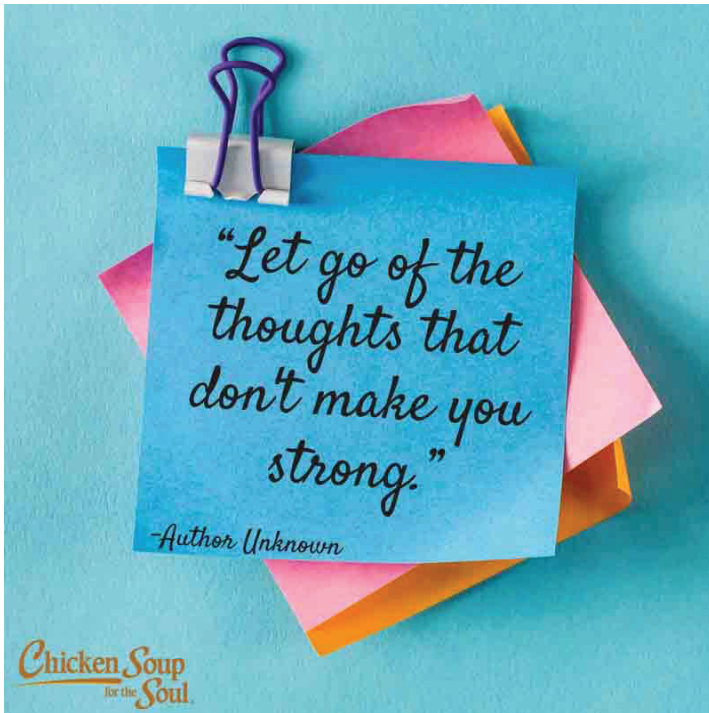


Groton Daily Independent

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Today's Riddle:

**For me, yesterday comes after today with tomorrow in between. What am I?
Answer at end of AP News**

Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping
Simple Solutions for YOU
605/216-4474 ~ peterson4@nvc.net

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

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping Ad
- 1- Today's Riddle
- 2- DeHoet has double-double night against Northwestern
- 5- Groton MathCounts team places second at Simmons
- 6- Gun Show Ad
- 6- Farmers Union PSA
- 6- World of Experience
- 7- Cold, Wet Climate Outlook for Early Spring 2018
- 8- Drought Monitor
- 10- Silver Skates Ad
- 11- Today in Weather History
- 12- Today's Forecast
- 13- Yesterday's Weather
- 13- Today's Weather Info
- 13- National Weather Map
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- 2018 Community Events
- 16- News from the Associated Press

Today's Events

Tuesday, Jan. 23

GBB hosts Clark-Willow Lake with JV game at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game

Thursday, Jan. 25

NEC Wrestling at Clark, 4 p.m.

DeHoet has double-double night against Northwestern



Brodyn DeHoet had a double-double night to lead the Tigers.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

and 50 percent of its attempted 32 free throws off of Groton Area's 27 team fouls. Sippel and Andrew Rintala both fouled out for Groton Area.

The Tigers had 16 assists with Shabazz having six, and 47 rebounds. Northwestern had eight assists with Schentingel having four and 40 rebounds. Groton Area had 17 turnovers, 11 of which were steals with Schentingel having seven. Northwestern had 13 turnovers, five of which were steals with Sippel having two.

Groton won the junior varsity game, 30-27 with a 13-4 scoring advantage in the fourth quarter. Kaden Kurtz led the Tigers with 10 points followed by Cade Guthmiller with eight, Austin Jones had four, Chandler Larson and Darine Shabazz each had three and Treyton Diegel had two points.

Jones had seven rebounds, Guthmiller had two assists and Jones and Kurtz each had two steals.

Zack Toennies led the Wildcats with nine points.

Groton Area will host Clark-Willow Lake on Friday.

It was another run and gun game Monday evening, but it was the Northwestern Wildcats shutting down the Groton Area Tigers in the second half to post a 72-57 non-conference win.

There were 10 lead changes and the game was tied twice in the first half with Groton Area taking a 12-11 lead at the end of the first quarter and Northwestern taking a 36-32 lead at half time.

Groton Area made 27 percent of its field goals in the first half and that cooled down to 19 percent in the second half. Northwestern made 54 percent of its field goals in the first half and 52 percent in the second half. The Wildcats took a 54-42 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Brodyn DeHoet had a double-double on the night with 17 points and 15 rebounds. Seric Shabazz added 14 points while Treyton Diegel came off the bench to add nine points, Anthony Sippel had eight points and Brandon Keith added seven points.

Caleb Schentingel also had a double-double night for the Wildcats with 12 points and 13 rebounds, but it was Zec Clemens stealing the show with 27 points. Isaac Bauen had 14 points, Jarrett Haven 11 and Gavin Bohl added eight points.

Groton Area made 26 percent of its field goals, 28 percent of its three-pointers and 71 percent of its 14 attempted free throws off of Northwestern's 13 team fouls.

The Wildcats made 53 percent of its field goals, 25 percent of its three-pointers



Brandon Keith quickly brings the ball upcourt for the Tigers. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Boys Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Northwestern

VISITOR: 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							
20 KEITH, BRANDON	F	2	11	2	7	1	4	5	0	5	1	7	4	2	0	1	24:00
42 DEHOET, BRODYN	C	6	20	1	7	4	5	5	10	15	4	17	1	3	0	0	8:00
3 SIPPEL, ANTHONY	G	2	7	1	2	3	3	2	3	5	5	8	2	3	0	2	24:00
5 SHABAZZ, SERIC	G	4	14	4	11	2	2	3	4	7	3	14	6	2	0	1	32:00
10 LANE, MARSHALL	G	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	3	7	5	2	1	2	0	1	16:00
11 RINTALA, ANDREW		0	5	0	4	0	0	1	1	2	5	0	2	1	0	0	8:00
14 KURTZ, KADEN		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
22 GUTHMILLER, CADE		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
34 JONES, AUSTIN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
40 JOHNSON, PEYTON		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
50 TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	8:00
55 DIEGEL, TREYTON		3	9	3	8	0	0	0	3	3	2	9	0	2	0	0	24:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								2	1	3				0			
Team Totals		18	69	11	39	10	14	22	25	47	27	57	16	17	0	5	160

Total FG% - 1st: 10/27 0.370 2nd: 8/42 0.190 Game: 0.261 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 4/9 0.444 2nd: 7/30 0.233 Game: 0.282 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 8/10 0.800 2nd: 2/4 0.500 Game: 0.714 (1,0)

HOME: Northwestern ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
0 Clemens, Zec	*	11	19	0	5	5	9	2	1	3	3	27	2	1	0	0	24:00
2 Schentingel, Caleb	*	3	9	1	2	5	7	2	11	13	2	12	4	1	0	7	32:00
3 Bauen, Isaac	*	4	6	2	3	4	7	1	3	4	3	14	0	8	0	1	16:00
5 Bohl, Gavin	*	3	7	1	5	1	3	1	3	4	1	8	0	0	0	1	16:00
40 Haven, Jarret	*	5	6	0	0	1	4	2	3	5	4	11	2	2	0	2	16:00
1 Peterson, Dalton		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00
4 Alomes, Pablo		0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	24:00
21 Orr, Danny		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
24 Toennies, Zach		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	9	9				0			
Team Totals		26	49	4	16	16	32	8	32	40	13	72	8	13	0	11	160

Total FG% - 1st: 15/28 0.536 2nd: 11/21 0.524 Game: 0.531 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/10 0.200 2nd: 2/6 0.333 Game: 0.250 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 4/5 0.800 2nd: 12/27 0.444 Game: 0.500 (7,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	12	20	10	15	57
Northwestern	11	25	18	18	72

Last FG: Groton 4th-08:00, Northwestern 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Groton by 3 1st-08:00, Northwestern by 15 4th-08:00
 Score tied: 2 times, Lead changed: 10 times

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Boys Junior Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Northwestern

VISITOR: Groton Area

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS							S	MIN	
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO			BK
12 SHABAZZ, DARIEN	F	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	3	0	0	24:00
34 JONES, AUSTIN	F	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	3	4	1	1	0	2	24:00
14 KURTZ, KADEN	G	1	6	0	1	8	8	2	4	6	1	10	0	2	0	2	24:00
22 GUTHMILLER, CADE	G	3	7	0	3	2	3	1	3	4	2	8	2	1	0	1	32:00
55 Diegel, Treyton	*	1	6	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	24:00
32 LARSON, CHANDLER		1	5	0	0	1	2	2	1	3	0	3	1	1	0	0	24:00
50 TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									1	0	1			0			
Team Totals		9	32	1	9	11	13	6	20	26	8	30	4	11	0	5	160

Total FG% - 1st: 3/16 0.188 2nd: 6/16 0.375 Game: 0.281 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/7 0.143 2nd: 0/2 0.000 Game: 0.111 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/2 1.000 2nd: 9/11 0.818 Game: 0.846 (2,0)

HOME: Northwestern

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS							S	MIN	
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO			BK
1 Peterson, Dalton	*	0	3	0	2	2	2	1	4	5	2	2	0	3	0	1	32:00
4 Alonso, Pablo	*	2	6	1	3	0	0	0	2	2	3	5	1	4	0	0	24:00
21 Orr, Danny	*	2	6	0	2	1	4	3	3	6	2	5	0	0	0	0	24:00
23 Stahl, Kyle	*	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	2	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	16:00
24 Toennies, Zack	*	4	11	1	4	0	0	0	2	2	2	9	0	3	0	2	32:00
10 Schipke, Hunter		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	16:00
12 Haven, Jace		1	2	0	0	3	4	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	8:00
42 Duncan, Zeke		0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									0	3	3			0			
Team Totals		9	31	2	13	7	12	5	17	22	12	27	1	12	0	3	160

Total FG% - 1st: 6/17 0.353 2nd: 3/14 0.214 Game: 0.290 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/7 0.143 2nd: 1/6 0.167 Game: 0.154 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/6 0.333 2nd: 5/6 0.833 Game: 0.583 (2,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	7	2	8	13	30
Northwestern	4	11	8	4	27

Last FG: Add New Team 4th-08:00, Add New Team 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Add New Team by 5 1st-08:00, Add New Team by 10 3rd-08:00
 Score tied: 0 times, Lead changed: 2 times



1st & 2nd Place Team Awards

The 1st place team winners were, front row from left. Holgate: Ian Ahberg, Drew Comstock, Drake Van Steenwyk, Haley Weber, & Coach Dena Sievers.

The 2nd place team winners were, back row from left. Groton: Ethan Clark, Madeline Flihs, Seth Johnson, Travis Townsend.

Groton MathCounts team places second at Simmons

The Simmons Invitational MathCounts Competition was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. Students from nine Aberdeen area schools (Britton-Hecla, Eureka, Holgate, Milbank, Northwestern, Roncalli, Simmons, Warner, and Groton) participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen.

One of the Groton Area Middle School teams earned second place trophies. The team members were Ethan Clark, Madeline Flihs, Seth Johnson, and Travis Townsend. Holgate won the team competition, Simmons placed third followed by Milbank in fourth place.

Madeline Flihs also received individual recognition and a medal by placing in the individual/countdown portion of the competition.

Eight Groton students will participate in the Northeastern South Dakota Chapter MathCounts Competition on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at South Dakota State University in Brookings. The results will determine which teams and individuals advance to the state competition in Pierre on Saturday, March 10.

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)



Doubleheaders

I'm not sure how anyone else feels about this, but personally, I think we should have more doubleheaders in basketball. I know, one of the objections is loss of gate revenue, but sometimes we need to look at more than just the bottom line.

Back in my day in school, we didn't have volleyball. Girls' basketball was played in the fall while it was just boys' basketball in the

winter. (We didn't have wrestling or gymnastics either).

With girls and boys basketball being played in the winter, I see the strain on more parents - AND students.

It's also about economics for the families. I think every school that we play them in boys and girls basketball should be a double header on a Friday night or an early start time on Saturday. Students are stressed out with home work and it's tough when there is a game virtually every night. It might also help tick up attendance as well because people wouldn't have to travel as much and the double header could become a community event.

I like the double headers we have now. We need more of them. I see it in my own kids trying to get homework done in the car on the way to a game. I'm sure I'm not alone. It would also save the school money as they have to clean the gym just once instead of twice. Officials would probably like that as well making one trip instead of two.

Look at the schedule this week. Monday night the boys go to Northwestern. Tuesday night Clark/Willow Lake girls come to town. Friday night Clark/Willow Lake boys come to town. Saturday the boys go to Madison. Next Monday we go back to Northwestern for the boys game.

I would say the Clark/Willow Lake games could be a double header Friday night. Since Northwestern is close, we could have a double header Tuesday night. So instead of tying up five nights, we would have an extra two nights free. Homework could also be adjusted by the teachers as well. If everyone would work together on this proposals, I even bet that the test scores would also go up. What are we gaining if the students have to stay up late to get homework done or study for a test and then go to school the next day tired?



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& grow your local economy

by choosing low carbon

Super Premium E30's

94 octane, more power,

same mileage, fewer

carbon deposits, lower

maintenance costs,

slashed benzene & related

genotoxic, carcinogenic

tailpipe emissions;

*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for

info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's**

PSA: Courtesy Merle

Anderson (Merle is 94

year old founder of Ace

and legendary ethanol

supporter... "because it is

the right thing to do")

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Cold, Wet Climate Outlook for Early Spring 2018

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Colder and wetter than average conditions are possible across northern South Dakota, according to the January 18, 2018 National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Outlook.

"The three-month outlook, shows colder than average temperatures are likely in the northern and eastern regions of South Dakota," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension State Climatologist.

Edwards explained this is consistent with La Nina's typical winter pattern in the region, which often brings colder than average temperatures across the northern states in the winter season.

"South Dakotans have been spoiled with some warm winters in the last few years," she said. "We have had some cold periods this winter, but fortunately each cold period has been shortlived."

Precipitation Outlook

The precipitation outlook for February through April is less certain for South Dakota, however.

"The northwest corner of the state has slightly better odds of wetter than average conditions," Edwards said. "This could help improve the lingering drought conditions in the area."

Overall, Edwards said the national climate outlook is very similar to a typical La Nina pattern, which favors wetter conditions in the northern Rockies and Great Lakes regions.

In the near term, however, she said the month of February has less certainty in both temperature and precipitation outlooks.

"Currently, there is a lot of variability in the computer models for the month ahead. This had led the forecasters to show equal chances of warmer or colder and wetter or drier conditions across South Dakota," Edwards said.

As of January 18, in many areas of the state, snowfall has been below average.

"This is a growing concern for winter wheat producers, who rely on snow cover to protect their crop from temperature extremes in the winter season," Edwards said. "Snow cover can insulate the crop from extreme cold temperatures, but also provide protection from freeze and thaw cycles during warm periods."

With 90 percent of South Dakota ranking as either abnormally dry or in drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Edwards said snowfall would also be beneficial to help replenish soil moisture.

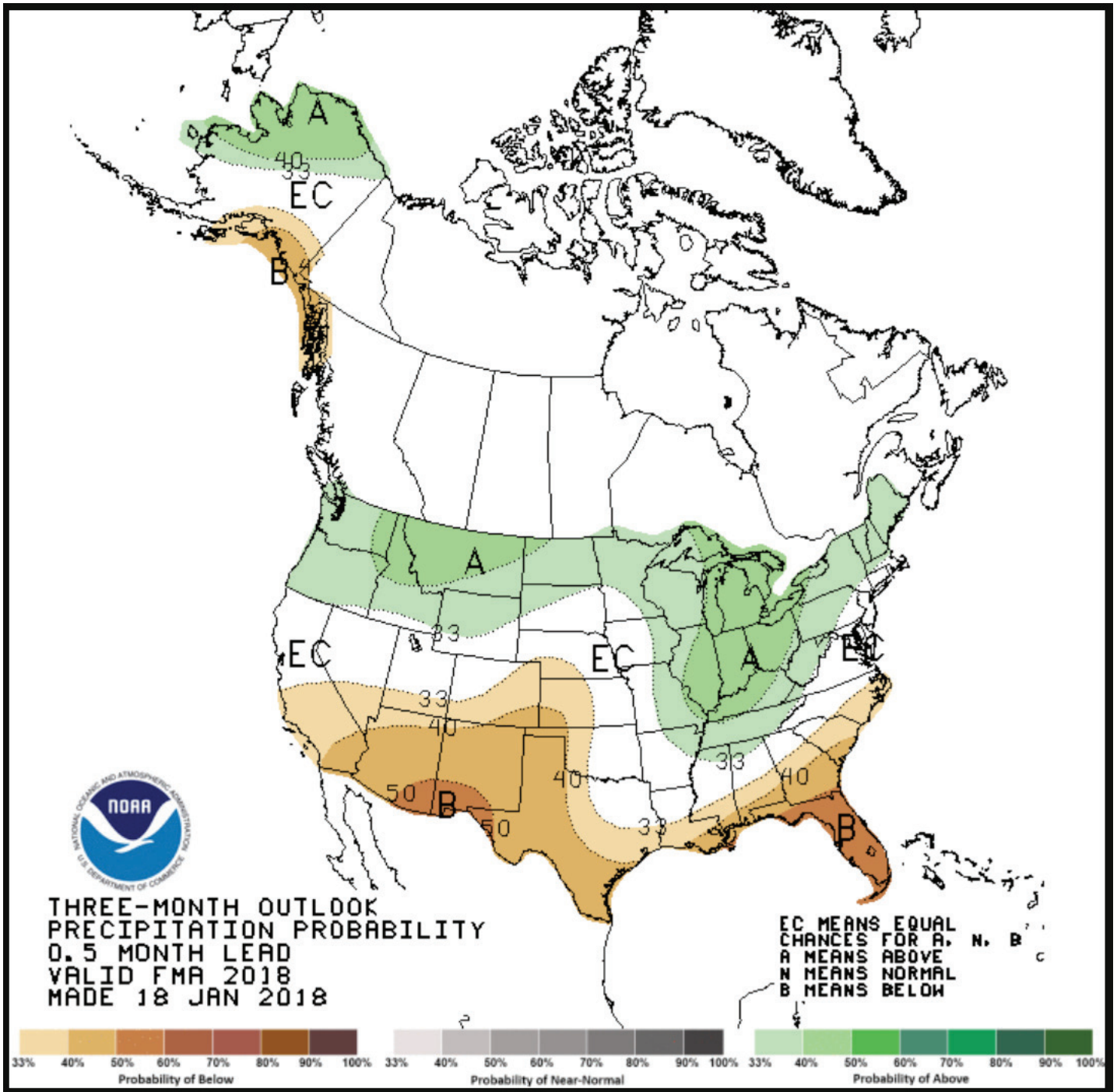
"The winter season is usually our dry season, but temperatures and snowfall during the winter are important to the start of the growing season. South Dakota experienced that last year with an early drought that had a huge impact in the state," Edwards said. "Snowmelt in the spring also helps with replenishing stock ponds and water for livestock."

Edwards added that despite ample snowfall last winter, the warm temperatures in February of 2017 likely contributed to the development of the drought conditions last spring.

"The next couple of months will greatly impact the start of the growing season - for better or for worse," she said.

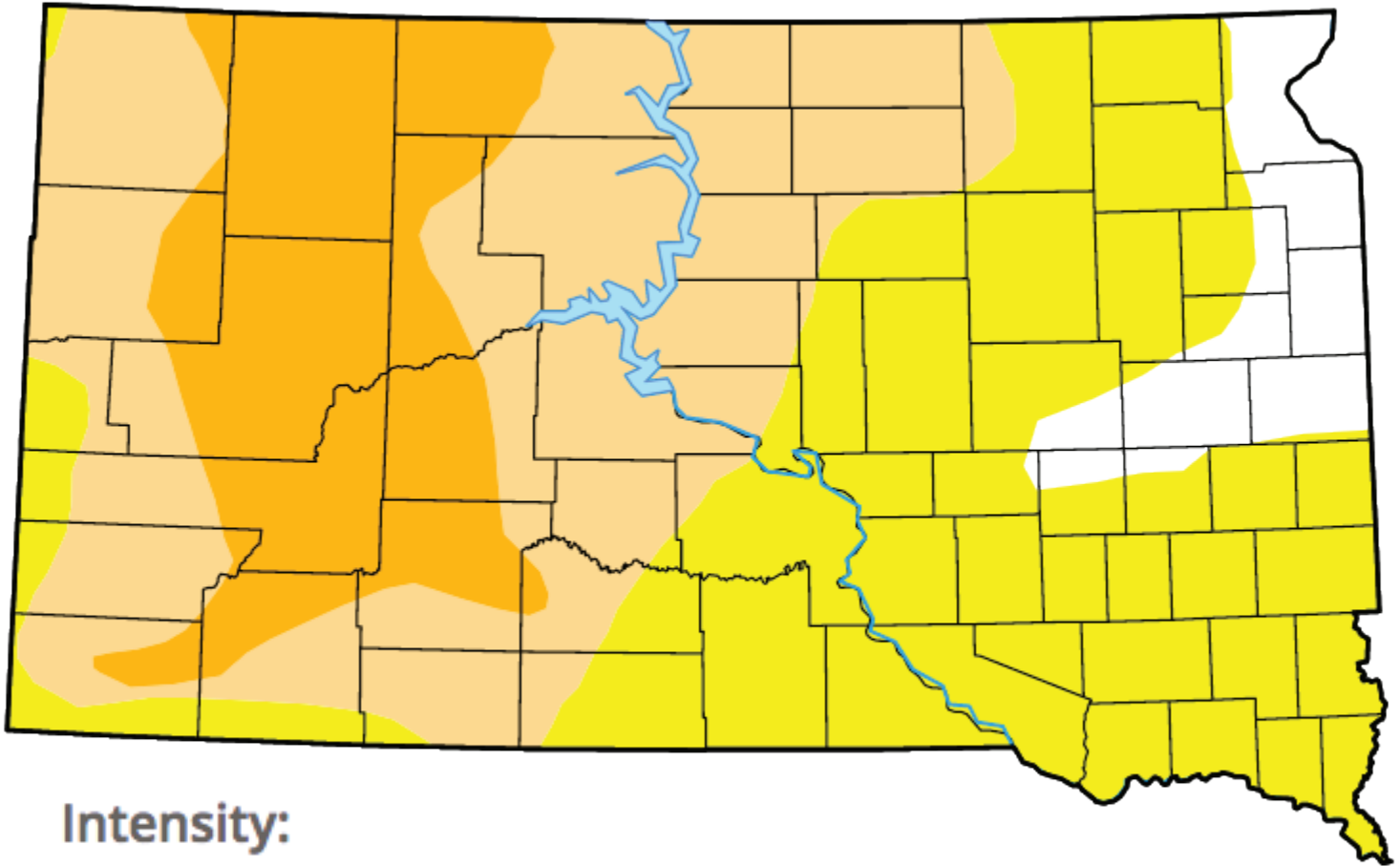
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Intensity:

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)

Drought Monitor

Much of the region did record precipitation in the form of both snow and rain during the last week, but amounts were generally less than half an inch. Some areas of east central Kansas did record close to an inch of precipitation. The most significant changes this week were due to a reanalysis of the data over the short term. From this analysis, the extreme drought over western South Dakota was improved to severe drought status. The impact designation also was changed

from a combination of short- and long-term impacts to only long-term impacts. Dryness in southern Kansas and eastern Colorado continued with an expansion of the severe drought conditions to the west, incorporating all of southwestern Kansas and extreme southeastern Colorado. Extreme drought conditions were also pushed more to the west in southern Kansas.

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80th Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, January 28th—2:00 and
6:30

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

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

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

“Check us out on Facebook at “Silver Skates”

WE HOPE TO
SEE YOU THERE!



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Today in Weather History

January 23, 1969: Intermittent freezing rain on the 20th to the 22nd changed to snow on the 22nd which continued through the 24th. Snowfall of 2 to 6 inches fell across Minnesota and far northeast South Dakota. Blizzard conditions developed on the 23rd and 24th with 30 to 45 mph winds and temperatures dropping to below zero by the 24th. Most of the traffic was halted with many roads blocked from snow drifting. Some rural roads had been blocked for 3 to 4 weeks. Stranded motorists were common in the area. Some snowfall amounts included, 2 inches at Wilmot and Victor, 3 inches at Milbank and Artichoke Lake, and 4 inches at Clear Lake.

1556: An earthquake in Shaanxi, China kills an estimated 830,000 people. This estimated 8.0 to 8.3 magnitude earthquake struck in the middle of a densely populated area where many of the homes were a form of an earth shelter dwelling known as a yaodong. Much is known about this disaster as a scholar named Qin Keda survived the earthquake and recorded the details. Click [HERE](#) for more information about Qin Keda from the Science Museum of China.

1780 - The coldest day of the coldest month of record in the northeastern U.S. A British Army thermometer in New York City registered a reading of 16 degrees below zero. During that infamous hard winter the harbor was frozen solid for five weeks, and the port was cut off from sea supply. (David Ludlum)

1812: A second major series of earthquakes was felt as part of the New Madrid Shocks of the winter of 1811-1812. Many observers reported that the January 23 shocks were as strong as the main earthquake on December 16th of the preceding year.

1916: Browning, Montana, saw the temperature plummet 100 degrees in 24 hours on January 23-24, from a relatively mild 44 to a bone-chilling 56 degrees below zero.

1969: An F4 tornado cut a 120-mile long path from Jefferson through Copiah, Simpson, Smith, Scott, and Newton Counties in Mississippi, killing 32 and injuring 241 others. Property damage was estimated at \$2 million. An inbound Delta Airlines aircraft reported a hook echo on its scope with this storm.

1971 - The temperature at Prospect Creek, AK, plunged to 80 degrees below zero, the coldest reading of record for the United States. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Strong winds ushered bitterly cold air into the north central U.S., and produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region. Snowfall totals in northwest Lower Michigan ranged up to 17 inches in Leelanau County. Wind chill temperatures reached 70 degrees below zero at Sault Ste Marie MI and Hibbing MN. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Northeastern Colorado experienced its most severe windstorm in years. A wind gust to 92 mph was recorded at Boulder CO before the anemometer blew away, and in the mountains, a wind gust to 120 mph was reported at Mines Peak. The high winds blew down a partially constructed viaduct east of Boulder, as nine unanchored concrete girders, each weighing forty-five tons, were blown off their supports. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure brought heavy snow to Wyoming, with 18 inches reported at the Shoshone National Forest, and 17 inches in the Yellowstone Park area. Gunnison CO, with a low of 19 degrees below zero, was the cold spot in the nation for the twelfth day in a row. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A Pacific cold front brought strong and gusty winds to the northwestern U.S. Winds in southeastern Idaho gusted to 62 mph at Burley. Strong winds also prevailed along the eastern slopes of the northern and central Rockies. Winds in Wyoming gusted to 74 mph in Goshen County. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Tue Jan 23	Wed Jan 24	Thu Jan 25	Fri Jan 26	Sat Jan 27	Sun Jan 28	Mon Jan 29
						
29°F 13°F	34°F 18°F	43°F 23°F	41°F 18°F	31°F 9°F	25°F 11°F	35°F 17°F
W 8 MPH	SSW 6 MPH	SSE 13 MPH	WNW 11 MPH	WNW 11 MPH	SE 7 MPH	SSW 8 MPH

Clouds Slow To Clear – Determine Today's Warmth



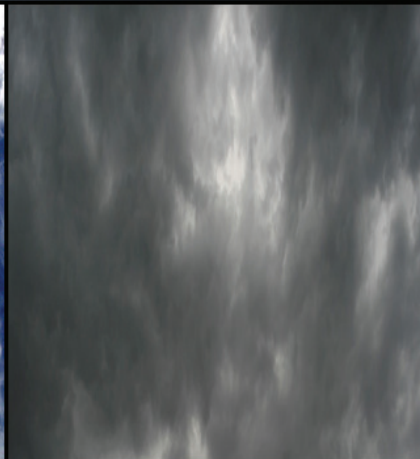
**West River &
Missouri Valley**

**Highs:
Upper 30s
& Low 40s**



James Valley

**Highs:
Upper 20s
& Low 30s**



**Sisseton Hills
Wester MN**

**Highs:
Mid 20s
& Upper 20s**

National Weather Service

Graphic Created
1/23/2018 4:51 AM

weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 01/23/2018 at 5:05AM

Morning clouds and fog will slowly erode from west to east today, and that will determine how warm temperatures get. With plenty of sun, west river will top out in the upper 30s and low 40s - while in the far east and Minnesota - readings will struggle to warm with the persistent clouds. Another area of clouds will move in tonight but is expected to clear by morning allowing for a warm up which will continue through the end of the work week.

Groton Daily Independent

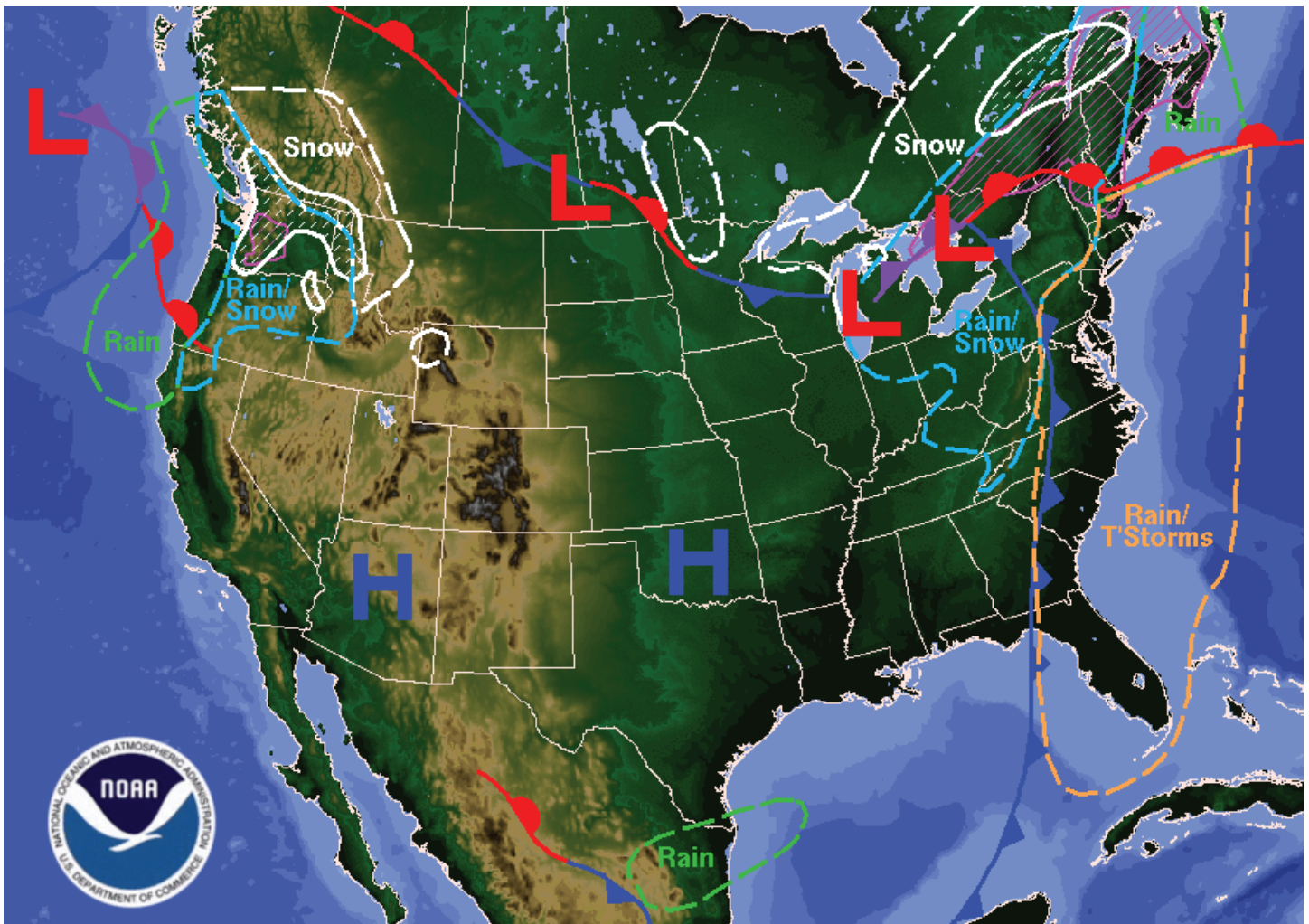
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 24.1 at 2:52 PM
Low Outside Temp: 21.2 at 10:37 AM
Wind Chill: -
High Gust: 24 at 3:07 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1981
Record Low: -34° in 1897
Average High: 23°F
Average Low: 1°F
Average Precip in Jan: 0.36
Precip to date in Jan: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.36
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:27 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:02 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jan 23, 2018, issued 4:23 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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HOPE'S FOUNDATION

Many of us have struggled through difficult times and painful days. We recall with pleasure what God has done in the past with gratitude – knowing that it was His mercy and grace that enabled us to get through lengthy days and long nights. Because of those memories, we now base our hope in Him that He will shepherd us through dark valleys and sunless days.

In Psalm 85 our author is apparently reflecting on a loss suffered by Israel in a military battle. They looked at their loss as punishment from God. But the Psalmist does not focus on the loss, he focuses on the fact that God has brought them out of captivity in the past and forgave them of their sins. With confidence and boldness he says, "Restore us again, O God, our Savior."

The message for us to take away from this Psalm is that in times of depression, defeat and darkness we must remember God's grace in the past and pray in the present for His restoration.

Sometimes when we look at our past and are buried with the guilt of our sins we are fearful of going to God and asking for His grace. We feel that we are undeserving and unworthy. We approach His throne of grace in fear and trembling, wondering if we have any right to ask for forgiveness, cleansing and restoration.

But when these thoughts plague us, we must remember that God's judgment is always tempered by His mercy and He will always forgive us, restore us and revive us again. Forgiveness is always available when we ask for it!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to remember Your blessings in the past as we pass through the problems we face today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 85:4a Restore us, O God of our salvation,

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Bison 68, Dupree 37
Clark/Willow Lake 66, Great Plains Lutheran 42
Hamlin 70, Tiospa Zina Tribal 64
Heart River, N.D. 59, Harding County 41
Iroquois 55, Estelline 36
Northwestern 72, Groton Area 57
Warner 59, Hitchcock-Tulare 36

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Howard vs. Menno, ppd. to Feb 2.
West Central vs. Bon Homme, ppd. to Feb 8.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Dell Rapids St. Mary 49, Baltic 39
Ethan 68, Canistota 42
Faith 34, Mott-Regent, N.D. 31
Hamlin 50, Tiospa Zina Tribal 35
Napoleon, N.D. 66, Herreid/Selby Area 47
South Border, N.D. 57, Eureka/Bowdle 23
St. Thomas More 67, Spearfish 36
Sully Buttes 67, Philip 39
Warner 60, Hitchcock-Tulare 29
Waubay/Summit 63, Sisseton 32

Waverly-South Shore 65, Florence/Henry 39

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Harrisburg vs. Sioux Falls Washington, ppd. to Jan 29.
Howard vs. Menno, ppd. to Feb 12.
West Central vs. Bon Homme, ppd.

Winter storm howls through Midwest

By JEFF BAENEN, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Heavy snow and strong winds pushed across the Midwest on Monday, prompting highway closings in Kansas and South Dakota, school cancellations in Minnesota and grounding of flights in Denver and Minneapolis.

In Minnesota, Gov. Mark Dayton called out the National Guard to help stranded motorists, the Star Tribune reported.

The National Weather Service said more than 10 inches (26 centimeters) of snow has already fallen on North Platte in western Nebraska. In southern Minnesota, the storm dumped 17 inches (43 centimeters) near Owatonna by late afternoon Monday. Dozens of school districts in Minnesota canceled classes.

Weather service meteorologist Bill Borghoff in Minnesota says the storm started brewing Saturday night over Nebraska and spread to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He called it "a very classically developed winter storm," with widespread heavy snow on its northern end.

Transportation officials lifted a no travel advisory for parts of southwest Minnesota, but advised motorists that blowing snow was still a problem. Winds were gusting up to 40 mph (64 kilometers), Borghoff said.

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"If you don't have to travel, don't travel," Borghoff said. Statewide the Minnesota State Patrol reported nearly 200 crashes and nearly 300 spinouts as well as 30 jackknifed semis by late Monday afternoon.

Truck driver Brian Hoppenrath, 59, of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, said he was making his third trip of the day between St. Paul, Minnesota, and Mason City, Iowa, delivering hamburger buns when he couldn't see and had to pull into a truck stop near Owatonna, where he's stuck because of the slippery conditions.

"Even if I could move I would not because it's not safe out there," Hoppenrath said. "You got to know when to get off."

About a dozen flights were canceled or delayed at Denver International Airport on Monday, partly due to a storm hitting Minneapolis. Airlines are working to catch up a day after about 200 flights from Denver, about 15 percent of the day's schedule, were canceled because of snow. Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport reported more than 400 cancellations by Monday afternoon, with average delays of about six hours, Metropolitan Airports Commission spokesman Pat Hogan said.

"It's really a tough day at the airport," Hogan said.

The storm brought blizzard conditions to much of Nebraska and forced the Woodbury County Courthouse to close in Sioux City, Iowa.

South Dakota transportation and public safety officials closed north and southbound lanes of Interstate 29 from around Sioux Falls south to the Iowa border because heavy snow and strong winds made travel nearly impossible.

The Department of Transportation said numerous vehicles, including jackknifed semis, are stuck along the interstate, which is closed from Tea south to Iowa.

Senate panel supports making it harder to alter constitution

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A measure that would make it harder to change the South Dakota constitution passed its first legislative test Monday, but the proposal still must make it through the full Legislature and earn voter approval to take effect.

The Senate State Affairs Committee voted 6-2, with only Republican support, to advance the resolution to the full chamber. Sen. Jim Bolin, its sponsor, said the measure is designed to add additional safeguards for the state constitution.

He said it's is a "legitimate and desirable method of protecting our fundamental political document."

It would put a constitutional amendment before voters this year that would increase the majority vote threshold required for a constitutional change to at least 55 percent of the votes cast on an amendment.

A task force on the ballot question process endorsed the plan after Bolin proposed a similar measure during the 2017 legislative session that was set aside in committee. The Republican lawmaker said he's more confident this year's push will be successful.

Republicans have discussed changes to the ballot question system after the 2016 election season brought 10 questions and millions of dollars from out-of-state groups. Bolin said the use of paid petition circulators, people from outside South Dakota to secure the signatures necessary to get on the ballot and out-of-state money to sway public opinion make his proposal necessary.

"We believe that amending the constitution should not be a cakewalk," said Jim Hood, a lobbyist for the South Dakota Retailers Association. "As history illustrates, once an idea is enshrined in our constitution, it is rarely repealed."

But opponents argued that the proposed amendment could hamper direct democracy in South Dakota.

Rob Timm, president and CEO of the Chiesman Center for Democracy, said it's a potential erosion of freedoms afforded by the state constitution and a "potential assault on our direct democracy." Democratic Sen. Reynold Nesiba said last session's repeal of a government ethics initiative that voters imposed in 2016 caused a lot of anger and disgust.

"Bringing this up right now, a year after we had that contentious conversation, is really horrible timing and is disrespecting the people's voice in South Dakota," Nesiba said.

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The Senate panel also voted 8-1 Monday to approve a bill sponsored by Nesiba on state campaign finance rules. The measure aimed at requiring ballot measure campaigns to disclose their donors while supporters gather signatures to get on the ballot is headed to the full Senate.

It would require initiative campaigns to submit finance reports by July 1 in odd-numbered years when supporters collect signatures needed to get on the ballot. Current rules don't require ballot question campaigns to disclose their donors until long after they've submitted signatures to the state.

"In fact, all of the initiated measures that are in front of the Secretary of State's office right now, that she is processing and putting together, we don't know who paid for the campaign to circulate the petitions," Nesiba said. "We don't find out until afterwards."

Nesiba drafted the legislation after being contacted by The Associated Press about the issue.

Boy's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school boy's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Harrisburg;(18);10-0;114;1
2. Sioux Falls Lincoln;(6);8-2;99;2
3. Rapid City Central;-;12-1;59;3
4. Brandon Valley;-;8-3;43;5
5. Rapid City Stevens;-;11-2;42;4

Others receiving votes: Sioux Falls Washington 2, Yankton 1.<

Class A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Sioux Falls Christian;(24);10-0;120;2
2. Madison;-;10-1;86;1
3. Sioux Valley;-;13-1;79;3
4. Dakota Valley;-;9-2;40;5
5. Bon Homme;-;10-1;11RV

Others receiving votes: Red Cloud 10, Flandreau 5, Tea Area 4, Sisseton 2, Parker 1, Miller 1, Dell Rapids 1.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Clark-Willow Lake;(17);8-1;111;1
2. Bridgewater-Emery;(3);10-3;79;2
3. Sully Buttes;-;7-1;74;3
4. White River;(4);12-0;63;4
5. Canistota;-;10-1;25;5

Others receiving votes: Warner 5, Irene-Wakonda 1, Herreid/Selby Area 1, Corsica-Stickney 1.<

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Girl's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

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SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school girl's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Aberdeen Central	(22)	11-1	118	1	
2. Rapid City Stevens	(1)	10-2	70	4	
3. Sioux Falls Lincoln	(1)	10-2	67	5	
4. Harrisburg	-	7-2	65	2	
5. Brandon Valley	-	9-2	40	3	

Others receiving votes: none.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs		
1. St. Thomas More	(20)	11-1	116	1		
2. Belle Fourche	(3)	13-0	80	2		
3. Vermillion	-	11-1	72	3		
4. Lennox	-	11-2	50	5		
5. McCook Central	5	Montrose	-	10-1	20	RV

Others receiving votes: West Central (1) 16, Dakota Valley 4, Hamlin 2.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Sully Buttes	(22)	10-0	118	1	
2. Castlewood	(2)	10-0	92	2	
3. Waubay-Summit	-	10-0	54	3	
4. Faith	-	14-0	42	4	
5. Avon	-	11-2	26	5	

Others receiving votes: Warner 13, Irene-Wakonda 7, Waverly-South Shore 5, Ethan 2, Hanson 1.

Interstate, state offices close in southeastern South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota transportation and public safety officials are closing north and southbound lanes of Interstate 29 from around Sioux Falls south to the Iowa border because heavy snow and strong winds are making travel nearly impossible.

The Department of Transportation says numerous vehicles, including jackknifed semis, are stuck along the interstate, which is closed from Tea south to Iowa.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard ordered all state offices in three southeast South Dakota counties closed Monday because of the winter storm. State offices are closed in Clay, Union and Yankton counties. Daugaard's office says Human Services Center employees and essential personnel from other state government agencies in those counties should report to work.

South Dakota open primaries push raises over \$205K in 2017

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The campaign for a constitutional amendment that would move South Dakota to an open primary system for many political races raised more than \$205,000 in 2017.

Open Primaries South Dakota reported in January that it ended the year with roughly \$1,000 on hand. Nearly all the campaign's spending went to "Marketing."

The campaign's largest donor was New York-based Open Primaries, which gave \$155,000.

The amendment is with the Secretary of State's office to review whether it will appear on the November ballot.

It would have the top two finishers in a primary advance to the general election regardless of party.

For example, in a gubernatorial race under the plan, there would be an open primary for all candidates in which the top two vote-getters would advance to the general election.

Dakota Access protester pleads guilty in shooting incident

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A Denver woman accused of shooting at law officers while being arrested for protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota pleaded guilty Monday to two federal charges in a deal with prosecutors.

The agreement means Red Fawn Fallis won't stand trial, where she could have faced up to life in prison if convicted. Instead, prosecutors will recommend a sentence of no more than seven years in prison.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Delorme declined comment outside the courtroom on why the government chose not to take the case to trial.

Fallis, 38, was accused of firing a handgun three times during her October 2016 arrest. No one was hurt. She pleaded guilty Monday to civil disorder and gun possession by a convicted felon. She has a 2003 conviction in Colorado for being an accessory to a felony crime. Court records show she was accused of driving a car for a man who shot and wounded another man.

Fallis cried while she entered her pleas. She did not discuss the protest shooting incident, only answering basic questions from U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland about her background and understanding of the proceedings.

Prosecutors at sentencing will drop a more serious count against Fallis — discharge of a firearm during a felony crime of violence. Sentencing wasn't immediately scheduled.

About two dozen supporters of Fallis packed the courtroom but didn't comment after the hearing. The courthouse was under heavy security. The number of federal law and security officers outside the courtroom was double the norm, and people had to obtain passes to enter the courtroom. The courthouse was the site of protests several times when the demonstrations against the pipeline were at their height between August 2016 and February 2017.

Fallis' arrest was among 761 that authorities made in southern North Dakota in that six-month span. At times thousands of pipeline opponents gathered in the region to protest the \$3.8 billion project to move North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois. Fallis is the only protester accused of firing a gun.

The pipeline began operating last June. Opponents fear environmental harm, and four American Indian tribes in the Dakotas are still fighting it in court. The pipeline's Texas-based developer says it's safe.

Fallis will remain jailed until Hovland decides whether she can go to a halfway house in Fargo pending sentencing. She was moved there in October, but last week she was arrested for violating conditions of her pretrial release when she signed out of the facility to attend adult learning classes but never showed up.

"With the change-of-plea hearing coming up, I just needed some time to really think about things," she told Hovland Monday as she tearfully asked to go back to the halfway house. "It's hard to be up here (in North Dakota) with no family to talk to."

Prosecutors last year objected to Fallis being moved from jail to the halfway house, but Delorme on Monday told Hovland the government would take no position on her possible return. He said he had been informed that until last week she had been "a model resident."

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

75 years since massive temperature swing in Spearfish

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Monday marks the 75th anniversary of a startling weather event that put a western South Dakota city in the record books: In just two minutes, the temperature in Spearfish jumped from negative 4 degrees (-20 Celsius) to 45 degrees (7 Celsius) on Jan. 22, 1943.

The temperature then increased to 54 degrees (12 Celsius), only to fall back down that morning to negative 4 degrees (-20 Celsius), the Rapid City Journal reported .

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The weather cracked plate glass windows and instantly frosted car windows, forcing drivers to pull over. Meteorologist Susan Sanders said a combination of especially cold air from the north and east ran into warm air from the west.

"Warmer air came in and pushed (cold air) away," said Sanders. "When the winds let up, the warmer air retreated and the cold air came back."

Sanders said the air masses sloshed back and forth several times that remarkable morning 75 years ago. The extreme temperature swings received national attention, including from "Ripley's Believe it or Not." "There were newspaper stories from all over the country," Sanders said.

She said there wasn't much light-hearted news during the time, with World War II ongoing.

"It was something unusual that caught people's attention," Sanders said.

Bill to fill initiative campaign finance gap heads to Senate

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill aimed at requiring South Dakota ballot measure campaigns to disclose their donors while supporters gather signatures to get on the ballot is headed to the full state Senate.

The State Affairs Committee voted 8-1 Monday for the proposal.

It would require initiative campaigns to submit finance reports by July 1 in odd-numbered years when supporters collect signatures needed to get on the ballot.

Democratic Sen. Reynold Nesiba, the main sponsor, says residents deserve to know who is paying for the campaigns.

Current rules don't require ballot question campaigns to disclose their donors until long after they've submitted signatures to the state.

Nesiba drafted the legislation after being contacted by The Associated Press about the issue.

Republican Sen. Stace Nelson, an opponent, says he thinks campaign finance disclosure is an infringement on people's rights.

Menard's shopper sues over injuries in toy aisle

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Menard Inc. says it's not liable in a lawsuit brought by a customer injured by a falling box at the Rapid City store.

Donna Ferrigno says she suffered permanent injuries because Menard's employees were negligently stocking shelves with a forklift and toppled several boxes into a toy aisle. Ferrigno was hit by one of the boxes in 2014 and suffered injuries to her left arm and shoulder.

The Argus Leader reports Menard's says Ferrigno is not entitled to damages because she assumed a risk and was also negligent.

Menard Inc., headquartered in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, successfully had the case moved from state to federal court. It's asking a federal judge to dismiss the lawsuit.

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

Democrat Sutton: Governor campaign raised \$871K in 2017

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Senate Democratic leader Billie Sutton says he raised more than \$870,000 for his governor campaign in 2017.

Sutton announced fundraising numbers Monday in his bid to succeed Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard. Sutton's campaign says he ended the year with roughly \$664,000 in the bank.

The campaign says Sutton has outperformed other Democratic candidates for governor at this stage of the race. The lawmaker from Burke wants to become the first Democratic governor elected in South Dakota since 1974.

U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and Attorney General Marty Jackley are Republicans competing for the governor's office in 2018.

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Jackley's campaign announced earlier in January that he'd raised over \$1 million in 2017, but didn't give specific numbers.

The deadline to submit year-end campaign finance reports is Friday.

Unpaid child support grows significantly in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Federal figures show the amount of unpaid child support grew by more than \$40 million in South Dakota in recent years.

Unpaid child support rose from about \$147 million in 2012 to just over \$191 million in 2016. An analysis by the Argus Leader says that's the largest increase in the nation during that time frame.

Family law attorney Chris McClure previously worked for the Department of Social Services. McClure says there are two big reasons why arrearages have grown so significantly. He says South Dakota was slow to join other states in reducing minimum child support payments from parents who are unemployed or in jail.

Also, McClure says a boost in the minimum wage in South Dakota drove up the minimum child support required of non-custodial parents.

Sioux Falls police take jab at Minnesota Vikings on Twitter

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police took a good-natured jab at the Minnesota Vikings as the team lost to the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC championship game, and lost out on a trip to the Super Bowl.

As the Eagles went up 31-7 against the vaunted Vikings defense, Sioux Falls police tweeted: "We just have been contacted by the @MinneapolisPD and are assisting in the locating of the Minnesota Vikings defense."

The Argus Leader reports the tweet on the department's official Twitter account went on to say: "If located we will let you know. We must hurry as we have been given a 30 minute time limit to assist."

The police assistance didn't help — the Eagles went on to win 38-7.

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

Myanmar says it's ready to begin Rohingya repatriation

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar officials said Tuesday they are ready to begin a gradual repatriation of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh despite a delay announced by Bangladesh authorities.

Under an agreement between the two countries, a two-year repatriation process was to begin Tuesday. But officials in Bangladesh on Monday said a number of issues remain unresolved, in particular concerns that refugees were being forced to return.

Myanmar Union Minister Thaug Tun told reporters on Tuesday that his country is "ready to receive those who will be coming across the border."

More than 680,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh to escape a brutal crackdown by Myanmar's military that began in August. The Buddhist-majority country's security forces have been accused of atrocities against Rohingya including killing, rape and arson. The United Nations and the U.S. have described the army crackdown as "ethnic cleansing."

Thaug Tun said Myanmar is currently prepared to receive 300 returnees a day and "the number could increase based on the progress of the first batch that will be coming across."

Myanmar Social Welfare Minister Win Myat Aye said Myanmar has provided Bangladesh with a list of 700 Rohingya and 400 Hindu refugees who have been verified as eligible for repatriation. Only refugees with identity documents — which most Rohingya lack — will be allowed back into Myanmar.

The two countries have signed an agreement to begin sending people home in "safety, security and dignity," but rights groups have expressed concern about the status of Rohingya going back to villages they fled only months ago in terror. According to the U.N. refugee agency and other rights groups, Rohingya are still fleeing across the border to Bangladesh, although the numbers are smaller than in previous months.

"As of today, the necessary safeguards for potential returnees are absent, and there are continued restrictions on access for aid agencies, the media and other independent observers," UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards said in Geneva on Tuesday.

Rohingya are generally viewed in Myanmar as having migrated illegally from Bangladesh, although many families have lived in Myanmar for generations, and they have been denied citizenship, freedom of movement and other basic rights.

"How can we go back to Myanmar without anyone guaranteeing our security," said Alam, a Rohingya in the Bulakhali refugee camp in Bangladesh. "If we would be given homes in our villages that were burned, then we will go back."

Though a total of more than 1 million Rohingya Muslims are living in refugee camps in Bangladesh, international aid workers, local officials and the refugees themselves say preparations for repatriation are far from complete. Myanmar authorities, however, say they are ready to begin.

"No matter what, from our side, Myanmar is ready to start the process, but Bangladesh may have difficulties, causing a delay in sending refugees back," said Win Myat Aye, Myanmar's social welfare minister.

As shutdown eases federal workers fear prospect of another

By MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The swift steps ending a messy and expensive government shutdown set the stage for hundreds of thousands of federal workers to return Tuesday, but some say they fear they could find themselves in limbo again in a few more weeks.

Congress sped toward moving to reopen government after Democrats reluctantly voted to temporarily pay for resumed operations on Monday afternoon. The House approved the measure shortly thereafter, sending the spending bill to President Donald Trump, who quickly signed it.

Ali Niaz, a Department of Labor employee who was sent home Monday, took advantage of the partial three-day federal paralysis to tap into shutdown discounts offered by a tavern in the nation's capital. He asked the bartender if the same deals would be "offered next month when the government shuts down again" — already pointing to when a temporary spending measure ends in early February.

For days, the shutdown effectively cleaved the federal workforce in half as hundreds of thousands of workers were sent home while others declared essential employees stayed on the job.

Felicia Sharp, a lab tech with the Defense Department at Fort Belvoir in northern Virginia, was deemed essential and reported to work Monday. She said the whiplash that occurs when employees are furloughed makes it hard to plan upon returning to work.

Sharp, who also serves as a local president for the American Federation of Government Employees, said the deal that keeps government open for a few weeks, "only just postpones the inevitable for a while." When the next deadline approaches, she predicted, "it will be the same situation all over again."

During the 2013 shutdown, which lasted more than two weeks, Sharp took on two part-time jobs to make sure her bills were paid.

J. David Cox, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents 700,000 federal and D.C. government workers, said his members have been exasperated with the inability of Congress and Trump to negotiate a budget.

"We can't be the ball for the pingpong game," Cox said, after Senate Democrats dropped their objections Monday to a temporary funding bill in return for assurances from Republicans leaders that they will soon take up immigration and other hot-button issues.

Associated Press writers Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia, and Ashraf Khalil in Washington contributed to this report.

Alaska earthquake prompts tsunami warning

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A magnitude 8.2 earthquake off Alaska's Kodiak Island prompted a tsunami

warning for a large swath of coastal Alaska and Canada's British Columbia while the remainder of the U.S. West Coast was under a watch.

The strong earthquake was recorded about 175 miles southeast of Kodiak Island early Tuesday morning. Warnings from the National Weather Service sent to cellphones in Alaska warned: "Emergency Alert. Tsunami danger on the coast. Go to high ground or move inland."

Kodiak officials warned residents to evacuate if they lived in low-lying areas.

People reported on social media that the quake was felt hundreds of miles away, in Anchorage.

Senators strike a deal re-opening government after 69 hours

By ALAN FRAM, ANDREW TAYLOR and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed a bill reopening the government late Monday, ending a 69-hour display of partisan dysfunction after Democrats reluctantly voted to temporarily pay for resumed operations. They relented in return for Republican assurances that the Senate will soon take up the plight of young immigrant "dreamers" and other contentious issues.

The vote set the stage for hundreds of thousands of federal workers to return on Tuesday, cutting short what could have become a messy and costly impasse. The House approved the measure shortly thereafter, and President Donald Trump later signed it behind closed doors at the White House.

But by relenting, the Democrats prompted a backlash from immigration activists and liberal base supporters who wanted them to fight longer and harder for legislation to protect from deportation the 700,000 or so younger immigrants who were brought to the country as children and now are here illegally.

Democrats climbed onboard after two days of negotiations that ended with new assurances from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that the Senate would consider immigration proposals in the coming weeks. But there were deep divides in the Democratic caucus over strategy, as red-state lawmakers fighting for their survival broke with progressives looking to satisfy liberals' and immigrants' demands.

Under the agreement, Democrats provided enough votes to pass the stopgap spending measure keeping the government open until Feb. 8. In return, McConnell agreed to resume negotiations over the future of the dreamers, border security, military spending and other budget debates. If those talks don't yield a deal in the next three weeks, the Republican promised to allow the Senate to debate an immigration proposal — even if it's one crafted by a bipartisan group and does not have the backing of the leadership and the White House, lawmakers said. McConnell had previously said he would bring a deal to a vote only if President Donald Trump supported it.

Sixty votes were needed to end the Democrats' filibuster, and the party's senators provided 33 of the 81 the measure got. Eighteen senators, including members of both parties, were opposed. Hours later the Senate passed the final bill by the same 81-18 vote, sending it to the House, which quickly voted its approval and sent the measure on to President Donald Trump.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders predicted that operations would return to normal by Tuesday morning.

The plan is far from what many activists and Democrats hoped when they decided to use the budget deadline as leverage. It doesn't tie the immigration vote to another piece of legislation, a tactic often used to build momentum. It also doesn't address support for an immigration plan in the House, where opposition to extending the protections for the dreamers is far stronger.

The short-term spending measure means both sides may wind up in a shutdown stalemate again in three weeks.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer lent his backing to the agreement during a speech on the chamber's floor. "Now there is a real pathway to get a bill on the floor and through the Senate," he said of legislation to halt any deportation efforts aimed at the younger immigrants.

The White House downplayed McConnell's commitment, and said Democrats caved under pressure. "They blinked," principal deputy press secretary Raj Shah told CNN. In a statement, Trump said he's open

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to immigration deal only if it is "good for our country."

Immigration activists and other groups harshly criticized the deal reached by the Democratic leadership. Cristina Jimenez, executive director of United We Dream, said the members of the group are "outraged." She added that senators who voted Monday in favor of the deal "are not resisting Trump, they are enablers."

Other groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union expressed disappointment and shared similar criticism.

A block of liberal Democrats — some of them 2020 presidential hopefuls — stuck to their opposition. Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Dianne Feinstein of California, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Cory Booker of New Jersey voted no, as did Independent Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Feinstein said she wasn't persuaded by McConnell's assurances and did not know how a proposal to protect the more than 700,000 younger immigrants would fare in the House.

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana voted no on the procedural motion to re-open the government — the only no vote among 10 incumbent Democrats facing re-election this year in states won by Trump in 2016. Tester said in a statement that the 17-day budget did not include any funding for community health centers that are important to his rural state, nor did the deal include additional resources for border security.

The short-term funding measure includes a six-year reauthorization of the children's health insurance program, which provides coverage for millions of young people in families with modest incomes. It also includes \$31 billion in tax cuts, including a delay in implementing a tax on medical devices.

The votes came as most government offices cut back drastically or even closed on Monday, as the major effects of the shutdown were first being felt with the beginning of the workweek.

Republicans have appeared increasingly confident that Democrats would bear the brunt of criticism for the shutdown. The White House and GOP leaders said they would not negotiate with Democrats on immigration until the government was reopened, and White House officials boasted that Trump didn't reach out to any Democratic lawmakers during the shutdown.

In fact, Trump, who regularly disrupted negotiations in recent weeks, had been a relatively subdued player in the weekend debate. On Monday, he accused Democrats of prioritizing services and security for noncitizens over U.S. citizens. "Not good," his first tweet said. In a second tweet, he said, "Democrats have shut down our government in the interests of their far left base. They don't want to do it but are powerless!"

Trump's first tweet appeared to undercut comments by his legislative affairs director, Marc Short, who told CNN that the immigrants in question are law-abiding and "productive to our society." Short said the administration wants to "find a pathway for them" to stay in the U.S.

Although the Democrats initially dug in on a demand for an immigration deal, they had shifted to blaming the shutdown on the incompetence of Republicans and Trump. The Democrats seemed sensitive to being seen by voters as willing to tie up government operations to protect immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

In an impassioned closed-door meeting, Schumer told his members that McConnell's pledge was the best deal they were going to get.

On the Senate floor, No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas said that for shutting down the government, the Democrats "got nothing." He added that even though McConnell promised to take up the immigration bill by February, "he was going to do that anyway."

While lawmakers feuded, signs of the shutdown were evident at national parks and in some federal agencies. Social Security and most other safety-net programs were unaffected by the lapse in federal spending authority. Critical government functions continued, with uniformed service members, health inspectors and law enforcement officers set to work without pay.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Kevin Freking, Luis Alonso Lugo, Catherine Lucey, Matthew Daly and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Pennsylvania court throws out congressional boundaries

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By **MARC LEVY, Associated Press**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down the state's widely criticized congressional map Monday, granting a major victory to Democrats who alleged the 18 districts were unconstitutionally gerrymandered to benefit Republicans and setting off a scramble to draw a new map.

In the Democratic-controlled court's decision, the majority said the boundaries "clearly, plainly and palpably" violate the state's constitution and blocked the boundaries from remaining in effect for the 2018 elections with just weeks until dozens of people file paperwork to run for Congress.

The justices gave the Republican-controlled Legislature until Feb. 9 to pass a replacement and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf until Feb. 15 to submit it to the court. Otherwise, the justices said they will adopt a plan in an effort to keep the May 15 primary election on track.

The decision comes amid a national tide of gerrymandering cases, including some that have reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

Democrats cheered the decision to toss out a Republican-drawn map used in three general elections going back to 2012. The map, they say, gave Republicans crucial help in securing 13 of 18 seats in a state where registered Democratic voters outnumber Republicans 5 to 4.

"We won the whole thing," said David Gersch of the Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer law firm in Washington, D.C., which is helping represent the group of registered Democrats who filed the lawsuit last June.

The defendants — top Republican lawmakers — said they would ask the U.S. Supreme Court this week to step in and put the decision on hold. The state court's decision lacks clarity, precedent and respect for the constitution and would introduce chaos into the state's congressional races, they said.

The Senate's top Republican lawyer, Drew Crompton, called the timeline to draw new districts "borderline unworkable," but said Republicans will do everything they can to comply.

The decision has immediate implications for the 2018 election, meaning that 14 sitting members of Congress and dozens more people are planning to run in districts they may no longer live in. The deadline to file paperwork to run in primaries is March 6.

It also has implications for GOP control of Congress, since only Texas, California and Florida send more Republicans to the U.S. House than Pennsylvania.

Republicans who controlled Pennsylvania's Legislature and governor's office following the 2010 census broke decades of geographical precedent when redrawing the map, producing contorted shapes, including one dubbed "Goofy kicking Donald Duck."

They shifted whole counties and cities into different districts in an effort to protect a Republican advantage in the congressional delegation. They succeeded, as Republicans in the delegation grew from 12 to 13, even as Pennsylvania lost a seat to account for the state's relatively slow population growth.

The Pennsylvania court's six-paragraph order did not lay out the rationale for striking down the 2011 congressional map or which provisions of the constitution the justices believed it violated. That rationale could follow in the coming days.

The court's five Democrats all agreed that the state's congressional map is unconstitutional. Four of the five Democratic justices backed the decision to throw out the map immediately, while one Democrat, Justice Max Baer, warned that chaos would ensue and argued it would be better to put a new map in place in 2020.

The two Republican justices dissented.

The March 13 special election in a vacant southwestern Pennsylvania seat is unaffected by the order, the justices said.

The decision came as the U.S. Supreme Court is weighing whether redistricting can be so partisan that it violates the U.S. Constitution, in cases from Maryland and Wisconsin. The court also last week put on hold a lower court order in a gerrymandering case from North Carolina that gave lawmakers there two weeks to redraw the state's congressional districts.

The nation's high court has never struck down an electoral map as a partisan gerrymander. However, Monday's decision in Pennsylvania could provide a new avenue to gerrymandering claims.

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It is the first state court decision to throw out a congressional map because of partisan gerrymandering, said Michael Li, senior counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University.

Li said there isn't a clear federal basis for the U.S. Supreme Court to step into the case, and that the state Supreme Court should have the final say in a case under state law.

"That's a real long shot," Li said, "but the stakes are high and it's not surprising that (Republicans) would ask."

Associated Press writer Mark Sherman, in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

Philippine volcano spews lava fountains, 56,000 people flee

By BULLIT MARQUEZ, Associated Press

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines' most active volcano spewed fountains of red-hot lava and massive ash plumes anew Tuesday in a dazzling but increasingly dangerous eruption that has sent 56,000 villagers fleeing to evacuation centers.

Lava fountains gushed up 700 meters (2,300 feet) above Mount Mayon's crater and ash plumes rose up to 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) at night and at least twice Tuesday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. An explosive eruption at noon Monday was the most powerful since the volcano started acting up more than a week ago.

"We couldn't sleep last night because of the loud rumblings. It sounded like an airplane that's about to land," Quintin Velardo, a 59-year-old farmer, told The Associated Press at an evacuation center in Legazpi city where he took his wife, children and grandchildren on Tuesday.

Despite the danger, he said he needed to return to his village, about 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the erupting volcano, to take his cow and water buffalo to safety. A few minutes later, the volcano belched a massive column of grayish ash that punched through white clouds into the blue sky.

"There it goes again," Velardo said, his family huddled near him.

Authorities warned a violent eruption may occur in hours or days, characterized by more rumblings and pyroclastic flows — superheated gas and volcanic debris that race down the slopes at high speeds, vaporizing everything in their path.

After Monday's explosion, officials raised Mayon's alert level to four on a scale of five, and the danger zone was expanded to 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the crater, requiring thousands more residents to be evacuated, including at least 12,000 who returned to their homes last week as Mayon's rumblings temporarily eased and then scrambled back to the emergency shelters this week.

At least 56,217 people were taking shelter in 46 evacuation camps Tuesday and army troops and police were helping move more villagers from their homes, officials said.

Authorities struggled to prevent villagers from sneaking back to check on their homes and farms and to watch a popular cockfight in Albay's Santo Domingo town despite the risks and police patrols and checkpoints, said Cedric Daep, a provincial disaster response official.

In a sign of desperation, Daep told a news conference that he has recommended electricity and water supplies be cut in communities within the no-go zones to discourage residents from returning.

"If pyroclastic flows hit people, there is no chance for life," Daep said. "Let us not violate the natural law, avoid the prohibited zone, because if you violate, the punishment is the death penalty."

The daytime eruptions have plunged nearby villages into darkness and sent lava, rocks and debris cascading down Mayon's slopes toward the no-entry danger zone. There have been no reports of deaths or injuries. Airplanes have been ordered to stay away from the crater and ash-laden winds, and several domestic flights have been canceled.

Volcanic ash fell Monday in more than a dozen towns in coconut-growing Albay and nearby Camarines Sur province, with visibility heavily obscured in a few towns because of the thick gray ash, Jukes Nunez, another Albay provincial disaster response officer, said by telephone.

"It was like night time at noon, there was zero visibility in some areas because the ash fall was so thick,"

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Nunez said.

More than 30,000 ash masks and about 5,000 sacks of rice, along with medicine, water and other supplies, were being sent to evacuation centers, Office of Civil Defense regional director Claudio Yucot said late Monday.

Food packs, water, medicine and other relief goods remain adequate but may run out by mid-February if the eruption continues and new supplies fail to come on time, officials said.

With its near-perfect cone, Mayon has long been popular with climbers and tourists but has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently. The 8,070-foot (2,460-meter) volcano has generated tourism revenues and jobs in Albay, about 340 kilometers (210 miles) southeast of Manila.

In 2013, an ash eruption killed five climbers who had ventured near the summit despite warnings. Its most destructive eruption, in 1814, killed more than 1,200 people and buried the town of Cagsawa in volcanic mud. The belfry of Cagsawa's stone church still juts from the ground in an eerie reminder of Mayon's fury.

Since childhood, Velardo, the farmer, said he has gambled his and his family's lives in Mayon's shadow but that he and thousands of other landless farmers have no place else to go. "I tell my grandchildren to study hard so they can live elsewhere without a volcano to keep an eye on all your life."

The Philippines, which has about 22 active volcanoes, lies in the "Ring of Fire," a line of seismic faults surrounding the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes and volcanic activity are common.

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the northern Philippines exploded in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people, covering entire towns and cities in ash and partly prompting the U.S. government to abandon its vast air and naval bases on the main northern Luzon island.

Associated Press journalists Joeal Calupitan in Legazpi and Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, contributed to this report.

16 skiers hurt by flying rocks, avalanche on Japan volcano

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — At least 16 people skiing on the slopes of a volcano in central Japan were injured by flying rocks during a surprise eruption and a subsequent avalanche Tuesday, and one person later died.

Six skiers, including the man who died, were among 30 Japanese soldiers who were participating in ski training when they were buried by the avalanche about a half hour after the volcanic eruption, fire department and defense officials said.

Only the crater had been off-limits because of low-level volcanic activity before Mount Kusatsu-Shirane erupted with rocks and ash around 10 a.m. The Japan Meteorological Agency has since banned access to the mountain, and a large swath of the snow-covered volcano was covered by dark gray ash later in the day.

The agency also said the eruption and the avalanche could not be linked immediately. Snow conditions and seismic activity are some of the potential causes of an avalanche.

Five of the civilian skiers suffered serious injuries such as broken bones, but none of the injuries were life-threatening, said a regional fire department official, Hayato Tobe.

Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera told reporters that the seven people trapped by the avalanche at the ski resort on the side of the 2,171-meter (7,122-foot) -high active volcano, were all rescued, but the soldiers were seriously injured.

A 49-year-old male soldier who suffered broken bones died later, said Wataru Tatsukawa, an official at the regional military training camp.

Town officials said they believe everybody has been accounted for.

The ski area's gondola was suspended after the eruption and about 80 skiers took refuge at a gondola station at the top of the ski slope, according to Tobe, the fire department official.

A military helicopter airlifted the first group of eight skiers to safer ground, according to footage shown by NHK public television. The rescued skiers, wearing helmets, were handed a bottle of tea each and

escorted into a cabin.

The slopes were filled with volcanic ash and rocks and rescuers were considering whether using snow-mobiles to reach the stranded skiers was safe.

An earlier report that one or two people had been injured by shattered glass when rocks struck a gondola had not been confirmed.

A rest house at the resort was hit by volcanic rocks, but the extent of damage was not known, resort official Yasuaki Morita said.

Kusatsu-Shirane last erupted in 1983.

Japan sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. An eruption of Mount Ontake in 2014 killed about 60 people. Several other Japanese volcanoes are considered unstable with small eruptions in recent years.

Associated Press writer Ken Moritsugu contributed to this report.

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at twitter.com/mariyamaguchi

Find her work at <https://www.apnews.com/search/mari%20yamaguchi>

Cosby jokes in 1st show since 2015 he 'used to be' comedian

By MICHAEL SISAK, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bill Cosby performed in public for the first time since a sex abuse scandal embroiled him in 2015, joking that he "used to be a comedian" and playing with a jazz band in his hometown as a retrial looms in his criminal sexual assault case.

The 80-year-old entertainer took the stage for about an hour Monday night at a Philadelphia jazz club for his first show since May 2015. Before a friendly crowd, he told stories, honored old friends and finished by leading the band in a set, first using his mouth to scat in place of a missing horn section and then taking a turn at the drums.

Cosby, handing the drumsticks off to the bass player's 11-year-old son, asked if the boy knew who he was and then told him.

"I used to be a comedian," Cosby deadpanned.

Cosby reminisced about his childhood, telling the crowd about how when he was 4 he grilled a relative about the impending birth of his brother. He mimicked his Uncle William, who took a swig from a cocktail before answering every question — including whether a stork was really delivering the baby to his parents.

Afterward, Cosby nearly dropped a glass jar he was using as a prop, prompting a "Whoa!" from the crowd.

Cosby, who's legally blind, seized on the moment.

"Let me tell you something about people talking to blind people, you sighted people," Cosby said. "If you see a blind person walking into a pole or something, if you speak perfect English, there's a word called 'Stop!' Not 'Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!'"

"You laugh when blind people walk into things," he continued. "And guess what: Blind people laugh when sighted people fall down!"

Cosby arrived at the jazz club on the arm of his spokesman, Andrew Wyatt. He wore a gray hoodie bearing the phrase "Hello Friend," something his late son, Ennis Cosby, often would say.

He posed for photos with friends, including a couple he honored at the start of his set. They all grew up in the same public housing complex.

Cosby said he decided to make his return to the stage because of his friends.

"I came here tonight to enjoy being with my friends and the musicians and the people who came," he said after the show.

He declined to discuss his upcoming retrial in a sexual assault case.

During the show, the receptive crowd applauded and laughed along with Cosby's jokes, a far cry from how his last performances went. His last comedy tour ended amid protests as about 60 women were com-

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ing forward to accuse him of drugging and molesting them over five decades, something he has denied.

Cosby is scheduled for an April 2 retrial on charges he drugged and molested a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He has pleaded not guilty and remains free on bail. His first trial ended with a hung jury last year. Jury selection for his retrial will start March 29.

Cosby's spokesman notified reporters of the comedy performance about two hours before he was to take the stage at the LaRose Jazz Club. The show was part of a program honoring jazz musician Tony Williams.

Outside the jazz club there was one protester, a woman who frequently hounded Cosby at his trial last year. She played Helen Reddy's song "I Am Woman" on a loop and held up a sign that said, "Perseverance to all survivors."

The jazz club performance is Cosby's latest step back into the spotlight he's mostly shied from since his December 2015 arrest.

Two weeks ago, Cosby invited reporters to tag along as he ate dinner with old friends at a Philadelphia restaurant.

Over the weekend, Cosby's social media accounts featured photos of him visiting a barber and a cafe in the area and showing support for the Philadelphia Eagles, who won Sunday's NFC Championship game against the Minnesota Vikings and secured a spot in the Super Bowl.

This story has been corrected to show the arrest was in 2015, not 2005.

Del Toro's 'Shape of Water' poised to lead Oscar nominations

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Guillermo del Toro's lavish monster romance "The Shape of Water" will vie for the most Oscar nominations Tuesday, but just as much attention may be focused on categories where women could make history.

Nominations for the 90th annual Academy Awards will begin at 8:22 a.m. EST, with a second wave of nominees announced live on ABC's "Good Morning America" at 8:38 a.m. The announcement will also be live-streamed at Oscar.com and Oscars.org . Tiffany Haddish and Andy Serkis will join John Bailey, president of the film academy, to announce the nominees from Beverly Hills, California.

While this year's Oscar race has been unusually wide-open, "The Shape of Water" has a chance to tie "All About Eve," "Titanic" and "La La Land" with a record 14 nominations.

Yet many will be watching the best director category more closely. "Lady Bird" filmmaker Greta Gerwig is expected to be just the fifth woman nominated in the category, and the first since Kathryn Bigelow was in 2010. "Mudbound" cinematographer Rachel Morrison could also become the first woman ever nominated for best cinematography.

Scrutiny of both categories, especially best director, has heightened in an awards season that has coincided with the Me Too movement and the toppling of numerous prominent figures in the movie business. For the last two decades, Oscar nominations morning has often belonged to Harvey Weinstein, the now disgraced movie mogul whose promotion strategies have influenced a generation of best picture campaigns.

But this year is different. The cascading fallout of sexual harassment scandals has lent new urgency to efforts to correct Hollywood's poor record of gender equality and sparked the Time's Up initiative intent on balancing the scales. If Gerwig is nominated for best director, she will follow only Lina Wertmuller, Jane Campion, Sofia Coppola and Bigelow, the sole woman to win (for "The Hurt Locker").

The scandals have shaped other categories, too. James Franco, who has denied allegations of sexual misconduct, is a borderline best actor contender for "The Disaster Artist." Christopher Plummer, who replaced Kevin Spacey in Ridley Scott's "All the Money in the World," may sneak into the best supporting actor category just two months after shooting his last-minute performance.

"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," starring Frances McDormand as a mother out for vengeance for her raped and murder daughter, has claimed the mantle of most timely Oscar contender even while many have claimed it's out-of-touch when it comes to race. It remains the best picture front-runner after

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winning best ensemble at Sunday's Screen Actors Guild Awards.

But certainty has been hard to come by this season, which will culminate in the March 4 ceremony hosted by Jimmy Kimmel. Gerwig's "Lady Bird," Jordan Peele's "Get Out," Christopher Nolan "Dunkirk" and Steven Spielberg's "The Post" are all in the mix, too. The individual acting categories seem more established after a litany of awards for McDormand, Gary Oldman ("Darkest Hour"), Allison Janney ("I, Tonya") and Sam Rockwell ("Three Billboards").

"Moonlight," "Hidden Figures" and "Fences" last year offered a reprieve from two straight years of #OscarsSoWhite online protests. This year's acting field is expected to include a handful of black nominees including "Get Out" breakthrough star Daniel Kaluuya, "The Shape of Water" co-star Octavia Spencer and "Mudbound's" Mary J. Blige.

Last year's Oscars broadcast, also hosted by Kimmel, drew an average of 32.9 million viewers for ABC, a four percent drop from the prior year. More worrisome, however, was a steeper slide in the key demographic of adults aged 18-49, whose viewership was down 14 percent from 2016.

Though the show ran especially long, at three hours and 49 minutes, it finished with a bang: the infamous envelope mix-up that led to "La La Land" being incorrectly announced as the best picture before "Moonlight" was crowned.

This year, the academy has prohibited the PwC accountants who handle the envelopes from using cell-phones or social media during the show. The accounting firm on Monday also unveiled several reforms including the addition of a third balloting partner in the show's control room. Neither of the PwC representatives involved in the mishap last year, Brian Cullinan or Martha Ruiz, will return to the show.

But the movie business has larger accounting problems. Movie attendance hit a 24-year low in 2017 despite the firepower of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2." An especially dismal summer movie season was 92 million admissions shy of summer 2016, according to the National Alliance of Theater Owners.

Still, the summer produced one best-picture favorite, "Dunkirk," which grossed \$525.6 million worldwide. Warner Bros.' Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman," released in June to \$821.8 million in ticket sales, became the highest grossing movie ever directed by a woman. It mounted an Oscar campaign and while it seems to be on the outside of the best picture race, "Wonder Woman" could win nods elsewhere, including best adapted screenplay.

But the box-office hit that has carved the most unlikely path to the Oscars is "Get Out." It opened back in February on Oscar weekend, and went on to pocket \$254.7 million worldwide. Though "Get Out" and "Dunkirk" will likely lend a blockbuster punch to the best-picture field — something that has historically helped ratings of the broadcast — the other films in the mix are smaller indies.

It should be a dominant if bittersweet day for 20th Century Fox. Its specialty label, Fox Searchlight, is behind both "Three Billboards" and "The Shape of Water," and Fox released "The Post." Yet those wins may soon count for the Walt Disney Co., which last month reached a deal to purchase Fox for \$52.4 billion.

Amazon and Netflix appear to be largely on the periphery of this year's Oscar race. Netflix's "Mudbound" may land a supporting actress nomination for Blige, and Amazon's "The Big Sick" may yield a nod for Holly Hunter in the same category.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

For full coverage of awards season, visit: <https://apnews.com/tag/AwardsSeason>

India's Modi to pitch country's credentials to Davos forum

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — The World Economic Forum officially gets underway Tuesday with Indian leader Narendra Modi delivering the keynote speech.

Modi was meant to be the event's highlight until President Donald Trump decided to come as well. Trump is due to speak Friday, though the U.S. government shutdown has put his presence in doubt.

There will be much interest in Modi, who follows on from Chinese President Xi Jinping's address to the global elite at last year's event. Xi portrayed his country as a champion of free trade on the same week Trump was inaugurated president.

Modi will likely tout India's economic successes and stress that his country is also open for business.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is later due to address the Davos crowd, which is gathering in unusually heavy snowfall.

Trump applies tariffs to solar panels, washing machines

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday approved tariffs on imported solar-energy components and large washing machines in a bid to help U.S. manufacturers.

The Republican's decision followed recommendations for tariffs by the U.S. International Trade Commission.

"The president's action makes clear again that the Trump administration will always defend American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses in this regard," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in a statement announcing the decision.

Most imported solar modules will face an immediate tariff of 30 percent, with the rate declining before phasing out after four years. For large residential washing machines, tariffs will start at up to 50 percent and phase out after three years.

China accused Trump of jeopardizing the multilateral trading system by taking action on complaints under U.S. law instead of through the World Trade Organization.

"The U.S. side once again abused its trade remedy measures," said a Commerce Ministry statement. "China expresses its strong dissatisfaction with this."

Mexico said Trump's decision not to exclude it from the measures was "regrettable."

"Mexico will use all available legal resources in response to the U.S. decision to apply protections on Mexican washing machines and solar panels," its Economy Department said in a statement.

The U.S. solar industry was split over the trade barriers.

The tariffs were sought last year by Suniva Inc., which filed for bankruptcy protection in April, and the U.S. subsidiary of Germany's SolarWorld.

They said that a nearly 500 percent increase in imported solar panels over five years led to a ruinous price collapse. Nearly 30 U.S. solar-manufacturing facilities had closed in the past five years, they said, as China plotted to flood the global market with cheap products to weaken U.S. manufacturing.

Suniva spokesman Mark Paustenbach called tariffs "a step forward for this high-tech solar-manufacturing industry we pioneered right here in America."

However, solar installers and manufacturers of other equipment used to run solar-power systems opposed tariffs, which they said will raise their prices and hurt demand for the renewable energy.

The Solar Energy Industries Association, which represents installation companies, said billions of dollars of solar investment will be delayed or canceled, leading to the loss of 23,000 jobs this year.

Mark Bortman, founder of Exact Solar in Philadelphia, said the prospect of tariffs, since the trade commission recommended them in October, had already caused him to delay hiring and expansion plans.

"Solar is really just starting to take off because it is truly a win-win-win situation" for consumers, workers and the environment, he said. "Tariffs would really be shooting ourselves in the foot."

The case for tariffs on washing machines was pushed by Benton Harbor, Michigan-based Whirlpool Corp. The company's chairman, Jeff Fettig, said tariffs on imported machines would create new manufacturing jobs in Ohio, Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"This is a victory for American workers and consumers alike," Fettig said. "By enforcing our existing trade laws, President Trump has ensured American workers will compete on a level playing field with their foreign counterparts."

But U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse, a Republican from Nebraska, said Republicans need to understand that tariffs are a tax on consumers.

"Moms and dads shopping on a budget for a new washing machine will pay for this — not big compa-

nies," Sasse said in a statement.

Suniva, SolarWorld and Whirlpool were helped by a 1974 trade law that lets companies seek trade protection if they can show damage from a rise in imports.

Up to certain levels, imports of solar cells will be exempt from the tariff, while the first 1.2 million imported large washing machines will get a lower tariff, peaking at 20 percent.

Congress has no authority to change or veto Trump's decision. Countries affected by the decision can appeal to the World Trade Organization.

Student: Boy arrested in school shooting has violent past

By JAMIE STENGLE and CLAUDIA LAUER, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A 16-year-old boy accused of shooting a classmate at a Texas high school on Monday had a history of aggressive actions at school, a fellow student said.

The injured student, a 15-year-old girl, was airlifted to a hospital in Dallas following the shooting inside the cafeteria at Italy High School, which is in the small town of Italy about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of Dallas. The boy fled after being confronted by a school district official but was later arrested.

Cassie Shook, a 17-year-old junior at the school, told The Associated Press that she was driving up to the building when she saw "the doors fly open and everyone screaming and running out of the building." She said she was angry when she learned who the suspect was because she'd complained about the boy at least twice to school officials, including to a vice principal.

"This could have been avoidable," she said. "There were so many signs."

Shook said she first went to school officials after the boy allegedly made a "hit list" in eighth grade and her name was on it. Then last year, the boy got angry during a class and threw a pair of scissors at her friend and later threw a computer against a wall, she said.

"I ran out of the classroom screaming, telling everyone to hide because I was scared," Shook said.

Shook said police came to talk to the class after the incident. She said the boy was removed from the school but eventually was allowed back.

Italy Independent School District Superintendent Lee Joffre said the district couldn't comment on disciplinary actions involving students. Police have not released the boy's name and didn't return a message seeking comment about his past.

Shook said the girl who was shot Monday had moved to the school district a few months earlier. Police said the girl was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where a spokeswoman said she couldn't release any information about the girl's condition.

The school district of about 600 students is located near the center of Italy, a town of about 2,000 people that dubs itself "The Biggest Little Town In Texas." Joffre said that about 45 to 55 students are typically in the high school's cafeteria in the morning for breakfast. He noted that school would be in session Tuesday and that counselors would be available.

"In a small town, the school district is the center of what goes on for our kids, and this morning's tragedy hits the heart of this community," Joffre said.

Ellis County Sheriff Chuck Edge said during a news conference that the suspect "engaged the victim" and fired several shots from a semi-automatic .380 handgun just before 8 a.m. Edge did not say how many times the victim was shot.

Investigators have said they don't know the relationship between the victim and shooter, or what may have been the shooter's motive.

Edge said the suspect fled when confronted by a school district official but was later arrested by law enforcement on school grounds. Edge said the handgun was recovered at the scene and is in evidence.

Edge said it's unclear where the boy may have gotten the weapon. He also didn't know what charges the boy might face.

On Monday night, about 300 people packed an Italy church to pray for the wounded girl and their shocked community.

Back to work: Government shutdown ends after Dems relent

By ALAN FRAM, ANDREW TAYLOR and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed a bill reopening the government late Monday, ending a 69-hour display of partisan dysfunction after Democrats reluctantly voted to temporarily pay for resumed operations. They relented in return for Republican assurances that the Senate will soon take up the plight of young immigrant “dreamers” and other contentious issues.

The vote set the stage for hundreds of thousands of federal workers to return on Tuesday, cutting short what could have become a messy and costly impasse. The House approved the measure shortly thereafter, and President Donald Trump later signed it behind closed doors at the White House.

But by relenting, the Democrats prompted a backlash from immigration activists and liberal base supporters who wanted them to fight longer and harder for legislation to protect from deportation the 700,000 or so younger immigrants who were brought to the country as children and now are here illegally.

Democrats climbed onboard after two days of negotiations that ended with new assurances from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that the Senate would consider immigration proposals in the coming weeks. But there were deep divides in the Democratic caucus over strategy, as red-state lawmakers fighting for their survival broke with progressives looking to satisfy liberals’ and immigrants’ demands.

Under the agreement, Democrats provided enough votes to pass the stopgap spending measure keeping the government open until Feb. 8. In return, McConnell agreed to resume negotiations over the future of the dreamers, border security, military spending and other budget debates. If those talks don’t yield a deal in the next three weeks, the Republican promised to allow the Senate to debate an immigration proposal — even if it’s one crafted by a bipartisan group and does not have the backing of the leadership and the White House, lawmakers said. McConnell had previously said he would bring a deal to a vote only if President Donald Trump supported it.

Sixty votes were needed to end the Democrats’ filibuster, and the party’s senators provided 33 of the 81 the measure got. Eighteen senators, including members of both parties, were opposed. Hours later the Senate passed the final bill by the same 81-18 vote, sending it to the House, which quickly voted its approval and sent the measure on to President Donald Trump.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders predicted that operations would return to normal by Tuesday morning.

The plan is far from what many activists and Democrats hoped when they decided to use the budget deadline as leverage. It doesn’t tie the immigration vote to another piece of legislation, a tactic often used to build momentum. It also doesn’t address support for an immigration plan in the House, where opposition to extending the protections for the dreamers is far stronger.

The short-term spending measure means both sides may wind up in a shutdown stalemate again in three weeks.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer lent his backing to the agreement during a speech on the chamber’s floor. “Now there is a real pathway to get a bill on the floor and through the Senate,” he said of legislation to halt any deportation efforts aimed at the younger immigrants.

The White House downplayed McConnell’s commitment, and said Democrats caved under pressure. “They blinked,” principal deputy press secretary Raj Shah told CNN. In a statement, Trump said he’s open to immigration deal only if it is “good for our country.”

Immigration activists and other groups harshly criticized the deal reached by the Democratic leadership.

Cristina Jimenez, executive director of United We Dream, said the members of the group are “outraged.” She added that senators who voted Monday in favor of the deal “are not resisting Trump, they are enablers.”

Other groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union expressed disappointment and shared similar criticism.

A block of liberal Democrats — some of them 2020 presidential hopefuls — stuck to their opposition. Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Dianne Feinstein of California, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York

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and Cory Booker of New Jersey voted no, as did Independent Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Feinstein said she wasn't persuaded by McConnell's assurances and did not know how a proposal to protect the more than 700,000 younger immigrants would fare in the House.

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana voted no on the procedural motion to re-open the government — the only no vote among 10 incumbent Democrats facing re-election this year in states won by Trump in 2016. Tester said in a statement that the 17-day budget did not include any funding for community health centers that are important to his rural state, nor did the deal include additional resources for border security.

The short-term funding measure includes a six-year reauthorization of the children's health insurance program, which provides coverage for millions of young people in families with modest incomes. It also includes \$31 billion in tax cuts, including a delay in implementing a tax on medical devices.

The votes came as most government offices cut back drastically or even closed on Monday, as the major effects of the shutdown were first being felt with the beginning of the workweek.

Republicans have appeared increasingly confident that Democrats would bear the brunt of criticism for the shutdown. The White House and GOP leaders said they would not negotiate with Democrats on immigration until the government was reopened, and White House officials boasted that Trump didn't reach out to any Democratic lawmakers during the shutdown.

In fact, Trump, who regularly disrupted negotiations in recent weeks, had been a relatively subdued player in the weekend debate. On Monday, he accused Democrats of prioritizing services and security for noncitizens over U.S. citizens. "Not good," his first tweet said. In a second tweet, he said, "Democrats have shut down our government in the interests of their far left base. They don't want to do it but are powerless!"

Trump's first tweet appeared to undercut comments by his legislative affairs director, Marc Short, who told CNN that the immigrants in question are law-abiding and "productive to our society." Short said the administration wants to "find a pathway for them" to stay in the U.S.

Although the Democrats initially dug in on a demand for an immigration deal, they had shifted to blaming the shutdown on the incompetence of Republicans and Trump. The Democrats seemed sensitive to being seen by voters as willing to tie up government operations to protect immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

In an impassioned closed-door meeting, Schumer told his members that McConnell's pledge was the best deal they were going to get.

On the Senate floor, No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas said that for shutting down the government, the Democrats "got nothing." He added that even though McConnell promised to take up the immigration bill by February, "he was going to do that anyway."

While lawmakers feuded, signs of the shutdown were evident at national parks and in some federal agencies. Social Security and most other safety-net programs were unaffected by the lapse in federal spending authority. Critical government functions continued, with uniformed service members, health inspectors and law enforcement officers set to work without pay.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Kevin Freking, Luis Alonso Lugo, Catherine Lucey, Matthew Daly and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Judge: Victims of sports doc are 'sister survivor warriors'

By DAVID EGGERT and MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The judge overseeing the sentencing of disgraced former sports doctor Larry Nassar said Monday that more than 120 girls and women who had given statements so far at the five-day hearing were "sister survivor warriors."

"I want you to know that your face and the face of all of the sister survivor warriors — the whole army of you — I've heard your words," Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina said after a woman spoke in her Michigan courtroom. "Your sister survivors and you are going through incomprehensible lengths,

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emotions and soul-searching to put your words together, to publicly stop (the) defendant, to publicly stop predators, to make people listen.”

Nassar, 54, has admitted molesting athletes during medical treatment when he was employed by Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics, which trains Olympians. Indianapolis-based USA Gymnastics on Monday announced the resignations of three key leaders — chairman Paul Parilla, vice chairman Jay Binder and treasurer Bitsy Kelley — days after former gold medalists Aly Raisman and Jordyn Wieber said in court that Nassar had sexually assaulted them. CEO Steve Penny was forced out last year.

On Monday, USA Gymnastics also said it has suspended former U.S. women’s national team coach John Geddert, the owner of the Twistars gymnastics club near Lansing, Michigan. It did not disclose its reasons for suspending Geddert.

Nassar has already been sentenced to 60 years in prison for child pornography crimes. Under a plea deal, he faces a minimum prison sentence of 25 to 40 years in the molestation case. The maximum term could be much higher.

“Larry, how many of us are there? Do you even know?” asked Clasina Syrboby, as she fought back tears while speaking for more than 20 minutes Monday. “You preyed on me, on us. You saw a way to take advantage of your position — the almighty and trusted gymnastics doctor. Shame on you Larry. Shame on you.”

She and other victims also continued their criticism of Michigan State, USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic Committee for not doing enough to stop Nassar when initial complaints were made years ago. The sentencing hearing will resume Tuesday.

Emma Ann Miller, 15, said the school was still billing her mother for medical appointments in which Nassar molested Miller as recently as August 2016 — a week before he was fired.

University spokesman Jason Cody told The Associated Press that Miller’s allegation was being addressed. “I can tell you that patients of former MSU physician Larry Nassar will not be billed,” Cody said.

Michigan State’s gymnastics coach — who is accused of downplaying complaints made by two teens in 1997 — and another university sports doctor quit under pressure last year. But the governing board has stood behind university President Lou Anna Simon, despite calls from legislative leaders and others that she resign or be fired.

In her statement to the court, Miller directly addressed Michigan State.

“I, like all those that have spoken, didn’t choose this circumstance to have the right to be standing in front of this podium today,” she said. “Nassar made that choice for us — your 20-year child-molesting employee.”

A Title IX probe conducted by the university cleared Nassar of sexual assault allegations in 2014. At least 12 reported assaults occurred after the investigation ended, according to a university police report that was provided to the FBI for review by the U.S. attorney.

The school let Nassar see patients for 16 months while the campus police also conducted a criminal investigation into the allegations. The local prosecutor declined to charge Nassar.

One of the eight members of Michigan State’s governing board said over the weekend that Simon should quit, saying he did not think she could survive the “public outcry.” Board chairman Brian Breslin, however, said all of the other trustees support her.

“We look forward to a prompt and thorough investigation by the Michigan Attorney General’s Office to help reassure the public that the university and its leadership have nothing to hide,” he said in a written statement Saturday. “As our outside counsel, former U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, has written to the Attorney General, we believe the evidence will show that no official believed that Nassar committed sexual abuse prior to newspaper reports in the summer of 2016.”

Follow David Eggert on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/DavidEggert00> . His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/David%20Eggert> .

Trump to face mixed welcome at elite Davos gathering

By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — In Davos this week, participants can experience “a day in the life of a refugee.” Or hear about ways to uphold the Paris climate accord and promote free trade. Or rub elbows with any number of leaders of African countries.

Enter Donald Trump.

The World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, is meant — pretentiously perhaps — to be a place for the world’s decision-makers to put their power to good use. The theme this year is “Creating a Shared Future in Fractured World,” an ambition not likely to turn up on the U.S. president’s Twitter feed.

Instead, Trump will bring his zero-sum message of “America First,” and will speak last among the parade of world leaders — from places like India, France and Canada — who are gathering from Tuesday to Friday in the Swiss snows.

As with most things Trump, there are stark contrasts between how attendees view his visit. Some are happy and hope for dialogue. Others unabashedly say they wish he would stay away and accuse him of a lack of compassion and vision for the world that are out of place in Davos.

“I find it quite sad he’s coming to the WEF, but I imagine nothing can be done about it,” said Buddhist monk Matthieu Ricard, a longtime disciple of the Dalai Lama.

The U.S. government shutdown had cast some doubt on whether Trump might actually come — the wider U.S. delegation’s departure was delayed due to the shutdown. But with Congress moving Monday to reopen the government, the White House said that barring some unforeseen snag, the delegation would travel Tuesday and the president later in the week.

While Trump’s visit may seem incongruous or unwelcome in Davos, he will be sticking to one key aspect of the WEF’s ambition in starting the annual forum 47 years ago: Business. An array of Cabinet officials is due to tag along, suggesting the U.S. is preparing a big economic and diplomatic push.

Some have suggested it’s ironic that Trump, a self-styled populist despite his penchant for the penthouse, is attending the elite event. Others speculated he could have felt a need to regain the Davos spotlight for the United States a year after Chinese President Xi Jinping stole the show by casting China as a champion of free trade and stability.

An administration official said Trump is expected to tout the booming U.S. economy and measures like his recent tax overhaul, while again criticizing trade practices that he sees as unfair toward the U.S. The official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity to discuss internal plans, said Trump made the decision to go because he thinks he has a positive economic message.

With Wall Street surging, Trump has some cheerleaders on the economic front, even if they hope he’ll be more accommodating.

“I think it’s really good that he’s going,” said Bill Thomas, chairman of business services KPMG International. “The American economy is dependent on global engagement, and I think he’s in Davos because he knows that.”

Some wonder whether Trump can win over the Davos set, or whether they might succeed in turning his ear — and give him a chance to reboot his administration’s image abroad.

“Corporate America, in terms of economic policies, is very pleased with the way the administration is going,” said Andy Baldwin, a managing partner for financial services firm EY. But he acknowledged that Trump controversies elsewhere had “overshadowed some of the policies.”

The hosts were also upbeat.

“It’s good to have the president here, if the snow conditions and the situation in Washington allow us,” WEF founder Klaus Schwab said in an interview Monday, alluding to the government shutdown. The White House has said it’s monitoring the situation day to day, and Schwab said: “At the moment we cannot make a comment on that (Trump’s attendance).”

Outside of business, though — whether among human rights advocates, environmentalists, peaceniks or free-trade proponents — Trump is shunned.

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"Despite its formal name, Davos is about more than economics," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, in an email. "So while Trump undoubtedly intends to trumpet U.S. economic progress, many Davos participants will question his racist, misogynistic, and xenophobic rhetoric and policies."

"Unless he plans an unexpected apology and reversal, he will face a far colder reception than he probably anticipates," he said.

Parts of the jet-set have it in for Trump. Elton John, whose song title "Rocket Man" Trump used to deride North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, will be in Davos, as will actress Cate Blanchett, who shaped chewing gum into a phallus on late-night TV to mock Trump just days after he took office. So will several African leaders whose countries Trump allegedly dismissed with a vulgarity this month.

Small protests have started, and another was expected in Zurich on Tuesday. But Davos authorities rejected a request by left-wing groups to hold a demonstration in the village on Thursday, the day before Trump's speech, insisting that space was too tight because of heavy snowfall.

A Swiss anti-Trump petition has garnered more than 16,000 supporters online, calling on him to stay away.

Some might see a snub in French President Emmanuel Macron's decision to not stick around to see Trump even though the White House initially had announced a face-to-face meeting in Davos.

In his speech Wednesday, Macron is expected to offer a "lucid" diagnosis about globalization, and raise environmental concerns, an adviser said. Macron's speech could shape up as a counter narrative, and though he wasn't expected to mention Trump by name "you can read between the lines," the adviser said, on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

Trump has, in a way, already been on hand in Davos. During last year's event, which coincided with his inauguration, many attendees gawked at TV screens as Trump declared "America First" from the Capitol steps.

When he arrives this year, discretion may be the order of the day: Zurich airport, the closest big hub, has announced a lockdown on press access for the arrival of Air Force One.

Swiss police are deploying more than 4,300 troops in the region for security, which officials say is on a par with previous years. But this being only the second visit by a serving U.S. president, after Bill Clinton in 2000, has also meant enhanced security measures.

Switzerland's Young Socialists party was revving up for the Tuesday protest in Zurich.

Tamara Funicello, the group's president, also took aim at Swiss authorities for refusing to allow the Davos demonstration, which the Young Socialists were helping to organize.

"It's scandalous!" she said, insisting that the authorities could have made space if they really wanted to. "It's a lack of democracy, and is their way of hiding behind the global elites ... They need stronger spines."

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey in Washington, Angela Charlton in Paris, and Pan Pylas and Masha Macpherson in Davos contributed to this report.

As shutdown deal reached, Trump stays out of sight

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the shutdown of the federal government lumbered toward an end on Monday, President Donald Trump remained out of sight, suppressing his instincts to make himself part of the story by making a deal or picking a fight.

Trump told allies over the weekend that he hated being on the sidelines, but he followed the recommendations of his staff and key congressional Republicans and removed himself from the negotiations. The president limited his public pronouncements to a few Twitter bursts that bashed Democrats.

He did not reach out to Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer or any other Democrat, instead calling fellow Republicans and Cabinet members to check on the response to the shutdown.

The White House defended Trump's hands-off approach to the negotiations, one out of character for a president who made his reputation as the master of "The Art of the Deal," as he titled one of his books.

"Look, what the president did clearly worked," said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sand-

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ers. She told reporters that Trump's focus was on minimizing the impact of the shutdown on Americans. "That's been a big priority for the president," she said. "I think that it certainly went much smoother than it has in the past, but also the president was putting pressure and standing firm on exactly what he was willing to do and what he wasn't."

Trump's shifting positions, particularly on protections for young immigrants, twice scuttled deals that could have avoided the shutdown, frustrating Republicans and Democrats alike. Schumer, who believed he was close to a deal on Friday after meeting the president at the White House over cheeseburgers, blasted Trump's refusal to re-engage.

"The White House refused to engage in negotiations over the weekend," Schumer said Monday. "The great deal-making president sat on the sidelines."

Trump initially chafed at remaining out of the fray, grouching to aides and outside advisers that he feared taking the blame. He watched hours of coverage of the shutdown on cable TV over the weekend — including clips of him blasting President Barack Obama for being passive during the 2013 shutdown — and made a series of calls to allies in which he expressed fear he was looking weak, according to a person familiar with the conversations but not authorized to speak about them publicly.

But Trump was pleased with the work of his staff defending him on air and urged them to "hold the line" during a visit to Sanders' office, which had become a de facto war room in the West Wing, according to a White House official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about internal discussions. The president warmed to playing hardball with the Democrats, and urged Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan to keep winning the debate.

Trump was also warned by allies, including chief of staff John Kelly and budget director Mick Mulvaney, not to reopen negotiations with Schumer, whom White House staffers believed would have to fold. And while Trump did not make any appearances where he could have been subjected to reporters' questions, the White House released a series of staged photos of the president, including one in which he wears a "Make America Great Again" hat and holds a phone to his ear while sitting at his Oval Office desk.

The White House may take a more leading role on the revived immigration debate, according to the official, and hosted senators for a discussion on the topic Monday. The president also finally broke his silence on the shutdown after the Senate vote to temporarily fund the government but only via a statement in which he said he was "pleased Democrats in Congress have come to their senses."

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed reporting.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Superville at <http://twitter.com/@dsuperville>

Pence says US embassy will move to Jerusalem by end of 2019

By KEN THOMAS and ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence told Israeli lawmakers Monday that the U.S. would put plans to move its embassy to Jerusalem on a fast track, drawing angry denunciations from Arabs who were forcibly removed from the hall during his speech before Israel's parliament.

The Trump administration's plan to accelerate the move of the embassy, announced in the first address of a sitting American vice president to the Knesset, marked the highlight of Pence's visit celebrating President Donald Trump's decision last month to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"Jerusalem is Israel's capital — and, as such, President Trump has directed the State Department to begin initial preparations to move our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," Pence told the lawmakers, vowing that the "United States Embassy will open before the end of next year."

Pence's speech drew protests from the Palestinians, with chief negotiator Saeb Erekat saying it "has proven that the U.S. administration is part of the problem rather than the solution." Shortly after Pence began speaking, several Arab lawmakers voiced their displeasure by raising signs that said, "Jerusalem is

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the capital of Palestine," and heckling the vice president. They were forcibly removed from the plenum. Despite the pandemonium, Pence expressed hope in an interview with The Associated Press after the speech that the Palestinians would re-enter negotiations. "Our message to President (Mahmoud) Abbas and the Palestinian Authority is: The door's open. The door's open. President Trump is absolutely committed to doing everything the United States can to achieve a peace agreement that brings an end to decades of conflict."

The embassy is to be opened in an existing U.S. facility that will be "retrofitted" to meet safety and security requirements, Undersecretary of State Steve Goldstein told reporters in Washington. He said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had yet to sign off on the safety plan for the new facility but would do so in coming weeks.

The most likely location is in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood, in a modern building that currently handles U.S. consular affairs like issuing passports, birth certificates and travel visas, said a U.S. official, who wasn't authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The U.S. consul-general works out of another Jerusalem facility that handles political affairs and diplomatic functions.

The retrofitted building had been originally envisioned as an interim plan that would allow Trump to quickly fulfill his vow to move the embassy.

Yet it was unclear after Pence's speech whether Trump still intended to break ground later on a new embassy elsewhere in Jerusalem or to use the retrofitted one permanently.

"We expect that to be the embassy," Goldstein said of the facility that will open next year. "We do not have a plan at current to build a new embassy."

Pence told the AP the administration was "exploring a range of options" on where to locate the embassy.

The vice president was preceded on the Knesset dais by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who lavished his guest with praise and gratitude. It was part of an exceptionally warm welcome for Pence in Israel, which has been overjoyed by Trump's pivot on Jerusalem. But the move has infuriated the Palestinians and upset America's Arab allies as well.

The main Arab party in the Israeli parliament had warned that it would boycott Pence. Its leader, Ayman Odeh, vowed they would not provide a "silent backdrop" to a man he called a "dangerous racist."

Pence responded to the ruckus by saying he was humbled to speak before such a "vibrant democracy," then delved into his prepared remarks about the countries' unbreakable bond.

"I am here to convey one simple message: America stands with Israel. We stand with Israel because your cause is our cause, your values are our values and your fight is our fight," he said. "We stand with Israel because we believe in right over wrong, good over evil and liberty over tyranny."

Pence said the U.S. would back a two-state solution but only if both sides support it. Netanyahu's hard-line government is dominated by opponents to Palestinian statehood, making such a scenario unlikely.

The Palestinians say the U.S. is no longer an acceptable mediator. They have pre-emptively rejected any peace proposal floated by the Trump administration, fearing it will fall far short of their hopes for an independent state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza, lands captured by Israel in the 1967 war.

The Palestinians have refused to meet with Pence. In an expression of that snub, Abbas overlapped with Pence in Jordan from Saturday evening to midday Sunday, when the Palestinian leader flew to Brussels for a meeting with European Union foreign ministers, where he urged EU member states to recognize a state of Palestine and step up involvement in mediation.

Pence's visit coincided with a dispute between the Foreign Press Association in Israel and the Israeli government after Israeli demands to strip-search a Finnish journalist covering the start of Pence's visit.

The journalist said she was taken behind a curtain Monday at Netanyahu's office, where she said she was questioned, patted down and then asked to remove her bra for an inspection. She said she refused and was barred from covering the event.

The woman, who was born and raised in Finland, said she was singled out because her father is Palestinian.

The FPA, which represents some 400 journalists working for international media in Israel and the Palestinian territories, accused Israel of ethnic profiling and called the Israeli practice of strip-searching journalists a "mark of shame" aimed at intimidating reporters.

Associated Press writer Josh Lederman in Washington contributed to this report.

Pope apologizes to abuse victims, but defends Chilean bishop

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP) — Pope Francis apologized for insisting that victims of pedophile priests show “proof” to be believed, saying he realized it was a “slap in the face” to victims that he never intended.

But he doubled down on defending a Chilean bishop accused by victims of covering up for the country’s most notorious pedophile priest, and he repeated that anyone who makes such accusations without providing evidence is guilty of slander.

Francis issued the partial mea culpa in an airborne press conference late Sunday as he returned home from Chile and Peru, where the clergy abuse scandal and his own comments plunged the Chilean church into renewed crisis and revived questions about whether Francis “gets it” about abuse.

Francis insisted that to date no one had provided him with evidence that Bishop Juan Barros was complicit in keeping quiet about the perversions of the Rev. Fernando Karadima, the charismatic Chilean priest who was sanctioned by the Vatican in 2011 for molesting and fondling minors in his Santiago parish.

Flying home from the most contested trip of his papacy, Francis said Barros would remain bishop of Osorno, Chile as long as there’s no evidence implicating him in the cover-up.

“I can’t condemn him because I don’t have evidence,” Francis said. “But I’m also convinced that he’s innocent.”

Karadima was removed from ministry and sentenced by the Vatican in 2011 to a lifetime of penance and prayer based on the testimony of his victims, who said they were all molested by him in the swank parish he headed in the El Bosque area of Santiago. A Chilean judge also found the victims to be credible, saying that while she had to drop criminal charges against Karadima because too much time had passed, proof of his crimes wasn’t lacking.

Three of the victims testified before Chilean prosecutors and others have also said publicly for years that Barros, one of Karadima’s proteges, witnessed the abuse and did nothing to stop it.

Barros denies the accusations.

“The best thing is for those who believe this to bring the evidence forward,” Francis said. “In this moment I don’t think it’s this way, because I don’t have it, but I have an open heart to receive them.”

Juan Carlos Cruz, the most vocal of the accusers against Karadima and Barros who testified in court about the cover-up, responded with a statement to The Associated Press: “If he wanted evidence, why didn’t he reach out to us when we were willing to reaffirm the testimony that not only us, but so many witnesses, have been providing for more than 15 years?”

Francis, though, repeated again that anyone who makes an accusation without providing evidence is guilty of slander.

“Someone who accuses insistently without evidence, this is calumny,” he said. “If I say ‘you stole something, you stole something,’ I’m slandering you because I don’t have evidence.”

He acknowledged that he misspoke when he said he needed to see “proof” to believe the accusations, saying it was a legal term that he didn’t intend. He corrected himself and used the term “evidence” instead, which he said could include testimony.

“Here I have to apologize because the word ‘proof’ hurt them. It hurt a lot of abused people,” he said. “I know how much they suffer. And to hear that the pope told them to their face that they need to bring a letter with proof? It’s a slap in the face.”

The Barros scandal dominated Francis’ Jan. 15-21 trip to Chile and Peru, and led to a remarkable church-state public rebuke of the pope.

Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Francis’ top adviser on abuse, issued a public criticism saying Francis’ words were a “source of great pain for survivors” and that such expressions had the effect of making them feel abandoned and left to “discredited exile.” The Chilean government spokeswoman, Paula Narvaez, said

there was an "ethical imperative to respect victims of sexual abuse, believe them and support them."

Francis insisted that he did respect victims and apologized for his "unhappy" choice of words when he was asked by a Chilean reporter Jan. 18 about his 2015 decision to appoint Barros to Osorno over the objections of Chilean bishops.

Francis replied: "The day they bring me proof against Bishop Barros, I'll speak. There is not one shred of proof against him. It's all calumny. Is that clear?"

The comments sparked an outcry among Chileans and roiled abuse survivors and their advocates.

The spokesman for a group of Osorno Catholics opposed to Barros, Juan Carlos Claret, said the pope still didn't get it.

"It's incredible that the pope doesn't understand that the problem wasn't the word 'proof' or 'evidence,' which is the same thing, but that he accused victims of slander — victims who were found to be right by both Vatican and Chilean justice," he told the AP.

He noted Cruz had formally testified in 2010 that Barros was present during the abuse.

At the news conference, Francis also explained a letter reported last week by the AP that showed the Vatican was prepared to ask Barros and two other Karadima-trained bishops to resign and take a year sabbatical in 2014 to try to contain the fallout from the scandal surrounding the priest. Francis admitted that he put a stop to the plan, saying that if he accepted the resignations without evidence or "moral certainty" that Barros had done anything wrong, "I would be committing a crime of bad judgment."

Francis said Barros actually did offer to resign — twice — but that he rejected it.

"I said, 'No, this isn't how we roll,'" adding that sending Barros and the other bishops on sabbatical would have been seen as an admission of guilt.

The 2015 appointment outraged Chileans and badly divided the Osorno diocese, where hundreds of lay Catholics and many priests have refused to accept Barros.

Marie Collins, who resigned in frustration from Francis' sex abuse advisory commission last year, in part over the Barros affair, said she couldn't bring herself to comment.

"Why comment? It's a pointless waste of effort," tweeted Collins, who has become a leading critic of Francis' abuse record, especially his decision to allow the commission to lapse last month.

Francis said Sunday a new membership roster had been put to him earlier this month and was being reviewed. He denied that the lapse of the committee showed it wasn't a priority for him.

Francis was also asked about the sex scandal in neighboring Peru regarding the lay movement Sodalitium Christianae Vitae. He revealed that its founder, Luis Figari, is appealing his Vatican sentence on charges of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, and economic mismanagement. The Vatican high court is expected to hand down its sentence in two months, he said.

"What I know is that the thing is unfavorable to the founder," Francis said.

Associated Press writer Eva Vergara in Santiago, Chile, contributed to this report.

Fighting rages amid Turkish push in Kurdish enclave in Syria

By MEHMET GUZEL and BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

HASSA, Turkey (AP) — Intense fighting flared Monday as Turkish troops and their allies advanced on a Kurdish enclave in northwestern Syria, the third day of Ankara's offensive to oust a U.S.-allied Kurdish militia from the area, according to the militia and a war monitoring group.

Skirmishes between Turkish troops and Kurdish fighters also broke out farther east in Syria, threatening to widen the scope of the new front in the Syrian war that pits Turkey against Washington's main ally in the region.

The Turkish ground and air offensive on Afrin, codenamed "Operation Olive Branch," began Saturday, raising tensions in the already-complicated Syrian conflict and threatening to further strain ties between Turkey and the U.S., both NATO allies. Turkey says it aims to create a 30-kilometer (20-mile) deep "secure zone" in Afrin, the Kurdish-controlled enclave on its border.

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The Turkish military announced late Monday its first fatality to the operation. It said a soldier was killed in cross-border raid.

The U.N. Security Council was scheduled to convene later Monday to discuss the situation.

A NATO statement said it has contacted Turkey over the offensive. NATO said Turkey has suffered from terrorism and has the right to self-defense but urged Ankara to do so in a "proportionate and measured way."

NATO also said it has no presence in Syria but that as members of the anti-Islamic State coalition, "our focus is on the defeat" of the extremists.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Turkey has "legitimate security concerns" about Syria. Speaking to reporters traveling with him Sunday to Indonesia, he said diplomats are working on a solution to Turkey's confrontation with the Syrian Kurdish fighters, known as the People's Defense Units or YPG, who have been the key U.S. military ally in battling the Islamic State in Syria. Turkey considers the YPG a terrorist group because of its ties to its own Kurdish insurgency.

Mattis said Ankara gave the U.S. military advance notice of its Afrin offensive.

The U.S. has offered direct military and logistical support to a Kurdish-led group known as the Syrian Democratic Forces that spearheaded the fight against IS in Syria. With the near total defeat of IS in both Syria and Iraq, the U.S. said it would create a 30,000-strong border force of existing Kurdish and Arab SDF members to ensure there would be no IS comeback.

That announcement has outraged Turkey, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has tried to walk back the U.S. position, saying it was portrayed incorrectly. The U.S. focus in recent years has been on eastern Syria. The area west of the Euphrates River, including Afrin, has been more of a problem for the U.S. because Turkey had said it would not accept a Kurdish military presence there.

The U.S. is discussing with Turkey and others the possibility of setting up a security zone on the Syria border to address Turkey's concerns about a Kurdish enclave there, Tillerson said while traveling in Europe on Monday. Such a zone could help stabilize the situation and meet Turkey's legitimate concerns over security, he said.

The U.S. recognizes Turkey's "legitimate right" to defend itself from terrorists, he said, but added that Washington wants Turkey to try to be precise in its Afrin operation and to limit it by showing restraint.

But Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has promised to expand the operation, threatening to push farther east to the town of Manbij to the east, which the Kurdish fighters had liberated of Islamic State militants in 2016 and currently administer.

Erdogan said in Ankara that his country will "not take a step back" from its Afrin offensive. He repeated his criticism of Washington's support for the Kurdish militia, saying the U.S. should have partnered with Turkey in fighting IS.

Erdogan said Turkey's "fundamental goal" is ensuring its national security, preserving Syria's territorial integrity and protecting the Syrian people. He said Turkey discussed the Afrin operation with Russia, reaching "an agreement."

The Kurdish force said it considers Turkey's offensive a "flagrant hostility" to all Syrians that would distract from the fight against the extremists and help them flourish. In a statement, the Kurdish fighters said Afrin will be a "quagmire" for the Turkish army.

Activists say Turkey has mobilized about 10,000 Syrian fighters to storm Afrin, with some stationed in Azaz, on the eastern edge of Afrin and others to the south in Atmeh. There are an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 Kurdish fighters in the enclave, home to about 800,000 civilians.

Christians and Yazidis living in Afrin fear persecution by the advancing Turkish-led forces, which they say include "jihadist groups," said Irfan Ortac, chairman of the Yazidi Association in Germany.

The Yazidi community in Syria, a religious minority, lives mostly in Kurdish-controlled areas. Ortac estimated at 15,000 Yazidis live in Afrin.

The top U.N. official in Syria, Ali Al-Za'tari, said the international body is closely following events and is ready to help civilians who might leave the enclave. Al-Za'tari told The Associated Press it is not yet clear

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if people are fleeing the fighting in northwestern Syria.

Fierce clashes were occurring along two new fronts as Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters tried once again to enter Afrin. The Kurdish militia said it has repelled advancing troops from Shinkal and Adah Manli, two villages they seized a day earlier in Afrin.

Afrin is surrounded by Turkish-backed Syrian fighters, Turkish troops and Syrian government forces. The only road out of the enclave to government-controlled Aleppo has been closed by the Kurdish militia for security reasons.

The YPG said the Turkey-backed forces have opened a new front, pushing into two other villages in the district's north. The militia said it is fighting to halt the advancing troops in Balia and Qarna in northwest Afrin.

AP journalists at Hassa, a Turkish village on the border, saw at least eight tanks and five armored vehicles along with trucks preparing to cross into Syria.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the Syrian war, said the Syrian Kurdish militia waged a fierce counteroffensive late Sunday, repelling the Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters from the two villages they briefly captured. The Observatory said Turkey-backed troops were trying once again to enter Afrin.

Access to Afrin is restricted, making it difficult to independently verify developments.

Tensions also spread to eastern Syria, where Kurdish and Turkish media reported a cross-border exchange of fire hundreds of miles east of Afrin.

The Kurdish Hawar news agency said Kurdish fighters returned cross-border fire in northeastern Hasakeh province, a predominantly Kurdish area bordering Iraq. A Turkish official in southeastern Turkey could not confirm the report.

The Observatory reported the skirmishes and said there also were reports of an exchange of fire to the west, where the private Dogan news agency said a Turkish soldier was wounded by a sniper in Ras al-Ayn. The Turkish military, along with special operations teams, returned fire on the building with anti-aircraft weapons and "neutralized" the sniper, Dogan reported.

The Kurdish militia has blamed Russia for the Afrin attack, saying Russian officials have urged it to hand over the enclave to the Syrian government to avoid the Turkish offensive. Russian troops stationed in Afrin district had redeployed ahead of the Turkish offensive, which also includes airstrikes. At least 18 civilians have been killed in Afrin, the Observatory said. One Syrian refugee was killed in a Turkish border town after rockets were launched from Syria.

Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, said Moscow is "carefully watching the operation" and is in touch with both the Syrian and the Turkish government.

Turkey's Interior Ministry said it had detained 24 people for alleged terrorist propaganda on social media regarding Operation Olive Branch, according to the country's official Anadolu news agency.

Erdogan has warned Kurds in Turkey not to protest the military operation. Police broke up protests Sunday in Ankara and Istanbul, with at least 12 detained in Istanbul. Police used tear gas to disperse a rally in Ankara.

Associated Press writer Mehmet Guzel reported this story in Hassa and AP writer Bassem Mroue reported from Damascus. AP writers Sarah El Deeb in Beirut and Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul contributed to this report.

Trump, US delegation now likely to attend Davos meeting

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's trip to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, is likely a go.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that if "all things go as expected" with reopening the government, the delegation will travel Tuesday and the president will go later in the week.

A delegation of Cabinet members was scheduled to leave Monday, but the group was delayed amid the federal government shutdown. But reopening was in sight later in the day after Senate Democrats dropped their objections to a temporary funding bill.

Trump planned to take his "America First" message to the gathering of global political and business elites that is rarely attended by sitting presidents.

Earlier Monday, when asked if Trump would attend if the government was still shut down, Sanders said: "I don't know that that's very likely. I wouldn't imagine it is. Our priority is making sure that the government reopened and we start having the conversations that need to take place over the next couple of weeks."

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had said he would cancel his trip to Davos if the government was still shut down.

VP defends Trump over vulgar remarks on African immigrants

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Monday defended President Donald Trump over his recent comments disparaging immigration from Africa and Haiti, telling The Associated Press that the president's "heart" is aimed at a merit-based system that is blind to immigrants' "race or creed."

Pence, in an interview with the AP from Jerusalem, said the president was intent on implementing a merit-based system that encourages immigration by those who will "contribute to a growing American economy and thriving communities."

"I know the president's heart and I know that what President Trump wants to do is reform immigration to make our system one that puts the interests of America first," Pence said. He added that immigrants should be considered on their merits, "regardless of what country they come from or what their race and creed is."

He was responding to reports that Trump, in a private meeting with legislators earlier this month, challenged immigration from "shithole" African countries, disparaged Haiti and said the U.S. should welcome more immigrants from countries like Norway.

The vice president also dismissed an adult film star's account of a sexual encounter with Trump in 2006, questioning its validity.

"I'm just not going to comment on the latest baseless allegations against the president," Pence said. "My focus is on serving the president, advancing the priorities of the administration, advancing American interests and that's where it will stay."

The Wall Street Journal last week reported that Trump's personal lawyer brokered a payment to pornographic actress Stormy Daniels in October 2016 to prohibit her from publicly discussing the alleged affair before the presidential election.

Daniels' real name is Stephanie Clifford. Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen, has denied there was any relationship. He gave the Journal a statement from a person identified as Stormy Daniels denying receiving "hush money."

The AP reported that a tabloid magazine held back from publishing her 2011 account of their relationship after Cohen threatened to sue.

Pence, on a four-day visit to the Middle East while Washington grapples with a government shutdown, said in the AP interview that he was "hopeful that Democrats in the Senate will see their way clear to reopen the government."

Hours later, after a Senate agreement was reached to end the shutdown, Pence said alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the impasse was ending "thanks to the firm stand taken by President Trump" and congressional Republicans.

"The Schumer shutdown failed," Pence said, referring to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Pence spoke to the AP after delivering to the Knesset a major address in which he announced Trump's plans to expedite the move of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by the end of next year. He was the first sitting American vice president to address the parliamentary body.

Pence said he had received no blowback from world leaders over Trump's immigration comments. "I just think leaders around the world appreciate the president's renewed engagement. He appreciates the relationships that he's forged with them," Pence said.

A number of world leaders publicly denounced the comments as racist.

Associated Press writer Catherine Lucey in Washington contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Ken Thomas at @KThomasDC.

US orders extra air cargo screening for flights from Mideast

By JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. authorities issued an emergency order Monday requiring additional screening of cargo on flights departing for the United States from five Mideast countries, citing a threat of terrorism.

The Transportation Security Administration order is aimed at preventing terrorist attacks in response to "persistent threats to aviation," TSA said in a statement. The countries falling under this order are Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

The countries were chosen because of "demonstrated intent by terrorists groups to attack aviation from them," the statement said.

TSA said most of the requirements of the emergency order are already being carried out voluntarily by airlines in some countries, but didn't identify the countries.

Airlines that TSA said are affected by the order are EgyptAir, operating out of Cairo International Airport; Royal Jordanian, operating out of Queen Alia International Airport; Saudia, operating out of King Abdul-Aziz International Airport and King Khalid International Airport; Qatar Airways, operating out of Doha International Airport; and Emirates and Etihad, operating out of Dubai International Airport and Abu Dhabi International Airport. EgyptAir, however, previously stopped accepting cargo shipments on flights to the U.S. at the request of American authorities.

Under the requirements of the order, airlines are supposed to provide certain information to U.S. customs officials on the shipments "at the earliest practical point" before loading the cargo. The shipment information is then compared to information the U.S. has on terror threats.

A foiled plot last summer to smuggle a bomb aboard an Etihad plane bound from Australia to UAE is "an ominous reminder" that "we need to continue our efforts to keep our skies secure," the agency said.

Abu Dhabi-based Etihad said in a statement to The Associated Press that it was "fully compliant with all regulatory security requirements across its operations." It declined to elaborate on its security procedures.

Abu Dhabi International Airport already has a U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility that allows passengers to clear screening they'd otherwise have to go through when landing in America. That means passengers can walk right out of the airport on arrival.

Dubai-based Emirates, Qatar Airways and Saudia didn't respond to requests for comment.

Gulf and Mideast airlines already were stung by President Donald Trump's travel bans, as well as last year's since-lifted ban on laptops in airplane cabins. U.S. carriers have accused also Gulf-based airlines owned by governments of having unfair advantages in the market, something they've firmly denied.

Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell contributed to this report from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

AP Exclusive: 6 new rules to prevent Oscars envelope gaffe

By SANDY COHEN, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After taking responsibility for the epic best picture flub at the Oscars last year, Tim Ryan of PwC got down to business.

He grilled the partners who made the gaffe, then personally reached out to the dozens of people af-

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fect by it: The show's producers, presenters and stage managers and the filmmakers behind "La La Land" and "Moonlight."

In the months that followed, PwC met with the academy many times to come up with new protocols and safeguards to prevent such a blunder in the future. Ryan revealed six new reforms to The Associated Press. They include a new process in which the celebrity presenter will confirm they have the correct envelope before stepping onstage, PwC partners attending rehearsals, as well as measures to quickly correct any mistake.

Last year's mistake happened when a PwC partner mistakenly handed an envelope for the best actress winner category, which went to Emma Stone in "La La Land," to the presenters of the best picture category, Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway. That resulted in "La La Land" being briefly named best picture, before one of that film's producers revealed the error and that "Moonlight" had in fact won.

"One of the most disappointing things to me was all the great work that had been done, not only last year but over the last 83 years, around accuracy, confidentiality integrity of that process," he said. "And where we got it wrong was on the handing over of the envelope."

Ryan said Oscar voting procedures and the tabulation of nominees and winners won't change. Instead, reforms focus on envelope rituals.

Ryan said he will be personally involved with Oscar operations this year as PwC's U.S. chairman and senior partner.

Other changes include:

— The addition of a third balloting partner, who will sit with Oscar producers in the show's control room. Just like the balloting partners stationed on either side of the Dolby Theatre stage, this person will have a complete set of winners' envelopes and commit the winners to memory. "Think of it as a safety control," Ryan said.

— The two partners who worked on last year's Academy Awards have been replaced, though Ryan confirms that both still work for PwC. The new stage-side partners overseeing the envelopes will include Rick Rosas, who previously worked in that post for 14 years, and colleague Kimberly Bourdon from the company's Los Angeles office.

— A new formal procedure is in place for when envelopes are handed over. Both the celebrity presenter and a stage manager will confirm that they've been given the correct envelope for the category they are about to present. (Last year's gaffe occurred when the PwC representative accidentally gave presenters the envelope for best actress rather than best picture.)

— All three balloting partners will attend show rehearsals and practice what to do if something goes wrong. "Because, as you're well aware, it took a long time to respond last year when there was a mistake that we made," Ryan said. "So we're formally practicing the what-ifs."

The final change is one the academy immediately instituted last year: PwC partners are prohibited from using cellphones or social media during the show.

"Our singular focus will be on the show and delivering the correct envelopes," Ryan said.

Besides tabulating votes for Oscar nominees and winners, PwC handles much of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' accounting, including audits and taxes.

Film academy chief Dawn Hudson said that after reviewing the relationship between the two organizations, and given that the voting and secrecy around the Academy Awards were never compromised, the academy chalked up the envelope mistake to simple human error.

"Still, it was a big human error, and it was a very public human error," Hudson said.

Ultimately, academy officials and board members decided not to "throw out 83 years of flawless partnership over this, while huge, one human error," she said, adding that PwC helped build the digital voting system the academy has been using for the Oscars in recent years.

"Let me tell you, I don't think this error will ever happen again or would happen again," said Hudson, who was watching from the audience as the flub seemed to occur in slow motion onstage. "We put in a lot of protocols to make sure it won't, but I don't think it will anyway. I think everyone will be very focused

on getting that right.”

Ryan is similarly confident.

“My nature, just as a person, is healthy paranoia. But I also know in my head that we haven’t left any step undone. We owe that to the academy,” he said. “While I feel very, very good about all the work that’s been done and the attention to detail that’s in place, our job doesn’t end until that curtain closes.”

Nominations for the 90th Academy Awards will be announced Tuesday. Winners will be revealed at the ceremony on March 4.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Sandy Cohen at <https://twitter.com/YouKnowSandy>

For full coverage of awards season, visit: <https://apnews.com/tag/AwardsSeason>

Hope, fear as Puerto Rico moves to privatize power company

By DANICA COTO, Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The announcement that Puerto Rico’s governor is moving to privatize the U.S. territory’s public power company has many on the island of 3.3 million people asking whether this will finally bring them more affordable electric bills and more reliable service.

More than 30 percent of customers are still without electricity more than four months after Hurricane Maria, and many blame that and previous blackouts on the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, whose infrastructure averages roughly 45 years old, compared with 18 years on the U.S. mainland.

Many also wonder who, if anyone, would be willing to buy a power company that has a \$9 billion debt load, filed for bankruptcy last year and faces longstanding accusations of mismanagement and corruption. But Puerto Ricans in a flurry of exchanges across social media after Monday’s announcement seemed to agree that any change would be a good one, though they remained wary that the utility could fall into the wrong hands.

“Some people have faith that privatization will improve everything, but it’s not a guarantee,” said Puerto Rico economist Jose Caraballo. “If a good deal isn’t hammered out, Puerto Rico can end up worse than it is.”

Gov. Ricardo Rossello said he will be working with legislators in the coming days to draft a measure that would allow the government to sell the utility’s assets in a process expected to take 18 months. The majority leader in Puerto Rico’s House of Representatives said he would back the measure, while the president of the island’s Senate said he first needed to see the legislation to ensure it would serve the interests of all Puerto Ricans.

Power bills on the island have long been double the average of those on the U.S. mainland, in part because imported fuel supplies three-fourths of the energy consumed in Puerto Rico, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Rossello said privatizing the power company would both improve service and lower power bills, and he predicted it would lead to more investment in renewable energy projects.

“With this transformation of PREPA, you will cease being its hostage,” he told Puerto Ricans. “The deficient and obsolete system of generation and distribution of energy is one of the great impediments to our economic development.”

Sen. Juan Dalmau, whose party supports independence for Puerto Rico, said privatization would not necessarily translate into efficiency or savings.

“The message is a manipulation of the justified hopelessness of an island facing a lack of power after the hurricane,” he said.

A spokesman for the utility did not return a message for comment, while union leaders said they would not comment until Tuesday.

Rossello said the electrical grid is not designed for Puerto Rico’s current needs, noting that the greatest demand exists in the northern part of the island while the main generation plants are in the south. In addition to its aging infrastructure, PREPA has lost 30 percent of its employees in the last five years, 86

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percent of whom worked in maintenance, he added.

The company also has faced internal turmoil. Its director was forced out in November after the utility failed to immediately call for help from its mainland counterparts after Hurricane Maria. Instead, PREPA granted a power-restoration contract to a little-known company that the utility was later forced to rescind. Most recently, PREPA was blamed for the failure to distribute badly needed parts found in one of its warehouses even as repairs to the storm-damaged power system went undone for lack of supplies.

Founded in 1979 as a public utility run by appointees of the island's governor, PREPA has long been criticized for political patronage and inefficiency. It has been beset by frequent blackouts, including an island-wide outage in September 2016.

The island's water and sewer company was once privatized, but the government had to take it back over in the early 2000s after problems with service, billing and quality requirements set the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. But Puerto Rico has been privatizing the operations of some government agencies in recent years amid a recession that has lasted more than a decade, including management of the main international airport and one of its main highways.

Economist Gustavo Velez said privatizing PREPA will be a positive move if whoever buys it is a good operator. He added that he supports the privatization of not only the power company, but other state agencies as well, including the Ports Authority, the water and sewer company and the highway authority.

"We have to open up all these utilities that are bankrupt, failed," Velez said.

Gun industry gathers just a few miles from mass shooting

By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press

The gun industry is holding its biggest annual trade show this week just a few miles from where a gunman slaughtered 58 concertgoers outside his high-rise Las Vegas hotel room in October using a display case worth of weapons, many of them fitted with bump stocks that enabled them to mimic fully automatic fire.

What exactly will be among the thousands of products crammed into the exhibition spaces at the National Shooting Sports Foundation's SHOT Show convention, running from Tuesday through Friday, will be a bit of a mystery, shielded from the public and, this year, members of the general-interest media.

One thing is known: Slide Fire, the leading manufacturer of bump stocks, a once-obscure product that attracted intense attention in the aftermath of the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, won't be among the exhibitors.

The Texas-based company hasn't said why it's not on the roster of more than 1,700 exhibitors, although it was last year. It didn't return messages seeking comment. The company also isn't on the list of those attending this year's National Rifle Association annual meeting or other prominent gun trade shows.

In the aftermath of the Las Vegas massacre Oct. 1, Slide Fire had so much trouble keeping up with demand it temporarily stopped taking orders for the product. It has since resumed.

"From purely from a public relations standpoint, it wouldn't be a surprise at all if bump stocks just sort of disappeared this year," said Robert Spitzer, chairman of political science at the State University of New York at Cortland and an expert on firearms and the Second Amendment. "That's a PR no-brainer."

Still, the convention floor is likely to have plenty of other devices that gun-control advocates have taken aim at in recent years: accessories that make it easier to carry a firearm, shoot it or reduce the noise it makes.

On the list of products they oppose are "trigger cranks," which, like bump stocks, make it easier to fire a long gun rapidly, and "assault pistols," which look remarkably like short-barreled AR- and AK-style firearms but skirt certain federal restrictions because they aren't designed to be shot from the shoulder.

"For a person from the general public, I think the thing that would startle them the most about the SHOT Show ... is just the sheer scope and the vastness of this show," said David Chipman, a former agent with the federal agency that regulates firearms and now a senior policy adviser with the gun safety organization founded by former Rep. Gabby Giffords, who was gravely wounded in a shooting in 2012.

SHOT Show has been held for 40 years, half that time in Las Vegas, and this year's gathering was

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scheduled well before the bloodshed last fall. It will have some 13 miles of aisles featuring products from more than 1,700 companies. More than 65,000 visitors are expected at the gathering, a place where connections are made and deals worth millions are struck.

The general public is not allowed to roam the aisles; the only people who can attend are those with direct ties to the industry: manufacturers and dealers of firearms or associated products. Although a few reporters from general-interest news organizations attended in recent years, NSSF this year restricted access to about 2,500 journalists from trade publications and media.

The show's location and timing 3½ months after Stephen Paddock's murderous attack have heightened awareness of the event.

Michael Bazinet, NSSF director of public affairs, said that while those attending are well aware of the tragedy that occurred nearby, "they also know that legal gun ownership and the lawful commerce of arms is something quite removed from the act of an individual such as this. And that's not to diminish the tragedy at all. But people come to the show do make that distinction."

The show comes as the gun industry's fortunes have waned after nearly a decade of unprecedented sales. No longer concerned about the federal government restricting gun rights, Americans have scaled back their firearm-buying sprees.

When SHOT Show, which stands for Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade, was launched, its emphasis was on hunting and the outdoors. Over the decades, it has evolved and grown and now has huge sections devoted to the law enforcement and military community. No sales are allowed at the show, firing pins are removed from all guns on display, and there is no live ammunition.

There are so many companies that want to exhibit, there isn't enough space. The waiting list is several hundred names long.

Kevin Michalowski, executive editor of Concealed Carry Magazine, has been going to SHOT Show for more than a decade and said he doesn't anticipate this year's event will have a different feel from other years. He said it's a close-knit industry accustomed to being put under the microscope by the media and by gun-control advocates.

"This is not just a group of redneck gun owners as are often portrayed by the mainstream media. This is serious business," he said. "Millions and millions of dollars are exchanged, and it helps the economies of many, many states, it helps the economy of the U.S."

Asian shares rise on global growth hopes, US shutdown's end

By **KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stock markets posted strong gains on Tuesday, as an upbeat forecast for global economic growth and the end of the U.S. government shutdown helped lift sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index jumped 0.9 percent to 24,037.86 and South Korea's Kospi advanced 1.1 percent to 2,522.68. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.7 percent to 32,749.79 and the Shanghai Composite in mainland China climbed 0.8 percent to 3,528.55. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.7 percent to 6,033.90.

GLOBAL GROWTH: The International Monetary Fund upgraded its outlook for the world economy, estimating that the world economy expanded 3.7 percent last year, the fastest pace since 2011. It forecast that the pace will accelerate to 3.9 percent in 2018-19. The IMF noted surprisingly strong growth in Europe and Asia and predicted that U.S. tax cuts will give the American economy a short-term boost.

SHUTDOWN: President Donald Trump signed a bill ending the U.S. federal government shutdown after nearly three days. Democrats agreed to a stopgap funding measure in exchange for Republican promises to resume debates on immigration and other issues. The agreement helped boost Wall Street though its effect on the dollar was minimal.

QUOTE: "It's onwards and upwards for U.S. stocks and the leads are once again constructive for broad Asian equity appreciation," said Chris Weston, chief strategist at IG in Melbourne. "The Teflon market continues in earnest and nothing sticks and very little is of concern, as has been the case for some time

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with the same macro factors keeping the positive trend in play.”

BANK OF JAPAN: Market watchers are awaiting the Japanese central bank’s latest policy statement. No big changes are expected but investors will be on the watch for any comments from policymakers on inflation or hints about when they plan to scale back a monetary easing program aimed at stimulating Asia’s second biggest economy through huge central bank purchases of government bonds.

TARIFFS: Trump approved tariffs on imported solar-energy components and large washing machines, in a move aimed at helping U.S. manufacturers. The tariffs, aimed at cheaper imports from rival makers in places like China and South Korea, raise the threat of a trade war between the U.S. and Asia. The companies that sought the tariffs said 30 U.S. solar-manufacturing facilities had shut in the past five years as China plotted to flood the global market with cheap products to weaken U.S. manufacturing.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks had a strong finish. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index picked up 0.8 percent to close at 2,832.97. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.6 percent to 26,214.60. The Nasdaq composite added 1 percent to 7,408.03.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 110.69 yen from 110.93 yen in late trading Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.2261 from \$1.2263.

ENERGY: Oil futures extended gains. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 35 cents to \$63.92 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 26 cents to \$63.57 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 37 cents to \$69.40 a barrel in London.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 23, the 23rd day of 2018. There are 342 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Jan. 23, 1968, North Korea seized the U.S. Navy intelligence ship USS Pueblo, commanded by Lloyd “Pete” Bucher, charging its crew with being on a spying mission; one sailor was killed and 82 were taken prisoner. (Cmdr. Bucher and his crew were released the following December after enduring 11 months of brutal captivity at the hands of the North Koreans.)

On this date:

In 1368, China’s Ming dynasty, which lasted nearly three centuries, began as Zhu Yuanzhang was formally acclaimed emperor following the collapse of the Yuan dynasty.

In 1516, King Ferdinand II of Aragon, who with his late queen consort, Isabella of Castile, sponsored the first voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492, died in Madrigalejo, Spain.

In 1789, Georgetown University was established in present-day Washington, D.C.

In 1845, Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called “Lame Duck Amendment,” was ratified as Missouri approved it.

In 1944, Norwegian painter Edvard Munch (“The Scream”) died near Oslo at age 80.

In 1950, the Israeli Knesset approved a resolution affirming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In 1964, the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified as South Dakota became the 38th state to endorse it.

In 1977, the original TV mini-series “Roots,” based on the Alex Haley novel, began airing on ABC.

In 1978, rock musician Terry Kath, a key member of the group Chicago, accidentally shot himself to death following a party in Woodland Hills, California; he was 31.

In 1989, surrealist artist Salvador Dali died in his native Figueres, Spain, at age 84.

In 1998, a judge in Fairfax, Virginia, sentenced Aimal Khan Kasi (eye-MAHL’ kahn KAH’-see) to death for an assault rifle attack outside CIA headquarters in 1993 that killed two men and wounded three other people. (Kasi was executed in November 2002.)

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Ten years ago: Tens of thousands of Palestinians poured into Egypt from the Gaza Strip after militants blew up a barrier dividing the border town of Rafah. Michael Chang, winner of the 1989 French Open, was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame, and IMG creator Mark McCormack and Tennis Week magazine founder Eugene Scott were selected posthumously.

Five years ago: Appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered fiery rejoinders to Republican critics of the Obama administration's handling of the deadly attack on a U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya. Cardinal Jozef Glemp, 83, the longtime head of Poland's influential Roman Catholic church at a time when it played a key role in the fight against communism, died in Warsaw.

One year ago: President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, using one of his first actions in office to reject a proposed accord that was eagerly sought by American allies in Asia. Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo was sworn in as CIA director immediately after the Senate confirmed his nomination, 66-32. Kim Clijsters and Andy Roddick were elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Chita Rivera is 85. Actor-director Lou Antonio is 84. Jazz musician Gary Burton is 75. Actor Gil Gerard is 75. Actor Rutger Hauer is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jerry Lawson is 74. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., is 71. Singer Anita Pointer is 70. Actor Richard Dean Anderson is 68. Rock musician Bill Cunningham is 68. Rock singer Robin Zander (Cheap Trick) is 65. Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is 65. Princess Caroline of Monaco is 61. Singer Anita Baker is 60. Reggae musician Earl Falconer (UB40) is 59. Actor Boris McGiver is 56. Actress Gail O'Grady is 55. Actress Mariska Hargitay is 54. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Nelson is 47. Actress Tiffani Thiessen is 44. Rock musician Nick Harmer (Death Cab for Cutie) is 43. Christian rock musician Nick DePartee (Kutless) is 33. Singer-actress Rachel Crow is 20.

Thought for Today: "What is important is to spread confusion, not eliminate it." — Salvador Dali (1904-1989).

Riddle Answer: A Dictionary