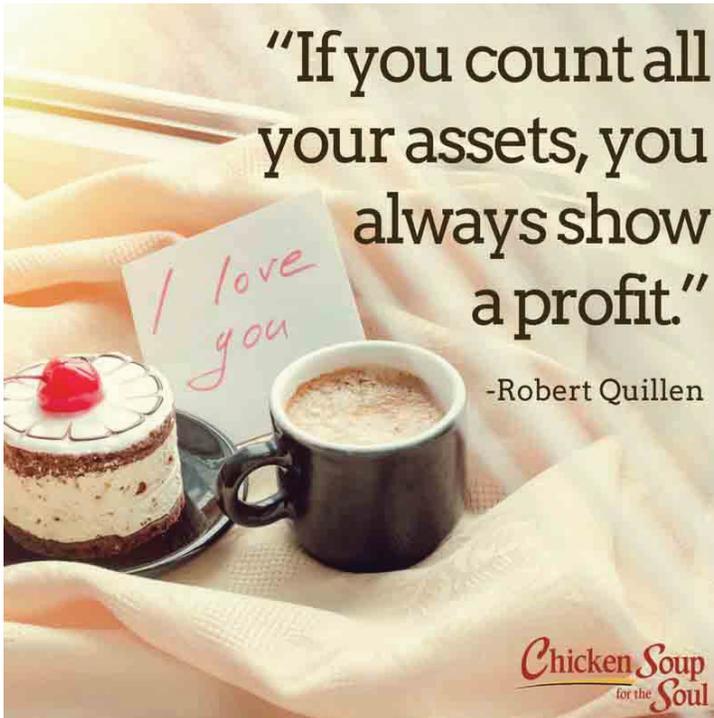


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- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Dairy Queen Ad
- 1- SunDial Help Wanted Ad
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 2- World of Experience
- 2- Gun Show Ad
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Upcoming Events
- 3- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 5- Silver Skates Ad
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- Today's Weather Info
- 8- National Weather Map
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2018 Community Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

Oven Fresh Sandwiches Hot Desserts Snack Melts
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627

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

© 2018 Groton Daily Independent



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.

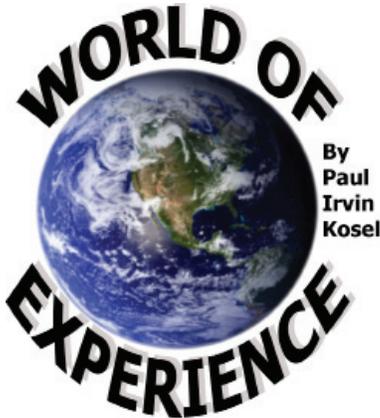
Please contact Mandy at 605-492-3615 or P.O. Box 337, Bristol, SD 57219 for more information.

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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)



You may notice a change coming up on GDLIVE.COM. The videos will no longer be archived at the GDLIVE.COM website. Once I get home, I'll upload the video to the Groton Daily Independent website (397news.com) and only GDI subscribers will have access to those videos. When you are logged in now on our home page, you will notice the new link added on the left hand side, "Archived Videos."

I know the coaches are in favor of the new option. Now if a coach from another team wants to "scout" the team, they will have to pay to get access to the archived videos. They will no longer be readily available with the click of a mouse.

Another area we've been grappling with over the years are the handling of the legal notices. I've tried several options for putting them on-line. Most options have been very cumbersome at best. The "Official Notices" tab is now available to GDI subscribers as well. We are doing a different option which is a simple cut and paste option for me which will make it much easier and less time consuming to post the notices. Again, this tab only becomes visible to GDI subscribers.

You can tell I have plenty of time on my hands. I've been adding our Valentine's Day balloons on line as well. That has been a work in progress that has gotten tabled. Flowers will be added as well once our cooler arrives and we begin to get inventory.

NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

☆☆☆ \$1,500 for CNAs ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ \$3,000 for LPNs ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ \$4,500 for RNs ☆☆☆

Alzheimer's Care Unit Director Medication Aid

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



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

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Upcoming Events

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.

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

For Vikings fans young or old, Sunday is a day you will never forget. Paul Allan, the Voice of the Vikings, called it the Minneapolis Miracle – and I'm not sure there is a better way to describe what happened at the end of the Vikings 29-24 win over the New Orleans Saints. With 10 seconds left, the Vikings were at their own 39-yard line with no timeouts and needing to pick up at least 26 yards in order to attempt a game-winning field goal. Instead, Stefon Diggs caught a desperate throw from Case Keenum and took the ball 61-yards to the end zone for the first walk-off touchdown in NFL postseason history.

The Vikings went into halftime with a 17-0 lead and were looking like a dominant force that simply had to hold on for 30 minutes to secure the victory. Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints had other ideas, however. With three minutes left in the fourth quarter, Brees threw a touchdown pass to Alvin Kamara and the Saints took a one-point lead, their first of the game. The Vikings responded with a field goal of their own to bring the score to 23-21, but they left a minute and a half remaining on the clock, leaving plenty of time for Brees to march the Saints down the field for the go-ahead field goal. With 25 seconds left in the game, it looked like the Vikings would once again lose a playoff game in heart-breaking fashion... but the football gods were on the Vikings' side for once.

Case Keenum threw 40 passes on Sunday, which he's only done three times this season. He completed 25 of them for 318 yards, one interception and one miracle touchdown. Adam Thielen caught six passes for 74 yards, including a phenomenal catch where he had to "climb the ladder" and leap over the defender to haul in an overthrown pass. The Vikings weren't able to get the ground game going, attempting 29 rushes for 95 yards (3.3



All auto owners!

Save \$2-\$4 /tank

& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon

Super Premium E30's

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

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

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

***Farmers Union's**

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

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yards per carry), but both Latavius Murray and Jerick McKinnon were able to find the end zone. At the end of the day, unsurprisingly, the player of the game was Stefon Diggs – who caught six passes for 137 yards and one very important touchdown.

The Vikings defense had a wonderful first half, shutting out the Saints' number two offense. They appeared to get out of rhythm in the second half, unfortunately, after safety Andrew Sendejo left the game with a concussion. Eric Kendricks led the team with 10 tackles and was a big reason why the Saints were only able to muster 80 rushing yards. Harrison Smith was once again a force to be reckoned with, finishing second on the team with 7 tackles including a sack and a tackle for a loss. Everson Griffen had the only other sack for the Vikings, and he also had a beautiful pass deflection that allowed an interception by Anthony Barr.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will travel to Philadelphia to battle the Eagles in the NFC Championship game. The Eagles had a wonderful 2017 season, but are playing without their star quarterback and NDSU grad Carson Wentz. Philadelphia had the fourth best offense in the league, scoring 27.8 points per game, but they have become a team that relies on the short pass, so it will be important for the Vikings to tackle well and not allow them to gain yards after the catch. The biggest problem for the Vikings will be the Eagles' defense, which only allowed 17.9 points per game (4th in the NFL). The Eagles are strongest against the run, only allowing 3.8 yards per attempt on the ground. They are vulnerable through the air though, allowing over 225 yards per game. The key for the Vikings will be to play well along the offensive line, because if they can give Keenum time in the pocket, the Vikings should be able to bring home the win. Skol!

Have any questions or comments? Reach out to me on Facebook ([facebook.com/SKolJWright](https://www.facebook.com/SKolJWright)) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright).

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80th Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, January 28th—2:00 and
6:30

Recognizing *past skaters*, showcasing several *specialty acts*, and a *walk down memory lane*. Join us for a great show, performed by our *local youth*, that helps *honor* those who have helped establish this *great community tradition* over

Admission: 13 & older—\$3.00
6-12—\$2.00

Parking: Provided around the rink and on the ice or cozy up on the bleachers (ice parking begins at 10 am, then again at 4:30 pm)

**Check us out on Facebook at "Silver Skates"

WE HOPE TO
SEE YOU THERE!



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Today in Weather History

January 15, 1982: Snowfall amounts of one to four inches and powerful northwest winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts to 60 mph caused blizzard conditions with widespread drifting across much of South Dakota and Minnesota from the early morning of the 15th to mid-afternoon on the 16th. Wind chills were lowered to 50 to 80 degrees below zero and visibilities were near zero across most of the area. One death was attributed to exposure. There were numerous weather related accidents. Some of the major accidents included; a truck blown off Interstate 90 near Murdo injuring the driver; a truck blown off Highway 281 and turned upside down in a ditch, and a truck slamming into a bridge on Interstate 90 near Murdo. The extreme cold killed numerous fruit trees at a nursery in Watertown.

January 15, 1985: Heavy snow fell in central and south central South Dakota from early evening of the 15th to around noon on the 16th with areas around Pierre receiving up to 18 inches. Generally 5 to 10 inches fell with numerous minor traffic accidents reported. Interstate 90 had a no travel advisory in a 95-mile stretch from Kimball to Murdo until the afternoon of the 16th due to low visibility and heavy drifting. Also, many schools and businesses were closed. Some snowfall amounts included, 4 inches at Kennebec, 6 inches at Murdo, and 10 inches at Pierre.

January 15, 2009: The Arctic high pressure area settled in on the morning of the 15th bringing the coldest temperatures to the region in many years. The combination of a fresh and deep snow pack, clear skies, and light winds allowed temperatures to fall to record levels at many locations on the 15th. Daytime highs remained well below zero across the area. This was one of the coldest days that most areas experienced since the early 1970s. The records were broken by 1 to as much as 7 degrees.

1852: In 1852, the long, cold winter froze the Susquehanna River in Maryland to a depth of 2 to 3 feet, preventing all ferry service. Railroad officials overcame this perplexing situation by laying tracks across the ice, with trestles for inclines at either bank. During the several weeks from January 15 to February 29, approximately 1,300 cars with a total weight of 10,000 tons were hauled across the river from Havre de Grace, Maryland to Perryville, Maryland.

1967: The Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10, in Super Bowl I at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles. From the weather station at the USC campus in downtown LA, the high temperature was 79 degrees and the low was 51. There was a light west wind.

1972: In Flint, Michigan, daytime temperature rose to only -3 degrees. This is the second coldest maximum temperature recorded in the city of Flint since 1921. Detroit's high temperature was zero.

1967: The Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10, in Super Bowl I at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles. From the weather station at the USC campus in downtown LA, the high temperature was 79 degrees and the low was 51. There was a light west wind.

1972: In Flint, Michigan, daytime temperature rose to only -3 degrees. This is the second coldest maximum temperature recorded in the city of Flint since 1921. Detroit's high temperature was zero.

1987 - A powerful storm over the Southern Plateau and the Southern Rockies produced 24 inches of snow at Colorado Springs CO, including 22 inches in 24 hours, a January record. High winds in the southwestern U.S. gusted to 65 mph in the Yosemite Valley of California. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

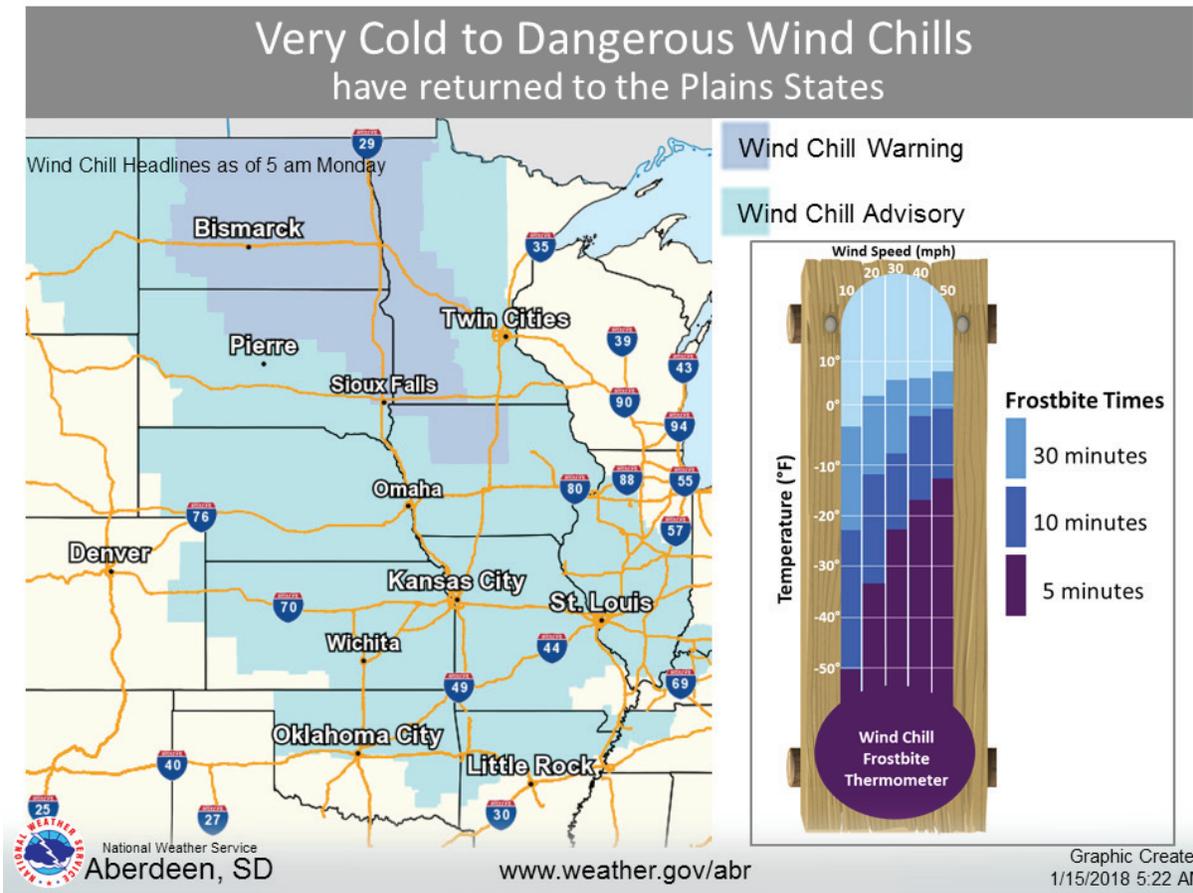
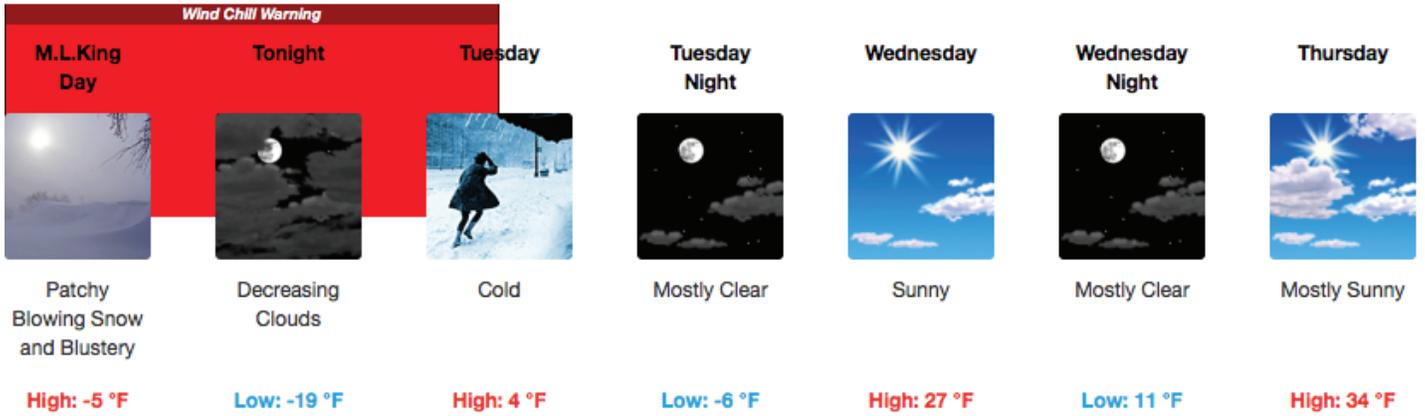
1988 - A small storm over the Atlantic Ocean produced heavy snow along the coast of North Carolina. The five inch total at Wilmington NC was their third highest for any storm in January in 117 years of records. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - A storm in the northwestern U.S. produced up to 14 inches of snow in the Cascade Mountain Range. Light snow in the north central U.S. was just enough to push the snowfall total for January at Fargo ND past their previous all-time monthly record of 30.7 inches.

1990 - While one Pacific storm crossed the Central Rockies, another approached the west coast. The northern mountains of Utah were buried under 17 to 35 inches of snow while the mountains of southern Utah received another 12 to 16 inches. Eighteen cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 50s and 60s. Wichita KS reported a record high of 68 degrees. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Cold high pressure continues to sink into the region from the northwest, with very cold to dangerous wind chills continuing into Tuesday morning. While winds will gradually decrease tonight and Tuesday, temperatures will remain cold. With the winds and temperatures we're expecting, frostbite could occur in as little as 10 to 30 minutes. Expect temperatures to return to near normal values for Thursday and Friday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 17.0

Low Outside Temp: 1.7

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 25

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 48° in 1942

Record Low: -42° in 2009

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan: 0.26

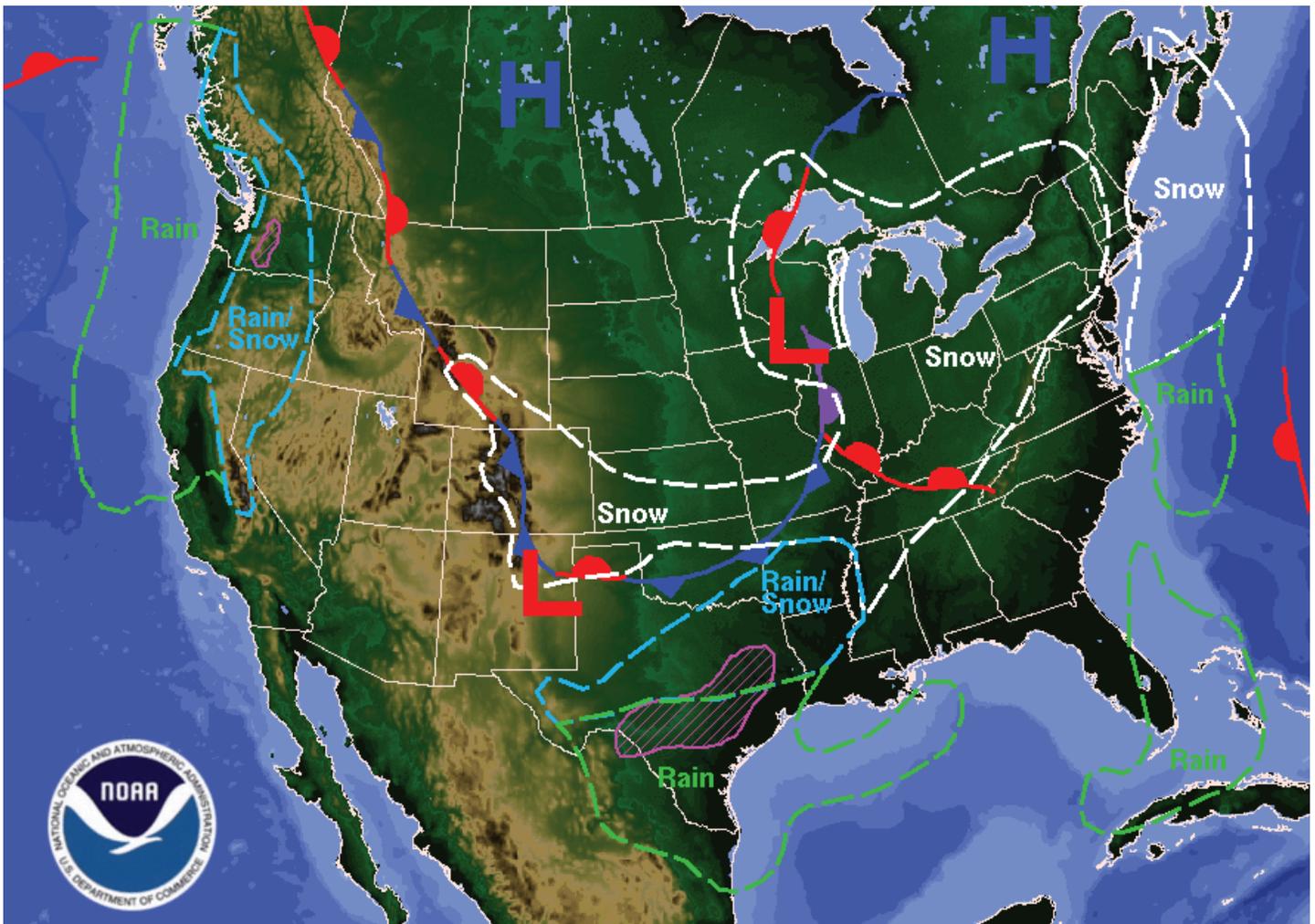
Precip to date in Jan: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.26

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:16 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:09 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jan 15, 2018, issued 4:24 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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TRYING TO ESCAPE GOD

God seems to appear when we least expect Him. He certainly will not be confined within the walls of a church or restrained within the rituals of a religion. He is, after all, God the Creator, Sustainer and Savior. He makes Himself known when and where and as He pleases.

Once, during the transatlantic crossing of a large ocean liner a major storm erupted, breaking the silence of calm seas. A huge wave swept over the bow of the ship and swept a sailor into the raging waters. His cry for help went unheard.

Far away in Philadelphia his Christian mother, who was sound asleep, suddenly awoke with an urgent desire to pray for him. Even though she was not aware of what had happened or his threatening situation, she prayed for his safety with urgency and intensity. She then returned to bed and fell asleep with peace in her heart.

Weeks later her son returned home, opened the door and shouted, "Mother, I'm saved!" Then he described what had happened: how he had been swept overboard. As he was sinking in the swirling waves he remembered thinking, "I'm lost forever!" He remembered a hymn he once sang in church about looking to Jesus to be saved. He cried out, "O God, I look to Jesus to be saved," and another wave swept him back onto the ship.

When he finished his story, his mother told her story. They then thanked God for the storm that saved his soul. As the Psalmist wrote, "Pursue them with Your tempest and terrify them with your storm." Our God is amazing.

Prayer: Thank You, God, for what You are willing to do to save the lost. We will never understand Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 83:15 So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten them with Your storm.

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

Crews rebuild Custer State Park fences to contain buffalo

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Crews are working through cold temperatures to rebuild fences to contain Custer State Park's iconic buffalo after a historic wildfire burned more than half the park.

The fire that started from a downed power line on Dec. 11 burned 16 miles of fence throughout the western South Dakota park. Repair work started before the blaze was out, the Rapid City Journal reported .

Fences deter buffalo from roaming onto private land and Forest Service property. Crews first repaired some fences inside the park, which allowed it to hold buffalo that winter there. Mark Hendrix, the park's resource program manager, estimated about 860 buffalo are there.

"We had to get one area to keep them inside so we could feed them," he said.

Crews are taking out burned wooden posts, replacing them with galvanized metal posts and attaching panels of woven wire.

"People use (this kind of fencing) for cattle. It works for the bison as well," Hendrix said. "We're not buying material specific for wildlife."

Winter weather has added frozen ground, snow and slick areas to existing challenges that include rocky ground.

"It's hard to get around," Hendrix said.

Fully repairing and rebuilding the park's fences will take about two years, according to Hendrix. He did not have a cost estimate.

"We're not going to get it all fixed in one year. We'll get the boundary, but it's going to take a while to get to some of those interior fences," Hendrix said. "We just don't have enough money to get everything we need or hire everybody to just do it all."

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

Rapid City Regional Airport sets passenger record in 2017

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City Regional Airport set a record for passengers last year.

The Rapid City Journal reports that nearly 596,000 people flew into or out of the airport in 2017. That was 1 percent more than the record set in 2010.

Airport Executive Director Patrick Dame says new seasonal service to Charlotte, North Carolina, and additional flights through the winter to Chicago helped lead to the record.

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

Pipeline protester's elderly exploitation case dismissed

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Authorities have dropped a second charge against a Bismarck woman accused of abusing and exploiting her elderly mother during protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota.

Authorities last week dismissed a charge of felony exploitation of a vulnerable adult against Kathleen Bennett, saying the case had become too difficult to prove, The Bismarck Tribune reported . A defense attorney said Bennett's mother died a few months ago.

Bennett, 59, was accused of leaving her 82-year-old mother with dementia tied to a chair in a protest camp in North Dakota while she attended demonstrations in December 2016. The mother was taken to a hospital during a blizzard. Hospital staff said she was frail and malnourished.

The exploitation charge resulted from Bennett allegedly using \$1,200 of her mother's money without consent to rent hotel rooms, buy meals and pay legal fees while her mother was hospitalized.

Bennett had also been charged in Morton County with endangering a vulnerable adult, but the defense and prosecution agreed in November to dismiss that case with \$2,050 in fines forfeited from Bennett's bond.

"The victim is deceased and the case became difficult to prove once the Morton County companion case was dismissed," Burleigh County Assistant State's Attorney Marina Spahr said in court documents.

It's not clear when her mother, Mary Trujillo, died. She had been living with family in Nevada. Defense attorney William Kirschner said Trujillo's death happened a few months ago, but he did not have an exact date.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

Latest South Dakota crop report shows impact of drought

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Drought in 2017 impacted the production of most crops in South Dakota.

The latest report from the Agriculture Department shows soybean production in the state down 6 percent from the previous year, oil sunflowers down 8 percent, corn down 11 percent, safflower down 22 percent, alfalfa hay down 23 percent, sorghum for grain down 27 percent, proso millet down 36 percent and flaxseed down 55 percent.

Production of other hay was up 3 percent, dry peas up 9 percent and non-oil sunflowers up 61 percent.

Dry pea production was a record high, while safflower production was a record low.

Separately, the Agriculture Department reports that South Dakota farmers seeded 850,000 acres of winter wheat last fall, down from 910,000 acres the previous year.

Single-vehicle rollover crash in Lincoln County kills man

BERESFORD, S.D. (AP) — A single-vehicle crash in Lincoln County over the weekend killed a man.

The Highway Patrol says the 25-year-old victim was driving a car that went off a rural road northeast of Beresford and rolled about 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

The man died later at a Sioux Falls hospital. He was the only person in the car. The patrol didn't immediately identify him.

Knots & Love project expands beyond South Dakota

By TANYA MANUS, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Countless children and adults have warmth and encouragement this winter thanks to a dying man's legacy.

John "Jack" Apland, a longtime rancher from Canistota, was in his final months of life in 2016 when he and his family launched Knots & Love, a project to tie and make blankets for Black Hills area children in foster care. Knots & Love began as a one-time effort to help Apland, 89, find purpose in life when his health was failing and he was facing many personal struggles.

"There was so much Dad couldn't do anything about (the last few months of his life), but so much he could," said Lisa Wells, Apland's daughter. "We talked about all he had to be grateful for. ... That segued into, 'What about if we do something for those people (in need)?' It was a good reminder to be grateful, and (tying blankets) was something he could physically do himself, on his terms, according to his abilities."

In 2016, Apland and his family set a goal to donate 45 blankets to the Department of Social Services in Sturgis before Thanksgiving. Friends and community members got involved and on Nov. 10, 2016, his family donated 67 blankets, Wells said.

Though Apland died about two weeks before the blankets were donated, the project succeeded in giving him a sense of value and productivity. To his family's surprise, Knots & Love also has become a movement that's spread to several states, Wells said.

Apland's family decided keep Knots & Love going in 2017, and beyond, in their father's honor. "Dad said yes to this project at the worst time in his life," Wells said. "The needs of those children have not gone

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away. There are still children whose lives have been turned upside down."

Word spread about Knots & Love, and people in Washington, Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Iowa, Virginia and South Dakota got involved in 2017, the Rapid City Journal reported. "People either contacted us and said they were going to do this in their community ... or helped donate in this area," Wells said. "The donations kept coming."

Several Black Hills community groups contributed to Knots & Love, Wells said. One of Apland's former nurses, Ches Hegge, and Spearfish Regional Hospital Employees gave blankets. The YMCA Teen Center in Rapid City and YMCA members, the Zion Dorcas Circle in Rapid City, and the Fountain Springs Fervent Ladies Life Group gave hats, gloves and blankets.

Each time items filled up the storage space in Wells' home, she and her family made donations. In 2017, Knots & Love delivered 129 blankets to the Sturgis Department of Social Services on Sept. 15 — the day before what would have been Apland's 90th birthday. On Oct. 29, the day before the one-year anniversary of Apland's death, Knots & Love delivered 67 blankets, 55 book bags, 32 books, four cans of baby formula, two toys and two backpacks to the Black Hills Children's Home. On Dec. 18, Knots & Love gave 26 blankets, four sweaters, 20 pairs of socks, 21 hats, 12 pairs of mittens and gloves, two cans of baby formula and four toys to Black Hills Children's Home, Wells said.

Beyond meeting physical needs, Wells and her siblings use Knots & Love as a way to spread hope and encouragement. The Knots & Love motto is that everyone has value and everyone can make a difference.

"The elderly and shut-ins can feel shut off from society. Well-meaning families may come to visit, but find themselves glancing at their watches after they're run out of conversation. I've had individuals tell me that, like Dad, they felt like they didn't have value and wanted that to change. Having a project like Knots & Love gives people a common ground, a goal and a chance to make a difference," Wells said.

Knots & Love also has helped Apland's family find a positive way to channel their grief over their beloved dad.

"Something my family and I learned is when something bad happens to you, it's so important to find or create something good so you have balance," Wells said. "Being part of somebody's solution becomes your solution."

Heading into 2018, Wells said Knots & Love will continue to take donations year-round. More important, she said, the project will encourage people to simply find ways to make a positive difference in others' lives.

"Look around and see what people need. ... Bring a sick person soup. ... Maybe your family can shovel a neighbor's sidewalk. How about taking a plate of cookies to a shut-in, or writing an encouraging letter to a soldier?" Wells said. "There's a lot of ways you can make a difference."

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

New developer joins \$50M Sioux Falls downtown project

By JONATHAN ELLIS and JOE SNEVE, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — In May of 2016, Jeff Lamont stood before what is arguably one of the most finicky local governments in the United States.

The Aberdeen native and 1998 Augustana College graduate was selling his vision for a Holiday Inn Express. His audience: The Boulder, Colorado, Planning Board.

For decades, Boulder's local government has exerted tight, rigorous control over what can be built, and where, and how it's going to look. Lamont ran a gauntlet of nitpicking, with Planning Board members one after another criticizing the Holiday Inn's design, which Lamont had called "a statement piece."

The episode illustrates how far Lamont Cos. has come since its founding in 1998 with the building of a Holiday Inn Express in Aberdeen, where Lamont Cos. is headquartered. Jeff Lamont, who hails from a banking and manufacturing family, has built a hotel development and management company that survived the Great Recession and has quietly expanded far beyond the borders of South Dakota.

Lamont Cos. is about to have a higher profile in Sioux Falls. The company was brought in as a partner

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for a downtown hotel, part of a deal with the city that includes a parking ramp, the Argus Leader reported. The total project is estimated at \$50 million.

The company enters the scene at a time of turmoil for the Village on the River project. Shortly after the City Council last month approved a contract with Legacy Development and Consultant Co., the developer for Village on the River, the Argus Leader reported that a federal criminal investigation was underway into the Copper Lounge building collapse, which Legacy was overseeing as developer. The Argus Leader investigation found that Hultgren Construction, a company managed by Legacy's Aaron Hultgren, and another limited liability company managed by Legacy CEO Norm Drake, were cited by the state for illegally removing and dumping asbestos from the Copper Lounge.

Mayor Mike Huether's administration announced the addition of Lamont Cos. to the project on Jan. 2, a move that shored up political support on the council. Jeff Lamont, meanwhile, replaced Aaron Hultgren as one of four personal guarantors for Village on the River.

In Sioux Falls, the company has a low profile. Two years ago, it opened the TownPlace Suites South by Marriott, which it managed.

Teri Schmidt, the executive director of the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau, which works closely with hotels, said she has heard the name Lamont Cos. and knows it exists, but little else.

"I've never heard anything about them," she said. "Maybe that's good news."

Three hours to the northwest in Aberdeen, Jeff Lamont and Lamont Cos. are major players in the city's business community, behind the development of hotels, townhomes, apartments and commercial projects.

"They've been in existence a long time," said Gail Ochs, the president of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce. "They are definitely a good-standing business in the community."

Jeff Lamont did not return a message on Jan. 5.

A review of public records shows that Lamont Cos. has been named in several lawsuits, but none of those would be out of the ordinary for a large development and hospitality company. The company is currently litigating with Nevada-based AJ Contracting Inc. over an unpaid bill worth \$45,000 for construction work on an Aberdeen townhome project. Lamont countersued, claiming AG Contracting's work was defective and not timely.

Jeff Fromm, the president of AJ Contracting, did not return a message.

Jason Klinknar, a former employee, filed suit in 2014 after Lamont denied worker compensation benefits for Klinknar, who claimed he hurt his wrist in a fall. In his lawsuit, Klinknar said he found other employment working at the Brown County Fair collecting tickets and checking bags at a concert, which happened to be sponsored by Lamont Cos. When Jeff Lamont and another Lamont Cos. executive spotted Klinknar, they told him he couldn't be there because of his pending work comp claim against the company.

"Klinknar was escorted out of the area, he was required to hand in his uniform and he left the event per Lamont's request," the lawsuit said. Klinknar denied comment.

In 2014, Lamont put in a winning bid for the Aberdeen Convention Center, which the city had decided to sell. But the Aberdeen City Council threatened to bring legal action after Lamont failed to make good on his \$475,000 bid. The dispute was resolved without legal action, and Lamont acquired the convention center, reselling it last year.

The company was sued in August 2014 in Minnesota federal court by eight former employees of Pancho's Mexican Grill of Bloomington, Minnesota, which was owned and operated by Lamont Cos., according to the lawsuit. The eight employees claimed they had been sacked from their jobs — almost all on the same day — because they were white and Pancho's insisted that only Mexican workers could be hired to perform non-managerial jobs. The case settled.

Lamont Cos. has found plenty of ground to expand in Minnesota, where it has participated in several commercial and hotel projects, according to public records.

In Rochester, Lamont has a big mixed-use development project anchored by a Candlewood Suites hotel in the works, said Brad Jones, the Rochester Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director.

Lamont hotels in Rochester are focused on customer service and get good reviews from guests, which makes the CVB's job easier, Jones said.

"Our dealings with Lamont have been great," Jones said. "They're a good company, a good management company. They seem to be a good developer as well. We have nothing to say but good things about them."

Lamont's projects, according to records, extend into Iowa, Tennessee, Colorado, North Dakota and beyond.

Last May, the City Council in Bullhead City, Arizona, approved a deal to allow Lamont to build a Holiday Inn Express and conference center on city owned land — a project valued at more than \$15 million. The approval wasn't a slam dunk, winning on a 4-3 vote.

Mayor Tom Brady voted against the deal. He opposed the terms of the contract, which gave Lamont a rent-free, 50-year lease on the land with an option to renew for another 50 years. Brady said he wanted Lamont to simply buy the land, which was assessed at \$154,000.

"What hotel lasts 100 years," he said in an interview on Jan. 5.

But his no vote had nothing to do with Lamont Cos.

"Lamont has a good reputation," he said. "I did a lot of independent research on my own. They're an established company."

Last year, Lamont was named as part of the development team for a \$60 million project in Edwardsville, Kansas, that included two hotels just south of the Kansas Speedway. Michael Webb, the Edwardsville city manager, said Lamont is no longer part of the development team because the concept of two hotels changed.

Still, Lamont had gone through much of the process to get building permits before the key developer decided to change the hotel concept. Webb said that working with Lamont was "very positive."

"They were probably one of the better plans we had gotten back in terms of thoroughness and completeness," Webb said.

"If they came in today and wanted to do another project, I wouldn't hesitate," Webb said.

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

Daugaard seeks new craft beer laws to help growing industry

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Derek Fernholz expects his young South Dakota craft brewery to push past 5,000 barrels for the first time this year, a marker of a business that is hot — and could wind up in trouble because of it.

Fernson Brewing Company's success would exceed a state production limit, jeopardizing its licenses to carry other beverages like cider and wine, offer beer for customers to take away and keep running a new taproom location in downtown Sioux Falls.

"We're very fortunate that we've seen the growth that we have to get to this point," Fernholz said. "I think the biggest change would be essentially having to go back to the drawing board and figure out how we continue to do business having to change a large part of how we do it today."

Craft brewers would be able to produce up to 30,000 barrels per year while holding other licenses and sell their suds directly to bars under an overhaul Gov. Dennis Daugaard is pursuing to make South Dakota microbrewing more competitive with surrounding states.

Daugaard recently had to ask what an IPA is and doesn't have a favorite home state microbrew, but the Republican governor says state regulations are stifling the industry in South Dakota. Daugaard said he had learned a microbrewery was among a Montana city's top tourist attractions on Yelp.

"It's not just a business that makes beer," he said. "It occurred to me, can't we have some of that in South Dakota?"

Fernholz said the increase would be a "weight lifted off our shoulders."

"We can just continue to get a good foothold, and to build upon what we've built here in Sioux Falls and in South Dakota, and to continue growing," he said of the company best known for its Lion's Paw Lager.

The governor's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen, said in an email that microbreweries in South Dakota

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expect to exceed 5,000 barrels of production in the near future and will struggle to remain viable without the increase. Republican Rep. Arch Beal, who runs a distributing business, said he's open to change, but would prefer an increase to 12,000 barrels, rather than 30,000.

Chad Petit, co-founder of Hydra Beer Company, said visitors from every state have put pins in a map hanging at the Sioux Falls brewery, which produces beers with names like Death Breath, Pale Horse and Unholy. Petit said he's happy to see progress to give South Dakota a "competitive chance" with surrounding states.

"If we grow our brewery and add on, we will be up against that," said Petit, who anticipates Hydra will produce 1,000 barrels this year. "I'm not for big beer, but why are you choking out a free market?"

The governor's legislation would also allow the microbrewers to sell their products directly to businesses like bars and stores. The change is important for new, growing breweries that are operating at a scale that doesn't lend itself well to distribution through a wholesaler, Venhuizen said.

Brian Trimble, owner of Bill of Rights Brewery in Pierre, said he would likely distribute his own beer around the city if he had the option. The move would help the new brewery grow, said Trimble, who estimated he produced at least 120 barrels last year.

"The more money I save on that end, the more money I can invest into more kegs, and getting more out there, brewing more often and all that kind of stuff," said Trimble, whose top sellers are a jalapeno amber ale and a honey basil ale.

Bob Riter, a lobbyist for the South Dakota Beer Distributors Association, said he's going to meet with the group's members to discuss the proposals. Riter said the organization is willing to work to be "reasonable in our approach to this."

In neighboring North Dakota, Todd Sattler of Laughing Sun Brewing Company successfully pushed a law change in 2013 that allows craft brewers to self-distribute their beer. The brewery distributes in Bismarck, Fargo and Minot, and Sattler is planning an expansion — with projected production of up to 3,000 barrels in 2019.

"It allowed us to be confident in moving forward with distribution being a larger part of our business because we've done it ourselves before," he said.

Expert says South Dakota farm budgets will remain tight

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota State University expert says increasingly tight financial times are imminent for the region's farmers, who are already managing depressed markets.

Jack Davis, a field specialist at the university's extension service, presented on crop production and income trends for farmers early this month.

Davis told Aberdeen American News that agriculture producers should expect tight budgets for about two more years.

"Producers need to really try to manage those top costs very closely and try to reduce them 5 to 10 percent without cutting the yield," he said.

The region's popular crops, including corn and soybeans, reached record price levels a few years ago. But the prices have dropped, which is causing farmers to struggle.

"Gross (crop revenues) are down about 50 percent from peak," said Davis. "The expense side of that is only down about a third from peak, so it's very tight margins for many producers."

According to Davis, some expenses have adjusted to the drop in crop prices, such as fertilizer. He said seed hasn't adjusted significantly, and farmers will need to decide whether paying more for hybrids is worth the cost.

Davis said land costs have declined slightly and it's still possible for farmers to negotiate.

He recommended that farmers focus more time on managing expenses in order to stay on top of them.

"Agriculture is still more positive long term as the world population grows and incomes grow," Davis said. "But this might be a long reset as we get adjusted here."

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

MLK day marked by Trump criticism, pledges to fight racism

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS** and **FELICIA FONSECA**, Associated Press

Leaders of the Cherokee Nation marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day by welcoming the descendants of slaves into their tribe after years of exclusion, while King's children and the pastor of an Atlanta church where King preached passionately decried disparaging remarks President Donald J. Trump is said to have made about African countries.

At gatherings across the nation, activists, residents and teachers honored the late civil rights leader on what would have been his 89th birthday and ahead of the 50th anniversary of King's assassination in Memphis, Tennessee.

In Washington, King's eldest son criticized Trump, saying, "When a president insists that our nation needs more citizens from white states like Norway, I don't even think we need to spend any time even talking about what it says and what it is."

He added, "We got to find a way to work on this man's heart."

In Atlanta, the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Rev. Raphael Warnock urged those who packed the pews to honor King to speak out against racism. Warnock also took issue with Trump's campaign slogan to "Make America Great Again."

Warnock said he thinks America "is already great ... in large measure because of Africa and African people."

He urged people in the audience to speak out against such remarks about other countries, noting King's own words that "silence is betrayal."

King's daughter, the Rev. Bernice King, keynote speaker at the Atlanta service, also criticized Trump, remarking, "We cannot allow the nations of the world to embrace the words that come from our president as a reflection of the true spirit of America."

"We are one people, one nation, one blood, one destiny. ... All of civilization and humanity originated from the soils of Africa," Bernice King said. "Our collective voice in this hour must always be louder than the one who sometimes does not reflect the legacy of my father."

The day took on renewed meaning for descendants of black slaves owned by the Cherokee Nation but whose tribal citizenship was in flux until recently, despite a treaty guaranteeing rights equal to native Cherokees.

The tribe— one of the country's largest — is recognizing the King holiday for the first time this year with calls to service and speeches in which the tribe plans to confront its past. King's writings spoke of injustices against Native Americans and colonization, but Cherokee Secretary of State Chuck Hoskin Jr. said the tribe had its own form of internal oppression and dispossession.

"The time is now to deal with it and talk about it," Hoskin said. "It's been a positive thing for our country to reconcile that during Dr. King's era, and it's going to be a positive thing for Cherokee to talk about that history as part of reconciling our history with slavery."

Such talk from tribal officials would have been surprising before a federal court ruled last year that the descendants of former slaves, known as Freedmen, had the same rights to tribal citizenship, voting, health care and housing as blood-line Cherokees.

One descendant of Freedmen, Rodslen Brown-King, said her mother was able to vote as a Cherokee for the first and only time recently. Other relatives died before getting the benefits that come with tribal citizenship, including a 34-year-old nephew with stomach cancer, she said.

"He was waiting on this decision," said Brown-King, of Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. "It's just a lot of struggle, a lot of up and down trauma in our lives. It's exciting to know we are coming together and moving forward in this."

Derrick Reed, a city councilman in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and director of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center there, said Monday's events were the first attended by the Cherokee Nation in honor of the holiday. Principal Chief Bill John Baker was scheduled to speak at an after-party the tribe is sponsoring,

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and Hoskin served breakfast earlier in the day.

"All the freedmen are finally relieved to be recognized, and their story itself has been a civil rights struggle," Reed said. "It's definitely a turning point in the history of the relationship with the Freedmen Indians as well as the message the tribe is sending to the nation."

Contreras reported from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Fonseca reported from Flagstaff, Arizona. Associated Press writers Corey R. Williams in Detroit and Jonathan Landrum in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Cranberries singer Dolores O'Riordan dead at 46

LONDON (AP) — Dolores O'Riordan, lead singer of Irish band The Cranberries, died suddenly on Monday. She was 46.

O'Riordan died in London, where she was recording, publicist Lindsey Holmes said. The cause of death wasn't immediately available.

Holmes said the singer's family is "devastated" by the news.

Formed in Limerick, Ireland, The Cranberries became international stars in the 1990s with hits including "Zombie" and "Linger" that fused the alternative rock edge with poppy tunefulness.

The band split up in 2003 but reunited several years later. The Cranberries released the acoustic album "Something Else" in 2017 and had been due to tour Europe and North America. The tour was cut short because O'Riordan was suffering from back problems.

In 2014, O'Riordan was accused of assaulting three police officers and a flight attendant during a flight from New York to Ireland. She pleaded guilty and was fined 6,000 euros (\$6,600).

MLK III calls out Trump on alleged immigration comments

WASHINGTON (AP) — Martin Luther King Jr.'s eldest son is calling out President Donald Trump following accusations the president used a vulgarity to describe African countries during a meeting last week and expressed a preference for immigrants from countries like Norway.

Martin Luther King III spoke in Washington on Monday, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

King says: "When a president insists that our nation needs more citizens from white states like Norway, I don't even think we need to spend any time even talking about what it says and what it is."

He says: "We got to find a way to work on this man's heart."

Referring to former Alabama Gov. George Wallace, King added: "George Wallace was a staunch racist and we worked on his heart and ultimately George Wallace transformed."

Trump defends himself anew against charges that he is racist

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump is defending himself anew against accusations that he is racist, this time after recent disparaging comments about Haiti and African nations.

"No, No. I'm not a racist," Trump said Sunday, after reporters asked him to respond to those who think he is. "I am the least racist person you have ever interviewed. That I can tell you."

Trump also denied making the statements attributed to him, but avoided the details of what he did or did not say.

"Did you see what various senators in the room said about my comments?" he asked, referring to lawmakers who were meeting with him in the Oval Office on Thursday when Trump is said to have made the comments. "They weren't made."

Trump stands accused of using "shithole" to describe African countries during an immigration meeting with a bipartisan group of six senators. The president, in the meeting, also questioned the need to admit more Haitians to the U.S., according to people who were briefed on the conversation but were not authorized to describe the meeting publicly.

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Trump said in the meeting that he would prefer immigrants from countries like Norway instead.

The White House has not denied that Trump said "shithole" though Trump has already pushed back on some depictions of the meeting.

A confidant of Trump's told The Associated Press that the president spent Thursday evening calling friends and outside advisers to judge their reaction to his remarks. Trump wasn't apologetic and denied he was racist, instead blaming the media for distorting his meaning, said the confidant, who wasn't authorized to disclose a private conversation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the only Democrat at Thursday's meeting, said Trump had indeed said what he was reported to have said. Durbin said the remarks were "vile, hate-filled and clearly racial in their content." He said Trump used the most vulgar term "more than once."

Trump commented as Durbin was presenting details of a compromise immigration plan that included providing \$1.6 billion for a first installment of the president's long-sought border wall.

Trump took particular issue with the idea that people who'd fled to the U.S. after disasters hit their homes in places such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti would be allowed to stay as part of the deal, according to the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly describe the discussion.

When it came to talk of extending protections for Haitians, Durbin said Trump replied, "We don't need more Haitians."

"He said, 'Put me down for wanting more Europeans to come to this country. Why don't we get more people from Norway?'" Durbin said.

Republican Sens. David Perdue of Georgia and Tom Cotton of Arkansas, who also attended the meeting, initially said in a statement Friday that they "do not recall the president saying these comments specifically." On Sunday, they backtracked and challenged other senators' descriptions of the remarks.

Perdue described as a "gross misrepresentation" reports that Trump used the vulgarity. He said Durbin and Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina were mistaken in indicating that was the case. Graham also attended the meeting.

"I am telling you that he did not use that word. And I'm telling you it's a gross misrepresentation," Perdue said on ABC's "This Week."

Cotton told CBS' "Face the Nation" that he "didn't hear" the word used — "and I was sitting no further away from Donald Trump than Dick Durbin was."

Trump insisted in a tweet on Friday that he "never said anything derogatory about Haitians other than Haiti is, obviously, a very poor and troubled country. Never said 'take them out.' Made up by Dems." Trump wrote, "I have a wonderful relationship with Haitians. Probably should record future meetings - unfortunately, no trust!"

Trump has defended himself against accusations of being a racist on numerous occasions, including during his insistence that President Barack Obama was not American-born and after he opened his presidential campaign in 2015 by describing Mexicans as rapists and drug peddlers.

Word of Trump's comments threatened to upend delicate negotiations over resolving the status of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children. Trump announced last year that he will end the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, unless lawmakers come up with a solution by March. The program shielded these immigrants, often referred to as "Dreamers," from deportation and granted them permits to work.

Trump tweeted earlier Sunday that the program is "probably dead" and blamed Democrats. He elaborated on the way to dinner Sunday night with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., saying Democrats "don't want to help the DACA people."

Some Democrats have threatened to vote against legislation to extend government funding, which expires on Friday, unless protections for the Dreamers are included.

"Honestly I don't think the Democrats want to make a deal," Trump said. "I think they talk about DACA, but they don't want to help the DACA people."

Trump said Democrats aren't for securing the border or stopping the flow of drugs, but are for taking money away from the military.

"We have a lot of sticking points but they're all Democrat sticking points," he said. "We are ready, willing and able to make a deal, but they don't want to."

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

Twin bombings in Baghdad kill 38, shatter post-IS calm

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN and MURTADA FARAJ, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Twin suicide bombings rocked Baghdad on Monday, killing 38 people in the deadliest attack since Iraq declared victory over the Islamic State group last month, and raising fears ahead of national elections planned for May.

The bombers targeted the bustling Tayran Square, in the heart of the capital, setting off their explosive vests among laborers and street vendors during the morning rush hour. More than 100 people were wounded, according to police and hospital officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

No one has claimed the attacks, but they bore the hallmarks of IS.

Iraqi forces have driven IS from all the territory the extremists once held, but the militant group has proven resilient in the past and is likely to continue carrying out insurgent-style attacks. That could undermine Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who hopes to extend the country's newfound sense of pride and unity in order to lead a diverse coalition to power in May.

Ambulances rushed to the scene as security forces sealed off the area with yellow tape. Slippers could be seen scattered about on the blood-stained pavement as cleaners hurried to clear the debris.

"It was a tremendous, I felt the ground shaking under my feet," said Munthir Falah, a secondhand clothes vendor whose chest and right leg were pierced by shrapnel. He said he fell to the ground and lost consciousness before later waking up in a hospital.

The father of three said government forces had failed to secure the capital. "They think that Daesh is done," he said, referring to IS by an Arabic acronym. "They don't bother themselves to exert efforts to secure Baghdad."

Einas Khalil, a Baghdad housewife, blamed the security breakdown on the country's feuding politicians, many of whom are connected to different state-sanctioned militias or branches of the security forces.

"We were expecting this because of the upcoming elections," she said. "Every four years we have to live through this suffering because of political differences and disagreements."

Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri denounced the attack as a "cowardly act against innocent people" and called on the government to take all necessary security measures. Al-Abadi met security officials in charge of Baghdad, ordering them to root out militant sleeper cells, according to a brief statement issued by his office.

A deterioration in security could undermine al-Abadi's claim to have vanquished IS and create an opening for his main rival, former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, to return to power.

Al-Maliki, who stepped down after IS swept across northern and central Iraq in 2014, was widely accused of pursuing sectarian policies that alienated the country's Sunni minority during his eight years in power. Many of Iraq's Sunnis, fed up with al-Maliki's rule, initially welcomed IS as liberators from the Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad.

The government has proposed holding elections on May 12, but parliament must approve the date. Sunni leaders have called for the vote to be delayed until the 3 million people still displaced from the fighting can return to their homes.

Victory over IS has come at an almost incalculable cost in Iraq, where entire neighborhoods in several cities and towns were completely destroyed in the fighting.

Associated Press writer Ahmed Sami contributed to this report.

Missile-alert error reveals uncertainty about how to react

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — When Jonathan Scheuer got an alert on his phone of a ballistic missile headed for Hawaii, he and his family didn't know what to do. They went to their guest bedroom, then decided it would be safer on the ground floor of their Honolulu home.

"What do we do?" he wondered. "Where do we go?"

People should immediately seek shelter in a building "or other substantial structure," once an attack-warning siren sounds, according to guidance the state distributed previously. The state recommends having 14-day survival kit of food and water.

Residents and tourists alike remained rattled a day after the mistaken alert was blasted out to cellphones across the islands with a warning to seek immediate shelter and the ominous statement: "This is not a drill."

"Clearly there is a massive gap between letting people know something's coming and having something for them to do," Scheuer said Sunday. "Nobody knew what to do."

Lisa Foxen, a social worker and mother of two young children in east Honolulu, said the best thing to come out of the scare was that it pushed her family to come up with a plan if there is a real threat.

"I kind of was just almost like a deer in headlights," she said. "I knew what to do in a hurricane. I knew what to do in an earthquake. But the missile thing is new to me."

The blunder that caused more than a million people in Hawaii to fear that they were about to be struck by a nuclear missile fed skepticism Sunday about the government's ability to keep them informed in a real emergency.

"My confidence in our so-called leaders' ability to disseminate this vital information has certainly been tarnished," said Patrick Day, who sprang from bed when the alert was issued Saturday morning. "I would have to think twice before acting on any future advisory."

The erroneous warning was sent during a shift change at the state's Emergency Management Agency when someone doing a routine test hit the live alert button, state officials said.

They tried to assure residents there would be no repeat false alarms. The agency changed protocols to require that two people send an alert and made it easier to cancel a false alarm — a process that took nearly 40 minutes.

The error sparked a doomsday panic across the islands known as a laid-back paradise. Parents clutched their children, huddled in bathtubs and said prayers. Students bolted across the University of Hawaii campus to take cover in buildings. Drivers abandoned cars on a highway and took shelter in a tunnel. Others resigned themselves to a fate they could not control and simply waited for the attack.

The 911 system for the island of Oahu was overwhelmed with more than 5,000 calls. There were no major emergencies during the false alarm, Mayor Kirk Caldwell said.

President Donald Trump said Sunday the federal government will "get involved," but didn't release details.

An investigation into what went wrong was underway at the Federal Communications Commission, which sets rules for wireless emergency alerts sent by local, state or federal officials to warn of the threat of hurricanes, wildfires, flash flooding and to announce searches for missing children.

The state of Hawaii "did not have reasonable safeguards or process controls in place to prevent the transmission of a false alert," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement, calling the mistake "absolutely unacceptable."

"False alerts undermine public confidence in the alerting system and thus reduce their effectiveness during real emergencies," he said.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen urged Americans not to lose faith in their government.

"I would hate for anybody not to abide by alerts and warnings coming from government systems," Nielsen said on "Fox News Sunday." "They can trust government systems. We test them every day. This is a very unfortunate mistake, but these alerts are vital. Seconds and minutes can save lives."

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With mobile phones ubiquitous, wireless alerts can quickly disseminate information to a wide number of users, but there have been concerns about creating a panic if they are sent too broadly.

Authorities were criticized for not sending an alert to mobile phones when fires ripped through Northern California in October, killing 40 people. Officials had decided not to use the system because they couldn't target them precisely enough and feared a wider broadcast would lead to mass evacuations, including people not in danger, snarling traffic that would hamper firefighting and rescues efforts.

Saturday's mistake was not the first for the state's warning system. During a test last month, 12 of the state's 386 sirens played an ambulance siren. In the tourist hub of Waikiki, the sirens were barely audible, prompting officials to add more sirens and reposition ones already in place.

People need to step back from questioning who pushed the button and why and focus on military de-escalation, Scheuer said.

The false alarm triggered a broader discussion about national security at a time when North Korea has been flexing its muscles by launching test missiles and bragging about its nuclear capability. Its leader, Kim Jong Un, has also exchanged insults on Twitter with President Donald Trump about their arsenals.

The standoff has whipped up nuclear fears on Hawaii and led the islands to revive Cold War-era siren tests that drew international attention.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a Hawaii Democrat, said officials should be held accountable for the "epic failure of leadership" behind the warning. She said the nuclear threat underscored the need for Trump to meet with Kim to work out differences without preconditions.

"The people of Hawaii are paying the price now for decades of failed leadership in this country" by setting "unrealistic preconditions," she said. "The leaders of this country need to experience that same visceral understanding of how lives are at stake."

Melley reported from Los Angeles. Tom Strong in Washington contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Tulsi Gabbard's name was misspelled Tusi.

Woman dies after fire on casino boat off Florida's coast

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A casino company said Monday it never had a problem with the shuttle boat that erupted in flames off Florida's Gulf Coast, leading to the death of a female passenger.

Tropical Breeze Casino spokeswoman Beth Fifer said the company does not know what caused Sunday's blaze, which gutted the shuttle boat and forced about 50 passengers to jump into the chilly waters off Port Richey.

"We are deeply saddened for the loss of our passenger, the 14 injured and anyone else who was affected by this tragedy," Fifer said.

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point spokesman Kurt Conover said Monday that the passenger arrived at the hospital's emergency room at 10 p.m. Sunday and died shortly afterward. He said she had apparently gone home after the fire but became ill.

Pasco County Sheriff's Office spokesman Kevin Doll said the victim was 42. Her name has not been released and a cause of death has not been determined. Conover said eight other passengers were treated at the hospital and released.

Officials originally said no injuries were life threatening.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Michael De Nyse said investigators will determine the cause of the fire and examine the history of the boat and Tropical Breeze Casino.

Helicopter video taken by WTSP-TV early Monday shows the boat was burned down to its hull, with only an American flag on its bow uncharred.

The shuttle boat regularly carries people back and forth from the Tropical Breeze's offshore casino, about a 45-minute ride into international waters. There, passengers can play games such as black jack, which is illegal at non-Indian casinos in Florida, and roulette, which is illegal statewide.

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Officials said the shuttle vessel was headed out to the casino ship at the time of the fire.

The shuttle boat caught fire about 4 p.m. Sunday, quickly engulfing the boat close to shore near residential neighborhoods.

Port Richey Police Chief Gerard DeCanio said the shuttle boat experienced engine problems after leaving the dock at Port Richey, a suburban community about 35 miles (55 kilometers) northwest of Tampa. But as the vessel turned back, flames kicked up and people began jumping overboard into shallow water, according to witness accounts.

Larry Santangelo, 57, said he had just driven into his neighborhood when he saw smoke and fire and thought a house — possibly his own — was ablaze. But then he realized it was the boat just about 100 yards (91 meters) offshore.

He told the Tampa Bay Times that he then saw people wandering about confused, wet and cold, after they reached land. One woman collapsed upon reaching shore and vomited, he said. Santangelo said he took about 30 of the passengers into his garage to warm up and recover.

"It was so windy and they were soaking wet," said Santangelo. He worried that some might suffer from hypothermia.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire, which sent a huge plume of dark black smoke wafting over sunny skies on an unusually chilly winter day in the Tampa Bay region.

"It looked pretty dramatic because the shuttle boat burned really fast," DeCanio told The Associated Press by phone.

Another witness told the Tampa Bay Times the shuttle boat passes regularly by his family's home, carrying patrons to and from a casino ship offshore. But he knew something was wrong when smoke cut across the sunny Florida skies and he heard shouts and screams.

"They didn't have much time to decide whether or not to jump," said Bakr Jandali, 19, who was with his family at home nearby when they heard the commotion. "The fire was moving fast. It was a hard jump."

Jandali said passengers had to leap about 12 feet (3 meters) and wade through somewhat shallow water. He said passengers waded in waist-deep water before reaching land. Residents then offered them towels, socks and water to drink.

"All of us, my family and the neighbors, brought them towels and water," Jandali said. "They were so cold."

News footage at the site showed survivors cloaked in blankets trying to warm themselves after getting to shore.

Authorities said the Coast Guard, sheriff's office, police and other agencies took part in rescue operations.

North Korean orchestra, maybe joint hockey team at Olympics

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's delegation to the Winter Olympics in South Korea will include a 140-member art troupe, the two sides agreed Monday, while discussions continue over fielding a joint women's hockey team.

The two Koreas met Monday for the second time in a week as they try to hammer out details for the North's participation in next month's Games, which the South sees as a way to calm tensions caused by Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests.

North Korea said the art troupe will comprise 80 orchestra members and 60 members who sing and dance. The North Koreans will perform twice — once in Seoul and the other in the city of Gangneung, where some of the Olympic competitions will be held, according to South Korean delegates who attended the meeting.

Separately, South Korean Sports Ministry spokesman Hwang Seong Un said that the two Koreas have agreed in principle to field a joint women's ice hockey team. The proposal requires International Olympic Committee approval. If realized, it would be the Koreas' first unified Olympic team ever.

Officials from both Koreas are to meet with the International Olympic Committee at its headquarters in Switzerland on Saturday. The two sides agreed Monday to meet again at their border on Wednesday for

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working-level talks ahead of the IOC meeting.

North Korea last week agreed to send an Olympic delegation and hold military talks aimed at reducing frontline animosities in its first formal talks with South Korea in about two years. The North has said its delegation to the Feb. 9-25 Games in Pyeongchang would include the art troupe along with officials, athletes, cheerleaders, journalists and a taekwondo demonstration team.

The reasons for North Korea's softer approach are not clear, though some analysts say the North may be trying to divide Seoul and Washington as a way to weaken pressure and sanctions on the country. North Korea carried out nuclear and missile tests last year that triggered harsher U.N. sanctions and worldwide condemnation.

Others speculate the North wants to use the Olympics to show it's a normal country despite possessing nuclear weapons.

North Korea has insisted its talks with South Korea won't deal with its nuclear and missile programs, saying those weapons primarily target the United States. Critics question how long the warmer mood can last without any serious discussion on the North's nuclear disarmament.

The North issued a veiled threat Sunday that it could cancel its plans to send an Olympic delegation to protest what it called South Korea's "sordid acts" that chilled the prospect for inter-Korean reconciliation.

"They should know that (the) train and bus carrying our delegation to the Olympics are still in Pyongyang," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said. "The South Korean authorities had better ponder over what unfavorable results may be entailed by their impolite behavior."

KCNA criticized remarks by South Korean President Moon Jae-in last week that credited President Donald Trump for getting the North to sit down with the South. It also accused Seoul of letting Washington deploy strategic assets like an aircraft carrier near the Korean Peninsula on the occasion of the Olympics. The United States is beefing up its presence around the peninsula in what it describes as routine training and scheduled upgrades.

The warning is relatively milder than the North's typical fiery, bellicose rhetoric and it didn't appear to put the recent signs of warming Korean ties in imminent danger.

The North Korean art troupe being sent South is to play folk songs and other classic masterpieces that are well-known to both Koreas and can go with the theme of unification, chief South Korean delegate Lee Woo-sung said. He said more discussions are expected to work out details of North Korean performances.

The art troupe would be larger than the previous six that North Korea has sent to South Korea since 1985. The North last sent such a group in 2002, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

A joint statement after Monday's meeting didn't mention North Korea's well-known Moranbong Band, an all-female ensemble hand-picked by the North's leader Kim Jong Un.

One of the North Korean delegates to the talks was Hyon Song Wol, the head of the band, fueling speculation that North Korea might send the band.

Since its first stage debut in 2012, the band is hugely popular at home and has been dubbed by outsiders as "North Korea's only girl group" for its Western-style performances featuring women in mini-skirts and high heels dancing and singing odes to Kim.

Pregnant teen who sued over abortion leaves federal custody

WASHINGTON (AP) — A pregnant immigrant teenager who told a judge that she was being prevented from having an abortion while in federal custody has been released, giving her the ability to obtain the procedure.

The Trump administration said in a court filing Sunday that the 17-year-old had been released to a "sponsor," an adult who is usually a family member.

The teen, who hasn't been identified by name, was the fourth pregnant immigrant teenager represented by the ACLU to go to court over the Department of Health and Human Services' policy of refusing to facilitate abortions for minors in its custody. The ACLU called her an "unaccompanied minor," suggesting she was detained while trying to enter the U.S.

A judge previously sided with the other teens represented by the ACLU.

Pope seeks to turn tide of Chilean church bruised by scandal

By NICOLE WINFIELD and EVA VERGARA, Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Pope Francis' visit to Chile was always going to be fraught, but it has taken on an unprecedented degree of opposition with the firebombings of Catholic churches ahead of his Monday arrival and protests by Chileans fed up with priest sex abuse and cover-up.

Francis is coming to a country where around 60 percent of Chileans declare themselves to be Roman Catholics, but where the church has lost the influence and moral authority it once enjoyed thanks to sex scandals, secularization and an out-of-touch clerical caste.

"I used to be a strong believer and churchgoer," said Blanca Carvacho, a 57-year-old secretary in Santiago. "All the contradictions have pushed me away."

The pope will try to reverse the trend during his three-day visit, which gets underway in earnest Tuesday with a series of protocol visits for church and state, and will be followed by a three-day trip to neighboring Peru.

In Chile, he plans sessions with migrants, members of Chile's Mapuche indigenous group and victims of the 1973-1990 military dictatorship. It remains to be seen if he will meet with sex abuse survivors. A meeting isn't on the agenda, but such encounters never are.

Chile's church earned wide respect during the regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet because it spoke out against the military's human rights abuses, but it began a downward spiral in 2010 when victims of a charismatic, politically connected priest came forward with allegations that he had kissed and fondled them.

Local church leaders had ignored the complaints against the Rev. Fernando Karadima for years, but they were forced to open an official investigation after the victims went public and Chilean prosecutors started investigating. The Vatican in 2011 sentenced Karadima to a lifetime of "penance and prayer" for his crimes, but the church leadership hasn't won back Chileans' trust for having covered up Karadima's crimes for so long.

"The Karadima case created a ferocious wound," said Chile's ambassador to the Holy See, Mariano Fernandez Amunategui. He and others inside the Vatican speak openly of a Chilean church "in crisis" as a result, a remarkable admission of the scandal's toll on a church that wielded such political clout that it helped stave off laws legalizing divorce and abortion until recently.

Chileans' disenchantment has even affected their views of the pope himself. A recent survey by Latino-barometro, a respected regional polling firm, found that Chile had a lower esteem for history's first Latin American pope than 18 other Central and South American countries. Even among Chilean Catholics, only 42 percent approve of the job Francis is doing, compared to a regional average of 68 percent.

"The serious error of the Catholic Church in the Karadima case wasn't that the case existed, which the church couldn't avoid because it did happen, but rather the way in which the church reacted," said Latino-barometro's Marta Lagos. "The Chilean church leaders hoped that the Vatican would give its verdict — they didn't want to be the ones to accuse Karadima. On the contrary, there was a sort of cover-up and a hiding of the case."

Francis, who has insisted he has "zero tolerance" for abuse, reopened the wounds of the scandal in 2015 when he named one of Karadima's proteges as bishop of the southern diocese of Osorno. Karadima's victims say Bishop Juan Barros knew about the abuse but did nothing, a charge Barros denies.

Last week, The Associated Press reported that Francis had told Chile's bishops that the Vatican was so concerned about the Karadima fallout that it had planned to ask Barros and two other Karadima-trained bishops to resign and take a year sabbatical. But the plan fell through, and Francis went through with the appointment of Barros to Osorno, where the controversy has badly divided the diocese.

Several concerned Catholics from Osorno have traveled to Santiago where they have staged small protests in recent days.

Separately, vandals firebombed a handful of Santiago churches and warned that Francis would be next.

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Never before has such violence and opposition greeted Francis ahead of a foreign visit. In fact, the last time in memory any serious opposition greeted a pope came during uneventful protests over the costs for Pope Benedict XVI's 2010 trip to Britain.

One of the leaflets left at the scene of a torched church defended the cause of the Mapuche, the indigenuous group that fought Spanish colonizers for three centuries and today has radical factions demanding the return of ancient lands. Francis will travel to Mapuche territory Wednesday to celebrate a Mass "for the progress of peoples" and lunch with Mapuche representatives.

The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said recently that the indigenous issue was particularly close to Francis' heart.

"I think it won't be an easy trip, but it will truly be a passionate one," Parolin said.

Associated Press writer Nicole Winfield reported this story from Rome and AP writer Eva Vergara reported in Santiago. AP writer Peter Pregelman contributed from Santiago.

US wants to cut money for Palestinian refugees

By **MATTHEW LEE and JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is preparing to withhold tens of millions of dollars from the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, cutting the year's first contribution by more than half or perhaps entirely, and making additional donations contingent on major changes to the organization, according to U.S. officials.

President Donald Trump hasn't made a final decision, but appears more likely to send only \$60 million of the planned \$125 million first installment to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, said the officials, who weren't authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Future contributions would require the agency, facing heavy Israeli criticism, to demonstrate significant changes in operations, they said, adding that one suggestion under consideration would require the Palestinians to first re-enter peace talks with Israel.

The State Department said Sunday that "the decision is under review. There are still deliberations taking place." The White House did not immediately respond to questions about the matter.

The administration could announce its decision as early as Tuesday, the officials said. The plan to withhold some of the money is backed by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary James Mattis, who offered it as a compromise to demands for more drastic measures by U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, the officials said.

Haley wants a complete cutoff in U.S. money until the Palestinians resume peace talks with Israel that have been frozen for years. But Tillerson, Mattis and others say ending all assistance would exacerbate instability in the Mideast, notably in Jordan, a host to hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees and a crucial U.S. strategic partner.

In another sign of the growing tensions in the region, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas railed at Trump in a fiery, two-hour-long speech on Sunday, saying "shame on you" for his treatment of the Palestinians and warning that he would have no problem rejecting what he suggested would be an unacceptable peace plan. The speech by Abbas ratcheted up what has been more than a month of harsh rhetoric toward Trump since the president's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The U.S. is the Relief and Works Agency's largest donor, supplying nearly 30 percent of its total budget. The agency focuses on providing health care, education and social services to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians either fled or were forced from their homes during the war that led to Israel's establishment in 1948. Today, there are an estimated 5 million refugees and their descendants, mostly scattered across the region.

Eliminating or sharply reducing the U.S. contribution could hamstring the agency and severely curtail its work, putting great pressure on Jordan and Lebanon as well as the Palestinian Authority. Gaza would be

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particularly hard hit. Some officials, including Israelis, warn that it might push people closer to the militant Hamas movement, which controls Gaza.

The U.S. officials said any reduction in American assistance could be accompanied by calls for European nations and others to help make up the shortfall.

The U.S. donated \$355 million in 2016 and was set to make a similar contribution this year; the first installment was to have sent this month.

But after a highly critical Jan. 2 tweet from Trump on aid to the Palestinians, the State Department opted to wait for a formal policy decision before sending any of the \$125 million.

Trump's tweet expressed frustration over the lack of progress in his attempts to broker peace between Israel and the Palestinians, and he pointed the finger at the Palestinians. "We pay the Palestinians HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS a year and get no appreciation or respect," he said. "But with the Palestinians no longer willing to talk peace, why should we make any of these massive future payments to them?"

Although Trump referred to all U.S. assistance to the Palestinians, the contribution to the refugee agency would be the first to be affected.

Three days after the tweet, at a Jan. 5 White House meeting, senior national security officials try to find a way forward. Led by representatives from the State Department and Pentagon, all but one of the members of the "Policy Coordination Committee" agreed to continue the funding, officials said.

The lone holdout was Haley's representative, who insisted that Trump's tweet had set the policy and the money must be cut off, the officials said.

The meeting ended in a stalemate.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu then weighed in, telling his Cabinet that he agreed with the critique of the agency. He said the agency only perpetuates problems and should cease operating in the region. Netanyahu and other Israelis accuse it of contributing to Palestinian militancy and allowing its facilities to be used by militants. They have also complained that some of its staff are biased against Israel.

Netanyahu suggested transferring the agency's budget to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, which aids refugee matters everywhere in the world. It was not immediately clear whether any withheld U.S. assistance would be shifted.

Netanyahu's position, coupled with Haley's firm opposition to the funding, led Tillerson, with the support of Mattis, to propose the \$60 million compromise, the officials said.

Trump, whose Jerusalem decision last year upset the Palestinians along with the announcing plans to move the U.S. Embassy to the holy city, was said by one official to have expressed cautious backing of the compromise.

Thousands attend vigil for California mudslide victims

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP) — Thousands of people gathered Sunday night at a candlelight vigil to pay tribute to the 20 people who were killed when mudslides ravaged a Southern California community.

Tears were shed and hugs and prayers were shared during the emotional service outside the Santa Barbara County courthouse. Mourners lit prayer candles and left flowers as a makeshift memorial for the victims.

"Tonight, we need to mourn," Santa Barbara County Supervisor Das Williams said. "It is breathtakingly horrible. Our community is going through something it has never gone through."

Those at the vigil included the family of 30-year-old Pinit Sutthithepa, whose body was discovered Saturday afternoon. His 2-year-old daughter, Lydia, remained missing. His 6-year-old son, Peerawat, nicknamed Pasta, and his 79-year-old father-in-law, Richard Loring Taylor, also were killed in the mudslides. Family members said they were too distraught to speak.

"This family is one of several that lost multiple family members," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said. "And we know that the suffering of those who knew and loved all of the victims is immense."

The list of those still missing in the mudslides has shrunk to four.

Because most churches in Montecito are in an evacuation area, many worshippers attended services in

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nearby towns on Sunday. At a church in Santa Barbara, they carried flowers, lit candles and prayed for the families who have lost loved ones. The victims were their friends and neighbors, they said.

"Our whole community is devastated," Hannah Miller said at the Trinity Episcopal Church. "There isn't anyone who doesn't know someone who has been affected by this disaster. It is truly awful. We can just pray they find those poor missing people."

In the disaster area, firefighters went door to door to check the structural stability of the houses damaged by a powerful rainstorm that preceded the mudslides and scoured what's left of toppled homes and mangled cars as they searched for the missing.

"I don't know about you, but I'm scared of Mother Nature right now," Santa Barbara Mayor Cathy Murillo told the attendees at the vigil.

Search and rescue operations ended Sunday and authorities transitioned to a search and recovery phase, Brown announced. The move allows officials to release resources that are no longer needed and allow search operations to slow to a safer pace, he said.

The storm sent flash floods cascading through mountain slopes that were burned bare by a huge wildfire in December. Workers used backhoes, jackhammers and chain saws to clear away masses of mud, boulders and toppled trees.

Crews have made it a priority to clear out debris basins and creek canals before another rainstorm. Long-range forecasts gave the crews about a week before the next chance of rain — and potential new mudslides — although the precipitation was expected to be disorganized and light. Another system was possible two days later.

The mudslides on Jan. 9 ravaged the tony community, destroying at least 65 homes and damaging more than 460 others, officials said. They also forced the indefinite shutdown of U.S. 101, the only major freeway between Santa Barbara and points east.

The rest of the community's infrastructure also was damaged. Some streets were cracked in half, and authorities closed bridges and overpasses because they were unstable. Amtrak said it was adding rail cars to each of its five daily roundtrip trains between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara to accommodate commuters grappling with the ongoing closure of U.S. 101.

But despite the damage in the neighborhood, Montecito residents still have hope their community will recover.

"They're exhausted but they find ways to try to live life as normally as they can," Williams said.

Sutthithepa, whose body was discovered Saturday, immigrated from Thailand, leaving behind his wife and two children but sending them money for years until he could bring them to the United States, a friend, Poy Sayavongs, told the Lee Central Coast News.

"They finally were able to make it to the states in the summer of 2016," Sayavongs said. "It's cruel — they only had a short time together before this tragedy struck."

A month earlier, the family had evacuated to a Red Cross shelter for a night as a devastating wildfire that went on to blacken nearby mountains threatened their home and many others.

More than 2,000 searchers and recovery workers have remained in the community, carrying out back-breaking work in the summerlike weather that has made the stretch of Santa Barbara County coast about 90 miles (145 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles a haven for the wealthy, celebrities and tourists.

Much of the community of about 9,000 residents remained under mandatory evacuation orders, even unscathed areas, as crews removed debris and worked to restore water, sanitation, power and gas. There was no timeline for allowing residents to return, Assemblywoman Monique Limon said.

Limon, a Democrat, said she's working with other legislators to address concerns about flood and fire insurance and issues with emergency cellphone alerts.

Associated Press writer Christopher Weber contributed to this report from Los Angeles.

Earthquake in Peru destroys dozens of homes, kills 1 man

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A powerful earthquake struck off Peru's coast early Sunday, tumbling adobe homes in small, rural towns, killing at least one person and injuring dozens, officials said.

The sole fatality was a man crushed by a falling rock, officials said. They said many of those injured were in Caraveli province, a coastal area dependent on fishing and mining that is popular with tourists.

Sixty-five people were injured, the national chief of civil defense, Jorge Chavez, said.

The earthquake destroyed 171 homes, displacing the same number of families, Peru's National Emergency Operations Center said on its website Sunday night. It added that 736 families had been affected in some way by the tremor.

Emergency crews responded by bringing in tents and mattresses to displaced families, officials said.

"Everything that is needed is going to be sent," President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski said. "We are already responding at full speed."

The U.S. Geological Survey said the early morning quake had a magnitude of 7.1 and was centered 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Acari in the Arequipa department of southwestern Peru.

The quake jolted people awake as far away as the capital city of Lima, some 350 miles (560 kilometers) from Acari.

Workers used large tractors to clear away boulders and debris that crashed down and blocked some roads.

The quake caused some damage in communities that Pope Francis is scheduled to visit this week, and officials said the damage would not change the pontiff's tour.

Missile-alert mistake feeds doubts about a real emergency

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A blunder that caused more than a million people in Hawaii to fear that they were about to be struck by a nuclear missile fed skepticism Sunday about the government's ability to keep them informed in a real emergency.

Residents and tourists alike remained rattled a day after the mistaken alert was blasted out to cellphones across the islands with a warning to seek immediate shelter and the ominous statement "This is not a drill."

"My confidence in our so-called leaders' ability to disseminate this vital information has certainly been tarnished," said Patrick Day, who sprang from bed when the alert was issued Saturday morning. "I would have to think twice before acting on any future advisory."

The erroneous warning was sent during a shift change at the state's Emergency Management Agency when someone doing a routine test hit the live alert button, state officials said.

They tried to assure residents there would be no repeat false alarms. The agency changed protocols to require that two people send an alert and made it easier to cancel a false alarm — a process that took nearly 40 minutes.

President Donald Trump said the federal government will "get involved" with Hawaii, but didn't provide any additional details.

The error sparked a doomsday panic across the islands known as a laid-back paradise. Parents clutched their children, huddled in bathtubs and said prayers. Students bolted across the University of Hawaii campus to take cover in buildings. Drivers abandoned cars on a highway and took shelter in a tunnel. Others resigned themselves to a fate they could not control and simply waited for the attack.

The 911 system for the island of Oahu was overwhelmed with more than 5,000 calls. There were no major emergencies during the false alarm, Mayor Kirk Caldwell said.

An investigation into what went wrong was underway Sunday at the Federal Communications Commission, which sets rules for wireless emergency alerts sent by local, state or federal officials to warn of the threat of hurricanes, wildfires, flash flooding and to announce searches for missing children.

The state of Hawaii "did not have reasonable safeguards or process controls in place to prevent the transmission of a false alert," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement, calling the mistake "absolutely unacceptable."

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"False alerts undermine public confidence in the alerting system and thus reduce their effectiveness during real emergencies," he said.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen urged Americans not to lose faith in their government.

"I would hate for anybody not to abide by alerts and warnings coming from government systems," Nielsen said on "Fox News Sunday." "They can trust government systems. We test them every day. This is a very unfortunate mistake, but these alerts are vital. Seconds and minutes can save lives."

With mobile phones ubiquitous, wireless alerts can quickly disseminate information to a wide number of users, but there have been concerns about creating a panic if they are sent too broadly.

Authorities were criticized for not sending an alert to mobile phones when fires ripped through Northern California in October, killing 40 people. Officials had decided not to use the system because they couldn't target them precisely enough and feared a wider broadcast would lead to mass evacuations, including people not in danger, snarling traffic that would hamper firefighting and rescues efforts.

Lisa Foxen, a social worker and mother of two young children in east Honolulu, said she expects Hawaii officials to make necessary changes and restore trust in the system. The best thing to come out of the scare, she said, was that it pushed her family to come up with a plan if there is a real threat.

"I kind of was just almost like a deer in headlights," she said. "I knew what to do in a hurricane. I knew what to do in an earthquake. But the missile thing is new to me."

The false alarm triggered a broader discussion about national security at a time when North Korea has been flexing its muscles by launching test missiles and bragging about its nuclear capability. Its leader, Kim Jong Un, has also exchanged insults on Twitter with President Donald Trump about their arsenals.

The standoff has whipped up nuclear fears on Hawaii and led the islands to revive Cold War-era siren tests that drew international attention.

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a Hawaii Democrat, said officials should be held accountable for the "epic failure of leadership" behind the warning. She said the nuclear threat underscored the need for Trump to meet with Kim to work out differences without preconditions.

"The people of Hawaii are paying the price now for decades of failed leadership in this country" by setting "unrealistic preconditions," she said. "The leaders of this country need to experience that same visceral understanding of how lives are at stake."

Philip Simmons, an orchestral conductor, said the false alarm was one of the most horrifying events of his life, and he had no idea what to do. He said everyone from Gov. David Ige to the president should resign.

"The government has totally blown this," Simmons said. "They're completely inept at protecting the people of this country and notifying them of what's happening."

The mistake was not the first for the state's warning system. During a test last month, 12 of the state's 386 sirens played an ambulance siren. In the tourist hub of Waikiki, the sirens were barely audible, prompting officials to add more sirens and reposition ones already in place.

This version of this story corrects the spelling of the first name of U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard.

Melley reported from Los Angeles. Tom Strong in Washington contributed to this report.

Sheriff: Casino shuttle boat ablaze, all 50 passengers safe

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A boat shuttling patrons to a casino ship off the Florida Gulf Coast became swiftly engulfed by flames Sunday afternoon, and dozens of passengers and crew escaped by jumping into chilly waters near shore, authorities said.

Fifteen people complaining of chest pain, smoke inhalation and other minor injuries were taken to the hospital to be checked, authorities said, adding no injuries were life-threatening.

Port Richey Chief of Police Gerard DeCanio said all 50 passengers and the crew reached safety as the fast-spreading flames consumed the shuttle boat just off the shore, sending a huge plume of dark smoke across sunny skies on an unusually chilly winter day in the Tampa Bay region.

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"It looked pretty dramatic because the shuttle boat burned really fast," DeCanio told The Associated Press by phone.

A witness told The Tampa Bay Times that she heard screams before he saw the smoke rising.

"They didn't have much time to decide whether or not to jump," said Bakr Jandali, 19. "It was a hard jump."

The passengers had to jump about 12 feet (3 meters) into the chilly waters, and then received help from area residents who offered them towels, socks and water to drink.

DeCanio said the shuttle boat was close to shore when it experienced engine problems after leaving the dock at Port Richey, a suburban community about 35 miles (55 kilometers) northwest of Tampa. He said the crew decided to turn back veering close to a residential area as smoke belched and flames then kicked up.

Pasco County Fire Rescue official Shawn Whited said passengers on board the vessel jumped to get away from the fire and swam the chilly waters to shore, while some were rescued by other boats. A multiagency rescue operation was conducted as the boat burned just offshore.

News footage at the site showed survivors cloaked in blankets trying to warm themselves after reaching safety.

The shuttle boat regularly carries people back and forth from the Tropical Breeze Casino Cruise, which is offshore because it can't legally operate close to land, according to authorities. They said the shuttle vessel was headed out to the casino ship at the time.

Tropical Breeze Casino Cruises didn't immediately respond late Sunday to calls for information.

Jaguars stun Steelers 45-42 to earn trip to AFC title game

By WILL GRAVES, AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Jacksonville Jaguars heard the chatter, read the tweets and Instagram posts. And they got a little confused.

Why were the Pittsburgh Steelers talking about the New England Patriots? Didn't they have to face the Jaguars first before reaching a rematch with the Super Bowl champions?

"I don't know if they misread the schedule or didn't play us this week, but they didn't acknowledge us at all," Jacksonville linebacker Myles Jack said. "And we didn't take that too kindly."

Not at all. That shouldn't be a problem going forward.

The Jaguars, yes the Jaguars, have the NFL's full attention now. A trip to Foxborough on the horizon, too.

Dominant at the start and resilient at the finish, Jacksonville stunned the Steelers 45-42 on Sunday to advance to the AFC title game for the third time in franchise history and maybe, finally, earn a bit of respect.

Leonard Fournette ran for 109 yards and three scores. Embattled quarterback Blake Bortles added 214 yards passing and a pivotal fourth-quarter touchdown as the third-seeded Jaguars (12-6) beat the second-seeded Steelers (13-4) at Heinz Field for the second time in three months.

The victory in October served notice Jacksonville was ready to put a decade of losing firmly behind. This one sent an even bigger message: overlook the Jaguars at your own peril, something Pittsburgh appeared to do in the run-up. Coach Mike Tomlin hinted at facing the Patriots twice back in December. Running back Le'Veon Bell posted on Twitter about the pair of "round 2s" the Steelers will face in coming weeks.

Turns out, one rematch is all the Steelers will get.

"We knew we had this team's number," Jacksonville safety Barry Church said. "All we did was feed on the fuel that everybody was providing, the media, everybody was talking about how they're going to run through us, it's not going to be like last (time). Blake Bortles this. Blake Bortles that. all he did was dominate their defense."

A week removed from an ugly performance in a wild-card round win over Buffalo in which he passed for 87 yards and struggled with the easiest of throws, Bortles went 14 of 26 for a touchdown without an interception. He ran for 35 more and wasn't sacked by a defense that led the NFL and set a franchise record with 55 during the season. Jacksonville's 45 points tied the most ever allowed by the Steelers in

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the playoffs.

Not bad for an offense that at times simply appeared along for the ride as the NFL's top defense carried the load.

"Blake Bortles has always been criticized," Fournette said. "It is different now. He has guys that have his back, especially me."

Certainly looked it as Fournette scored two first-quarter touchdowns. The Jaguars built a 21-point lead and responded whenever the Steelers rallied to get within one score.

"The guys played with confidence all day long," Bortles said. "Obviously, what they have on their side of the ball, it's a good team. We know they got a good offense. We knew we were going to have to be efficient, hold on to the ball for a little bit, so we did it."

Ben Roethlisberger threw for 469 yards and set a franchise record with five touchdown passes, but was also intercepted once and had a fumble returned for a score. All-Pro Antonio Brown caught seven passes for 132 yards and two touchdowns in his return from a left calf injury. Bell had 155 yards of total offense and two scores.

But Pittsburgh's vaunted "Killer Bs" couldn't keep pace with Jacksonville, one of four NFL franchises to never make the Super Bowl.

"It's disheartening," Brown said. "I thought we had the right group of guys."

The Jaguars dominated the Steelers on Oct. 8, winning by three touchdowns in a performance so overwhelming Roethlisberger only half-jokingly wondered aloud whether he still had "it" after throwing a career-high five picks.

Roethlisberger and his teammates left little doubt they hoped for a rematch, though Jacksonville cornerback A.J. Bouye cautioned Pittsburgh to be careful what it wished for. The Jaguars hardly appeared intimidated by the 18-degree chill or trying to earn their first road playoff win in a decade.

"I'm sure there will still be tons of people that are going to disapprove and talk negative or hate or do whatever they want," Bortles said. "But we get to keep playing and we get an opportunity to play in Foxborough next week for another week. Just honored to be able to do this especially with this group of guys."

"It's been an awesome year. Just want to keep it going."

FOURTH AND WOE

Pittsburgh rolled up 545 yards of offense, but it's 2 yards the Steelers didn't get that helped send them into an offseason filled with questions.

Twice Pittsburgh had fourth-and-1 in Jacksonville territory. Twice the Steelers did something other than have the 6-foot-5 Roethlisberger sneak. Pittsburgh ran wide in the first quarter and Bell was stuffed for a 4-yard loss. The Jaguars responded immediately by going 75 yards in 11 plays, the final one a 4-yard sprint by T.J. Yeldon that put them up 21-0.

The Steelers were down a touchdown early in the fourth quarter and had fourth-and-inches at the Jacksonville 39. Roethlisberger checked at the line of scrimmage, faked a handoff to Bell and instead threw incomplete to diving rookie JuJu Smith-Schuster.

"It's been a while since I've run a quarterback sneak, I'm for it," said Roethlisberger, who added he will return in 2018. "That's kind of over my head when it comes to why we don't do it. I'm not going to sit here and second guess why we didn't quarterback sneak. I don't know how many years it's been since we quarterback sneaked."

UP NEXT

The Jaguars travel to New England, where they were beaten in the 1996 AFC title game.

The Steelers, despite tying for the league's best record, head home.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Plane dangles off cliff after skidding off runway in Turkey

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY, Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — A commercial airplane that skidded off a runway after landing in northern Turkey dangled precariously Sunday off a muddy cliff with its nose only a few feet from the Black Sea.

Some of the 168 people on board the Boeing 737-800 described it as a “miracle” that everyone was evacuated safely from the plane, which went off a runway at Trabzon Airport.

Images show the aircraft on its belly and perched at an acute angle just above the water. If it had slid any further along the slope, the plane would have likely plunged into the sea in the Turkish province of Trabzon.

Pegasus Airlines said no one was injured during the incident late Saturday, despite the panic among the 162 passengers on board Flight PC8622. The six-member crew, including two pilots, was also evacuated. Flights were suspended at Trabzon Airport for several hours before resuming again Sunday.

Passenger Yuksel Gordu told Turkey’s official Anadolu news agency that words weren’t enough to describe the fear on the aircraft.

“It’s a miracle we escaped. We could have burned, exploded, flown into the sea,” Gordu said. “Thank God for this. I feel like I’m going crazy when I think about it.”

Another passenger, Fatma Gordu, told private Dogan news agency that there was a loud sound after landing.

“We swerved all of a sudden,” she said. “The front of the plane crashed and the back was in the air. Everyone panicked.”

Trabzon Gov. Yucel Yavuz said investigators were trying to determine why the plane had left the runway. The prosecutor’s office launched an investigation.

The flight originated in the Turkish capital, Ankara.

Airport officials would not discuss the status of plane Sunday and whether it had been towed off the slope.

France vs. fake news offers test case for democratic dilemma

By ANGELA CHARLTON and OLEG CETINIC, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Can a democratic country outlaw fake news?

France is about to find out, after President Emmanuel Macron ordered a law to quash false information disseminated around electoral campaigns.

Criticism is pouring in from media advocates, tech experts — and Kremlin-backed broadcaster RT. They say the law smacks of authoritarianism, would be impossible to enforce and is sure to backfire.

Macron’s stance “could be just the beginning of actually censoring freedom of speech. We believe it is a very dangerous situation,” Xenia Fedorova, director of RT’s newly launched French-language channel, told The Associated Press.

Yet in a world where a falsehood can reach billions instantaneously and political manipulation is increasingly sophisticated, Macron argues something must be done.

A congressional report by U.S. Democrats released Thursday detailed apparent Russian efforts to undermine politics in 19 European countries since 2016, using cyberattacks, disinformation, clandestine social media operations, financing of fringe political groups and, in extreme cases, assassination attempts. Macron’s own campaign suffered a big hacking attack last year, though the government later said it found no proof of Russian involvement.

Propaganda and disinformation aren’t new or unique to Russia. Author and technology historian Edward Tenner argues that fake news is as old as George Washington’s cherry tree — an enduring but untrue legend about the first U.S. president.

While democracies usually rely on defamation and libel laws to combat false publications, Macron wants more.

In a New Year’s speech to journalists, he said he’s ordering a new “legal arsenal” that would oblige news sites to reveal who owns them and where their money comes from. It could cap the money allowed for

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content seen as aimed at swaying an election and allow emergency legal action to block websites. The French broadcast regulator's power would expand to allow it to suspend media seen as trying to destabilize a vote — notably those "controlled or influenced by foreign powers."

That probably means outlets such as RT — whose coverage was seen as favoring far-right candidate Marine Le Pen in last year's French election and which many consider a tool of the Russian government — and Sputnik, another Russian-backed outlet that drew attention for reporting a rumor during the French presidential campaign that Macron was having a gay affair.

He denied it, and beat Le Pen anyway, but never forgot.

RT's Fedorova says they are being unfairly targeted. Speaking from RT's gleaming French studios on the banks of the Seine River, she says she struggled to get permits to open in France, and her journalists are routinely barred from the Elysee Palace after Macron accused RT and Sputnik last year of being "organs" of Russian influence.

RT France's coverage appears broadly similar to other French networks, with a slightly greater emphasis on street violence and migrants. The biggest difference: its extensive coverage of Syria, which stresses the views of the Russian and Syrian governments.

"RT stands for giving the floor, the platform to different opinions, and I personally believe that diversity of voices is absolutely necessary in order to have the big picture," said Fedorova, who says RT will be watching Macron's plan closely.

Media freedom watchdog Reporters Without Borders is also watching closely. It has decried fake news as undermining journalists who work hard to uncover wrongdoing and verify information, but the group is wary of Macron's order.

"We are not opposed to the principle of a law against fake news. But the point is to be able to write a law without endangering the freedom to reveal things," the group's chief, Christophe Deloire, told the AP.

"Probably our democracies have to be defended in front of the fake news wave," he said, but not "with the ways that despotic countries use."

His group, also known by French acronym RSF, is working with partners on a potential certification system that could classify news sources according to their verification methods, transparency about financing and other criteria — and leave it up to the public to decide what to believe.

As France's government prepares its bill, it will be learning lessons from a German law that went into effect this month cracking down on hate speech on social networks. Some fear legitimate posts by satirists or journalists are being accidentally caught up in the dragnet.

Shutting down websites can also backfire by calling more attention to them.

"The only long-term solution for the fake news problem is a more sophisticated public," Tenner said.

"Sophisticated manipulators of facts will always find a way around whatever regulations are in place," such as creating a front company to sponsor a website or writing "something that is misleading and inflammatory that is factually true," he said.

Daniel Castro, vice president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, outlines another problem: "People like fake news. It reinforces their beliefs."

Macron is prompting "a very valid conversation" about campaign funding and transparency. But "where it runs into trouble is when they try to define fake news," he said.

The Macron government's digital affairs chief is lucid about the challenges ahead.

"This is the beginning of the debate. We won't go too fast," Mounir Mahjoubi told the AP.

He insists governments shouldn't remain complacent, especially with elections coming up in Italy, Russia and the U.S., and for the European Parliament next year.

"We need to ask this question," he said, "and work all together on what can be done."

David Rising in Berlin and Jona Kallgren in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

Kennedy targets gun violence in Illinois governor campaign

By SARA BURNETT, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Few people running for public office have been more personally affected by gun violence than Chris Kennedy, who was a child when his father and uncle, Sen. Robert Kennedy and President John F. Kennedy, were assassinated.

Now the 54-year-old Democrat has made the issue a centerpiece of his campaign for Illinois governor, talking often about growing up without a father and family trips to Arlington National Cemetery, and saying too many people in Chicago and elsewhere in Illinois are dealing with the same kind of pain.

The move has brought endorsements from African-American leaders, including U.S. Reps. Bobby Rush and Danny Davis, and could help Kennedy earn support in the March primary from black voters who have been disproportionately hurt by gun violence.

But it's also put him at odds with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and some others and prompted accusations of race baiting, after Kennedy said much of the violence is due to systemic disinvestment in black neighborhoods. He accused Emanuel, the former White House chief of staff, of pushing black people out of the city through a "strategic gentrification plan" that includes cutting funding for police and public schools.

"Our government needs to be held accountable for subjecting our communities to a life of crimes of survival," Kennedy told supporters. "We can reduce and control gun violence in our communities, but we need to be honest with ourselves about why it's happening."

Emanuel called the comments "hallucinatory" and said he would like to hear "ideas, not insults," while a mayoral spokesman said it was "a direct assault on one of this city's greatest strengths — our diversity."

Kennedy's other critics, including campaign rivals, called the comment hypocritical, noting he was praising Emanuel not long ago and even donated \$5,000 to his campaign. The Chicago Tribune, in an editorial, called it "a cynical and divisive pitch for votes."

Kennedy is one of six Democrats seeking the party's nomination March 20 for the chance to unseat first-term Gov. Bruce Rauner, who's widely considered one of the most vulnerable Republican incumbents up for re-election this fall. Among the other Democrats running are state Sen. Daniel Biss and billionaire businessman J.B. Pritzker, who's scooped up endorsements from Democratic county officials and major unions, including the Illinois Education Association.

Rush and Davis, who have both lost family members to the city's violence, said they're backing Kennedy because he's put violence prevention and gun control at the top of his agenda.

Speaking at a campaign event this month at a church in a west side Chicago neighborhood where homicides have spiked in recent years, Rush said it was "the first time in my lifetime" Illinois has a gubernatorial candidate who knows how violence rips apart a family and a community. Kennedy's father was killed as he ran for president in 1968, years after John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"He understands. He gets it," Rush said. "We don't have to sit down and go over violence."

Joining them was Nate Pendleton, whose 15-year-old daughter, Hadiya, was shot and killed days after returning from President Barack Obama's 2013 inauguration, and Kennedy's running mate, Ra Joy, whose 23-year-old son was fatally shot last summer, apparently by someone trying to steal his cellphone.

Chicago police recorded 650 homicides in 2017, down from the year before but still more killings than in New York City and Los Angeles combined.

Kennedy criticized Chicago officials for celebrating the decrease. He said the city is using a strategy of "selective containment" in which violence is allowed to continue in certain neighborhoods and minorities are pushed out Chicago, making the city "whiter."

He says his plan to reduce violence would include more investment in neighborhoods, reducing poverty and tougher gun control measures — an approach similar to that of his opponents.

Emanuel said he has worked to reverse the decline in the city's black population and reduce violence across Chicago.

Also seeking the Democratic nomination are regional schools superintendent Bob Daiber, activist Tio Hardiman and physician Robert Marshall. Rauner faces a GOP primary challenge from conservative state Rep. Jeanne Ives.

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Joy, angst over pope visit to Chile's restive Mapuche region

By MAURICIO CUEVAS and PETER PRENGAMAN

TEMUCO, Chile (AP) — When Pope Francis visits the de facto capital of Chile's Mapuche people, he will be inserting himself into one of Latin America's longest-running conflicts involving indigenous populations, and one that periodically erupts in violence.

Leaders of both the Mapuches and the Chilean government have said in recent weeks they hope Francis can facilitate dialogue on disputes dating to the late 19th century, when the Mapuches, known for their ferocity resisting Spanish and other European settlers, were definitively defeated by the Chilean military.

At stake are many thorny issues: ownership of ancestral lands in the southern Araucania region, legal recognition of the Mapuches' language and culture, and discrimination that their leaders say permeates all facets of life.

"In practical terms, we as a people don't exist. It's shameful," said Hugo Alcaman, president of ENAMA, a Mapuche group that encourages local businesses and advocates social change. "We need negotiations. We hope that the pope plants the seeds for it to happen."

How far the pope goes in any statement supporting the Mapuches will be closely watched, and even fretted over. Francis, a native of neighboring Argentina and the first pope from Latin America, has shown strong support for indigenous peoples during visits in other countries. In Bolivia in 2015, he went so far as to apologize for the Roman Catholic Church's "grave sins" committed against indigenous communities during the colonial era.

His visit to Temuco on Wednesday takes him to a region of high volatility. While the vast majority of Chile's estimated 1 million citizens of Mapuche descent oppose using violence, a small number use it to push their agenda.

In recent years scores of churches have been among the targets — including three firebombed Friday in the nation's capital, Santiago. Like in previous incidents in Araucania, pamphlets extolling the Mapuche cause were found at the scene of one of the churches, though no arrests were made and no group has claimed responsibility.

"There is both hope and worry about the pope's visit," said Emilio Taladriz, director of Multigremial de la Araucania, a conglomerate of unions across several industries. "The area is still one of conflict."

Protests are expected in Temuco, including outside the Maquehue Air Base where the pope will celebrate Mass. It was built on land that was taken from Mapuches in the early 20th century and remains a point of friction.

Chilean authorities plan to deploy more than 4,000 police officers in Temuco's streets as, flanked by 16 police vehicles, Francis rides in the popemobile down a central avenue before visiting an order of nuns.

A Mapuche choir will participate in the Mass, and afterward the pope will have lunch with a group of Mapuches hand-picked by local bishops.

Fernando Diaz, a priest in the Temuco area who has worked with Mapuches for years, expressed disappointment that Francis is not scheduled to meet with any of the leaders of the cause.

"The visit has been planned so the pope sees as little of the reality as possible," Diaz said.

Massimo Faggioli, a Vatican expert and theology professor at Villanova University in Philadelphia, said every papal visit disappoints someone over who gets or does not get an audience, but the pope generally finds a way to carve out time for what is important to him.

"Usually Francis has a good ear and tries to adapt," said Faggioli.

The first papal visit to Chile since Saint John Paul II in 1987 comes as the Catholic Church's role with indigenous peoples in the Andean nation of 17 million people has shifted.

During the 1973-1990 dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, many Chilean bishops pushed to protect

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native peoples and get their cultures recognized. But today the hierarchy is much more aligned with business interests.

In 1987, John Paul II gave a pointed nod to Mapuches that surely prompted cringes within Pinochet's government, which was unsympathetic toward indigenous groups and cracked down on any form of dissent.

During his homily, John Paul said faith in God could overcome all human-caused problems, implicitly referring to friction between Mapuches and the Chilean state.

"It's for this reason that the pope, from Temuco, encourages the Mapuches to conserve with healthy pride the culture of its people," the former pontiff said, adding that included "the traditions and customs, the language and its own values."

Since then, the Mapuches have made significant strides. The return of democracy in Chile in the 1990s set the stage for creation of a government body, the National Corporation of Indigenous Development, that is dedicated to issues related to the country's native peoples and spurred many changes.

Some ancestral lands have been returned. University scholarships have been set aside for Mapuches along with other benefits not open to all Chileans. Various aspects of Mapuche culture, such as many foods, have become part of the mainstream.

Still, problems persist, ranging from economic to social. Araucania remains the country's poorest region, and Mapuches complain of frequent abuse at the hands of security forces.

One case that reverberated strongly in the community involved the arrest of two Mapuche brothers, ages 13 and 17, while police were searching for five wanted Mapuche men in December 2016.

The 17-year-old, Brandon Hernandez Huentecol, was shot in the back by a police officer while face-down on the ground, resulting in a nearly two-month stay in the hospital and several surgeries for a shattered pelvis.

The officer has not been charged and failed to appear in court in response to a summons to testify.

Over a year later, the boy's mother is beseeching Francis to bring his influence to bear.

"I know you are a man who professes Christian values and love for thy neighbor and for those who can't defend themselves," Ada Huentecol, said recently in an open letter to the pope. "That is why I ask that you help us, that you speak up and demand justice for my son."

Associated Press writer Mauricio Cuevas reported from Temuco, and Peter Prengaman reported from Paihuano, Chile.

Follow Prengaman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/peterprengaman

Chelsea Manning confirms US Senate run

By The Associated Press

NORTH BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Chelsea Manning on Sunday confirmed via Twitter that she is a candidate for U.S. Senate.

Three days after making her intention known to federal election officials, Manning tweeted "yup, we're running for senate" with an attached campaign video indicating her intention to run in the 2018 Maryland Democratic primary. She sent a subsequent tweet seeking donations to her campaign.

The 71-second video weaves together images of white supremacists holding tiki torches in Charlottesville, Virginia, as well as protesters clashing with police elsewhere.

"We live in trying times . times of fear . of suppression . of hate," Manning said.

The montage shifts to the U.S. Capitol and President Donald Trump sitting with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, both Democrats.

"We don't need more or better leaders," Manning continued. "We need someone willing to fight. We need to stop asking them to give us our rights. They won't support us. They won't compromise."

The video also shows Manning holding a rose and ends with her saying, "You're damn right we got this."

The 30-year-old Manning filed her statement of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission on

Thursday.

Known as Bradley Manning at the time of her 2010 arrest, the former Army intelligence analyst was convicted of leaking classified documents to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks.

Manning came out as transgender after being sentenced to 35 years in prison. President Barack Obama granted Manning clemency before leaving office last year.

Manning is running as a Democrat and will likely challenge two-term Sen. Ben Cardin in the primary.

When Manning was released from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in May, she told the AP in an email that she was eager to define her future — but made no mention of politics.

The Oklahoma native had planned to move to Maryland, where she has an aunt. She has been registered to vote at the apartment in North Bethesda since mid-August, according to the Maryland State Board of Elections.

Her recent move would not affect a Senate bid. To run for that office, a person must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen for nine years and an inhabitant of the state at election time, according to the Maryland State Board of Elections. A felony conviction does not appear to preclude a run.

Manning is yet to file for the primary with the state elections board, which she must do in person by Feb. 27, according to the board's website.

Cardin is also yet to file. But campaign finance reports show that his organization had nearly \$2 million cash on hand in late September.

Medicaid work mandate will create uncertainty in some states

By **ANDREW DeMILLO** and **GRETCHEN EHLKE**, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Republicans this past week began to realize their long-held goal of requiring certain adults to work, get job training or perform community service in exchange for getting health coverage through Medicaid.

Whether that's a commonsense approach or an added burden that will end up costing many Americans their health insurance will now be debated in states across the country considering the landmark change to the nation's largest health insurance program.

To Medicaid recipients such as Thomas J. Penister of Milwaukee, it's created uncertainty about their ability to have health coverage.

He's been unemployed for the last four or five years and has received Medicaid for the past two. He sees a behavioral health specialist to deal with anxiety and said Medicaid has made a big difference in his life.

Penister, 36, said he is not yet ready to rejoin the workforce and is unnerved by the prospect of potentially losing Medicaid. His state, Wisconsin, is one of 10 that applied to the federal government for a waiver seeking to implement work and other requirements for single adults.

"Would it be advantageous for me even to go into the workforce instead of me therapeutically transitioning to a state where I'm actually ready to perform in the workforce?" he said. He compared it to someone recovering from a car accident "and saying that in order for me to give you this medication, you got to go to work. Well, I can't."

Yet his story also helps make the case for those who favor some type of commitment from working-age adults who benefit from Medicaid, the state-federal health care program for poor and lower-income Americans. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican, sought federal approval for a work requirement last year and said it helps prepare recipients to leave public assistance.

Penister's status is unclear, because Wisconsin's proposed changes would exempt anyone diagnosed with a mental illness or who is mentally unable to work.

Republicans say work and other requirements will return Medicaid to its original intent — to act as a stopgap until people can find work. They say it has expanded far beyond its basic mission.

The program, created in 1965 for families on welfare and low-income seniors, now covers more than 70 million people, or about 1 in 5 Americans. It expanded under President Barack Obama's health care law,

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with a majority of states choosing to cover millions more low-income people.

President Donald Trump's administration announced that it will allow states to implement certain requirements as a condition of receiving Medicaid benefits. Generally, it will mean that states can require many adults on Medicaid to get a job, go to school, take a job-training course or perform community service to continue their eligibility.

Ten states had previously asked the federal government for the requirement waiver, and others are sure to follow. On Friday, Kentucky became the first to have it approved. Gov. Matt Bevin, a Republican, called the new requirement "transformational."

Bevin has said he expects the move to save the state more than \$300 million over the next five years in Medicaid costs. But he also estimated that as many as 95,000 Kentucky residents could lose their Medicaid benefits, either because they will not comply with the new rules or will make too much money once they begin working.

Critics of the policy shift point to the number of people who could lose coverage, even if they meet the new requirements.

"We just have concerns that a lot of people who still are legitimately eligible, who do meet the work requirement, will end up falling off the rolls because they don't know how to verify or there's a technology glitch," said Marquita Little, health policy director for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

In Arkansas, the work requirement is among several new restrictions the state has proposed for its hybrid Medicaid expansion. About 285,000 people are on the program, which uses money from Medicaid to buy private health insurance for low-income people.

Supporters of the work requirement cast it as a way to move more people into the workforce and eventually off the program.

"These are people that are either underemployed or do not have sufficient training, and this is a mechanism to put into place to make sure that the health care coverage is really a bridge to training and better employment," Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a Republican, told The Associated Press. "I think it really fits in with the goals of our state in increasing our workforce and training our workforce."

States face limits on how far they can go. The administration has said states should exempt pregnant women, the disabled and the elderly, and that they should take into account hardships for people in areas with high unemployment or for people caring for children or elderly relatives. States also have to make accommodations for people in treatment for drug and alcohol problems.

Arkansas' waiver request to the federal government says it would require childless, able-bodied adults on expanded Medicaid between the ages of 19 and 49 to work 20 hours a week or participate in other activities such as job training or volunteering.

In Maine, where Republican Gov. Paul LePage is pushing for a work requirement, Democrats are deriding the idea as essentially a political stunt to punish the poor.

"They aren't about getting people back to work. Instead, it's a political move to take health care away from people who have already fallen on hard times," Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon said. "The reality is that Medicaid supports work, and the sooner Governor LePage and the Trump Administration realize this, the better."

Ehlke reported from Milwaukee. Associated Press writers Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin; Adam Beam in Frankfort, Kentucky; Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, Kentucky; and Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine contributed to this report.

Patriots beat Titans 35-14 to head back to AFC title game

By KYLE HIGHTOWER, AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — First, the Patriots tuned out a week full of off-field drama. Then, they silenced the Titans to earn yet another trip to the AFC championship game.

Tom Brady passed for three touchdowns and 337 yards, and New England cruised past Tennessee 35-14

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on Saturday night to advance to their seventh consecutive conference title game.

New England (14-3) will host the winner of Sunday's divisional matchup between Jacksonville and Pittsburgh.

It was Brady's 10th career postseason game with at least three TD tosses, moving him past Joe Montana for the most in NFL history. James White caught a touchdown pass and ran for another, and Danny Amendola had 11 catches for 112 yards.

New England's victory came on the heels of a week filled with turmoil following reports of discord involving Brady, coach Bill Belichick and team owner Robert Kraft.

None of that showed on the field Saturday.

"I've been around long enough," Brady said. "So, 18 years, there's so many nice things said about me. It just goes with the territory."

The Titans (10-8) took an early 7-0 lead, but New England scored 35 straight points to take control.

Marcus Mariota completed 22 of 37 passes for 254 yards and two touchdowns, but was under duress for most of the second half. He was sacked eight times, a Patriots playoff record.

Coach Mike Mularkey said after the game his quarterback strained a quadriceps in the first quarter.

"It had an impact," Mularkey said. "We had to get out of some of our scheme with him."

New England also held Derrick Henry to just 28 yards rushing on 12 carries.

The Titans came back from an 18-point deficit in the second half to beat the Chiefs 22-21 in the wild-card round last week — the largest comeback on the road in the Super Bowl era. But the Patriots didn't give them a chance for an encore.

Leading 14-7, the Patriots stretched their lead to 14 just before halftime thanks to a trio of careless penalties on the Titans.

Tennessee initially forced a three-and-out, but gave up a first down via a fourth-and-5 neutral zone infraction on Brynden Trawick before New England's punt attempt.

Armed with a new set of downs, Brady went to work moving the Patriots down the field with a steady diet of short passes. The Titans helped along the way with illegal contact and unnecessary roughness penalties. It eventually culminated in a 4-yard TD pass from Brady to Chris Hogan in the back of the end zone that made it 21-7.

Brady threw a short shovel pass to White, who ran it in from the 5-yard line to make it 7-7 early in the second quarter.

The Patriots appeared to have a touchdown three plays earlier, when Dion Lewis caught a pass from Brady and was tackled by Wesley Woodyard at the 19. Lewis landed on top of the defender, then got up and continued to the end zone.

The officials initially ruled that he had never been down and called it a touchdown. But replays showed Lewis' butt hit the ground at the 19.

Corey Davis made a one-handed catch on a 15-yard pass from Mariota in the corner of the end zone to give the Titans a 7-0 lead. Mariota had a pair of 11-yard runs to help set up the score.

Davis added an 11-yard TD reception with 1:55 left in the game — and the Titans' season.

INJURIES

Titans: Right tackle Jack Conklin walked off on his own power after injuring a knee in the first quarter. He did not return. ... Tight end Jonnu Smith was carted off in the third quarter with a right leg injury.

Patriots: Right tackle LaAdrian Waddle left with a knee injury early in the third quarter. ... Cornerback Jonathan Jones was helped off the field late in the fourth quarter.

UNFORCED ERRORS

The Titans had 85 penalties in the regular season — the second-fewest in the NFL.

They were flagged 10 times for 62 yards on Saturday, just the second time they had 10 or more this season.

MOVING ON UP

Gronkowski finished with six catches for 81 yards and touchdown. It was his 10th career postseason

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TD. He's tied with five others for third all-time. But it's the most for a tight end.

Gronk also moved into second all-time for a tight end with 835 postseason receiving yards. He passed Keith Jackson, and only Dallas Clark is ahead of him.

UP NEXT

The Patriots will play the winner of Sunday's matchup between the Jaguars and Steelers in the AFC championship game.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Showdowns set: Jags-Patriots in AFC, Vikings-Eagles in NFC

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr., AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Watch out, New England. Here comes Sacksonville.

Get ready, Philly. The Vikings are sailing into town.

Tom Brady and the big game-tested Patriots (14-3) square off against the sack-happy Jacksonville Jaguars (12-6) next Sunday in the AFC championship game in Foxborough, Massachusetts — with the winner headed to the Super Bowl.

"It's been an awesome year," Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles said, "and we want to keep it going."

In the NFC, Nick Foles and the resilient Philadelphia Eagles (14-3) host Case Keenum and the surprising Minnesota Vikings (14-3) — in a matchup of teams that overcame losing their starting quarterbacks.

"They count us out all the time," said Minnesota's Stefon Diggs, whose 61-yard touchdown catch as time expired Sunday gave the Vikings a stunning 29-24 victory. "Nobody thinking we can do it. This game was over. I don't stop playing till the clock hit zero. That's it."

The Vikings open as a 3 1/2-point favorite against the Eagles, while the Patriots open favored by 9 1/2 in their game.

Being here is nothing new, of course, for New England, which has advanced to the Super Bowl in three of the past six seasons.

For fresh-faced Jacksonville, however, this is all rare territory.

The Jaguars are playing in the conference title game for just the third time in franchise history, and first since losing to Tennessee during the 1999 season. Jacksonville is also one of four franchises to never play in the Super Bowl.

"I'm sure there will still be tons of people that are going to disapprove or talk negative or hate or do whatever they want," Bortles said. "But we get to keep playing. We get an opportunity to go play in Foxborough for another week, so I'm just honored to be able to do this and especially with this group of guys."

And, it has all come full circle for Tom Coughlin, who was Jacksonville's coach the previous time the franchise got this far in the postseason.

He went on to win two Super Bowls with the New York Giants — both against Bill Belichick's Patriots — but is now the Jaguars' executive vice president of football operations. He helped assemble a squad with coach Doug Marrone that has been powered by a tenacious defense that ranked second in the NFL during the regular season in sacks.

After a few ho-hum games, Bortles, running back Leonard Fournette and the Jaguars offense showed it isn't too shabby, either, outslugging Ben Roethlisberger and the Pittsburgh Steelers in a stunning 45-42 victory Sunday.

"Obviously, with what they have on their side of the ball, it's a good team and we know they've got a good offense," Bortles said. "We knew we had to keep scoring."

There's also this neat nugget: Jacksonville's first AFC championship game appearance came during the 1996 season — against New England, which went on to play in the Super Bowl under then-coach Bill Parcells and lost to the Brett Favre-led Green Bay Packers.

The Patriots have made it to the AFC championship game for seven straight seasons, clinching this trip with a 35-14 drubbing of the Tennessee Titans on Saturday night.

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"The reality of the NFL is what we did this week will have nothing to do with what happens next week," Brady said. "We're going to have to go repeat it, so you've got to get right back to work, right back to the process of trying to figure out how to break down our opponent.

"Everyone's got to feel good physically and mentally and go out there and try to cut it loose one more time in a huge game."

The Patriots know how to do that, and they're masters of tuning out distractions. Despite a published report during the week that raised questions about the relationships between Brady, Belichick and team owner Robert Kraft, New England was all business on the field against the Titans.

"It's pretty incredible to be a part of that," Brady said. "I think the thing is that we don't really take it for granted around here. I know how hard it is to get to this game. We're very blessed to do it."

Meanwhile, Philadelphia is playing for the NFC title for the 11th time, but hasn't won it since the 2004 season — when the Eagles went on to lose to the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

"We'll be ready for next week," defensive tackle Fletcher Cox said.

The Eagles used steady play by Foles and a late goal-line stand by their defense to beat the Atlanta Falcons 15-10 on Saturday. It set up Philadelphia's first conference championship appearance since the 2008 season.

And it comes despite the Eagles losing starting quarterback Carson Wentz, a leading MVP contender, to a season-ending knee injury last month.

"Our team never wavered, defense did an amazing job, special teams," Foles said. "That's just been the story this year is that we just all stuck together."

The same can be said of the Vikings, who entered the season with Sam Bradford as their quarterback and had big playoff hopes. But he went down with a knee injury after the first week — and it appeared Minnesota's dreams might be dashed.

Enter Keenum, an unheralded and undrafted backup who ended up having the best season of his career.

To top it off, Keenum combined with Diggs on one of the most stunning plays in NFL playoff history, a winning TD that sent the Vikings to their 10th NFC title game and first since the 2009 season.

"I don't even know right now," Keenum said. "I have no words."

And now, the Vikings, Eagles, Patriots and Jaguars are all one win away from the Super Bowl.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2018. There are 350 days left in the year. This is the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 15, 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

On this date:

In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1777, the people of New Connecticut declared their independence. (The republic later became the state of Vermont.)

In 1892, the original rules of basketball, devised by James Naismith, were published for the first time in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the game originated.

In 1918, Gamal Abdel Nasser, the second president of Egypt, was born in Alexandria.

In 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta.

In 1947, the mutilated remains of 22-year-old Elizabeth Short, who came to be known as the "Black Dahlia," were found in a vacant Los Angeles lot; her slaying remains unsolved.

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In 1961, a U.S. Air Force radar tower off the New Jersey coast collapsed into the Atlantic Ocean during a severe storm, killing all 28 men aboard.

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, retroactively known as Super Bowl I.

In 1978, two students at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Lisa Levy and Margaret Bowman, were slain in their sorority house. (Ted Bundy was later convicted of the crime, and executed.)

In 1989, NATO, the Warsaw Pact and 12 other European countries adopted a human rights and security agreement in Vienna, Austria.

In 1993, a historic disarmament ceremony ended in Paris with the last of 125 countries signing a treaty banning chemical weapons.

In 2009, US Airways Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger ditched his Airbus 320 in the Hudson River after a flock of birds disabled both engines; all 155 people aboard survived.

Ten years ago: Republican Mitt Romney scored his first major presidential primary victory in his native Michigan. During a visit to Saudi Arabia, President George W. Bush warned that surging oil prices threatened the U.S. economy, and urged OPEC nations to boost their output. Actor Brad Renfro, who as a youngster had played the title role in "The Client," was found dead in his Los Angeles home; he was 25.

Five years ago: New York state enacted the nation's toughest gun restrictions and the first since the Newtown, Connecticut, school massacre, including an expanded assault-weapon ban and background checks for buying ammunition. Twin blasts ripped through a university campus in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, killing more than 80 people, most of them students, in the government-controlled part of the city.

One year ago: In his final interview as president, Barack Obama told CBS' "60 Minutes" that the increase of Israeli settlements had "gotten so substantial" that it was inhibiting the possibility of an "effective, contiguous Palestinian state." Former pro wrestler Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, who had just been found not competent to stand trial in the 1983 death of his girlfriend, died at his son-in-law's home near Pompano Beach, Florida, at age 73.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Margaret O'Brien is 80. Actress Andrea Martin is 71. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Randy White is 65. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 61. Rock musician Adam Jones (Tool) is 53. Actor James Nesbitt is 53. Singer Lisa Lisa (Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam) is 51. Actor Chad Lowe is 50. Alt-country singer Will Oldham (aka Bonnie Prince Billy) is 48. Actress Regina King is 47. Actor Eddie Cahill is 40. NFL quarterback Drew Brees is 39. Rapper/reggaeton artist Pitbull is 37. Actor Victor Rasuk is 33. Actress Jessy Schram is 32. Electronic dance musician Skrillex is 30. Singer-songwriter Grace VanderWaal (TV: "America's Got Talent") is 14.

Thought for Today: "A man can't ride your back unless it's bent." — Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968).