on illegal drugs.

Weed-loving Trump fans might be experiencing buyer's remorse, but it's too early to say whether that could make a difference at the voting polls, Miron said.

"Libertarians certainly knew when he appointed Jeff Sessions that there was a serious risk in an escalation of the war on drugs," he said. "I think you get what you pay for."

Still, some of Trump's high-profile supporters are criticizing the move.

Roger Stone, a former Trump campaign adviser with whom the president has a long and rocky history, shared a video on Facebook on Jan. 7 urging Trump to support legalization and block Sessions' move. And some Republicans in Congress have also slammed the decision.

"We have a Constitution to protect people from the federal government," Republican Rep. Jason Lewis, R-Minnesota, a Trump voter, said in an interview. "This is a longstanding limited-government principle."

Trump fans who use medical marijuana are also concerned they could lose access to treatment. In rural Fryeburg, Maine, college student Zac Mercauto drives two hours roundtrip, he said, to buy marijuana to manage chronic pain and other health problems. He said he would hate to lose that ability to federal politics.

Mercauto is also one of thousands of Mainers who helped give Trump his sole New England electoral vote. Unlike most states, Maine splits its electoral votes by congressional district, and Trump won the vast 2nd District, home to both New England conservatism and a marijuana culture.

Mercauto, who had his picture taken with Trump in 2016, said he is still a big fan of the president. But he believes the anti-pot move is bad for his state's economy and health.

"I believe it's going to take a hit at medical marijuana and the industry as a whole here in Maine," he said. "It's disappointing to see him take that stab at the industry. And I guarantee you all the tax money the state of Maine from medical marijuana really helps people all around."

Joe Arpaio points to political traits he shares with Trump

By JACQUES BILLEAUD, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — People have been comparing the political styles of President Donald Trump and former Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio since the allies starting appearing together at campaign events.

The 85-year-old Arpaio noted those similarities Wednesday, a day after he announced his candidacy for the Senate seat now held by Republican Jeff Flake, a Trump critic who's not seeking re-election.

They include a focus on immigration enforcement, a knack for getting away with things that would sink the careers of other politicians and a talent for garnering news coverage, Arpaio said.

"Isn't it great to be compared to the president of the United States?" Arpaio told The Associated Press at his office in a Phoenix suburb.

The former six-term sheriff of metro Phoenix also said he and Trump have both been persecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Arpaio blames the agency for his criminal conviction over intentionally defying a judge's order to stop traffic patrols that targeted immigrants, though the charge was recommended by the judge.

Trump, who later pardoned Arpaio, has attacked the Justice Department over its investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, when the sheriff was voted out of office.

Arpaio's candidacy injects new uncertainty and attention into the race that's already among the year's most watched. He will face another pro-Trump candidate, former state Sen. Kelli Ward, in the GOP primary.

His bid could create an opening for Republican U.S. Rep. Martha McSally, who colleagues have said is planning a Senate run but has not yet made an announcement.

Arpaio said the lack of support for the president's agenda in Washington inspired him to run but insists he isn't running on a pro-Trump platform.

"People are not going to vote for me just being pro-Trump," Arpaio said.

The paperwork from Arpaio's pardon, which spared him a possible jail sentence when Trump granted it four months ago, is framed on a wall next to his office desk. Bobblehead dolls of Arpaio and Trump stand side by side atop a shelf. And photos of Arpaio with presidents, including Trump and Barack Obama, hang on the walls.

Until now, Ward was considered to be the Republican front-runner. Arpaio's entry could hurt her chances.

"I think he would just suck up most of her support. He is a much more prominent and visible person, he's been around so long," said David Berman, a senior research fellow at Arizona State University's Morrison Institute of Public Policy. "Most people who like Trump generally gravitate toward Arpaio."

Zachery Henry, a Ward spokesman, said members of the campaign don't believe Arpaio would split the GOP vote to Ward's disadvantage.

Ward, who lost a 2016 GOP primary to Sen. John McCain, has been endorsed by former Trump strategist Steve Bannon in her campaign to replace Flake. But she removed his name from her list of endorsements after Trump split with Bannon over comments in a newly published book critical of the president.

Trump posted a favorable tweet about Ward after she visited his Mar-a-Lago, Florida, resort around

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Christmas, but he has not formally backed her.

McSally has courted Trump's support in recent months while still presenting herself as middle of the road. She also is seen as a strong GOP contender if she runs.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema also has positioned herself as a moderate candidate.

Arpaio's announcement led some people to wonder if he is serious about a Senate bid or simply seeking publicity. He flirted with running for governor no fewer than five times over the years before abandoning the idea.

The former lawman, who was known for jailing inmates in outdoor tents during Arizona's triple-digit summer heat and forcing them to wear pink underwear, said supporters urged him to seek public office again despite his crushing 2016 re-election defeat to a little-known Phoenix police sergeant.

Arpaio said he would accept a Trump endorsement but wouldn't seek it. He also said the president had not asked him to run for the Senate.

"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.

Follow Jacques Billeaud at www.twitter.com/jacquesbilleaud . His work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/jacques%20billeaud> .

Toyota-Mazda plant: Alabama bids to become a major auto hub

By **KIM CHANDLER** and **TOM KRISHER**

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama, seeking the fast lane in its bid to become a major auto making hub in the South, has landed a coveted \$1.6 billion joint venture plant by Japanese car giants Toyota and Mazda that will eventually employ 4,000 people.

The new plant is to be located in Huntsville, Alabama — already a hub for the region's budding aerospace industry — and will produce 300,000 vehicles per year, a combination of the Toyota Corolla compact car and a new small crossover SUV from Mazda. Production is targeted to begin by 2021.

"This is indeed a great day in Alabama," an upbeat Gov. Kay Ivey said Wednesday, flanked by company executives at a news conference in the state capital, Montgomery. Alabama offered an incentive package worth more than \$379 million to lure the plant.

Toyota and Mazda will join Mercedes, Honda and Hyundai which currently operate assembly plants in Alabama.

"This project will really put Alabama at the center of the Southern automotive industry," Alabama Commerce Secretary Greg Canfield said. "We can't wait to see 'Made in Alabama' in those vehicles rolling down the assembly line."

Alabama was already tied with Tennessee as the fifth-largest producer of vehicles in the U.S. last year, according to the Center for Automotive Research, an industry think tank in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The state produced 9 percent of the cars made in the country, the center said.

President Donald Trump congratulated the state on Twitter Wednesday evening in a post that said, "Good news: Toyota and Mazda announce giant new Huntsville, Alabama, plant which will produce over 300,000 cars and SUV's a year and employ 4000 people. Companies are coming back to the U.S. in a very big way. Congratulations Alabama!"

Alabama started on the road to becoming an auto manufacturing hub in 1993 when Mercedes chose it as the location for a manufacturing plant after the state offered a then-eye popping \$250 million incentive package.

Akio Toyoda, president of Toyota Motors, said Wednesday that the new facility is something of a homecoming since the company already has one plant in the state. The new Huntsville plant will be just 14 miles (22 kilometers) from Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Alabama, which produces four-cylinder, V-6 and V-8 engines for several Toyota models.

"Alabama won a first place trophy today in being selected for that plant," said Dave Sullivan, product analysis manager at AutoPacific Inc., an automotive research company. Sullivan said the factory itself is

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a huge asset for the state, but will also cause economic ripples by bringing spinoff jobs to suppliers and service companies in the area.

The decision to pick Alabama is another example of a long trend of foreign-based automakers building U.S. factories in the South. To entice manufacturers, Southern states have used a combination of lucrative incentive packages, low-cost labor and a pro-business labor environment since the United Auto Workers union is stronger in Northern states.

To lure the plant, Alabama offered an incentive package of \$379 million in tax abatements, investment rebates and the construction of a worker training facility. The total price tag could top \$400 million when road projects and local incentives are added.

Canfield, who said he had hopefully waited for the decision with a chilling bottle of champagne, said he believed the state is getting a "pretty good deal" considering the plant will create \$5.2 billion over 20 years.

"Not only that, it's really hard to measure the positive impact that having companies create career opportunities like this and how that transforms families," Canfield said.

The announcement comes at a time that 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 less than 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 because of concerns about global warming, the environment and safety.

AP Auto Writer Tom Krisher contributed to this story from Detroit, Michigan.

Immigration agents descend on 7-Eleven stores in 17 states

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Seven immigration agents filed into a 7-Eleven store before dawn Wednesday, waited for people to go through the checkout line and told arriving customers and a driver delivering beer to wait outside. A federal inspection was underway, they said.

Within 20 minutes, they verified that the cashier had a valid green card and served notice on the owner to produce hiring records in three days that deal with employees' immigration status.

The well-rehearsed scene, executed with quiet efficiency in Los Angeles' Koreatown, played out at about 100 7-Eleven stores in 17 states and the District of Columbia, a rolling operation that officials called the largest immigration action against an employer under Donald Trump's presidency.

The employment audits and interviews with store workers could lead to criminal charges or fines. And they appeared to open a new front in Trump's expansion of immigration enforcement, which has already brought a 40 percent increase in deportation arrests and pledges to spend billions of dollars on a border wall with Mexico.

A top official at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said the audits were "the first of many" and "a harbinger of what's to come" for employers.

"This is what we're gearing up for this year and what you're going to see more and more of is these large-scale compliance inspections, just for starters," said Derek Benner, acting head of ICE's Homeland Security Investigations, which oversees cases against employers.

"It's not going to be limited to large companies or any particular industry — big, medium and small," he said.

After the inspections, officials plan to look at whether the cases warrant administrative action or criminal investigations, Benner told The Associated Press.

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7-Eleven Stores Inc., based in Irving, Texas, said in a statement that the owners of its franchises are responsible for hiring and verifying work eligibility. The chain with more than 8,600 convenience stores in the U.S. said it has previously ended franchise agreements for owners convicted of breaking employment laws.

Unlike other enforcement efforts that have marked Trump's first year in office, Wednesday's actions were aimed squarely at store owners and managers, though 21 workers across the country were arrested on suspicion of being in the country illegally.

Illegal hiring is rarely prosecuted, partly because investigations are time-consuming and convictions are difficult to achieve because employers can claim they were duped by fraudulent documents or intermediaries. Administrative fines are discounted by some as a business cost.

Amy Peck, an Omaha, Nebraska, immigration attorney who represents businesses, said an employer crackdown will never work because the government has limited resources and there are many jobs that people who are in the country legally do not want.

"When these audits occur, the employees scatter in the wind and go down the street and work for somebody else," Peck said. "You're playing whack-a-mole."

President George W. Bush's administration pursued high-profile criminal investigations against employers in its final years with dramatic pre-dawn shows of force and large numbers of worker arrests. In 2008, agents arrived by helicopter at the Agriprocessors meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa, and detained nearly 400 workers. Last month, Trump commuted the 27-year prison sentence of Sholom Rubashkin, former chief executive of what was the nation's largest kosher meatpacking operation.

President Barack Obama's administration more than doubled employer audits to more than 3,100 a year in 2013, shunning Bush's flashier approach. John Sandweg, an acting ICE director under Obama, said significant fines instilled fear in employers and avoided draining resources from other enforcement priorities, which include child exploitation, human trafficking and money laundering.

Wednesday's audits arose from a 2013 investigation that resulted in charges against nine 7-Eleven franchisees and managers in New York and Virginia. Eight have pleaded guilty and were ordered to pay more than \$2.6 million in back wages, and the ninth was arrested in November.

The managers used more than 25 stolen identities to employ at least 115 people in the country illegally, knowing they could pay below minimum wage, according to court documents.

Neither 7-Eleven nor its parent company, Seven & I Holding Co. based in Tokyo, was charged in the case.

Julie Myers Wood, former head of ICE during the Bush administration, said the most recent inspections showed that immigration officials were focusing on a repeat violator. Part of the problem, Wood said, is the lack of "a consistent signal" between administrations that the U.S. government will prosecute employers who hire immigrants without legal status.

Some immigration hardliners have been pressing Trump to move against employers. Mark Krikorian, director of the Center for Immigration Studies, said the inspections offered "a good sign" that the administration was serious about going after employers. But, he said, the administration would need to go beyond audits.

"It's important for Trump to show that they're not just arresting the hapless schmo from Honduras but also the politically powerful American employer," he said.

States with 7-Eleven stores targeted Wednesday were California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington.

In Los Angeles' Koreatown, agents gathered in a grocery store parking lot and drove through side streets in unmarked cars to their target location.

The manager was in Bangladesh and the owner, reached by phone, told the clerk to accept whatever documents were served. The clerk told agents he had no knowledge of documents required to prove eligibility to work and was asked to pass along brochures for voluntary programs aimed at better compliance with immigration laws.

"We need to make sure that employers are on notice that we are going to come out and ensure that they're being compliant," Benner said. "For those that don't were going to take some very aggressive

steps in terms of criminal investigations to make sure that we address them and hold them accountable.”

Merchant reported from Houston.

Louisiana teacher speaks out after arrest at board meeting

By KEVIN MCGILL and GERALD HERBERT, Associated Press

ABBEVILLE, La. (AP) — The Louisiana teacher who was ejected from a school board meeting and handcuffed after speaking out about salaries — a video-recorded arrest that sparked outrage — said Wednesday her treatment was appalling and encouraged others to speak out.

The fallout from Deyshia Hargrave’s arrest Monday night was wide-ranging, with school district officials receiving death threats and the governor saying it “cast a negative light” on the state. Video of the arrest was shared widely online.

“By taking away my voice they’ve taken away — or tried to take away — my First Amendment rights to speak,” Hargrave said in a video posted on the Louisiana Association of Educators’ Facebook page. “And I’m appalled at this, and you should be too.”

She expressed gratitude for support from students and parents in Vermilion Parish — about 150 miles west of New Orleans. “Go to your local school board meetings,” Hargrave said. “Speak out. Be vocal.”

Gov. John Bel Edwards, who is married to a teacher and gets support from teacher unions, said he “didn’t see anything that warranted that type of action.”

Superintendent Jerome Puyau said the hate emails and phone calls began pouring in after videos spread. “I’ve stopped reading them because they’re just so bad and disgusting,” Puyau said, at times struggling to compose himself in an interview with The Associated Press. He said the school system offices went into temporary lockdown, and his daughters had to delete threats on their social media.

The turmoil follows the board’s 5-3 vote Monday night approving a new 3-year contract raising Puyau’s salary by roughly \$30,000, to about \$140,000 annually, with incentive targets that could add 3 percent per year.

He said the raise matches what other school officials make in similar jobs.

Hargrave, a middle school English teacher, said she felt like she was representing all teachers in the parish by questioning the raise, at a time when teachers haven’t received an increase in 10 years, despite growing class sizes and other demands.

Video of the meeting shows that Hargrave addressed the superintendent directly after she was asked by a board member to comment on the contract vote.

“How are you going to take that money, because it’s basically taken out of the pockets of teachers?” she said, prompting School Board President Anthony Fontana to bang his gavel.

“Stop right now! That’s not germane to what’s on the agenda tonight,” Fontana declared.

The crowd, now agitated, cried “Yes it is!” and the teacher pressed on, saying “this directly speaks to what you were just voting on.”

At that point, according to school board member Kibbie Pillette, Fontana beckoned to a school resource officer hired by the board, who confronted Hargrave, ordering her to get her things and go.

“I’m going,” she said, making her way out. Moments later — after briefly leaving the view of any cameras — she was on the hallway floor with her hands behind her back, being handcuffed and complaining that the officer was hurting her.

“Stop resisting,” the marshal said, lifting Hargrave to her feet.

“I am not, you just pushed me to the floor,” Hargrave said.

The officer arrested Hargrave on charges of “remaining after being forbidden” and resisting an officer, but she bonded out of the Abbeville jail once her mug shot was taken. Ike Funderburk, the prosecutor and city attorney in Abbeville, told KATC that she won’t be prosecuted.

Puyau said that the school system would not press charges. He said he did not order Hargrave’s removal or arrest, but repeatedly declined to say whether anyone else on the board was responsible for her treat-

ment. While refusing to comment on details, Puyau made clear to that he was unhappy with how things played out.

"It was not good in any way," he said. "We are a good community. It took everybody by surprise. I'm having a hard time with this, but we care about our teachers and our support staff."

Fontana did not return phone messages Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the National Education Association and the American Civil Liberties Union are investigating. The ACLU condemned the arrest as a violation of free speech.

McGill reported from New Orleans.

Dems say Trump action on Florida drilling guided by politics

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opposition to the Trump administration's plan to expand offshore drilling mounted Wednesday as Democrats from coastal states accused President Donald Trump of punishing states with Democratic leaders and a second Republican governor asked to withdraw his state from the plan.

Democrats said Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke were being hypocritical by agreeing to a request by Florida's Republican governor to withdraw from the drilling plan, but not making the same accommodation to states with Democratic governors.

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California said on Twitter that his state, "like Florida, has hundreds of miles of beautiful coastline and a governor who wants to keep it that way. Or is that not enough for blue states?"

"If local voices matter why haven't they excluded Virginia?" asked Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va. "Is it because the governor of Florida is a Republican and the Virginia governor is a Democrat?"

The complaints came as South Carolina's Republican governor said Wednesday he is seeking an exemption from the proposed drilling expansion, a move that will test the relationship between Trump and one of his earliest supporters.

Gov. Henry McMaster told reporters that risks associated with drilling pose a serious threat to South Carolina's lush coastline and \$20 billion tourism industry.

"We cannot afford to take a chance with the beauty, the majesty and the economic value and vitality of our wonderful coastline in South Carolina," McMaster said.

Opposition to drilling is bipartisan within South Carolina's congressional delegation: All three House members who represent the state's 190 miles of coastline told The Associated Press they are against the expansion plan. Two of the three are Republicans, including Rep. Mark Sanford, a former governor who said Zinke had set a precedent by honoring Florida's request for an exemption.

"What's good for the goose is good for the gander," Sanford said, adding that Republicans should respect local wishes.

In Virginia, GOP Rep. Scott Taylor joined Kaine and Gov.-elect Ralph Northam in opposing the drilling plan. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., called Trump's plan "a complete non-starter."

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., said on Twitter that "the only science @SecretaryZinke follows is political science. He'll reverse course to protect fellow Republicans in Florida, but not to protect coastlines and jobs across the rest of the country? Totally unacceptable."

Heather Swift, a spokeswoman for Zinke, accused Kaine and other Democrats of taking cheap shots at her boss.

"The secretary has said since day one that he is interested in the local voice. If those governors would like to request meetings with the secretary, they are absolutely welcome to do so," she said. "Their criticism is empty pandering."

As of Wednesday, only McMaster and Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper of North Carolina had requested a meeting with Zinke on offshore drilling, Swift said.

In Oregon, Democratic Gov. Kate Brown took to Twitter to ask Zinke for relief. Linking to Zinke tweet

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about Florida, Brown wrote: "Hey @secretaryzinke, how about doing the same for #Oregon?"

Zinke said after a brief meeting with Scott at the Tallahassee airport Tuesday that drilling in Florida waters would be "off the table," despite a plan that proposed drilling 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 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 of white sandy beaches.

And Florida is where Trump has a winter home in Palm Beach. Trump spent his Christmas and New Year's break at his Mar-a-Lago resort.

Former White House ethics chief Walter Shaub said Zinke's decision to exempt Florida from the drilling plan appears to be a conflict of interest for Trump.

Trump is "exempting the state that is home to the festering cankerous conflict of interest that the administration likes to call the 'Winter White House' and none of the other affected states," Shaub tweeted.

Zinke said Tuesday that "Florida is obviously unique" and that the decision to remove the state came after meetings and discussion with Scott, a Trump ally and a likely candidate for the Senate seat now held by Democrat Bill Nelson.

Nelson called Scott's meeting with Zinke "a political stunt" and said Scott has long wanted to drill off Florida's coast, despite his recent opposition.

Scott's office said he repeatedly voiced his opposition to drilling to Zinke, including at an October meeting in Washington.

"Senator Nelson and anyone else who opposes oil drilling off Florida's coast should be happy the governor was able to secure this commitment. This isn't about politics. This is good policy for Florida," said John Tapps, a Scott spokesman.

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

Democratic governors along both coasts unanimously oppose drilling, as do a number of Republican governors, including McMaster, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan and Massachusetts Gov. Charles Baker.

The five-year plan announced by Zinke would open 90 percent of the nation's offshore reserves to development by private companies.

Industry groups praised the announcement, while environmental groups denounced the plan, saying it would impose "severe and unacceptable harm" to America's oceans, coastal economies, public health and marine life.

Associated Press writers Meg Kinnard in Columbia, S.C., Ben Finley in Norfolk, Va., and Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Fla., contributed to this report.

Trump open to US-NKorea talks 'under right circumstances'

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON** and **KEN THOMAS**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump threw his weight behind the Olympics-inspired diplomatic opening with North Korea, telling South Korea's leader Wednesday that the U.S. was open to talks with Kim Jong Un's government under the right circumstances.

A White House statement said Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in still agreed on the importance of continuing the "maximum pressure" campaign against North Korea over its development of nuclear weapons — the U.S.-led barrage of international sanctions that is starting to bite the North's meager economy.

But South Korea's presidential office also said Trump told Moon to let North Korea understand that there

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will be no military action of any kind while the two Koreas continue to hold dialogue, the Yonhap news agency reported. On Tuesday, the two Koreas held their first talks in two years and agreed on the North's participation in the Winter Olympics being held in the South next month.

The prospects of resolving decades-old tensions on the divided Korean Peninsula remain deeply uncertain. North Korea has shown no willingness to discuss its nuclear weapons which pose an emerging threat to the American mainland, and it has stuck to its tough stance toward Washington while it tries to woo the South. The newspaper of the ruling party on Tuesday called Trump a "lunatic" and said the U.S. needs to accept North Korea is now a nuclear power.

But the thaw between North and South, which have also restored a military hotline, provides a diplomatic opening after months of escalating tensions that have fueled fears of war.

"President Trump expressed his openness to holding talks between the United States and North Korea at the appropriate time, under the right circumstances," the White House statement said.

Trump also told Moon that Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen Pence will lead the U.S. delegation to the Winter Olympics, scheduled for Feb. 9-25 in Pyeongchang. Pence will stop in Alaska to review intercontinental ballistic missile defense systems and in Japan, stressing the U.S. commitment to stability in the region.

Speaking later Wednesday, Trump claimed his administration's pressure campaign had prompted the North Koreans to negotiate with the South, and recounted Moon as telling him the initial meeting was "extremely good." He voiced cautious hopes for diplomatic success that would benefit not just the United States but the wider world. He played down fears of war.

"We have certainly problems with North Korea," Trump said at a news conference. "A lot of good talks are going on right now. A lot of good energy. I see a lot of good energy. I like it very much what I'm seeing ... hopefully a lot of good things are going to work out."

Moon has been supportive of the pressure campaign but has long advocated engagement with Pyongyang. He told reporters in Seoul Wednesday that he's open to meeting with Kim to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff, although he said the success of such a summit must be guaranteed before the meeting can be realized.

Trump has previously scoffed at the futility of talking with the North, but when the inter-Korean dialogue was proposed last week he claimed credit and declared in a tweet, "talks are a good thing." The White House said Moon had briefed Trump on the outcomes of the North-South talks on Tuesday, and "thanked President Trump for his influential leadership in making the talks possible."

A National Security Council spokesman, who was not authorized to be quoted by name and requested anonymity, said Trump assured Moon that press reports suggesting the U.S. was considering imminent, unilateral military actions against North Korea were false. Yonhap reported that Moon's chief press secretary, Yoon Young-chan, said Trump also offered assurance that military force would not happen while the two Koreas continue to talk.

The U.S. retains 28,500 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War that ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, leaving the adversaries in a state of war for the past six decades.

The prospect of military confrontation has been magnified in the past year as Trump and Kim have traded bellicose rhetoric and crude insults, as the North has conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear detonation and three tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles that now put the U.S. mainland in North Korea's range.

Resorting to force is widely viewed as very risky. A pre-emptive U.S. attack could provoke a devastating retaliation by North Korea against the South, whose capital Seoul lies within the range of North Korean artillery and rockets.

Pakistan reporter says he escaped kidnapping attempt

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — When armed men tried to kidnap and threatened to kill him, Pakistani journalist Taha Siddiqui feared he would become another statistic in a growing list of activists and bloggers who have disappeared in Pakistan after criticizing the country's powerful military or advocating peace with hostile neighbor India.

Siddiqui, the Pakistan bureau chief for the New Delhi-based online news agency World is One News, said he suspected the attack Wednesday was payback for his critical reporting on Pakistan's powerful military and intelligence agencies. Siddiqui was heading to the airport to catch a flight to London when his taxi was stopped. He was ordered out of the vehicle, beaten and threatened.

He escaped, fleeing into oncoming traffic and flagging down a passing car. Behind him he said he heard the gunmen shout: "Shoot him! Shoot him!"

"They wanted to make me a missing person," Siddiqui said in a telephone interview from a local police station where he went after the attack to file a complaint and demand police protection. "This has been coming. It's all about what I write."

The gunmen took his computers, several hard drives, his telephone and his passport, said Siddiqui, who is also a reporter for the France 24 television network and has had past run-ins with Pakistani intelligence. In May, he received threatening calls from the counter-terrorism wing of the Federal Investigation Agency, ordering him to come in for questioning. Siddiqui, who did not comply, filed a complaint with the courts and said he was told by the FIA that he was being investigated because of his critical stories about the military.

On Wednesday, Siddiqui's World is One News agency, was inaccessible in Pakistan. Visitors to the site were told: "The site you are trying to access contains content that is prohibited for viewership from within Pakistan." It's not clear when the site went offline in Pakistan.

The Committee to Protect Journalists Asia program coordinator Steven Butler said the attempted abduction on Wednesday "sends a chilling signal to the entire press community."

The CPJ "is very concerned about the recent pattern of disappearances," Butler said in an email interview. "While most of the recent disappearances have been mainly social activists, or even students, these abductions amount to severe intimidation for anyone who exercises free speech."

The spokesman for Pakistan's main intelligence service, the ISI, did not respond to a written request for comment about the attack on Siddiqui. The government says it is investigating the allegations and has set up a commission to investigate complaints of "enforced disappearance." In its year-end report, obtained by The Associated Press, the commission said there are 1,532 people who remain missing, suspected of being taken by Pakistani intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

Among them is peace activist Reza Khan, who was taken from his home in the eastern city of Lahore in December by armed men, who also ransacked his apartment, seizing his computer, his files and his telephone. He hasn't been heard from since and human rights activists accuse the country's intelligence agencies of kidnapping him to stop Khan's attempts to improve relations between Pakistan and India through interactions between school children.

"We are convinced he was taken by the intelligence because of his work trying to improve relations with India," said I.A. Rehman of the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. "His neighbor saw the men take him. He took the number of the car, but the police said it was fictitious. In Pakistan only the intelligence agencies have the right to use license plate numbers that are fictitious."

Khan's father, Mohammed Ismail Khan, has gone to the courts to petition for his son's freedom but has heard nothing since he was taken last month.

"The nights are very long for his mother and me. We console each other and we pray for our son. God knows where he is and what condition he is in," the elder Khan said in a telephone interview.

Early in 2017, six bloggers and social activists, all of whom had criticized the military on social media, disappeared. Five were freed and the sixth is still missing. Those who were freed all said they had been held by the country's powerful intelligence agencies and were tortured. They have all fled the country.

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Zeenat Shahzadi, a young Pakistani journalist, was abducted by armed men in 2015 while investigating the disappearance of an Indian national. Pakistani human rights groups blamed intelligence agencies. Local media reports said she was released late last year after being held for two years.

Zahid Hussain, a security analyst and author of two books on militancy in Pakistan, said the country's intelligence agencies have become increasingly sensitive to attacks against the military on social media because of social media's penetration in Pakistan and the difficulty of controlling it. "Pakistan is very sensitive about anything linked with India," believing New Delhi has stepped up its covert operations inside Pakistan, he said.

Having fought three wars against each other, India and Pakistan, both nuclear weapons states, regard one another with deep suspicion and accuse each other of fomenting violence on their territory.

Butler, of the Committee to Protect Journalists, noted the lack of accountability of those behind the wave of abductions.

"We certainly, like many others, suspect that intelligence agencies are behind many of these abductions," Butler said. "It's worrisome because they do not appear to be accountable to anyone. The best remedy would be to find the perpetrators, arrest them and bring them to justice."

Associated Press writer Zarar Khan in Islamabad contributed to this report

China to invest billions of dollars in ally Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodia and China on Thursday signed nearly 20 agreements worth several billion dollars to develop the impoverished Southeast Asian country's infrastructure, agriculture and health care.

The agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed during a meeting between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and his Chinese counterpart, Li Keqiang. Li led a senior delegation on a daylong official visit Thursday to Cambodia, China's close ally.

Among the major agreements was building a new expressway more than 200 kilometers (125 miles) long linking the capital, Phnom Penh, with the resort city of Sihanoukville, and a new Phnom Penh international Airport.

Cambodian Public Work and Transport Minister Sun Chanthol told The Associated Press after the signing that China will invest some \$2 billion for the highway. He said the project is set to start this year and will take at least 44 months to complete.

China is Cambodia's key ally and economic partner. It has provided millions of dollars in aid and investment over the past decade, granted Cambodia a tariff-free status on hundreds of trade items and written off its debt.

In return, Cambodia supports China in international forums, including Beijing's ongoing dispute with Southeast Asian countries in the South China Sea.

China's modern Silk Road hits political, financial hurdles

By **JOE McDONALD, MUNIR AHMED and SYLIVESTER DOMASA, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — China's plan for a modern Silk Road of railways, ports and other facilities linking Asia with Europe hit a \$14 billion pothole in Pakistan.

Pakistan's relations with Beijing are so close that officials call China their "Iron Brother." Despite that, plans for the Diamer-Bhasha Dam were thrown into turmoil in November when the chairman of Pakistan's water authority said Beijing wanted an ownership stake in the hydropower project. He rejected that as against Pakistani interests.

China issued a denial but the official withdrew the dam from among dozens of projects being jointly developed by the two countries.

From Pakistan to Tanzania to Hungary, projects under President Xi Jinping's signature "Belt and Road

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Initiative" are being canceled, renegotiated or delayed due to disputes about costs or complaints host countries get too little out of projects built by Chinese companies and financed by loans from Beijing that must be repaid.

In some places, Beijing is suffering a political backlash due to fears of domination by Asia's biggest economy.

"Pakistan is one of the countries that is in China's hip pocket, and for Pakistan to stand up and say, 'I'm not going to do this with you,' shows it's not as 'win-win' as China says it is," said Robert Koepf, an analyst in Hong Kong for the Economist Corporate Network, a research firm.

"Belt and Road," announced by Xi in 2013, is a loosely defined umbrella for Chinese-built or -financed projects across 65 countries from the South Pacific through Asia to Africa and Europe. They range from oil drilling in Siberia to construction of ports in Southeast Asia, railways in Eastern Europe and power plants in the Middle East.

Other governments welcomed the initiative in a region the Asian Development Bank says needs more than \$26 trillion of infrastructure investment by 2030 to keep economies growing. Nations including Japan have given or lent billions of dollars for development, but China's venture is bigger and the only source of money for many projects.

Governments from Washington to Moscow to New Delhi are uneasy Beijing is trying to use its "Belt and Road" to develop a China-centered political structure that will erode their influence.

China's significance to Pakistan as a source of financing increased following U.S. President Donald Trump's Jan. 5 decision to suspend security assistance to Islamabad in a dispute over whether it was doing enough to stop Afghan militants.

"Belt and Road" is a business venture, not aid. A Cabinet official, Ou Xiaoli, told The Associated Press in April that lending will be on commercial terms. Beijing wants to attract non-Chinese investors, though that has happened with only a handful of projects, he said.

Among projects that have been derailed or disrupted:

—Authorities in Nepal canceled plans in November for Chinese companies to build a \$2.5 billion dam after they concluded contracts for the Budhi Gandaki Hydro Electric Project violated rules requiring multiple bidders.

—The European Union is looking into whether Hungary violated the trade bloc's rules by awarding contracts to Chinese builders of a high-speed railway to neighboring Serbia without competing bids.

—In Myanmar, plans for a Chinese oil company to build a \$3 billion refinery were canceled in November due to financing difficulties, the newspaper Myanmar Times reported.

There is no official list of projects, but consulting firm BMI Research has compiled a database of \$1.8 trillion of infrastructure investments announced across Asia, Africa and the Middle East that include Chinese money or other involvement.

Many are still in planning stages and some up to three decades in the future, according to Christian Zhang, a BMI analyst.

"It's probably too early to say at this point how much of the overall initiative will actually be implemented," said Zhang.

The U.S. and Japanese governments express interest in building contracts or other potential "Belt and Road" opportunities for their companies. But they also are trying to develop alternative initiatives.

In November, the U.S. government's Overseas Private Investment Corp. signed an agreement with Japanese partners to offer "infrastructure investment alternatives in the Indo-Pacific region," according to a White House statement.

The following month, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Japan can "cooperate greatly" with China.

The stumbles for one of the world's most ambitious infrastructure ventures could help temper concerns Beijing will increase its strategic influence.

"There is a big possibility that China is going to have a lot of disagreements and misunderstandings," said Kerry Brown, a specialist in Chinese politics at King's College London. "It's hard to think of a big, suc-

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successful project the 'Belt and Road Initiative' has led to at the moment."

Even Pakistan, one of China's friendliest neighbors, has failed to agree on key projects.

The two governments are developing facilities with a total cost of \$60 billion including power plants and railways to link China's far west with the Chinese-built port of Gwadar on the Indian Ocean.

A visit by a Chinese assistant foreign minister in November produced no agreement on railway projects in the southern city of Karachi valued at \$10 billion and a \$260 million airport for Gwadar.

The same month, the chairman of the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority announced the Diamer-Bhasha Dam would be withdrawn from joint development. The site is in Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan's far north, part of the Kashmir region, which also is claimed by India.

"Chinese conditions for financing the Diamer-Bhasha Dam were not doable and against our interests," the official, Muzammil Hussain, told legislators, according to Pakistani news reports.

The Chinese Cabinet agency overseeing "Belt and Road," the National Development and Reform Commission, denied in a written statement that it asked for an ownership stake. It said the two sides had held only preliminary talks about the project.

A Pakistani Cabinet official who spoke on condition he not be identified further said the Chinese side asked for clarification of the ownership status of the dam site because Gilgit-Baltistan has yet to be formally made part of a Pakistani province. The water authority didn't respond to requests to clarify its chairman's comments.

"Belt and Road" is interwoven with official efforts to export Chinese rail, hydropower and other technology and steel, aluminum and other industrial goods.

In Thailand, work on a \$15 billion high-speed railway was suspended in 2016 following complaints too little business went to Thai companies.

After more talks over costs, technology sharing and land ownership, Thai leaders announced a new plan in July for a first line to be built from Bangkok to the country's northeast. Building contracts went to Thai companies while China will supply technology.

In Tanzania, the government has reopened negotiations with China and another investor, the government of the gulf nation of Oman, over ownership of a planned \$11 billion port in the city of Bagamoyo. The Tanzanian government failed to raise \$28 million for its contribution, leaving it unclear what share the government might get.

Tanzania wants to make sure its people get more than just taxes collected from the port, said the director of the Tanzania Ports Authority, Deusdedit Kakoko.

"Land is for Tanzanians, and as the government we're ensuring they get a share," Kakoko said in an interview.

Despite such setbacks, Chinese officials say most "Belt and Road" projects are moving ahead with few problems.

Work on pipelines to deliver oil and gas from Russia and Central Asia is making "steady progress," said a deputy commerce minister, Li Chenggang, at a Nov. 21 news conference.

"We have a lot of room for further cooperation," said Li.

The state-run China Development Bank announced in 2015 it had set aside \$890 billion for more than 900 projects across 60 countries in gas, minerals, power, telecoms, infrastructure and farming. The Export-Import Bank of China said it would finance 1,000 projects in 49 countries.

Acting as banker gives Beijing leverage to require use of Chinese builders and technology. But it can lead to complaints host countries fail to negotiate hard enough.

In Sri Lanka, the government sold an 80 percent stake in a port in the southern city of Hambantota to a Chinese state-owned company on Dec. 9 after falling behind in repaying \$1.5 billion borrowed from Beijing to build it. That prompted complaints the deal was too favorable to Beijing.

"There is the perception of a Chinese incursion into their sovereignty by taking over the port," said BMI's Zhang.

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Ahmed reported from Islamabad and Domasa from Dodoma, Tanzania. AP Writer Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed.

Asian shares decline after Wall Street rally fizzles

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were lower on Thursday after Wall Street posted its first loss this year. Reports that China may slow its purchases of U.S. government bonds weighed on investor sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 0.3 percent to 23,707.31 and South Korea's Kospi retreated 0.6 percent to 2,485.75. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dipped 0.1 percent to 31,032.51 while China's Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.5 percent to 3,405.93. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slumped 0.6 percent to 6,057.10. Most stock markets in Southeast Asia were weaker.

CHINA: A report from Bloomberg News said China is considering slowing or halting its purchases of U.S. Treasuries, which helped push yields higher. The report triggered sell-offs of U.S. government bonds and the yield on the 10-year Treasury reached its highest level since March at one point before pulling back.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Justifiably, Beijing's biggest worry is that the value of its U.S. bond holdings will be eroded substantially by rising inflation and supply," Mizuho Bank Ltd. said in a daily commentary. "Doubts about (U.S. bonds) allure should not be overblown as threat of imminent dumping."

JAPAN: Bank of Japan unexpectedly cut its purchases of long-dated Japanese government bonds, sending the Japanese yen higher. Bank of America Merrill Lynch said in a report that the market reaction was "a bit excessive" and perhaps more extreme than expected, highlighting the importance of communication going forward.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks finished lower on Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.1 percent to 2,748.23. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 0.1 percent to 25,369.13 while the Nasdaq composite fell 0.1 percent to 7,153.57. The Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks slipped 0.30 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 1,559.80.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.73 Japanese yen from 111.43 yen. The euro was flat at \$1.1948.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 3 cents to \$63.54 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 61 cents to settle at \$63.57 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 10 cents to \$69.10 per barrel in London. It gained 38 cents to \$69.20 a barrel on Wednesday.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 11, the 11th day of 2018. There are 354 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 11, 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued "Smoking and Health," a report which concluded that "cigarette smoking contributes substantially to mortality from certain specific diseases and to the overall death rate."

On this date:

In 1861, Alabama became the fourth state to withdraw from the Union.

In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed the Grand Canyon National Monument (it became a national park in 1919).

In 1913, the first enclosed sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th National Automobile Show in New York.

In 1927, the creation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was proposed during a dinner of Hollywood luminaries at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart began an 18-hour trip from Honolulu to Oakland, California, that made

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her the first person to fly solo across any part of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1942, Japan declared war against the Netherlands, the same day that Imperial Japanese forces invaded the Dutch East Indies.

In 1946, the People's Republic of Albania was proclaimed after King Zog was formally deposed by the Communists.

In 1977, France set off an international uproar by releasing Abu Daoud, a PLO official behind the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

In 1978, two Soviet cosmonauts aboard the Soyuz 27 capsule linked up with the Salyut 6 orbiting space station, where the Soyuz 26 capsule was already docked.

In 1989, nine days before leaving the White House, President Ronald Reagan bade the nation farewell in a prime-time address, saying of his eight years in office: "We meant to change a nation and instead we changed a world."

In 1995, 51 people were killed when a Colombian DC-9 jetliner crashed as it was preparing to land near the Caribbean resort of Cartagena — however, 9-year-old Erika Delgado survived.

In 2003, calling the death penalty process "arbitrary and capricious, and therefore immoral," Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of 167 condemned inmates, clearing his state's death row two days before leaving office.

Ten years ago: Bank of America said it would buy Countrywide Financial for \$4.1 billion in stock in a deal rescuing the country's biggest mortgage lender. Former Olympic track gold medalist Marion Jones was sentenced in White Plains, New York, to six months in prison for lying to investigators about using performance-enhancing drugs and her role in a check-fraud scam. Sir Edmund Hillary, who along with Tenzing Norgay conquered Mount Everest in 1953, died in Auckland, New Zealand, at age 88.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai met at the White House, where they agreed to speed up slightly the schedule for moving Afghanistan's security forces into the lead across the country, with U.S. troops shifting fully to a support role. Reddit co-founder Aaron Swartz was found dead in his Brooklyn apartment, a suicide; he was 26. Italian actress Mariangela Melato ("Swept Away"), 71, died in Rome.

One year ago: In a combative and freewheeling news conference at Trump Tower in New York, President-elect Donald Trump said for the first time that he accepted that Russia was behind the election year hacking of Democrats that roiled the White House race; looking ahead, he urged Congress to move quickly to replace President Barack Obama's signature health care law and insisted anew that Mexico would pay the cost of a border wall. Six high-level Volkswagen employees from Germany were indicted in the U.S. in the VW emissions-cheating scandal, while the company agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges and pay \$4.3 billion — by far the biggest fine ever levied by the government against an automaker.

Today's Birthdays: Former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien (zhahn kray-tee-EHN') is 84. Actor Mitchell Ryan is 84. Actor Felix Silla is 81. Movie director Joel Zwick is 76. Country singer Naomi Judd is 72. World Golf Hall of Famer Ben Crenshaw is 66. Singer Robert Earl Keen is 62. Actress Phyllis Logan is 62. Musician Vicki Peterson (The Bangles) is 60. Actress Kim Coles is 56. Actor Jason Connery is 55. Former child actress Dawn Lyn (TV: "My Three Sons") is 55. Contemporary Christian musician Jim Bryson (MercyMe) is 50. Rock musician Tom Dumont (No Doubt) is 50. Movie director Malcolm D. Lee is 48. Singer Mary J. Blige is 47. Musician Tom Rowlands (The Chemical Brothers) is 47. Actor Marc Blucas is 46. Actress Amanda Peet is 46. Actor Rockmond Dunbar is 45. Actress Aja Naomi King is 33. Actress Kristolyn Lloyd is 33. Reality TV star Jason Wahler is 31. Pop singer Cody Simpson is 21.

Thought for Today: "Teach us that wealth is not elegance, that profusion is not magnificence, that splendor is not beauty." — Benjamin Disraeli, British statesman (1804-1881).

Riddle Answer: The color Blue