

Groton Daily Independent

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Today's Riddle:
**What fastens two people
yet touches only one?**
Answer at end of AP News

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Dakota Outdoors Ad
- 1- Today's Riddle
- 2- Fans treated to a triple feature of close games
- 7- Gun Show Ad
- 7- Farmers Union PSA
- 7- SDHDA Introduces New Program For Recent Graduate Homebuying Assistance
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- 17- 2018 Community Events
- 18- News from the Associated Press

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming
605-725-WOOD
Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098
Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

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

Upcoming Events

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

Fans treated to a triple feature of close games

Basketball fans were treated to three close games Tuesday evening as the Groton Area boys hosted Ipswich.

In the C game, Riley Thurston made a three-pointer with three seconds left to lift Groton Area to



Marshall Lane goes up for the shot over Ipswich's Jacob Nierman. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



The captains from both teams and the officials meet at center court prior to the start of the game. Groton's captains are Marshall Lane, Brandon Keith and Seric Shabazz. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

a 27-25 come from behind win. Groton trailed by as many as 10 points early in the fourth quarter. Chandler Larson led the Tigers with seven points followed by Tristan Traphagen with six, Jackson Cogley and Riley Thurston each had five and Anthony Schinkel and Lucas Simon each added two points.

The junior varsity boys also came from behind to edge out a 36-34 win. Darien Shabazz and Treyton Deigel each had nine points, Kaden Kurtz had seven, Cade Guthmiller six, Austin Jones three and Tristan Traphagen added two points.

The finale showcased two evenly matched teams where the game was tied five times and the lead changed hands eight times before Ipswich pulled out a 37-33 win. Dylan Northrop made two free throws with 48 seconds left to give Ipswich a 35-33 lead. Groton had the ball, but turned it over with 25 seconds left. Forced to foul, Northrop made one of two free throws to make a three-point game, 36-33. Groton still had 24 seconds left on the clock, but ended up throwing the ball away with 3.9 seconds left. Groton fouled Northrop again with 3.2 seconds

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left and he made one of two free throws for the finale 37-33 win.

Brodyn DeHoet led all scorers with 19 points, nine rebounds and three steals. Marshall Lane added four points, Andrew Rintala and Brandon Keith each had three points and Jonathan Doeden and Seric Shabazz each had two points.

Dylan Northrop led Ipswich with 16 points followed by Josh Burgod with eight, William Kadlec had five, Ben Kulea had four and Jacob Nierman added two points.

Groton Area held a 16-13 lead after the first quarter. Groton Area made 53 percent of its field goals and Ipswich made 31 percent in the first quarter. Ipswich outscored Groton Area, 10-7, to tie the game at half

time at 23. In the second quarter, Groton Area made 27 percent of its field goals and Ipswich made 25 percent. The third quarter was very low scoring with both teams scoring four points to send a 27-27 score into the fourth quarter. Groton Area made 22 percent of its shots in the third quarter and Ipswich made 20 percent. In the final period,

Groton Area made 13 percent of its field goals and Ipswich made 26 percent.

For the game, Groton Area was



Seric Shabazz gets his hand on the ball as Dylan Northrop attempts this shot. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Seric Shabazz points the ball to the hoop on this three-point shot. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



It's a pair of number 4s in this photo as Jonathan Doeden shoots over Ipswich's William Kadlec. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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15 of 47 from the field for 32 percent, two of 21 in three-pointers for 10 percent, was one of two from the free throw line off of Ipswich's 10 team fouls, had eight assists with Lane having three, and 20 turnovers with 11 of them being steals as Ben Kulesa snatched the ball away four times and Northrop three.

Ipswich made 11 of 25 field goals for 31 percent, three of 11 three-pointers for 27 percent, was 12 of 21 from the line for 57 percent off of Groton Area's 20 team fouls, had three assists with Kulesa having two, and 18 turnovers of which 10 were steals with DeHoet and Shabazz each having three steals. Ipswich had the edge on the boards, 31-29, with Kadlec having eight for Ipswich.

According to the Ipswich Tribune, it was only the fourth time since 2007 that Ipswich has beaten Groton. Ipswich won in 2015-16, 60-38, in 2008-09, 59-44 and in 2007-08, 85-57.

Action continues on Thursday for Groton Area as the Tigers will be hosting cross-county rival, Aberdeen Roncalli.

- Paul Kosel



Marshall Lane gets his hand on the ball to block the shot by Jacob Nierman. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



In this series of shots, Seric Shabazz hands the ball to Brodyn DeHoet as he goes up for the shot on the assisted play. (Photos by Julianna Kosel)

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Boys Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Ipswich

VISITOR: Ipswich ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
4 William Kadlec	*	2	7	1	4	0	0	3	5	8	2	5	1	3	0	0	24:00
10 Kulesa, Ben	*	1	2	0	0	2	2	2	3	5	2	4	2	1	0	4	24:00
20 Burgod, Josh	*	3	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	8	0	2	0	1	24:00
22 Northrop, Dylan	*	3	14	1	5	9	14	0	3	3	2	16	0	3	0	3	32:00
32 Braun, Dan	*	0	5	0	1	0	3	0	5	5	0	0	0	4	0	1	24:00
12 Nierman, Jacob		1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	24:00
14 Onker, Jaden		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	8:00
30 Simes, Carson		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
54 Moehlenbrink, Reece		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								2	2	4				1			
Team Totals		11	35	3	11	12	21	10	21	31	10	37	3	18	0	11	160

Total FG% - 1st: 7/20 0.350 2nd: 4/15 0.267 Game: 0.314 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/5 0.400 2nd: 1/6 0.167 Game: 0.273 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 7/12 0.583 2nd: 5/9 0.556 Game: 0.571 (5,0)

HOME: Groton ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
11 RINTALA, ANDREW	F	1	5	1	4	0	0	0	4	4	5	3	0	5	0	2	0:00
20 KEITH, BRANDON	F	1	3	0	2	1	2	3	1	4	5	3	2	1	0	0	8:00
42 DEHOET, BRODYN	C	9	17	1	3	0	0	2	7	9	2	19	0	6	0	3	24:00
4 DOEDEN, JONNY	G	1	6	0	3	0	0	3	1	4	3	2	2	3	0	1	16:00
5 SHABAZZ, SERIC	G	1	11	0	8	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	1	1	0	3	32:00
3 SIPPEL, ANTHONY		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	24:00
10 LANE, MARSHALL		2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	3	0	0	1	32:00
14 KURTZ, KADEN		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
34 JONES, AUSTIN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
50 TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	8:00
55 DIEGEL, TREYTON		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								1	1	2				0			
Team Totals		15	47	2	21	1	2	11	18	29	20	33	8	20	0	10	160

Total FG% - 1st: 11/24 0.458 2nd: 4/23 0.174 Game: 0.319 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/9 0.000 2nd: 2/12 0.167 Game: 0.095 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/2 0.500 2nd: 0/0 0.000 Game: 0.500 (1,0)

Technical Fouls: Ips (0)

: GHS (1) 2nd 08:00 42 BRODYN DEHOET

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Ipswich	13	10	4	10	37
Groton	16	7	4	6	33

Last FG: Ipswich 4th-08:00, Groton 4th-08:00

Largest lead: Ipswich by 4 4th-08:00, Groton by 5 1st-08:00

Score tied: 5 times, Lead changed: 5 times

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Boys Junior Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Ipswich

VISITOR: Ipswich ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
32 G, Tucker	*	3	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	1	4	0	1	24:00
40 G, Maxwell	*	4	9	0	2	0	0	2	3	5	1	8	1	3	0	2	32:00
42 G, Ethan	*	2	7	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	2	0	0	32:00
52 W, Dillon	*	0	3	0	0	2	2	0	3	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0:00
55 M, Reece	*	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	7	7	1	0	2	2	0	0	32:00
3 H, Mathew		1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	1	0	2	24:00
24 B, Jared		2	2	0	0	2	4	1	1	2	3	6	2	1	0	0	8:00
44 R, Jordan		1	2	0	0	2	2	3	0	3	1	4	0	1	0	1	8:00
54 M, Lucas		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								3	4	7				0			
Team Totals		13	33	2	10	6	8	9	18	27	15	34	7	15	0	6	160

Total FG% - 1st: 6/17 0.353 2nd: 7/16 0.438 Game: 0.394 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/4 0.250 2nd: 1/6 0.167 Game: 0.200 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/2 0.500 2nd: 5/6 0.833 Game: 0.750 (2,0)

HOME: Groton ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
12 SHABAZZ, DARIEN	F	3	8	1	4	2	2	2	1	3	4	9	0	2	0	1	24:00
34 JONES, AUSTIN	F	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	3	4	1	3	1	1	0	2	24:00
14 KURTZ, KADEN	G	2	7	1	3	2	4	0	1	1	0	7	2	3	0	1	24:00
22 GUTHMILLER, CADE	G	2	5	1	3	1	2	2	0	2	0	6	2	1	0	0	24:00
55 Diegel, Treyton	*	4	10	1	6	0	1	0	3	3	1	9	2	5	0	4	32:00
10 THURSTON, RILEY		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
50 TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		1	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	3	24:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	2	2				0			
Team Totals		13	35	5	17	5	9	7	11	18	8	36	7	12	0	11	160

Total FG% - 1st: 6/19 0.316 2nd: 7/16 0.438 Game: 0.371 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/8 0.250 2nd: 3/9 0.333 Game: 0.294 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/4 0.500 2nd: 3/5 0.600 Game: 0.556 (1,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Ipswich	8	6	15	5	34	
Groton	8	8	11	9	36	

Last FG: Add New Team 4th-08:00, Add New Team 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Add New Team by 9 3rd-08:00, Add New Team by 5 2nd-08:00
 Score tied: 5 times, Lead changed: 4 times

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)

SDHDA Introduces New Program For Recent Graduate Homebuying Assistance

PIERRE, S.D. (12/29/17) – South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced today that South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA) has launched a brand new program aimed at assisting postsecondary graduates in purchasing a first home in South Dakota.

The “Grants for Grads” program will launch Jan. 2, 2018, and will be open to first-time homebuyers who:

- Meet certain income requirements
- Are purchasing a primary residence in-state
- Have not owned a home in the past three years
- Select a home with a purchase price of \$250,200 or less
- Have earned a degree from an accredited postsecondary educational facility within the past 60 months.

“Under this program, graduates will have another incentive to live in South Dakota,” Gov. Dennis Daugaard said. “Getting started in life can be expensive and take some time, especially for those with student loans to repay. Grants for Grads will help those graduates afford their first homes as they begin their careers as a part of South Dakota’s workforce.”

SDHDA plans to offer this program for a limited time through participating lenders, with per-beneficiary assistance at five percent of the loan amount. In order to apply for the program, participants must contact a lender to set an appointment.

View “Grants for Graduates” participating lenders here: <http://www.sdhda.org/homeownership/first-time-homebuyer/lender-list.html>



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")**



The lights are here!

The LED lights for US12 in Groton have arrived! Installation has begun. One of the poles is pictured here beside the base that it will be installed on.

Sutton Legislative Update: Week 1

We're a week into the 93rd legislative session, and this marks my eighth and final year in the Senate. This first week has been a busy one with committee work, the Governor's State of the State address, the State of the Judiciary, and the third annual State of the Tribes Address. Just as last year, I'm serving on the Joint Appropriations Committee, and on Senate State Affairs.

In his final State of the State Address, the Governor focused on a wide range of topics including: workforce and education, transportation, state property, revenue, the environment, government transparency, economic development and taxes, tribal relations, healthcare, juvenile criminal justice, the national guard, and agriculture.

I was happy to hear the Governor speak at length about the importance of education and developing the workforce. I highly value education and believe it to be one of the best forms of economic development. Governor Dugaard focused on the progress that has been made on the work-based education programs, like those at Dakota State University and Southeast Technical Institute, as South Dakota continues to struggle to produce enough skilled workers to meet our needs. Four school districts, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Brookings, and Yankton, are piloting a new work-based education program called Career Launch in line with these efforts. While I support these efforts, I would like to see us do more to offer these opportunities to rural communities and address other untapped education opportunities like early childhood education, which has a major economic impact. South Dakota is one of just five states that invests no state funds toward early childhood education programs. With a toddler of my own at home, I understand the importance of investing in our youth's education at all ages and levels and ensuring accessibility for all South Dakota families. This is why education and economic development are two of my top legislative focuses this session. With unemployment up and new housing starts lagging, we must prioritize making strategic investments that improve the economy and help South Dakota families that are working hard but barely getting by. This session, I am bringing legislation to invest in skills and job training programs in our schools; to offer needs-based scholarships for those looking to advance their careers; to support early childhood education; and to improve affordable housing options in the state through Building South Dakota. Each of these pieces of legislation will improve the economic condition of our hardworking South Dakota families and the South Dakota economy for us all.

The Governor also touched on transparency in government—mentioning the website developed over his tenure called Open SD—that allows anyone to see state finances and financial records. Transparency and government accountability are at the top of my list for legislative priorities this session, as well as campaign finance reform. Campaign finance reform is a topic I hear about often from constituents, and I think the governor missed an opportunity to talk about it and other government accountability measures that could further that effort. Folks are concerned about how much of their tax dollars are being squandered through government corruption and mismanagement. I plan to propose legislation this session that would provide public access to additional government records, require additional retention of fiscal records so we can check into how taxpayer money was spent in the past, and bring back the campaign finance limits that South Dakota voters already approved to limit the influence of money in politics.

One priority the Governor and I—as well as most South Dakotans—share is the value of living within our means and balancing our budget responsibly. As I previously mentioned, I am a member of the appropriations committee that handles the budget, so I've seen firsthand where we can cut unnecessary spending while still making the necessary investments that will grow our economy and prioritize our people.

I look forward to, once again, working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to finish the work South Dakota voters sent us to Pierre to do. The priorities I am fighting for this Legislative Session will help build a stronger South Dakota for you and your family. I encourage anyone to contact me with questions, concerns, and new ideas on how we can improve South Dakota as we move through the legislative session. It is an honor to serve the people of our state in the Senate, and I will continue working hard for all of you and for the great state of South Dakota.

Senator Billie H. Sutton, Senate Minority Leader

The Life of Merlene Dunlavy



Services for Merlene Dunlavy, 69, of Claremont will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, January 19th at the United Methodist Church, Claremont. Rev. Rodney Ulmer will officiate. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the church on Thursday from 5-7 p.m., with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Merlene passed away January 14, 2018 at Avera Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen.

Merlene Clarice was born in Aberdeen at St. Lukes Hospital to Clarion and Merlyn (Terry) Olson on March 2, 1948. She married Thomas Dunlavy at the United Methodist Church in Claremont on August 9, 1975. She was a devoted wife and mother. Merlene went to Stewarts School of Hairstyling in Aberdeen. She owned and operated her own salon, "The Spray Way" and styled hair for many years in Claremont. Merlene was an active participant in many events in Claremont and loved keeping up with the many family

and friends from the area.

Celebrating her life is her husband of 42 years, Thomas of Claremont, her sons, Barry Dunlavy of Aberdeen, Scot (Jackie) Dunlavy of Pierre, three grandchildren, Josephine, Kaitlyn & Spencer, two brothers, Terry Olson of Red Wing, Minnesota, David Olson of Chamberlain and her sister, Darlene (Lyle) Tunheim of Andover.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her brother, Robert Olson, her son, Brandy, brother-in-laws, Dale Dunlavy, LaVoy F. Ragels, David Peterson, Robert Dunlavy, Norman Ragels and sister-in-law, Helen Ragels.

Honorary Casketbearers will be Josephine Dunlavy and Kaitlyn Dunlavy.

Casketbearers will be Spencer Dunlavy, Garth Dunlavy, Cory Olson, Jamie Morris, Dean Ragels and Don VanderVorst.

Noem: Free Speech is Not Optional on College Campuses, It's a Right

Sioux Falls, S.D. – Rep. Kristi Noem today endorsed H.B.1073, which would protect free speech on South Dakota's college campuses.

"More and more, we're seeing certain voices - often conservative or Christian voices - purposely silenced on our college campuses," said Noem. "While these are places where the free expression of ideas should thrive, college campuses, including some in South Dakota, are showing a growing intolerance toward free speech. Given the rising level of censorship and the concerning limits placed on student's exposure to differing perspectives, it's important the legislature act to permanently protect intellectual diversity on taxpayer-funded campuses. Free speech in these places is not optional. It is a constitutional right students are entitled to."

South Dakota Retailers Association Board Elections

Gary Cammack Re-elected South Dakota Retailers Association Board President

State Senator Gary Cammack of Cammack Ranch Supply in Union Center has been re-elected President of the South Dakota Retailers Association Board of Directors. Cammack has served on the SDRA Board since 2009, and was first elected as President of the Board a year ago. He was re-elected to the post at the Association's annual meeting in Pierre on January 8.

As President, Cammack will serve on SDRA's Executive Board, as well as the Member Services and Investment Committees.

Other 2018 Officers

Terry Van De Walle Continues as President-Elect

Terry Van De Walle of WR Hospitality in Sioux Falls was re-elected President-Elect at the Annual Meeting. He has served on the SDRA Board since 2010, was Secretary-Treasurer in 2015 and 2016, and was named to the President-Elect post in 2017. In addition to serving on the Executive Board, he will serve on the Association's Legislative, Member Services, Investment, and ProStart committees.

RF Buche Re-elected Secretary-Treasurer

RF Buche of GF Buche Company based in Wagner has been re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. Buche has served on the SDRA Board since 2012. In addition to serving on the Executive Board, he will chair the Association's Investment Committee, and will also serve on the Legislative and Awards committees.

Dan Tribby Continues as Past President

Dan Tribby of Prairie Edge in Rapid City continues in his role as SDRA's immediate Past President. He has served on the SDRA Board since 2007, and served as President of the Board in 2015 and 2016.

In addition to being on the Executive Board, Tribby will serve on SDRA's Executive Board, chair the Legislative Committee, and serve on the Member Services and Investment committees.

Seven Board Members Re-elected

- Sarah Husted of Wall Drug in Wall was elected to a second three-year term. She has served on the Board of Directors since 2015. This year, she chairs SDRA's Scholarship Committee and will serve on the Awards and ProStart committees.

- Chris Johnson of The Clock Shop and Presidential Pawn in Rapid City was elected to a second three-year term. He has served on the Board of Directors since 2015. This year, he will serve on the Legislative, Scholarship and Awards committees.

- Clancy Kingsbury of Who's Hobby House in Rapid City has served on the Board of Directors since being appointed in January 2016 to fill an unexpired term, and has now been elected to a three-year term. This year, he will serve on SDRA's Legislative, Member Services and Scholarship committees.

- Jason Parker of 1481 Grille in Arlington was elected to a second three-year term. He has served on the Board of Directors since 2015. This year, he will chair SDRA's ProStart Committee and will serve on the Awards and Philanthropy committees.

- Eric Sinclair of Montgomery's in Sioux Falls was elected to a second three-year term. He has served on the Board of Directors since 2015. He also served a one-year term on the Services Corporation Board in 2014. This year, Eric will serve on the Legislative, Member Services, and Investment committees.

- DeLon Mork of the Dairy Queen in Madison was elected to a second one-year term on the Association's Services Corporation Board. Mork has served on the board since 2006, and served as President in 2014, and Past President in 2015 and 2016. This year, he will serve on SDRA's Legislative, Member Services and ProStart committees.

- Tom Roberts of FastSigns in Pierre was elected to another one-year term on the Association's Services Corporation Board. Roberts served on the Association's Board from 2003 to 2010, and was Board President in 2008. This year, he will chair SDRA's Member Services Committee, and will serve on SDRA's Legislative and Investment committees.

SDRA board members are responsible for setting policy for the Association, determining the organization's legislative positions, and implementing membership programs and services.

*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 17, 1996: Two to as much as fifteen inches of snow, high winds from 40 to 60 mph, and cold arctic air resulted in blizzard conditions and extreme wind chills from 40 below to 70 below from the middle morning of the 17th to the early evening of the 18th. Most schools, federal, state, and county offices were closed. Various activities also canceled. Travel was tough due to the near zero visibility with some vehicles stranded. Highway 12 from Webster to the Minnesota border and Interstate-29 closed on the 18th. Hundreds of people were stranded with some people stranded in their vehicles. Some pheasants and wildlife were lost due to the snow packed so hard they could not dig out. Some snowfall amounts include; 2 inches at Highmore, 3 inches at Pierre and 9NE Reliance, 5 inches at Mobridge, Presho, Roscoe, 10SE Stephan, and Ree Heights, 6 inches at Tulare, 7 inches 12W Tulare and 5E 3S Faulkton, 8 inches 11E 2S Hosmer and at Doland, 9 inches at Mellette, Aberdeen, and Redfield, and 10 inches at Eureka and Britton, and 12 inches at Wilmot, Rosholt, and Ortonville, Minnesota. Fifteen inches occurred at Wheaton, Clinton, and Graceville. The extreme wind chills along with some blowing snow continued across central and north central South Dakota into the early evening of the 18th.

January 17, 2012: Below are some very rare lake effect waterspouts. Chris Westcott took these pictures in the vicinity of Lower Brule. The waterspouts form from the instability created when the air associated with the relatively warm open waters of the Missouri River interacts with the frigid air located just above the surface. These types of waterspouts have a very short lifespan and dissipate just as quickly as they form. Chris saw six of them at one time.

1490: On the night of January 17 through the 18th, a "certain fine rain, which froze whilst it fell, and make icicles upon trees" occurred in Florence, Italy. "There was such a quantity of it, that the weight bowed the trees down to the ground and broke the branches." The above is from "A Florentine Diary from 1450 to 1516" by Landucci, Luca.

1837: The green flash was apparently first documented by Captain Back of the H. M. S. Terror while in the Arctic during its expedition of 1836-1837. He wrote: "In the morning however, at a quarter before ten o'clock while standing on an ice hummock about 17 feet high, and looking toward the east, I had observed the upper limb of the sun, as it filled a triangular cleft on the ridge of the headland, of the most brilliant emerald color, a phenomenon which I had not witnessed before in these regions."

1916: Reno Nevada received 22.5 inches of snow, its greatest 1-day snowfall total ever.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

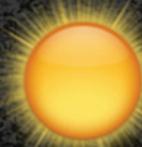
1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 36 °F	Low: 14 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 38 °F

Turning Milder Through Weeks End!

Today	Thursday	Friday
25 - 42°	37 - 50°	40 - 50°
		

warmest temperatures over South Central South Dakota

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

graphic created
1/17/2018 3:18 AM

Published on: 01/17/2018 at 3:22AM

Southerly to southwesterly breezes will usher in a milder air mass to the region through the rest of the work week. Meanwhile, little if any precipitation is expected through Saturday.

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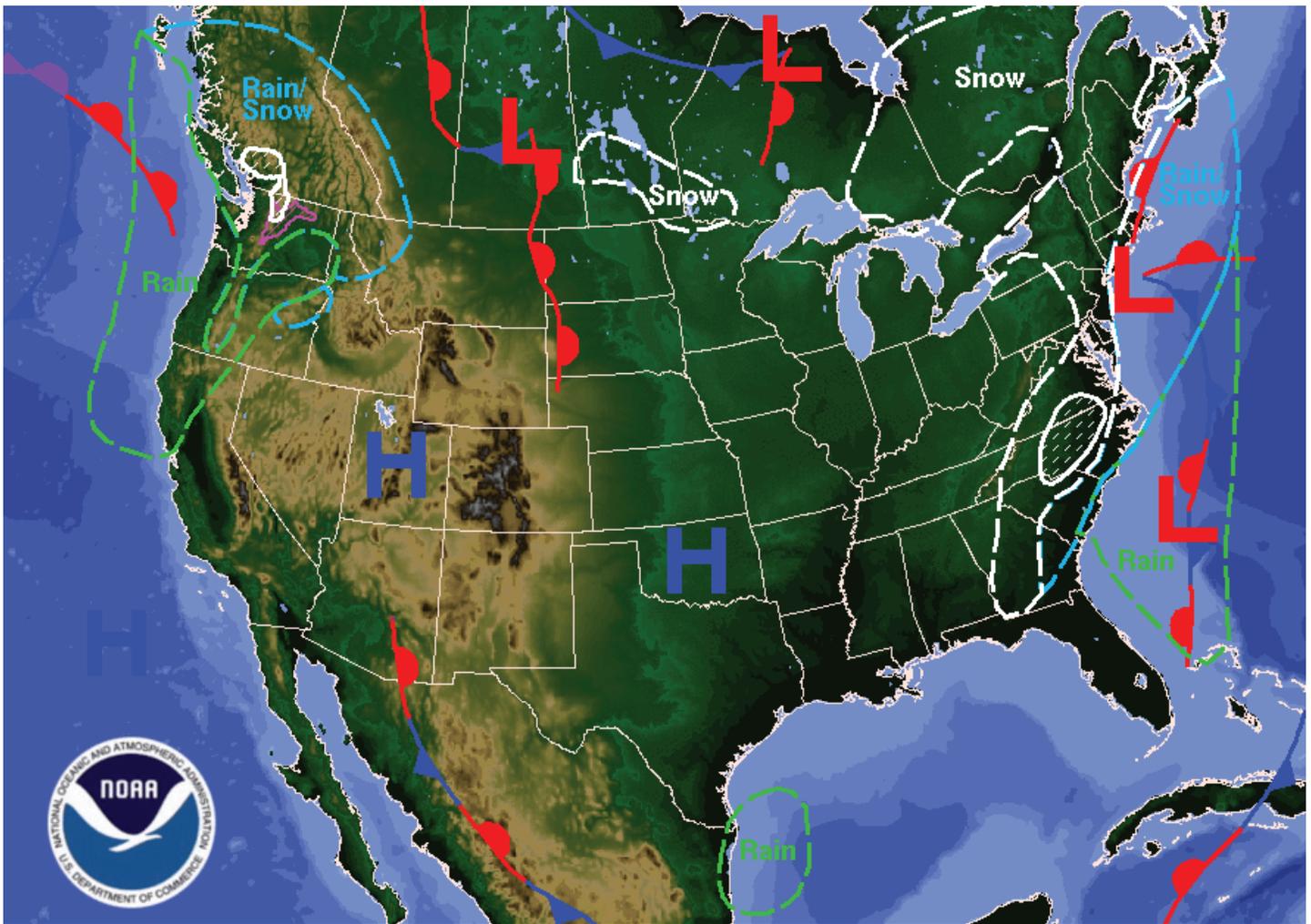
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 7.0
Low Outside Temp: -15.2
Wind Chill: -
High Gust: 16
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 48° in 1947
Record Low: -32° in 1997
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 1°F
Average Precip in Jan: 0.28
Precip to date in Jan: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.28
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:19 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Jan 17, 2018, issued 4:25 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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THE SOURCE OF HAPPINESS

A man whose wealth exceeded his common sense was once asked, "How much money does a man need to be happy?" His reply was quick and honest: "Just a little more!" Many "things" promise satisfaction and happiness at a distance. But as possessions increase and wealth accumulates, expectations once valued are never fulfilled.

It is different with those who seek the Lord. In Psalm 84 the author wrote, "Blessed – or happy – are those whose strength is in You, who have set their hearts on being with You and following You on life's journey."

Happiness is not found in what we have but Who has us. Christianity is not about our possessions but what we possess in Christ and the fact that He possesses us. A true believer, an honest disciple or a sincere "follower of the way" is one who recognizes that the Lord is all-powerful and gives us the strength we need to live the Christian life.

And living the Christian life will bring true blessings and genuine happiness to the one who walks with God. Those who live the Christian life as described in His Word will find fulfillment and completeness in Him.

One translator studied this verse for years and finally decided that it would best be translated, "How enriched are those who draw their strength from You, whose hearts are focused on You."

Those attempting to draw strength from the "things" of this world will be left weak, weary and worn-out. And anyone whose heart is focused on what is seen will discover that their vision will not survive reality or eternity.

Prayer: Give us discerning hearts and minds, Father, to recognize and choose that which is eternal and of God. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Avon 70, Mitchell Christian 58
Bon Homme 63, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 48
Bridgewater-Emery 68, West Central 59
Canistota 57, Freeman Academy/Marion 42
Colome 59, Jones County 52
Corsica/Stickney 57, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 50
Ellendale, N.D. 53, Leola/Frederick 46
Ethan 48, Menno 45
Faith 41, Lemmon 33
Flandreau 70, Deuel 53
Freeman 70, Centerville 43
Hamlin 55, DeSmet 47
Hanson 56, Howard 38
Harding County 61, McIntosh 27
Herreid 56, Potter County 47
Huron 47, Mitchell 40
Ipswich 37, Groton Area 33
Irene-Wakonda 72, Scotland 57
Langford 55, Britton-Hecla 53
Madison 82, Sisseton 57
McLaughlin 74, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 37
Miller 66, Crow Creek 61
O'Neill, Neb. 71, Wagner 41
Parker 52, Gayville-Volin 47
Platte-Geddes 56, Gregory 44
Rapid City Christian 65, Oelrichs 29
Rapid City Stevens 57, Douglas 53
Redfield/Doland 64, Great Plains Lutheran 47
Sioux Valley 77, Chester 33
Spearfish 61, Hill City 51
St. Thomas More 72, Lead-Deadwood 38
Stanley County 71, Lyman 65
Sully Buttes 59, Timber Lake 29
Vermillion 65, Elk Point-Jefferson 50
Warner 64, Northwestern 44
White River 84, Philip 27
Wilmot 52, Waubay/Summit 51
Yankton 66, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 57
281 Conference Tournament
Consolation Semifinal
Hitchcock-Tulare 55, Sunshine Bible Academy 50
Wessington Springs 57, Iroquois 53
Semifinal

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Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 58, James Valley Christian 52

Wolsey-Wessington 51, Highmore-Harrold 50

Panhandle Conference Tournament

Hay Springs, Neb. 60, Edgemont 57

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 46, Harrisburg 41

Avon 62, Mitchell Christian 16

Belle Fourche 61, Douglas 31

Beresford 56, Tea Area 55, 3OT

Burke/South Central 49, Platte-Geddes 38

Castlewood 58, Milbank 44

Chamberlain 58, Gregory 36

Clark/Willow Lake 60, Sisseton 32

Corsica/Stickney 48, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 41

Dell Rapids 56, West Central 49

DeSmet 55, Hamlin 52

Ellendale, N.D. 32, Leola/Frederick 31

Ethan 38, Menno 34

Flandreau 67, Deuel 34

Florence/Henry 57, Webster 35

Hanson 64, Howard 56

Irene-Wakonda 62, Scotland 32

Kimball/White Lake 48, Bridgewater-Emery 43

Lennox 69, Tri-Valley 56

Luverne, Minn. 58, Flandreau Indian 20

McCook Central/Montrose 56, Baltic 32

Miller 64, Crow Creek 55

Mitchell 55, Huron 45

Mott-Regent, N.D. 43, Bison 33

New Underwood 46, Hot Springs 11

O'Neill, Neb. 53, Wagner 49

Parker 50, Gayville-Volin 24

Rapid City Christian 59, Oelrichs 44

Sioux Falls Christian 50, Garretson 31

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 42, Yankton 21

Sioux Valley 67, Chester 32

Spearfish 62, Hill City 39

St. Thomas More 60, Lead-Deadwood 17

Sully Buttes 59, Timber Lake 49

Vermillion 50, Elk Point-Jefferson 34

Winner 77, Bennett County 26

Dakota Valley Conference Tournament

First Round

Arlington 30, Colman-Egan 28

Deubrook 71, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 10

Elkton-Lake Benton 48, Estelline 33

Lake Preston 67, Dell Rapids St. Mary 51

Investigation finds no conflict in Yankton hog farms votes

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — An investigation has found that three commissioners didn't violate South Dakota's conflict of interest statute by approving several hog operations in a southeastern county.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that the Yankton County commissioners themselves asked for the probe following accusations by hog farm opponents.

Yankton County States Attorney Rob Klimisch announced Tuesday that Commissioners Todd Woods, Raymon Epp and Don Kettering didn't have a financial interest or benefit in their votes on hog confinement conditional use permits and variance requests.

Klimisch says all three commissioners complied with his requests for information regarding employment history and organizational involvement.

He says the attorney general's office also did not find any cause for concern regarding a direct financial interest.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Authorities ID victim of weekend crash in Lincoln County

BERESFORD, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Beresford man who died in a single-vehicle crash in Lincoln County over the weekend.

The Highway Patrol says 25-year-old Mark O'Hara Jr. was driving a car that went off a rural road north-east of Beresford and rolled about 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

O'Hara died later at a Sioux Falls hospital. He was the only person in the car.

Historic Sioux Falls building sold to architectural firm

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The city of Sioux Falls will sell a historic building that once was a fire station and library.

The building, which has served the city in various capacities since 1920, will be purchased by Stone Group Architects, which plans to invest up to \$1 million to restore it and convert it to office space.

The Argus Leader says Minnehaha County records show the building doubled as both a fire hall and a library when it was first built. In the 1960s, it was repurposed as Parks and Recreation Department office space, but has been used primarily for storage since 2006.

The city is negotiating with the Stone Group on a purchase price. The appraised value of the building and land it sits on is \$235,000.

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

Augustana athletic director Larscheid stepping down

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Augustana University athletic director Slade Larscheid is stepping down to pursue other opportunities and spend more time with family.

The 34-year-old Larscheid has been on the job at the Sioux Falls school for about four years. His last day on the job will be Jan. 26. The university plans to appoint an interim AD and launch a national search for a successor.

University President Stephanie Herseth Sandlin credited Larscheid with overseeing fundraising, managing the dedication of new athletic facilities and overseeing athletic success.

During Larscheid's tenure, the Vikings won the NCAA Division II men's basketball championship in 2016.

Man wanted in South Dakota slayings arrested in Nebraska

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. (AP) — Authorities in northeast Nebraska have arrested a man suspected in two South Dakota slayings.

Police say Manuel Frias was taken into custody a little before 10 p.m. Tuesday in South Sioux City, following a brief standoff. South Sioux City Police Chief Ed Mahon says the U.S. Marshals Service notified his department just after 6:30 p.m. that Frias was in the South Sioux City home.

Authorities say Frias is wanted in the Jan. 5 shooting deaths of 28-year-old Samuel Crockett and 30-year-old Corey Zephier. Police say the drug-related slayings occurred outside a Sioux Falls apartment building.

It's unclear whether Frias has an attorney who could comment for him. Two other suspects already have been arrested.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

03-11-23-29-59, Mega Ball: 18, Megaplier: 3

(three, eleven, twenty-three, twenty-nine, fifty-nine; Mega Ball: eighteen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$62 million

South Dakota lawmakers to attend sexual harassment training

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers and their staff are going to attend ethics, professionalism and sexual harassment training.

The Wednesday training is required for employees. Legislative leaders have said all lawmakers are expected to attend.

Senate Majority Leader Blake Curd said in a statement announcing the training that sexual harassment "will not be tolerated."

The training follows news reports about women who experienced sexism and harassment around the statehouse. The articles came after a former lawmaker and lobbyist shared stories of harassment and assault.

Senate President Pro Tempore Brock Greenfield has also appointed a legislative group to look at current anti-harassment policies, changes proposed by a Democratic lawmaker and issues proposed by others.

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

Gateway Computer campus in South Dakota sold for \$5.75M

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A real estate investment firm has bought the old Gateway Computer campus in southern South Dakota for \$5.75 million.

Keating Resources purchased the 77-acre North Sioux City site last week at a fraction of the estimated \$70 million that Gateway spent before being acquired by Taiwan-based Acer Inc.

"I'm very excited to invest in the Sioux City metro market," said owner Gerald Keating. "It's one of the strongest in the United States and for me, it's especially rewarding to come back to an area where I grew up."

Keating told the Argus Leader that they sold the southern part of the building to a local investor and have a pending long-term lease for a small remaining space. Keating said they're marketing the vacant

space to logistics companies interested in a Midwest location.

Keating plans to brand the facility as the Gateway Business Center. He said they're preparing redesign options, including repainting the warehouse with the black-and-white cow pattern this year.

Keating said the investment is an opportunity to be closer to his hometown in Atkinson, Nebraska.

"It's one more reason to come back to an area that I love and to work with people that I love," he said.

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

Ex-lawmaker declines board seat after harassment claim

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A former South Dakota legislator named to the state Board of Pardons and Paroles has withdrawn from consideration after a past lobbyist accused him of sexual harassment.

The Argus Leader reports Gene Abdallah, a former U.S. Marshal and state Highway Patrol superintendent, said in a letter to Attorney General Marty Jackley that poor health would prevent him from serving.

The move comes after former lobbyist Tiffany Campbell late last year alleged that Abdallah asked to go to the restroom with her to watch her while they discussed legislation at a bar in 2012.

Jackley appointed the 81-year-old Abdallah to the board in fall 2017. Abdallah in the letter criticized the allegations as "false attacks" leveled for political gain.

Abdallah, who was a representative at the time, has said he never met Campbell.

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

Authorities ID Aberdeen man killed in Brown County crash

GROTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a 34-year-old Aberdeen man who died in a weekend crash in Brown County.

The Highway Patrol says Matthew Krawiec's sport utility vehicle veered off state Highway 37, went in the ditch and struck a metal shipping container at a construction site.

The crash happened about 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Krawiec was pronounced dead at the scene about 7 miles south of Groton.

Lawmakers delay action on data breach legislation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A legislative panel has delayed action on a bill that would require companies to inform South Dakota residents whose personal information was acquired in a data breach.

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to take up the proposal again Thursday.

Attorney General Marty Jackley's bill would require affected South Dakotans be notified within 60 days.

The plan would also require companies to inform the attorney general if a breach affected more than 250 residents. Companies regulated by federal law that have procedures for a security breach that follow the rules of their primary regulator would be deemed in compliance with the proposed South Dakota law.

Jackley has said the state needs a fair reporting law that requires consumers to be notified about the loss of their personal information.

Airbnb rentals grow exponentially in 2017

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The popularity of homeowners offering their properties as temporary vacation rentals is growing in South Dakota.

A company that has an online marketplace for short-term lodging rentals, Airbnb, says more than 41,000 people booked a stay in South Dakota in 2017, mostly in locations throughout the Black Hills. That grew from 17,000 renters in 2016.

The Argus Leader says Rapid City had the most rentals, with 11,500 bookings making \$1.2 million for their hosts.

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

Nearly 4 years on, much of Syrian rebel 'capital' abandoned

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

HOMS, Syria (AP) — Sumaya Bairuty walked through abandoned streets pocked with shell craters amid rows of destroyed buildings, at times climbing over giant sand barriers before reaching her parent's apartment in the once rebel-held district of Bab Dreib in this central Syrian city.

The 38-year-old English-language teacher, who works in Damascus, comes to Homs by bus once a week to spend two days with her parents, who live alone in their newly repaired apartment in the heavily destroyed and mostly deserted area.

It has been almost four years since the last rebels and civilians withdrew from strongholds in the ancient heart of Homs in May 2014, surrendering to President Bashar Assad a bloodstained city once dubbed the "capital of the revolution." Few people have returned, and large parts of the once vibrant old city are still abandoned and destroyed, as if time has stood still since the guns fell silent.

For Bairuty's family, the main sorrow remains the loss of her youngest sibling, Rabih, in 2015. He was killed by insurgents in the rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib.

"This was the biggest loss. Neither the house nor the work or any other thing was as painful as losing Rabih," she said.

The family's home in Bab Dreib is in the heart of the former rebel-held districts of Homs. The streets are so shell-pocked and destroyed that cars cannot drive, and the nearest area with shops and vehicles is a 20-minute walk away.

As Sumaya walked into her parent's second-floor, two-bedroom apartment, she found her father sitting on the floor next to a diesel heater eating fried cauliflower and bread for lunch while watching a soccer match on TV as her mother sat nearby.

She explained that the family had to change homes eight times since the Syrian conflict erupted seven years ago, after their main home was destroyed.

In 2012, the Bairuty family fled to Damascus after their neighborhood fell into rebel hands. A year later they returned to Homs, renting several homes before moving into the building of Sumaya's maternal grandparents in October 2016, a bit more than two years after government forces recaptured all of central Homs.

After they moved into their latest apartment, the U.N. helped the family fix it up by installing new windows and doors and closing the gaping holes in the walls.

Sumaya's younger brother was about to turn 18 in 2015 and wanted to move to Turkey to find a job and escape compulsory military service. The family contacted relatives in the rebel-held village of Saraqeb, in Idlib, who promised to help him move to Turkey.

Bairuty and her mother, Tamador Shilar, said their relatives tipped off the extremist, IS-linked group Jund al-Aqsa about him, telling them that he and his family were government supporters.

Within days, the young man was put on so-called trial by the group, which sentenced him to death for being a government supporter and ruled in favor of punishing his elder sister, who teaches at a government-run school.

Weeks later, the family received Rabih's identity cards and belongings through a taxi driver who drives between the rebel-held Idlib province and Homs. A letter said that he was killed because he did not join the "holy war" against the government, Shilar and Bairuty said.

Shilar said she cannot shake off the feeling of grief.

"It's the feeling of any woman who lost her son and he was not guilty," she said, as she wiped tears from her face. "He was unjustly treated by the dogs."

Bairuty's father, Mohammed Riad, said they are lucky to have a home, adding that they now get 12 hours of electricity every day and two hours of drinking water. He walks for about half an hour every day to reach the market to buy groceries.

Amid an ongoing civil war, no Western countries have stepped up to help finance Syria's reconstruction. The governorate has renovated the old covered marketplace as well as some of the city's old churches, and the city's famous Khaled bin al-Waleed mosque is undergoing renovation. But most of the neighborhoods are still sprawling ruins.

The residents who have trickled back are using their own money or U.N. assistance to fix their homes just enough to be livable.

Homs Gov. Talal Barazi told The Associated Press that 21,000 families — 30 percent of Homs city's original population of 1.2 million — have returned.

Riad said he hopes to find work once reconstruction begins. The 70-year-old was a construction worker for most of his life.

"The situation in general is good but our main problem is that there is no transportation here," he said as he watched the soccer match on an Iraqi channel.

Shilar said she is worried about the future and thinks that even if Homs is rebuilt, reconciliation is a long way off.

"The city needs a lot of effort to be alive again... It is not only the buildings (that were damaged) but also our souls," she said.

'Cocaine cowboys' smuggler convicted in auto fraud case

By CURT ANDERSON, AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — A pilot who once smuggled tons of drugs for Colombian cartels during Miami's "cocaine cowboys" era in the 1980s was convicted Wednesday of playing a key role in an auto fraud ring that stole at least 150 cars using a fake paper trail.

A federal jury found Mickey Munday, 72, guilty of mail fraud and conspiracy charges, each of which carries a maximum 20-year prison sentence. Several others in the fraud ring previously pleaded guilty and testified against Munday, saying his role was transporting the cars and hiding them until they could be sold.

Munday showed no emotion when the verdict was read and was taken immediately into custody. U.S. District Judge Robert Scola set March 29 for sentencing. His defense team said he wasn't aware of the auto fraud.

All told, testimony showed the group stole about \$1.7 million from banks and other lenders between 2008 and 2015. Some in the ring said Munday's colorful past as a big-time drug smuggler made him a natural fit for the operation.

Munday spent most of the 1990s in prison after pleading guilty to drug smuggling charges involving tons of cocaine from Pablo Escobar's Medellin cartel and also the Cali cartel during the 1980s. He frequently bragged about his exploits in media interviews, social media posts, and in a starring role in the 2006 documentary "Cocaine Cowboys."

"If it flies, rolls or floats, I can drive it," Munday has frequently said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joshua Rothstein said Munday told investigators in an interview that the fraud operation was called the "hokey-doke scheme" and he was in charge of getting the vehicles to Florida from around the country.

"He was the head of the transportation division of the hokey-doke scheme," Rothstein said. "It was a scheme that stole cars with paper."

According to trial evidence, the scheme involved obtaining cars that were about to be repossessed by a bank or other financial institution or through purchases at dealerships by straw buyers. Using tow truck and auto wholesale businesses as fronts, the group created a false paper trail that ended with them having clear ownership of the vehicles, which they then sold at a profit.

"Because of his background, and the things he told me about the past, I felt trust with him that I wouldn't get caught," testified James Carrington, who ran a car repossession business near Springfield, Missouri, and sold the group 25 stolen cars — many of them driven away by Munday.

"He wanted me to know his past life," Carrington added. "He wanted me to know everything about his

life in smuggling.”

Carrington, 37, pleaded guilty to a fraud charge and is awaiting sentencing.

Munday did not testify in his own defense. His attorney, Rick Yabor, insisted that prosecutors had not proven that Munday knew the operation was fraudulent and that Munday was simply transporting the vehicles.

“Mr. Munday likes talking about his past. That’s all he has. And that’s exactly what it is — his past,” Yabor told jurors in a closing argument. “There is no corroborating evidence.”

But Rothstein cited testimony by several other ring members and Munday’s own statements to investigators in arguing he was deeply involved and knowledgeable.

“He knew exactly what was going on,” the prosecutor said.

Follow Curt Anderson on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/miamicurt>

AP Sources: WH directed Bannon silence in House interview

By TOM LoBIANCO, ZEKE MILLER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Steve Bannon’s attorney relayed questions, in real time, to the White House during a House Intelligence Committee interview of the former Trump chief strategist, people familiar with the closed-door session told The Associated Press.

As lawmakers probed Bannon’s time working for President Donald Trump, Bannon’s attorney Bill Burck was asking the White House counsel’s office by phone during the Tuesday session whether his client could answer the questions. He was told by that office not to discuss his work on the transition or in the White House.

It’s unclear who Burck was communicating with in the White House or whether it was top White House lawyer Don McGahn, who Burck is also representing in special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia.

The conversations were confirmed by a White House official and a second person familiar with Bannon’s interview. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Bannon refused to answer a broad array of queries from the House Intelligence Committee about his time working for Trump, leading the committee chairman to authorize a subpoena.

Lawmakers were expecting a similar fight Wednesday with Trump’s White House as another senior aide, Rick Dearborn, appears for a private interview with committee.

The developments brought to the forefront questions about White House efforts to control what current and former aides tell Congress about their time in Trump’s inner circle, and whether Republicans on Capitol Hill would force the issue.

It is unlikely the committee will face the same White House objections with Trump’s former campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, who is also being interviewed Wednesday. He never served in the White House.

The interview with Lewandowski and Dearborn were confirmed by two people familiar with the committee’s work who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss the confidential interviews.

The congressional subpoena came the same day The New York Times reported that Bannon, a former far-right media executive and recently scorned Trump adversary, has been served with a grand jury subpoena issued by special counsel Robert Mueller.

Bannon confirmed that he had received the subpoena from Mueller during his House Intelligence Committee interview, according to a person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to publicly discuss Bannon’s interactions with Mueller.

Bannon is the highest-ranking person who served in the Trump White House to receive a grand jury subpoena. The move by itself doesn’t indicate that Mueller is presenting evidence to the grand jury to support future criminal charges. It could also signal that Mueller is seeking to pressure Bannon to agree to an interview with his investigators.

Lawmakers questioned Bannon as part of their investigation into Russian election inference and sought answers about Trump's thinking when he fired FBI Director James Comey.

But Bannon refused to answer questions about that crucial period, and as a result, the chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., issued the subpoena, spokesman Jack Langer said.

A White House official said the White House counsel's office had a conversation last week with committee counsel about Bannon's testimony and was told the questions were expected to be about the campaign. The official said the White House offered to send an attorney to attend the interview and was told the move wasn't necessary.

But when the lawmaker's questions moved to Bannon's time in the White House, Burck, his attorney who also represents White House counsel Don McGahn, got on the phone with the counsel's office. The official wouldn't say who Burck spoke with in the counsel's office or whether it was his client, McGahn.

Burck hasn't responded to numerous phone messages left Tuesday and Wednesday.

A spokeswoman for Bannon did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

France abandons plans to build new airport in the west

By ELAINE GANLEY, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France will abandon plans to build a new airport in the west, the prime minister announced Wednesday, ordering the activists who have been protesting the project for nearly a decade to leave their makeshift settlement and unblock nearby roads.

Despite their long-sought political victory, the activists refused. Nantes Mayor Johanna Rolland, meanwhile, said the national government "ceded to blackmail and threats."

Security forces began deploying extra forces to the area near Nantes even before the announcement, among the most divisive decisions since President Emmanuel Macron took office eight months ago.

"The Notre-Dame-des-Landes project will be abandoned," Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said. "This is a logical decision, considering the dead-end where this project has found itself."

He noted that plans for the airport were first made 50 years ago and "the debate should have ended long ago."

Philippe said the activists who have camped out for years to protest the plan must start clearing roads they have blocked or police would step in. He gave the squatters until spring to pull up their stakes.

Still, the decision failed to quell a potentially explosive situation.

Activists in the hundreds cheered the announcement, popping bottles of bubbly and scheduling a victory party for Feb. 10. But at a news conference, they said they would refuse to leave their makeshift settlement — and hoped to transform the occupied land into "a space of social, environmental and agricultural experimentation."

Philippe said the decision was an "impossible dilemma" because of the passions for and against the airport, but that his decision aimed to calm a volatile situation. Earlier attempts to dislodge the squatters had ended in violent clashes with police.

"We will end this zone of lawlessness that has prospered for nearly 10 years," the prime minister said.

Proponents had argued the region needed a larger airport to boost its economic prospects. Opponents said a new airport was unnecessary and a symbol of exploitative globalization.

To appease those favoring a new airport, Philippe said airport in both Nantes and Rennes would be expanded to help the region develop.

Philippe Grosvalet, president of the Loire-Atlantique department, told BFM TV that the government had "ceded to disorder." He also said the prime minister's decision "tramples democracy," a reference to a 2016 referendum in which the Notre-Dames-des-Landes airport received the majority of votes.

Farmers who clung to their land had joined forces with the anarchists against the airport. The prime minister said farmers whose land was expropriated for the proposed airport could get their land back if they wanted.

Ryan presses Dems to back bill keeping government open

By ALAN FRAM and ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Paul Ryan tried pressuring Democrats on Wednesday to back legislation preventing a weekend federal shutdown. But he gave little ground on the partisan battle over immigration, an issue many Democrats say must be resolved before they'll vote to keep agencies functioning.

A day after conservatives expressed opposition to the short-term spending bill and said GOP leaders lacked the votes to pass it, Ryan declined to say if he had enough Republican support to push it through the House this week. Vote counters planned to gauge GOP support later Wednesday.

Instead, Ryan, R-Wis., said it was "baffling" why Democrats would oppose the spending measure, noting it contains money for the military and a widely supported children's health insurance program. Republicans are hoping the money for children will pressure some Democrats to back the overall bill.

"I think cool heads hopefully will prevail," Ryan told reporters. Congress must approve the measure by Friday night to prevent a shutdown.

Ryan also said he wants to reach compromise on immigration but won't bring such a measure to the House floor unless President Donald Trump supports it. He said Trump is being "completely rational" in demanding that the bill have stronger border security provisions than a bipartisan immigration proposal from six senators that he rejected last week.

Separately, members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and other Democrats met privately in the Capitol with White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, and some emerged citing little progress. The talks were on legislation aimed at shielding hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children, protections Trump has ended and will expire in March.

"They have a disproportionate focus on the border more than anything else," Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., one of the six senators who crafted a bipartisan proposal, said after the meeting. He added that in return for protecting the young immigrants often called Dreamers, "What they want in return is continuously a moving target and it continuously expands."

Congressional leaders planned to meet later Wednesday to continue discussing ways to reach agreement.

It seems certain that no immigration accord will be reached this week, in time to affect the outcome on the vote on the separate bill preventing a federal shutdown. If Congress can't temporarily finance the government by Friday, a shutdown would begin the next day, an election-year debacle that GOP leaders and many Democrats are eager to avoid for fear of alienating voters.

House Republican leaders tried to win over wary conservatives for the spending bill by sweetening it. They added a two-year delay on implementation of unpopular taxes on medical devices and generous employer-subsidized health care plans. The taxes, also unpopular with many Democrats, are part of former President Barack Obama's marquee health law.

In a bid to pressure Democrats, GOP leaders also included a long-delayed, six-year renewal of a popular health insurance program for children of low-income families. The overall measure would fund the government through Feb. 16 and was well received by most GOP lawmakers when Ryan proposed it Tuesday.

Tuesday night, the leader of the Freedom Caucus emerged from a meeting of the hard right group to say its members — and other GOP lawmakers — want the short-term bill to contain added money for the military.

"There's not enough support to pass it with GOP-only votes in the House," the group's leader, Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., told reporters.

Even if the spending measure succeeds in the House, Republicans would still need at least nine Democratic votes to push it through the Senate, which the GOP controls 51-49. Democrats seeking leverage are forcing that bill to require 60 votes for passage.

When the Senate approved a similar short-term spending bill in December, 17 Democrats plus Maine independent Angus King voted to keep the government open. Seven of those Democrats face re-election in November in Trump-won states — including West Virginia, North Dakota and Montana, which have small

numbers of minority voters.

Sen. Joe Manchin, a Democrat from West Virginia, said he'll vote for a short-term spending bill without a plan to assist the immigrants facing possible deportation, saying, "Shutting down the government isn't going to help them."

Democrats voting against that December bill included some senators — such as Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California — who might seek the presidency in 2020 and would love support from their party's liberal voters.

The immigration talks were soured by Trump's incendiary remarks about "shithole" countries in Africa last week.

"There's no trust there," said Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz.

Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., told reporters Democrats want to keep the government open, "but we're not going to be held hostage to do things that we think are going to be contrary to the best interests of the American people."

Trump ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, late last year but gave Congress until March 5 to pass legislation extending the initiative created by President Barack Obama. It has protected around 800,000 young immigrants from deportation.

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking, Marcy Gordon and Steve Peoples contributed to this report.

Pope denounces indigenous violence in symbolic Chile Mass

By NICOLE WINFIELD and PATRICIA LUNA, Associated Press

TEMUCO, Chile (AP) — Pope Francis denounced the use of violence to achieve political gains as he travelled Wednesday to the heart of Chile's centuries-old conflict with indigenous peoples, where a spate of church burnings have been blamed on radical Mapuche factions pressing for their cause.

Hours after another church and three helicopters were torched, Francis celebrated Mass at a former military base that not only lies on contested Mapuche land but was also a former detention center used during Chile's brutal dictatorship.

Leading around 150,000 people in a moment of silent prayer, Francis said the fertile green fields and snow-capped mountains of southern Araucania were both blessed by God and cursed by man, the site of "grave human rights violations" during the 1973-1990 dictatorship.

"We offer this Mass for all those who suffered and died, and for those who daily bear the burden of those many injustices," he said.

Francis also referred to the more recent violence that has flared in Araucania, the Mapuche heartland and one of Chile's poorest regions. No one has claimed responsibility for the 11 firebombs that have damaged, or in some cases burned churches to the ground in recent days, or the three helicopters that were torched overnight in Aracaunia and a nearby region.

Prosecutor Enrique Vasquez told local media Wednesday that investigators found a sign and pamphlets demanding the release of Mapuche prisoners at the scene of the burned church, while pro-Mapuche pamphlets were found at the scene of the burned helicopters.

The Argentine Jesuit pope took radical factions to task, saying violence wasn't the answer to their grievances.

"You cannot assert yourselves by destroying others, because this only leads to more violence and division," he admonished in his homily. "Violence begets violence, destruction increases fragmentation and separation. Violence eventually makes a most just cause into a lie."

At the same time, he demanded the government not just negotiate "elegant" agreements with the indigenous, but actually implement them.

The Argentine pope is particularly attuned to indigenous issues and their campaigns for recognition of their land, culture and traditions. He hopes to use his weeklong trip to Chile and Peru to put the issue on the global agenda and set the stage for a big church meeting next year on the Amazon and native

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peoples who live there.

In that sense, the Maquehue Air Base in Temuco was a symbolically poignant site for his Mass dedicated to the region's indigenous, built on land taken from the Mapuche in the early 20th century. And the Mass was full of Mapuche culture and symbolism, with traditional music and prayers sprinkled throughout.

But the site of the Mass also had a more recent, bloody past: The base was used as a detention center during the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, during which around 40,000 people were killed, tortured or imprisoned for political reasons. The government estimates that 3,095 were killed, including about 1,200 who were forcibly disappeared.

History's first Latin American pope knows well the history of the time, since he was a young Jesuit superior next door during Argentina's "Dirty War," during which thousands of suspected leftists were killed, imprisoned or disappeared at the hands of the military junta.

Francis' gesture of celebrating Mass on the specific site of the atrocities recalled St. John Paul II's famous 1987 visit to Chile during the waning years of the Pinochet regime. In one of the most poignant moments of that trip, the Polish pope delivered a speech to young people gathered in Santiago's national stadium, which had been used as a detention and torture center.

With the wounds of the regime still alive, John Paul urged Chile's youth to look forward with hope, even from a place of "pain and suffering."

Francis repeated those same words again Wednesday in his Mass, which began with Mapuche natives performing a traditional horn and drum ceremony at the altar as Francis and other priests looked on.

After the service, Francis had lunch with eight Mapuche in a religious retreat house, breaking bread over an enormous lunch of mushroom ragout, octopus carpaccio, crab claws, osso buco with saffron rice and vegetables and flan. They were joined by a woman the Vatican described as a "victim of rural violence" as well as a descendant of the German-Swiss colonizers who clashed for centuries with the Mapuche.

Francis had raised the plight of the indigenous in his first speech on Tuesday to government authorities, urging Chileans to listen to indigenous peoples who are "often forgotten, whose rights and culture need to be protected lest that part of this nation's identity and richness be lost."

Those initial statements were already reverberating among many in the Mapuche community.

"Saying that we should be respected, that we have a right to exist and be recognized is all very strong," said Hugo Alcaman, president of ENAMA, a Mapuche group that encourages local businesses and advocates social change. "It's Chile that has to respond, especially politicians."

How likely that is remains to be seen, as the conflict is one of Latin America's longest involving indigenous peoples.

Leaders of both the Mapuche and the Chilean government have expressed hope that Francis can facilitate dialogue. Their disputes date back to the late 19th century, when the Chilean military finally defeated the Mapuche, who had ferociously resisted Spanish and other European settlers for centuries.

Mapuche groups are pushing for ownership of ancestral lands, legal recognition of their language and culture, and a stop to discrimination that leaders say often makes them police targets.

While the vast majority of Chile's estimated 1 million citizens of Mapuche descent oppose using violence, a small number rely on it to push their agenda.

In recent years dozens of churches have been among the targets. Outside one of the churches attacked last week, pamphlets extolling the Mapuche cause were found.

Some 4,000 police officers were deployed in Temuco, as protests were expected.

In recent decades, the Mapuche community has made significant strides. Some ancestral lands have been returned, though the program is controversial. University scholarships have been set aside for Mapuche young people and various aspects of Mapuche culture, such as many foods, have become part of the mainstream.

Still, myriad problems persist. Araucania remains the country's poorest region, and Mapuche complain of frequent discrimination.

Albertina Urrutia Valencia, a Mapuche activist, says the Mapuche cause is still largely invisible.

"What do you see? The burning of trucks, Mapuches in jail," she said. "What you don't see is what is

behind all that.”

“If people are repressed for hundreds and hundreds of years, it’s obvious they are going to fight back,” she added.

Associated Press writer Peter Prengaman in Santiago and AP video journalist Mauricio Cuevas contributed to this report.

GOP senator denounces Trump attacks, recalls Stalin rhetoric

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican senator is denouncing President Donald Trump’s use of the terms “fake news” and “enemy of the people” to describe the news media and stories he doesn’t like.

Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona said Trump’s attacks were reminiscent of words infamously used by Russian dictator Josef Stalin to describe his enemies.

In a speech Wednesday on the Senate floor, Flake called Trump’s repeated attacks on the media “shameful” and “repulsive” and said Trump “has it precisely backward.” Flake said despotism is the enemy of the people, while a free press is the despot’s enemy and a guardian of democracy.

Flake, a frequent Trump critic who is retiring this year, said when Trump calls stories he doesn’t like “fake news,” he “should be the figure of suspicion, not the press.”

Aunt: 13 captive children denied contact with relatives

By AMY TAXIN and AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

PERRIS, Calif. (AP) — Thirteen malnourished siblings allegedly kept captive in filthy conditions by their parents in a Southern California home lived a strict existence with no social lives and no contact with extended family, two of their aunts said Wednesday.

“They weren’t allowed to watch TV. They weren’t allowed to have friends over — the normal things that kids do,” the children’s aunt, Teresa Robinette, told NBC’s “Today” show.

Robinette is the sister of Louise Turpin, 49, who along with her husband, 57-year-old David Allen Turpin, were jailed on \$9 million bail each. Charges that may include torture and child endangerment could come Wednesday and a court appearance is scheduled for Thursday, authorities said.

Deputies said some siblings were shackled to furniture in the foul-smelling home in suburban Riverside County. They were so malnourished that the older ones still looked like children.

Robinette said she voiced concerns to her sister about the children’s health.

“I always made comments to Louise when I did talk to her, about, gosh, they are so skinny,” Robinette said. “She would laugh it off and say David’s so tall and lanky, they are going to be like him.”

The arrests Sunday came after a 17-year-old daughter who looked closer to 10 jumped out a window and called 911. Her parents had made the home a private school, a prison, and a veritable torture chamber for the siblings aged 2 to 29, authorities said during a press conference Tuesday.

Until the girl fled with photographic evidence, it appears no one, neither neighbors nor public officials, knew anything about what was happening inside.

Few details have been released about how the parents kept them captive despite what appeared to be opportunities for them to leave.

Another aunt, Elizabeth Jane Flores, told ABC News’ “Good Morning America” that she tried for years to get in touch with her sister, Louise Turpin, but Turpin shut her out.

“I want to reach out to the kids, I want them to know that for years we begged to Skype, we begged to see them, the whole family,” she said.

Flores tearfully said she and Turpin didn’t have a relationship for two decades beyond the odd phone call. She said she was shocked by her sister’s arrest.

In one of many surreal details that emerged as the investigation grew, it appears that an Elvis imper-

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sonator who performs weddings in Las Vegas is one of the few people who had direct dealings with the family, and he saw a different side.

"It's very disturbing because I felt like I did know them," said Kent Ripley, the Elvis impersonator who led the parents through at least three vow renewal ceremonies in recent years, most recently on Halloween, 2015.

He looked back at YouTube videos of the ceremonies after hearing the news, including two that show all the children dancing and smiling, with matching outfits and similar haircuts.

"Watching them now it's kind of haunting and disturbing," Ripley told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday. "They all looked young and thin but I figured it was just their lifestyle. Maybe the activities they did, maybe because of their religious beliefs. I didn't get that in depth with them but I knew they were a fun family."

Numerous photos on the couple's Facebook page show the children dancing at the Elvis Chapel, visiting an amusement park that appears to be Disneyland and going on other outings, always looking thin but often smiling.

It was a normal public face the family put on that included the ordinary outward appearance of their house, one of many brown-and-beige homes that lined a residential street. Four vehicles were parked in their driveway Tuesday, with a horde of international media surrounding the house.

Neighbors, just a few steps away in either direction, said the family kept to themselves and never so much as waved. No calls about trouble ever came to police or child welfare officials.

But inside it was a stinking mess, the conditions "horrific," Riverside County Sheriff's Capt. Greg Fellows said Tuesday.

"If you can imagine being 17 years old and appearing to be a 10-year-old, being chained to a bed, being malnourished and injuries associated with that, I would call that torture," Fellows said.

He said there was no indication any of the children were sexually abused, although that was still being investigated.

The couple, married 32 years, sometimes dressed their children alike in pink dresses or Dr. Seuss T-shirts, kept them away from outsiders and cut the boys' hair in a Prince Valiant-style resembling that of their graying father. Photos show nearly all the girls with shoulder-length brown hair parted in the middle.

The Turpins moved to Southern California from the Dallas area in 2011, and bought the home in 2014 in the rapidly growing city of Perris 70 miles (113 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles with their 12 children. They lived there quietly for at least three years and had another baby.

Turpin worked as an engineer at the Northrop Grumman aerospace company and earned \$140,000 annually and his wife was a homemaker, records showed.

Their house doubles as the Sandcastle Day School, where David Turpin is listed as principal and its enrollment of six includes only the couple's younger children, Fellows said.

No state agency regulates or oversees private schools in California, and they are not licensed by the state Education Department.

Mark Uffer, CEO at Corona Regional Medical Center, said seven of the couple's children were there Tuesday.

The children are "very friendly," he said. "They're very cooperative, and I believe that they're hopeful that life will get better for them after this event."

Dr. Donald Kirby, director of the Center for Human Nutrition at Ohio's Cleveland Clinic, said the siblings' pale complexions could reflect a lack of sunshine and iron deficiencies caused by insufficient vitamins.

He said their small stature and childlike appearance also indicates they were probably undernourished for many years.

"What that means is this has been a very long process and that during the real growth spurt years that the needed nutrients weren't given," Kirby said. "At some point the body locks in and you're not able to grow anymore. This didn't happen last week, last month or even last year. This has been going on probably a very long time."

Kirby said the siblings' physical and emotional recovery period will likely be long and arduous.

"Lots of things are going to need to be done for these poor people," he said.

Rogers reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo, John Rogers, John Antczak, Christopher Weber, Andrew Dalton and Bob Lentz contributed to this report.

Rival Koreas agree to form first unified Olympic team

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The rival Koreas agreed Wednesday to form their first unified Olympic team and have their athletes parade together for the first time in 11 years during the opening ceremony of next month's Winter Olympics in South Korea, officials said.

The agreements still require approval from the International Olympic Committee. But they are the most prominent steps toward rapprochement achieved by the Koreas since they recently began exploring cooperation during the Olympics following a year of heightened tension over the North's nuclear weapons program.

During their third day of talks at the border in about a week, senior officials reached a package of agreements including fielding a joint women's ice hockey team and marching together under a blue and white "unification flag" depicting their peninsula in the opening ceremony, Seoul's Unification Ministry said.

A joint statement distributed by the ministry said the North Korean Olympic delegation will travel to South Korea across their heavily fortified land border before the Feb. 9-25 Pyeongchang Games. It said the delegation will include a 230-member cheering group, a 30-member taekwondo demonstration team, journalists, athletes and officials.

Ahead of the Olympics, the Koreas will hold a joint cultural event at the North's scenic Diamond Mountain and have non-Olympic skiers train together at the North's Masik ski resort, according to the statement. It said the North also plans to send a 150-strong delegation to the Paralympics in March. The North earlier said it would send a 140-member art troupe.

The agreements are highly symbolic and emotional. But it's still not clear how many North Korean athletes will come to Pyeongchang because none are currently qualified. South Korean media have predicted only up to 10 North Korean athletes will end up being covered by an additional quota from the IOC.

A pair of North Korean figure skaters qualified for this year's Olympics, but North Korea missed a deadline to confirm their participation. The IOC said recently it has "kept the door open" for North Korea to take part in the games. IOC officials are to meet with sports and government officials from the two Koreas and officials from the Pyeongchang organizing committee in Switzerland on Saturday.

The IOC said in statement Wednesday that it has "taken note of a number of interesting proposals from different sources."

"There are many considerations with regard to the impact of these proposals on the other participating NOCs (national Olympic committees) and athletes. After having taken all this into consideration, the IOC will take its final decisions on Saturday in Lausanne," it said.

The two Koreas have sent joint teams to major international sports events twice previously, both in 1991. One event was the world table tennis championships in Chiba, Japan, where the women's team won the championship by beating the powerful Chinese, and the other was soccer's World Youth Championship in Portugal, where the Korean team reached the quarterfinals.

During an era of detente in the 2000s, their athletes marched together in the opening and closing ceremonies of nine international sporting events including the 2000 Sydney Olympics, but they failed to produce a joint team. Their last joint march was at the Asian Winter Games in Changchun, China, in 2007.

The current reconciliation mood began after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said in a New Year's speech that he was willing to send a delegation to the games. Critics have said Kim's overture is an attempt to use improved ties with South Korea to weaken U.S.-led international sanctions on North Korea while buying time to perfect his nuclear weapons program.

The moves nevertheless have provided a temporary thaw in the Koreas' long-strained ties and fostered optimism that North Korea won't launch any new provocations, at least during the Olympics. Last year,

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North Korea carried out its sixth and biggest nuclear test explosion and test-fired three intercontinental ballistic missiles, and Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump traded threats of war and crude insults against each other.

Some conservative critics say North Korea's cheering and artistic groups are too big, and worry the North may try to steal the show at the Olympics to launch what they call a "peace offensive" to try to show it's a normal country despite pursuing nuclear weapons.

North Korea also sent highly trained female cheering groups dressed in bright, attractive outfits when it attended previous international sports events in South Korea. The groups, chosen for their cheering skills as well as their good looks and dubbed "beauty squads" by South Korean media, often received more attention than their athletes. Kim Jong Un's wife, Ri Sol Ju, was a member of a 2005 squad.

North Korea under Kim has made sports, and especially success in international sporting events, a high priority. While it's not a major winter sports competitor, North Korean athletes have set several weightlifting world records and its women hold a high profile on the world football scene.

When traveling abroad, however, North Korean athletes and coaches tend to cloister themselves away from outsiders when they are not competing or practicing. Defections are likely a concern, along with what their minders might deem to be ideological "contamination," so they are kept under close scrutiny.

South Korea wants to the IOC to allow its ice hockey team's 23-player Olympic roster to be expanded so that several North Korean players can be added without removing any of the South Korean players. But there are worries in South Korea that adding new players less than a month before the Olympics will weaken the team and deprive South Korean players of playing time.

Chief South Korean delegate Chun Hae-sung said the government is well aware of such concerns and North Korea has agreed that the South Korean team's current coach will be given full authority to select North Korean players to compete.

"If South and North Korea form one team and compete in the games, that will be an everlasting historic event, which I think will move our people and people around the world," South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Wednesday.

More actors expressing regret about working with Woody Allen

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A growing number of actors are distancing themselves from Woody Allen and his next film, heightening questions about the future of the prolific 82-year-old filmmaker in a Hollywood newly sensitive to allegations of sexual misconduct.

Timothee Chalamet on Tuesday said he will donate his salary for an upcoming Woody Allen film to three charities fighting sexual harassment and abuse: Time's Up, the LGBT Center in New York and RAINN. The breakout star of "Call Me By Your Name" announced on Instagram that he didn't want to profit from his work on Allen's "A Rainy Day in New York," which wrapped shooting in the fall.

"I want to be worthy of standing shoulder to shoulder with the brave artists who are fighting for all people to be treated with the respect and dignity they deserve," said Chalamet.

Chalamet is just the latest cast member of an Allen production to express regret or guilt about being professionally associated with the director. In recent weeks, Rebecca Hall ("A Rainy Day in New York," "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"), Mira Sorvino ("Mighty Aphrodite"), Ellen Page ("To Rome With Love"), David Krumholtz ("Wonder Wheel") and Griffith Newman ("A Rainy Day in New York") have all in some way distanced themselves from Allen or vowed that they wouldn't work with him again.

Dylan Farrow, Allen's adopted daughter, in 2014 renewed the claim that Allen molested her in an attic in 1992 when she was seven. Allen, who has long denied the allegations, was investigated for the incident but not charged.

The rising chorus of actors renouncing Allen suggests the road ahead for the him may be particularly challenging, even for a director whose personal controversies have for decades made him an alternatively beloved and reviled figure in movies. Financial support for the filmmaker has not previously waned in part

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because of the eagerness many stars have for working with a cinematic legend. But fielding a starry cast may prove increasingly difficult for Allen in a movie industry in the midst of a "Me Too" reckoning.

"If I had known then what I know now, I would not have acted in the film," Greta Gerwig, who co-starred in Allen's 2012 comedy "To Rome With Love," told The New York Times last week. "I have not worked for him again, and I will not work for him again. Dylan Farrow's two different pieces made me realize that I increased another woman's pain, and I was heartbroken by that realization."

New remarks by Farrow were aired Wednesday as a prelude to what "CBS This Morning" calls her first on-camera discussion of the issue.

"Why shouldn't I want to bring him down?" she said in response to a question. "Why shouldn't I be angry? Why shouldn't I be hurt? Why shouldn't I feel some sort of outrage ... after all these years, being ignored and disbelieved, and tossed aside?"

Asked why she hopes people will believe her now, she replied, "I suppose that's on them. All I can do is speak my truth."

Farrow has previously questioned why the "Me Too" movement hasn't ensnared Allen. In an op-ed published last month in The Los Angeles Times, she wrote: "Why is it that Harvey Weinstein and other accuser-celebrities have been cast out by Hollywood, while Allen recently secured a multimillion-dollar distribution deal with Amazon, greenlit by former Amazon Studios executive Roy Price before he was suspended over sexual misconduct allegations?"

Price, the former head of Amazon Studios, resigned in October following an allegation that he had sexually harassed television producer Isa Hackett while she was working on the Amazon series "The Man in the High Castle."

"A Rainy Day in New York" is the fourth project for Allen with Amazon, which bet heavily on the filmmaker to help establish its film production arm as a home to auteur filmmakers. It reportedly spent \$80 million to lure Allen into television to make the 2016 series "Crisis in Six Scenes."

Amazon, which didn't respond to queries Tuesday, also distributed Allen's "Cafe Society" in 2016 and "Wonder Wheel," which opened December 1. It has grossed a mere \$1.4 million domestically on an estimated budget of \$25 million but had more success overseas, grossing \$7.8 million.

"A Rainy Day in New York," a romantic comedy due out sometime this year, also stars Selena Gomez, Jude Law, Liev Schreiber and Elle Fanning. In his statement, Chalamet tellingly noted that due to "contractual obligations" he couldn't comment on the long-standing allegations against Allen.

The announcement by Chalamet, a favorite Oscar contender for best actor this year, followed a similar one Friday by his co-star Hall. She said she was donating her salary from the film to Time's Up, the recently formed initiative to combat gender inequality in the entertainment industry. "It's a small gesture and not one intended as close to compensation," Hall wrote on Instagram.

Some have continued to publicly support Allen, though, including Alec Baldwin.

"Woody Allen was investigated forensically by two states (NY and CT) and no charges were filed," Baldwin said Tuesday on Twitter. "The renunciation of him and his work, no doubt, has some purpose. But it's unfair and sad to me. I worked with Woody Allen three times and it was one of the privileges of my career."

Across the South, it's snow, ice and record-breaking cold

By JANELLE COGAN and JAY REEVES, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The South awoke Wednesday to a two-part Arctic mess that caused problems as far south as the Gulf Coast. First came a thin blanket of snow and ice, then came below-zero wind chills and record-breaking low temperatures in New Orleans and other cities.

The snowfall sabotaged morning rush hour before it even began, sending cars crashing into each other on major thoroughfares. Officials urged people to stay off the roads if possible, and to bundle up if they ventured outside.

Thousands of schoolchildren and teachers got the day off because of treacherous travel and cold; cities canceled meetings and municipal court sessions. Some businesses closed.

With temperature hovering around 10 degrees, store clerk Susan Brown got to work an hour late in the

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north Alabama city of Decatur. Snow and ice blanketed grassy areas and roadsides, she said, and neighborhood roads were much whiter than main highways.

"Traffic is moving along, but on side roads and residential streets it's pretty slick," said Brown, who works at Holaway's Food Market. "As long as you stay in the tracks you're pretty good."

Dairy farmer Will Gilmer bundled up for the pre-dawn drive to the milking barn with the thermometer showing 7 degrees (-14 Celsius) in western Alabama.

"It felt like single digits," he said. "I probably had four layers on and then insulated coveralls and a heavy coat on over that. I made it OK except for my toes."

Icy conditions hampered travel as far south as the Gulf of Mexico, with stretches of Interstate 10 were closed in Louisiana and across Alabama's Mobile Bay. Ice pellets covered the tops of sago palm trees.

In Atlanta, snow covered icy sidewalks. Major thoroughfares usually full at rush hour were eerily quiet. Some cars drove through red lights rather than stop and risk sliding.

David Johnston, a 22-year-old Georgia tech student, is used to winter in the South. "When it snows, the city shuts down," he said.

School was canceled, but he had to work — he walked 20 minutes on snowy, icy sidewalks to get to the train and head downtown.

Many Atlanta-based offices and employers closed for the day, but Jarquiese Norwood, 28, also had to get to work: at a warehouse where he's a forklift operator. "It snows, like, every couple years," he said of Atlanta, and it's "pretty much the same every year."

He said he usually takes Uber, but the normally reasonable fare had surged to \$40. "I wish I was off from work," he said as he waited for a train.

Dozens of accidents were reported in metro Atlanta, including one involving a salt truck and another involving a rapid-transit bus.

Outside Five Points Station, a major one at the center of Atlanta's MARTA system, a man fell on the sidewalk and appeared unresponsive. An ambulance came quickly, and paramedics maneuvered slowly: "I've got the stretcher," "be careful," they told each other.

Adrian Benton, 26, tried to help. He exited a bus that had stopped but allowed passengers to remain inside for warmth.

"The up-north way of dealing with snow needs to come down here," the Buffalo, New York, native said, adding that the city should have had "snow plows, salt already going down last night so people can get around."

The blast of cold air shattered records early Wednesday in Louisiana and Mississippi.

It was 21 degrees (-6 Celsius) before dawn in New Orleans, where icicles hung off a statue of jazz musicians in a fountain. The reading broke the city's record low for the date, which was 23 degrees (-5 Celsius) in 1977.

In Mississippi, the temperature in Hattiesburg dipped to 13 degrees (-11 Celsius), breaking the previous record of 14 (-10 Celsius).

Ryan Willis, a meteorologist for the National Water Service, said the forecast called for 1 to 1.5 inches (2.5 to 4 centimeters) of snow in metropolitan Atlanta through Wednesday morning, with localized higher amounts.

Gov. Nathan Deal issued a state of emergency for 83 counties, spanning much of central and north Georgia. This line extends from Columbus to Macon to Augusta and northward. State government will be closed Wednesday in the impacted areas for non-essential personnel.

Forecasters said travel could be difficult in north Georgia because of below-zero (-18 Celsius) wind chills. Many Georgia school districts already had announced early dismissal times and cancellations.

Snow fell in a wide band that stretched from southeastern Texas all the way to western Massachusetts.

Forecasters said up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) could fall in central North Carolina as the system pushed northward, with a couple inches expected farther east.

Northwestern South Carolina could get up to 2 inches (5 centimeters) of snow, the weather service said, and Gov. Henry McMaster's office postponed his first State of the State address because of the weather.

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In North Carolina, a thin white sheen of precipitation had formed on sidewalks and driveways by early morning. A handful of men sipped coffee at Waffle House, famous for staying open around the clock in all kinds of weather.

"Once I get home today I'll probably be in because I won't want to drive anymore," Paul Barbour, 60, said. He said a cousin he lives with stocked up on groceries.

"Around here when it snows, if anyone even mentions snow, bread, milk and beer fly off the shelves," he said.

Reeves reported from Birmingham, Alabama. Associated Press writers Jeff Martin in Atlanta; Jonathan Drew in Durham, North Carolina; David Warren in Dallas; Rebecca Reynolds Yonker in Louisville, Kentucky; Adrian Sainz in Memphis, Tennessee; and Heather Hollingsworth in Kansas City, Missouri, contributed to this report.

Century after pandemic, science takes its best shot at flu

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The descriptions are haunting.

Some victims felt fine in the morning and were dead by night. Faces turned blue as patients coughed up blood. Stacked bodies outnumbered coffins.

A century after one of history's most catastrophic disease outbreaks, scientists are rethinking how to guard against another super-flu like the 1918 influenza that killed tens of millions as it swept the globe.

There's no way to predict what strain of the shape-shifting flu virus could trigger another pandemic or, given modern medical tools, how bad it might be.

But researchers hope they're finally closing in on stronger flu shots, ways to boost much-needed protection against ordinary winter influenza and guard against future pandemics at the same time.

"We have to do better and by better, we mean a universal flu vaccine. A vaccine that is going to protect you against essentially all, or most, strains of flu," said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health.

Labs around the country are hunting for a super-shot that could eliminate the annual fall vaccination in favor of one every five years or 10 years, or maybe, eventually, a childhood immunization that could last for life.

Fauci is designating a universal flu vaccine a top priority for NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Last summer, he brought together more than 150 leading researchers to map a path. A few attempts are entering first-stage human safety testing.

Still, it's a tall order. Despite 100 years of science, the flu virus too often beats our best defenses because it constantly mutates.

Among the new strategies: Researchers are dissecting the cloak that disguises influenza as it sneaks past the immune system, and finding some rare targets that stay the same from strain to strain, year to year.

"We've made some serious inroads into understanding how we can better protect ourselves. Now we have to put that into fruition," said well-known flu biologist Ian Wilson of The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California.

The somber centennial highlights the need.

Back then, there was no flu vaccine. It wouldn't arrive for decades. Today vaccination is the best protection, and Fauci never skips his. But at best, the seasonal vaccine is 60 percent effective. Protection dropped to 19 percent a few years ago when the vaccine didn't match an evolving virus.

If a never-before-seen flu strain erupts, it takes months to brew a new vaccine. Doses arrived too late for the last, fortunately mild, pandemic in 2009.

Lacking a better option, Fauci said the nation is "chasing" animal flu strains that might become the next human threat. Today's top concern is a lethal bird flu that jumped from poultry to more than 1,500 people in China since 2013. Last year it mutated, meaning millions of just-in-case vaccine doses in a U.S. stockpile no longer match.

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The NIH's Dr. Jeffery Taubenberger calls the 1918 flu the mother of all pandemics. He should know.

While working as a pathologist for the military, he led the team that identified and reconstructed the extinct 1918 virus, using traces unearthed in autopsy samples from World War I soldiers and from a victim buried in the Alaskan permafrost.

That misnamed Spanish flu "made all the world a killing zone," wrote John M. Barry in "The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History."

Historians think it started in Kansas in early 1918. By winter 1919, the virus had infected one-third of the global population and killed at least 50 million people, including 675,000 Americans. By comparison, the AIDS virus has claimed 35 million lives over four decades.

Three more flu pandemics have struck since, in 1957, 1968 and 2009, spreading widely but nowhere near as deadly. Taubenberger's research shows the family tree, each subsequent pandemic a result of flu viruses carried by birds or pigs mixing with 1918 flu genes.

"This 100-year timeline of information about how the virus adapted to us and how we adapt to the new viruses, it teaches us that we can't keep designing vaccines based on the past," said Dr. Barney Graham, deputy director of NIH's Vaccine Research Center.

The new vaccine quest starts with two proteins, hemagglutinin and neuraminidase, that coat flu's surface. The "H" allows flu to latch onto respiratory cells and infect them. Afterward, the "N" helps the virus spread.

They also form the names of influenza A viruses, the most dangerous flu family. With 18 hemagglutinin varieties and 11 types of neuraminidase — most carried by birds — there are lots of potential combinations. That virulent 1918 virus was the H1N1 subtype; milder H1N1 strains still circulate. This winter H3N2, a descendent of the 1968 pandemic, is causing most of the misery.

Think of hemagglutinin as a miniature broccoli stalk. Its flower-like head attracts the immune system, which produces infection-blocking antibodies if the top is similar enough to a previous infection or that year's vaccination.

But that head also is where mutations pile up.

A turning point toward better vaccines was a 2009 discovery that, sometimes, people make a small number of antibodies that instead target spots on the hemagglutinin stem that don't mutate. Even better, "these antibodies were much broader than anything we've seen," capable of blocking multiple subtypes of flu, said Scripps' Wilson.

Scientists are trying different tricks to spur production of those antibodies.

In a lab at NIH's Vaccine Research Center, "we think taking the head off will solve the problem," Graham said. His team brews vaccine from the stems and attaches them to ball-shaped nanoparticles easily spotted by the immune system.

In New York, pioneering flu microbiologist Peter Palese at Mount Sinai's Icahn School of Medicine uses "chimeric" viruses — the hemagglutinin head comes from bird flu, the stem from common human flu viruses — to redirect the immune system.

"We have made the head so that the immune system really doesn't recognize it," Palese explained. GlaxoSmithKline and the Gates Foundation are funding initial safety tests.

In addition to working with Janssen Pharmaceuticals on a stem vaccine, Wilson's team also is exploring how to turn flu-fighting antibodies into an oral drug. "Say a pandemic came along and you didn't have time to make vaccine. You'd want something to block infection if possible," he said.

NIH's Taubenberger is taking a completely different approach. He's brewing a vaccine cocktail that combines particles of four different hemagglutinins that in turn trigger protection against other related strains.

Yet lingering mysteries hamper the research.

Scientists now think people respond differently to vaccination based on their flu history. "Perhaps we

recognize best the first flu we ever see," said NIH immunologist Adrian McDermott.

The idea is that your immune system is imprinted with that first strain and may not respond as well to a vaccine against another.

"The vision of the field is that ultimately if you get the really good universal flu vaccine, it's going to work best when you give it to a child," Fauci said.

Still, no one knows the ultimate origin of that terrifying 1918 flu. But key to its lethality was bird-like hemagglutinin.

That Chinese H7N9 bird flu "worries me a lot," Taubenberger said. "For a virus like influenza that is a master at adapting and mutating and evolving to meet new circumstances, it's crucially important to understand how these processes occur in nature. How does an avian virus become adapted to a mammal?"

While scientists hunt those answers, "it's folly to predict" what a next pandemic might bring, Fauci said. "We just need to be prepared."

Meteor credited for bright light, noise rattling Michigan

DETROIT (AP) — Experts say a bright light and what sounded like thunder in the sky above Michigan was a meteor.

The American Meteor Society says it received hundreds of reports of a fireball Tuesday night over the state, including many in the Detroit area. Reports also came in from several other states and Ontario, Canada.

Some Michigan residents reported their homes shaking.

The society says the reports suggest a space rock penetrated deep into the Earth's atmosphere before it broke apart. The U.S. Geological Service says it registered as a 2.0 magnitude earthquake in Michigan.

Bill Cooke with NASA's Meteoroid Environment Office tells The Detroit News it was "definitely a meteoroid" and a rare sight for Michigan.

Other states where people reported seeing a fireball included Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri.

Mueller team would hardly be first lawyers to question Trump

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump was in a roomful of lawyers, venting about unfair treatment in the media that he said had understated his net worth and damaged his brand.

It was December 2007, a decade before Trump would become president and routinely excoriate reporters for "fake news." This time, the businessman was facing a daylong deposition in his lawsuit against a journalist he'd accused of downplaying his wealth.

Had he, one lawyer wanted to know, ever lied about his real estate properties? I try not to, Trump said. Ever exaggerated? Who wouldn't, he replied.

"You always want to put the best possible spin on a property that you can," Trump explained. "No different than any other real estate developer, no different than any other businessman, no different than any politician."

That exchange and others like it could be instructive as Trump braces for the possibility of an interview with special counsel Robert Mueller's team of investigators, who are looking into potential coordination between Russia and his presidential campaign, and into possible obstruction of justice.

The Associated Press reviewed hundreds of pages of depositions taken of Trump in the past decade, including in contract and defamation lawsuits. The interviews, taken together, not only reflect his deep experience in providing sworn statements to lawyers but also offer clues to a rhetorical style that could again be on display in the event Trump is questioned by Mueller's team.

The transcripts reveal a witness who is by turns voluble, giving expansive answers far beyond the questions asked; boastful, using unrelated queries to expound on his wealth or popularity; unapologetic, swift to defend incendiary comments or criticized actions; and occasionally combative, once deriding a lawyer

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for “very stupid” questions.

The garrulous style belies the “just the facts, ma’am” approach many defense lawyers advocate.

“On the one hand, you generally tell witnesses not to volunteer, to answer the question as asked,” said New York lawyer Gary Naftalis. “Don’t answer a question that isn’t asked. You always tell the witness not to guess or speculate or try to fill in the blanks.”

Yet there’s an unmistakable deftness, too, a tendency by Trump to pass blame for certain decisions, to deflect probing questions to lawyers or accountants and to answer others with hedged, vague or non-responsive language that frustrates his interrogators.

Though the possibility of a Mueller interview has been broached, it’s not clear when such a conversation would take place, or if Trump’s lawyers would work to narrow the scope of the questioning or to avoid a face-to-face interrogation. Trump has said it “seems unlikely” he’ll be interviewed, but his lawyers have cooperated throughout the probe, and Mueller has indicated interest in speaking with the president.

The stakes would certainly be higher than what Trump has faced in the past, and the questioning, unlike past interviews focused on real estate and business, would delve into areas outside of his life’s work.

He’d almost certainly be asked about the firing of former FBI Director James Comey, a decision he’s offered different explanations for, and about multiple one-on-one interactions that Comey has documented but Trump has disputed. Investigators would likely want to discuss an incomplete, perhaps misleading previous statement regarding a Trump Tower meeting Trump relatives had with Russians.

But it would hardly be the first time he’s been asked to reconcile conflicting statements or been pressed about controversial actions.

That was the theme of a contentious 2007 deposition with lawyers for journalist Timothy O’Brien, whom Trump sued over a book he felt had maligned him.

How could he explain an assertion in his own book that placed his debt at \$9.2 billion? A mistaken figure written by someone else.

A bank’s estimation that he was worth \$1.2 billion instead of \$3.5 billion, as he maintained? Impossible, the bank didn’t fully scour his assets.

A statement that a golf club was zoned for 50 home sites, not 75? Another mistake, by another person.

In a 2013 deposition involving a failed Florida condominium project, Trump was asked why his bio said he was developing a project he actually was not. He blamed the wording on an employee.

“I have a woman that does it,” he said. Then he added, “But you know, developing, the word develop, it can be used in a lot of different contexts.”

In other instances, as when asked about overstating in a television interview the number of units sold in a Las Vegas tower, he’s suggested he didn’t intend to be taken so literally: “But I also want to put the building in good light. I’m being asked a question. Would you like me to say, ‘Oh, gee, the building is not doing well, blah, blah, blah, come by, the building’ — nobody talks that way. Who would ever talk that way?”

His penchant as president for putting a glossy spin on criticized decisions — he told The Wall Street Journal last week “everybody” wanted Comey fired although employee surveys indicate otherwise — is also manifest in his depositions.

He said investors suing him over a failed condo project were lucky they didn’t close on the properties and saved money. Dissatisfied Trump University students who sued him were fortunate he offered refunds, he said.

In 2016, he answered a question about a restaurateur’s decision to withdraw from his hotel over derogatory comments on Mexican immigrants by observing, unprompted, that he had vanquished his political opponents.

“I obviously have credibility because I now, as it turns out, became the Republican nominee running against, we have a total of 17 people that were mostly senators and governors, highly respected people. So it’s not like, you know, like I’ve said anything that could be so bad.”

For all Trump’s experience parrying tough lawyer questioning, it’s impossible to say with certainty how he’d fare with Mueller. One attorney not part of the case, Peter Zeidenberg, said he thought Trump’s disposition would make it “white knuckles the entire time.”

"If you're asked a question and you don't really answer it, and you sort of go off on tangents that don't really respond to your question," said Washington defense lawyer Justin Dillon, "that might work sometimes if your questioner is not skilled enough to bring you back to the question that was asked."

But, he added, "They're not going to let the B-team question Donald Trump."

Associated Press writers Chad Day and Desmond Butler contributed to this report.

GOP still struggling with Trump's remarks on Africa

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are struggling to get their stories straight as President Donald Trump's Homeland Security secretary became the latest GOP official to offer an inconclusive version of a meeting in which Trump is said to have used vulgar remarks that have been criticized as racist.

Democrats accused Republicans of selective amnesia as Cabinet member Kirstjen Nielsen testified Tuesday under oath that she "did not hear" Trump use a certain vulgarity to describe African countries. "It was a meeting of 12 people. There was cross-talk," she explained at a congressional hearing, but she didn't "dispute the president was using tough language."

Under persistent questioning, Nielsen said she didn't recall the specific language used by Trump.

"What I was struck with frankly, as I'm sure you were as well, was just the general profanity used in the room by almost everyone."

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., angrily criticized Nielsen's comments, telling her during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing: "Your silence and your amnesia is complicity."

Nielsen's comments came five days after the president ignited what Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., termed an "s-storm" with his Oval Office remarks.

The White House has not substantively disputed accounts of the episode, in which Trump is said to have used the term "shithole" to describe African countries of origin for potential immigrants to the U.S. The revelations, semi-denials and continuing comments have cast a pall over the White House's legislative agenda, brought the country closer to the brink of a government shutdown and sparked international outrage.

And with the midterm elections approaching, there are fresh fears among Republicans who were already anxious over the political climate going into November — and over Trump's unpredictable actions.

Administration officials and lawmakers spent the holiday weekend debating the precise presidential vulgarity used, and moved to cast last Thursday's White House meeting as a salty affair, with expletives flying in all directions.

The White House said Trump had no intention of apologizing.

"The president hasn't said he didn't use strong language, and this is an important issue," press secretary Sarah Sanders said, "He's passionate about it, he's not going to apologize for trying to fix our immigration system."

There is internal debate in the West Wing over whether Trump said "shithole" or "shithouse." One person who attended the meeting told aides they heard the latter expletive, while others recalled the president saying the more widely reported "shithole," according to a person briefed on the meeting but not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Trump has not clarified to aides what he said, but told reporters Sunday night in Florida that comments attributed to him "weren't made."

A confidant of Trump 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, said the confidant, who wasn't authorized to disclose a private conversation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

White House officials tried to offer clarity on the two-hour period Thursday morning that saw Trump move from requesting a briefing on a potential immigration breakthrough to graphically rejecting the agreement reached by Graham and Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

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Chief of staff John Kelly phoned Trump from Capitol Hill to advise him against accepting the proposal, and the president summoned conservative Republican negotiators to help build a united front against the plan, which would have provided some border security funding as well as protection from deportation for immigrants brought to the country as children and now here illegally.

A senior White House official said Trump does not believe he has an ally on this issue in Graham, a Republican who has long tried to partner with Democrats on immigration legislation.

In a hearing Tuesday, Graham said Trump expressed openness to an immigration deal, only to reject it hours later.

"I think somebody on his staff gave him really bad advice between 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock on Thursday," Graham said.

Asked about Kelly, the South Carolina Republican said the chief of staff is "a fine man, but he's part of the staff."

Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., one of the lawmakers summoned to the Oval Office by the president to counter the Durbin-Graham proposal, blasted Durbin's account of the meeting in an interview.

"I'm not going to get into all the details of a private meeting. I'll just say, what Senator Durbin has portrayed is a misportrayal," Cotton told Little Rock radio station KARN on Tuesday.

"The proposal brought by Senator Durbin and Senator Graham would go in the opposite of what we need, which is a skill-based system that treats people for who they are, not where they're from," Cotton said. "It's fair to say the president reacted strongly to that."

As the firestorm over Trump's comment began late last week, the White House and Trump's National Security Council provided no guidance to the State Department about what to say to foreign countries who were incensed, said a U.S. official familiar with the conversations between the White House and other federal agencies.

Left to its own devices, the State Department came up with its own talking points to be used by U.S. missions in Africa working to stem the damage, said a U.S. official, who wasn't authorized to disclose internal deliberations and demanded anonymity.

The key message, the official said: Emphasize that the United States has a "deep respect" for people from Africa and that the U.S. relationship with any country is deeper than any one comment. Avoid confirming or denying what the president might have said, referring to it instead as an "alleged comment."

Lemire reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Alan Fram, Marcy Gordon, and Josh Lederman contributed from Washington.

Amid misbehavior everywhere, NBA may need to flex its muscle

By TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver was asked in London last week about fining misbehaving players, and even he acknowledged the penalties aren't much of a deterrent.

"More symbolic than anything," Silver said.

It might be time for the league to change that.

At least based on what's happened in the NBA the past couple days. The postgame locker-room incident that involved some players from the Houston Rockets and the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday — the holiday celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., no less — was a bad look for the league, as was the wild swing that Orlando's Arron Afflalo threw at Minnesota's Nemanja Bjelica on Tuesday.

The James Johnson-Serge Ibaka dustup during the Miami-Toronto game last week earned those players one-game suspensions that cost them a total of about \$300,000. Utah's Rodney Hood might have been lucky to have been fined only \$35,000 for slapping a phone out of a fan's hand. Ben Simmons and Kyle Lowry were probably smart to just talk about taking their differences outside, and not actually go that route.

But the Clippers-Rockets circus, whatever it was, has to be of major concern to the league.

Players are upset with referees, and that airing of grievances will be aired officially in meetings with

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the league at All-Star weekend. Whatever the players say in Los Angeles might seem less credible now, especially after the last few days. Further complicating matters is that Rockets star Chris Paul — who is president of the National Basketball Players Association — recently called out referee Scott Foster, plus allegedly had a role in the postgame events Monday.

It's a tough spot for the NBA.

It's also not a time for anything symbolic. Silver is a player-friendly commissioner, but that doesn't mean the NBA can't show some teeth.

RAINING 3S

Chicago's Lauri Markkanen got to 100 3-pointers made faster than any rookie in NBA history, needing only 41 games to get there.

Reminder: He's a 7-footer.

Dirk Nowitzki's single-season record of 3s by a 7-footer has stood since 2000-01, when he made 151. Markkanen is on pace to smash that mark, as the trend of 7-footers having crazy range continues.

So far this season, 28 players listed at 7-foot or taller have made at least one 3-pointer. That's already a record, topping the 22 7-footers who made one last season. Also, 7-footers combined to make 1,100 3-pointers last season — and the pace this season is closer to 1,500.

There have been more 3s made by 7-footers in the last two seasons than there were in the first 28 seasons of the 3-point shot combined.

REMEMBERING JO JO

The Celtics announced the death Tuesday of legendary guard Jo Jo White, a seven-time All-Star, two-time NBA champion, the MVP of the 1976 NBA Finals and an Olympic gold medalist.

"We are terribly saddened by the passing of the great Jo Jo White," the Celtics said. "He was a champion and a gentleman; supremely talented and brilliant on the court, and endlessly gracious off of it."

White went into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2015.

LEBRON WATCH

LeBron James next plays on Thursday, and is now 41 points shy of becoming the seventh NBA player with 30,000 for his career.

At his current pace, James could get to No. 3 on the league's career list in the 2019-20 season. But if James has plans to catch Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the No. 1 spot, he would likely have to play until 2021-22 — at least.

It's a reasonable guess that James has other things on his mind right now. Cleveland is on its second four-game losing streak of the season, and this is the first time since 2006-07 that James has been on the floor for two separate streaks of four consecutive losses in the same season.

THE WEEK AHEAD

A look at some of the games to watch this week:

— Heat at Bucks, Wednesday: Some Milwaukee players were mad that Goran Dragic shot a late 3-pointer in Miami's 18-point win Sunday over the Bucks.

— Timberwolves at Rockets, Thursday: It'll be interesting to see who Houston has available, and Minnesota isn't that far back of the Rockets out West.

— Spurs at Raptors, Friday: San Antonio is 12-2 in its last 14 against Toronto, and five of their last seven meetings were decided by seven points or less.

— Thunder at Cavaliers, Saturday: Carmelo Anthony faces off with LeBron James for the 36th time. James is 22-13 so far, 11-1 in their last 12 matchups.

— Celtics at Lakers, Tuesday: Boston looks for a fifth straight win over the Lakers, which would be its best streak since taking 10 straight from 1974-76.

STAT OF THE WEEK

93: Points by Anthony Davis in his last two games, including a 45-point effort in New Orleans' win at Boston on Tuesday. The Pelicans have now topped 12 of the 15 teams in the Eastern Conference (they got swept by Toronto, are 0-1 against Washington and have yet to play Charlotte).

Aced it: Doc says Trump got perfect score on cognitive test

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump performed "exceedingly well" on a surprise cognitive screening test administered last week, his doctor said Tuesday, as the White House continued to bat back questions about the president's mental fitness for office.

Navy doctor Ronny Jackson, who administered Trump's first presidential physical last week, said Trump received a perfect score on a test designed to detect early signs of memory loss and other mild cognitive impairment. He also reported the 6-foot-3 president weighed in at 239 pounds — three pounds heavier than he was in September 2016, the last time Trump revealed his weight to the public. That number puts Trump on the cusp of — but just under — the obesity mark.

"The president's overall health is excellent," said Jackson, who predicted Trump would remain healthy for the duration of his presidency despite a diet heavy on fast food and an exercise regime limited to weekend golf outings.

"It's called genetics," Jackson said. "I don't know. ... He has incredibly good genes and that's just the way God made him."

Presidents don't typically sit for cognitive assessments during their periodic physical exams. But Jackson said Trump personally requested the test as he continues to face questions about his mental acuity for office. Such questions have escalated in the wake of an unflattering new book that paints Trump as a man-child who has trouble processing information and recognizing old friends.

But the 71-year-old president performed "exceedingly well" on the test, Jackson said, receiving a perfect score.

"He's very sharp. He's very articulate when he speaks to me," said Jackson, who works in close proximity to the president. Jackson accused doctors who have tried to diagnose Trump from afar of performing "tabloid psychiatry."

Still, Jackson said Trump acknowledged he'd be healthier if he lost a few pounds by exercising more and eating better. Jackson said he'd be arranging to have a dietitian consult with the White House chef to cut calories and would be recommending a low-impact, aerobic exercise program for Trump, with the aim of shedding 10 to 15 pounds this year.

"I would say right now on a day-to-day basis, he doesn't have a dedicated, defined exercise program," said Jackson. "The good part is that, you know, we can build on that pretty easily."

Trump's body mass index, or BMI, of 29.9 puts him in the category of being overweight for his height. A BMI of 30 and over is considered obese. A copy of Trump's New York driver's license obtained by Politico listed Trump's height as 6-foot-2, instead of 6-foot-3; the lower height would put Trump over the obesity threshold.

Trump's blood pressure was 122 over 74, and his total cholesterol was 223, which is higher than recommended, even though he takes a low dose of the statin drug Crestor. Jackson said he would increase that dose in an effort to get Trump's so-called "bad" cholesterol, or LDL level, below 120; it currently is 143.

Despite the diet and cholesterol concerns, Jackson stressed that Trump's "cardiac health is excellent." He passed a battery of heart exams, including a stress test that Jackson said showed an above-average exercise capacity for a man of his age, despite some calcium buildup in his arteries. He also takes a low-dose aspirin for heart health.

With such a bad dietary history, how can that be? Jackson said Trump has avoided some big heart risks — he's never smoked and isn't diabetic — and has no family history of heart problems.

Trump has experienced several recent episodes in which he appeared to slur his words, adding to con-

cerns about his health. Jackson said he'd ruled out a list of possible causes, and that dry mouth caused by the over-the-counter decongestant Sudafed was likely to blame.

Trump last revealed details about his health two months before the November 2016 election, when he appeared on the "Dr. Oz" show to give details of a physical performed by his longtime physician, the eccentric Dr. Harold Bornstein. A year earlier, Bornstein had released a letter that predicted Trump would be "the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency" if he won.

The Montreal Cognitive Assessment that Trump took includes remembering a list of spoken words; listening to a list of random numbers and repeating them backward; naming as many words that begin with, say, the letter F as possible within a minute; accurately drawing a cube; and describing concrete ways that two objects — like a train and a bicycle — are alike.

Cognitive assessments aren't routine in standard physicals, though they recently became covered in Medicare's annual wellness visits for seniors.

"It's not a diagnostic test, but it's pretty sensitive in picking up subtle changes in cognition," things involving memory, attention and language but not mental health issues, said Dr. Ranit Mishori, professor of family medicine at Georgetown University, who performs these types of routine physicals.

Mishori said Trump's vital signs, blood tests and physical examinations suggest "he seems to be on track, what you would want to see in a 71-year-old overweight male."

But Mishori cautioned that despite good results on his cardiac exams, Trump is at increased risk of cardiovascular disease because of his age, weight, sedentary lifestyle and cholesterol level.

AP Medical Writer Luran Neergaard and Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Conservatives balk at GOP plan to avert government shutdown

By ALAN FRAM and ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Disgruntled conservatives threatened late Tuesday to scuttle Republican leaders' plans to prevent a weekend government shutdown, saying GOP leaders now lack the votes to push their proposal through the House. The setback came as a deal between President Donald Trump and Congress to protect young immigrants from deportation also remained distant.

The intransigence by the House Freedom Caucus came as Republican leaders raced against a Friday deadline for pushing a short-term spending bill through Congress. If they fail, federal agencies would start shutting their doors over the weekend — an election-year debacle that GOP leaders and many Democrats are eager to avoid for fear of alienating voters.

The leader of the hard-right Freedom Caucus emerged from a Tuesday night meeting to say its members — and other GOP lawmakers as well — want a short-term bill keeping federal agencies open to contain added money for the military.

"There's not enough support to pass it with GOP-only votes in the House," the group's leader, Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., told reporters. He said he planned to discuss their concerns with Republican leaders.

The GOP focus on keeping government open comes as it's become certain there's no time to cut a deal by Friday on protecting young immigrants.

Those talks were soured by Trump's incendiary remarks about "shithole" countries in Africa last week. Democratic leaders said they would not promise to vote to keep the government open past Friday without a plan to preserve a program that protects the young immigrants known as "Dreamers."

"We don't want to shut down the government. ... We want to keep the government open," Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., told reporters. "But we're not going to be held hostage to do things that we think are going to be contrary to the best interests of the American people."

House Republican leaders tried to win over wary conservatives with a promise to repeal unpopular taxes as part of the bill preventing a shutdown.

They sweetened the plan with a two-year delay on implementation of unpopular taxes on medical devices

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and generous employer-subsidized health care plans. The taxes, also unpopular with many Democrats, are part of former President Barack Obama's marquee health law.

The temporary funding bill would also include a long-delayed, six-year renewal of a popular health insurance program for children of low-income families. It would fund the government through Feb. 16.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., unveiled the plan at a Tuesday evening GOP meeting. Lawmakers and aides initially said it was received well, raising hopes that a potential shutdown would be sidestepped with relative ease. A Ryan spokeswoman declined later to comment on the Freedom Caucus' opposition.

Many Democrats said they're still unlikely to support the measure without an agreement on immigration. The prospects for such a deal were complicated as Democrats appeared to see scant reason to bargain with a president many in their party view as holding racist views.

"There's no trust there," said Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz.

Negotiations on immigration were to resume Wednesday but Marc Short, a top White House aide, said an agreement was very unlikely to come this week. "We're optimistic that we'll get a deal," Short said. "I think this week would be fairly Herculean."

Even if they succeed in the House, Republicans would still need at least nine Democratic votes to push a spending package through the Senate, which the GOP controls 51-49. Democrats seeking leverage are forcing that bill to require 60 votes for passage.

When the Senate approved a similar short-term spending bill in December, 17 Democrats plus Maine independent Angus King voted to keep the government open. Seven of those Democrats face re-election in November in Trump-won states — including West Virginia, North Dakota and Montana, which have small numbers of minority voters.

Sen. Joe Manchin, a Democrat from West Virginia, said Tuesday he'll vote for a short-term spending bill without a plan to assist the immigrants facing possible deportation. Other red- and swing-state Democrats did not commit.

"I think everyone has the empathy and compassion to want to help these young people who are stranded and we're trying to find that, but shutting down the government isn't going to help them," Manchin said.

Democrats voting against that December bill included some senators — such as Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California — who might seek the presidency in 2020 and would love support from their party's liberal voters.

On the left, liberal groups are ramping up pressure on Democrats to resist any spending plan. Groups like MoveOn, United We Dream and CREDO shifted their focus from Republicans to Democrats earlier in the month, threatening primary challenges and public ridicule for Democrats unwilling to risk a government shutdown to save the program for young immigrants.

Meanwhile, the bipartisan group of senators continued work to build support for a plan to protect the "Dreamers" and toughen border security, including funds to start building Trump's long-promised border wall.

Trump ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, late last year but gave Congress until March 5 to pass legislation extending the initiative created by President Barack Obama. It has protected around 800,000 young immigrants from deportation.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell sought to highlight the later deadline, suggesting there was more time to work out a deal. A shutdown now would be "a manufactured crisis," he argued.

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking, Marcy Gordon and Steve Peoples contributed to this report.

Tillerson warns military action on NK unless diplomacy works

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned Tuesday that if North Korea does not choose to negotiate on giving up its nuclear weapons that pose a growing threat to the

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United States it could trigger a military response.

After a meeting of U.S. allies on how to beef up the sanctions pressure, Tillerson stressed that the Trump administration seeks a diplomatic resolution in the nuclear standoff, but he said the North has yet to show itself to be a "credible negotiating partner." He said U.S.-North Korea talks would require a "sustained cessation" of threatening behavior.

Tillerson declined to comment on whether the White House is considering limited military action against Pyongyang, in response to reports that some in the Trump administration advocate military action to give the North a "bloody nose."

"We all need to be very sober and clear-eyed about the current situation," Tillerson said when he was asked whether Americans should be concerned about the possibility of a war. He said North Korea has continued to make significant advances in its nuclear weapons through the thermonuclear test and progress in its intercontinental missile systems.

"We have to recognize that the threat is growing and that if North Korea does not choose the pathway of engagement, discussion, negotiation then they themselves will trigger an option," he said.

His uncompromising message came after a gathering in Vancouver of 20 nations that were on America's side during the Korean War, where there was skepticism among the allies over North Korea's sincerity in its recent diplomatic opening with the U.S.-allied South. The meeting convened days after a mistaken missile alert caused panic on Hawaii, a stark reminder of the fears of conflict with the North.

Despite Washington's tough stance and determination to keep up the pressure on North Korea, President Donald Trump has signaled openness to talks with the North under the right circumstances. After months of insults and blood-curdling threats traded with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Trump suggested in an interview last week that the two leaders could have a positive relationship.

Tillerson declined to say Tuesday whether Trump has spoken directly to Kim.

"I don't think it's useful to comment" he said. "We are at a very tenuous stage in terms of how far North Korea has taken their program and what we can do to convince them to take an alternative path. And so when we get into who's talking to who and what was said, if we want that to be made know or made public we will announce it."

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said its talks with North Korea, leading to the North's participation in next month's Olympics being hosted by the South, are a "significant first step toward restoring inter-Korean relations."

But she conceded that despite the overtures, North Korea has yet to show any intention to fulfill its obligations on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono was blunter. He said the North "wants to buy some time to continue their nuclear and missile programs."

The meeting was attended by foreign ministers and senior diplomats of nations that sent troops or humanitarian aid to the U.N. Command that supported South Korea in the fight against the communist North and its allies during the 1950-53 Korean War. It's a diverse gathering of mostly European and Asian nations, as well as Australia, New Zealand and Colombia.

The delegates were briefed Monday night by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. A senior State Department official described that as a chance to demonstrate that the U.S. has an integrated strategy and to raise confidence that it definitely prefers a diplomatic solution over resorting to military action. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the briefing and requested anonymity.

The gathering, co-hosted by Canada and the U.S., had few concrete outcomes and was principally intended as a show of solidarity. But it alienated China and Russia, which fought on the communist side in the war and were not invited. U.S. officials say those two nations, which are the North's main economic and diplomatic partners, will be briefed afterward.

Beijing and Moscow have supported U.N. Security Council resolutions to restrict export revenue for North Korean nuclear and missile development. They are more forward-leaning than Washington in their calls for negotiations with Kim's government. The sanctions also limit imports by North Korea of oil and

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petroleum products, most of which are supplied by China.

Tillerson said all nations must work together to improve maritime interdiction operations and stop illicit ship-to-ship transfers that violate U.N. sanctions. He said the allies did not seek to interfere with "legitimate maritime activities." He said most interdictions to date have taken place in ports and have not required military action.

The latest U.N. Security Council resolution, adopted in December in response to an ICBM test, calls on member states to impound vessels in their ports if there are reasonable grounds to suspect illicit trade with North Korea. It authorizes interdictions in a member state's territorial waters.

Tech, health care companies help lift US stocks higher

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks moved broadly higher in midday trading Wednesday as the market bounced back from modest losses a day earlier. Technology and health care companies accounted for much of the gains. Industrial stocks also rose following encouraging data on industrial production. Some big banks fell after reported hefty quarterly losses.

KEEPING SCORE: The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 14 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,790 as of 12 p.m. Eastern Time. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 177 points, or 0.7 percent, to 25,970. The Nasdaq added 34 points, or 0.5 percent, to 7,257. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 4 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,577.

THE QUOTE: "If you look at earnings growth, and then also as people are trying to digest the impact of corporate tax reform, when you do see a sell-off you do see people coming into the market and trying to find some bargains," said Nana Aday, global investment specialist at J.P. Morgan Private Bank.

TECH RALLY: Technology companies notched solid gains in early trading. Lam Research led all stocks in the S&P 500, climbing \$11.12, or 5.8 percent, to \$201.51.

HEALTHY MOVES: Health care stocks were headed higher, led by AmerisourceBergen. The stock added 95 cents, or 1 percent, to \$100.50.

DATA BOOST: Industrial stocks were moving higher after the Federal Reserve said U.S. industrial production rose 0.9 percent in December, propelled by a surge in utility output. Boeing was among the sector's big gainers, rising \$9.50, or 2.8 percent, to \$344.66.

DEAL TALK: Juno Therapeutics soared 47.7 percent after the Wall Street Journal reported that biotech drugmaker Celgene might buy it. Juno is one of several companies developing therapies that involve genetically engineering patients' blood cells to fight cancer. Shares in Juno rose \$21.74 to \$67.34. Celgene fell \$2.13, or 2 percent, to \$102.69.

ROUGH ROAD: Ford Motor slumped 6.1 percent after the automaker gave a disappointing profit forecast for the year because of weaker sales in the U.S., higher commodity costs and its investments in new electric and hybrid cars. The stock was the biggest decliner in the S&P 500, giving up 80 cents to \$12.30.

DEEPENING SLIDE: General Electric fell 4.6 percent on reports that the industrial conglomerate might split itself up. GE shares were trading at a six-year low, shedding 83 cents to \$17.38.

EXECUTIVE SHUFFLE: Dentsply Sirona slid 5 percent after the manufacturer of professional dental products named Donald Casey Jr. its new CEO. Casey takes over from interim CEO Mark Thierer. Dentsply shares fell \$3.27 to \$62.38.

BANK EARNINGS: Goldman Sachs and Bank of America were down following their latest quarterly results. Goldman said it lost \$1.93 billion in the fourth quarter as the investment bank had to record more than \$4 billion in charges related to the new U.S. tax law. It also said its trading desks had a weak quarter. Bank of America said its fourth-quarter profits fell by nearly half from a year ago, as the bank had to book \$2.9 billion in charges related to the tax law. Goldman shares declined \$7.49, or 2.9 percent, to \$250.97, while Bank of America lost 31 cents, or 1 percent, to \$30.93.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude was up 21 cents at \$63.94 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 31 cents to \$69.46 a barrel.

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BOND YIELDS: Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 2.56 percent from 2.54 percent late Wednesday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 110.86 yen from 110.30 yen on Wednesday. The euro fell to \$1.2234 from \$1.2271.

BITCOIN: The price of bitcoin extended its slide. The digital currency was down 11.4 percent to \$10,083, according to the tracking site CoinDesk. Bitcoin futures on the Cboe Futures Exchange were 10.3 percent lower at \$9,920. The futures allow investors to make bets on the future price of bitcoin. Many finance pros believe the currency is experiencing a speculative bubble that could burst any time.

MARKETS OVERSEAS: In Europe, Germany's DAX lost 0.5 percent, while the CAC 40 in France slipped 0.4 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 0.4 percent. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.4 percent, while the Kospi in South Korea shed 0.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rebounded from earlier losses to gain 0.3 percent.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2018. There are 348 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 17, 1893, Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Lili'uokalani (lee-LEE'-oo-oh-kah-LAH'-nee) to abdicate. The 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, died in Fremont, Ohio, at age 70.

On this date:

In 1781, during the Revolutionary War, American forces defeated the British in the Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina.

In 1806, Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha, gave birth to James Madison Randolph, the first child born in the White House.

In 1917, Denmark ceded the Virgin Islands to the United States for \$25 million.

In 1929, the cartoon character Popeye the Sailor made his debut in the "Thimble Theatre" comic strip.

In 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II; Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

In 1953, a prototype of the Chevrolet Corvette was unveiled during the General Motors Motorama at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

In 1966, a U.S. Air Force B-52 carrying four unarmed hydrogen bombs crashed on the Spanish coast. (Three of the bombs were quickly recovered, but the fourth wasn't recovered until April.) The Simon & Garfunkel album "Sounds of Silence" was released by Columbia Records.

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc., ruled 5-4 that the use of home video cassette recorders to tape television programs for private viewing did not violate federal copyright laws.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe (koh-bay), Japan.

In 1998, the Drudge Report said Newsweek magazine had killed a story about an affair between President Bill Clinton and an unidentified White House intern, the same day Clinton gave a deposition in Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against him in which he denied having had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Ten years ago: Bobby Fischer, the chess grandmaster who became a Cold War icon when he dethroned

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the Soviet Union's Boris Spassky as world champion in 1972, died in Reykjavik, Iceland, at age 64. Former football player-turned-preacher Ernie Holmes, a two-time Super Bowl champion with the Pittsburgh Steelers, was killed in a one-car accident near Lumberton, Texas, at age 59. Character actor Allan Melvin died in Los Angeles at age 84.

Five years ago: Algerian helicopters and special forces stormed a natural gas plant in the Sahara to rescue hostages from at least 10 countries held by al-Qaida-linked militants; nearly all the militants and at least 37 of the hostages were killed. Oprah Winfrey's OWN network broadcast the first of a two-part interview with Lance Armstrong, in which the disgraced cyclist told Winfrey he had started doping in the mid-1990s.

One year ago: President Barack Obama granted clemency to Chelsea Manning, allowing the transgender Army intelligence officer convicted of leaking more than 700,000 U.S. documents to go free nearly three decades early. Donald Trump's choice to head the Interior Department, Rep. Ryan Zinke, rejected the president-elect's claim that climate change was a hoax, telling his Senate confirmation hearing it was indisputable that environmental changes were affecting the world's temperature and that human activity was a major reason.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 96. Former FCC chairman Newton N. Minow is 92. Actor James Earl Jones is 87. Talk show host Maury Povich is 79. Pop singer Chris Montez is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer William Hart (The Delfonics) is 73. Actress Joanna David is 71. Actress Jane Elliot is 71. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 65. Singer Steve Earle is 63. Singer Paul Young is 62. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 61. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 59. Movie director-screenwriter Brian Helgeland is 57. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 56. Actor Denis O'Hare is 56. Former first lady Michelle Obama is 54. Actor Joshua Malina is 52. Singer Shabba Ranks is 52. Rock musician Jon Wysocki is 50. Actor Naveen Andrews is 49. Electronic music DJ Tiesto is 49. Rapper Kid Rock is 47. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 43. Actor-writer Leigh Whannel is 41. Actress-singer Zooey Deschanel is 38. Dancer Maksim Chmerkovskiy (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 38. Singer Ray J is 37. Actor Diogo Morgado is 37. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 36. NBA player Dwyane Wade is 36. Actor Ryan Gage is 35. DJ-singer Calvin Harris is 34. Folk-rock musician Jeremiah Fraites is 32. Actor Jonathan Keltz is 30. Actress Kelly Marie Tran (Film: "Star Wars: The Last Jedi") is 29. Actress Kathrine (cq) Herzer is 21.

Thought for Today: "He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money." — Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790).

Riddle Answer: Wedding Ring