

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 201 ~ 1 of 43

“To change one's life:
Start immediately.
Do it flamboyantly.
No exceptions.”

-William James



Riddle:

**The more of me you take the more of me
you have left behind. What am I?**

Answer at end of AP News

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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- Today's Riddle
- 1- Johnson Agency Ad
- 2- Varsity Stat Sheet
- 3- Diegel lead Tigers with three-point show against Lennox
- 4- Four grapplers place at Groton Tourney
- 6- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 8- Gun Show Ad
- 8- Farmers Union PSA
- 8- Five Wolves were in Double Figures to Secure a 17-Point Victory
- 9- Men's Basketball Unable to Shut Down Southwest Minnesota State
- 10- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 11- Rep. Noem's Weekly Column
- 12- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 13- A Place for Mom Ad
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- 15- Today in Weather History
- 16- Today's Forecast
- 17- Yesterday's Weather
- 17- Today's Weather Info
- 17- National Weather Map
- 18- Daily Devotional
- 19- 2018 Community Events
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Today's Events

Sunday, Jan. 28

80th Annual Carnival of Silver Skates, 2 p.m. and
6:30 p.m.

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Boys Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Lennox

VISITOR: Lennox

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
5 Arlt, Josh	*	6	11	4	8	1	1	0	1	1	2	17	5	1	0	2	24:00
13 Ihnen, Quincy	*	5	9	2	2	2	4	1	6	7	1	14	0	2	0	2	8:00
14 Leisinger, Zach	*	3	7	1	2	2	2	0	2	2	1	9	0	0	0	1	24:00
15 Anderson, Brock	*	9	13	1	3	1	2	2	3	5	1	20	3	1	1	1	24:00
24 Breck, Holden	*	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	8:00
1 Johnson, Kaleb		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
3 Gilbert, Ethan		0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4	1	0	1	24:00
4 Foss, Zach		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	8:00
23 Daugherty, Will		4	6	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	3	10	1	1	0	2	16:00
25 Wulf, Camden		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0:00
33 Wagner, Holden		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	2	0	1	0	1	24:00
34 Van Houten, Josh		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
35 Metcalf, Caleb		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
43 Mendal, Haden		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								2	2	4							
Team Totals		30	54	10	19	7	11	7	23	30	9	77	15	8	1	14	160

Total FG% - 1st: 17/32 0.531 2nd: 13/22 0.591 Game: 0.556 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 6/11 0.545 2nd: 4/8 0.500 Game: 0.526 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 4/6 0.667 2nd: 3/5 0.600 Game: 0.636 (0,0)

HOME: Groton ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
11 RINTALA, ANDREW	F	1	6	1	6	0	0	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	0	0	16:00
20 KEITH, BRANDON	F	0	3	0	2	2	2	2	3	5	0	2	0	3	0	0	16:00
42 DEHOET, BRODYN	C	4	11	2	9	1	2	2	6	8	1	11	0	2	0	0	16:00
4 DOEDEN, JONNY	G	2	7	2	6	2	2	1	1	2	2	8	3	2	0	1	8:00
5 SHABAZZ, SERIC	G	3	9	3	8	0	0	0	1	1	1	9	5	2	0	0	24:00
3 SIPPEL, ANTHONY		1	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	8:00
10 LANE, MARSHALL		1	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	2	2	1	2	0	1	8:00
12 SHABAZZ, DARIEN		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
14 KURTZ, KADEN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8:00
22 GUTHMILLER, CADE		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
32 LARSON, CHANDLER		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
34 JONES, AUSTIN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	8:00
50 TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
55 DIEGEL, TREYTON		5	10	5	10	0	0	0	1	1	1	15	3	3	0	1	24:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								2	2	4							
Team Totals		18	51	14	44	5	6	11	20	31	12	55	15	19	0	3	160

Total FG% - 1st: 9/25 0.360 2nd: 9/26 0.346 Game: 0.353 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 7/22 0.318 2nd: 7/22 0.318 Game: 0.318 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/2 0.500 2nd: 4/4 1.000 Game: 0.833 (0,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Add New Team	23	21	19	14	77
Groton	10	16	16	13	55

Diegel lead Tigers with three-point show against Lennox



Brodyn DeHoet outjumps Lennox as keeps the ball in play for the Tigers.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Lennox shut down the inside game, forcing the Tigers into three-point country. Groton Area's 14 of its 18 field goals were three-pointers. But the Orioles made their way inside with 20 two-points as Lennox posted a 77-55 win in the DakIX/NEC challenge held Saturday in Madison.

Lennox led at the quarter stops at 23-10, 44-26 and 63-42.

Groton shot 57 percent in the first quarter, but only put up seven shots and making four. Lennox shot 47 percent, making 10 of 21 field goals.

The Tigers put up more shots in the second quarter and cooled down in shooting, making five (all three-pointers) of 17 for 29 percent. Lennox made seven of 14 for 50 percent. In the third quarter, Groton made five of 19 field goals for 26 percent and Lennox made seven of 12 for 58 percent. Groton made four of 13 shots in the fourth quarter for 31 percent while Lennox shot five of 11 for 45 percent.

For the game, Groton Area 18 of 51 field goals for 35 percent, 14 of 44 three-pointers for 32 percent and was five of six from the line for 82 percent off of Lennox's nine team fouls. Groton only put up seven shots inside the three-point area the whole game.

Lennox made 30 of 54 field goals for 55 percent, 10 of 19 three-pointers for 53 percent, and was seven of 11 from the line for 63 percent off of Groton's 12 team fouls.

Groton had the edge on the boards, 31-30 and both teams had 15 assists.

Groton Area had 19 turnovers, with 14 of them being steals and turning into 14 points for the Orioles. Lennox had eight turnovers, with three of them being steals.

Treyton Diegel came off the bench and made five of 10 three-pointers to lead the Tigers with 15 points. Brodyn DeHoet had 11 points and eight rebounds. Seric Shabazz had eight points and three assists. Andrew Rintala and Anthony Sippel each had three points and Brandon Keith, Marshall Lane and Darien Shabazz each had two points.

Four players hit double figures for Lennox with Brock Anderson making nine of 13 field goals and ended up with 20 points. Josh Arlt had 17, Quincy Ihnen 14, Will Daugherty 10, Zach Leisinger nine, Zach Foss three and Holden Breck and Holden Wagner each had two points.

Groton Area, now 5-9 on the season, will host Langford Area on Tuesday.



Captains Brandon Keith, Anthony Sippel and Seric Shabazz are greeted by the officials and Lennox captains prior to the start of the game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Four grapplers place at Groton Tourney

Brandyn Anderson took first place at the Groton Invitational Wrestling Tournament held Saturday. He pinned both of his opponents.

Thomas Cranford and Grady O'Neill both placed third and Adrian Knutson placed fourth.

Groton Area scored 57.5 points to place ninth in a field of 13 teams.

145

Lane Krueger (2-16)

Champ. Round 1 - Layton Rafferty (Milbank JV) 5-9 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 2-16 (Fall 0:58)

Cons. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 2-16 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Levi Boyko (Britton/Hecla) 9-9 won by fall over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) 2-16 (Fall 1:00)

160

Thomas Cranford (7-11) placed 3rd and scored 17.50 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 7-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 7-11 won by tech fall over Dawson Hanson (Warner/Northwestern) 4-15 (TF-1.5 4:24 (18-0))

Semifinal - Nick Brandner (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 20-11 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 7-11 (Fall 0:35)

Cons. Semi - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 7-11 won by fall over Berent Tarabelsi (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 7-17 (Fall 3:49)

3rd Place Match - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 7-11 won by fall over Jayden Cordell (Watertown JV) 4-8 (Fall 4:10)

160

Bailey Reich (5-7)

Champ. Round 1 - Bailey Reich (Groton Area) 5-7 won by decision over Sterlin Bonin (Wolsey/Wessington) 0-2 (Dec 12-9)

Quarterfinal - Nick Brandner (Ipswich/Leola/Bowdle) 20-11 won by fall over Bailey Reich (Groton Area) 5-7 (Fall 0:43)

Cons. Round 2 - Bailey Reich (Groton Area) 5-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Bailey Reich (Groton Area) 5-7 won by fall over Dawson Hanson (Warner/Northwestern) 4-15 (Fall 0:34)

Cons. Semi - Jayden Cordell (Watertown JV) 4-8 won by fall over Bailey Reich (Groton Area) 5-7 (Fall 3:23)

170

Grady O'Neill (6-8) placed 3rd and scored 11.00 team points.

Quarterfinal - Will Butler (Canton JV) 8-8 won by fall over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 6-8 (Fall 2:24)

Cons. Round 1 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 6-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 6-8 won by fall over Will Wiesensee (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 2-2 (Fall 0:59)

3rd Place Match - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 6-8 won by decision over Elijah Isais (Canton JV) 12-7 (Dec 10-6)

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195

Adrian Knutson (6-11) placed 4th and scored 7.00 team points.

Quarterfinal - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 6-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Kamaron Christensen (Huron JV) 14-6 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 6-11 (Fall 2:00)

Cons. Semi - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 6-11 won by fall over Chris Wuestewald (Wolsey/Wessington) 0-2 (Fall 0:26)

3rd Place Match - Sam Loecker (Sioux Falls O`Gorman JV) 5-2 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 6-11 (Fall 2:10)

220

Corbin Reich (0-7)

Quarterfinal - Logan Meyer (Milbank JV) 3-4 won by fall over Corbin Reich (Groton Area) 0-7 (Fall 0:34)

Cons. Round 1 - Corbin Reich (Groton Area) 0-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Semi - Henry Eichstadt (Wolsey/Wessington) 11-14 won by fall over Corbin Reich (Groton Area) 0-7 (Fall 0:38)

285

Brandyn Anderson (22-1) placed 1st and scored 22.00 team points.

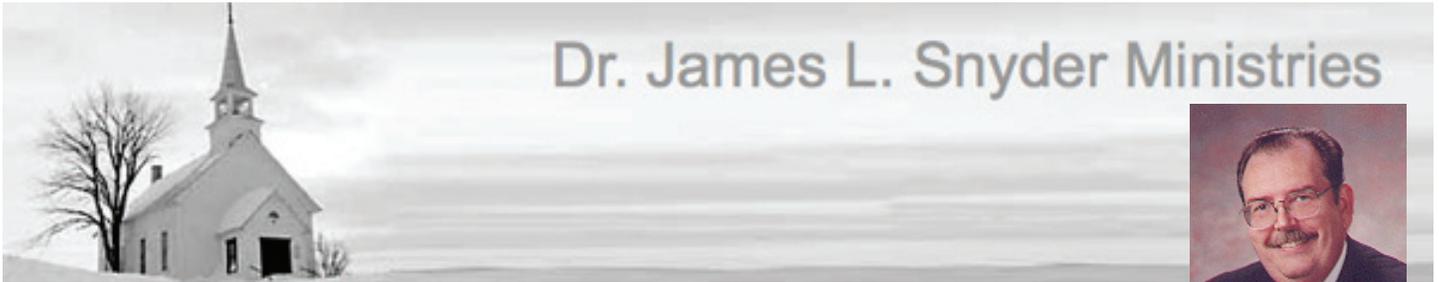
Quarterfinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 22-1 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 22-1 won by fall over Hunter Shoemaker (Huron JV) 3-16 (Fall 1:31)

1st Place Match - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 22-1 won by fall over Angel Chen (Milbank JV) 8-9 (Fall 0:42)

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



What Time Is It Really?

Time is a strange thing, if you ask me. Even though I wear a wristwatch every day, most of the time I do not know what time it really is. And for that matter, how important time?

It came to me in a strange way this past week. I went to bed as normal in the evening. Once we had the grandchildren over and I discovered the difference between grandchildren and grandparents. Grandchildren try to come up with as many excuses not to go to bed while grandparents come up with excuses to go to bed early.

I thought I was having a wonderful time sleeping when all of a sudden I began hearing strange noises and I could not figure out what it was. I thought I was just dreaming. Then there was an explosion in the bedroom and I jumped out of bed and noticed it was the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage who had turned on the light and was saying, "Come on and get up. We don't want to be late."

Of course, I never want to be late, especially if it involves my wife and me. I just did not remember what I was getting up for.

"Don't you remember," she said quite agitatedly, "I have an appointment at the doctors at 9 o'clock. Hurry up and get dressed or we'll be late."

I did remember that there was a doctor's appointment for my wife, but I was so groggy I just could not put things together.

I glanced out the window and it was dark as it has ever been. I looked at my wife and said, "Why is it so dark outside?"

"Don't bother with that," she said, "get ready so that we can get to my appointment on time."

"But..." I said and she replied, "No buts about it, just get dressed."

Again, I looked out the window and it was dark. As I headed for the bathroom, I said to my wife, "What time is it really?"

"Never you mind, let's get going."

I never like to argue, especially with my wife and especially this early in the morning. I was rather groggy and the tiny little gray cells upstairs were still in their snooze position.

As I was getting dressed, I happened to put my wristwatch on and noticed that it was 2 o'clock in the morning. I thought maybe my watch had stopped so I looked at the clock next to my bed and it read 2:03 a.m.

I know 2 o'clock in the morning is not the time to chuckle or to pull a gag on anyone, especially my wife, but some things are unstoppable.

I walked out to the kitchen where my wife was making coffee and said, "Do you know what time it is?"

At that time, she did look at the kitchen clock, which said 2:04 a.m. She stared at it for several minutes and then she looked at me and said, "Oh, it's not time to get up yet, is it?"

You can be sure I notated this in my diary called "The Diary of the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage." One of these days, I shall publish it and chuckle the rest of my life.

As we went back to the bedroom and prepared to go to bed, she was very silent. I just could not help myself. I try in situations like this, but I do not have a strong enough character not to say something.

I casually glanced at her and said, "What time do we need to get up?"

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For some reason she did not think that was humorous and just went back to bed. I could not go to sleep because I was chuckling too much. It is not often that I get something like this over on my wife.

In between my chuckles, I began thinking about how important time really is. 2 o'clock in the morning is a lot different from 2 o'clock in the afternoon. It looks the same on the clock but depending on what part of the day it is, it can make all the difference in the world.

Being the husband that I am, I tucked this little incident in the back pocket of my brain to use at the right time. It is nice having something like this when you are in trouble.

For example. When I am in a little bit of trouble with my wife, I can always say, "Remember, when we got up at 2 o'clock in the morning?" I will laugh, but I am sure she will not laugh. When you have ammunition like this, you need to use it at the appropriate time.

Driving my wife to the doctor that morning, I could not help but think of how important the correct time is. I never like to be late for anything. I like to know what time it is and I like to leave in time to get there at the correct time. To me, timing is rather important.

I remember what Paul said, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Romans 13:11).

The time is now to really understand that our salvation is in Jesus Christ. Nothing could be more timely than focusing on Christ.

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)

Five Wolves were in Double Figures to Secure a 17-Point Victory

Aberdeen S.D. – Northern State University Women’s team picked up a 79-62 win over Southwest Minnesota State on Saturday afternoon. The Wolves improved to 18-4 overall and 13-3 in NSIC play.

The Wolves were out-scored 22-15 in the first quarter by the Mustangs but Northern won the last three quarters to seal the weekend sweep. In the second quarter, NSU went into the half with two point lead, 38-36. Northern extended their lead to eight heading into the fourth quarter. The Wolves got the lead up to 20 in the fourth to secure a 17 point win.

In the victory, Northern State shot 49.1 percent from the field, 41.7 percent from the 3-point line, and out-rebounded the Mustangs 32-28. Defensively for the Wolves, they allowed 43.8 percent from the field and 35.5 percent from behind the arc. The Wolves had 21 bench points, 22 points from the paint, 11 points off of 11 Mustang turnovers, and 18 second chance points off of 12 offensive rebounds.

Haley Froelich was one of five players in double figures for the Wolves with 16 points, she also recorded three rebounds, and three assists. Jessi Marti put in 13 points, three assists, three rebounds, and had the only two steals for Northern State. Miranda Ristau tallied 12 points, to go along with four rebounds, three assists, and one block. Brianna Kusler was the last starter in double-figures with ten points, seven assists, seven rebounds.

Gabby Laimer led all scorers off the bench with 11 points, to go along with one rebound, and one assist. Jill Conrad had quite the night for the Wolves with seven points, six assists, and seven rebounds. Brynn Flakus had five points, one rebound, and one assist off the bench for the Wolves. Alexis Tappe had three points and one assist. Sara Tvedt was the last player in the scorebook for the Wolves with two points and two assists.

The Wolves will return to action next weekend heading to Upper Iowa on Friday and Winona State on Saturday. Tip-off for Friday is set for 4 p.m. against the Peacocks and 6 p.m. Saturday against the Warriors.



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Super Premium E30's
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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")**

Men's Basketball Unable to Shut Down Southwest Minnesota State

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 12 Northern State University men's basketball team fell to Southwest Minnesota State University on Saturday evening, 57-64. The loss drops the Wolves to 21-3 overall and 14-2 in the league.

Despite a lead heading into the half, the Wolves were unable to shut down the Mustangs in the second. Southwest tallied 37 points to the Wolves 29 and shot 51.9 percent from the floor. Northern went just 9-of-29 from the floor and 2-of-10 from the arc in the final 20 minutes, shooting just 34.5 percent from the floor in the game.

Northern out-rebounded Southwest 39-36 in the game, notching 15 offensive boards, which resulted in 11 points. They added 11 assists, eight made 3-pointers, four blocks, and four steals. The Wolves tallied a season low 57 points, as well as 12 points in the paint, and notched 24 points off the bench and eight points off turnovers.

Three Wolves led the team with 12 points each in Ian Smith, Bo Fries, and Logan Doyle. Fries and Doyle combined for the 24 bench points, shooting 57.1 and 50.0 percent from the floor. Doyle grabbed his fourth double-double notching a team high 14 rebounds, while adding three assists, one block, and one steal. Fries added five rebounds and one block, while leading the team going 4-of-6 from the 3-point line. Smith led the team dishing out six assists, while notching five rebounds and one block of his own.

Gabe King was the final Wolf in double figures with ten points. He added four rebounds and one assist. DJ Pollard followed with six points, three rebounds, one assist, and one steal, while Cole Dahl and Carter Evans rounded out the starting five with three and two points respectively. Evans notched four rebounds and two steals, while Dahl tallied two rebounds.

Northern returns to action next Friday and Saturday on the road at Upper Iowa and Winona State. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Friday versus the Peacocks and 6 p.m. on Saturday against the Warriors.

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With the Unnecessary Shutdown Over, We Can Get Back to the Important Issues Before Congress

I've been frustrated with Washington's broken budget process since coming to the Senate three years ago. Under our current system, rather than debating and passing appropriations bills to fund the government for a full year at a time, we have been operating under short-term, stopgap funding measures called "Continuing Resolutions" to keep the government open for just a few months or weeks at a time. Continuing Resolutions (CR) largely extend last year's spending levels and fail to provide long-term certainty and stability. Of particular concern to me is the impact that short-term funding bills have on our military.

This broken process, coupled with partisan, political gamesmanship from our Democrat colleagues, recently led to a three-day "government shutdown." Even though Senate Democrats did not disagree with the contents of the CR, which would have funded the government through Feb. 16 and reauthorized the Children's Health Insurance Program for six years, they voted to shut down the government, thinking it would give them more leverage to pass DACA legislation. DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and refers to the children of illegal immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as young children. DACA has been part of a set of issues we are working on to strengthen border security and reform the H2B visa program, among other immigration-related matters.

This strategy of shutting down the government over DACA never made much sense because there was already broad bipartisan support to making permanent changes to the law for DACA recipients as well as the other immigration and border issues. I have been deeply involved in discussions that seek to find a way forward on immigration. Throughout these conversations, my focus has been on border security and H2B visa reform, which is very important to South Dakota's seasonal tourism and construction businesses.

After three days, our Democrat colleagues agreed to end the shutdown and pass a Continuing Resolution through Feb. 8, 2018, citing assurances from Senate Majority Leader McConnell that we would consider DACA legislation, something we had all agreed we must take up in the near future anyway. While I don't understand why some senators felt they needed to demand something that was already in the works, I'm pleased the unnecessary crisis ended.

Now we can focus again on bipartisan H2B visa reform, border security and DACA talks, fixing our broken budget system and adequately funding our troops. I've been working daily with a growing group of bipartisan senators on an immigration and spending proposal, and we continue to make progress on these important issues.

While we are moving forward with these immediate issues, we must reform our broken budget process as a whole and stop governing from crisis to crisis. Short-term CRs are no way to run a government and I will continue to work toward reforms to our budget process so we don't get ourselves into this mess again. With our country's 250th birthday just eight years away in 2026, the time is now to address the inefficient way that Congress manages taxpayers' dollars.



Continuing the Rollback

Step by step, we are reducing the size and scope of the federal government. Yes, a lot of work remains, but over the last year, we've worked with President Trump to cut 1,600 regulations, repeal Obamacare's onerous individual mandate, and deliver a massive tax cut to the vast majority of Americans. As a result, consumer confidence is at a 17-year high, 1.7 million new jobs have been created, and many families are getting a raise for the first time in years.

It's beyond encouraging to see the economy boom again, and I'm hopeful that progress will help fuel another round of economic reforms. For instance, I'd like to see us improve our poverty programs, streamline federal agencies, roll back additional Obama-era regulations, and continue cutting regressive taxes, like the Health Insurance Tax (or HIT).

The HIT was put in place by Obamacare. While it is supposed to be a direct tax on health insurance providers for the services they provide, the tax is actually passed on to consumers in the form of substantially higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The HIT also costs jobs. In fact, the National Federation of Independent Business Research Foundation found the HIT could cost between 152,000 and 286,000 jobs by 2023. Most of those jobs would be lost within small businesses.

I firmly believe Obamacare must be fully and permanently repealed. I fought to see the House pass legislation repealing and replacing Obamacare but was deeply disappointed when the Senate couldn't pass it as well. So, until we can get a full repeal through both houses of Congress, I'm committed to taking it apart piece by piece, with the next step being a repeal of the HIT.

After hearing from many South Dakota small businesses about the devastating impact the HIT was having on them and their employees, I introduced legislation to repeal the tax. While it seems like everything in government (especially when it involves Obamacare) is partisan, even Democrats could jump on board in support of this repeal. We continue to push this legislation toward passage, but I was thrilled to put the tax on pause for 2019, which will help individuals save as much as \$500 on the cost of their healthcare premiums that year.

Ronald Reagan, whose birthday we celebrate in February, famously observed that "as government expands, liberty contracts." He was right. Big-government taxes and regulations stunt our prosperity and limit our freedoms. Over the course of the last year, that regulatory burden has begun to lift. Families have more money in their pockets because of tax reform. And in 2019, many will reap the financial benefits of a HIT delay. We must capitalize on this momentum, continue to shrink government, and watch liberty expand as a result.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



We Can Accomplish More By Working Together

One of the most fundamental jobs we have in Congress is to ensure that the federal government – including the military and the brave men and women who support it – is funded and operational. Unfortunately, Congress recently failed this basic legislative function because a significant number of my colleagues in the Senate chose to use the government’s operating status as a bargaining chip for an entirely unrelated and non-urgent campaign for federal policy on illegal immigration.

Congress has the constitutional responsibility to fund the government, and when it comes to the current congressional budget process, I’m not a fan. It’s broken, and it needs to be reformed. Rather than having a long-term funding plan in place that provides certainty to the American people and our military, it’s this flawed budget process that has led Congress to funding the government using one short-term bill after another without the opportunity to truly debate the merits of federal spending.

While it’s irresponsible to govern this way, and it’s something I’m working with my colleagues to fix, it’s far more irresponsible to hang a “closed” sign on the government’s door and leave our troops and children’s health care hanging in the wind simply because one political party didn’t get its way. We can do better than that.

During the recent government shutdown, critics were quick to point out that Republicans control the White House, the House of Representatives, and the Senate, which is accurate. In the Senate, though, we have 51 Republican votes, and for some of the bills we consider, including those to fund the government, the rules require 60 votes for them to advance. So, even if every Republican senator voted yes, we would still need nine Democrats to join us to send something to the president.

While a majority of the Senate, including a handful of Democrats, supported keeping the government open so negotiations on other issues could continue, more than 40 Democrats voted to shut it down. Thankfully, realizing a government shutdown would do nothing to advance their cause, cooler heads prevailed and they voted to reopen the government a few days later. I hope it’s a sign that Democrats are willing to work with us on the big issues of the day.

By obstructing at all costs, my Democrat colleagues have been missing opportunities to help deliver positive results to the American people. Tax reform is a great example. The immediate effects of it becoming law are undeniable, and I predict they will only get better. Business after business is announcing higher wages, bonuses, and other benefit enhancements for employees as a direct result of tax reform. This is a good law, and while Democrats could have joined us to make it even better, they decided to take their ball and go home, which was disappointing.

It’s not only tax reform, though. Think about everything else that could be stronger, including America’s confidence in Congress, if we worked together more often. Washington’s political scoreboard, which people inside the Capital Beltway are far too obsessed with these days, is meaningless to the rest of the country. Working together will deliver the best results and put points on the only scoreboard that really matters: the American people’s.

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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 28, 1983: Freezing rain coated much of eastern South Dakota with up to a half inch accumulation before it changed over to light snow from the late evening of the 28th to the late evening of the 29th. The combination of ice, light snow, and very strong winds made travel extremely difficult. Numerous accidents and stranded vehicles resulted. Visibilities were near zero at times.

January 28, 1996: Extreme wind chills developed across central, north central, and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota as cold arctic air moved in behind an area of low pressure. With temperatures falling well below zero and northwest winds increasing to 20 to 35 mph, wind chills were lowered to 40 to 70 below throughout the night of the 28th and into the evening of the 29th. Two to five inches of snow had fallen across the area. The strong northwest winds caused areas of blowing snow significantly reducing visibilities. Big Stone and Traverse counties experienced a blizzard for about six hours on the 29th.

January 28, 2013: A low pressure system moving slowly across the region produced a moderate to heavy band of snow across much of central and northeastern South Dakota. Snowfall rates were greater than one inch per hour in some locations. Several area schools and businesses were either closed or opened late on the 29th. Click [HERE](#) for snowfall amounts.

1887: Snowflakes "as large as milk pans" fell at Fort Keogh of Montana. The flakes, which were said to measure 15 inches across and 8 inches thick, hold the unofficial size record!

1922 - The "Knickerbocker" storm immobilized the city of Washington D.C. The storm produced 28 inches of snow in 32 hours, and the heavy snow caused the roof of the Knickerbocker movie theatre to collapse killing 96 persons. (David Ludlum)

1963 - The low of -34 degrees at Cynthiana, KY, equalled the state record established just four days earlier at Bonnieville. (The Weather Channel)

1986: The Space Shuttle Challenger exploded at 11:39am EST; 73 seconds after liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida on an extremely cold morning. Starting in the 20s, the ground temperature at liftoff was 36 degrees. Morton Thiokol recommended not launching if the liftoff temperature was below 53 degrees. The cold was blamed for causing the O-rings on the Shuttle's external booster to fail, leading to the explosion. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1987 - A storm moving out of the Central Rockies into the Northern Plains Region produced up to a foot of snow in the Colorado Rockies, and wind gusts to 99 mph at Boulder CO. High winds in Colorado caused 5.6 million dollars damage. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Barometric pressure readings of 30.55 inches at Miami FL, 30.66 inches at Tampa FL, and 30.72 inches at Apalachicola FL were all-time record high readings for those locations. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Nome, AK, reported an all-time record low reading of 54 degrees below zero, and the temperature at Fairwell AK dipped to 69 degrees below zero. Deadhorse AK reported a morning low of 49 degrees below zero, and with a wind chill reading of 114 degrees below zero. In the Lower Forty-eight States, a winter storm over Colorado produced up to 15 inches of snow around Denver. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Strong and gusty winds prevailed across the northwestern U.S., and heavy snow continued over the mountains of Washington State and Oregon. In Idaho, Mullan received seven inches of snow, and winds gusted to 65 mph southeast of Burley. Heavy rain soaked coastal sections of western Oregon. Rainfall totals of 1.20 inches at Portland and 1.57 inches at Eugene were records for the date. Winds in Oregon gusting to 60 mph downed power lines in Umatilla County knocking out power to more than 13,000 homes, just prior to the kick-off of the "Super Bowl" game. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Sun Jan 28	Mon Jan 29	Tue Jan 30	Wed Jan 31	Thu Feb 1	Fri Feb 2	Sat Feb 3
						
15°F	21°F	38°F	30°F	10°F	14°F	21°F
-1°F	11°F	22°F	-1°F	-5°F	1°F	-6°F
N 9 MPH	E 3 MPH	S 21 MPH	NW 15 MPH	NNW 9 MPH	WNW 9 MPH	SW 9 MPH
						Precip 20%



Chilly Today & Monday Warmer Temps Tuesday





Highs Today: Teens

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


weather.gov/Aberdeen

National Weather Service Aberdeen

@NWSAberdeen
Updated: 1/28/2018 5:16 AM Central

Published on: 01/28/2018 at 5:51AM

High pressure overhead means cold temperatures today and tonight into Monday. There could be some light snow west river but with limited accumulations. Milder air will make a brief return for Tuesday however.

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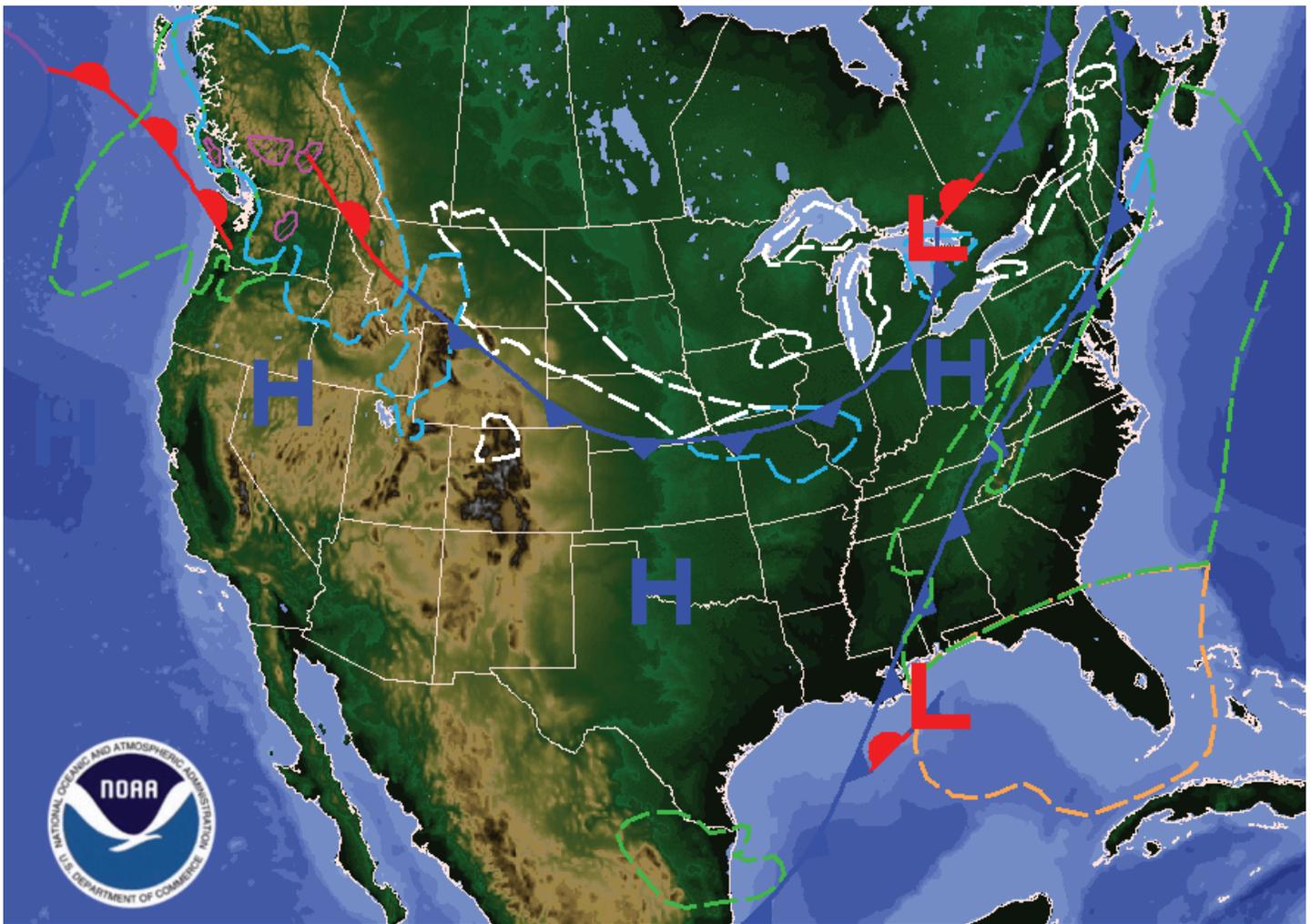
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 24.3 at 3:37 PM
Low Outside Temp: 7.5 F at 10:17 PM
Wind Chill: -
High Gust: 21 at 5:31 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 53° in 1931
Record Low: -31° in 1915
Average High: 23°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan: 0.43
Precip to date in Jan: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.43
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:34 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:57 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jan 28, 2018, issued 3:49 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate 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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AND IN CONCLUSION...

We are all familiar with the Beatitudes of Jesus in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. But Psalm 84 contains three beatitudes.

The first talks about our relationship with God – about being with Him and worshiping Him and praising Him. “Blessed,” said the psalmist, “are those who dwell in Your House; they are ever praising You.” Indeed, we are truly blest that His invitation to us is “Come, now is the day of salvation” – an invitation to be with Him today and every day throughout eternity. To dwell in His presence forever.

The second beatitude we find is “Blessed are those whose strength is in You, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.” Throughout this life we are not on our own to struggle with the difficulties of life. His strength is always available to us when we are weak, weary and worn out. He knew pilgrimage would be long and difficult, so He made Himself available to us whenever we call on Him.

And, perhaps the last beatitude actually sums up the other two: “O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in You.”

A young college student was at home dying from cancer. He had been heavily sedated for days. Every now and then his Mother would sit by his bedside and ask, “Dennis, are you here?” He would answer her, “Yes, Mom, I’m still here.” On the day of his death, however, he responded to her question, “No, Mother I’m going home.”

Above his bed in an empty room are the words: “I hear you, Christian, happy, unafraid, For you hear a song from the other side of death.”

Prayer: Thank You Father, for being our dwelling place. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 84:12 O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

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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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

01-15-23-24-29

(one, fifteen, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-nine)

Estimated jackpot: \$123,000

Lotto America

31-34-45-49-52, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 3

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

Estimated jackpot: \$19.19 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$89 million

Powerball

17-21-26-47-54, Powerball: 7, Power Play: 2

(seventeen, twenty-one, twenty-six, forty-seven, fifty-four; Powerball: seven; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$112 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 46, Great Plains Lutheran 39

Chadron, Neb. 57, Douglas 56

Faulkton 58, Hitchcock-Tulare 28

Harding County 74, New Underwood 31

Hemingford, Neb. 69, Edgemont 32

Herreid/Selby Area 67, Lemmon 45

Leola/Frederick 71, South Border, N.D. 30

Lyman 72, Wall 44

Minot, N.D. 81, Spearfish 55

Oelrichs 89, Wakpala 37

Rapid City Stevens 68, Scottsbluff, Neb. 37

St. Francis Indian 74, Freeman 48

Stanley County 65, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 59

Sully Buttes 56, Warner 38

Watertown 59, Brookings 53

Wyndmere-Lidgerwood, N.D. 69, Wilmot 46

Dakota Oyate Challenge

Seventh Place

Marty Indian 79, Tiospaye Topa 40

Fifth Place

Crazy Horse 40, Takini 38

Third Place

Tiospa Zina Tribal 73, Flandreau Indian 54

Championship

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Lower Brule 59, Omaha Nation, Neb. 50
Dakota XII Conference Classic
Canton 68, Deuel 58
Chamberlain 58, Tri-Valley 40
Dakota Valley 59, Hamlin 46
Dell Rapids 77, Redfield/Doland 66
Lennox 77, Groton Area 55
Madison 51, Sisseton 42
Milbank 54, Elk Point-Jefferson 51
Sioux Falls Christian 74, Clark/Willow Lake 60
Tea Area 62, Aberdeen Roncalli 51
Vermillion 81, Britton-Hecla 62
West Central 59, Webster 45
DSU Shootout
Elkton-Lake Benton 64, Centerville 28
Little Wound 71, Platte-Geddes 56
Mitchell Christian 54, Gayville-Volin 45
Viborg-Hurley 78, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 58

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 55, Chamberlain 30
Alcester-Hudson 43, Bridgewater-Emery 32
Bennett County 36, Jones County 34
Chadron, Neb. 57, Douglas 56
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 55, Stanley County 21
Edgemont 46, Hemingford, Neb. 26
Freeman 63, St. Francis Indian 38
Great Plains Lutheran 46, Aberdeen Christian 25
Herreid/Selby Area 52, Lemmon 33
Hitchcock-Tulare 64, Faulkton 61
Irene-Wakonda 70, Bon Homme 37
Lake Preston 55, James Valley Christian 35
Leola/Frederick 44, South Border, N.D. 34
Lyman 42, Wall 30
New Underwood 67, Harding County 29
Oelrichs 62, Wakpala 51
Philip 52, Newell 44
Rapid City Stevens 68, Scottsbluff, Neb. 37
Scotland 40, Freeman Academy/Marion 25
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 47, Brandon Valley 39
Big East Conference Tournament
Seventh Place
Chester 47, Baltic 23
Fifth Place
Garretson 62, Howard 58
Dakota Oyate Challenge
Seventh Place
Tiospaye Topa 57, Takini 32
Fifth Place
Flandreau Indian 64, Crazy Horse 53
Third Place

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Tiospa Zina Tribal 62, Marty Indian 52
Championship
Lower Brule 52, Omaha Nation, Neb. 35

Rosga, Pemberton help Denver knockoff of South Dakota 84-68

DENVER (AP) — Joe Rosga scored 23 points, Jake Pemberton added 20 and Denver made 11 of 19 from 3-point range to knock off league-leader South Dakota 84-68 in a Summit League game on Saturday night.

Rosga and Pemberton combined for seven 3s and 27 points as the Pioneers (10-12, 4-4) took a 42-28 lead at the half.

Jake Krafka had 11 of his career-high 12 points in the second half for the Pioneers, while Ade Murkey scored 10.

The Coyotes (18-6, 6-2), who won the first meeting this season 82-71 and had won four straight, were led by Tyler Hagedorn with 16 points.

Rosga had three 3-pointers to start a 16-0 run that put the Pioneers up 20-3 and the lead reached 22.

South Dakota cut the lead to nine five minutes into the second half but a quick 7-0 spurt ended the challenge.

Daum powers South Dakota State to 78-76 win over Fort Wayne

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum tossed in 23 points, including two free throws with 21 seconds left in the game, and South Dakota State hung on for a 78-76 victory over Fort Wayne on Saturday.

Daum added 14 rebounds, giving him double-doubles in six of his last seven games and 12 this season for the Jackrabbits (18-6, 6-1 Summit League). Tevin King added 11 points and 10 rebounds for his first career double-double. Reed Tellinghuisen and Skyler Flatten each chipped in with 12 points and seven boards and David Jenkins Jr. had 10 points as all five South Dakota State starters scored in double figures.

John Konchar paced the Mastodons (14-10, 3-4) with 23 points, nine rebounds and four steals. Bryson Scott finished with 17 points and six boards, while Kason Harrell and Xzavier Taylor scored 12 and 10, respectively.

Fort Wayne shot just 28 percent, including 2 of 13 from 3-point range, and trailed 43-26 at intermission. The Mastodons trailed by seven when Konchar hit back-to-back buckets and Scott added a 3-point play to knot the score at 67 with 5:42 to play. Konchar's 3-pointer with 51 seconds left gave Fort Wayne a 76-75 lead, but Konchar fouled Daum who sank the game-winning free throws.

South Dakota WWII veteran receives Purple Heart medal

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — A World War II veteran from South Dakota has received his Purple Heart medal, nearly three-quarters of a century after serving in the Navy.

The ceremony for 94-year-old Sylvan Vigness, of Flandreau, was held Saturday afternoon at the Flandreau Community Center. His 89-year-old wife, Iona, was asked to pin the award on her husband's sweater.

Sylvan Vigness served on the USS Hinsdale as petty officer and signalman. He injured his left eye in 1945 during a Japanese kamikaze plane crash onto his ship headed to the initial landings at Iwo Jima in the western Pacific. He wasn't treated until months later.

Vigness is a longtime South Dakota educator who spent most of his time in Flandreau, where he taught agriculture and served as school superintendent. He retired in 1988.

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

Crews battle fire at Bear Butte State Park in South Dakota

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Crews are battling a grass fire on the north side of Bear Butte State Park in southwestern South Dakota.

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The blaze was reported about 11:30 a.m. Saturday. The fire is estimated to be between 10 and 15 acres in size, but authorities expect it to grow because of strong winds.

The National Weather Service says winds were gusting more than 20 mph in that area. The weather service says smoke is spreading into the Rapid City area.

Bear Butte State Park is located six miles northeast of Sturgis.

Restoration of western South Dakota monument complete

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Officials have finished restoring a western South Dakota monument honoring a horseback mail carrier killed in 1876.

The restoration project came about when Regional Health Sturgis Hospital started renovating and expanding near the site of the Nolin Monument, which memorializes horseback mail carrier Charles "Red" Nolin. Hospital officials found that the monument was sinking into the ground and in need of being refurbished, the Black Hills Pioneer reported .

"Not many hospitals have historical monuments on campus," said Mark Schulte, President of Regional Health Sturgis Hospital and Market. "By partnering with the Meade County Historical Society and Ainsworth Benning Construction, Regional Health was able to revitalize a very important piece of this town's history."

The restoration project included a solid foundation to place the monument, landscaping and electrical service. Contractors were able to salvage all of the rock from the old monument to use in the reconstruction of the new one.

"Our patients and visitors will now have a chance to learn about the history of Sturgis," said Schulte. "We couldn't be more proud of how this turned out."

Ross Lamphere, chairman of the Nolin Monument Restoration Committee, said they've received many positive comments about the finished restoration.

The area historical society will host a rededication ceremony for the Nolin Monument in Sturgis on June 15, as part of a 140th anniversary celebration for the city and Fort Meade. The rededication will include a commemorative postcard that will be delivered to the city's post office by pony express mail carrier.

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

South Dakota's unpaid child support grew by \$50M in 5 years

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal data show that South Dakota's unpaid child support grew by about \$50 million over five years, to more than \$190 million.

The state's unpaid child support rose by nearly 32 percent between 2012 and 2016, the largest increase in the nation during that period, the Argus Leader reported . The amount of money owed in back child support, also known as arrearages, only increased by less than 2 percent nationally.

Larissa Bell took a second job working at a hotel in order to make ends meet. Bell wouldn't need the second job if the father of her child had paid child support. Bell said she should have received more than \$15,000 in back child support.

"When I filed for child support, I was told South Dakota was the number one state for getting child support," Bell said. "If we were the number one state, why didn't I get it in the first place?"

South Dakota's child enforcement unit within the Department of Social Services has been recognized as one of the most efficient nationally for over a decade. But federal performance measurements don't take into account the total of back child support that has accumulated for each state.

Gail Stoltenburg is director of the state's child support program. Stoltenburg said caseloads have increased, which ultimately results in more cases. Stoltenburg also said a 2011 U.S. Supreme Court decision complicated child support collections by requiring proof of the ability to pay before an individual can be jailed.

Chirs McClure served as a staff attorney at the state's social services department for five years. McClure said the arrearages have risen dramatically due in part to South Dakota's decision not to reduce minimum child support payments from parents who were unemployed or in jail until recently.

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"All the other states moved quicker to change their laws," he said. The number of arrearages piled up for South Dakota parents who might not have owed as much in other states.

Voters also approved a minimum wage boost in 2014, which drove minimum child support payments for non-custodial parents up from \$216 per month to \$300 per month.

"That's a significant increase — especially for people who aren't working," McClure said.

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

Woman accused of embezzling from Rapid City Club for Boys

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An accountant is accused of embezzling more than \$121,000 from the Rapid City Club for Boys.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 48-year-old Olivia Kuehner is charged in federal court with 20 counts of wire fraud and five counts of money laundering. She has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Authorities say Kuehner served as accounting manager for the Club for Boys from August 2012 until she resigned in June 2017. She's accused of making fraudulent payments in excess of her authorized salary to herself, family members and a bank account she controlled under the name of a fictitious business.

A hearing on whether Kuehner should be released before trial is scheduled Monday.

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

Teacher's union pans bill targeting university faculty union

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota teacher's union says a bill to end collective bargaining at state public universities is an attempt to silence the voice of educators.

South Dakota Education Association President Mary McCorkle says the measure would make it harder for South Dakota's public universities to recruit and keep world-class faculty.

McCorkle says it would hurt the quality of education delivered to university students.

Republican House Speaker Mark Mickelson, the bill's sponsor, has said it's important the institutions can adapt and meet the needs of students and industry. Gov. Dennis Daugaard has said he would support the legislation.

Union contracts cover more than 1,300 staff members in the state.

The Council of Higher Education, the faculty labor union, is an affiliate of the SDEA.

Federer beats Cilic in Aussie final; wins 20th major title

By JOHN PYE, AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Back where his career resurgence began with a drought-breaking triumph last year, Roger Federer cried as he lifted and kissed the Australian Open trophy for a sixth time and celebrated his 20th Grand Slam title.

Federer started Sunday's final with an intensity that stunned sixth-seeded Marin Cilic, then held his nerve in a tense, momentum-shifting match before winning 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

After going more than four years without winning a major title leading into last year's Australian Open, Federer has now won three of the last five.

"I'm so happy. It's unbelievable," Federer said, taking deep breaths and choking back tears. "Of course, winning is an absolute dream come true — the fairytale continues for us, for me, after the great year I had last year, its' incredible."

The great Rod Laver, who lends his name to the center court at Melbourne Park, was in the crowd taking photos to mark the occasion of Federer becoming the first man to win 20 majors.

Federer started to tear up at the end of the trophy ceremony as he thanked his team in the stands. "I love you guys. Thank you," he said. He then received a standing ovation as tears streamed down his face.

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At the age of 36 years, 173 days, Federer became the second-oldest man to win a Grand Slam title in the Open era after Ken Rosewall, who won the 1972 Australian Open at 37.

"Big congratulations to Roger and his team — it's amazing what you guys do," Cilic said. "It was an amazing journey for me to come here to the final. I had a slight chance at the beginning of the fifth, but Roger played a great fifth set."

It was clear early on that the crowd would be heavily pro-Federer. The arena was filled with the red and white colors of the Swiss flag, with Federer supporters wearing Swiss flags on their shirts, hats, signs and faces. Looking ahead to a possible Federer victory, one fan held a sign reading, "The Big Two-Oh. Go Roger!"

Federer was quick off the mark, getting service breaks in the first and third games and forcing Cilic to go to his equipment bag for a new racket after just 12 points. Federer only conceded two points on his serve in the opening set, which lasted just 24 minutes and was played under a closed roof because of the heat outside.

But Cilic rallied in the second, getting his big forehand working and, after missing a set point on Federer's serve in the 10th game, leveled the match in the tiebreaker.

Federer won the third set in 29 minutes and was up a break in the fourth but momentum swung fully again, with Cilic going on a roll to level the match. Federer's first-serve percentage plummeted from above 80 in the third set to 36 in the fourth as Cilic attacked.

Cilic had two chances to break Federer's serve in the first game of the fifth set, but wasted them both with two unforced errors. He then double-faulted twice in the second game to drop his own serve, giving Federer the decisive lead in the set.

Federer had won eight of their previous nine matches, including last year's Wimbledon final. His only defeat was in the semifinals of the U.S. Open in 2014, where Cilic claimed his first major title.

The Swiss great wasn't about to lose this one. Federer increased his level again, breaking Cilic again in the sixth game and then closing out at love — his celebrations delayed slightly by an unsuccessful challenge from Cilic on match point. It was a similar end to his five-set win over Rafael Nadal here last year and, just like 12 months ago, the tears flowed.

The win wasn't entirely without some controversy with organizers deciding early to close the roof for the final, just as they had for the afternoon mixed doubles final when Mate Pavic and Gabriela Dabrowski beat Rohan Bopanna and Timea Babos for the title.

Former champions and commentators questioned the rationale, saying there'd been hotter days earlier in the tournament when the heat policy was not enacted.

Tournament referee Wayne McEwen can introduce the policy when the temperature reaches 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and a measure called the wet-bulb globe temperature — which combines factors such as heat, humidity and breeze — reaches 32.5C (90.5F).

The temperature hit 38C (100F) an hour before the men's final and the tournament organizers issued a statement saying that the WGBT reading was 32.7C (91F) at that time.

"With no dramatic reduction forecast, the referee exercised his discretion and called for the roof to be closed," Tennis Australia said in a statement. "At no other time during the event this year has the WGBT reading reached the threshold."

Cypriots vote for new president who could unify island

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS, Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Cypriots were voting Sunday for a new president who they hope will overcome years of failure and finally resolve the ethnic divisions that have torn the Mediterranean island nation into a Greek-speaking south and a breakaway, Turkish-speaking north.

Voters in internationally recognized southern Cyprus were also seeking more benefits from an economy on the rebound after a severe financial crisis.

Opinion polls show incumbent President Nicos Anastasiades leading his two main rivals but he may not

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get the 50 percent support needed to avoid a Feb. 4 runoff.

Concerns have arisen over widespread voter apathy, especially among young people unhappy with a political system they see as tainted by corruption and ineptitude.

Halfway through the voting, Chief Returning Officer Kypros Kyprianou said just over 30 percent of voters have cast ballots so far, nearly nine percent fewer than the 2013 presidential election.

"I urge all citizens to come out and vote," Anastasiades said after casting his ballot. "No one is justified to complain about the election's results afterward."

Challengers include Stavros Malas, backed by the communist AKEL party, and Nicholas Papadopoulos, leader of the center-right DIKO party and the son of the late former President Tassos Papadopoulos.

"Democracy is strengthened with voters' participation," said Papadopoulos.

Malas urged citizens not to let others choose a president for them.

Voter Stella Olympiou said: "I'm hoping for a solution to Cyprus' division first of all and to improve the people's standard of living, to give us back the cuts from our salaries."

Another voter, said the new president needs to push the country forward. "We've been at a standstill too long," she said.

Anastasiades, 71, says this will be his last five-year term if re-elected. He has campaigned on his experience, which he says brought reunification talks with breakaway Turkish Cypriots farther along than at any time in more than four decades of fruitless negotiations and brought the economy back from near bankruptcy.

But both Malas, 50, and Papadopoulos, 44, have attacked Anastasiades for the failure of the peace talks in July, with Malas saying the president was not bold enough to clinch a deal and Papadopoulos saying the president made too many concessions at the talks.

They also accuse him of not doing enough to support a shrinking middle class hit hard after 2013 when Cyprus needed a multibillion-euro rescue package from its Eurozone partners and the International Monetary Fund.

Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded following a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Only Turkey recognizes a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence and maintains more than 35,000 troops there.

IKEA says founder Ingvar Kamprad has died at 91

By KARL RITTER, Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Ingvar Kamprad, the IKEA founder who turned a small-scale mail order business into a global furniture empire, has died at 91, the company said Sunday.

IKEA Sverige, the chain's Swedish unit, said on Twitter that Kamprad died Saturday at his home in Smaland, Sweden.

"He will be much missed and warmly remembered by his family and IKEA staff all around the world," the company said.

Kamprad's life story is intimately linked to the company he founded at age 17 on the family farm.

His work ethic, frugality and down-to-earth style remain at the core of its corporate identity today. But his missteps in life, including early flirtations with Nazism, never rubbed off on IKEA, one of the world's most recognizable brands.

Kamprad formed the company's name from his own initials and the first letters of the family farm, Elmtaryd, and the parish of Agunnaryd where it is located. It's in the heart of Smaland, a forested province whose people are known in Sweden for thrift and ingenuity. Kamprad possessed both.

Later in life, his name often appeared on lists of the world's richest men, but he never adopted the aura of a tycoon. He drove a modest Volvo and dressed unassumingly. In a 1998 book that he co-authored about IKEA's history, he described his habit of visiting vegetable street markets right before they closed for the day, hoping to get a better price on their goods.

Born March 30, 1926, Kamprad was a precocious entrepreneur who sold matchboxes to neighbors from

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his bicycle. He found that he could buy them in bulk very cheaply from Stockholm, and sell them at a low price but still make a good profit. From matches, he expanded to selling fish, Christmas tree decorations, seeds, and later ball-point pens and pencils.

Kamprad soon moved away from making individual sales calls and began advertising in local newspapers and operating a makeshift mail-order catalog. He distributed his products via the local milk van, which delivered them to the nearby train station.

In 1950, Kamprad first introduced furniture into his catalog. The furniture was produced by local manufacturers in the forests close to his home. After the positive response he received, he soon decided to discontinue all of the other products and focus on low-priced furniture.

Since then the IKEA concept — keeping prices low by letting the customers assemble the furniture themselves — offers affordable home furnishings at stores across the globe.

In 1994, Swedish newspaper Expressen reported that Kamprad had contacts with Swedish fascist leader Per Engdahl in the 1940s and '50s. In a letter to IKEA employees, Kamprad admitted that he once had sympathies for the far-right leader and called it "a part of my life which I bitterly regret."

In the 1998 book, he gave more details about his youthful "delusions," saying he had been influenced as child by his German grandmother's strong support for Hitler. His paternal grandparents emigrated to Sweden in the 1890s.

"Now I have told all I can," he said at a book release ceremony at an IKEA store in suburban Stockholm. "Can one ever get forgiveness for such stupidity?"

The book also contained details about his struggles with alcohol and his successes and failures in business.

IKEA celebrates its Swedish heritage: the company's stores are painted blue and yellow like the Swedish flag and serve meatballs and other traditional Swedish food. But Kamprad's relationship with his homeland was sometimes complicated.

He moved to Switzerland in the late 1970s to avoid paying Swedish taxes, which at the time were the highest in the world. He decided to return home only after his wife Margaretha died in 2011.

The estate inventory filed to Swedish tax authorities in 2013 confirmed that the couple lived comfortably, but hardly in opulence. They had two cars — a 2008 Skoda and a 1993 Volvo 240. Kamprad's personal wealth was established at 750 million kronor (\$113 million), a considerable amount, but far from the multibillion-dollar sums attributed to him on world's-richest lists compiled by Forbes and others.

IKEA officials have said such lists, which compared his wealth to that of Warren Buffet or Bill Gates, erroneously considered IKEA's assets as his own. IKEA is owned by foundation that Kamprad created, whose statutes require profits to be reinvested in the company or donated to charity.

The estate inventory showed that Kamprad donated more than \$20 million to philanthropic causes in 2012 alone.

In June 2013, Kamprad announced that he would retire from the board which controls the IKEA brand as part of moves to hand responsibilities over to his son, Mathias.

Amid turmoil, Trump seeking a reset with State of the Union

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Beset by poor poll numbers and the grind of the Russia investigation, President Donald Trump will look to reset his term with his first State of the Union address, arguing that his tax cut and economic policies will benefit all Americans.

The theme of his Tuesday night address to Congress and the country is "Building a safe, strong and proud America," and the president is looking to showcase accomplishments of his first year while setting the tone for the second.

Aides say the president plans to set aside his more combative tone for one of compromise, and to make an appeal beyond his base.

Trump often engages in hyperpartisan politics, and his tax overhaul has been criticized for disproportionately favoring the wealthy. But he will try to make the case that all groups of people have benefited during

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his watch, according to a senior administration official who was not authorized to preview the speech for the record and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The annual address is a big set piece for any president, a prime-time window to address millions of voters. Every word is reviewed, every presidential guest carefully chosen, every sentence rehearsed. The stakes are enormous for Trump, hoping to move past a turbulent first 12 months in office.

Trump is giving the speech "with the lowest approval ratings of any president in his first year in the history of presidential polling, and can point to the least number of legislative accomplishments," said Wendy Schiller, political science professor at Brown University. "Every month that goes by in which Trump fails to increase his support works against him because voters' negative impressions of him will just solidify."

She said the address "could turn that around if he strikes a bipartisan conciliatory tone and makes it more about the country than about himself."

Five themes are expected to dominate: the economy and the tax overhaul, infrastructure, immigration, trade, and terrorism and global threats.

Selling the GOP's tax plan is an election-year project as Republicans look to retain their majority in Congress. The tax changes are billed as essential to powering the ambitious projections of economic growth, and Trump is expected to cite the benefits to the public that proponents envision.

Trump also plans to outline a nearly \$2 trillion plan that his administration contends will trigger \$1 trillion or more in public and private spending on roads, bridges and other public works projects.

On immigration, he will promote his new proposal for \$25 billion for a wall along the Mexican border and for a path to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young people brought to the United States as children and now here illegally.

Trump's trade talk will reflect what he discussed at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland on Friday: a preference for one-on-one deals instead of multilateral agreements.

The public should get an update on the fight against terrorism and an assessment of international threats, including North Korea. The senior administration official said Trump probably would avoid the taunts of "Little Rocket Man" for Kim Jong Un and "fire and fury" that he used before.

The White House says one of Trump's guests for the speech will be someone who has been touched by the opioid crisis.

The address comes at a critical point for the president. He wants to move past the government shutdown that coincided with the anniversary of his inauguration and prepare for a grueling election season that is shaping up as a referendum on his leadership. Trump and members of his Cabinet are expected to travel in the days after the speech to drive home its themes.

Critics wonder why the president will show the resolve to stay on message.

"The most capable White Houses use the State of the Union as an organizing moment to set agenda for the whole year, from both a messaging and legislative perspective," said Jennifer Palmieri, former communications director for President Barack Obama. "I don't think this White House is capable of that kind of discipline. So even if he gives a good speech, it is unlikely to have any staying power and transcend his broader problems of not being able to drive a coherent agenda or generate support for himself beyond his core supporters."

Sometimes, the address is a high-water mark for a president.

In 2002, Republican George W. Bush used the speech to define the "axis of evil" — Iran, Iraq, and North Korea — that he believed supported terrorism and sought weapons of mass destruction.

In 1996, Democrat Bill Clinton declared that the "era of big government is over" after emerging from a shutdown fight.

In 1941, Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt outlined the "four freedoms" that people across the globe held dear in the face of World War II's horrors.

The White House, led by policy adviser Stephen Miller and staff secretary Rob Porter, has spent weeks on the speech, seeking input from Cabinet secretaries and agency leaders. Several drafts have circulated throughout the West Wing and the president has weighed in with handwritten notes.

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A White House official said the speech-writing process has helped cut through the "hangover" of passing the tax bill just before the holidays and kept officials more focused on issues than they might otherwise have been through Trump's trip this past week.

Trump did address a joint session of Congress in 2017, though it was not technically a State of the Union speech because it occurred barely a month into his term. It was notable for this president for how it hewed to conventional speechmaking.

Lemire reported from New York.

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

Casino mogul Steve Wynn resigns as top GOP finance chairman

By KEN THOMAS and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Casino mogul Steve Wynn resigned Saturday as finance chairman of the Republican National Committee amid allegations of sexual harassment and assault.

Wynn has been a prolific Republican donor and led the RNC's fundraising efforts during President Donald Trump's first year, helping the committee rake in more than \$130 million.

"Today I accepted Steve Wynn's resignation as Republican National Committee finance chair," said RNC chairwoman Ronna McDaniel.

The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that a number of women said they were harassed or assaulted by Wynn, the chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts. Wynn has denied the allegations. One case led to a \$7.5 million settlement with a manicurist, the newspaper reported.

Wynn confirmed his resignation in a statement released Saturday. "The unbelievable success we have achieved must continue. The work we are doing to make America a better place is too important to be impaired by this distraction," Wynn said.

Wynn was chosen by Trump to lead the RNC's fundraising effort, and he contributed more than \$600,000 to GOP causes last year, according to the Federal Election Commission.

A person with direct knowledge of the situation said Trump had signed off on the decision for Wynn to resign. The person was not authorized to share private discussions and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Since 2013, Wynn has contributed nearly \$2.4 million to GOP candidates and party organizations around the country, including 2017 special election winners as well as dozens of state Republican Party committees.

The allegations against Wynn have come during a wave of sexual misconduct claims against prominent media, entertainment and political figures that gained momentum last fall after the emergence of detailed allegations of rape and harassment involving movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

During the fall, RNC officials, including McDaniel, noted that Weinstein had been a top donor for Democrats, including 2016 presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

In early October, McDaniel tweeted that if the Democratic National Committee "truly stands up for women like they say they do, then returning Weinstein's dirty money should be a no-brainer."

The RNC has not yet said whether it will return any money donated by Wynn.

Wynn was among the organizers of Trump's fundraiser last week at the president's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida to celebrate the anniversary of the inauguration. Trump was unable to attend because of the federal government shutdown. Wynn also helped put together high-dollar events in Dallas last October and New York City in December.

Trump, addressing Nevada supporters in February 2016, praised Wynn as a "great friend of mine."

"Steve is always calling. He's always got advice. Right, Steve? 'Donald, I think you ought to do this and that,'" Trump said at the time. "His advice, I like to listen to, I'll be honest with you."

Members of the Republican National Committee are gathering in Washington next week and are expected to approve a new finance chair. The next chair will be voted on after the recommendation of Trump and

McDaniel.

On Twitter follow Ken Thomas at @KThomasDC and Steve Peoples at @sppeoples.

Afghan official says death toll from bombing rises to 103

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan authorities have raised the dead toll from Saturday's suicide bombing in Kabul to 103.

The attacker drove an ambulance filled with explosives and was able to race through a security checkpoint by saying he was transferring a patient to a hospital. The explosion damaged or destroyed dozens of shops and vehicles.

Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak provided the updated death toll on Sunday, saying another 235 people were wounded in the attack. He said police were among those killed and wounded.

Ahmad Fahim, a shopkeeper who survived Saturday's attack, said several fellow merchants were wounded or killed. He said he had seen many victims who lost arms or legs in the blast.

The Taliban claimed the attack, which dealt a major blow to the U.S.-backed Afghan government. Afghan security forces have struggled to combat the Taliban since the U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014.

The government declared a day of mourning, with shops closed and flags at half-staff.

The powerful explosion could be felt across the city and left the surrounding area blanketed in dust and smoke. It came a week after Taliban militants stormed a luxury hotel in Kabul, killing 22 people, including 14 foreigners, and setting off a 13-hour battle with security forces.

Masoom Stanekzai, the head of Afghanistan's intelligence service, said five suspects have been arrested for their involvement in the attack on the Intercontinental Hotel and that another had fled the country. He said four people have been arrested in connection with Saturday's attack.

US calls for release of missing Chinese bookseller

BEIJING (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration has joined European governments in urging China to release a Swedish citizen who sold gossip books about Chinese leaders.

A U.S. State Department spokeswoman called on China to disclose Gui Minhai's whereabouts and allow him to leave China if he wishes.

"We call on Chinese authorities to explain the reasons and legal basis for Mr. Gui's arrest and detention, disclose his whereabouts, and allow him freedom of movement and the freedom to leave China," spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement.

The U.S. "will continue to coordinate with our partners, allies and regional organizations on promoting greater respect for human rights in China," Nauert said.

Around 10 Chinese police officers surrounded Gui and Swedish diplomats on Jan. 20 as they traveled by train to Beijing. Gui, a naturalized Swedish citizen, was seized and his whereabouts remain unknown.

Gui had disappeared from his home in Thailand in 2015 and reappeared months later in China after being sentenced for a decade-old traffic violation.

In a videotaped confession that supporters believe was coerced, Gui stated that he had turned himself in to mainland authorities over a hit-and-run accident.

That spurred suspicions that he had been abducted by the Chinese security services. He remained closely supervised even after his release from prison.

His latest detention has particularly rattled Western governments after it unfolded in the presence of diplomats.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry says it has no information about Gui's whereabouts, but has suggested that he may have been breaking the terms of his release. The ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment Sunday.

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Gui was one of five Hong Kong booksellers whose disappearances symbolized China's determination to enforce its hard line on squelching political dissent and a free press ___ despite international criticism.

He was released into house arrest in October in the eastern city of Ningbo, living in what his daughter Angela called a police-managed apartment.

Under Chinese law, those convicted of a crime generally have their civil rights suspended for a period of time, although it wasn't clear whether that applied in Gui's case. The prohibitions, which are often not made public, can also include restrictions on travel.

The office of EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini has said it "fully supports the public statement and efforts of the Swedish government" on Gui's behalf.

Tillerson seeks to show 'America First' isn't America alone

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — As President Donald Trump declared that "America First does not mean America alone" at a global economic forum in Switzerland, his top diplomat was on a European trip of his own, trying to convince skeptical allies that the oft-repeated phrase is more than just lip service.

Yet a year into Trump's presidency, his administration has demonstrated that "America First" may, indeed, mean "America alone," though it remains unclear if that has helped Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's bargaining position on crucial national security and foreign policy matters.

Amid crises in multiple hotspots and before joining Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Tillerson visited London and Paris with a full agenda aimed at defusing not only the issues at hand but also tensions with Washington.

His mission was primarily to secure British and French support for tough new measures against Iran that might prevent the U.S. from withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear accord. Along the way, he also accused Russia of responsibility for chemical weapons attacks in Syria and chastised Turkey for attacking U.S.-backed Kurd forces there.

"As the old saying goes, it's always darkest before the dawn," Tillerson said while wrapping up his European tour in Warsaw on Saturday. "I don't want to say we're at the darkest moment of any of those three areas ... but I think it's why we have given it so much attention and are working hard with partners and allies to put mechanisms in place to begin the very, very hard work of addressing the concerns in all three."

Tillerson left London for Paris on Monday cautiously optimistic that progress could be made with the British and the French on crafting a supplemental agreement to the Iran deal that would address what Trump has said are serious flaws. Trump has vowed to pull out if those issues aren't addressed by spring.

In London, Tillerson announced the formation of working groups that began meeting this week to look at specific points of concern including Iran's ballistic missile program, sunset provisions that gradually allow Iran to resume some advanced atomic work, Iranian support for Syria's government, Yemen's Houthi rebels and LebaRunon's Hezbollah movement.

While Iran will be excluded from those discussions, he said, the working groups would explore "how we might engage the Iranians on discussions to address these issues."

On Tuesday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian questioned why the U.S. was focused on securing the side deal only with the three European nations that are individual participants in the nuclear accord — Britain, France and Germany — and not the other parties, China and Russia, or the European Union as a bloc.

It was in Paris, at the inauguration of a new group dedicated to bringing those who use banned chemical weapons to justice, that Tillerson launched his accusations at Russia. In unusually harsh terms, he accused Moscow of violating the 2013 accord brokered with the U.S. to rid Syria of its chemical weapons stocks and the international treaty that bans such arms. He also said Moscow was ultimately responsible for every chemical weapons attack in Syria since it became militarily involved in the conflict in 2015.

Russian officials responded furiously, insisting that the U.S. was inventing new chemical weapons strikes for the purpose of maligning Russia. Still, when Tillerson spoke the next day with Russian Foreign Minister

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Sergey Lavrov, the spat was not mentioned in readouts by either side.

On Saturday, Tillerson stood his ground, saying new evidence of recent chemical weapons attacks outside Damascus had emerged since his initial remarks. He also referenced Trump's decision last year to respond to a chemical weapons attack with cruise missile strikes in Syria.

"Russia has again failed in their commitment because the chemical weapons are clearly there. They are being used against civilian populations and the most vulnerable — children — inside Syria," he said. "And I think President Trump was pretty clear the last time he saw this happen inside of Syria."

In Paris, Tillerson also encountered Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusolu, whose government has highly criticized U.S. support for Kurdish forces in Syria that Ankara considers terrorists. A Turkish military operation against those forces in the northern city of Afrin entered its second week Saturday despite U.S. calls for restraint, and NATO ally Turkey appeared poised to expand its offense to other Kurd-held sites.

As other U.S. officials have done, Tillerson recognized that Turkey has legitimate security concerns along its border with Syria. But he also renewed the appeal for restraint.

"What we hope is that Turkey is able to satisfy that it has addressed its security concerns on its border, and it can limit the amount of fighting that goes on because clearly there are civilian casualties every time this happened, and we're already seeing those casualties," he said.

Michigan AG vows to find out who knew what at Michigan State

By LARRY LAGE, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette lashed out at Michigan State University for allowing Larry Nassar to sexually abuse girls and women for years, and he took a shot at the school's governing body.

"I don't need advice from the board of trustees," the aspiring governor said at a packed news conference Saturday about his investigation into the school's handling of sexual assault claims against the disgraced doctor. "Frankly, they should be the last ones providing advice because of their conduct."

Schuette said retired prosecutor William Forsyth, who has 40-plus years of experience, will work full time on the independent probe. Forsyth will lead a team that includes top investigators from the state attorney general's office and the State Police.

"What's got Michigan State in some trouble here is the sense that they withheld certain information," Forsyth said. "Maybe because it was going to put them in a better light, but you simply can't do that."

Michigan State should establish a compensation fund that "will likely need hundreds of millions of dollars" for victims of Nassar's abuse, Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley said Saturday. He also said university lawyers should be given instructions to drop attempts to fight lawsuits by the victims and instead move the lawsuits toward settlement.

"I strongly encourage swift action (by MSU) that demonstrates a clear commitment to a dramatic shift in policies," Calley said in an interview with the Detroit Free Press. Calley is Schuette's main rival for the Republican nomination for governor and is a close ally of current governor Rick Snyder.

The board last month authorized the creation of a \$10 million fund to offer victims counseling and mental health services.

The comments from two top Michigan officials came days after Nassar was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison for molesting young female athletes and amid growing public pressure to know what school officials knew and how they acted on abuse claims. Michigan State President Lou Anna Simon resigned hours after Nassar was sentenced Wednesday and athletic director Mark Hollis announced his retirement Friday morning.

The Lansing State Journal and The Detroit News reported Friday that Michigan State University didn't share with a patient the full conclusions of a 2014 Title IX investigation into accusations of sexual assault she made against Nassar.

The patient, Amanda Thomashow, received an abbreviated version of the report, which found Nassar's conduct wasn't sexual in nature and therefore didn't violate the school's sexual harassment policy.

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The school didn't give Thomashow the rest of its findings, including that Nassar's failure to explain the "invasive, sensitive procedures" he did and to obtain prior consent from patients was "opening the practice up to liability and is exposing patients to unnecessary trauma based on the possibility of perceived inappropriate sexual misconduct."

A school spokesman said Thomashow was told the investigation had resulted in recommended policy changes at the Sports Medicine clinic where Nassar worked.

In addition to his duties at Michigan State, Nassar also worked for USA Gymnastics, which trains aspiring Olympians. The group's entire board of directors is resigning under pressure from the United States Olympic Committee.

No Michigan State trustees have resigned. Under the state constitution, the governor can remove or suspend public officers for "gross neglect of duty," corruption or "other misfeasance or malfeasance.

Bill Beekman was named acting president by the board on Friday.

"The board will now work to identify an interim president as quickly as possible and immediately begin the national search process for a permanent president," school spokesman Jason Cody said Saturday.

The school has not said who will replace Hollis after his last day on the job Wednesday.

Several of the more than 150 victims who spoke at Nassar's sentencing hearing were former athletes at the school, and many victims accused the university of mishandling past complaints about the doctor.

Gov. Rick Snyder is mulling a separate inquiry into the university, depending on whether it would interfere with other investigations such as the attorney general's and a potential NCAA investigation. U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is also investigating the scandal.

The Title IX probe conducted by the university cleared Nassar of sexual assault allegations in 2014. He was advised by the school to avoid being alone with patients while treating their "sensitive areas," but the school did not follow up on and enforce its request. 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.

Former Michigan State rower Cate Hannum, who was treated by Nassar and wrote an open letter criticizing Simon's handling of the case almost a year ago, said Hollis' departure gives her hope for the future of the school's athletic program.

"It makes room for leadership that demands a zero tolerance policy when it comes to reporting instances of sexual assault and provides proper training for all employees and staff as to how allegations must be handled," Hannum told The Associated Press.

Follow AP Sports Writer Larry Lage: <https://twitter.com/LarryLage>

Notorious Russian mobster says he just wants to go home

By JAKE PEARSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York's most notorious living Russian mobster just wants to go back to the motherland.

Once flush from heroin trafficking, tax fraud schemes and other criminal enterprises, Boris Nayfeld is now 70, fresh out of prison for the third time, divorced and broke. And he is left with few job prospects in his adopted country, at least those in line with his experiences.

"I can't do nothing," Nayfeld griped in a thick Russian accent between shots of vodka at a restaurant a few blocks north of Brooklyn's Brighton Beach neighborhood, which has been a haven for immigrants from the former Soviet Union since the 1970s. "Give me a chance to start a new life."

Nayfeld, who still sports the shaved head, piercing eyes and tattooed, burly physique that made him an intimidating figure in the city's Russian-speaking neighborhoods for decades, told The Associated Press he longs to move back to a homeland where his skill set connecting businesspeople of all stripes will yield better dividends.

But for now he is not allowed to leave, still facing three years' probation from his latest prison term,

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which ended in October, a two-year stint for his role in a murder-for-hire plot that morphed into an extortion attempt.

"I lost everything," Nayfeld grumbled over a multi-course meal capped with a meringue dessert called the Pavlova. "I lost job, I lost my time for stay in prison. I lost my wife. This is enough punish for me."

Living straight is a new experience for Nayfeld, who first came to the U.S. from Belarus in the late 1970s with a wave of Jewish emigres from the former Soviet Union who said they were fleeing religious persecution. But by his own admission, Nayfeld got into crime as soon as he arrived to the U.S.

Over his career, Nayfeld, also known as Biba, has been convicted of fraud, tobacco smuggling and shipping heroin stashed in TVs from Thailand via Poland. He has publicly threatened to kill rivals and escaped one attempt on his life when a bomb placed under his car failed to detonate.

In 1986, Nayfeld was shot in the hand when gunmen with automatic weapons burst into an office where he ran a lucrative gasoline tax-skimming scheme, killing a friend and fellow criminal named Elia Zeltzer, after whom his son, Eli, is now named. And he was at the scene a year earlier when the feared Russian godfather Evsei Agron was assassinated.

Nayfeld, who was dubbed an "organizer, enforcer and narcotics distributor" for the Russian mafia in a 1997 U.S. Customs intelligence report, said he has no regrets about his life of crime.

"Never. No. When I'm born again, I do it the same," he said.

At his sentencing last July, an assistant U.S. attorney told a federal judge that while Nayfeld has "for most of his adult life been in Russian organized crime," and effectively traded on his reputation to extract payment from a wealthy Russian-born shipping magnate going through a bitter divorce, he's not actually that scary anymore.

"And so I think perhaps we are at a moment where the reinforcing cycle of the myth of Boris Nayfeld has probably reached its end," said the prosecutor, Andrew Thomas.

That remains to be seen, said Judge Katherine Forrest, who imposed the lighter sentence with "some discomfort" based on the government's recommendation, according to a transcript of the proceeding.

For his part, the burly Nayfeld said he is determined not to return to prison. Getting by on a \$750-a-month Social Security check, he said he is avoiding most of the locations where former associates and criminals from a younger generation of Russians gather — except, that is, for the bathhouse.

He has decided to once again trade in on his reputation, shopping his life rights to production companies considering a reality TV show featuring past players from the Russian criminal underworld, according to his son, Eli Kiperman.

In many ways, the Brooklyn that Nayfeld has returned to doesn't resemble the rough-and-tumble streets he once roamed, when crime, especially violent crime, among Russian immigrants in New York hit historic highs in the early 1990s. Back then, warring outfits of Russian crooks littered the streets with bodies.

Still, said Seva Kaplan, a Russia-born radio host who struck up an unlikely friendship with Nayfeld years after the now-aging gangster threatened to kill him at the request of a mutual acquaintance, Russian criminals today run a range of enterprises throughout New York, including moneymaking Medicaid and credit card fraud rings, as well as traditional protection rackets, gambling and prostitution operations.

After the infamous mob boss Agron was killed, Nayfeld served as a bodyguard and chauffeur for the next don of the Russian mob, Marat Balagula.

Balagula maintained an office at the El Caribe Country Club, a Brooklyn catering hall and event space owned by the uncle of President Donald Trump's longtime personal lawyer, Michael Cohen.

The uncle, Dr. Morton Levine, said that all his nieces and nephews have an ownership in the company, but that Cohen "gave up his stake," after Trump was elected.

Nayfeld is a Trump supporter, and believes the special counsel investigation into the Trump campaign's contact with Russia, and the nonstop news coverage about it, is over the top and counterproductive to U.S.-Russian relations.

Trump "is a businessman, he don't care who give him money for project," Nayfeld said. "I'm the same."

Holocaust remembered as warning amid far-right resurgence

By VANESSA GERA and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Holocaust survivors wearing striped scarves that recalled their uniforms as prisoners of Nazi Germany placed candles on the train tracks carried people to their deaths at Auschwitz on Saturday, exactly 73 years after the Soviet army liberated the death camp in occupied Poland.

On the date now commemorated as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, political leaders and Jewish officials warned that the Nazi genocide must always be a reminder of the evil of which humans are capable.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson attended a solemn ceremony at a memorial in Poland to the Jews who died fighting the German forces in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943.

Tillerson trailed two uniformed Polish military officers and readjusted a wreath underneath the monument, a dark, hulking structure located in what was once the Warsaw Ghetto.

The head of Warsaw's Jewish community read a prayer, and Tillerson made brief remarks about the importance of not forgetting the horrors of the Holocaust.

"On this occasion, it reminds us that we can never, we can never, be indifferent to the face of evil," Tillerson said.

"The Western alliance which emerged from World War II has committed itself to ensuring the security of all that this would never happen again," he said. "As we mark this day in solemn remembrance, let us repeat the words of our own commitment: Never again. Never again."

His words came amid signs in Europe and beyond that ultranationalism and extreme right-wing groups are on the rise.

In Germany and Austria, the nations that perpetrated the killing of 6 million Jews and millions of others during World War II, far-right parties with their roots in the Nazi era are gaining strength.

The anti-migrant, anti-Muslim AfD party won seats in the German parliament for the first time last year, while the nationalist, anti-migrant Freedom Party is part of the coalition running the Austrian government.

Both parties have members who have made anti-Semitic remarks.

Ultranationalists who espouse anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim views seem emboldened elsewhere as well.

"Neo-Nazis and white supremacy groups are among the main purveyors of extreme hatred," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. "And too often, vile views are moving from the margins to the mainstream of societies and politics. We must stand together against the normalization of hate."

In Europe, the outspoken white nationalism is seen as partially a backlash to a large influx of mostly Muslim migrants.

Some of those migrants have brought their own brand of anti-Semitism with them.

In Germany, many Jews have reported feeling threatened by anti-Semitism — both from native far-right groups and from newcomers from Arab countries. Jewish institutions across the country have increased security.

Meanwhile, Muslim immigrants have been targets of German far-right attacks or threats.

Hanni Levy, a 93-year-old Holocaust survivor from Berlin, criticized anti-migrant hatred during a speech Saturday at a Greens party convention in Hannover.

"In the past, the Jews were found guilty of everything. Today it's the refugees," Levy said. "One should never forget how difficult it is to leave behind everything just to survive."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel marked the day in her weekly podcast by addressing the reemergence of anti-Semitism.

She called it "incomprehensible and a disgrace that no Jewish institution can exist without police security — whether it is a school, a kindergarten or a synagogue."

This year, the official commemorations at Auschwitz took place after the Jewish Sabbath ended at sundown.

The United Nations recognized January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005.

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Lee reported from Warsaw; Kirsten Grieshaber in Berlin and Edith Lederer at the United Nations contributed.

Venezuela opposition rejoins talks as presidency vote looms

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Negotiators for Venezuela's opposition say they will return to the negotiating table next week as international pressure mounts on President Nicolas Maduro's government over its decision to push up presidential elections.

The main opposition alliance announced Saturday that it would rejoin talks even as it harshly criticized the government for torpedoing prospects for a breakthrough by unilaterally setting a deadline for elections and banning it from the ballot.

The decision ends days of speculation that the Democratic Unity alliance could abandon the negotiations after one of its biggest parties announced it was boycotting the talks, which have been taking place in the Dominican Republic.

"We are obligated to keep fighting in all arenas for electoral guarantees," Democratic Unity said in a statement.

In agreeing to return to the negotiating table on Monday, the opposition alliance said it would renew its push for guarantees that voting will be free and fair. Those include allowing foreign election monitors, lifting an electoral ban on several opposition leaders and guaranteeing that millions of Venezuelan exiles won't be disenfranchised.

The pro-government national Constituent Assembly surprised Venezuelans this week by calling for an election to be held by the end of April.

While no date was set, Maduro immediately announced that he wants to run as the ruling socialist party candidate, pressing for the vote to happen on the earliest possible opportunity. Typically elections are held toward the end of the year to avoid a long transition when the new six-year presidential term begins in January 2019.

Foreign governments were quick to condemn the move, saying it undercuts the negotiations that have been taking place on and off since December.

Further stoking concerns that the vote will be rigged even before Venezuelans head to the polls, the government-stacked Supreme Court on Thursday night barred the coalition from being on the ticket, meaning whichever candidate runs against Maduro will have to do so under a less-recognized party banner.

Although polls say Venezuelans overwhelmingly blame Maduro for widespread food shortages and quadruple-digit inflation, Maduro heads into the race the clear favorite against an opposition divided and rudderless following the collapse of a deadly protest movement last year seeking the president's removal.

Several of its leaders have been barred from standing for office, including Henrique Capriles, who narrowly lost to Maduro in special elections following the death of Hugo Chavez in 2013, and activist Leopoldo Lopez, who has been under house arrest since being released from jail last year. Others have fled into exile.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday became the latest foreign leader to condemn Maduro, saying that he's open to additional European Union sanctions to punish the government for its "unacceptable authoritarian shift."

Venezuela's government reacted Saturday by calling Macron's statement "a hostile and unfriendly act by the leader of a nation with which Venezuela has cultivated historic and fraternal ties" and accused Macron of trying to become "a faithful copy" of the U.S. government.

The EU on Monday imposed economic and travel sanctions on seven senior Venezuelan officials, sparking a tit-for-tat flare-up with the Spanish government that led both governments to expel each other's ambassadors in protest. Venezuela one month ago also expelled top diplomats from Canada and Brazil.

The Trump administration has said it won't recognize the results of Venezuela's "snap" presidential election if it is held, saying the vote would be "neither free nor fair."

Argentina, Brazil and Mexico were among a coalition of 14 mostly conservative Latin American governments that also issued a harshly worded statement saying the early vote contradicts democratic principles

and does not align with international standards.

"If the elections are carried out without these guarantees, Colombia will not recognize them," Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos said from Davos, Switzerland.

The chorus of condemnation doesn't appear to be worrying Maduro, who showed up dancing on stage at a rally Friday to support his candidacy. Government supporters say the opposition doesn't have enough popular support to defeat Maduro at the ballot box, leaving its only option to be rallying international allies to force him from office.

Saudi prince freed amid corruption probe veiled in secrecy

By ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI and AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Billionaire Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, who had been held in a luxury hotel since November in a wide-reaching anti-corruption probe that has been shrouded in secrecy and intrigue, was released on Saturday, according to three of his associates.

The anti-corruption campaign, however, could still be far from over, with more arrests possible and aftershocks yet to materialize.

The 62-year-old prince had been the most well-known and prominent detainee at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, since Nov. 4, when his much younger cousin Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the surprise raids against prominent princes, businessmen, ministers and military officers. Elite forces were sent to arrest them in their homes, and they were subjected to weeks of questioning that would result in many turning over significant financial assets.

Prince Alwaleed's associates, who include a relative, told The Associated Press his terms of release were not immediately known. They said he had returned to his palatial home in Riyadh's al-Fakhariya neighborhood. The associates spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, and there was no official comment on his release.

Prince Alwaleed was among at least 11 princes detained in the probe, including two sons of the late King Abdullah. The government, however, has not named those detained nor discussed the allegations against them.

Hours before the arrests were made, the late King Abdullah's son Prince Miteb was ousted from his post overseeing the National Guard, a powerful force that oversees key aspects of internal security and the security of the royal family. He was seen as a potential contender for the throne until his arrest.

Critics say the crown prince, who is King Salman's son and heir, has used the purported anti-corruption campaign to sideline potential rivals and seize control of influential businesses run by many of the scions detained in the probe. The arrests also raised concerns over increasing totalitarianism, along with disarray and resentment from within a royal family whose unity has been the bedrock of the kingdom.

The government says the arrests are part of a wider effort to increase transparency, accountability and good governance. Still, the arrests were unprecedented in a country where royals and their associates have long been seen as operating above the law.

The surprise arrests also worried international investors, particularly as the Saudi government prepares to list oil giant Saudi Aramco on the stock market sometime this year or next. Many investors see Prince Alwaleed's arrest as a bellwether for doing business in a country where the potential for future arrests remains. His release comes as world leaders and major investors convene at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Prince Alwaleed is chairman of Kingdom Holding Co., which has investments in several Western companies such as Twitter, Lyft, Citibank and marquee hotels like New York's The Plaza hotel, London's Savoy Hotel and Paris' the Four Seasons George V Hotel. The prince also has significant holdings in Apple and is majority owner of the popular Rotana Group of Arabic channels.

Giorgio Cafiero, CEO of risk consulting firm Gulf State Analytics, said there's a "high possibility" the prince's release "marks the end of nearly the first stage and that more arrests will happen later this year."

The crown prince, who has consolidated power rapidly since his father's ascension to the throne three

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years ago, has demonstrated "he's not afraid to step on some toes," Cafiero said.

"It's not very clear how members of the royal family can counter him at this point," he added.

Private U.S. intelligence firm Stratfor said the arrests went beyond targeting corruption and were used as a means of reworking patronage networks in favor of Prince Mohammed as he seeks an even greater centralization of his power.

"Should the released detainees cross the crown prince again — perhaps by showing disloyalty to his vision through their business decisions — they could well find themselves back in fetters," a Stratfor brief said.

Earlier this week, Saudi Attorney General Saud al-Mojeb was quoted in local media as saying some 90 detainees had been released after agreeing to settlements involving cash, real estate and other assets. If a financial agreement can't be reached, remaining detainees will be moved to prison, prosecuted and could face six months or more in jail. Around 350 people in total have been questioned.

By midweek, 95 people were still being held, though several more were released over the weekend.

The government has said that it uncovered at least \$100 billion in corruption and that any sums recovered so far would be used to fund a cash assistance program for middle- and lower-income citizens estimated to cost \$8.5 billion this year. The king this month also ordered more than \$11 billion in bonuses for government employees, soldiers and students as the government hikes prices and introduces taxes to raise revenues amid lower oil prices.

Prince Alwaleed's release came just hours after he gave the only interview since his detention, telling Reuters he expected to keep full control of his investment firm without giving up assets to the government.

His suite at the Ritz-Carlton included a private office, dining room and kitchen. His refrigerator was stocked with vegetarian meals as requested, and he had tennis shoes for exercise, Reuters reported.

The prince, sometimes pictured vacationing on his 85-meter (278-foot) super-yacht in the Mediterranean, is among the most outspoken Saudi royals and a longtime advocate of women's rights. While he was never seen as politically influential, his penchant for fame and his holdings in Western firms made him one of the most talked about Saudi royals abroad.

The hotel where he and other prominent figures were held has been closed to the public since early November but is taking reservations again starting Feb. 14.

— Batrawy reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Secret report: Honduras' new top cop helped cartel move coke

By **CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, MARTHA MENDOZA and GARANCE BURKE, Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Honduran authorities are promising "an exhaustive investigation" into alleged ties between their new national police chief Jose David Aguilar Moran and a cartel kingpin who's now serving a 20-year sentence in a U.S. federal prison.

A confidential Honduran government security report obtained by the Associated Press says Aguilar helped the narco-trafficker pull off the delivery of nearly a ton of cocaine in 2013.

The clandestine haul of more than 1,700 pounds of cocaine was packed inside a tanker truck that, the report says, was being escorted by corrupt police officers to the home of Wilter Blanco, a drug trafficker recently convicted in Florida and now serving a 20-year sentence.

Aguilar, who at the time was serving as chief of intelligence for Honduras' National Police, intervened after a police official safeguarding the drugs was busted by a lower-ranked officer who had seized the tanker, the report says. The handcuffed officer called Aguilar, who ordered that the officer and the tanker be set free, says the report which was prepared by the Honduran Security Ministry's Inspector General.

The U.S. street value of the cocaine involved could have topped \$20 million.

The incident raises questions about Honduras' much-touted purge of corrupt police and the reliability of the administration of President Juan Orlando Hernandez, a key U.S. ally in the war on drugs who was sworn in for a new term Saturday following a disputed November election.

On Friday, Omar Rivera, a member of the special commission that says it has purged more than 4,000

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members of the National Police for reasons ranging from corruption to restructuring and voluntary retirement, held a press conference alongside a spokesman for the National Police.

They said the National Police did not have a document that corresponded to the number on the AP's report, something police spokesman Jair Meza had told the AP on Jan. 15.

But government authorities have often had difficulties in recent years locating information in police archives. Members of the government commission, including Rivera, have said publicly since it started its work in 2016 that the Security Ministry archives were in disarray and that some police officers assigned to the archives have worked to disappear files or wipe them clean of incriminating details.

Rivera said the commission would again look at Aguilar, his deputy and the new police inspector general. "Starting today they will be subjected to a rigorous re-evaluation process to show their suitability for the positions they hold," he said.

As Hernandez swore in his new police chief last week, local media reported that he said Aguilar was chosen "with the utmost confidence" and would lead "a National Police that becomes a role model for the region."

"We are in a process of transforming the National Police, with a huge investment of financial resources," the president said.

Aguilar, 54, vowed to instruct his officers "to follow the law and make sure the law is followed," said local reports.

Asked about the incident, the Honduran government issued a lengthy statement saying that the investigative report is fake and doesn't correspond to any "official communication from the Honduras Police." The AP has not shared the document with the government due to security concerns but described its contents.

The statement also said the allegations against the police high command "lack veracity" and demanded that the news media verify information before creating "false scoops" that damage the institution and its employees.

But an ex-member of the National Police with knowledge of the investigation confirmed officials found that top officers conspired to cover up the incident, and that the handcuffed officer was later put on leave. Three other current and former high-ranking Honduran police officials confirmed elements of the report. All four spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of violent reprisals.

In addition to the report, the AP confirmed the story using other internal memos and a page from Aguilar's personnel file summarizing his alleged participation.

Aguilar did not respond to requests from AP for comment. In public remarks Jan. 15, he said he would work to strengthen cooperation among his nation's police and judicial agencies and make sure that officers serving under him would act with "respect for human rights."

The inspector general's office began its inquiry in early 2014, just as the United States was ramping up funding for collaborative anti-drug trafficking efforts in the region. The inspector general's report blames Aguilar and other commanders for failing to discipline the officers involved and for failing to turn over the investigation to prosecutors and U.S. authorities.

The report alleges that Aguilar and other police officials sat on the case at Blanco's request and never sent it to prosecutors or the American Embassy, "with the end goal of letting the case expire."

Former and current U.S. law enforcement officers and a U.S. prosecutor reviewed the document for AP and said it appeared genuine.

Honduras has been an ally of the United States for decades. The strategically positioned Soto Cano Air Base near Honduras' capital, Tegucigalpa, served as a center for U.S. efforts to beat back pro-communist movements in Central America in the 1980s, and continues to support regional anti-drug efforts and host a U.S. military presence of about 600 troops.

In an emailed statement, the State Department said it had not seen the confidential investigation.

"We continue to support the work of the police purge commission in Honduras, which has removed thousands of corrupt police officers," said the statement.

U.S. aid to Honduras has grown since 2014, when the Obama administration determined that it was in

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U.S. interests to improve security and strengthen governance in Central America. Since then, Congress has appropriated more than \$300 million for Honduras, according to a recent report by the Congressional Research Service.

Honduras, with a population of more than 9 million, is one of the poorest and most violent countries in Latin America. Much of the country is controlled by criminal gangs. It has endured widespread human rights abuses and impunity at the hands of the police and military for more than a decade. Critics argue that reform efforts backed by the U.S. and the Organization of American States have been ineffective. And in recent weeks, security forces have shot and killed demonstrators protesting the disputed presidential election. More demonstrations broke out Saturday during the inauguration.

U.S. President Donald Trump recognized Hernandez's re-election last month, and certified the country's progress in protecting human rights and attacking corruption, clearing the way for Honduras to receive millions of dollars in U.S. funds. The U.S. Senate appropriations committee, however, has put a hold on some of that money.

"There is so much illegal drug money to be made and it is so easy to get away with it, especially if you are in the police force," U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) said earlier this month in reaction to Aguilar's appointment. "Much more needs to be known about him given the history of the Honduran police and its connections to organized crime, before there can be confidence that he has the integrity to lead that institution."

Aguilar, a 29-year police veteran, worked his way up, serving as a regional chief along the Caribbean coast and other regions and heading up a national inter-agency security force. At one point he led a police directorate overseeing planning and "continuous improvement." Earlier this month, Omar Rivera, a member of the government commission responsible for purging corrupt cops, told La Prensa newspaper that Aguilar was a strong candidate because of his "merits and good performance." But a page of Aguilar's personnel file, obtained by the AP, includes a disciplinary record summarizing his participation in the 2013 incident, alleging complicity with organized crime and drug traffickers. There's no indication any action was taken regarding the allegations against him.

The other key player in the inspector general's report, Blanco, got into drug running as a fisherman, smuggling boat loads of cocaine from one coastal community to another, according to records in the U.S. criminal case against him.

The trafficking grew as Blanco and his armed guards collected shipments of Colombian cocaine on the Honduran shore and took it to his property before it was moved north through Guatemala and Mexico into the U.S., according to a U.S. criminal complaint. When Blanco knew the DEA was onto him, the complaint said, he tried to negotiate a surrender, communicating on text messages that included, as his profile picture on his BlackBerry, a small plane with kilos of cocaine stacked next to it.

Blanco was arrested in 2016 in Costa Rica and extradited to the U.S. He pleaded guilty to conspiring to move 4,000 pounds of cocaine from Colombia to Honduras during a two-month period. It was widely reported in Honduras that Blanco's arrest had sparked investigations of dozens of police and other political and criminal justice officials, but nothing about any corruption probes relating to Blanco has been publicly revealed. His attorney Victor Rocha told AP that in repeated discussions his client never mentioned police collaborating with his drug smuggling operations.

"If Mr. Blanco-Ruiz is deported to his home nation, he may well be murdered shortly thereafter in retaliation for what the Honduran press has erroneously and recklessly alleged as his cooperation," Rocha said in court documents, using his client's formal last name.

Drug trafficking ties within Honduras' law-enforcement and political circles are well documented.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration announced last week that Honduran lawmaker Fredy Renan Najera Montoya faces drug trafficking charges in a New York federal court and the U.S. would seek his extradition. American authorities claim Najera used his influence to secure safe passage for loads of cocaine flown from Colombia to Honduras and then on to the U.S.

High-ranking Honduran police officials have been accused of ordering assassinations, trafficking cocaine and leading criminal gangs. At least six former National Police officers now face U.S. criminal charges in

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a federal court in New York and the DEA says their investigations into Honduras police corruption are still active. The U.S. Embassy in Honduras declined to comment.

The inspector general's report detailing the investigation into the tanker full of cocaine explains how Blanco held sway over police.

Sources in the La Ceiba police headquarters said that before and after the tanker incident, the regional police chief Jose Rolando Paz Murillo met with Blanco in Paz's office along with other police officials. At the meetings Blanco handed out thousands of dollars in bribes to make sure police allowed airplanes stuffed with cocaine to land and then the drugs to be transported without interference, according to the investigative report.

Among those who attended such meetings, the report asserts, were Aguilar, as well as the new National Police inspector general, Orlin Javier Cerrato Cruz, and Orbin Alexis Galo Maldonado, the man recently named as Aguilar's top deputy. In a brief phone conversation Galo denied any knowledge. Cerrato could not be reached for comment.

It was the local head of the tourism police, Grebil Cecilio Giron Miranda, who intercepted the drug-laden truck flanked by 11 police officers in four vehicles, according to the report. He was on patrol with two other officers when an informant in a rival cartel called to tell him about the tanker full of cocaine, investigators said.

The report says Giron and his patrol took the tanker back to the police station and that, soon after, Paz, the regional police chief, arrived and began threatening Giron and the other arresting officers, telling them he would make sure they lost their jobs. Giron pointed his gun at Paz, forced him to the ground and handcuffed him, according to the report. As the higher-ranking cop's threats escalated, the report says, the officers allowed Paz to make a phone call. Paz called Aguilar and then passed the phone to Giron. According to the officers' statements, Aguilar told them to immediately release Paz and the tanker full of drugs.

They obeyed and the load of drugs continued on its way to Blanco's home, the report says.

The head of the National Police at the time ordered an investigation, according to the document, but it was scuttled until a new inspector general took over in early 2014. By the time the report was submitted in late February 2014, the four-month window for police leadership to take action against those involved had passed.

All the police officers named in the report and reached by the AP said they knew nothing about the allegations. The National Police did not make any of its officers available for comment.

According to the report, Paz told the arresting officer that then police director Juan Carlos Bonilla Valdares and another top police official, Hector Ivan Mejia Velasquez, were aware of what was happening with the drugs and that they ordered his release. Bonilla told AP the documents were fake and Mejia said he didn't know anything about the case.

Paz resigned from the police after his suspension and another assignment, a former National Police official said, and currently serves as a judge in Roatan. Paz did not return messages left at the court.

Former DEA agent Gary Hale reviewed a copy of the document and said it appears genuine.

"On the face of it, it looks authentic," said Hale, now a drug policy and Mexico studies scholar at Rice University.

Opposition party politician Maria Luisa Borjas, who ran the National Police's internal affairs division during her long career on the force, said she had seen the inspector general's report and could confirm its authenticity.

"The work that the police purging commission did was of completely no use, a failure," she said. "It was more of a source of official protection for people who have been tied to drug trafficking."

Burke and Mendoza reported from San Francisco, Calif.

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Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2018. There are 337 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 28, 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War, a day after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords by the United States, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

On this date:

In A.D. 814, Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne died in Aachen in present-day Germany.

In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.

In 1878, the first daily college newspaper, Yale News (now Yale Daily News), began publication in New Haven, Connecticut.

In 1915, the United States Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service.

In 1939, Irish poet-dramatist William Butler Yeats died in Menton, France.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1978, fire swept through the historic downtown Coates House hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, killing 20 people.

In 1980, six U.S. diplomats who had avoided being taken hostage at their embassy in Tehran flew out of Iran with the help of Canadian diplomats.

In 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

In 1988, a 13-day standoff in Marion, Utah, between police and a polygamist clan ended in gunfire that killed a state corrections officer, Fred House, and seriously wounded the group's leader, Addam (correct) Swapp, who ended up serving more than 25 years behind bars.

In 1999, Ford Motor Co. announced it was buying the Volvo car division in a \$6.45 billion deal. (Ford ended up selling the Volvo unit in 2010 to China's Zhejiang Geely Holding Group for \$1.8 billion.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, in his last State of the Union address, urged passage of an economic stimulus package and asked Americans to remain patient with the long, grinding war in Iraq. In a daring ambush, Iraqi insurgents blasted a U.S. patrol with a roadside bomb and showered survivors with gunfire from a mosque in Mosul; five American soldiers were killed in the explosion. Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy led two generations of his family in endorsing fellow Democrat Barack Obama for the White House.

Five years ago: Leading Democratic and Republican senators pledged to propel far-reaching immigration legislation through the Senate by summer, providing a possible path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people in the U.S. illegally. (Although the Senate passed such a measure, it encountered opposition from House Republicans who insisted on a more limited approach.) Backed by French helicopters and paratroopers, Malian soldiers entered the fabled city of Timbuktu after al-Qaida-linked militants who had ruled the outpost by fear for nearly 10 months fled into the desert.

One year ago: A federal judge in New York issued an emergency order temporarily barring the U.S. from deporting people from nations subject to President Donald Trump's travel ban. Historian Timothy B. Tyson, the author of a book on the 1955 Emmett Till lynching case, revealed that Carolyn Bryant Donham, the woman at the center of the trial of Till's alleged (later admitted) killers, acknowledged in 2008 that she had falsely testified that Till made physical and verbal threats toward her. Serena Williams won her record 23rd Grand Slam singles title, defeating her sister Venus 6-4, 6-4 at the Australian Open.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nicholas Pryor is 83. Actor Alan Alda is 82. Actress Susan Howard is 76. Actress Marthe (cq) Keller is 73. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., is 71. Actress-singer Barbi Benton is 68. Evangelical

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pastor Rick Warren is 64. Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE') is 63. Actress Harley Jane Kozak is 61. Movie director Frank Darabont is 59. Rock musician Dave Sharp is 59. Rock singer Sam Phillips is 56. Rock musician Dan Spitz is 55. Country musician Greg Cook (Ricochet) is 53. Gospel singer Marvin Sapp is 51. Singer Sarah McLachlan is 50. Rapper Rakim is 50. DJ Muggs (Cypress Hill) is 50. Actress Kathryn Morris is 49. Humorist Mo Rocca is 49. Rock/soul musician Jeremy Ruzumna (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Hamilton is 47. Singer Monifah is 46. Actress Gillian Vigman is 46. Rock musician Brandon Bush is 45. Retired MLB All-Star Jermaine Dye is 44. Actress Terri Conn is 43. Singer Joey Fatone Jr. ('N Sync) is 41. Rapper Rick Ross is 41. Actress Rosamund Pike is 39. Actress Angelique Cabral is 39. Singer Nick Carter (Backstreet Boys) is 38. Actor Elijah Wood is 37. Rapper J. Cole is 33. Actress Alexandra Krosney is 30. Actor Yuri Sardarov is 30. Actress Ariel Winter is 20.

Thought for Today: "In dreams begin responsibilities." — William Butler Yeats (1865-1939).

Riddle Answer: Footsteps