

Groton Daily Independent

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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

Today's Events

Thursday, Feb. 1

Boys' Basketball at Tiospa Zina: C game at 5:15 p.m. followed by the junior varsity game and then the varsity game.

Friday, Feb. 2

Girls' Basketball hosts Tiospa Zina: Junior varsity game at 6:30 p.m. followed by the varsity game.

Saturday, Feb. 3

MathCounts at SDSU
Robotics at Chamberlain High School
Wrestling at Stanley County, 10 a.m.
GBB at Madison. NEC vs. DAK12 Classic. 2:15 p.m.: Groton Area vs. Sioux Falls Christian in the auxiliary gym.

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Boys Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Langford Area

VISITOR: Langford ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
20 Frey, Dylan	*	3	8	2	7	0	0	1	0	1	1	8	0	0	0	1	32:00
22 Frey, Collin	*	2	4	1	2	2	2	1	2	3	0	7	1	3	0	0	32:00
23 Larson, Mason	*	9	19	0	4	1	2	3	12	15	1	19	3	1	2	2	32:00
34 Punt, Ryan	*	3	8	0	0	2	5	1	2	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	32:00
40 Unknown,	*	1	4	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	0	0:00
2 Widener, Zonder		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
3 Bleck, Logan		3	7	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	7	2	0	0	2	32:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	7	7				0			
Team Totals		21	50	5	18	5	9	8	24	32	5	52	7	4	2	5	160

Total FG% - 1st: 10/26 0.385 2nd: 11/24 0.458 Game: 0.420 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/10 0.300 2nd: 2/8 0.250 Game: 0.278 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/4 0.500 2nd: 3/5 0.600 Game: 0.556 (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	4	7	3	5	0	0	0	3	3	0	11	2	1	0	1	8:00
20 KEITH, BRANDON	F	0	2	0	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	3	0	0	1	16:00
42 DEHOET, BRODYN	C	3	12	2	7	0	0	0	7	7	3	8	3	1	0	1	16:00
4 DOEDEN, JONNY	G	2	5	2	3	0	0	1	3	4	4	6	2	2	0	0	32:00
5 SHABAZZ, SERIC	G	2	4	2	4	0	0	0	2	2	1	6	3	2	0	1	24:00
3 SIPPEL, ANTHONY		1	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	16:00
10 LANE, MARSHALL		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
34 JONES, AUSTIN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	16:00
50 TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0:00
55 DIEGEL, TREYTON		5	9	5	9	0	0	0	3	3	2	15	1	2	0	0	24:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	3	3				0			
Team Totals		17	42	14	31	1	3	2	25	27	13	49	14	10	0	4	160

Total FG% - 1st: 8/20 0.400 2nd: 9/22 0.409 Game: 0.405 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 6/15 0.400 2nd: 8/16 0.500 Game: 0.452 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/3 0.333 2nd: 0/0 0.000 Game: 0.333 (1,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Langford	12	13	6	21	52
Groton	12	11	11	15	49

Last FG: Langford 4th-08:00, Groton 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Langford by 6 4th-08:00, Groton by 7 3rd-08:00
 Score tied: 3 times, Lead changed: 11 times

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Boys Junior Varsity Stat Sheet vs. Langford Area

VISITOR: Langford Area

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
2	Widener, Zander	*	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	2	0	3	32:00
5	West, Benton	*	0	5	0	5	1	1	0	2	2	5	1	1	2	0	1	16:00
10	Smith, Connor	*	4	7	1	2	0	6	1	3	4	0	9	0	0	0	3	24:00
32	Peterson, Bryce	*	2	8	0	0	3	4	0	2	2	1	7	0	1	0	0	32:00
44	Larson, Kade	*	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	2	16:00
3	Aadland, Tayson		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0:00
22	Godel, Aden		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
23	Gustafson, Ben		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
24	Reints, Hayden		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	24:00
30	Carroll, Judd		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
33	Punt, Jacob		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	8:00
40	Smith, Cooper		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
50	Peterson, Brayden		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									0	1	1				0			
Team Totals			6	30	1	10	4	13	2	15	17	12	17	2	9	0	10	160

Total FG% - 1st: 1/13 0.077 2nd: 5/17 0.294 Game: 0.200 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/5 0.000 2nd: 1/5 0.200 Game: 0.100 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/8 0.125 2nd: 3/5 0.600 Game: 0.308 (5,0)

HOME: Groton Area

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
12	SHABAZZ, DARIEN	F	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	3	0	1	3	0	1	32:00
34	JONES, AUSTIN	F	1	6	0	0	2	3	2	8	10	1	4	3	3	0	0	24:00
14	KURTZ, KADEN	G	2	6	0	2	1	1	3	2	5	1	5	0	3	0	1	24:00
22	GUTHMILLER, CADE	G	2	10	2	8	4	4	2	6	8	0	10	1	2	0	5	24:00
55	Diegel, Treyton	*	0	6	0	4	1	3	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	24:00
5	COGLEY, JACKSON		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	8:00
20	SIMON, LUCAS		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
50	TRAPHAGEN, TRISTAN		2	3	1	1	0	0	2	2	4	2	5	0	0	0	0	16:00
57	Add New Player,		0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									1	3	4				1			
Team Totals			7	34	3	16	8	11	13	26	39	8	25	5	14	0	7	160

Total FG% - 1st: 3/20 0.150 2nd: 4/14 0.286 Game: 0.206 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/11 0.091 2nd: 2/5 0.400 Game: 0.188 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/3 0.333 2nd: 7/8 0.875 Game: 0.727 (2,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Langford	3	0	7	7	17
Groton	3	5	11	6	25

Last FG: Add New Team 4th-08:00, Add New Team 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Add New Team by 1 1st-08:00, Add New Team by 14 3rd-08:00
 Score tied: 1 times, Lead changed: 1 times

Groton nearly pulls out an upset against Langford



Jonathan Doeden dribbles past his defender, Colin Frey. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

It was a close game all the way through but a quick turn of events at the end prevented Groton Area from upsetting Langford Area, 52-49. The game was played Tuesday in Groton.

Groton Area held the lead for most of the first quarter but Langford Area tied it at 12 as the first quarter ended. Groton made four of 11 field goals for 36 percent and Langford made four of 13 for 31 percent.

There were three lead changes and the game was tied once in the second quarter as the Lions held a 25-23 lead at half time. In the second quarter, Groton made four of 10 field goals for 40 percent and Langford made five of 13 for 39 percent.

Groton went on a eight-point run to start the third quarter and took a 31-25 lead. It was 34-31, Groton with the end of the third quarter. The Tigers made four of 11 field goals for 36 percent and Langford was three of 11 for 27 percent.

Three-pointers went flying in the fourth quarter as Groton made five shots and Langford two. There were seven lead changes and the game was tied once in the fourth quarter. A Groton turnover with less than a minute to go in the game allowed Mason Larson to slam dunk the ball, but the Treyton Diegel quickly responded with a three-pointer to make it 52-49. Groton fouled, but the free throw was missed with less than 10 seconds left in the game. A last second shot by the Tigers fell short and Langford hung on to win, 52-49.

Mason Larson had a double-double night for Langford with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Treyton Diegel led the Tigers with five of nine three-pointers for 15 points. Others adding to the Tiger tally were Andrew Rintala with 11, Brodyn DeHoet eight, Jonathan Doeden and Seric Shabazz each had six, Anthony Sippel had two and Brandon Keith one.

The others scoring for Langford were Dylan Frey and Ryan Punt with eight each, Collin Frey and Logan Bleck with seven each and an unknown player had three points.

For two-pointers, Groton was three of 11 for 27 percent, outside the circle the Tigers were 14 of 31 for 45 percent, and from the line, Groton was one of three for 33 percent off of Langford's five team fouls.

Langford was 16 of 32 for two-pointers for 50 percent, five of 18 in three-pointers for 28 percent, and was five of nine from the line for 56 percent off of Groton's 13 team fouls.

Langford had more rebounds, 32-27, with Brodyn DeHoet having seven for Groton.

Keith, DeHoet and Shabazz each had three of the team's 14 assists for Groton while Mason Larson had three of Langford's seven assists. Groton had 10 turnovers with five of them being steals as Larson and Bleck each had two. Langford made 10 points off of Groton's turnovers. Langford had four turnovers with all of them being steals.

Groton won the junior varsity game, 25-17. The game was tied at three at the end of the first quarter. Groton held an 8-3 lead at halftime and 19-10 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Cade Guthmiller led the Tigers with 10 points followed by Kaden Kurtz and Tristan Traphagen with five each, Austin Jones had four and Treyton Diegel added one point. Jones had 10 of Groton's 39 rebounds.

Connor Smith led Langford with nine points followed by Bryce Peterson with seven and Benton West added one.

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Gun Show

GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association 16th Annual ABERDEEN Gun Show. New location. Saturday, February 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, February 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dakota Event Center on LaMont East. Roger Krumm 701-851-0129. (...0203)

About Public Notices

As a subscriber to the Groton Daily Independent, you will have access to the public notices. When you are logged in, on the left hand side, you will see the link Public Notices. When you move your mouse (don't click) over Public Notices, the next level shows up with notices from Brown County and several area communities. Then you move your mouse over the town or county (still don't click) that you want to pick, then a year shows up - hover your mouse over the year (still don't click) and then the notices will show you. Now you can click on the notice you want to read.

To go back to the Public Notices, you will need to click on the Black Logo in the top left hand corner of the page (the Groton Daily Independent logo.) and then start your search again. Brown County will have one more level of hovering with the month before the notices show up.

This is the easiest way for me to post the notices on-line with minimum effort. We have done different methods in the past, but they ended up being time consuming and I ended up falling behind.

The Groton Independent is the official newspaper for Brown County, the schools of Groton Area and Frederick Area, and the municipalities of Claremont, Columbia, Frederick, Groton and Westport.



The Groton Dance team held up a Team Ava/No One Fights Alone poster at the end of their performance last night.



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*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")

Former Groton Police Chief, Butch Radke, passes on



Services for Harlan "Butch" Radke, Jr., 62 of Groton, will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 1st at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Craig Grams and William Paepke will officiate. Burial will follow in Groton Union Cemetery.

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

Butch passed away January 29, 2018 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Harlan Eugene, Jr. was born on October 29, 1955 in Aberdeen to Harlan and Thelma (Flint) Radke. He attended school in Groton, graduating in 1974. Butch united in marriage with Nancy Dobberpuhl on May 20, 1977 and together they were blessed with three children. Butch attended the Law Enforcement Training Center in Pierre and served as an officer for 31 years. He was employed with the Brown County Sheriff's Office and Groton Police Department from 1977-2007. Radke served as Groton's Chief of Police from November 2004 and retired the same time as former Mayor Gerald Rix on May 1, 2007.

Butch was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. He was active on the Fire Board and Kiwanis. Butch enjoyed hunting, fishing and target shooting. He also loved spending time with his four grandchildren.

Celebrating his life is his wife of 40 years, Nancy of Groton, children; Michelle (Chad) Johnson of Groton, Kevin Radke of Groton, Lisa (Brent) Wienk of Milbank, four grandchildren, Brenna, Porter, Ava and Bradyn and his brothers, Tom (Barbara) Paepke of Groton and Rev. William (Audrey) Paepke of Piedmont.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his sister, Marlene Gilbertson.

Honorary Casketbearers will be all of his law enforcement and fireman friends.

Casketbearers will be Steve Tewksbury, Jerry Bjerke, Stacy Mayou, Justin Cleveland, Brian Koens, Ben Dolen and Eddy Nehls.



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Many students wore orange Tuesday evening to show their support for seventh grader Ava Tunheim. Ava is battling with Leukemia. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



The Groton Area High School Pep Band performed during the evening of the Langford/Groton game. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Today in Weather History

January 31, 1969: Minnesota experienced many winter storms throughout the month of 1969 where several people had died from heart attacks and auto accidents. Many roads were blocked or iced over several times during the month. Considerable snow during the month of January along with frequent periods of strong winds resulted in many days of blowing and drifting snow across northeast South Dakota. There were also many days with freezing rain. The most significant icing occurred on the 22nd and the 27th. There were numerous days where the traffic was at a standstill due to blocked roads and closed airports. Many school closings occurred throughout the month with many activities cancelled. Many rural roads went long periods without being opened resulting in hardships for farmers. Days of blowing snow were the 8th, 19th, 22nd, 23th, 24th, 26th, 27th, and 31st. Days of freezing rain were the 5th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and the 22nd.

1911: Tamarack, California was without snow the first eight days of the month, but by the end of January, they had been buried under 390 inches of snow, a record monthly total for the United States. By March 11, 1911, Tamarack had a record snow depth of 451 inches.

1979: A winter storm that started on the previous day and ended on this day spread 2 to 4 inches of rainfall in 24 hours over much of coastal Southern California, and two inches of snow in Palm Springs. Snow fell heavily in Palm Springs and 8 inches fell at Lancaster. All major interstates into Los Angeles were closed. Snow drifts shut down Interstate 10 on both sides of Palm Springs, isolating the city.

1989: The barometric pressure at Norway, Alaska reached 31.85 inches (1078.4 mb) establishing an all-time record for the North American Continent. The temperature at the time of the record was about 46 degrees below zero. Severe arctic cold began to invade the north central U.S. The temperature at Grand Fall, Montana plunged 85 degrees in 36 hours. Valentine, Nebraska plummeted from a record high of 70 degrees to zero in just nine hours. Northwest winds gusted to 86 mph at Lander WY, and wind chill readings of 80 degrees below zero were reported in Montana. Sixty-four cities in the central U.S. reported record highs for the date as readings reached the 60s in Michigan and the 80s in Kansas.

1949 - The temperature at San Antonio, TX, plunged to a record low of one degree below zero. Helena MT reached 42 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1966 - A blizzard struck the northeastern U.S. When the storm came to an end, twenty inches of snow covered the ground at Washington D.C. (David Ludlum)

1982 - A snowstorm struck Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. Twenty-five inches of snow at Greenville IL, located east of Saint Louis, paralyzed the community. The storm left 4000 motorists stranded for two days. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm in the Pacific Northwest produced wind gusts to 85 mph in Oregon, and nearly two inches of rain in twelve hours in the Puget Sound area of Washington State. Ten inches of snow at Stampede Pass WA brought their total snow cover to 84 inches. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-one cities in the central and northeastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date, with many occurring during the early morning hours. Temperatures in western New York State reached the 60s early in the day. Strong northerly winds in the north central U.S. produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero in North Dakota. (National Weather Summary)

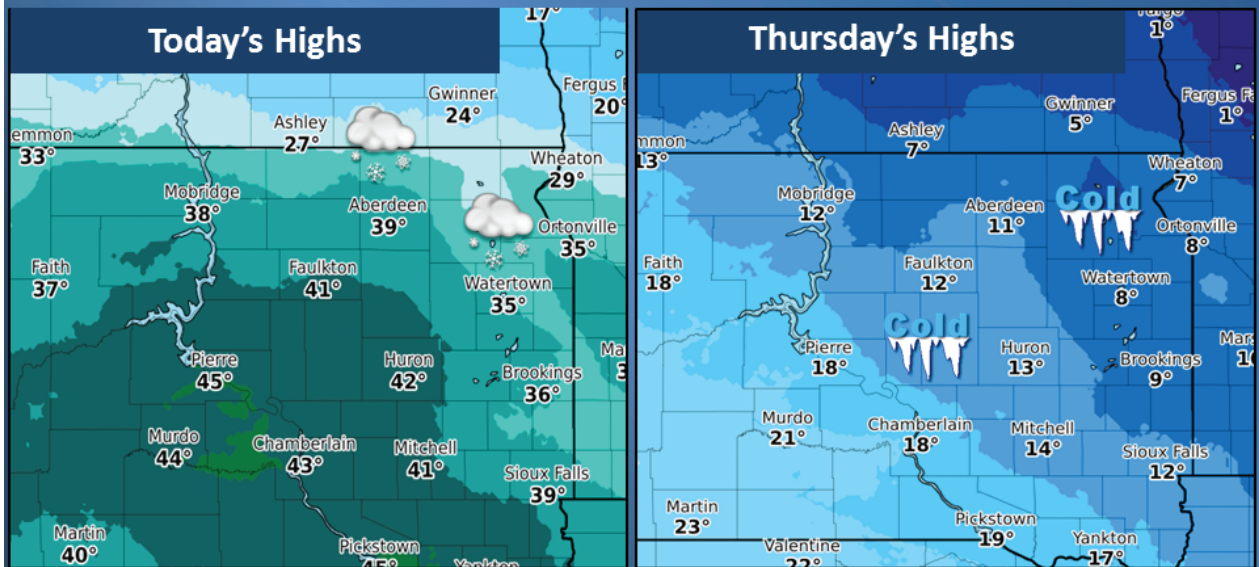
1990 - High winds in Montana on the 28th, gusting to 77 mph at Judith Gap, were followed by three days of snow. Heavy snow fell over northwest Montana, with up to 24 inches reported in the mountains. An avalanche covered the road near Essex with six feet of snow. Snow and high winds also plagued parts of the southwestern U.S. Winds gusted to 54 mph at Show Low AZ, and Flagstaff AZ was blanketed with eight inches of snow. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Wed Jan 31	Thu Feb 1	Fri Feb 2	Sat Feb 3	Sun Feb 4	Mon Feb 5	Tue Feb 6
37°F	9°F	25°F	8°F	12°F	19°F	16°F
-1°F	-3°F	2°F	-9°F	0°F	-2°F	3°F
W 23 MPH Precip 40%	NNW 15 MPH	S 9 MPH	N 13 MPH Precip 50%	WSW 8 MPH	NNW 8 MPH Precip 20%	WNW 7 MPH

Mild Again Today, Colder Thursday



Light Snow: Moving into northeast SD and west central MN this afternoon with light accumulations of an inch or less.

NWS Aberdeen,
Updated: 1/31/2018 5:39 AM Central

Published on: 01/31/2018 at 5:43AM

Another mild day is in store, but changes are coming. An area of low pressure and associated cold front will drop south across the region today. This system will spread an area of light snow across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota, with light accumulations possible - generally an inch or less. Much colder air will follow this system as a cold front moves south through the area late this afternoon. Highs on Thursday will only be in the single digits and teens.

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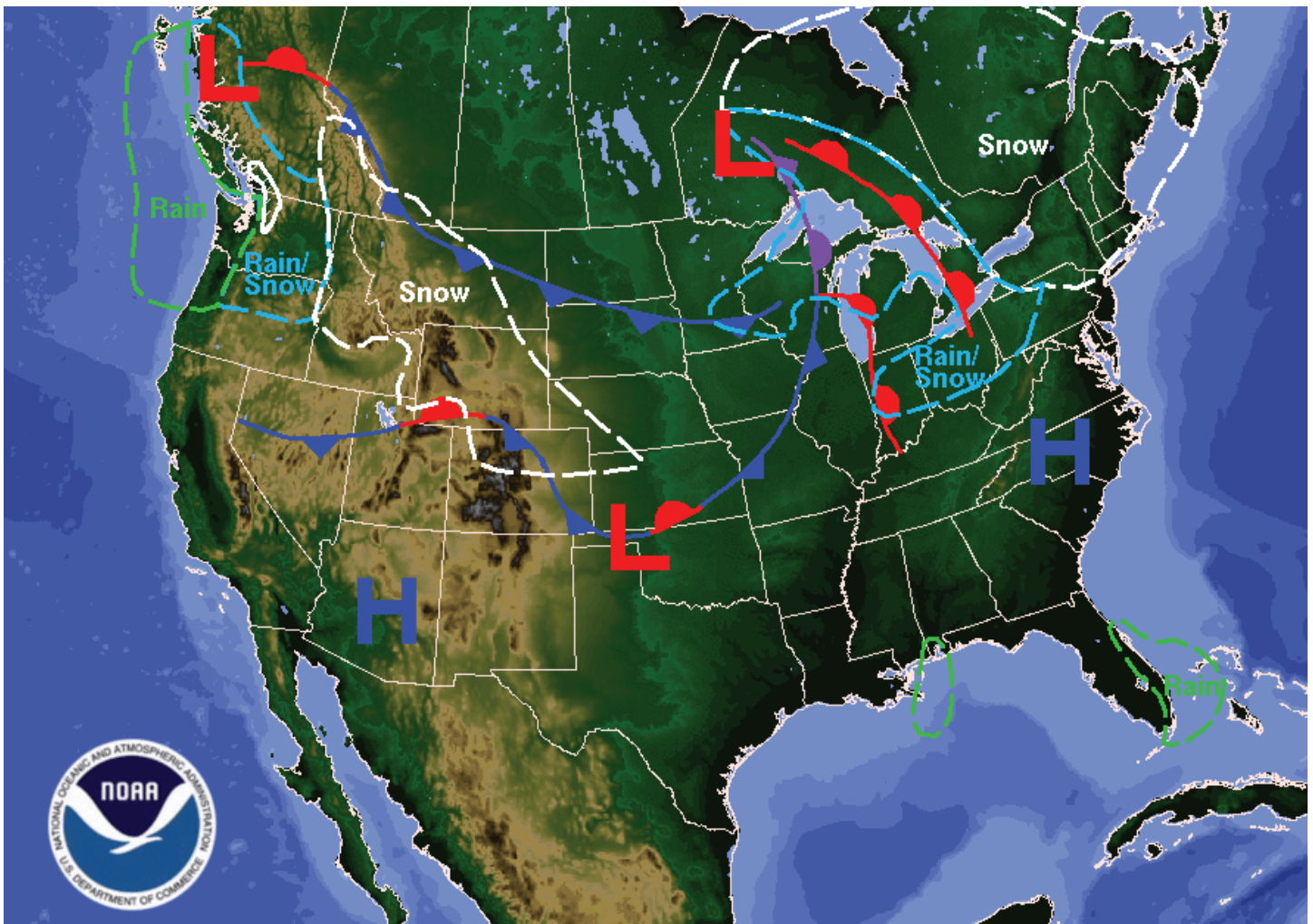
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 37.1 F at 10:52 PM
Low Outside Temp: 15.7 F at 12:00 AM
Wind Chill: -
High Gust: 34.0 Mph at 10:29 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 51° in 1924
Record Low: -32° in 1996
Average High: 24°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan: 0.47
Precip to date in Jan: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.47
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:39 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:54 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Jan 31, 2018, issued 3:53 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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GLORIOUS THINGS!

The Psalmist wrote: "Glorious things are said of You!"

John Newton once was a slave trader. After becoming a Christian he became a powerful preacher, a leader in the fight against slavery and a famous hymn writer.

One of his hymns contains those Glorious Things!

"He whose Word cannot be broken" reminds us of the faithfulness of God – a centerpiece of the Psalms. In psalm after psalm we hear the echo of God's faithfulness giving strength, hope and encouragement to the children of Israel. Though they often abandoned God and at times paid a dear price for forsaking Him, He was there every time they called on Him and immediately answered their cry.

"Well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove." There never was a time in their history that God did not feed them, go before them or watch over them. When they looked to Him for forgiveness, and repented of their sinful ways, His mercy met them at their point of need and His blessings followed. He was with them to meet their needs, remove their fear and grant them the desires of their heart.

"Grace which, like the Lord, the Giver, Never fails from age to age." If there ever was a time in the history of our nation that we needed to be reminded that God's grace would "never fail" it is now. Everywhere we look, we see a need for His love, mercy, grace, salvation and our nation's restoration. It is not His glory that has vanished – it is our unwillingness to share His grace with others.

Prayer: Lord, how disappointed You must be when You see what we can do to share Your grace, yet do nothing. Forgive us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 87:3 Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!

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

Man acquitted in fatal Dell Rapids shooting

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A jury has acquitted a defendant who claimed he acted in self-defense when he shot and killed a man during a confrontation on a Dells Rapid street in 2016.

Twenty-four-year-old Alex Wittenberg was found not guilty Tuesday night of second-degree murder and first- and second-degree manslaughter in the death of 39-year-old Jonathan Puttmann. The two men fought when Wittenberg accompanied Puttmann's estranged wife who was dropping off the couple's children at Puttmann's house on Nov. 15, 2016.

The Argus Leader says the jury deliberated about 9½ before acquitting Wittenberg on all counts.

Prosecutors argued that even though Puttmann threw the first punch, he did not deserve to be shot. The defense said the rules of self-defense don't require those accused to wait to be seriously injured before defending themselves.

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

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 62, Huron 47
Alcester-Hudson 47, Centerville 40
Arlington 47, Hamlin 41
Bennett County 53, Kadoka Area 50
Burke/South Central 43, Wagner 30
Clark/Willow Lake 64, Sisseton 53
Dell Rapids 53, Flandreau 51
Dell Rapids St. Mary 58, Gayville-Volin 53, OT
DeSmet 48, Wolsey-Wessington 38
Deuel 31, Milbank Area 29
Flandreau Indian 67, Elkton-Lake Benton 58
Freeman Academy/Marion 52, Marty Indian 45
Garretson 58, Baltic 56
Great Plains Lutheran 64, Lake Preston 52
Gregory 80, Lyman 76
Highmore-Harrold 68, Sunshine Bible Academy 33
Hitchcock-Tulare 40, James Valley Christian 37, OT
Irene-Wakonda 73, Howard 21
Langford 52, Groton Area 49
Madison 73, Lennox 67
Mobridge-Pollock 72, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 59
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 54, Mitchell Christian 52
Oelrichs 58, Bison 48
Parker 86, Chester 55
Parkston 50, McCook Central/Montrose 47
Pierre 53, Mitchell 48
Pine Ridge 64, St. Francis Indian 61
Platte-Geddes 55, Chamberlain 50, OT

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Red Cloud 91, Little Wound 71
Redfield/Doland 59, Potter County 36
Sioux Falls Lincoln 67, Brookings 45
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 45, Watertown 34
Spearfish 66, Lead-Deadwood 51
Stanley County 59, Todd County 58
Sully Buttes 65, Jones County 29
Timber Lake 63, Dupree 28
Tri-Valley 58, West Central 57
Vermillion 60, Beresford 35
Warner 62, Faulkton 28
Waverly-South Shore 51, Estelline 38
Wessington Springs 60, Iroquois 54, OT

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 62, Miller 50
Alcester-Hudson 53, Centerville 27
Avon 57, Menno 36
Belle Fourche 43, St. Thomas More 42
Canistota 56, Viborg-Hurley 47
Chamberlain 42, Platte-Geddes 35
Colman-Egan 47, Hendricks, Minn. 37
Corsica/Stickney 47, Burke/South Central 38
Elkton-Lake Benton 41, Flandreau Indian 39
Faith 60, McIntosh 43
Freeman 63, Scotland 36
Freeman Academy/Marion 49, Marty Indian 45
Hamlin 63, Arlington 23
Harrisburg 46, Brandon Valley 43
Highmore-Harrold 63, Sunshine Bible Academy 49
Hitchcock-Tulare 47, James Valley Christian 40
Huron 66, Aberdeen Central 34
Ipswich 48, Leola/Frederick 45
Irene-Wakonda 79, Howard 73, OT
Lake Preston 57, Great Plains Lutheran 48
Lemmon 52, Harding County 35
Lennox 44, Elk Point-Jefferson 32
Lower Brule 77, White River 61
McCook Central/Montrose 65, Parkston 32
McLaughlin 67, Takini 42
Milbank 45, Deuel 42
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 44, Mitchell Christian 17
Oelrichs 65, Bison 32
Parker 48, Chester 44
Pierre 54, Mitchell 45
Pine Ridge 63, St. Francis Indian 21
Rapid City Stevens 67, Douglas 42
Redfield/Doland 48, Potter County 40
Sioux Falls Christian 61, Canton 33
Sioux Falls Lincoln 49, Brookings 45
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 60, Yankton 52

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Sioux Valley 47, DeSmet 45
Spearfish 46, Lead-Deadwood 35
Sully Buttes 76, Jones County 45
Tea Area 62, Garretson 60, OT
Timber Lake 57, Dupree 40
Todd County 94, Stanley County 25
Vermillion 54, Beresford 41
Warner 48, Faulkton 35
Waverly-South Shore 56, Estelline 23
Wessington Springs 58, Iroquois 13

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

29-41-42-49-57, Mega Ball: 24, Megaplier: 3

(twenty-nine, forty-one, forty-two, forty-nine, fifty-seven; Mega Ball: twenty-four; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$89 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$127 million

Daum has 35 points, 18 boards; South Dakota St beats Omaha

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum scored 35 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for his 24th career double-double and South Dakota State beat Omaha 80-60 on Tuesday night.

Daum went over 30 points for the 20th time in his career. He also became the first Jackrabbit at the Division I level to record four straight double-doubles.

Tevin King added 14 points and Skyler Flatten 12 for South Dakota State (19-6, 7-1 Summit). Flatten, a senior, was in double figures for the fourth straight game and 17th of his career.

Daum beat the halftime buzzer with a layup for his 20th point and South Dakota State led 44-28. Reed Tellinghuisen, averaging 13.2 points, put the Jacks up 49-30 with his 241st career 3-pointer. Those were his only points of the night.

Zach Jackson led Omaha (7-17, 2-6) with 20 points. KJ Robinson scored 12, Daniel Norl 11 and Mitchell Hahn had seven points and 11 rebounds.

South Dakota winter wheat faring well but moisture short

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Winter wheat in South Dakota appears to be weathering the winter fairly well, but dry conditions persist in the state.

The Agriculture Department says in its monthly crop report that three-fourths of the state's winter wheat crop is rated fair or good.

However, only about one-third of the topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies in the state are rated adequate to surplus.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor Map shows that much of central and western South Dakota remains in moderate-to-severe drought.

South Dakota logging operation underway after park wildfire

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — One of the largest operations to salvage timber in South Dakota's Custer State Park is underway following a wildfire that thinned the forest in December.

About 15 contractors will log nearly 6,200 acres of charred Ponderosa pines over the next six to 12 weeks, the Rapid City Journal reported. The Legion Lake Fire ripped through about 85 square miles (220 square kilometers) in Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park and private land last month.

"We'll be dealing with this fire for the next five to ten years," said Mark Hendrix, the park's resource program manager. Hendrix said the longest operations will include erosion control and weed spraying, but logging is the focus for the next few months.

Forester Amanda Morrison said logging improves safety for visitors and aids the forest floor. She said there will be higher than normal grass and shrubbery growth this spring and summer.

The fire's timing is helpful to foresters because winter weather delays the number of insects that tunnel and feed under the bark in living wood, which destroys water and sap conducting tissues.

Morrison has been working with contractors to determine which trees will remain and which will be removed.

Morrison said a tree's crown is used as a barometer. Trees without needles and trees scorched red and yellow between 70 percent and 100 percent will be removed. Trees with even 30 percent of a green crown have a 50 percent survival rate.

Logging companies were awarded bids between \$1 per ton of timber to \$4 per ton. Morrison said she hopes the timber sale will help the park break even.

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

Jury deliberates in Dells Rapids fatal shooting

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A jury is deciding whether a defendant accused of fatally shooting a Dell Rapids man is guilty of murder or manslaughter or whether he was acting in self-defense.

Twenty-four-year-old Alex Wittenberg is on trial the shooting death of 39-year-old Johnathan Puttmann in November 2016 in Dell Rapids.

The Argus Leader says Wittenberg took the stand Monday in the fifth day of his jury trial. Wittenberg has maintained he acted in self-defense when he shot Puttmann. Wittenberg was with Puttmann's soon-to-be ex-wife to drop off Puttmann's children for a visit when the men fought in the street.

Prosecutors in Minnehaha County say Puttmann did not deserve to die just because he threw a few punches at Wittenberg.

The jury got the case following closing arguments Tuesday.

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

SD official: Universities shouldn't be immigration police

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A top South Dakota Board of Regents official says universities shouldn't play the role of immigration police after a lawmaker proposed banning people who are living in the U.S. illegally from enrolling at the state's public colleges.

Mike Rush, the regents' executive director and CEO, says the board doesn't believe it's an issue at South Dakota public universities.

Rush says universities don't make a determination whether a student is in the country illegally. He says that's a federal determination and regents' institutions aren't equipped to make the judgment.

Republican Sen. Stace Nelson's bill would also declare such people ineligible for resident tuition, scholarships or other financial aid.

It would require the board to develop a method for each school to verify with the federal government an "alien's lawful presence" in the U.S.

Pharmaceutical firms give \$305K to oppose drug price cap

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two pharmaceutical companies have contributed a combined \$305,000 to oppose a potential South Dakota ballot measure that would cap the amount state agencies could pay for prescription drugs.

South Dakotans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue disclosed raising roughly \$314,000 in cash and donated goods and services in a 2017 year-end campaign finance report.

That includes \$100,000 from Bristol-Myers Squibb and \$205,000 from Novo Nordisk. The ballot question group ended the year with about \$270,000 in the bank.

Initiative supporters have submitted signatures to qualify for the 2018 ballot. The measure would prohibit state agencies from paying more than the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for prescription drugs.

Industry groups have appealed to the state Supreme Court after a judge rejected their challenge to the attorney general's explanation of the measure.

Federal judge sides with adult store businessman

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled Rapid City violated a businessman's constitutional rights in denying a permit to open an adult store.

The ruling from Judge Jeffrey Viken overturns a City Council decision against granting a conditional use permit for Dick and Jane's Naughty Spot. David Eliason wanted to sell adult movies and magazines, lingerie and sex toys at the store. He was given initial approval by the city's planning commission.

The Argus Leader says a nearby taekwondo studio objected to the sexually-oriented store because a city ordinance bars such business from being within 1,000 feet of any educational facility. Viken ruled the city's ordinance is overly broad. Viken says some City Council members who expressed moral disapproval of the establishment may not have objectively applied zoning guidelines.

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

South Dakota Senate advances weapons bill governor opposes

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — People would be able to carry concealed weapons without a permit in South Dakota under a measure that advanced Tuesday in the Republican-led Senate, despite opposition from GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 5-2 to send the bill to the chamber's floor. It would also have to move through the state House to reach Daugaard, who has said he would veto it.

The Republican governor rejected a similar proposal last year, saying the state's permit process is simple and straightforward. House lawmakers failed to muster enough support to overcome the veto.

Daugaard said recently that the permits help protect against concealed carry by people who have committed crimes and those with mental illness or intoxication issues.

"I don't see any reason why I would support this bill," Daugaard said. "Would I veto it? Yes, I would."

GOP Sen. Lance Russell, the bill's sponsor, said Tuesday that the measure has worked in other states. Republican Sen. Stace Nelson, a supporter, said the bill "un-infringes the constitution."

"Carrying concealed is an important aspect for the safety of the individual, for them to be able to retain their firearm," Nelson said.

It is currently a misdemeanor for someone to carry a concealed pistol or to have one concealed in a vehicle without a permit. At the end of December 2017, more than 100,000 people in South Dakota had concealed carry permits.

Gregory man sentenced to 8 years for severely beating woman

GREGORY, S.D. (AP) — A Gregory man who authorities say severely beat a woman after she asked him to watch her child when he wanted to nap has been sentenced to serve eight years in prison.

The Daily Republic reports 35-year-old Whitney Covey was recently sentenced on a charge of domestic

abuse aggravated assault causing bodily injury with indifference to human life.

He pleaded guilty in December and prosecutors dropped other charges including attempted murder.

The charges stemmed from a July 2017 incident in which authorities say Covey engaged in "45 minutes of nonstop assault" on the woman while threatening to kill her.

He was also ordered to pay more than \$12,000 in fines.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Bond set for suspect shot by officer after vehicle incident

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Bond has been set at \$500,000 for a man accused of trying to hit a police officer with his vehicle in North Dakota.

Twenty-two-year-old Ulises Villalobos-Alvarado appeared in court Monday on felony charges of attempted murder and fleeing a peace officer. He said he would accept a public defender for now but will eventually seek his own attorney.

Villalobos-Alvarado is accused of trying to run over a Bismarck officer who subsequently shot him in the arm. The incident happened Jan. 18 as police and probation officers were conducting a probation search Jan. 18. He later turned himself in at a gas station in Brookings, South Dakota.

He waived extradition and was returned to North Dakota on Friday to face the charges.

Nassar to face another sentence, victims in return to court

By ED WHITE and DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Larry Nassar, the former sports doctor accused of sexually assaulting more than 150 women and girls, will be confronted again by scores of victims as he faces another prison sentence for molesting gymnasts, this time at an elite Michigan club run by an Olympic coach.

Judge Janice Cunningham has set aside several days for roughly 60 people who want to confront Nassar or have their statement read in court. The hearing starting Wednesday could unfold much the same as a hearing last week in another county that ended with Nassar getting sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison — what a different judge described as signing the doctor's "death warrant."

The practice of allowing accusers to speak even if they are not tied directly to a case has raised questions about fairness. But attorneys say the victim statements probably pose little risk on appeal, especially since Nassar pleaded guilty, agreed to allow the statements and is expected to get another long prison sentence as part of his deal with prosecutors.

"If you get what you bargained for, then you really can't argue that you were prejudiced in any way," said Margaret Raben, former leader of a Michigan association of criminal defense attorneys.

It's not uncommon for prosecutors to introduce "aggravating" evidence at sentencing to support their request for a severe punishment. But the parade of victims offering emotional accounts of their abuse to the face of an abuser went well beyond the typical hearing.

Raben said there was a "horrible dynamic" last week in Judge Rosemarie Aquilina's courtroom, even if the judge had the option to allow so many people to speak in a case that involved just seven victims.

"Her obvious delight was just off the wall," Raben said, referring to Aquilina's "death warrant" remark and others. "I am not defending Larry Nassar at all, but what I saw with her was a real abandonment of judicial demeanor. ... The process doesn't change because everybody hates the defendant. That is the absolute glory, or should be, of the American justice system."

A fellow Ingham County judge, William Collette, said Aquilina's handling of the hearing was "outrageous." Others, however, have praised her treatment of victims and their parents.

The case on Cunningham's docket Wednesday in Eaton County centers on Nassar's assaults at Twistars, a Lansing-area gymnastics club that was run by 2012 Olympic coach John Geddert. Nassar admits penetrating three girls with his hands when he was supposed to be treating them for injuries.

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So far, 57 victims want to speak in court or submit statements. Attorney Mick Grewal said 11 of his clients have signed up, including some who were inspired by the 150-plus young women and girls who appeared in Aquilina's court. He called it a "cathartic experience."

"Now they're at a point in their healing process where they want to confront Larry, and they want to show the world that they are survivors and they are strong and they are part of this movement," Grewal said. "It helps them through the healing process."

He said the Nassar cases are extraordinary in the number of victims who have come forward.

"The only case that's out there that's even similar in stature is Penn State, and this is now six times as big as Penn State, maybe seven times," Grewal said, referring to boys who said they were sexually abused by assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky.

Meanwhile, the Nassar scandal continued to trigger other developments around the country, from Texas to the nation's capital.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott ordered a criminal investigation after victims said they were assaulted by Nassar at the Karolyi Ranch, a famous Texas facility that was the training ground for U.S. women's gymnastics. The ranch is owned by former national team coordinators Bela and Martha Karolyi.

USA Gymnastics cut ties with the ranch earlier this month, a few days after Olympic champion Simone Biles and said she dreaded the thought of having to return there to train.

In Michigan, former Gov. John Engler was expected to become interim president at Michigan State, according to a high-ranking school official involved in the plan.

The official told The Associated Press that trustees would vote Wednesday to hire Engler. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision had not been publicly announced. The school's top post is vacant after Lou Anna Simon resigned last week.

Engler will head the school as it confronts lawsuits filed by more than 100 women and girls, and investigations by the state attorney general, the NCAA and Congress.

One of Michigan State's corporate sponsors chose not to have its logo behind basketball coach Tom Izzo and football coach Mark Dantonio during recent news conferences. Auto-Owners Insurance spokesman Trevor Mahoney told the AP on Tuesday the company did not think it was appropriate.

Also Tuesday, former basketball player Travis Walton defended himself days after ESPN reported he was named in a sexual assault report and had assault and battery charges dismissed in 2010. At the time, Walton's four-year career as a guard with the Spartans was over and he was assisting Izzo while taking classes to graduate.

Walton said in a statement that he had multiple consensual encounters with a woman, who accused him of rape. Walton said he never hit a woman as alleged in a bar, where he said she threw a drink at him.

And in Washington, the Senate approved a bill that would require governing bodies for amateur athletics to quickly report claims of abuse to law enforcement.

White reported from Detroit.

AP Sports Writer Larry Lage contributed to this report.

Trump favors release of memo White House wants reviewed

By CHAD DAY and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump was overheard Tuesday night telling a Republican lawmaker he is "100 percent" in favor of releasing a classified memo on the Russia investigation that has sparked a political fight pitting Republicans against the FBI and the Justice Department.

"Oh yeah, don't worry," the president told South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan on the House floor after his first State of the Union address. "100 percent."

Duncan had implored Trump to "release the memo."

Television cameras captured the exchange as Trump was leaving the chamber.

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The White House had said before the speech that it was still conducting a legal and national security review of the document, and press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters earlier Tuesday that Trump still had not been briefed on its contents.

The memo arrived at the White House on Monday evening after Republicans on the House intelligence committee brushed aside opposition from the Justice Department and voted to release it. Under committee rules, the president has five days to object to its release.

The four-page memo was written by Republicans on the committee, led by chairman Rep. Devin Nunes of California, a close Trump ally who has become a fierce critic of the FBI and the Justice Department.

Republicans have said the memo reveals improper use of surveillance by the FBI and the Justice Department in the Russia investigation. Democrats have called it a selectively edited group of GOP talking points that attempt to distract from the committee's own investigation into Russian meddling.

On Tuesday, House Speaker Paul Ryan said he supports the memo's release but doesn't want Republicans to use it to attack special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign was involved.

"This is a completely separate matter from Bob Mueller's investigation and his investigation should be allowed to take its course," Ryan said, noting that he also supports Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who oversees Mueller.

Ryan said the memo shows "there may have been malfeasance at the FBI by certain individuals." He did not provide additional details, only saying that "there are legitimate questions about whether an American's civil liberties were violated by the FISA process," a reference to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

It's unclear how FBI malfeasance could have solely resulted in a judge signing off on a FISA warrant. Applications for such warrants are submitted by Justice Department lawyers before a judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. Those lawyers would have to authorize and ultimately prepare any filing that is made.

The vote to release the memo is an unprecedented move by the committee, which typically goes out of its way to protect classified information in the interest of protecting intelligence sources and methods.

It also came after Rosenstein and FBI Director Christopher Wray warned White House chief of staff John Kelly that releasing the memo publicly could set a dangerous precedent, according to a person familiar with the conversation.

Rosenstein and Wray voiced their concerns personally to Kelly during a meeting at the White House on Monday ahead of the vote by the House intelligence committee, said the person, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity. Rosenstein also told Kelly the memo didn't accurately characterize the FBI's investigative practices, the person said.

The Washington Post first reported the details of the White House meeting. The FBI and the Justice Department declined comment.

The Justice Department had said in a letter last week that it would be "extraordinarily reckless" to release the memo without first giving the FBI and the department the chance to review it.

After those complaints, Wray reviewed the memo over the weekend. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., who was with Wray when he reviewed the memo, said the FBI director did not raise any national security concerns with him. Gowdy said the memo doesn't reveal any intelligence methods but it does reveal "one source."

But Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said Wray told him Monday that the review didn't satisfy his concerns about the memo's release. Wray wanted to brief the committee about FBI and Justice Department concerns ahead of any release, a request committee Republicans blocked, Schiff said.

On Tuesday, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders pushed back on reports that the release was imminent, saying the White House has no "current plans" to do so. "The President has not seen or been briefed on the memo or reviewed its contents," she said.

A senior White House official said the National Security Council is leading an interagency review of the memo. If Trump decides to release the memo, it could be made public as early as Wednesday afternoon, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss confidential internal deliberations.

So far, the official said, the Justice Department is the only agency opposing its release. Asked Tuesday about the department's position on the memo's release, Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores declined comment.

Republicans said they are confident the release won't harm national security. They also said they would not release the underlying intelligence that informed the memo.

"You'll see for yourself that it's not necessary," said Texas Rep. Mike Conaway of Texas, who's leading the House's Russia investigation.

But Schiff said the memo's release could compromise intelligence sources and methods.

Some Republican senators have also said they don't want to release the memo, and Democrats have pushed back on Republican criticism of the FBI, saying it is an attempt to discredit Mueller's investigation. The probe has already resulted in charges against four of Trump's former campaign advisers and has recently moved closer to Trump's inner circle.

In response, Democrats on the panel have put together their own memo. On Monday, the committee voted to make the Democratic memo available to all House members — but not the public. Conaway said he was open to making it public after House members have a chance to review it.

Separately Tuesday, the House committee's interview with former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon was delayed, according to two people familiar with the decision. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private committee deliberations.

Bannon was set to be interviewed behind closed doors Wednesday. But one of the people familiar with the decision to delay it said it was premature to schedule it this week because discussions have only just started with the White House over what Bannon can tell the committee.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Jonathan Lemire, Tom LoBianco, Mary Clare Jalonick and Andy Taylor contributed to this report.

Trump calls for optimism in spite of warnings of danger

By JULIE PACE and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Addressing a deeply divided nation, President Donald Trump summoned the country to a "new American moment" of unity in his first State of the Union, challenging Congress to make good on long-standing promises to fix a fractured immigration system and warning darkly of evil forces seeking to undermine America's way of life.

Trump's address Tuesday night blended self-congratulation and calls for optimism amid a growing economy with ominous warnings about deadly gangs, the scourge of drugs and violent immigrants living in the United States illegally. He cast the debate over immigration — an issue that has long animated his most ardent supporters — as a battle between heroes and villains, leaning heavily on the personal stories of White House guests in the crowd. He praised a law enforcement agent who arrested more than 100 gang members, and he recognized the families of two alleged gang victims.

He also spoke forebodingly of catastrophic dangers from abroad, warning that North Korea would "very soon" threaten the United States with nuclear-tipped missiles.

"The United States is a compassionate nation. We are proud that we do more than any other country to help the needy, the struggling and the underprivileged all over the world," Trump said. "But as president of the United States, my highest loyalty, my greatest compassion, and my constant concern is for America's children, America's struggling workers and America's forgotten communities."

Trump addressed the nation with tensions running high on Capitol Hill. An impasse over immigration prompted a three-day government shutdown earlier this year, and lawmakers appear no closer to resolving the status of the "Dreamers" — young people living in the U.S. illegally ahead of a new Feb. 8 deadline for funding operations. The parties have also clashed this week over the plans of Republicans on the House intelligence committee to release a classified memo on the Russia investigation involving Trump's

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presidential campaign — a decision the White House backs but the Justice Department is fighting.

The controversies that have dogged Trump — and the ones he has created — have overshadowed strong economic gains during his first year in office. His approval ratings have hovered in the 30s for much of his presidency, and just 3 in 10 Americans said the United States was heading in the right direction, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. In the same survey, 67 percent of Americans said the country was more divided because of Trump.

At times, Trump's address appeared to be aimed more at validating his first year in office than setting the course for his second. He devoted significant time to touting the tax overhaul he signed at the end of last year, promising the plan will "provide tremendous relief for the middle class and small businesses." He also highlighted the decision made early in his first year to withdraw the U.S. from a sweeping Asia-Pacific trade pact, declaring: "The era of economic surrender is totally over."

He spoke about potential agenda items for 2018 in broad terms, including a call for \$1.5 trillion in new infrastructure spending and partnerships with states and the private sector. He touched only briefly on issues like health care that have been at the center of the Republican Party's policy agenda for years.

Tackling the sensitive immigration debate that has roiled Washington, Trump redoubled his recent pledge to offer a path to citizenship for 1.8 million young immigrants — but only as part of a package that would also require increased funding for border security, including a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, ending the nation's visa lottery method and revamping the current legal immigration system. Some Republicans are wary of the hardline elements of Trump's plan and it's unclear whether his blueprint could pass Congress.

"Americans are dreamers too," Trump said, in an apparent effort to reclaim the term used to describe the young immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

A former New York Democrat, the president also played to the culture wars that have long illuminated American politics, alluding to his public spat with professional athletes who led protests against racial injustice by kneeling during the national anthem, declaring that paying tribute to the flag is a "civic duty."

Republicans led multiple rounds of enthusiastic applause during the speech, but for the opposition party it was a more somber affair. Democrats provided a short spurt of polite applause for Trump as he entered the chamber, but offered muted reactions throughout the speech. A cluster of about two dozen Democrats, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus, remained planted firmly in their seats, staring sternly at the president and withholding applause.

After devastating defeats in 2016, Democrats are hopeful that Trump's sagging popularity can help the party rebound in November's midterm elections. In a post-speech rebuttal, Massachusetts Rep. Joe Kennedy, the grandson of Robert F. Kennedy, was seeking to undercut Trump's optimistic tone and remind voters of the personal insults and attacks often leveled by the president.

"Bullies may land a punch," Kennedy said. "They might leave a mark. But they have never, not once, in the history of our United States, managed to match the strength and spirit of a people united in defense of their future."

The arc of Trump's 80-minute speech featured the personal stories of men and women who joined first lady Melania Trump in the audience. The guests included a New Mexico policeman and his wife who adopted a baby from parents who suffered from opioid addiction, and Ji Seong-ho, a defector from North Korea and outspoken critic of the Kim Jong-un government.

On international affairs, Trump warned of the dangers from "rogue regimes," like Iran and North Korea, terrorist groups, like the Islamic State, and "rivals" like China and Russia "that challenge our interests, our economy and our values." Calling on Congress to lift budgetary caps and boost spending on the military, Trump said that "unmatched power is the surest means of our defense."

Trump's biggest foreign policy announcement of the night concerned the Guantanamo Bay detention center, which former President Barack Obama tried but failed to close. Reversing Obama's policy, Trump said he'd signed an executive order Tuesday directing the Pentagon to keep the prison open while re-examining the military's policy on detention.

Trump said he was also asking Congress to ensure the U.S. had needed powers to detain Islamic State group members and other "terrorists wherever we chase them down," though it was unclear whether he

was referring to a new war powers authorization or some other mechanism. Trump also said he wanted Congress to pass a law ensuring U.S. foreign aid goes only "to America's friends" — a reference to his frustration at U.S. aid recipients that voted at the U.N. to rebuke his decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Mrs. Trump arrived at the Capitol ahead of her husband to attend a reception with guests of the White House, but she rode back to the White House with him. It was the first time she was seen publicly with the president following a report that his lawyer arranged a payment to a porn star, Stormy Daniels, to prevent her from talking about an alleged affair. Daniels denied the affair in a new statement released hours before the speech.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Zeke Miller at <http://twitter.com/zekejmilller>

Analysts say Trump comments bad news for North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Donald Trump's fiery comments on North Korea reflected confidence that his campaign of pressure and sanctions on the country is working, South Korean analysts said Wednesday.

The experts said it also means Washington will continue to deny Pyongyang meaningful dialogue unless it's willing to discuss serious changes to its nuclear weapons program and human rights conditions.

In his first State of the Union address, Trump warned that North Korea would "very soon" threaten the United States with nuclear-tipped missiles.

He also warned of the dangers from other "rogue regimes," like Iran, terrorist groups, like the Islamic State, and "rivals" like China and Russia "that challenge our interests, our economy and our values." Calling on Congress to lift budgetary caps and boost spending on the military, Trump said that "unmatched power is the surest means of our defense."

Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said that for North Korea, it has to hurt that Trump declared the country as a regime that cannot co-exist with the founding values of the United States.

"He made it clear that his 'maximum pressure and engagement' policy will continue to be the only way going forward," he said. "It was probably the worst message he could deliver to the North without issuing a direct military threat."

Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University and a security adviser to South Korea's presidential office, says Trump likely saw North Korea's outreach over the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics as a clear sign that pressure and sanctions are working.

News of the speech was not immediately broadcast in North Korea on Wednesday, which is not unusual. It often takes a day or more before the North responds officially and few North Koreans were likely even aware that Trump was to make a major address before the nation and the world.

The North's state-run media has, however, amped up its anti-U.S. rhetoric lately, accusing Washington of trying to create tensions ahead of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. Pyongyang has also stepped up its warnings that the U.S. is preparing for a possible war by sending aircraft carrier battle groups and advanced stealth bombers and fighters to the region.

In Beijing, China called on the U.S. to drop what it terms a "Cold War mentality and zero-sum ideology."

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chuying said that common interests outweigh differences between the sides and the U.S. should view the relationship "correctly."

China's \$275 billion trade surplus with the U.S. has been a constant source of tension, alongside their growing rivalry for military supremacy in Asia and accusations of intellectual property theft.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that Trump has confirmed his "ignorance" in remarks on Iran in his address.

Zarif tweeted: "Trump again confirms his ignorance of Iran & region. Everyone knows where he stands; and it's certainly not with Iranians."

Earlier, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the people of Iran will continue supporting the Islamic Republic despite foreign pressure.

Rouhani said in remarks broadcast by state TV: "The Iranian nation will never give up Imam Khomeini's legacy; Islamism and Republicanism. Return is impossible."

In the Philippines, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told The Associated Press that it did not really matter that Trump failed to mention U.S. policy on the South China Sea disputes involving China, the Philippines and four other governments, but that Manila would lend its support to fighting terrorism whenever the efforts of the two nations coincide.

"If our efforts against terrorists coincide, well and good, we cooperate," he said. "But in reality, each country will be addressing its own security problems by any legal means at its disposal."

The U.S. deployed surveillance aircraft to help Philippine forces quell an Islamic State group-linked siege in southern Marawi city last year.

South Korean skiers arrive in North for joint training event

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean skiers flew to North Korea on Wednesday to train with its athletes in a conciliatory gesture the countries planned to mark the Winter Olympics in the South.

The chartered flight carrying a delegation of 45 — including 24 alpine and cross-country skiers, support staff and journalists — arrived in North Korea's Kalma Airport before the athletes went to the Masik ski resort, Seoul's Unification Ministry said.

The skiers are reserve members of South Korea's national team and won't be participating in the Pyeongchang Games that start Feb. 9.

The South Koreans are to fly back Thursday accompanied by 10 North Korean athletes — six skiers, two figure skaters and two short-track speed skaters — who have been invited to participate in the Olympics, according to a pool report. Twelve North Korean female ice hockey players arrived in South Korea last week and are practicing with South Korean teammates for a unified team that will compete in the Olympics.

The South Korean skiers briefly practiced among themselves at the Masik ski resort on Wednesday, according to the pool report. The South Korean and North Korean skiers didn't talk or ski together, although they later chanted "we are one" during a group photo. The skiers are scheduled to participate in joint training sessions and friendly competitions at the resort on Thursday.

"I feel a bit tense, but I think this will be a fun experience," South Korean alpine skier Kim Hyun-soo said before departing for North Korea, according to the pool report. "When else would I be able to visit North Korea?"

South Korea is preparing to host hundreds of North Koreans during the Olympics, including officials, athletes, artists, journalists and a 230-member cheering group. Liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in sees the games as an opportunity to resume meaningful contact with North Korea following an extended period of tension and a diplomatic stalemate over its nuclear and missile programs.

Uncertainties surrounded Wednesday's trip, which South Korea wasn't able to confirm until less than two hours before the athletes departed from Yangyang International Airport. South Korea held discussions with the United States until the last minute to ensure the trip wouldn't violate U.S. sanctions against the North.

Washington agreed to consider the flight an exception to sanctions announced by the Trump administration in September that include banning vessels and aircraft that have visited North Korea from visiting the United States within 180 days, said Unification Ministry spokesman Baik Tae-hyun, who didn't elaborate further on the talks.

He said the North Korean skiers who travel to South Korea on Thursday will head to the athletes' village in Gangneung, a coastal city that will host the skating, hockey and curling competitions during the Olympics.

North Korea late Monday scrapped a joint cultural event in the North, citing unspecified negative media reports in the South.

Other conciliatory gestures the Koreans have agreed to hold during the Olympics include a joint march under a "unification" flag during the Feb. 9 opening ceremony and fielding a unified team in women's ice

hockey. A dozen North Korean hockey players have been training since last week with their South Korean teammates led by Canadian coach Sarah Murray.

While many South Koreans have welcomed North Korea's presence at the Olympics, others express unease and view the North's overture as an attempt to weaken U.S.-led international sanctions against the North while it further advances its nuclear weapons program.

Wednesday's flight was the first direct South Korean flight to North Korea since 2015, when South Korean labor unionists flew to Pyongyang for a goodwill soccer match with North Korean workers, the ministry said. The Kalma Airport on North Korea's eastern coast was the launch site for multiple midrange missile tests in 2016.

Health care's Three Amigos? The big names behind a new push

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Three guys walk into a bar. They're Warren Buffett, Amazon.com's Jeff Bezos and JPMorgan Chase's Jamie Dimon. They decide to transform the American health care system.

That's probably not how these three men decided to form a new company to address health care costs for their U.S. employees, and possibly for many more Americans. The three companies, with a combined market cap of \$1.62 trillion, did not provide details of how the collaboration between their CEOs came about. And while their announcement Tuesday didn't include many specifics, based on their very different business backgrounds it's possible to see what each might bring to the table.

Bezos, 54, runs one of the world's biggest retail operations and by some measurement he's now the wealthiest person on the planet. Amazon grew from a book retailer into one of the world's most valuable companies in part because it's extremely skilled in distributing products. It's long been willing to lose money in order to offer customers lower prices than its competitors can bear — and in the process gain a loyal customer base. That's what millions of Prime members love about it.

Amazon has never been consistent at turning profits because of its focus on sales growth. That's what many investors fear about it. Investors in health care have long thought Amazon was going to get into that field and force companies that make and distribute medications or medical devices to drastically lower their prices.

When the three companies said they want to create a partnership "free from profit-making incentives and constraints," Amazon would seem to be the blueprint.

By contrast, few associate fear with Buffett, the 87-year-old "Oracle of Omaha." He's respected for his 70 years of successful investing, beloved by many for giving billions to charity — he has said he plans to give away at least half his fortune — and appreciated for a common touch that includes a prodigious Coca-Cola habit and a love of junk food, along with his personal frugality. But most significant in this context is that his company, Berkshire Hathaway, owns a number of insurers including GEICO. That means he brings a lot of experience in evaluating and insuring risks.

And he's a longtime critic of the health care system. Tuesday was not the first time Buffett had talked about growing health care costs as a "tapeworm" that harms the growth of the American economy.

Dimon, 61, is the head of the largest U.S. bank in terms of both assets and deposits. If that weren't enough to get him entry into the conversation, JPMorgan Chase just received a big tax cut. Dimon himself earned a lot of respect for his handling of the 2008-09 financial crisis. Unlike many of its competitors, JPMorgan Chase didn't have to be bailed out by taxpayers as a result of its bad bets on mortgage-backed securities.

That doesn't mean he's exactly beloved: Like its rivals, the bank did pay billions to settle allegations surrounding its sales of mortgage-backed securities prior to the crisis. He's also known for speaking his mind in blunt terms. In July, he complained about politicians arguing about "stupid (expletive)" instead of solving problems.

The companies said their project will focus on technology that provides simplified and transparent care. Based on the executives who have been named to top roles at the new company, Jefferies & Co. analyst Brian Tanquilut said there is a good chance it will eventually try to negotiate prices directly with health

care providers like hospitals, bypassing companies that act as middlemen. That could reduce costs in the medical and pharmaceutical supply chains.

"The initial plan for the new entity will be on partnering with and/or acquiring various consumer-orientated health care technology capabilities (i.e. a venture capital strategy) and eventually using them to influence and incentivize health care cost-reducing behavior," he said, basing his speculation on the executives picked to shepherd the new company along.

Whatever the new company's scope, investors in health care companies were deeply concerned: On Tuesday health insurer Cigna dropped 7.2 percent, biotech drugmaker AbbVie fell 5.3 percent, and drug-store chain-pharmacy benefits manager CVS Health lost 4.1 percent as the sector took broad losses.

Amid publicity tour, porn star denies affair with Trump

By JEFF HORWITZ and JAKE PEARSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Adult film star Stormy Daniels, in the midst of a publicity tour fueled by past allegations of a 2006 sexual relationship with a then-married Donald Trump, said in a statement on Tuesday the alleged affair never occurred.

Keith Davidson, a lawyer for Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, confirmed the statement was authentic but didn't offer any further details.

The statement came at a curious time for Clifford, who appeared after the president's State of the Union address on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" In recent weeks she has changed production companies, given a television interview and promoted strip club appearances with a risqué play on Trump's "Make America Great Again," campaign slogan.

Michael Cohen, Trump's personal lawyer, has denied there was any affair.

On Kimmel's show, Clifford ducked most of his questions about the alleged affair by either remaining silent or cracking jokes. She addressed, vaguely, the legitimacy of the new statement.

Kimmel began by displaying a copy and comparing her signature on it to other examples. They didn't match, he said, asking if she had signed it.

"I don't know, did I?" she said. "That doesn't look like my signature, does it?"

The ABC host asked if that was an admission that the statement was written and released without her approval, which drew a smile, coy look and a giggle from Clifford.

The rest of the interview went on in the same vein, as Clifford skirted whether she had signed a non-disclosure agreement; if an In Touch magazine interview was accurate — "Not as it is written," she replied — and if the magazine's full transcript of her comments was accurate.

When Kimmel started to read details of her alleged encounters with Trump, Clifford interrupted: "I thought this was a talk show, not a horror movie. Because this is a whole different pay scale."

Clifford's allegation, first made in 2011 and then again a month before the election, went mostly unnoticed until the Wall Street Journal reported earlier this month that Cohen brokered a \$130,000 payment to Clifford to keep her from publicly discussing it.

A week after that report, In Touch magazine printed a 5,000-word interview it conducted with Clifford in 2011 but never published after Cohen threatened the tabloid with a lawsuit, the Associated Press has previously reported.

In that interview, Clifford described a single sexual encounter with Trump in 2006 when he was recently married to his third wife, Melania, as well as a subsequent years-long relationship with the reality TV star. The magazine said it corroborated her account with friends and that she passed a lie detector test.

In her statement Tuesday, Clifford said she wasn't denying the affair because she was paid "hush money," but rather "because it never happened."

Neither Cohen nor Clifford have addressed whether she was paid \$130,000, and if so why.

A publicist didn't respond to questions about the statement Tuesday.

Kimmel's show opened with him and Clifford seated in armchairs and watching Trump's State of the Union address.

"Enough of this. Stormy, show me on the puppet what he did to you," Kimmel said to her, holding up a doll dressed in a shirt and briefs and with a mop of Trump-like hair.

Clifford produced a blond female doll with duct tape across its mouth, and gave a small nod as she looked at the camera.

AP Television Writer Lynn Elber in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Alan Page exhibits slavery artifacts in time for Super Bowl

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — An iron collar that kept slaves in bondage. A branding iron that marked human beings as someone's property. A photograph of black babies captioned as "alligator bait." A fine china plate with gold lettering that says, "KKK `God Give Us Men.'"

They're among the artifacts of slavery and segregation collected by NFL Hall of Famer and retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page and his wife, Diane Sims Page. They went on display this month in time for Super Bowl visitors and the thousands of other people expected to flock to downtown Minneapolis for the festivities. The exhibit, "TESTIFY: Americana from Slavery to Today," runs through Feb. 6 at the Minneapolis Central Library.

While a sign at the entrance warns that some items inside might be disturbing, there are also messages of hope and promise. There's a banner that was held by a mourner in 1865, when a funeral train took President Abraham Lincoln's body home to Illinois. The banner reads, "Our Country Shall Be One Country!" Page said it moved him to tears when he first saw it.

"For me it transports me back to that time and that place," Alan Page said.

Signs that once enforced segregation in the South hang from a wall down the center of the gallery. They designated restrooms as "white" or "colored," and marked the "colored waiting room" at train and bus stations. Just across from it is an assembly of vibrant pictures by black artists, showing how African-Americans reclaimed control over their own narrative. Diane Page said the contrast between the "oppressive and expressive" is deliberate.

Alan Page, a feared member of the Vikings' Purple People Eaters defensive line in the 1970s, played in all four of their Super Bowl appearances. He's one of only two defensive players ever voted the NFL MVP. He also became the first black justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court, serving 22 years until he hit the mandatory retirement age of 70 in 2015.

The Pages timed the exhibit to coincide with the Super Bowl on Feb. 4 in Minneapolis, but he noted that it also comes "at this time when white supremacy is raising its ugly head" in ways that he thought he would never see again.

"We hope the exhibit will challenge people by seeing what took place in the past, and challenge them in ways that will cause them to think about taking action, not only to prevent them from happening again, but to end the effects of that past, the effects that still linger today," he said.

It's one thing to see a picture of an artifact from that era; it's another to actually stand in front of it, said Lois Langer Thompson, director of the Hennepin County Library system. She said the library's location on the Nicollet Mall pedestrian zone, the site of a 10-day fan festival with free concerts and other attractions, makes it convenient for visitors to stop by and see the exhibit — and warm up.

Diane Page started the collection about 30 years ago after a friend pointed out that missing amid the sleek decor and a couple of Andy Warhols on the walls of their home were any pieces of African-American art or cultural items to educate the four Page children about their heritage. Eventually, the couple would visit antique stores and work with dealers to fill their home, and his Supreme Court chambers, with artifacts from slavery and the Jim Crow era.

"These items represent facts," he said. "Not somebody's opinion about what happened. Not somebody's view about what did or didn't occur, but actual facts. ... They help me understand where we are today. The disparities in education, our criminal justice system. For me the message I get is that we haven't

come to grips with the discrimination that comes, that came with those facts. We haven't addressed the present effects of that past history, the present effects of that past discrimination."

Daughter Georgi Page-Smith took the lead in assembling the more than 100 items on display in the exhibit, which includes a "testification station," made from her father's stand-up desk from his chambers, where visitors are invited to write their impressions in a leather-bound book.

"We knew it would be very emotional," she said. "So we wanted to create an area where people could just stop for a minute, and do a little processing, and then reflect back to us."

As part of the exhibit, Alan Page will give a talk Wednesday called "TESTIFY: It's Not About the Flag or the Anthem, It's About Justice." He said the controversy over players kneeling during the national anthem misses the point.

"That debate about the anthem and the flag is the reddest of red herrings. The point is that we have injustice. And the question is: what are we going to do about that? Protesting draws attention to that injustice, but it's a tactic. It's not a program to end injustice. And so one of the things I also hope to do is encourage those who would be inclined to protest to take the next step, and take some concrete actions beyond merely drawing attention to the problem, and being involved in steps to eliminate it."

Israelis sue New Zealanders over Lorde boycott

By TIA GOLDENBERG, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli legal rights group said Wednesday it is suing two New Zealanders for allegedly convincing the pop singer Lorde to cancel her performance in Israel in what appears to be the first lawsuit filed under a contentious Israeli anti-boycott law.

The 2011 law opens the door to civil lawsuits against anyone calling for a boycott against Israel, including of lands it has occupied, if that call could knowingly lead to a boycott. The law, which is part of Israel's fight against a global movement calling for boycotts against the Jewish state, allows for courts to impose damages against defendants. Critics said the law would stifle free expression.

The two New Zealanders, Justine Sachs and Nadia Abu-Shanab, penned an open letter to Lorde last year in which they urged her to "take a stand" and "join the artistic boycott of Israel." The New Zealand singer-songwriter replied to a tweet of the letter saying "Noted! Been speaking (with) many people about this and considering all options. Thank u for educating me i am learning all the time too." She canceled her show days later.

The group, Shurat HaDin, claims the New Zealanders, one Jewish and one Palestinian, knew that their letter could trigger a boycott, making them open to a suit under the law. The group, which filed the lawsuit in a Jerusalem court on Tuesday, is suing on behalf of three Israeli would-be concertgoers for about \$13,000 in damages.

"This lawsuit is an effort to give real consequences to those who selectively target Israel and seek to impose an unjust and illegal boycott against the Jewish state," said Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the group's head and a lawyer representing the plaintiffs. "They must be held to compensate Israeli citizens for the moral and emotional injury and the indignity caused by their discriminatory actions."

Darshan-Leitner said the law has not yet been tested in court because proving a link between a boycott and a call for one is difficult. She said in this case the connection is clear, claiming that the first time Lorde brought up her reservations on the Tel Aviv performance was after the pair's letter and that the two women "took credit" for Lorde's decision to cancel on social media and elsewhere.

Contacted on Twitter, Sachs said she was unaware of any lawsuit.

Darshan-Leitner said anyone can be sued under the law, regardless of their nationality, and that she hopes legal agreements between Israel and New Zealand will help enforce any court ruling in favor of the plaintiffs.

The 2011 law is one of a number of measures Israel has taken in recent years to combat an international grassroots movement advocating for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against the Jewish state.

The movement's supporters say it is a nonviolent way to promote the Palestinian cause. It has urged

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businesses, artists and universities to sever ties with Israel and includes thousands of volunteers around the world.

Israel says the campaign, with its call for a return of Palestinian refugees to land inside what is now Israel, goes beyond opposition to the West Bank occupation and masks a deeper aim of destroying the entire country.

Lorde announced late last year she was cancelling her Tel Aviv performance, scheduled for June 2018. She joined a number of other international stars canceling shows in Israel, although many have continued to perform despite pressure from activists.

Trump's time, Democrats' grumbles, Melania's white pantsuit

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scenes from the Capitol on a night of pomp, pageantry and politics for the State of the Union address:

It wasn't the longest State of the Union address. That designation still goes to former President Bill Clinton. But an hour and 20 minutes of President Donald Trump talking Tuesday was plenty long enough for House Democrats. Just before Trump finished, their leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, made eye contact with Rep. Joe Crowley of New York and pointed toward the back of the House chamber.

Democrats followed their lead and made an unusually quick beeline for the exits.

Earlier, Pelosi had warned House Democrats not to leave the chamber mid-speech.

Trump's first State of the Union address clocked in at about eight minutes shorter than the final such address by Clinton.

They could all agree to support 12-year-old Preston Sharp and his project to plant flags on the graves of veterans. But it was a different story when President Donald Trump used that good deed to scold athletes, ahead of the Super Bowl, who kneel during the national anthem.

Members of Congress, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court and assorted guests applauded Trump's shout-out to Preston, who noticed that not every grave was decorated with a flag at the California veterans' cemetery where his grandfather was buried. He started collecting donations and, two years later, had decorated 23,000 graves.

"Preston's reverence for those who have served our nation reminds us why we salute our flag, why we put our hands on our hearts for the pledge of allegiance," Trump said during his speech, drawing applause.

But the mood changed when the president added: "... and why we proudly stand for the national anthem."

GOP lawmakers erupted in applause. Democrats were far more muted.

Trump was a leading critic of NFL players, predominantly African-American, during last fall's protests. Vice President Mike Pence abruptly left an Indianapolis Colts game after almost two dozen members of the San Francisco 49ers knelt during "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Their leader, Nancy Pelosi, warned Democrats to behave during Trump's address and "let the attention be on his slobbering self." The president didn't slobber.

Some Democrats couldn't hold back, especially when Trump mentioned immigration issues.

"Oh, c'mon," Rep. Joe Crowley, D-N.Y., audibly enough to be heard in the gallery overhead, as Trump mentioned open borders, letting in drugs and gangs.

They laughed out loud when Trump cast his immigration proposal as a down-the-middle compromise.

And they groaned when Trump spoke of ending "chain migration."

Pelosi extended her hands to try to quiet her colleagues.

With all eyes on her, a poised Melania Trump took her seat in the gallery above the packed House moments before her husband delivered his State of the Union speech.

Mrs. Trump, sheathed in an all-white Dior pantsuit, had traveled to the Capitol separately from President

Donald Trump after holding White House and Capitol receptions for her guests. A White House aide said the couple was expected to return together to the White House after the speech.

First ladies typically get everyone's attention when they enter the chamber for their husbands' addresses. But Mrs. Trump had not been seen in public with her husband since The Wall Street Journal reported earlier this month that in 2016, Trump's lawyer paid porn star Stormy Daniels \$130,000 to keep quiet about an affair she said she had with the future president. Daniels on Tuesday issued a statement denying the affair happened.

After the report, the couple's anniversary passed without public comment. Mrs. Trump abruptly canceled plans to accompany her husband to Davos, Switzerland.

Last year, President and Mrs. Trump traveled to the speech together.

Mrs. Trump did not react as Trump began his speech with an acknowledgement of "the first lady."

Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Ill., strolled through the Capitol before the speech with a guest who was attracting more attention than he was.

Tall and sporting a ponytail was Jayson Werth, an outfielder who played the last several years for the local Washington Nationals. Werth said he has an organic farm in Davis' district.

Asked if he was a Trump supporter, Werth said he was a moderate.

"I'm just spreading my wings a little bit," he said.

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman

Hawaii worker who sent false alert had problems but kept job

By AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii emergency management officials knew for years that an employee had problems performing his job. Then, he sent a false alert warning of an imminent missile attack earlier this month.

The worker had mistakenly believed drills for tsunami and fire warnings were actual events, and colleagues were not comfortable working with him, the state said Tuesday. His supervisors counseled him but kept him for a decade in a position that had to be renewed each year.

The problems in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency went beyond one troubled employee. The agency had a vague checklist for missile alerts, allowing workers to interpret the steps they should follow differently. Managers didn't require a second person to sign off on alerts before they were sent, and the agency lacked any preparation on how to correct a false warning.

Those details emerged Tuesday in federal and state reports investigating how the agency mistakenly blasted cellphones and broadcast stations Jan. 13 with a warning that led hundreds of thousands of people to believe they were about to die in a nuclear attack. It took nearly 40 minutes to retract it.

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency Administrator Vern Miyagi resigned as the reports were released. Officials revealed that the employee who sent the alert was fired Friday. His name has not been revealed. A second worker quit before disciplinary action was taken, and another was being suspended without pay, officials said.

"The protocols were not in place. It was a sense of urgency to put it in place as soon as possible. But those protocols were not developed to the point they should have," retired Brig. Gen. Bruce Oliveira, who wrote the report on Hawaii's internal investigation, said at a news conference.

A Federal Communications Commission report revealed Tuesday that the worker who pushed out the alert thought an actual attack was imminent. It was the first indication the alert was purposely sent, adding another level of confusion to the misstep that created panic at a time of fear over the threat of North Korean missiles.

The worker believed there was a real attack because of a mistake in how the drill was initiated during

a shift change, according to the FCC, which regulates the nation's airwaves and sets standards for such emergency alerts. The employee said he didn't hear the word "exercise" repeated six times, though others clearly heard it.

There was no requirement to double-check with a colleague or get a supervisor's approval before sending the warning statewide, the federal agency said.

"There were no procedures in place to prevent a single person from mistakenly sending a missile alert" in Hawaii, said James Wiley, a cybersecurity and communications reliability staffer at the FCC.

Compounding the issue was that the state Emergency Management Agency had no prepared message for a false alarm. The FCC criticized the state's 38-minute delay in correcting it.

In addition, software at the Hawaii agency used the same prompts for both test and actual alerts, and it generally used prepared text that made it easy for a staffer to click through the alerting process without focusing enough on the text of the warning that would be sent.

"The reports from the FCC and the state of Hawaii demonstrate systems and judgment failures on multiple levels, and they reinforce my belief that missile alerts should be handled by the federal government," said U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, a Democrat from Hawaii, who plans legislation to give federal officials that sole responsibility.

The FCC said the state emergency agency has taken steps to try to avoid a repeat of the false alert, requiring more supervision of drills and alert and test-alert transmissions. It has created a correction template for false alerts and has stopped ballistic missile defense drills for now.

Earlier this month, the worker who sent the alert heard a recorded message that began by saying "exercise, exercise, exercise" — the script for a drill, the FCC said. Then the recording used language that is typically used for a real threat, not a drill: "This is not a drill." The recording ended by saying "exercise, exercise, exercise."

Once the employee sent the false alert, he was directed to send a cancel message but instead "just sat there and didn't respond," the state report said. Later, another employee took over the computer and sent the correction because the worker "seemed confused."

Gov. David Ige was asked why Hawaii didn't reveal details about the employee earlier, and he said it would have been irresponsible to release statements before the investigation was complete.

Ige has asked the Hawaii National Guard's deputy commander to prepare another report on what needs to be changed in the emergency management system overall. The first version of that report is due in two weeks, with a final version due in six weeks.

Associated Press Technology Writer Tali Arbel contributed to this report from New York.

Trump says he's '100 percent' for releasing GOP memo

By CHAD DAY and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump was overheard Tuesday telling a Republican lawmaker he is "100 percent" in favor of releasing a classified memo on the Russia investigation that has sparked a political fight pitting Republicans against the FBI and the Justice Department.

"Oh yeah, don't worry," the president told South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan on the House floor after his first State of the Union address. "100 percent."

Duncan had implored Trump to "release the memo."

Television cameras captured the exchange as Trump was leaving the chamber.

The White House had said before the speech that it was still conducting a legal and national security review of the document, and press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters earlier Tuesday that Trump still had not been briefed on its contents.

The memo arrived at the White House on Monday evening after Republicans on the House intelligence committee brushed aside opposition from the Justice Department and voted to release it. Under committee rules, the president has five days to object to its release.

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The four-page memo was written by Republicans on the committee, led by chairman Rep. Devin Nunes of California, a close Trump ally who has become a fierce critic of the FBI and the Justice Department.

Republicans have said the memo reveals improper use of surveillance by the FBI and the Justice Department in the Russia investigation. Democrats have called it a selectively edited group of GOP talking points that attempt to distract from the committee's own investigation into Russian meddling.

On Tuesday, House Speaker Paul Ryan said he supports the memo's release but doesn't want Republicans to use it to attack special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign was involved.

"This is a completely separate matter from Bob Mueller's investigation and his investigation should be allowed to take its course," Ryan said, noting that he also supports Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who oversees Mueller.

Ryan said the memo shows "there may have been malfeasance at the FBI by certain individuals." He did not provide additional details, only saying that "there are legitimate questions about whether an American's civil liberties were violated by the FISA process," a reference to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

It's unclear how FBI malfeasance could have solely resulted in a judge signing off on a FISA warrant. Applications for such warrants are submitted by Justice Department lawyers before a judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. Those lawyers would have to authorize and ultimately prepare any filing that is made.

The vote to release the memo is an unprecedented move by the committee, which typically goes out of its way to protect classified information in the interest of protecting intelligence sources and methods.

It also came after Rosenstein and FBI Director Christopher Wray warned White House chief of staff John Kelly that releasing the memo publicly could set a dangerous precedent, according to a person familiar with the conversation.

Rosenstein and Wray voiced their concerns personally to Kelly during a meeting at the White House on Monday ahead of the vote by the House intelligence committee, said the person, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity. Rosenstein also told Kelly the memo didn't accurately characterize the FBI's investigative practices, the person said.

The Washington Post first reported the details of the White House meeting. The FBI and the Justice Department declined comment.

The Justice Department had said in a letter last week that it would be "extraordinarily reckless" to release the memo without first giving the FBI and the department the chance to review it.

After those complaints, Wray reviewed the memo over the weekend. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., who was with Wray when he reviewed the memo, said the FBI director did not raise any national security concerns with him. Gowdy said the memo doesn't reveal any intelligence methods but it does reveal "one source."

But Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said Wray told him Monday that the review didn't satisfy his concerns about the memo's release. Wray wanted to brief the committee about FBI and Justice Department concerns ahead of any release, a request committee Republicans blocked, Schiff said.

On Tuesday, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders pushed back on reports that the release was imminent, saying the White House has no "current plans" to do so. "The President has not seen or been briefed on the memo or reviewed its contents," she said.

A senior White House official said the National Security Council is leading an interagency review of the memo. If Trump decides to release the memo, it could be made public as early as Wednesday afternoon, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss confidential internal deliberations.

So far, the official said, the Justice Department is the only agency opposing its release. Asked Tuesday about the department's position on the memo's release, Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores declined comment.

Republicans said they are confident the release won't harm national security. They also said they would not release the underlying intelligence that informed the memo.

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"You'll see for yourself that it's not necessary," said Texas Rep. Mike Conaway of Texas, who's leading the House's Russia investigation.

But Schiff said the memo's release could compromise intelligence sources and methods.

Some Republican senators have also said they don't want to release the memo, and Democrats have pushed back on Republican criticism of the FBI, saying it is an attempt to discredit Mueller's investigation. The probe has already resulted in charges against four of Trump's former campaign advisers and has recently moved closer to Trump's inner circle.

In response, Democrats on the panel have put together their own memo. On Monday, the committee voted to make the Democratic memo available to all House members — but not the public. Conaway said he was open to making it public after House members have a chance to review it.

Separately Tuesday, the House committee's interview with former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon was delayed, according to two people familiar with the decision. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private committee deliberations.

Bannon was set to be interviewed behind closed doors Wednesday. But one of the people familiar with the decision to delay it said it was premature to schedule it this week because discussions have only just started with the White House over what Bannon can tell the committee.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Jonathan Lemire, Tom LoBianco, Mary Clare Jalonick and Andy Taylor contributed to this report.

Trump warns of immigration peril, touts economy in address

By JULIE PACE and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Addressing a deeply divided nation, President Donald Trump summoned the country to a "new American moment" of unity in his first State of the Union, challenging Congress to make good on long-standing promises to fix a fractured immigration system and warning darkly of evil forces seeking to undermine America's way of life.

Trump's address Tuesday night blended self-congratulation and calls for optimism amid a growing economy with ominous warnings about deadly gangs, the scourge of drugs and violent immigrants living in the United States illegally. He cast the debate over immigration — an issue that has long animated his most ardent supporters — as a battle between heroes and villains, leaning heavily on the personal stories of White House guests in the crowd. He praised a law enforcement agent who arrested more than 100 gang members, and he recognized the families of two alleged gang victims.

He also spoke forebodingly of catastrophic dangers from abroad, warning that North Korea would "very soon" threaten the United States with nuclear-tipped missiles.

"The United States is a compassionate nation. We are proud that we do more than any other country to help the needy, the struggling and the underprivileged all over the world," Trump said. "But as president of the United States, my highest loyalty, my greatest compassion, and my constant concern is for America's children, America's struggling workers and America's forgotten communities."

Trump addressed the nation with tensions running high on Capitol Hill. An impasse over immigration prompted a three-day government shutdown earlier this year, and lawmakers appear no closer to resolving the status of the "Dreamers" — young people living in the U.S. illegally ahead of a new Feb. 8 deadline for funding operations. The parties have also clashed this week over the plans of Republicans on the House intelligence committee to release a classified memo on the Russia investigation involving Trump's presidential campaign — a decision the White House backs but the Justice Department is fighting.

The controversies that have dogged Trump — and the ones he has created — have overshadowed strong economic gains during his first year in office. His approval ratings have hovered in the 30s for much of his presidency, and just 3 in 10 Americans said the United States was heading in the right direction, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. In the same survey, 67 percent of Americans said the country was more divided because of Trump.

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At times, Trump's address appeared to be aimed more at validating his first year in office than setting the course for his second. He devoted significant time to touting the tax overhaul he signed at the end of last year, promising the plan will "provide tremendous relief for the middle class and small businesses." He also highlighted the decision made early in his first year to withdraw the U.S. from a sweeping Asia-Pacific trade pact, declaring: "The era of economic surrender is totally over."

He spoke about potential agenda items for 2018 in broad terms, including a call for \$1.5 trillion in new infrastructure spending and partnerships with states and the private sector. He touched only briefly on issues like health care that have been at the center of the Republican Party's policy agenda for years.

Tackling the sensitive immigration debate that has roiled Washington, Trump redoubled his recent pledge to offer a path to citizenship for 1.8 million young immigrants — but only as part of a package that would also require increased funding for border security, including a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, ending the nation's visa lottery method and revamping the current legal immigration system. Some Republicans are wary of the hardline elements of Trump's plan and it's unclear whether his blueprint could pass Congress.

"Americans are dreamers too," Trump said, in an apparent effort to reclaim the term used to describe the young immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

A former New York Democrat, the president also played to the culture wars that have long illuminated American politics, alluding to his public spat with professional athletes who led protests against racial injustice by kneeling during the national anthem, declaring that paying tribute to the flag is a "civic duty."

Republicans led multiple rounds of enthusiastic applause during the speech, but for the opposition party it was a more somber affair. Democrats provided a short spurt of polite applause for Trump as he entered the chamber, but offered muted reactions throughout the speech. A cluster of about two dozen Democrats, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus, remained planted firmly in their seats, staring sternly at the president and withholding applause.

After devastating defeats in 2016, Democrats are hopeful that Trump's sagging popularity can help the party rebound in November's midterm elections. In a post-speech rebuttal, Massachusetts Rep. Joe Kennedy, the grandson of Robert F. Kennedy, was seeking to undercut Trump's optimistic tone and remind voters of the personal insults and attacks often leveled by the president.

"Bullies may land a punch," Kennedy said. "They might leave a mark. But they have never, not once, in the history of our United States, managed to match the strength and spirit of a people united in defense of their future."

The arc of Trump's 80-minute speech featured the personal stories of men and women who joined first lady Melania Trump in the audience. The guests included a New Mexico policeman and his wife who adopted a baby from parents who suffered from opioid addiction, and Ji Seong-ho, a defector from North Korea and outspoken critic of the Kim Jong-un government.

On international affairs, Trump warned of the dangers from "rogue regimes," like Iran and North Korea, terrorist groups, like the Islamic State, and "rivals" like China and Russia "that challenge our interests, our economy and our values." Calling on Congress to lift budgetary caps and boost spending on the military, Trump said that "unmatched power is the surest means of our defense."

Trump's biggest foreign policy announcement of the night concerned the Guantanamo Bay detention center, which former President Barack Obama tried but failed to close. Reversing Obama's policy, Trump said he'd signed an executive order Tuesday directing the Pentagon to keep the prison open while re-examining the military's policy on detention.

Trump said he was also asking Congress to ensure the U.S. had needed powers to detain Islamic State group members and other "terrorists wherever we chase them down," though it was unclear whether he was referring to a new war powers authorization or some other mechanism. Trump also said he wanted Congress to pass a law ensuring U.S. foreign aid goes only "to America's friends" — a reference to his frustration at U.S. aid recipients that voted at the U.N. to rebuke his decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Mrs. Trump arrived at the Capitol ahead of her husband to attend a reception with guests of the White House, but she rode back to the White House with him. It was the first time she was seen publicly with

the president following a report that his lawyer arranged a payment to a porn star, Stormy Daniels, to prevent her from talking about an alleged affair. Daniels denied the affair in a new statement released hours before the speech.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Zeke Miller at <http://twitter.com/zekejmilller>

Ex-Mississippi gov says he 'forgot' gun seized at airport

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS, Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour says it was “nobody’s fault but mine” that he took a loaded handgun in his briefcase through an airport security checkpoint in early January.

Barbour said Tuesday he will pay a fine after he was stopped and arrested Jan. 2 while boarding a flight from Mississippi to Washington, D.C. The gun was spotted in a TSA X-ray machine.

He says he forgot he was carrying the gun, which he had put in his briefcase after an assistant removed it from his car days earlier.

Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein says a TSA officer working at an X-ray machine at a checkpoint at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport spotted a .38-caliber revolver, loaded with five bullets, in a passenger’s carry-on bag.

Trump signs order to keep Guantanamo military prison open

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed a new executive order to keep open the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, marking a formal reversal of his predecessor’s eight-year effort to shut it down.

Trump made it clear during his campaign that he wanted Guantanamo to remain open and to “load it up with some bad dudes,” but he has not yet sent a new detainee to the facility.

The order, which he signed just before delivering his first State of the Union address, says the U.S. maintains the option to detain additional enemy combatants at the detention center in Cuba when lawful and necessary to protect U.S. national security. It requires the defense secretary to recommend criteria for determining the fate of individuals captured by the United States in armed conflict, including sending them to Guantanamo.

“Terrorists who do things like place bombs in civilian hospitals are evil,” Trump said. “When possible, we have no choice but to annihilate them. When necessary, we must be able to detain and question them. But we must be clear: Terrorists are not merely criminals. They are unlawful enemy combatants.”

“In the past, we have foolishly released hundreds and hundreds of dangerous terrorists only to meet them again on the battlefield, including the ISIS leader, al-Baghdadi, who we captured, who we had, who we released,” he said, referring to Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

The office of the Director of National Intelligence said in its most recent report on the subject that about 17 percent of the 728 detainees who have been released from Guantanamo are “confirmed” and 12 percent are “suspected” of re-engaging in militant activities.

But the vast majority of those re-engagements occurred with former prisoners who did not go through the security review that was set up under President Barack Obama. Trump’s order says this review process would continue to be used to determine whether detainees should be held.

Practically, not much is expected to change with Trump’s new order, said Lee Wolosky, who was Obama’s special envoy at the State Department for closing Guantanamo.

“But as a symbolic matter, it changes a great deal because the two presidents before him were trying to close Guantanamo because they recognized that it was a detriment to our national security,” he said. “Symbolically, it reaffirms his interest in perpetrating a symbol that has greatly damaged the United States.”

European allies, Muslim leaders and other critics have been vehemently opposed to how detainees have

been held at Guantanamo for decades without charge.

"I have no doubt terrorist groups like ISIS will applaud Trump's announcement that it is now the formal policy of the United States to detain Muslims forever without charge in an offshore prison," said attorney J. Wells Dixon of the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights.

He said militants will continue to use it to recruit new members. "Keeping Guantanamo open is politically expedient but exceedingly stupid no matter how you look at it."

The detention center, which President George W. Bush opened after Sept. 11, 2001, reached a maximum population of about 680 in the summer of 2003. Bush transferred about 500 out before he left office. Obama transferred 197 detainees out, leaving 41, including five cleared for release.

Trump also asked Congress to make sure that in the fight against the Islamic State group and al-Qaida, the United States has necessary power to detain terror suspects "wherever we chase them down, wherever we find them." That was an apparent reference to current war powers written years ago that some argue do not cover the fight against IS.

Arizona man says he sold ammunition to Las Vegas shooter

By **KEN RITTER** and **ANITA SNOW**, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — An Arizona man named in court documents as a "person of interest" during the investigation of the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history said Tuesday he had met the shooter one time and sold ammunition to him.

Douglas Haig told The Associated Press that he had been contacted earlier by investigators in the case.

Speaking at his suburban home in Mesa, Haig said he planned to hold a news conference later this week to answer questions about his name surfacing in the investigation.

"I am the guy who sold ammunition to Stephen Paddock," Haig said without disclosing any details. Police say Paddock was the gunman and killed himself as officers converged on him.

A law enforcement official told the AP in October that Paddock bought 1,000 rounds of tracer ammunition from a private seller he met at a Phoenix gun show. The official spoke anonymously because they weren't authorized to disclose case information. It was not immediately clear if that person was Haig.

Records show Haig owns Specialized Military Ammunition LLC. The company's website says it sold tracer and incendiary ammunition but is now "closed indefinitely."

Haig's name emerged by mistake Tuesday when court documents were released nearly four months after the shooting.

The documents did not disclose why authorities considered Haig a person of interest.

Police officials did not respond to telephone, text and email messages about Haig from AP. FBI and U.S. attorney's office spokeswomen in Las Vegas declined to comment.

The documents show that early in the investigation, police believed Paddock must have had help.

"Given the magnitude of the incident, it is reasonable to believe multiple suspects and months of planning were involved in this premeditated massacre," said one search warrant request submitted to a judge nine days after the shooting stopped.

However, Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo released a preliminary report on Jan. 19 saying police and the FBI believe Paddock acted alone before he killed himself as police closed in.

It did not answer the key question: What made Paddock stockpile a cache of assault-style weapons and fire for about 10 minutes out the windows of Mandalay Bay hotel-casino into a crowd of 22,000 people.

Haig's name was blacked out in the more than 270 pages of search warrant records released by a Nevada judge to The Associated Press, but remained on one page of documents provided to the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

The newspaper published the name online. Clark County District Court Judge Elissa Cadish later ordered the full document not be published without redactions, but she acknowledged she couldn't order the newspaper to retract the name.

Authorities previously said an unnamed person could face unspecified federal charges in shooting that

also injured more than 800 other people.

The warrants show that investigators found 23 rifles and a handgun in Paddock's 32nd-floor hotel suite and an adjoining room. Police also found five suitcases, five rifle cases, binoculars, a spotter scope, portable solar generator and 1,050 empty bullet casings.

Police reported finding just \$273 in cash in the room of the 64-year-old retired accountant who amassed a millionaire's fortune, owned homes in Reno and Mesquite, Nevada, and earned casino perks wagering thousands of dollars on high-stakes video poker.

Authorities previously characterized Paddock as a gambler on a losing streak who was obsessed with cleanliness, may have been bipolar and was having difficulties with his live-in girlfriend.

The name of Paddock's girlfriend, Marilou Danley, was not redacted from documents released Tuesday in response to a public records lawsuit filed by media companies including AP and the Review-Journal.

Danley was in the Philippines at the time of the attack and is cooperating with investigators.

She was initially considered a person of interest but authorities later said she is not likely to face criminal charges.

Separately, Clark County District Court Judge Timothy Williams ruled Tuesday that the coroner in Las Vegas should release autopsy records of Paddock and the people killed by gunfire, with victims' names blacked out. Those documents were not immediately made public.

County Coroner John Fudenberg later released a statement later promising victims' autopsy reports "as soon as possible." But Paddock's autopsy report was not final and would not be released until it is, the coroner said.

Fudenberg maintains the records are confidential, and restricts release to families and to police investigating deaths. The coroner and county attorneys didn't immediately say whether they would appeal Williams' ruling to the Nevada Supreme Court.

Margaret McLetchie, an attorney representing AP and the Review-Journal in the autopsies case, noted in court that Nevada state public records law does not directly address autopsies and that a deceased person has no legal right to privacy.

In Nevada, records are public unless the law says otherwise, she said.

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles; Scott Sonner in Reno, Nevada; Anita Snow in Mesa, Arizona; Alina Hartounian in Phoenix and researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York contributed to this report.

Budget talks bogged down by immigration, deficit concerns

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A week after a standoff forced a three-day government shutdown, congressional budget talks remain bogged down by Democrats' demands to protect "Dreamer" immigrants and GOP conservatives' concerns about a booming federal deficit.

The deadlock is deflating hopes that lawmakers will reach a breakthrough before another shutdown deadline next week.

At risk are up to \$80 billion in increases for the Pentagon this year alone, and nearly as much money for domestic programs. Almost \$100 billion worth of overdue assistance for hurricane-slammed Puerto Rico, Texas and Florida is being held up.

The knot involves about \$1.2 billion in agency operating budgets for the fiscal year that began in October, along with hurricane relief, President Donald Trump's \$18 billion-plus border wall, and other odds and ends.

The measure has been hung up for months as lawmakers in both parties struggle first with a deal to increase tight limits on spending that are left over from a failed 2011 budget agreement. It takes both Republicans and Democrats to lift the limits, called spending "caps" in Capitol-speak. But talks have proceeded slowly and are now awaiting agreement on legislation to address younger immigrants currently protected from deportation under the soon-to-expire Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or

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DACA.

But there are other problems afoot. Conservatives say Republican and Democratic proposals on the table would balloon the deficit, sending it over \$1 trillion by next year.

"That's a non-starter for conservatives," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., chairman of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus.

The House Tuesday instead passed — for the third time — a \$659 billion Pentagon funding measure. The bill would break the existing budget cap for defense by \$73 billion — almost \$20 billion more than the budget Trump proposed last year. The 250-166 vote House vote broke mostly along party lines.

The move was aimed at turning up the heat on Senate Democrats, several of whom face difficult re-election bids in states won by Trump.

Republicans are trying to cast Democrats as holding money for U.S. troops hostage to obtain sympathetic treatment for immigrants facing deportation, as well as a variety of other Democratic priorities.

"Senate Democrats are playing politics with defense spending that is so vital to our national security needs," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "We just don't see this as irresponsible. It's dangerous. You do have training accidents happening more and more these days."

It's unclear exactly what would happen if negotiations fall apart, but one possibility would be continuing current spending levels. That would upset the Pentagon's many allies on the Republican side. It would also upset Capitol Hill's once-dominant Appropriations committees, which have watched in frustration over the past few years as Congress has increasingly struggled to perform its most basic task of funding the government.

Operating at a budget freeze, the Pentagon says, would imperil training and other components of military readiness, along with acquisition of new weapons systems and equipment. On the domestic side, it would mean arresting the growth in medical research and efforts to fight opioid abuse, among other bipartisan priorities.

It would also mean Washington's dysfunction could become even more entrenched.

"It's really important that something happen because the more times that you don't find a way to get together the more difficult it is the next time around to get together," said former Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, D-Wis.

"If we can't figure this out — it's been punted, punted, punted and punted — how are we going to manage to get through the next three years under this president?" asked Washington Sen. Patty Murray, a key Democrat on the Appropriations Committee.

The delays guarantee that lawmakers will need to pass yet another stopgap spending bill — the fifth since September — next week to prevent another government shutdown next Friday. While Senate Democrats don't appear to have any interest in sparking a second government shutdown by filibustering next week's temporary funding bill, it appears House Republicans will have to again struggle to summon the unity to advance the legislation on the strength of their votes alone.

In all of this languishes a House-passed \$81 billion emergency aid bill for hurricane-hit states and territories. Democrats like Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York say the bill needs billions more for Puerto Rico, and he hasn't been shy about saying delays in considering the legislation in the Senate give him leverage.

Republicans like Texas Sen. John Cornyn say Schumer is holding hurricane aid "hostage," but Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., hasn't moved to force Schumer's hand. Schumer was a central force in advancing more than \$60 billion in Superstorm Sandy relief six years ago and would be vulnerable to charges of hypocrisy if he actively blocked the current measure.

Actor Mark Salling dies weeks after child porn guilty plea

By JOHN ROGERS and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mark Salling, who played bad-boy Noah "Puck" Puckerman in the hit musical-comedy "Glee," died of an apparent suicide Tuesday, weeks after pleading guilty to possessing child

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pornography. He was 35.

Salling pleaded guilty in December after authorities said a search of his computer and a thumb drive found more than 50,000 images of child porn. He was scheduled to be sentenced March 7, and prosecutors planned to ask a judge to send him to prison for four to seven years.

A law enforcement official not authorized to speak publicly said Salling was found hanging in a riverbed area in the Tujunga neighborhood of Los Angeles. Ed Winter, assistant chief investigator for the Los Angeles County coroner's office, said the death is being investigated as a suicide.

Winter said Salling was pronounced dead at 9 a.m. Tuesday, six hours after police received a report that he was missing.

"Mark was a gentle and loving person, a person of great creativity, who was doing his best to atone for some serious mistakes and errors of judgment," Salling's attorney, Michael J. Proctor, said in an email to The Associated Press.

Proctor didn't discuss the cause of death, but said the actor's family appreciated the support it is receiving and asked that a request for privacy be respected.

The darkly handsome actor had appeared in only a handful of projects before his breakout role in "Glee," the popular Fox TV series about students in a high school glee club and their circle of family and friends. It aired from 2009-15.

Earlier credits included 1996's "Children of the Corn IV: The Gathering," a 1999 guest role on the Chuck Norris series "Walker, Texas Ranger" and a part in the 2014 TV movie "Rocky Road."

A singer-songwriter as well as actor, he released two albums: "Smoke Signals" in 2008 and "Pipe Dreams" in 2010.

Following "Pipe Dreams," release, Salling told The Associated Press he had been a singer-songwriter long before he became an actor.

"I put out a record before. It went triple cardboard," he joked. "I was very excited about selling 125 units for that but you know this is something I've been doing my whole life. It's not something that I just decided to randomly do now. This is not the first. It won't be the last. And I hope people enjoy it and have something to look forward to for the next round."

He said he chose the album's songs from 50 to 60 he had compiled over several years.

Salling's character on "Glee" was a member of the school's football team who ends up joining the glee club. One of his character's friends was another jock-turned-singer, Finn Hudson, who was played by Cory Monteith.

Monteith died in 2013 from a toxic mix of alcohol and heroin, according to a coroner's finding.

Mark Wayne Salling was born Aug. 17, 1982, in Dallas, the youngest child of John Salling, an accountant, and his wife, Condy, a school secretary.

Like his character on "Glee," Salling was a jock, taking part in wrestling, rugby, basketball and other school sports when he wasn't playing guitar or piano. By high school he was playing gigs in local bars.

Soon after finishing school he moved to California to pursue an acting and music career and to study guitar at the Los Angeles Music Academy.

After seven years of failing to land any substantial roles, and having released just one album, Salling was ready to give up when his older brother, Matt, exhorted him to keep trying. Soon after he landed the role on "Glee," where he quickly captivated audiences. His performance of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline" even won praise from Diamond himself.

Salling said his own musical preferences covered a wide range from jazz to country to rock, pop and hip-hop. He cited Radiohead's Thom Yorke and Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails as among his musical influences.

He is survived by his parents and brother.

___ AP Television Writer Lynn Elber contributed to this story.

___ This story has been corrected to show that Salling's body was found in a riverbed area in the Tujunga area, not a home.

Asian stocks mixed after Wall Street's sharp decline

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks were mixed Wednesday after Wall Street recorded its biggest decline since August.

KEEPING SCORE: The Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.7 percent to 3,462.29 while Tokyo's Nikkei 225 was off 8 points at 23,281.39. Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 0.5 percent to 32,458.72 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 2.3 points to 6,025.10. Seoul's Kospi added 0.3 percent to 2,574.51. Benchmarks in New Zealand and Jakarta advanced while other Southeast Asian markets declined.

WALL STREET: Hefty losses in health care and technology companies led U.S. stocks sharply lower. The slide erased some of the gains the market had racked up since the beginning of the year, though the market was still on track to close out January with a gain. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.1 percent to 2,822.43 — its steepest one-day drop since Aug. 17. The Dow Jones industrial average had its biggest decline since May, losing 1.4 percent to 26,076.89. The Nasdaq slumped 0.9 percent to 7,402.48.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Asian markets look set to continue in decline as global equity markets extend the correction phase," said Jingyi Pan of IG in a report. "Given the mountain of key items ahead, investors may have found the current period opportune for profit taking, though focused also on what these incoming leads may mean for markets."

CHINESE MANUFACTURING: A monthly survey showed January factory activity was lower than expected. The purchasing managers' index of the official China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing declined to 51.3 from December's 51.6 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity expanding.

JAPANESE MANUFACTURING: Official data showed factory output rose to a nine-year high in December, suggesting economic growth stayed strong. Industrial output rose 2.7 percent over November — the third consecutive gain.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 64 cents to \$63.86 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract plunged \$1.06 on Tuesday to \$64.50. Brent crude, used to price international oils, declined 64 cents to \$67.88 in London. It lost 68 cents the previous session to \$68.52.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 108.97 yen from 108.78 yen. The euro was unchanged at \$1.2403.

Today in History

By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2018. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite, Explorer 1, from Cape Canaveral.

On this date:

In 1606, Englishman Guy Fawkes, convicted of high treason for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot," was set to be hanged, drawn and quartered, but broke his neck after falling or jumping from the scaffold.

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna.

In 1865, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery, sending it to states for ratification. (The amendment was adopted in December 1865.) Gen. Robert E. Lee was named general-in-chief of the Confederate States Army by President Jefferson Davis.

In 1917, during World War I, Germany served notice that it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1929, revolutionary Leon Trotsky and his family were expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Gold Reserve Act.

In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for deser-

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tion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1961, NASA launched Ham the Chimp aboard a Mercury-Redstone rocket from Cape Canaveral; Ham was recovered safely from the Atlantic Ocean following his 16 1/2-minute suborbital flight.

In 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

In 1980, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands announced she would abdicate on her birthday the following April, to be succeeded by her daughter, Princess Beatrix.

In 1990, McDonald's Corp. opened its first fast-food restaurant in Moscow.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines MD-83 jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Port Hueneme (wy-NEE'-mee), California, killing all 88 people aboard.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, speaking at the Nevada Policy Research Institute, said he would not jeopardize security gains in Iraq by withdrawing U.S. forces too quickly. Pop star Britney Spears was taken from her home by ambulance to UCLA Medical Center, where she was held for a week for psychiatric evaluation.

Five years ago: Chuck Hagel emerged from his grueling confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee with solid Democratic support for his nomination to be President Barack Obama's next defense secretary. A gas explosion caused three floors of the headquarters of Mexico's national oil company Pemex to collapse, killing 37 people. Caleb Moore, 25, an innovative freestyle snowmobile rider who'd been hurt in a crash at the Winter X Games in Colorado, died at a hospital in Grand Junction.

One year ago: President Donald Trump nominated Neil Gorsuch, a fast-rising conservative judge, to the U.S. Supreme Court. Singer and bassist John Wetton of the rock group Asia died in Bournemouth, Dorset, England at age 67.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Carol Channing is 97. Composer Philip Glass is 81. Former Interior Secretary James Watt is 80. Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, the former queen regent, is 80. Actor Stuart Margolin is 78. Actress Jessica Walter is 77. Former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., is 77. Blues singer-musician Charlie Musselwhite is 74. Actor Glynn Turman is 72. Baseball Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan is 71. Actor Jonathan Banks is 71. Singer-musician Harry Wayne Casey (KC and the Sunshine Band) is 67. Rock singer Johnny Rotten is 62. Actress Kelly Lynch is 59. Actor Anthony LaPaglia is 59. Singer-musician Lloyd Cole is 57. Actress Paulette Braxton is 53. Rock musician Al Jaworski (Jesus Jones) is 52. Actress Minnie Driver is 48. Actress Portia de Rossi is 45. Actor-comedian Bobby Moynihan is 41. Actress Kerry Washington is 41. Bluegrass singer-musician Becky Buller is 39. Singer Justin Timberlake is 37. Actor Tyler Ritter is 33. Country singer Tyler Hubbard (Florida Georgia Line) is 31. Folk-rock singer-musician Marcus Mumford (Mumford and Sons) is 31. Actor Joel Courtney is 22.

Thought for Today: "The third-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the majority. The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority. The first-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking." — A.A. Milne, British author (born in 1882, died this date in 1956).



It was a clear morning to view the lunar eclipse. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Lunar Showstopper: 1st super blue blood moon in 35 years

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The moon is putting on a rare cosmic show Wednesday.

It's the first time in 35 years a blue moon has synced up with a supermoon and a total lunar eclipse.

Hawaii and Alaska have the best seats, along with the Canadian Yukon, Australia and Asia. The western U.S. should have good viewing, too, along with Russia. The U.S. East Coast, Europe and most of South America and Africa are out of luck for the eclipse.

The second full moon in a calendar month is a blue moon. This one also happens to be an especially close and bright moon, or supermoon. Add a total eclipse, known as a blood moon for its red tint, and it's a lunar showstopper.

NASA is calling it a lunar trifecta: the first super blue blood moon since 1982. That combination won't happen again until 2037.

The space agency plans to provide a live stream of the moon from ground telescopes, throughout the eclipse.

A lunar eclipse occurs when the sun, Earth and moon line up perfectly, casting Earth's shadow on the moon.

Scientists are keen to study the sharp, sudden drop in temperature at the lunar surface, as Earth's shadow blankets the moon. During the more than one hour of totality, the temperature will plunge 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius), said lunar scientist Noah Petro of Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. He's deputy project scientist for NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, circling the moon since 2009. His team is taking special precautions to keep the spacecraft warm during the eclipse.

Perhaps just as important, Petro and others are hoping the big event gets more people looking up — not just Wednesday, but every day.

For the trivia crowd, the moon will be 223,820 miles (360,200 kilometers) away at the peak of the eclipse, close enough for supermoon status.

Online:

NASA: <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/lunar.html>.