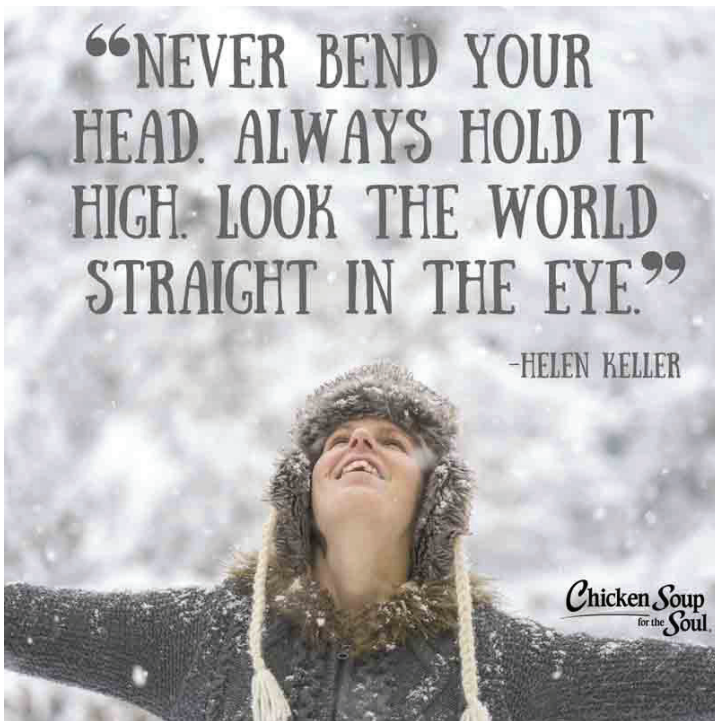


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**Sperry Stump Removal** Tyler: 605/216-8431  
**Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!**  
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

## 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.

**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**

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## Gov. Daugaard Signs First Bill Of The Session

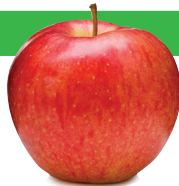
PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard this afternoon signed the first bill of the 2018 Legislative Session into law. The piece of legislation, House Bill 1057, authorizes the Board of Regents to contract for the construction of the Madison Cyber Labs (MadLabs) and the demolition of Lowry Hall at Dakota State University. The bill passed unanimously through the Joint Committee on Appropriations, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

“The MadLabs project is possible thanks to the generous support of Miles and Lisa Beacom and T. Denny Sanford,” said Governor Daugaard. “This new facility is an important aspect of DSU’s plan to keep the Beacom College on the cutting edge.”

MadLabs, a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, will allow students and faculty to work upon confidential and propriety information without leaving campus, and is a part of DSU’s Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences. DSU already holds four prestigious Center of Excellence designations from the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, including the most technical (for Cyber Operations) and the most prestigious (as a Cyber Defense Consultative Regional Resource Center). Dakota State is one of only four universities in the nation to have this latter distinction – and one of only two universities in the country with four or more designations.

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6096E-0917

MB17-NM008Ec

## Consider starting a Summer Food Service Program in your community

PIERRE, S.D. - In an effort to fend off hunger, the South Dakota Department of Education's office of Child and Adult Nutrition Services is seeking sponsors for a federally-funded program that provides nutritious meals and snacks to children in low-income areas during the summer months. Community organizations, nonprofits, schools, tribal and local governments can apply to be sponsors if they operate in low-income areas, serve a group of mostly low-income children or operate a summer camp with a high proportion of low-income participants. Parks and recreation departments, city and county health departments, libraries and neighborhood service agencies can participate as sites or sponsors.

"I commend those individuals and organizations who step forward to make summer feeding sites possible in their local communities," said Julie McCord, program specialist with South Dakota's Child and Adult Nutrition Services. "The Summer Food Service Program helps ensure that South Dakota students have access to healthy meals all summer long when they lack access to the National School Lunch Program."

When school is in session, over 61,000 South Dakota students receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program. The Summer Food Service Program is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the South Dakota Department of Education. It provides meals to students when school is not in session. Children age 18 and younger may receive a meal free of charge at a participating site. In 2017, South Dakota Summer Food Service Program sponsors served 523,239 meals, which is an increase from the 477,796 meals served in 2016.

Summer food program sites must be in the attendance area of a school where 50 percent or more of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or within the boundary of a U.S. Census block where at least 50 percent of children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals when at school. A site meeting those criteria is open to all children under age 18 with special considerations for children from migrant households or those with a disability. It is important to note that while some areas may not qualify with school data, such areas may still be able to qualify using census data. To determine eligibility in your area, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/mapping-tools-summer-meal-programs>.

Organizations interested in reviewing sponsor responsibilities can watch the Summer Food Service Program Overview on the South Dakota Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program webpage. To learn more about serving as a sponsor or site, call Child and Adult Nutrition Services at 605-773-3413. For more information and to register for training, go to <http://doe.sd.gov/cans/sfsp.aspx>. The deadline to register for training is Thursday, Feb. 22. Sponsors are often looking for partners to help provide activities and educational programs to encourage continued student participation throughout the summer.

School food authorities also have the option to utilize the Seamless Summer Option to provide meals in the summer. Information on that option can also be obtained from South Dakota's Child and Adult Nutrition Services office.

### USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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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)

## Groton Prairie Mixed

Chipmunks 19, Cheetahs 19, Foxes 16, Shih Tzus 14, Jackelopes 8, Coyotes 8

High game: Men – Brad Larson 226, Roger Spanier 225, Brad Waage 224, 203, Mike Siegler 211, 208, Roger Colestock 204

Women – Darci Spanier 174, Nicole Kassube 166, Karen Spanier 156

High series: Men – Mike Siegler 612, Brad Waage 588, Brad Larson 571

Women – Nicole Kassube 472, Karen Spanier 440, Brenda Waage 431

## Death Notice: Lucille Jensen

Lucille Jensen, 87, of Aberdeen passed away Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.



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carbon deposits, lower  
maintenance costs,  
slashed benzene & related  
genotoxic, carcinogenic  
tailpipe emissions;  
\*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for  
info, E30 prices\locations.

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



## South Dakota is Poised to Benefit From Precision Agriculture

BROOKINGS, S.D. - By the end of this year, \$4 billion will be spent globally on precision agriculture with satellites, sensors, machines, data, and drones. It's a collective industry opportunity and offers challenges which South Dakota is ready to embrace.

As Director of Operations for the Applied Technology Division of Raven Industries, Sarah Waltner was the keynote speaker at the recent South Dakota Corn Growers annual meeting in Sioux Falls. Waltner grew up on a family hog farm and says she spent a lot of time in the hog barns, in the family fields and neighbor's fields. She graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree from South Dakota State University.

"Precision ag is the basis for what we do," Waltner said in her remarks. She explained, "Precision ag is based on observing, measuring and responding to inter- and intra- field variability. It combines agronomic practices with farm machinery technology and with actionable data."

Farmers have to be profitable, Waltner said. It used to be that nitrogen was applied at the same rate across the field. If one field or a corner of a field had highly productive soil, applying more pounds of nitrogen was worth the increased input expense. If the soil is rocky or sandy, there would be a lower yield because the base soil will not yield much, no matter how much nitrogen is applied. Precision ag gives farmers a way to analyze the needs and the variable rate equipment allows a prescribed application of applied nutrients where needed and at most beneficial rate for the crop.

Waltner referred to a study done by the industry which shows there is a 10 to 15 percent saving in inputs for GPS- guided steering because there is less overlap or application in unnecessary areas. There is a 10 percent savings when using variable rate application. This is because nutrients are only applied where needed. In another study, 85 percent of corn growers polled believed they were more profitable after adopting more technology.

Farmers are bombarded with complicated questions, Waltner said. Do I spend money on GPS or not? What about section control? What do I do with the data? What kind of data do I use? Do I get my imagery from the sky or from in-field sensors? Really good things are happening in the industry, but it comes down to a question about how the technology can work together to help the farmer.

Specifically, no one person or company can solve the problem of data overload. Technology is very complicated.

"We have gone from no data, or not much data, to so much data that it freezes the farmers," Waltner said. "Precision ag is different from when it started and where it will be in 5 to 10 years. The key thing is figuring out the intersection between what money farmers will pay for their technology, how much do they want to spend on data, and how much do they pay for agronomy services, and how certain they are of a return from that investment."

Farmers have made investments, but 65 percent say they are not using the technology to its full potential. Dealing with this is a real opportunity and also a real challenge.

Ag is the largest sector of South Dakota's economy. Raven sees training those in the future workforce as vital to the success of precision ag. The company recently donated \$5 million to help pay for the construction of a Precision Agriculture Facility at SDSU's main campus in Brookings.

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Waltner says the development of the SDSU Precision Ag program will yield new research, new job opportunities and likely new companies. Graduates of the program will go back to their communities and become an important part of the state's workforce.

"Training is huge, retention is huge," Waltner said. "With more and more complicated technology, we need a more developed workforce who understand the challenges of precision ag. Workforce development is important to the progression of the state."

## Raven's background

Waltner said Raven was founded by four scientists who worked at General Mills in the Twin Cities. They moved to Sioux Falls, SD, in 1956, and the company began as a designer and manufacturer of high-altitude research balloons. Sioux Falls was chosen as the company needed an airport willing to work with balloon launches. The area was welcoming to this new company and the industry.

From that product line, Raven grew into a diversified technology company with three divisions: Raven Applied Technology, Raven Engineered Films and Raven Aerostar.

Since 1978, Raven Applied Technology has helped create, define and redefine precision agriculture. The product lines are directed toward precision ag. Waltner said, "We are about the application and system approach, making sure that we can help the farmer take action on his data with our technology."

Over half of those who work at Raven grew up on or are connected to a family farm in some way. The workforce is not from Silicon Valley. Many of the engineers are using the equipment they design in the evenings or on the weekends on their family farms. This provides a close connection between the products and the farming community. Raven designs products that are simple to use and because many of the engineers use the product themselves, it is designed with the user experience in mind.

"The biggest hurdle in the future will not be the technology but bringing usable and simple data to advance the practices," Waltner said. "If I am a farmer with only 40 growing seasons in my lifetime, I don't want to take a lot of risks. Growers shy away from what is good for them when they have to measure the risks. When 20 different companies are telling them 20 different things, there is almost too much technology available. Ag retailers need to be trained to help farmers make the best decisions which would improve their yield and reduce input costs. It's important to marry the technology with simplicity to improve yields and/or lower input costs."

The advances in technology are driven by increasing needs for the agricultural products. As populations grow, few countries are able to expand the land they farm. Improved farming techniques are needed to meet the demands, Waltner said. From state and economic benefits to the development of a highly trained workforce, South Dakota is well-positioned to benefit from precision agriculture technology and adoption.

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## Special IC Pin to be awarded at State DI in memory of Schaffer



A new memorial pin will be awarded this year at the State Destination Imagination. The Steve Schaffer family has graciously donated money to the South Dakota Creativity Association. The SDCA board decided that a memorial pin will be presented at the state event.

Steve is remembered by South Dakota teams for his penguin hat, many pins, quiet smile and great Instant Challenge advice. Steve spent many years appraising at all levels in Instant Challenge and as he would say, "helping teams master the art of Instant Challenge."

This special pin can only be won by the team with the highest Instant Challenge score for each challenge at the state competition. Teams will also get a certificate stating the award information.



Steve is pictured with his daughter, Kristen.



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## Today in Weather History

February 1, 1969: Across central and eastern South Dakota, February 1969 contained a variety of winter weather causing many difficulties. Glazing due to heavy fog and drizzle periodically formed on utility lines causing numerous broken power lines. Periodically, strong winds caused widespread blowing and drifting snow resulting in many closed roads. Snowplows would open the roads and often drifting snow would close the roads again. Frequent uses of pusher type snowplows piled banks of snow 20 to 30 feet along the roads and it became impractical to open roads with this type of snowplow. Several rotary snowplows were flown in from military airbases outside of the state to open some of the roads in the eastern part of the state. Numerous school closings occurred during the month due to snow blocked roads.

February 1, 1989: Four to eight inches of snow fell across western and northern South Dakota. Winds of 25 mph and subzero temperature produced wind chills in the 50 to 80 below zero range. Several schools were closed across the area due to the dangerous wind chills. The storm continued into the 2nd.

February 1, 2012: The image below is a 1000m resolution, "true color" image from the MODIS satellite valid February 1st, 2012. A couple interesting features are noted on the image described below:

Areas in "brown" are predominantly void of snow. As such - a vast majority of South Dakota is completely snow free! Obviously, this is quite rare for the 1st of February. The "brown ground" is able to absorb much more solar energy, which allows temperatures to warm. This is a major reason why temperatures have remained above normal.

Residual areas of snowcover (white) are confined to the Black Hills region in western South Dakota and the Glacial Lakes region in northeastern South Dakota.

1916: Seattle, Washington was buried under 21.5 inches of snow, their greatest 24-hour snowfall. A total of 32.5 inches of wet snow accumulated over three days. The Seattle cathedral dome collapsed under the snow's weight.

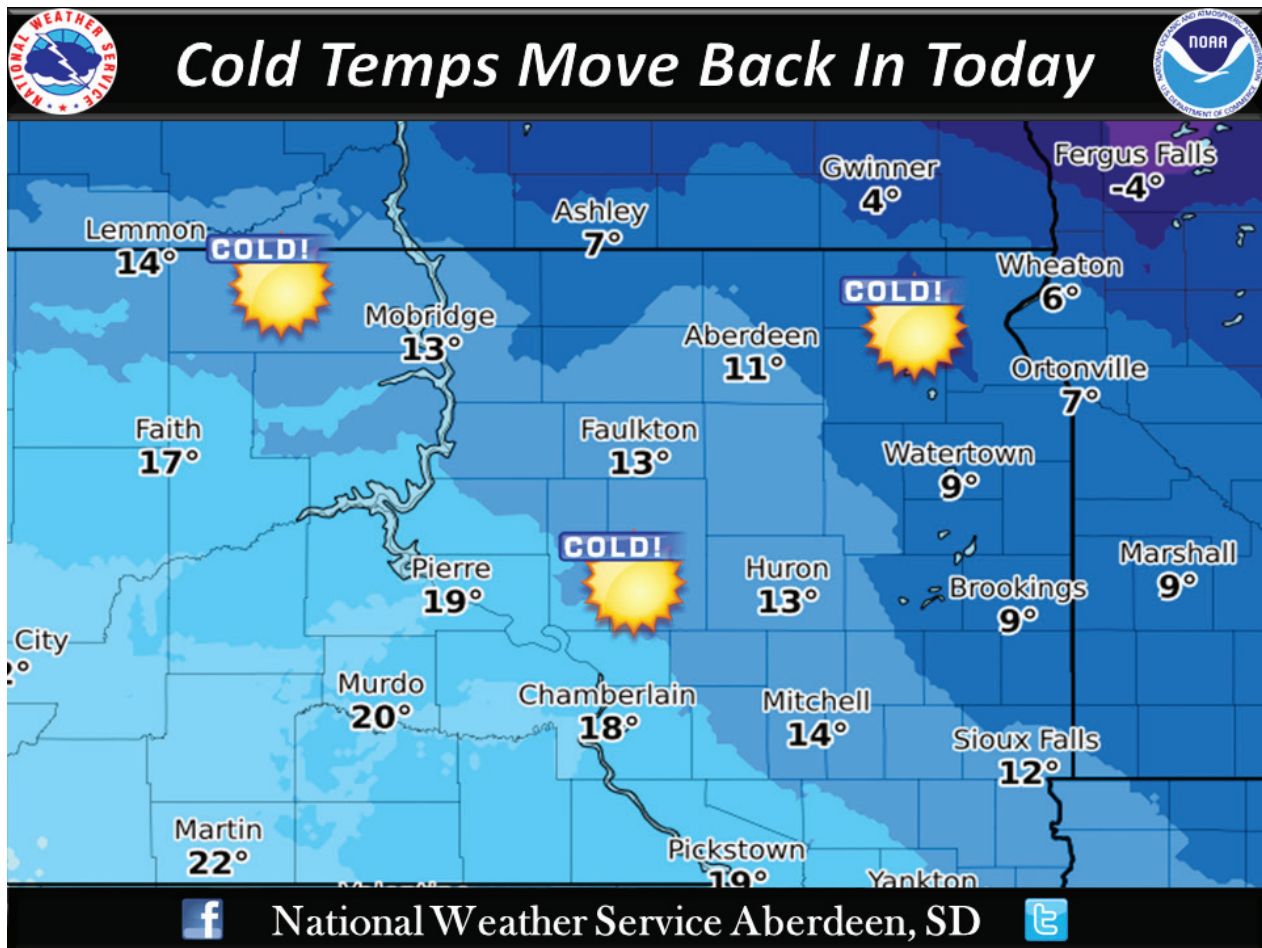
1947: On this date through the 9th, a memorable blizzard occurred in Saskatchewan, Canada. All highways into Regina were blocked. Railway officials declared the worst conditions in Canadian rail history. One train was buried in a snowdrift over a half mile long and 36.7 feet deep.

1955: Seen first as a "well defined cone-shaped funnel" over the Mississippi River, this F3 tornado cut a path from Commerce Landing to Clark in northeastern Mississippi. This tornado killed 20 and injured at least 141 individuals. Most of the deaths were in a plantation school. The following is from Thomas Grazulis, "Significant Tornadoes 1680-1991" book: "Despite the fact that a funnel was seen, that heavy objects were thrown long distances, and that the tornado was in a forecast box, the event was not officially called a tornado. A survey team state that since all debris was thrown in one direction, the event should not be listed as a tornado."

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Thu Feb 1	Fri Feb 2	Sat Feb 3	Sun Feb 4	Mon Feb 5	Tue Feb 6	Wed Feb 7
10°F	23°F	10°F	11°F	16°F	16°F	15°F
-8°F	4°F	-8°F	-2°F	-3°F	0°F	-2°F
NNW 14 MPH	SSE 8 MPH	NNE 11 MPH	W 8 MPH	N 8 MPH	SW 6 MPH	WNW 7 MPH
		Precip 60%		Precip 20%		Precip 20%



Published on: 02/01/2018 at 5:45AM

Surface high pressure will build south into the area today, bringing colder temperatures and northwest breezes. Wind chill values this morning will be bitterly cold across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota, with readings from 15 below to 25 below zero. High temperatures this afternoon will range from the single digits east, to the teens over central South Dakota.

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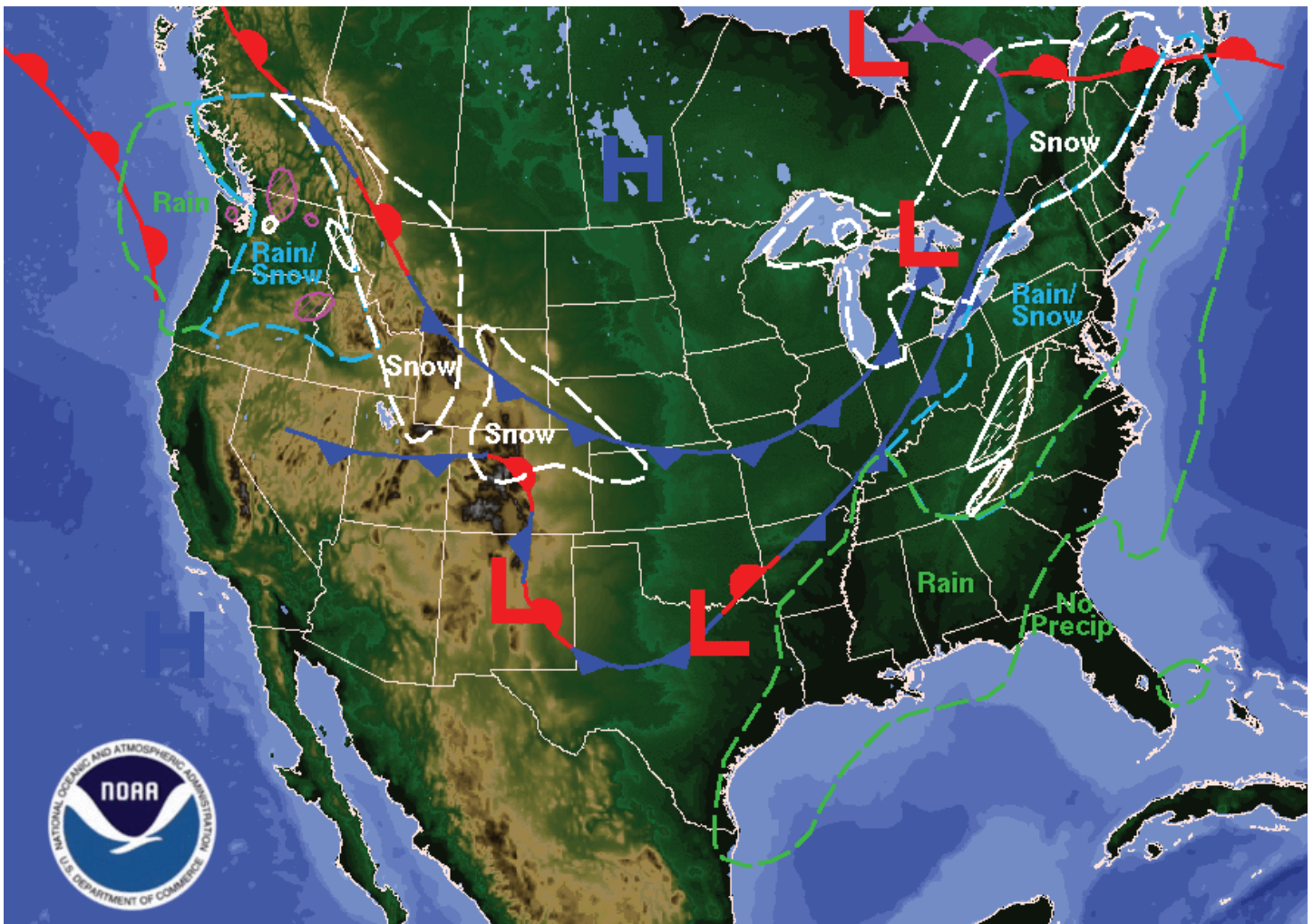
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 39.9 F at 1:55 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 4.8 F at 11:28 PM**  
**Wind Chill: -**  
**High Gust: 29.0 Mph at 2:41 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 58° in 1931**  
**Record Low: -42° in 1893**  
**Average High: 24°F**  
**Average Low: 3°F**  
**Average Precip in Feb: 0.01**  
**Precip to date in Feb: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.48**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:40 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:53 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Feb 01, 2018, issued 4:43 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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## HOW TO BEGIN EACH DAY

The day began with sunshine, blue skies and gentle breezes. The deep blue waters were calm and peaceful. A lovely new sailing vessel rocked slowly from side to side as the passengers walked around the deck. Each one had been personally met by the captain who greeted them with a smile, a handshake and the words, "Welcome aboard!" They felt confident with him as their commander.

Soon after the ship set sail a storm appeared on the horizon. Angry waves soon swept over the sides of the ship and the passengers were forced to go below where they were safe from the winds and waters. In fact, the captain was tied to the bridge so he would not be swept overboard. The ship was no longer a place of serenity but of fear and worry.

Finally, one of the passengers, overcoming his fear and anxiety, decided that he would climb from beneath the deck to see if the captain was still alive. He crawled up the stairs, opened the hatch and saw a sight that steadied his nerves and calmed his racing heart. Returning to the frightened passengers he shouted, "Everything's fine. I saw the face of the Captain, looked into his eyes and realized we were safe with him at the helm."

"In the morning," prayed the Psalmist, "my prayer comes before you." What a wise way to begin every day. If we go to the Lord before we are in a storm we can depend on His presence when we are engulfed by a storm. With His arms around us and His strength to sustain us, we will surely be able to face life's storms with confidence.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to realize that whatever we need to face the challenges of life is available through You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 88:13b And in the morning my prayer comes before You.



## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### **Tribal officials critical of reservation fugitive bill**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem which would make it easier for state officials to extradite fugitives from American Indian reservations is drawing criticism from tribal officials in South Dakota.

The proposal would allow state authorities to request a federal warrant for fugitives who travel to a reservation. Federal marshals could then apprehend the suspect. Under current law the fugitive would have to cross a state line before federal law would be applicable.

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Chairman Harold Frazier tells KOTA-TV procedures are already in place for extradition, so there's no need for the law. But, Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom says currently criminals are allowed to go back and forth between jurisdictions and re-offend.

Noem's bill has been sent to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

### **Intruder shot after stabbing homeowner in Meade County**

BLACK HAWK, S.D. (AP) — Sheriff's officials say an intruder was shot after attacking a homeowner in Black Hawk.

The Meade County Sheriff's Office says deputies responded to a call from the residence about 11:30 p.m. about an unknown male who had entered the home and stabbed one of the occupants.

The intruder fled after being shot by someone in the home. Officials say deputies later found the man hiding under a porch at a nearby residence. He was taken to Rapid City Reginal Hospital. The homeowner was treated for facial injuries.

### **Man caught in Sturgis sex trafficking sting sentenced**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Colorado man caught during an undercover sex trafficking sting during the 2016 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally has been sentenced in South Dakota to nearly six years in federal prison.

The U.S. attorney's office says 25-year-old Levi Drussell of Fort Collins, Colorado, sent multiple pornographic pictures of himself and requested similar pictures from someone he believed to a minor.

He was convicted of attempting to receive child porn and recently sentenced to five years and 11 months in prison. He'll be on supervised release for 10 years following his prison time.

### **Report: Midwest business conditions index slipped in January**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A report says a business conditions index for nine Midwest and Plains states slipped over the past month but still pointed to continuing improvement in regional economic conditions.

The report released Thursday says the Mid-America Business Conditions Index dropped to 57.3 in January from 59.0 in December. The November figure was 57.2.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says manufacturing and other business sectors in the region are adding jobs at a solid pace.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

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## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

04-12-18-19-21

(four, twelve, eighteen, nineteen, twenty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$132,000

Lotto America

11-14-22-27-38, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2

(eleven, fourteen, twenty-two, twenty-seven, thirty-eight; Star Ball: three; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$19.38 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$104 million

Powerball

04-07-14-46-59, Powerball: 22, Power Play: 10

(four, seven, fourteen, forty-six, fifty-nine; Powerball: twenty-two; Power Play: ten)

Estimated jackpot: \$127 million

## Yankton casino push starts at South Dakota Legislature

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Supporters of a proposed casino and entertainment complex in Yankton are betting it would help their community and bring in millions of dollars for the state, but first they need South Dakota lawmakers to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot.

A measure introduced Wednesday at the Capitol would ask voters to allow a nonprofit group to have a gaming license in the southeastern South Dakota city. Former state Sen. Bernie Hunhoff, a Port Yankton project supporter, said the community wants an opportunity to compete with Iowa and Nebraska for tourists, conventions and working families.

"Port Yankton will allow us to use gaming to produce all sorts of amenities and quality-of-life benefits that our city of 15,000 just can't afford otherwise," Hunhoff said.

An assessment done for the Yankton Area Progressive Growth, a pro-amendment group, projected that first-year gambling, hotel, restaurant and entertainment revenue would be more than \$35 million. The amendment would allow roulette, keno, craps, limited card games and slot machines.

A coalition of Nebraska and South Dakota tribes opposes the push. Yankton Sioux Chairman Robert Flying Hawk said in a statement that there are 11 tribal casinos in the region that would be negatively affected by the plan.

"The Port Yankton project threatens the livelihood of South Dakota's tribes and the state's economy," he said.

Voters passed a constitutional amendment in 1988 allowing gambling in Deadwood. The new proposal would dedicate the state tax revenues generated by the Yankton facility to community and economic development, but it doesn't dictate a specific dollar amount.

Dianna Miller, a lobbyist for Yankton Area Progressive Growth, said the goal in part is to help the state raise money for projects that haven't been funded in the past. She said it's also an opportunity to "reinvent the community."

Hunhoff said the project would bring in property tax revenues for the city and county, and the community would earn income by leasing the gaming license to a private operator. He said the plan could also bring in \$4 million or more annually for the state.

## **South Dakota lawmakers to debate under-21 tobacco sales ban**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers are set to debate raising the legal age to buy tobacco from 18 to 21.

The bill was introduced Wednesday. Republican Sen. Alan Solano, a sponsor, says it would help remove tobacco from South Dakota schools.

He says the plan would also bring tobacco laws in line with rules governing the purchase of alcohol. Solano says young people will be better off if they wait to use tobacco products.

The proposal doesn't yet have its first legislative hearing scheduled.

## **Lawmakers vote down lower drinking age for military members**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota House committee has voted down legislation that would have lowered the drinking age for members of the military to 18.

The House State Affairs Committee decided Wednesday to reject the plan.

It would have allowed bars and retailers to serve 18-year-old active duty, reserve and National Guard service members who showed valid military identification cards.

Republican Rep. Tim Goodwin, the sponsor, says if people are willing to put their lives on the line to serve their country, they should be deemed adults.

Current federal law says any state with a drinking age lower than 21 can lose 8 percent of federal highway funding.

A state Department of Transportation lobbyist says it would have cost the state over \$20 million annually.

## **Panel rejects bill to drug-test South Dakota Legislature**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota legislative panel has rejected a bill that would have required all state lawmakers to be drug-tested.

The House State Affairs Committee voted Wednesday to kill the measure.

It would have mandated members of the Legislature be tested within two weeks of getting sworn into office and two weeks of legislative session's end.

Republican Rep. Dan Kaiser, a supporter, unsuccessfully urged the committee to pass the bill to lead by example.

Republican Rep. David Lust, who opposed it, contended the bill was either based on cynicism or grandstanding.

The bill required that a positive test or a refusal to take one would have been reported to the presiding officer of the lawmaker's chamber for discipline.

## **Man accused of helping suspect shot by Bismarck officer**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A second man has been charged in a case in which a Bismarck police officer shot and wounded a man who's accused of trying to hit the officer with a vehicle.

Thirty-two-year-old Juan Nunez is accused of helping 22-year-old Ulises Villalobos-Alvarado avoid apprehension. He could enter a plea March 5 to a felony charge of hindering law enforcement.

Villalobos-Alvarado faces felony charges of attempted murder and fleeing. He's accused of trying to run over a Bismarck officer who subsequently shot him in the arm.

The incident happened Jan. 18 as authorities were conducting a probation search. He later turned himself in at a gas station in Brookings, South Dakota.

Court documents don't say where Nunez is from, and his relationship to Villalobos-Alvarado is unclear. Both men remain jailed.



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## Wessington Springs voters approve \$3.5M school bond issue

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Voters in the Wessington Springs school district have approved a \$3.5 million bond issue for building upgrades, just two months after defeating a more expensive measure. Sixty-two percent of voters in Tuesday's election favored the bond issue, which needed 60 percent approval to pass.

The money will cover various improvements, from plumbing to electrical systems. Voters in November narrowly defeated a \$4.5 million bond issue.

## North Korean athletes arrive in South Korea for Olympics

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP) — Ten North Korean skaters and skiers arrived in rival South Korea on Thursday to participate in this month's Winter Olympics, which has brought a temporary lull in tensions over the North's nuclear weapons program.

The North Koreans are the second and final batch of 22 athletes from their country who have won special entries from the International Olympic Committee for the Feb. 9-25 games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. A dozen North Korean female hockey players came last week to form a joint team with South Korean athletes, the first unified Korean team in the Olympics. North Korea originally had no athletes accredited to play in the games.

A 32-member North Korean delegation including the 10 athletes, their coaches and Vice Sports Minister Won Kil U arrived in South Korea by air. They flew on a South Korean flight that also brought back South Korean non-Olympic skiers who had visited a North Korean ski resort this week. It is extremely unusual for North Koreans to travel aboard a South Korean plane, with most past visits, including the hockey players' arrival, made across the heavily fortified land border.

Greeted by a barrage of camera flashes, the North Koreans — men dressed in navy blue coats and women in red coats, both wearing fur hats — didn't speak much at the South Korean airport and later at the athletes' village in the eastern city of Gangneung. But some smiled and waved their hands to journalists at the athletes' village. One said, "Nice to meet you!"

The 10 athletes are to compete in alpine and cross-country skiing, figure skating and short-track speed skating events in the Olympics.

The Koreans have been planning several conciliatory gestures during the games, including having their athletes parade together with a single "unification flag" depicting their peninsula during the opening ceremony. Another rare sight on Thursday was North Korean flags that began flying in Olympic villages and stadiums in Pyeongchang and Gangneung, something that normally wouldn't be tolerated in a country with a strict anti-North Korea security law still in effect.

South Korea sees the Olympics as an opportunity to revive meaningful communication with North Korea after a period of animosity and diplomatic stalemate over the North's nuclear and missile programs. Some outside experts say the North may aim to use improved ties with South Korea as a way to weaken U.S.-led international sanctions.

"It feels amazing (that they are coming)," said Choi So Eun, a college student who volunteered for translation and other work during the Olympics, after taking a selfie with a fellow volunteer under a North Korean flag at the Gangneung athletes' village.

"I thought only high-level officials in South Korea could see a North Korean in person, but I think I can see them here so I'm excited," Choi said.

Earlier Thursday, the South Korean non-Olympic skiers practiced and participated in friendly competitions with North Korean skiers at the North's Masik ski resort at the end of a two-day visit. They returned home aboard a chartered South Korean flight together with the 32-member North Korean delegation.

"More than anything, it's meaningful that the joint training session at the Masik ski resort was held in the way the South and North had agreed to," said Lee Joo-tae, an official from Seoul's Unification Ministry who accompanied the South Korean delegation. "It's also meaningful that we were able to come back with

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North Korean athletes on the same plane.”

Next week, North Korea is to send a 230-member cheering group, a 140-strong art troupe, taekwondo demonstrators and journalists as part of its Olympic delegation. The last time North Korea sent a big delegation to South Korea was for the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, just west of Seoul.

Pyeongchang, a relatively small ski resort town, will host the ski, snowboard and sliding events during the Olympics. Gangneung, a larger coastal city about an hour's drive away, will host the skating, hockey and curling events.

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Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

## Top Democrat questions US meeting with Russian spy chiefs

By **DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats want to know why the Trump administration allowed two Russian spy chiefs under U.S. and European sanctions to meet last week in Washington with American intelligence officials.

Russia's U.S. ambassador said Sergei Naryshkin, head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, was in the United States to discuss counterterrorism with his American counterparts.

Naryshkin was accompanied at the meeting in Washington by Alexander Bortnikov, who directs the top KGB successor agency known as the Federal Security Service, according to two U.S. officials, who were not authorized to disclose the information and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The two Russian intelligence officials were sanctioned in 2014 in response to Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine — Naryshkin by the U.S. and Bortnikov by the European Union.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said the timing of the meeting is suspicious because it came just days before the Trump administration decided not to issue new sanctions against Russian politicians and oligarchs over Russian interference in the election. He released a letter early Thursday demanding that Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats disclose details of the meeting by Feb. 9.

Schumer said sanctions against Naryshkin impose severe financial penalties and prohibit his entry into the U.S. without a waiver.

The State Department declined to comment, saying visa records are confidential by law.

The CIA would not confirm the meetings, saying only that any interactions with foreign intelligence officials would have been conducted in accordance with U.S. law and in consultation with appropriate departments and agencies. Such meetings might occur more often than is publicly known.

Government agencies at times need to secure waivers to get certain individuals into the country, according to a U.S. official, who agreed to discuss the process only on condition of anonymity. The official said law enforcement agencies, for instance, might need a waiver to allow a witness in an arms trafficking case travel to the United States. Other U.S. agencies might need to speak with officials from an enemy nation.

Schumer wants to know why the visit was allowed, who approved it, which other Russian officials were in the delegation and whether they also are under sanction. Schumer also asked Coats to disclose what was discussed at the meetings and whether the Russians also met with Trump administration officials at the White House, State or Defense departments or the National Security Council.

“Did the U.S. officials who met with Mr. Naryshkin raise Russia's interference in the 2016 elections? If not, why was this not raised? If raised, what was his response?” Schumer asked.

Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin, the senior Democratic on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also expressed concern about the meeting. He said the fact that it was disclosed by Russian authorities is evidence that Moscow wants to boast that sanctioned officials can travel into the United States. Cardin said in a CNN interview he wants to make sure sanctions against Russians are being enforced.

## Reaction to Trump's immigration offer casts doubt on a deal

By ALAN FRAM and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's State of the Union offer of a "down-the-middle compromise" on immigration did nothing to move Republicans and Democrats closer to a deal, as Democrats accused the president of lacing his speech with racially charged remarks and Republicans dug in on their demands.

The reaction to Trump's high-profile overture suggested both parties were settling into a protracted tug-of-war. The standoff left serious doubt whether the two parties could reach an election-year pact to protect hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation, sharpen border security and take other steps to curb immigration. The two parties had not even settled on a deadline for an agreement — a bad sign in an institution that rarely acts unless under pressure.

"If the deadline is Feb. 8, we're not going to make it," No. 2 House Democratic leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland said Wednesday, noting a looming deadline for approving government funding to avoid another shutdown.

"It's going to take work for us to build a consensus," Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., the House GOP vote counter, said in an interview Tuesday. Scalise noted that Republicans took "weeks and weeks" to craft tax legislation last year.

Trump complained early Thursday that "the Democrats are doing nothing about DACA."

"They Resist, Blame, Complain and Obstruct - and do nothing. Start pushing Nancy Pelosi and the Dems to work out a DACA fix, NOW!" the president tweeted.

Earlier this month, Senate Democrats looking to pressure Republicans to reach an immigration deal forced a three-day federal shutdown. While many Democrats have little appetite to repeat that strategy, party leaders have yet to indicate if they'll let future budget legislation move forward without an immigration accord.

The tone of the immigration debate, already testy, seemed to worsen after Trump asserted Tuesday night that "open borders have allowed drugs and gangs to pour into our most vulnerable communities" and let millions of immigrants "compete for jobs and wages against the poorest Americans."

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Wednesday that Trump used "insulting words of ignorance and prejudice." Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, D-N.M., who leads the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said the remarks were "meant to enflame tensions about immigrants" and would stir up Trump's conservative base but damage talks.

Republicans said Democrats are not making serious offers as they bargain over Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, the Obama-era program that's shielded immigrants in the U.S. illegally who were brought here as children. Trump said last year he was ending the program, claiming executive overreach by President Barack Obama, but gave Congress until March 5 to enshrine it into law.

"If Democrats don't figure out a way to negotiate, then the DACA program will end and that's not an outcome I think anybody would like," said Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the second-ranking Senate GOP leader. "But they will be responsible for it."

Even that March 5 date was in doubt, according to Hoyer, who's been meeting with other leaders. He said Republicans suggested Trump could extend that deadline, though a congressional GOP aide said he was unaware of that option. Trump's tweet on Thursday said, "March 5th is rapidly approaching."

The urgency of the March 5 deadline was also blunted by a federal judge's decision to temporarily block the end of the DACA program. As a result, U.S. immigration authorities resumed accepting requests to renew DACA permits, which give recipients permission to live and work in the country.

Trump has proposed a 10- to 12-year track to citizenship for around 1.8 million younger immigrants protected by DACA or eligible for its guarantees. That's enraged GOP conservatives.

"The heartburn is the amnesty component," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., leader of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, referring to Trump's offer of citizenship. Meadows said that plan needs "a few adjustments that may be major" before it could pass the House.

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Trump also wants \$25 billion for border security, including his prized wall, despite campaign promises that Mexico would fund it. He would end a lottery used to encourage immigration from diverse countries and redistribute some of those visas to applicants with high-skilled jobs.

He would also limit relatives that immigrants could sponsor for legal U.S. status to spouses and under-age children. He calls that "chain migration," a term immigration advocates find nearly as offensive as the idea of barring them from helping parents, siblings and other relatives.

"We will not reach agreement as long as he wants to attack the very underpinning of legal immigration. My sister is not a distant relative," said Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., a hard-line advocate for immigration.

GOP lawmakers were also wary of changes Trump would make, such as potential curbs on visas that allow temporary agriculture or seasonal workers into the U.S.

"I favor legal immigration, I want to eliminate illegal immigration," said Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D. He said Trump's proposal was "a good first step."

The conservative-leaning Cato Institute has called Trump's proposals "draconian restrictions on legal immigrants" that would exclude nearly 500,000 legal immigrants annually, cutting their numbers by nearly 50 percent.

Without a deal, Democrats risked a backlash from liberal voters furious about any failure to protect the young immigrants known as "Dreamers." Republicans were wary of letting deportations begin in a year in which they'll be defending Senate seats in Nevada and Arizona, swing states with high Hispanic populations.

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Associated Press writer Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

## **FBI in public fight with Trump over releasing Russia memo**

**By CHAD DAY, JONATHAN LEMIRE and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a remarkably public clash of wills with the White House, the FBI declared Wednesday it has "grave concerns" about the accuracy of a classified memo on the Russia election investigation that President Donald Trump wants released.

The FBI's short and sharp statement, its first on the issue, laid bare a Trump administration conflict that had previously played out mostly behind closed doors in meetings between top Justice Department and White House officials.

"As expressed during our initial review, we have grave concerns about material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo's accuracy," the FBI said.

Further complicating the memo's release, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee said late Wednesday that his committee's vote to release the memo was now invalid because it was "secretly altered" by Republicans who wrote it. California Rep. Adam Schiff said in a letter to House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes that committee Democrats had discovered changes that were made after the panel voted Monday to send it to Trump for review.

"The White House has therefore been reviewing a document since Monday night that the committee never approved for public release," Schiff said in the letter.

A spokesman for Nunes said the changes were "minor edits to the memo, including grammatical fixes and two edits requested by the FBI and by the minority themselves."

Jack Langer said the committee vote was "procedurally sound," and "to suggest otherwise is a bizarre distraction from the abuses detailed in the memo, which the public will hopefully soon be able to read for themselves."

Trump has five days from the vote to review the document, and if he doesn't object then Congress can release it. Trump himself already has urged the release, and it could come sooner. But Schiff has called for Nunes to withdraw the memo from the White House and for the committee to hold a new vote next Monday.

The memo is part of an effort to reveal what Republicans say are surveillance abuses by the FBI and the Justice Department in the early stages of the investigation into potential ties between Russia and the



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2016 Trump presidential campaign.

The FBI's stance on the memo escalates the dispute and means Trump would be openly defying his hand-picked FBI director by continuing to push for its disclosure. It also suggests a clear willingness by FBI Director Christopher Wray, who in the early stretch of his tenure has been notably low-key, to challenge a president who just months ago fired his predecessor, James Comey.

The FBI statement came the day after Trump was overheard telling a congressman that he "100 percent" supported release of the four-page memo.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer on Wednesday night placed the blame on House Speaker Paul Ryan, saying that if Ryan "cares about the integrity of the House or the rule of law, he will put an end to this charade once and for all."

Democrats have called the memo a "cherry-picked" list of GOP talking points that attempts to distract from the committee's own investigation into Russian meddling in the election that sent Trump to the White House.

The drama comes as special counsel Robert Mueller also is investigating whether the Trump campaign improperly coordinated with Russia during the campaign and whether Trump sought to obstruct the inquiry by, among other actions, firing Comey.

Earlier this week, Wray and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein made a direct appeal to White House chief of staff John Kelly not to release the memo, warning that it could set a dangerous precedent.

But the president has been undeterred.

Television cameras captured Trump, on the House floor after the State of the Union address, telling South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan that he backed the release. When Duncan implored him to "release the memo," Trump said: "Oh yeah, don't worry. 100 percent."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders told CNN Wednesday that a legal and national security review of the document was continuing. Trump had not read the memo as "as of last night prior to and immediately after the State of the Union," she said.

White House chief of staff Kelly said Wednesday on Fox News Radio that he expected the memo to be released "pretty quick."

Trump has been telling confidants in recent days that he believes the memo will validate his concerns that the FBI and Justice Department had conspired against him, according to one outside adviser familiar with those conversations but not authorized to speak publicly about private discussions.

The president also has told allies that he believes the memo bolsters his belief that accusations of collusion between his campaign and Russian officials are false and part of a conspiracy to discredit his election.

On Wednesday afternoon, Nunes fired back at the law enforcement agencies, calling the FBI and Justice Department objections "spurious."

"It's clear that top officials used unverified information in a court document to fuel a counter-intelligence investigation during an American political campaign," Nunes said. "Once the truth gets out, we can begin taking steps to ensure our intelligence agencies and courts are never misused like this again."

Nunes stepped aside from leading the committee's investigation last April amid an ethics investigation into whether he had improperly disclosed classified information. He was later cleared and resumed his leadership role.

The White House counsel's office has been in possession of the memo, officials say. The National Security Council is leading a review, which will also involve the White House legal team.

The vote to release the memo was unprecedented in the committee's history. The panel usually goes out of its way to protect classified information in the interest of shielding intelligence sources and methods.

In the hours before the Monday vote, Rosenstein and Wray warned Kelly that releasing the memo could set a dangerous precedent, according to a person familiar with the conversation. Rosenstein also told Kelly the memo didn't accurately characterize the FBI's investigative practices, the person said.

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 him when he reviewed the memo, said the FBI director did not raise any national security concerns. Gowdy said the memo doesn't reveal any intelligence methods but does reveal "one source."

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

Read the transcript of the House intelligence committee vote to release the memo: <http://apne.ws/Hcizfdo>

## 28 Russians have Olympic doping bans lifted

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH, AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Twenty-eight Russian athletes had their Olympic doping bans overturned Thursday, throwing the International Olympic Committee's policy on the country into turmoil.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling was set to reinstate seven Russian medals from the 2014 Sochi Olympics, including gold in men's skeleton and men's 50-kilometer cross-country skiing.

"This does not mean that these 28 athletes are declared innocent, but in their case, due to insufficient evidence, the appeals are upheld, the sanctions annulled and their individual results achieved in Sochi are reinstated," CAS secretary general Matthieu Reeb said in Pyeongchang.

The IOC said it had taken note of the CAS decision "with satisfaction on the one hand and disappointment on the other," adding the decision "may have a serious impact on the future fight against doping."

The 28 who had their bans lifted could now seek late entry into the Pyeongchang Olympics, but the IOC said "not being sanctioned does not automatically confer the privilege of an invitation."

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko said the government would back further legal action to allow the athletes in Thursday's decisions to compete in Pyeongchang.

"If the IOC does not accept them, then we will support them in cases which could be filed at CAS and other legal instances," Mutko said in televised comments.

Eleven more Russians were ruled to have been guilty of doping but had lifetime bans imposed by an IOC disciplinary panel two months ago cut to a ban only from the Pyeongchang Games, which open next week.

"Vigorous actions in defending rights in court are justified and can be effective and should continue," said Dmitry Peskov, the spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin. "We're glad for our athletes."

In the urgent verdicts announced Thursday, the two CAS judging panels who heard 39 appeal cases last week in Geneva — and took testimony from Russian whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov — did not give detailed reasons.

"In 28 cases, the evidence collected was found to be insufficient to establish that an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) was committed by the athletes concerned," the sports court said in a statement.

CAS said it "unanimously found that the evidence put forward by the IOC in relation to this matter did not have the same weight in each individual case."

The 11 whose appeals were rejected came from men's bobsled, women's cross-country skiing and women's hockey.

They included two-time bobsled gold medalist Alexander Zubkov. His re-tested samples had abnormal levels of salt, suggesting his tainted urine was swapped in the Sochi testing laboratory with previously stored clean urine, as Rodchenkov said.

Still, the CAS rulings will be seen as a victory for Russia, which has long denied it ran a state-backed doping program.

"It's a big victory for them and I'm relieved that justice has finally been done," Philippe Baertsch, a lawyer for the athletes, told The Associated Press. "This confirms what they've been saying since Day 1, namely that they are and they've always been clean athletes, and that they were wrongly sanctioned without any evidence."

The IOC has already invited 169 Russians to the Pyeongchang Olympics to compete under a neutral flag, but may now be forced to allow in athletes it deems dopers, eight days before the games begin.

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"We do hope that the IOC will grant them the right to participate in Pyeongchang," Baertsch said in a telephone interview. "I think that the least the IOC could do is allow them to participate, so we will request that they are allowed to participate, and depending on the answer of the IOC, we will take the measures that are necessary."

It wasn't immediately clear how many of the 28 Russians would now seek to compete. Some have already retired from competitive sports.

Rodchenkov's lawyer, Jim Walden, said the CAS decision would allow doped athletes to escape without punishment.

"(Rodchenkov's) truth has been verified by forensic evidence, other whistleblowers, and, more recently, recovery of the Moscow lab's secret database, showing thousands of dirty tests that were covered up," Walden said in a statement.

"This panel's unfortunate decision provides a very small measure of punishment for some athletes but a complete 'get out of jail free card' for most. Thus, the CAS decision only emboldens cheaters, makes it harder for clean athletes to win, and provides yet another ill-gotten gain for the corrupt Russian doping system generally, and Putin specifically."

Baertsch said there had been "numerous inconsistencies" in Rodchenkov's evidence presented to CAS.

Those reinstated from the Sochi Olympics include skeleton gold medalist Alexander Tretiakov and cross-country ski gold medalist Alexander Legkov. Russia won't win back some medals, such as in the men's four-man bobsled, where two crew members were disqualified and two reinstated. Both of the gold medal-winning two-man bobsled crew remain banned.

"We were hoping for justice and it has prevailed," said Elena Nikitina, who won a bronze medal in skeleton in Sochi. "It's a matter of my life, what I do, and when you're accused like that it's very unpleasant and everything falls apart for you."

"We're going to hope that we still make it to these Olympic Games."

The IOC last year banned 43 Russians for doping offenses at the Sochi Olympics, ruling they had been part of a scheme to dope.

Rodchenkov, the director of the laboratory which handled samples for the Sochi Games, said he gave cocktails of banned steroids to athletes and swapped tainted samples for clean urine on orders from Russian state sports officials.

The Russian government vehemently denies ever supporting doping.

Three more appeals, all involving retired biathlon competitors, will be heard later.

AP Sports Writer Graham Dunbar in Geneva and Associated Press reporters Nataliya Vasilyeva and Sergei Fedotov in Moscow, and Pietro DeCristofaro in Pyeongchang, South Korea, contributed to this report.

## Michigan police department to apologize regarding Nassar

By ED WHITE, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A police department in the Lansing, Michigan, area missed an opportunity to pursue criminal charges in 2004 against Larry Nassar and will publicly apologize to the victim who accused the doctor of molesting her during treatment for an abnormal spine, an official said Wednesday.

Meridian Township will make the apology Thursday to Brianne Randall-Gay and announce changes in how it handles sexual misconduct investigations, township Manager Frank Walsh said.

Nassar, who was a sports doctor at Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics, convinced police that he had performed a legitimate procedure with his hands and even provided a PowerPoint presentation to explain. The case was dropped, effectively allowing him to continue to molest girls and young women, including Olympians, for years until his arrest in 2016. A total of 265 women and girls have said they were assaulted.

"We missed it. We're not going to hide it. We were deceived," Walsh said.

The township released the 2004 police report on Randall-Gay's allegations against Nassar. Walsh said

the township was told to withhold it from the public until Nassar was sentenced last week to 40 to 175 years in prison for sexually assaulting young women and girls in Ingham County. Another sentencing is underway this week in a similar case in Eaton County.

In 2004, Randall-Gay was 17 when she and her mother visited Nassar to discuss treatment for scoliosis, a curvature of the spine. He sent her to physical therapy but saw her again, this time alone.

Randall-Gay had a back problem. But she told police that Nassar had removed her underwear, forcibly cupped her genitals with his hand and rubbed her breasts — all without gloves.

"She thought it was 'weird' and it 'freaked her out,'" the police report says.

Nassar told police he applied pressure to the "perineum," using a formal word for an area between the legs, and said it was done to manipulate a ligament, according to the report.

Nassar provided a paper version of a PowerPoint presentation about the ligament procedure, titled "The Grand Junction." There's no indication that police shared his technical explanation with an outside expert. The case was closed.

Walsh said questions about the investigation will be answered during a news conference Thursday with the police chief and Randall-Gay, who now lives in Washington state. Meridian Township paid for her to travel to Michigan to testify at Nassar's sentencing last week.

Back in 2004, Nassar "had the audacity to tell (police) I misunderstood the treatment because I was not comfortable with my body," Randall-Gay said.

It was not the only investigation over the years. A Michigan State University police investigation ended in 2014 with no charges filed. Another investigation by the university, required under federal anti-discrimination law, cleared Nassar of assault.

Follow Ed White at <http://twitter.com/edwhiteap>

## 5 Things: What Yellen's Fed tenure will be remembered for

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Janet Yellen leaves the Federal Reserve this weekend after four years as chair, her legacy will include having shattered a social barrier: She is the first woman to have led the world's most powerful central bank, a position that carries enormous sway over the global economy.

Yellen will be remembered, too, for her achievements in deftly guiding the Fed's role in the U.S. economy's slow recovery from a crushing financial crisis and recession. She picked up where her predecessor, Ben Bernanke, had left off in nurturing the nation's recuperation from a crisis that nearly toppled the financial system.

As Jerome Powell prepares to succeed Yellen as leader of the U.S. central bank, here are five areas in which Yellen's era at the Fed will be remembered:

### CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Yellen served not just the past four years as Fed chair but for 2½ years in the 1990s as a Fed board member, then six years as president of the Fed's San Francisco regional bank and then for four years as the Fed's vice chair during Bernanke's second four-year term. In all those roles, Yellen proved herself an able economic forecaster. She often detected perils before others saw reason for alarm, and she became a forceful advocate, especially during the Great Recession, for an aggressive response to economic weakness.

Transcripts of Fed policy meetings from the fall of 2008, when Lehman Brothers' collapse ignited the most dangerous phase of the financial crisis, show that Yellen helped drive the Fed to unleash just about everything in its economic arsenal, including slashing its key short-term interest rate to a record low near zero.

### BOLD ACTIONS

As the recession deepened and millions more Americans lost jobs, Yellen was an assertive voice backing



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up Bernanke in the path-breaking move by the Fed to buy enormous quantities of Treasury and mortgage bonds to try to drive down long-term borrowing rates to support the economy. Critics warned that the bond purchases, which eventually swelled the Fed's balance sheet five-fold to \$4.5 trillion, could trigger high inflation. So far, inflation has not only remained low but for six years has remained below even the Fed's 2 percent target rate.

The Yellen-led Fed continued to support the bond purchases in the face of skepticism. Later, it rebuffed pressure to start selling off its record-high bond holdings. Finally, in October, after the Fed felt it had achieved its goal of maximum employment, it began gradually paring its bond portfolio.

## CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS

Yellen extended an innovation of the Bernanke Fed by holding quarterly news conferences after four of the eight policy meetings each year. At these roughly hour-long sessions, Yellen usually managed to shed some light on the Fed's thinking about its rate policy while cautioning that any future policy changes would hinge on the latest economic data. By all accounts, she avoided any major communication stumbles by telegraphing the Fed's moves in advance to avoid catching investors off guard.

Her success in this area contrasted with a rare but memorable stumble by Bernanke: In 2013, as Fed chairman, Bernanke triggered what came to be called the "taper tantrum." It occurred when he first raised the possibility that the Fed could start gradually tapering its bond purchases sometime in the months to follow — unexpected remarks that sent bond prices plunging.

## JOBS ABOVE ALL

Yellen, more than her predecessors, stressed the overarching importance of increasing job growth to the greatest level possible. Maximum employment is one of the two mandates Congress lays out for the Fed. The other is to manage interest rates to promote stable prices, which the Fed has defined as inflation averaging 2 percent annually.

Yellen's predecessors typically worried most about triggering debilitating bouts of inflation of the kind that the United States suffered in the 1970s. That meant favoring higher rates to limit borrowing and spending.

Yellen was different. She believed the U.S. economy had entered an era in which the gravest threat was not a resurgence of inflation but a prolonged period of weak job growth. She argued that the Fed could leave its key policy rate at a record low near zero for far longer than had previously been thought prudent.

The Fed's benchmark rate remained near zero from late 2008 until December 2015, when the central bank raised it modestly. Since then, the Fed has gradually raised rates four additional times, leaving its key rate in a still-low range of 1.25 percent to 1.5 percent — well below the level usually associated with a prolonged economic expansion and a tight job market.

## HISTORY'S JUDGMENT

So far, Yellen has been proved correct in her bet that rates could remain lower for longer without causing high inflation. The unemployment rate has reached a 17-year low of 4.1 percent with still-low inflation.

Yet many of Yellen's critics remain unconvinced. They contend that her insistence on low rates has helped swell dangerous bubbles in such assets as stocks and perhaps home prices. They further warn that because the Fed took so long to begin raising rates, a Powell-led Fed could trigger market turbulence with further rate increases and end up harming the economy — possibly even triggering a recession.

Yellen's supporters, though, argue that once again she will be proved correct and that the Fed will be able to achieve an economic soft landing: Raising rates enough to keep the economy from overheating but not so much as to derail the expansion, already the third-longest in U.S. history.

## **GOP lawmakers put medical skills to work after train crash**

**By ALAN FRAM and HEIDI BROWN, Associated Press**

CROZET, Va. (AP) — Republican members of Congress with medical experience put their skills to work after a train carrying dozens of them crashed into a garbage truck in rural Virginia, killing one person in the truck and injuring others.

The congressmen were on their way to a strategy retreat in the countryside when the collision occurred around 11:20 a.m. Wednesday in Crozet, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) southwest of Washington.

No serious injuries were reported aboard the chartered Amtrak train, which set out from the nation's capital with lawmakers, family members and staff for the luxury Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. At least two other people in the truck were reported seriously hurt.

Rep. James Comer of Kentucky said about 100 Republican lawmakers were on the train when the crash made him jump out of his seat.

"I looked out the side of the window and then I could see a truck, just in pieces out the side of the window," Comer said. He said Capitol police officers quickly jumped off the train but came back and asked for any doctors to help.

Florida Rep. Neal Dunn, a former Army surgeon, said he and other lawmakers who are doctors joined other passengers who are nurses or paramedics and jumped out with the basic medical gear they had. They broke into three teams to help the injured people in the truck, he said.

"The first gentleman was somebody who had really, really, really devastating injuries. We did try to resuscitate, but ultimately you had to realize it wasn't possible," Dunn said.

The Albemarle County Police Department identified the passenger killed as Christopher Foley, 28, of Louisa County.

Dunn said another man in the truck was critically injured and a third was seriously hurt.

Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and his wife, both doctors, were among those who came to the rescue. He said he helped a man from the truck who was badly injured.

"My role was quite simple: I picked up his feet so the blood in his feet would go to his heart and his brain," Cassidy said.

Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona said seeing the lawmakers tending to the injured reminded him of the shooting of Rep. Steve Scalise at a GOP baseball practice last June.

"I thought then I never want to experience a day like this again," Flake said. "Unfortunately, it came too soon."

Authorities gave no details on the cause of the wreck, which took place at a crossing protected by gates, flashing lights, bells and warning signs. The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team to investigate and would spend several days at the site, spokesman Earl Weener said Wednesday night.

Benny Layne, on whose property the truck landed, said the crossing arms had been known to malfunction, sometimes coming down even though no train was approaching. Sometimes, he said, they stayed down for hours.

He said motorists would get out of their cars to help guide other motorists around the malfunctioning arms so they could cross the tracks.

"A guy was up here just yesterday or the day before taking a look at them," he said.

Carrie Brown, human resources manager at Buckingham Branch Railroad, which leases the stretch of track and is responsible for maintenance, said she was unaware of any problems with equipment at the crossing. At a Wednesday night news conference, Weener said signal experts would be looking at the safety of the crossing.

Officials gave varying figures on the number hurt. But Amtrak said two crew members and three passengers were taken to a hospital with minor injuries.

Minnesota Rep. Jason Lewis' staff tweeted that the first-term congressman was among those taken to the hospital and was later discharged after suffering a concussion. Others aboard the train reported bumps, bruises and sore joints.

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The GOP policy retreat, an annual event, was scheduled to last three days and feature speeches from President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. By early afternoon, lawmakers were boarding buses to resume their trip.

Later Wednesday, Pence told Republicans at the party retreat that he knows "it's been a harrowing day for all of you." Pence, a former House member, said he has fond memories of the retreat and the train rides back and forth. "Just know our hearts are with you," he said.

Pence was the featured speaker Wednesday night at the GOP retreat. Trump was to address lawmakers Thursday.

Other doctor-lawmakers who assisted included Reps. Michael Burgess of Texas, Phil Roe of Tennessee, Larry Bucshon of Indiana and Roger Marshall of Kansas, according to those aboard.

House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin was on the train and was unhurt, aides said.

Fram reported from Washington. AP reporters Denise Lavoie and Sarah Rankin in Richmond, Virginia; Adam Beam in Frankfort, Kentucky; Terry Spencer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Martha Waggoner in Raleigh, North Carolina; and Andrew Taylor in Washington contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that a congressman incorrectly identified the person who died in the crash. A passenger was killed, not the driver.

## Syria's Kurds push US to stop Turkish assault on key enclave

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's Kurdish militia is growing frustrated with its patron, the United States, and is pressing it to do more to stop Turkey's assault on a key stronghold in Syria.

The issue reflects a deeper concern among the Kurds over their alliance with the Americans, which proved vital to defeating the Islamic State group in Syria. The Kurds fear that ultimately they and their dream of self-rule will be the losers in the big powers' play over influence in Syria. Already the U.S. is in a tough spot, juggling between the interests of the Kurds, its only ally in war-torn Syria, and its relations with Turkey, a key NATO ally.

The Kurdish militia views defending the Kurdish enclave of Afrin as an existential fight to preserve their territory. Afrin has major significance — it's one of the first Kurdish areas to rise up against President Bashar Assad and back self-rule, a base for senior fighters who pioneered the alliance with the Americans and a key link in their efforts to form a contiguous entity along Turkey's border. The offensive, which began Jan. 20, has so far killed more than 60 civilians and dozens of fighters on both sides, and displaced thousands.

"How can they stand by and watch?" Aldar Khalil, a senior Kurdish politician said of the U.S.-led coalition against IS. "They should meet their obligations toward this force that participated with them (in the fight against terrorism.) We consider their unclear and indecisive positions as a source of concern."

Khalil, one of the architects of the Kurds' self-administration, and three other senior Kurdish officials told The Associated Press that they have conveyed their frustration over what they consider a lack of decisive action to stop the Afrin assault to U.S. and other Western officials. They said U.S. officials have made confusing statements in public. One of the officials who agreed to discuss private meetings on condition of anonymity said some U.S. comments even amounted to tacit support for the assault.

The fight for Afrin puts Washington in a bind with few good options. The Americans have little leverage and no troops in Afrin, which is located in a pocket of Kurdish control at the western edge of Syria's border with Turkey and is cut off from the rest of Kurdish-held territory by a Turkish-held enclave. The area is also crowded with other players. Russian troops were based there to prevent friction with Turkey until they withdrew ahead of the offensive, and the area — home to more than 300,000 civilians — is surrounded by territory held by Syrian government forces or al-Qaida-linked militants.

The Americans' priority for the YPG — the main Kurdish militia that forms the backbone of forces allied

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to the U.S. — is for them to govern the large swath of territory wrested from the Islamic State group in northern and eastern Syria, including the city of Raqqa. Washington wants to prevent IS from resurging and keep Damascus' ally, Iran, out of the area.

Afrin is not central to those American goals and U.S. officials say it will distract from the war on IS.

The U.S.-led coalition has distanced itself from the Kurdish forces in Afrin, saying they have not received American training and were not part of the war against the Islamic State group in eastern Syria. But it also implicitly criticized the Turkish assault as unhelpful.

"Increased violence in Afrin disrupts what was a relatively stable area of Syria. Furthermore, it distracts from efforts to ensure the lasting defeat of Daesh and could be exploited by Daesh for resupply and safe haven," the coalition said in an emailed statement to the AP, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

For its part, Turkey views the YPG as an extension of its own Kurdish insurgent groups and has vowed to "purge" them from its borders.

While the U.S. may distance itself from the fighting in Afrin, it can't sit by silently if Turkey goes ahead with its threat to expand the fight to Manbij, a Syrian town to the east where American troops are deployed alongside Kurdish forces that took the town from IS in 2016.

One option is a proposal by the Kurds to persuade Assad to deploy his troops as a buffer between the Kurds and Turks in Afrin. Nobohar Mustafa, a Kurdish envoy to Washington, said the Americans appear open to that proposal. However, so far Assad's government has refused; they want full control of the area.

Another option could be to seek a compromise with Turkey by withdrawing U.S. and Kurdish forces from Manbij, said Elizabeth Teoman, a Turkey specialist with the Institute for the Study of War.

"The Turks may accept that as an intermediate step, but the U.S. will consistently face threats of escalation from Turkey as long as we maintain our partnership with the Syrian Kurdish YPG," Teoman said.

U.S. officials have reportedly said recently that they have no intention of pulling out of Manbij.

Kurdish officials say they don't expect the Americans to go to war with Turkey or send troops to fight with them in Afrin.

But "this doesn't mean the U.S. doesn't have a role in stopping the war on Afrin," said Mustafa, the Kurdish envoy to Washington. She said Kurdish officials weren't surprised the Americans have distanced themselves from the Afrin dispute "but we didn't expect their stance to be that low."

She and Khalil have lobbied Washington and Europe for a more aggressive stance against Turkey's advances. Other than the proposal to allow Syrian border guards to deploy, they have suggested international observers along a narrow buffer zone. Mustafa said the U.S. could argue that the YPG presence in northwestern Syria, where al-Qaida-linked militants have their stronghold, is necessary to fight terrorism. Khalil said he has pressed other NATO members to urge Turkey to stop airstrikes.

Meanwhile, a heated media campaign has been launched to "Save Afrin," while Kurdish supporters in Europe have staged regular protests and a senior YPG official wrote an op-ed for the New York Times.

In Washington, U.S. officials rejected the notion that the United States hasn't tried hard enough to rein in Turkey. In addition to publicly urging Turkey to limit its operation and avoid expanding further east, they noted that President Donald Trump spoke about it directly with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The White House said that Trump used that call to urge Turkey to "deescalate, limit its military actions, and avoid civilian casualties and increases to displaced persons and refugees."

They say that since Turkey has proceeded, the U.S. has been left with only bad options.

Although the U.S. doesn't want to see Assad's government return to the area between Afrin and Turkey, it may be the "least worst situation," said a U.S. official involved in Syria policy.

The United States has less ability to influence negotiations about how to secure the border than Russia, whose forces have long had a strong presence in the area, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private diplomatic discussions.

The Trump administration has also quietly acknowledged that ultimately, the Kurds may be disappointed if they are expecting loyalty even on matters where U.S. and Kurdish interests diverge. Turkey, after all, is a NATO ally. Asked recently if Washington had a moral obligation to stick with the Kurds, senior Trump



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administration officials said Trump's "America first" doctrine dictated that the U.S. must always prioritize its own interests.

From the Kurdish perspective, "the Americans are missing the whole point. If Erdogan is not stopped at Afrin, he will turn eastward and will not stop until he has destroyed the entire edifice" built by the Kurds in eastern Syria, said Nicholas Heras, of the Center for a New American Security.

"The challenge for the YPG is that it has power only so long as it continues to act as the key, local proxy for the U.S. mission in Syria," Heras said.

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Associated Press writers Josh Lederman and Lolita Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

## **FBI clashes with Trump, has 'grave concerns' on Russia memo**

**By CHAD DAY, JONATHAN LEMIRE and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a remarkably public clash of wills with the White House, the FBI declared Wednesday it has "grave concerns" about the accuracy of a classified memo on the Russia election investigation that President Donald Trump wants released.

The FBI's short and sharp statement, its first on the issue, laid bare a Trump administration conflict that had previously played out mostly behind closed doors in meetings between top Justice Department and White House officials.

"As expressed during our initial review, we have grave concerns about material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo's accuracy," the FBI said.

Further complicating the memo's release, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee said late Wednesday that his committee's vote to release the memo was now invalid because it was "secretly altered" by Republicans who wrote it. California Rep. Adam Schiff said in a letter to House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes that committee Democrats had discovered changes that were made after the panel voted Monday to send it to Trump for review.

"The White House has therefore been reviewing a document since Monday night that the committee never approved for public release," Schiff said in the letter.

Schiff did not detail the changes, and a spokesman for Nunes did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump has five days from the vote to review the document, and if he doesn't object then Congress can release it.

Schiff called for Nunes to withdraw the memo from the White House and for the committee to hold a new vote next Monday.

The memo is part of an effort to reveal what Republicans say are surveillance abuses by the FBI and the Justice Department in the early stages of the investigation into potential ties between Russia and the 2016 Trump presidential campaign.

The FBI's stance on the memo escalates the dispute and means Trump would be openly defying his hand-picked FBI director by continuing to push for its disclosure. It also suggests a clear willingness by FBI Director Christopher Wray, who in the early stretch of his tenure has been notably low-key, to challenge a president who just months ago fired his predecessor, James Comey.

The FBI statement came the day after Trump was overheard telling a congressman that he "100 percent" supported release of the four-page memo.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer on Wednesday night placed the blame on House Speaker Paul Ryan, saying that if Ryan "cares about the integrity of the House or the rule of law, he will put an end to this charade once and for all."

Democrats have called the memo a "cherry-picked" list of GOP talking points that attempts to distract from the committee's own investigation into Russian meddling in the election that sent Trump to the White House.

The drama comes as special counsel Robert Mueller also is investigating whether the Trump campaign improperly coordinated with Russia during the campaign and whether Trump sought to obstruct the inquiry

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by, among other actions, firing Comey.

Under the House committee's rules, the president has five days to object to the memo's release, which the panel voted to authorize Monday. But Trump himself already has urged the release, and it could come sooner. By late Wednesday, it had not yet been settled whether the White House or the committee would handle the actual release.

Earlier this week, Wray and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein made a direct appeal to White House chief of staff John Kelly not to release the memo, warning that it could set a dangerous precedent.

But the president has been undeterred.

Television cameras captured Trump, on the House floor after the State of the Union address, telling South Carolina Rep. Jeff Duncan that he backed the release. When Duncan implored him to "release the memo," Trump said: "Oh yeah, don't worry. 100 percent."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders told CNN Wednesday that a legal and national security review of the document was continuing. Trump had not read the memo as "as of last night prior to and immediately after the State of the Union," she said.

White House chief of staff Kelly said Wednesday on Fox News Radio that he expected the memo to be released "pretty quick."

Trump has been telling confidants in recent days that he believes the memo will validate his concerns that the FBI and Justice Department had conspired against him, according to one outside adviser familiar with those conversations but not authorized to speak publicly about private discussions.

The president also has told allies that he believes the memo bolsters his belief that accusations of collusion between his campaign and Russian officials are false and part of a conspiracy to discredit his election.

On Wednesday afternoon, Nunes fired back at the law enforcement agencies, calling the FBI and Justice Department objections "spurious."

"It's clear that top officials used unverified information in a court document to fuel a counter-intelligence investigation during an American political campaign," Nunes said. "Once the truth gets out, we can begin taking steps to ensure our intelligence agencies and courts are never misused like this again."

Nunes stepped aside from leading the committee's investigation last April amid an ethics investigation into whether he had improperly disclosed classified information. He was later cleared and resumed his leadership role.

The White House counsel's office has been in possession of the memo, officials say. The National Security Council is leading a review, which will also involve the White House legal team.

The vote to release the memo was unprecedented in the committee's history. The panel usually goes out of its way to protect classified information in the interest of shielding intelligence sources and methods.

In the hours before the Monday vote, Rosenstein and Wray warned Kelly that releasing the memo could set a dangerous precedent, according to a person familiar with the conversation. Rosenstein also told Kelly the memo didn't accurately characterize the FBI's investigative practices, the person said.

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 him when he reviewed the memo, said the FBI director did not raise any national security concerns. Gowdy said the memo doesn't reveal any intelligence methods but does reveal "one source."

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Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

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Read the transcript of the House intelligence committee vote to release the memo: <http://apne.ws/Hcizfdo>

## Rose McGowan to Harvey Weinstein: There was no consent

By HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rose McGowan says it's time for Harvey Weinstein to drop his story about a "consensual" relationship.

"He can fall off the planet," the activist said during an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. "My statement is truth. My statement is reality. Stop saying it's consensual, you pig! You know it's not true."

Weinstein issued a statement Tuesday that quoted an alleged email from McGowan's former manager, saying that the actress had spoken of a consensual encounter with him. Weinstein is accused by multiple women of sexual misconduct, revelations that helped lead to allegations against Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose and dozens of other men.

McGowan, 44, is promoting a trilogy (a "holy trinity without the 'holy,'" she calls it) of new projects this week, including the album "Planet 9," the E! docuseries "Citizen Rose" and the memoir "Brave."

Her book includes a graphic account of being assaulted by the movie producer, whom she calls "the monster," in a hotel 20 years ago. Besides her comment to the AP, McGowan issued a statement Wednesday saying that his remarks were part of an ongoing effort to "smear" her.

"It is an affront not only to Rose but to the hundreds of women who have come forward with their stories of harassment, sexual abuse and rape perpetrated by Mr. Weinstein and those like him," the statement reads in part. "This is a sad, pathetic old-fashioned sexist attempt to undermine obvious truth and the gaslighting will no longer be tolerated."

McGowan signed a deal for "Brave" in 2016, well before the current #MeToo movement, but says she knew all along the world would change — in part because she would change it. "Brave" describes her survival of what she calls a lifetime of attempted brainwashing, whether the Christian-influenced cult her family belonged to as a child to her years in Hollywood.

"This is not a tell-all," she writes. "This is a tell-it-how-it-is."

McGowan is known for such films as "Scream" and "Going All the Way," and for the TV series "Charmed." But she says she's done with acting and describes her time on screen as "just a job" and scorns the recent reboot of "Charmed" as an idea "so flaccid." She did enjoy directing "Dawn," a short film about an innocent girl's murder she has likened to her time in the movie business.

And she is anxious to work in other art forms. A fan of such authors as Isabel Allende and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, whose "Love in the Time of Cholera" she re-reads each year, McGowan says she's thinking about writing a "fiction-ish" story about an 11-year-old girl. During her interview, she also spoke of her love for visual art and music and of the liberating feeling of working behind a camera instead of front of it.

She also has some thoughts about the Time magazine cover story on "The Silence Breakers."

Here are highlights:

### ON KNOWING 'BRAVE' WOULD COME OUT AMID THE #MeTOO MOVEMENT:

"Of course I did. I'm the architect, how would I not know? My book was never meant to come out to deaf ears. I always had to smash the Hollywood propaganda machine first; this was not an accident. This was not a case of being the first one to speak. This was me being behind the scenes."

### ON HOW IT FELT TO TELL HER STORY:

"It was so traumatizing to write in a lot of ways, just because you write a passage and you have to go to dinner and put on a good girlfriend face or human face and go out into the world and really you want to do is bend over and scream. What everybody throughout the writing, people that I know, would say, 'Is it cathartic?' and I would say, 'No, not yet, I'm waiting for that day.'"

### ON NEVER ACTING AGAIN:

"I've done enough public service in that form. I've done enough. My job was to teach a core group of followers and fans and people that responded how 'to feel.' I did it. They understood. We're moving on now to the brain. It's not anybody's job to keep me in the past. It's nobody's job."

### ON WHY SHE WON'T RUN FOR OFFICE:

"I'm global, my work is global and my work is outside of the system. And my work is to look at the power structure. I don't believe in borders. I don't believe in laws, especially in laws related to women's bodies."

ON HER DISLIKE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S PHRASE 'THE SILENCE BREAKERS' FOR ITS PERSON OF THE YEAR COVER STORY:

"The silence breakers.' How dare you. You just didn't listen. That's a misnomer. It's erroneous and it runs a false narrative. Like as if all of a sudden we all just gained the guts to talk. No stupid, you just gained the guts to listen."

## Abuse victims say they were required to see disgraced doctor

By DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, Mich. (AP) — Another wave of victims confronted Larry Nassar on Wednesday, this time about sexual abuse at an elite Michigan gymnastics club where young athletes felt they had to use the disgraced doctor's services and could not question the adults who ran the facility.

The judge presiding over the case said the number of people who allege they were abused by Nassar has topped 265. That total includes 150-plus victims who offered statements at a different hearing last week, as well as scores of new ones expected to speak over the next few days.

Nassar faces another long prison sentence on top of the two he has already received. He was sentenced to 60 years on federal child-pornography charges and another 40 to 175 years on state charges that he abused women and girls while working for Michigan State University. Either one of those sentences effectively mean life in prison for the 54-year-old.

"You are the most vile, disgusting creature I have ever met," said Katherine Ebert, who was a gymnast from 5 to 18 and started seeing Nassar at 15. "There are black holes in my memory that come back as nightmares or flashbacks, not wanting to believe they're true."

Nassar, once the doctor for the national gymnastics team, sat at a table with his lawyers as nearly 30 accusers rebuked him. They discussed the psychological scars from his abuse — depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, trouble being around male teachers and other men and fractured relationships with family.

"You took advantage of my innocence and trust," 17-year-old Jessica Thomashow said. "You were my doctor. Why? I ask myself that question all the time. What you did to me was twisted. You manipulated me and my entire family. How dare you."

Judge Janice Cunningham has set aside several days for more than 60 victims who want to confront Nassar or have their statement read in the courtroom in Charlotte, a city outside Lansing.

The case on Cunningham's docket 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.

Victims said they were instructed to see Nassar instead of their family doctors. Many of them concluded that it was mandatory.

Bailey Lorencen recalled that Nassar came to Twistars on Monday nights to provide free treatment. After an especially bad fall from a high bar, she broke her neck in four places and narrowly escaped being paralyzed. Nassar consoled her.

"I felt like Larry was my hero," she said in a statement read by an assistant attorney general.

That kind of trust allowed the doctor to do as he pleased with the young patients.

"It is a clear that in an environment like Twistars, a monster like Nassar should thrive. He just had to be the nice guy so that all these little girls would look at him as a savior and that safe place at the gym."

Annie Labrie, who said she spent 25 hours a week at Twistars as an adolescent, said athletes "were conditioned for years to obey at all costs."

She said gymnasts, dancers and figure skaters were pressured to be "pure, innocent, perfect" while simultaneously being sexualized at an age where they did not understand the concept.

She cited pressure to engage in unhealthy dieting, crude comments about their bodies and "creepy men towering over us."



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"Our bodies did not belong to us. Our experiences, physical and emotional, were constantly invalidated. You learned early on not to question authority."

Geddert, who was suspended last week by USA Gymnastics, the sport's national governing body, and suddenly announced his retirement, insisted he had "zero knowledge" of Nassar's crimes. In response to lawsuits, his lawyer filed court papers saying Geddert was "just one person in an extremely long line of people who were fooled by Nassar."

The hearing was scheduled to resume Friday, with proceedings likely extending into next week.

A nearby police department admitted that it missed an opportunity to pursue charges against Nassar in 2004.

After a 17-year-old girl complained that Nassar removed her underwear and touched her genitals and breast, Meridian Township police began investigating. But officers dropped the case after Nassar explained that he was performing a legitimate technique known as a ligament release. Nassar even provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Township Manager Frank Walsh said Nassar deceived police.

"We missed it. We're not going to hide it," Walsh said.

Also Wednesday, former Michigan Gov. John Engler was formally named interim president at Michigan State, following Lou Anna Simon's resignation last week from the school's top post. Engler will head the school as it deals with lawsuits filed by more than 100 abuse victims and investigations by the state attorney general, the NCAA and Congress.

Engler, a Republican who was governor from 1991 through 2002, said he would strive to lead the school without regard to politics.

"I think we start from the standpoint: How do we change things?" he said. "That starts today."

Trustees also named another former governor, Democrat Jim Blanchard, to advise the school on lawsuits and investigations.

Elsewhere, USA Gymnastics announced that every member of its board of directors has resigned. The resignations come less than a week after the U.S. Olympic Committee urged the board to step down over the widening Nassar allegations. The organization plans to appoint an interim board in February.

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Associated Press writers Ed White and Jeff Karoub in Detroit contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to show that the last name of one of the victim's is Labrie, not LaBrie.

## **AP source: Fox gets Thursday night football for 5 years, \$3B**

**By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer**

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — Fox and the NFL have agreed to a five-year deal for Thursday night football games.

Those games previously were televised by CBS and NBC, two of the league's other network partners. Fox announced Wednesday that it will televise 11 games between Weeks 4 and 15, with simulcasts on NFL Network and Fox Deportes.

Fox, which has the Sunday afternoon NFC package, will produce all of the games under the deal, which is worth a little more than \$3 billion, according to a person with direct knowledge of the terms of the deal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the league didn't announce its value.

"This is a single partner deal, we are not splitting the package," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a conference call. "We had tremendous amount of interest from all the broadcast partners, all of whom wanted it exclusively. We felt this was the best opportunity for the NFL to grow the Thursday night package."

Goodell added that the league is exploring partnerships with digital outlets, also in conjunction with Fox.

The NFL has broadcast deals "five years out" with its other partners — ESPN has the Monday night package — so five years on this agreement made sense.

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"Fundamentally, Fox was built on football," said Peter Rice, president of 21st Century Fox, nothing that 25 years ago, the NFC package "helped launch a fledgling network into what it is today."

"These opportunities come along very, very infrequently," he added. "You either have the rights to the most-watched content in media or you don't. If you don't take the opportunity, this won't come up again for five years. We believe in buying the very best rights, and the best rights are the NFL."

CBS and NBC each paid \$450 million for the previous two-year package.

"We explored a responsible bid for Thursday Night Football but in the end are very pleased to return to entertainment programming on television's biggest night," CBS said in a statement. "At the same time, we look forward to continuing our terrific long-term partnership with the NFL on Sunday afternoons, with more than 100 games per season including next year's Super Bowl 53."

Fox could have a conflict if weather causes a World Series game to be postponed from Wednesday to Thursday. In recent years, Series Game 2 and 6 have been scheduled for Wednesday.

"In that hypothetical kind of a scenario, the World Series game would stay on Fox and our Thursday night game would become an FS1/NFL Network simulcast," Fox spokesman Eddie Motl said.

Goodell noted that the Thursday night games are a place for innovation.

"One of the things we've taken into consideration with Thursday night in general is to evolve this package, to use it as an opportunity to learn, to understand where these various platforms are going, and what we can do to make it a more attractive experience for our fans," he said. "We will look at that in that context, and the term will be consistent with what it will take to make sure that we continue to evolve that platform as well as the experience for our fans."

That means streaming outlets, of course.

"We have accepted bids for digital partners," Goodell said. "We have very healthy competition. In fact, I would say it's unprecedented competition from a number of digital partners."

"As I say, we put our focus on the broadcast package first. ... We are not required to go coterminous with the broadcasts. We can do any length of deal that we get to an agreement on with that digital partner. As I mentioned earlier, we will be doing this in cooperation with our Fox partners."

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Olympics draw Korean adoptees as South Korea confronts past

By SALLY HO, Associated Press

When Megan Olson lands in South Korea for the Winter Olympics next week, she'll feel something that is both surreal and vivid.

An intoxicating sense of belonging.

A deep sense of loss.

Pride, for the motherland she barely knows after being secretly adopted away.

The 33-year-old social worker from Minnesota is joining dozens of fellow South Korean adoptees who are returning to their birth country for the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang.

Many endured cultural, racial and national identity issues stemming from an international adoption phenomenon that peaked in the 1980s. Now, the once-in-a-lifetime Olympics experience will satisfy an internal pressure for some adoptees to justify being where they came from, even though it won't erase the fact that they were once sent away with shame and en masse.

"I think I really wanted to go back. It feels like it's home but at the same time, when I get there, I'm not home. I don't really know where I belong," Olson said.

The Olympics will also reconcile a part of their life journey that has been book-ended by an era of complete economic transformation for South Korea.

Much of that rise happened at the same time the small Asian country, lacking a solid social welfare system, dispersed an estimated 200,000 of its Korean-born children, according to Richard Lee, a University of Minnesota professor who studies adoptees.

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The cultural diaspora reaches more than a dozen countries around the globe, including in western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. But for South Korea, the timing of the adoption boom coinciding with their costly 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul is still a subject of criticism among some.

No longer in the shadows of the devastating Korean War era, the country over the past half century has become a powerhouse on the world stage, thanks to its fortunes in tech, cultural reach from pop music, and famously rigorous education system.

All the while, a majority of those South Korean orphans landed in the U.S. They grew up largely with white parents in the western world where adoption is seen as a humanitarian endeavor. Now adults, they've come of age and some have risen in the worlds of politics, fashion and entertainment.

That such orphans are now successful enough to afford an elite experience like the Olympic Games has surprised some of the locals in a patriarchal society where adoption is taboo.

Keziah Park of the International Korean Adoptee Service called it a "slap in the face" for status-driven South Koreans. The Seoul-based nonprofit since the 1990s has organized trips and birth-search pilgrimages for adoptees.

"When they left, they were orphans and they were abandoned. No could take care of them. But when they come back, it's a symbolic journey to Koreans observing them," Park said.

She added: "It really changes the mindset of Koreans. It allows Korea as a society to reflect on the choices they made."

The pressure to justify being there can also be distressing if they have already gone back to find their birth stories as a practical matter: to learn about their genetic health, or find out what happened to them as young children. And even if their adoptive families are supportive of their pilgrimage back, it can be difficult to reconcile their identity and feelings for the country when they lack Korean family ties.

Park organized the week-long Olympics tourism trip hoping to ease that internal conflict. It will include the opening ceremony and sporting events. They're also hoping to meet Marissa Brandt, an adoptee raised in America who will play for the Korean women's hockey team.

"Although they have an intrinsic purpose to be there, they don't have anyone welcoming them to be there, so they felt it was meaningless," Park said. "That purpose to be there, the adoptees want more than you think."

More than two dozen adoptees are expected on the trip, including those now living in Norway, Denmark, Italy, France, Australia and the U.S.

Olson, of Robbinsdale, Minnesota, said she thinks about going back to South Korea so often that it can wear on her husband. But each time she's there, she asks herself if it should be the last visit because it's so emotionally draining.

Olson found her birth parents a few years ago through their adoption agency in Seoul. Their meetings have left her distraught, frustrated and unfulfilled. Olson's desperate to understand her true life story but her Korean parents appear indifferent.

She says she was adopted in 1985 as a baby but discovered that they kept a son born a year after Olson. The adoptee doesn't know why her birth parents made those choices. They've only confirmed that she's a secret they'll never tell their other children.

But this upcoming trip to South Korea will offer a welcome reprieve to Olson's heartaches.

It will be about connecting with fellow adoptees who share this profound experience that they didn't choose to have.

It will be about eating the food that's been missing their whole lives, yet tastes so much like home.

It will be about experiencing the glitz and glam of The Olympic Games, though even that is not without fraught.

"I don't know who I would cheer for. Should it be the U.S.? Should it be Korea? It's super minute but something I think about," Olson said.

Ella and Tony LeVeque are two other adoptees who found the Olympics to be the perfect reason to go back to their birth country. The couple met at another adoptee gathering in Seoul before marrying in 2014.

"We obviously really like watching the Olympics. We tally up America versus Canada," said Ella LeVeque,

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a 31-year-old recruiter who was adopted as a baby to Ottawa, Canada. "And just being able to be there and represent South Korea, too, we're going to be able to be proud of all of it."

The two now live in Galesburg, Michigan. Neither has found their birth families.

Tony LeVeque, a 35-year-old hospital administrator, was adopted to central Michigan when he was 4 years old. He didn't feel much of a connection as a child when his adoptive parents showed him recordings of the 1988 Games in Seoul. Like many others, he also struggled with his identity before connecting with his roots in adulthood.

"It's difficult trying to find your own way," he said of the Korean adoptee experience. "What type of man or woman am I supposed to be in America?"

Matt Galbraith, 36, of Hawaii, said he'll spend time with his birth family after the Olympic events. He was adopted with his birth brother when he was 5 years old. They grew up in a happy home in the Phoenix area after enduring a dark year with unhappy memories at an orphanage in Munsan, near the Demilitarized Zone bordering North Korea.

Galbraith said he found his birth mother in 2009, taking a leap of faith by going to Seoul while he was stationed in Japan with the U.S. Navy. The woman asked Galbraith for forgiveness after a hotel worker helped reunite them.

He learned that the single mom put her boys up for adoption because she contracted tuberculosis. Without money or support, she feared the worst and hoped her sons could have a better future through adoption.

"I was adopted when I was a little bit older. I remember having memories with them," Galbraith said of his birth family. "I knew that they were still there."

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Follow Sally Ho at [https://twitter.com/\\_sallyho](https://twitter.com/_sallyho)

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AP Sports Writer Dave Campbell contributed from Robbinsdale, Minnesota.

## Minorities hear division in Trump call for unity

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

President Donald Trump's call for American unity in his first State of the Union address struck an us-versus-them tone for many minorities, raising questions as to what extent Americans are put off by a leader who continually draws criticism as bigoted and xenophobic.

For many people of color, Trump's address before Congress on Tuesday night hardly reflected a shift in his ideology or his bruising style of governance. To them, the president simply softened what he's been saying all along, particularly when it comes to immigration, and sought to add a veneer of tolerance by using the stories of people of color to illustrate his points.

"After more than a year of toxic policies and attacks on marginalized communities, the time for hoping Trump might change is long over," said Color of Change Executive Director Rashad Robinson. "Behaving like an adult for one speech doesn't change those facts."

In taking credit for a drop in black unemployment, Trump showcased a black welder's journey from unemployment to a meaningful career. At one point, he reiterated his disgust for NFL players' national anthem protests against systemic racism by praising a 12-year-old white boy's act of patriotism. And he conflated immigration with urban gun violence by highlighting two Long Island families who were victimized by gang members who were in the country illegally.

The result was a rhetorical throwback to mean-spirited race baiting of the past, said Brookings Institute research fellow Andre Perry.

"You replace 'immigrant' with 'black person,' and you're talking 1950s rhetoric," Perry said. "If you're a person of color, it wasn't a dog whistle — it was a direct attack. It wasn't that long ago that blacks and women were not full citizens, but we were members of society denied rights under the law."

While some praised Trump for staying on message and striking a more presidential tone, others pointed out that his tone contradicted his actions.



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"President Trump can pause his Twitter habits long enough to deliver a prepared speech to a national TV audience, but isn't doing anything real to bring us together or improve the lives of everyday Americans," Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey said in a statement.

Reps. John Lewis of Georgia, Maxine Waters of California and Al Green of Texas — all Democrats who have criticized Trump— decided to skip the speech entirely.

"I'm part of those who decided that we would protest outside as a matter of principle to say to the president, 'We disapprove of what you're doing,'" Green said Tuesday night.

Others wore black to show their displeasure, and several wore sashes or ties made of African Kente cloth, a nod to the president's reference to African nations as "shithole countries." Some wore buttons bearing the name of Recy Taylor, a black Alabama woman gang raped by white men during the Jim Crow era; she died in late December at age 97.

"There was nothing to clap for, nothing to be happy about, nothing to smile about and nothing to be applauding about," said Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, a New Jersey Democrat who ordered the Recy Taylor buttons. "He takes credit for things he has no right to take credit for. He really did not speak to how racist he's been or xenophobic he's been or sexist he's been, so he really didn't speak to the things that I expected him to or would want him to have addressed."

As Trump touted the low black unemployment rate, several black members of Congress sat stone-faced amid cheers from their Republican colleagues.

The speech, historically a list of priorities for presidents, was also about what Trump didn't say. There was scant reference to hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, no mention of the racial violence that erupted last summer in Charlottesville, Virginia, nor of the evolving #MeToo movement against sexual harassment.

The president has denied that he is a racist. However, soon after his inauguration, he signed an executive order banning people from several Muslim countries from coming to America, prompting protests nationwide. To kickoff Black History Month last February, he clumsily referenced 19th-century abolitionist Frederick Douglass as if he were still alive. He defended white supremacists after they rallied in Charlottesville, blaming "both sides" for deadly violence there. And he has repeatedly labeled immigrants as criminal and targeted so-called sanctuary cities who refuse to aid federal law enforcement.

Such actions, Perry said, can't be covered by "platitudes of American togetherness that mask rabid, structural racism and really doesn't include black people, Latinos, immigrants and others."

"It's outrageous that people aren't seeing the hypocrisy," Perry added.

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Associated Press video journalist Noreen Nasir contributed to this report. Errin Haines Whack is The Associated Press' national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous>

## Trump infrastructure plan seeks to shift burden to states

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — When President Donald Trump called for a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure investment in his State of the Union address, he didn't pledge that the federal government actually would provide that much money for roads, bridges, rail and waterways.

To the contrary, Trump's plan counts on state and local governments working with private investors to come up with much of the cash.

Exactly how that would work remained unclear Wednesday, as state transportation officials noted that Trump's proposal could put more pressure on them to raise taxes, fees and tolls just to qualify for a share of his infrastructure program. Questions surrounding Trump's plan are likely to leave costly projects, such as plans for a new Hudson River tunnel connecting New York and New Jersey, in limbo.

"The Trump administration has issued a charge that sounds a lot like 'show me the money,'" said Missouri Department of Transportation Director Patrick McKenna, who is president of the Mid America Association

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of State Transportation Officials.

In his speech Tuesday night, Trump called upon Congress to pass a plan "that generates at least \$1.5 trillion" for infrastructure.

"We will build gleaming new roads, bridges, highways, railways and waterways all across our land," he said.

He did not provide a roadmap on how to achieve that or give specifics on how it would be funded. The Republican president said only that "every federal dollar should be leveraged by partnering with state and local governments and, where appropriate, tapping into private-sector investment."

The federal government typically provides 80 percent of the funding for capital expenditures on highways, with state and local governments coming up with the rest. On transit projects, the federal share typically ranges from 50 percent to 80 percent, according to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

A six-page summary of Trump's plan, which was widely but unofficially distributed a week ahead of his speech, indicates that Trump is envisioning a significant shift of financial responsibility. Half his proposed federal money would go toward competitive grants for a wide range of infrastructure, including various transportation modes, hydropower, and drinking and wastewater facilities. But the federal grants would cover no more than 20 percent of project costs while requiring applicants to commit to "new, non-federal revenue."

To participate in Trump's plan, Missouri likely would have to ask voters to raise taxes for transportation, McKenna said. That's because the state transportation department already is spending at a deficit of roughly \$80 million a year to meet its current federal highway match.

Neighboring Arkansas is in a similar predicament.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson's budget proposal seeks to transfer \$16 million from surplus general revenue to the transportation department in order to meet its current federal highway allotment. Qualifying for Trump's plan could require a new revenue source.

"We're shaking the couch cushions out to see where we can find the rest of it," said Republican state Rep. Dan Douglas, who has backed various unsuccessful transportation funding bills.

Over the past five years, about three-fourths of the states have taken some sort of step to boost transportation funding, including 26 states that have raised motor fuel taxes.

Trump has suggested a greater role for public-private partnerships, in which a private entity helps finance and construct a major public infrastructure project in exchange for collecting tolls or fees from the users for years to come. But some states don't allow such projects.

Tennessee doesn't use tolls or bonds to finance roads, making it difficult to undertake public-private partnerships without a change in state policy.

"It would be kind of sad to me that the federal government, who is in debt up to their ears, puts pressure on states who aren't in debt to go into debt to build roads," said Tennessee Transportation Commissioner John Schroer, president of the state highway association.

So far, Trump's plan hasn't identified any particular priority projects nor how much money would be devoted to one type of infrastructure compared to others.

One of the most costly projects on the drawing board is an estimated \$13 billion rail tunnel under the Hudson River between New York and New Jersey. Under an agreement with then-President Barack Obama, a Democrat, the two states would pay for half the tunnel, with the federal government picking up the rest. But the Trump administration has criticized the project's cost while questioning the Obama-era funding plan. In a letter to the states last December, a top federal transportation official referred to it as a "non-existent agreement."

Nationwide, the American Society of Civil Engineers has projected a funding gap of over \$1.4 trillion through 2025 to address infrastructure needs for road, rail and transit systems, water and sewer systems, the electric grid, airports and inland waterways.

Trump said during his State of the Union speech that his plan would "permanently fix the infrastructure deficit."

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Robert Puentes, president and CEO of the Washington-based Eno Center for Transportation, cast doubt on that claim. He said some states could see a net loss in federal funding if Trump's plan fails to fill a shortfall in the federal transportation trust fund while simultaneously asking states to put up a greater share to participate in his program.

"There is some switcheroo that seems to be happening where it looks like it's a big federal initiative that's going to result in more funding, but really what we're looking at here is a financing package for infrastructure," Puentes said.

Associated Press writer David Klepper in Albany, New York, contributed to this report.

Follow David A. Lieb at: <http://twitter.com/DavidALieb>

## Lunar showstopper: Super blue blood moon awes and wows

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The moon put on a rare cosmic show Wednesday: a red blue moon, super big and super bright.

It's the first time in 35 years a blue moon has synced up with a supermoon and a total lunar eclipse, or blood moon because of its red hue.

Hawaii and Alaska had the best seats, along with the Canadian Yukon, Australia and Asia. The western U.S. also had good viewing, along with Russia.

At the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, hundreds gathered on the lawn in the wee hours under clear skies. Traffic was backed up more than a mile around the observatory. Sky-gazers also lined the beach near the Santa Monica Pier, some snapping photos and others reclining in the sand, their faces turned upward.

John Cook joined fellow photography enthusiasts at the pier, using the ferris wheel and roller coaster for his foreground.

"It was incredible," said Cook, a visual effects artist for films. Photographers also gathered at the Telegraph Hill neighborhood of San Francisco, striving to get the famous Coit Tower in their moon shots.

In San Francisco's Marina district, a crowd gathered to watch the super blue blood moon, as NASA calls it, set over the Golden Gate Bridge. Spectators got lucky: There were clear skies and no trace of the city's famous fog.

"It's very cinematic, the way the moon is changing colors and reflecting on the water," said Clara Cambron, who arrived around 5:30 a.m. with her husband.

On the other side of the Pacific, where it was already nightfall, hundreds descended on the Tokyo Garden Terrace Kioicho complex, where telescopes and binoculars were plentiful. A TV monitor showed zoom-in views of the moon, and a university professor gave a run-down as the eclipse unfolded.

"It's wonderful to be at this precious event and to have been able to see the moon looking so beautiful," said Mayumi Kimura, a visitor.

The U.S. East Coast, Europe and most of South America and Africa were out of luck for the total eclipse. At Cape Canaveral, Florida, where a rocket delivered America's first satellite to orbit exactly 60 years ago — Explorer 1 — the blue super moon loomed large in the sky.

The second full moon in a calendar month is a blue moon. This one also happened 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 was a lunar showstopper.

NASA called it a lunar trifecta: the first super blue blood moon since 1982. That combination won't happen again until 2037. For those looking ahead, the next supermoon is in February, the next blue moon is in March and the next total lunar eclipse is in July, according to NASA.

NASA lunar scientist Noah Petro said he was astonished — and thrilled — by all the attention and fuss. The total solar eclipse that swept across the U.S. in August contributed to Wednesday's buzz, he noted. Missing out on the eclipse from his home in Virginia, he watched the event online Wednesday morning

with his two children, ages 3 and 7.

"I hope that people use this as an opportunity to dig in a little more and learn about our own planet, our wonderful sister planet, the moon, and the sun and all the other great objects in the solar system," Petro said on his way to work at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

A total lunar eclipse — considered the most scientific of Wednesday's threesome — occurs when the sun, Earth and moon line up perfectly, casting Earth's shadow on the moon.

Scientists were 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 plunged 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius), said Petro. He's deputy project scientist for NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, circling the moon since 2009. His team took special precautions to keep the spacecraft warm during the eclipse.

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

AP staffers Christopher Weber, Richard Vogel and Ringo Chiu in Los Angeles and Marcio Sanchez in San Francisco contributed to this report.

## UN reviews 206 firms over their links to Israeli settlements

By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. human rights office said Wednesday that 206 companies — mostly Israeli and American — are facing a review of their business practices involving Israeli settlements, which are considered illegal under international law.

In a long-awaited report, the office said more resources were needed to handle the complex and unprecedented task of compiling what some critics call an unfair "blacklist" and a sign of anti-Israel bias at the U.N.

Proponents insist that companies must be held accountable for their activities in the settlements, arguing that those actions can contribute to injustices against Palestinians.

The governments of both Israel and the United States criticized the U.N. effort.

The 16-page report, which does not cite companies by name, said the rights office still has work to do.

The office said it had contacted 64 companies, but it would not identify any until all 206 companies had been contacted — and possibly not at all. Of those companies, 143 are based in Israel or the settlements and 22 in the United States. Of the 19 other countries linked to such companies, Germany is home to seven and the Netherlands to five.

Ultimately, the rights office's review could lead to a public naming and shaming of companies for their activities linked to the settlements and give an U.N. imprimatur to efforts championed by the "BDS" movement (boycott, divest and sanction), which has been primarily a grassroots campaign to pressure Israel through action against companies.

"The violations of human rights associated with the settlements are pervasive and devastating, reaching every facet of Palestinian life," the report said, citing restrictions on movement, freedom of religion, education and land ownership faced by Palestinians in east Jerusalem and the West Bank. "Businesses play a central role in furthering the establishment, maintenance and expansion of Israeli settlements."

"Business enterprises may need to consider whether it is possible to engage in such an environment in a manner that respects human rights," it said.

Some 115 other companies were eliminated after an initial review.

Israel and the United States have been sharply critical of a resolution passed by the 47-member Human Rights Council in March 2016 that paved the way for the review — the first of its kind. The resolution called on the rights office to create "database" of companies found to engage in any of 10 activities, either explicitly linked to the settlements or supportive of them.

"I urge all sides to avoid misrepresenting the contents of this report, which has been produced in good



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faith on the basis of the mandate laid down by the Human Rights Council," said Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. He said he hopes the database "will assist states and businesses in complying with their obligations and responsibilities under international law."

Israeli officials vowed to fight what they called a "blacklist," with Israel's ambassador saying the whole review process pointed to the council's "moral bankruptcy" and alleged slant against the Jewish state.

"We view the report, and the initiative as a whole, as fundamentally illegitimate," said Aviva Raz Shechter, the Israeli ambassador in Geneva. "It is, in our view, outside the competence and the authority of the Human Rights Council ... This is kind of another instrument to pursue a discriminatory and politically motivated agenda."

In Washington, the State Department lashed out at "such biased and politicized actions taken against Israel."

"We have not provided, and will not provide, any information or support to the Office of the High Commissioner in this process," the U.S. statement said. "We strongly urge other countries to do the same."

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said an Israeli and U.S. pressure campaign to block publication of the company names violates international law.

"We call upon the secretary-general of the U.N. to publish the names of the companies that are doing business with the settlements," he said. "Settlements are illegal according to international law and thus companies doing business with it should be known because what they are doing is illegal."

Advocacy group Human Rights Watch urged more resources for the rights office to continue its work.

"Today's report shows progress in identifying and communicating with companies that contribute to serious abuses in Israeli settlements in the West Bank," said Sari Bashi, Israel and Palestine advocacy director at Human Rights Watch.

Eugene Kontorovich, head of International Law at the Kohelet Policy Forum, a conservative think-tank in Jerusalem, said no international law was being violated by countries who do business in occupied lands, including in the settlements, and said Israel was being singled out unfairly.

"The U.N. Human Rights Council is supposed to be about human rights, not Israeli wrongs, so to create a report just about Israel seems to go against its own mission," he said.

Associated Press writers Josef Federman in Jerusalem and Tia Goldenberg in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.

## **GOP congressman who led the Benghazi probe will leave House**

**By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Trey Gowdy, a powerful GOP watchdog who built his name leading the investigation into the 2012 attacks against Americans in Benghazi, Libya, has become the latest prominent Republican to head for the exits rather than run for another term.

The former South Carolina prosecutor who is chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee said in a statement Wednesday that he planned to return to the justice system, though he did not elaborate.

The committee's lengthy investigation into the attacks that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans focused heavily on Hillary Clinton's role as secretary of state, though an 800-page report produced no smoking gun pointing to wrongdoing by her. The investigation also revealed that Clinton used a private email server for government work, prompting an FBI investigation that proved to be an albatross in the Democrat's 2016 presidential campaign.

Today, Gowdy is involved in one of the House's Russia investigations and the leader of a renewed review of the FBI and Clinton's emails.

Gowdy, 53, was elected in the 2010 tea party wave that returned control of the House to Republicans. He is the ninth House committee head to step down, although several departing colleagues faced the prospect of being term-limited from that post or difficult re-election prospects. Gowdy did not have such

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obstacles, which made his decision all the more surprising.

"Whatever skills I may have are better utilized in a courtroom than in Congress, and I enjoy our justice system more than our political system," Gowdy said.

Gowdy has played an important role in the House Intelligence Committee's investigation into Russian election interference and any possible coordination with Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

In the committee's private interviews, he has been the chief questioner for majority Republicans and has relied on his prosecutorial experience. Among those witnesses were the president's son, Donald Trump Jr., former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon and Glenn Simpson, a Washington opposition researcher who was behind a dossier of allegations about Trump and his ties to Russia.

This week, Gowdy was among the committee members pushing for the release of a memo, drafted by Republicans, that alleges abuses of the government surveillance powers in the Russia investigation. Democrats have called the memo a "distraction" and a selectively edited group of GOP talking points.

A Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee described Gowdy's tenure as chairman as a "lost opportunity." Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., said the lack of investigations into the Trump administration and a dearth of hearings and legislation stand in stark contrast to how aggressively Republicans steered the committee when a Democrat was in the White House.

"He decided to throw his lot with protecting the Trump presidency and the White House at all costs," Connolly said of Gowdy.

Gowdy's love for the legal system is evident even in the naming of his family dogs, Jury and Bailiff. Gowdy was as an assistant federal prosecutor in South Carolina for six years before winning election as solicitor covering part of the state's conservative northwest.

Elected to three terms, Gowdy earned a reputation as a hard-charging lawman who prosecuted a wide range of cases, including some that ended in death sentences.

South Carolina's top federal prosecutor slot is technically open. It's now occupied by a career prosecutor serving as acting U.S. attorney for more than a year. But Wednesday's decision prompted no such announcements from the state's two senators, who would propose a replacement candidate to the Trump administration.

A bigger prize would be a seat on the federal bench. Gowdy's announcement comes on the day when Judge Dennis W. Shedd assumed senior status on 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, according to Shedd's biography on the court's website. Shedd is from South Carolina, and his decision allows the president to appoint a new full-time judge to fill the spot.

A Gowdy aide not authorized to discuss his decision publicly said the congressman was approached about a federal judge position in the past year, but Gowdy turned the opportunity down. The aide said Gowdy's plans are to return to South Carolina to practice law once he finishes his term.

GOP Rep. Steve Stivers of Ohio, chairman of the campaign committee that oversees Republican election efforts in the House, predicted that Gowdy's seat will stay in Republican control in November.

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Associated Press writers Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina, and Chad Day contributed to this report.

## Ohio AG 'encouraged' after start of opioid lawsuit talks

By MARK GILLISPIE, Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said Wednesday during the start of settlement talks for more than 250 federal lawsuits filed against pharmaceutical companies and distributors over the nation's opioid epidemic that he's encouraged by the judge's understanding of the problem and commitment to achieving a resolution.

U.S. District Judge Dan Polster in Cleveland has been assigned to oversee what many plaintiffs hope will be a global settlement with the pharmaceutical industry that would also encompass lawsuits filed in state courts. Comparisons are being made to the 1998 lawsuit settlement against tobacco companies that

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resulted in an agreement to pay \$206 billion to 46 states over a 25-year period.

Six state attorneys general, representatives from numerous states and dozens of attorneys from both sides made presentations and answered Polster's questions in a courtroom closed to the public and the media.

DeWine, a Republican candidate for governor in 2018, had been asked by Polster to speak on behalf of attorneys general in other states that have filed state court lawsuits against the industry.

Polster has called the epidemic "100 percent man-made" and has said other branches of government have "punted" on solving it.

"He's dead serious about getting something resolved," DeWine later told reporters. "I'm very encouraged."

Asked if he heard anything hopeful from the industry's attorneys, DeWine said, "I didn't expect to be encouraged by their side."

Industry attorneys approached outside the courtroom declined to be interviewed.

Communities across the country have been ravaged by an epidemic that involves highly addictive painkillers like OxyContin and Vicodin, their generic equivalents and deadly street drugs like fentanyl and heroin. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said 42,000 people died of opioid overdoses in 2016, a number that's expected to climb even higher once 2017 deaths are tallied later this year.

In addition to DeWine, attorneys general from Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia attended the settlement talks. It wasn't clear how many representatives from other states were in Polster's courtroom.

Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear, a Democrat, said Wednesday that efforts to hold the pharmaceutical industry accountable for the damage they've wrought is a bipartisan effort.

Beshear and DeWine said massive amounts of money are needed to deal with an epidemic that is costing their states billions of dollars a year. They said money is needed to pay for drug treatment and education and to buttress social service and law enforcement agencies serving on the front lines of the epidemic.

Beshear said his hope is to see multinational corporations that have made billions of dollars selling painkillers become part of the solution.

"If you call yourself a health care company, and not simply a for-profit corporation, you should be willing to do that," Beshear said.

## UK's May: EU citizens won't get same rights after Brexit

LONDON (AP) — European Union citizens who come to Britain during a transition period after the country leaves the bloc should not have the same rights to remain as those who come earlier, British Prime Minister Theresa May said Thursday.

Speaking to reporters on a trip to China, May said she will fight proposals to give EU nationals full residency rights if they arrive after Britain leaves the EU in March 2019.

"This is a matter for negotiation for the immediate period. But I'm clear there's a difference between those people who came prior to us leaving and those who will come when they know the U.K. is no longer a member of the EU," she said.

Britain and the bloc have agreed in principle to a period of about two years after March 2019 during which the U.K. will follow EU rules but without having a seat at the bloc's decision-making table.

May's stance will please pro-Brexit lawmakers in her Conservative Party, but is at odds with EU officials, who say Britain must guarantee the rights of EU citizens if it wants free access to the substantial European single market during the transition.

Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's chief Brexit spokesman, told The Guardian: "Citizens' rights during the transition is not negotiable."

Meanwhile, pro-EU politicians in Britain are urging the government to heed economic assessments being prepared that predict limiting immigration from the EU will leave the British economy worse off.

May's Conservative government dismissed the documents, leaked to the BuzzFeed news site, as unfinished and unapproved. But it has agreed to show them to British lawmakers after pressure from Parliament.

## Ford workers, others, on strike in German wage dispute

BERLIN (AP) — Thousands of workers have walked off the job at a Ford plant in Germany and other factories as the country's largest industrial union pressed ahead with a campaign of 24-hour strikes to pressure employers for higher wages.

The dpa news agency reported some 13,000 Ford's Cologne plant participated in Thursday's strike. The IG Metall union also targeted Volkswagen, auto part manufacturers Bosch and Mahle, and other companies.

The walkouts started with Tuesday's night shift after talks broke down over the weekend. Further strikes are planned Friday at BMW, Audi, Daimler and Porsche.

The union is seeking a 6-percent pay increase for some 3.9 million workers and the right to reduce work weeks to 28 hours for up to two years, with a guarantee that workers can return to regular hours.

## Castro freezes Cuban private sector, throws future in doubt

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Two years after taking office, President Raul Castro widened the niche for private enterprise in Cuba's state-dominated economy. Capitalism came pouring in.

Slowly at first, then gaining speed, spare rooms for rent became rental homes, which became boutique hotels. Backyard cafes became elegant restaurants and bustling nightclubs, backed with millions in capital from the prosperous Cuban diaspora in Miami, Latin America and Spain. English tutors started citywide private after-school programs. And the booming private economy reached into the Communist-led bureaucracy — paying off inspectors, buying stolen state goods and recruiting talented employees with salaries dwarfing those in the public sector.

Eight years later, on the verge of leaving office, Castro has thrown the brakes on private enterprise in Cuba again, warning of the rapid pace of change and criminal activity. The decision has raised fundamental questions about the nation's economic path.

The Cuban government proclaimed in August that it was putting a temporary halt on new licenses for bed-and-breakfasts, restaurants and other businesses until it could issue new regulations to control illegality. Entrepreneurs whispered about new regulations coming in a month, maybe two. But summer stretched into fall, fall into the new year, and six months later, Cuba's private economy remains frozen.

The state-run economy responsible for 70 percent to 80 percent of GDP is stagnant. A once-promising worker-owned cooperative sector has shown little recent growth. Cubans are increasingly wondering when the private economy will be allowed to grow again, and, more broadly, how their government intends to deliver on promises of a sustainable, prosperous socialist system.

"We've already been this way several times before," economist and Communist Party member Esteban Morales wrote on his blog last week. "Many of us think that these measures aren't just to organize private enterprise better, as they've said, but to restrict it. Self-employment generates jobs that the state can't. That's something that hasn't been taken advantage of before, and would be very smart to do."

The freeze has led to a slowdown in private investment in Cuba at a time of economic fragility and uncertainty. The flow of subsidized oil from Venezuela is dropping as its economy collapses. In 2016 Cuba had its first recession in 20 years and growth last year was 1.6 percent, meaning the economy has remained essentially flat for two years. U.S. tourism, a bright spot, is dropping in the wake of new U.S. restrictions.

The number of self-employed Cubans has grown from 157,000 in 2010, the year of Castro's reforms, to 567,000 at the start of last year, roughly 12 percent of the workforce.

"Self-employed workers aren't asking for neoliberalism or political change, just that they let us work," said Camilo Condis, a 32-year-old industrial engineer who rents out an apartment and has a license to work in a restaurant.

Entrepreneurs interviewed by The Associated Press said they and relatives who backed them from overseas were canceling plans to invest in new or expanded businesses.



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In 2010, the Cuban government began allowing 201 types of self-employment, from child's party clown to real-estate agent. It started issuing licenses for other categories — like restaurant and bed-and-breakfast — that were approved by Castro's predecessor and brother Fidel during Cuba's post-Soviet crisis in the 1990s, then frozen again for years.

Some categories of self-employment became vehicles for small businesses with dozens of employees. Their owners' conspicuous consumption became a source of social tension in a country where the average salary still hovers around \$25 a month.

A first sign of trouble came in July, when Castro told the National Assembly that "crimes have been committed."

"There's information on cases where the same person has two, three, four, even five restaurants. And not in one province, but in several. Someone who's traveled more than 30 times to different countries," Castro said. "Where did he get the money? How did he make it?"

Castro told assembly members that self-employment would remain part of the economic picture, but "there's been a heavy dose of superficiality and an excess of enthusiasm and desire to advance faster than we're really capable of."

A month later, licenses were frozen. Over the fall, about six successful private restaurants were closed after police raids. No information has been released about the seizures but such operations typically occur in cases where officials suspect serious crimes like drug use, money laundering and large-scale buying of stolen goods. The government has also gone on the offensive against pervasive tax evasion, pressuring foreign-owned employers to report their Cuban employees' incomes, and conducting government assessments of taxes on property sales instead of depending on buyers and sellers to report prices, a notorious source of tax evasion.

Vice President Marino Murillo, the man who oversees Cuba's economic reforms, told the assembly in December that Cubans would no longer be able to hold more than one self-employment license, meaning Condis, for example, could no longer rent out an apartment and work in a restaurant.

"There's great uncertainty," economist Omar Everleny Perez said. "They announced that there'd be a new law, but it hasn't come out and no one dares to start a new enterprise without knowing what it will say."

Andrea Rodriguez on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ARodriguezAP>

## Asian markets mixed after Fed keeps rate unchanged

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian markets were mixed on Thursday with Tokyo stocks higher as the yen weakened against the U.S. dollar. Chinese markets declined after the U.S. Federal Reserve left its benchmark interest rate unchanged.

**KEEPING SCORE:** Japan's Nikkei 225 jumped 1.3 percent to 23,393.57 and South Korea's Kospi added 0.1 percent to 2,568.28. But Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dipped 0.1 percent to 32,843.20 and China's Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.9 percent to 3,449.93. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.8 percent to 6,083.60. Stocks in Southeast Asia were mixed.

**ANALYST'S TAKE:** "Fed Chair Janet Yellen's last meeting prior to stepping down saw the Fed reinforcing their positive outlook over both the economy and inflation while unanimously voting to keep rates unchanged," Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG in Singapore, said in a daily commentary.

**FED RATE:** The Fed kept its key rate in a still-low range of 1.25 percent to 1.5 percent and said in a statement that it expects inflation to finally pick up this year, stabilizing around the Fed's target level of 2 percent. The Fed also indicated that it thinks the job market and the overall economy are continuing to improve.

**WALL STREET:** On Wednesday, U.S. stocks finished with marginal gains, ending a two-day losing streak. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.1 percent to 2,823.81. The Dow Jones industrial average added 0.3 percent to 26,149.39. The Nasdaq composite climbed 0.1 percent to 7,411.48. The Russell 2000 index

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of smaller-company stocks gave up 0.5 percent, to 1,574.98.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 4 cents to \$64.77 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 23 cents to settle at \$64.73 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 5 cents to \$68.94 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 109.36 yen from 109.20 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.2420 from \$1.2411.

## Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 1, the 32nd day of 2018. There are 333 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 1, 1943, during World War II, one of America's most highly decorated military units, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up almost exclusively of Japanese-Americans, was authorized.

On this date:

In 1790, the U.S. Supreme Court convened for the first time in New York. (However, since only three of the six justices were present, the court recessed until the next day.)

In 1893, inventor Thomas Edison completed work on the world's first motion picture studio, his "Black Maria," in West Orange, New Jersey. The opera "Manon Lescaut," by Giacomo Puccini (poo-CHEE'-nee), premiered in Turin, Italy.

In 1922, in one of Hollywood's most enduring mysteries, movie director William Desmond Taylor was shot to death in his Los Angeles home; the killing has never been solved.

In 1942, during World War II, the Voice of America broadcast its first program to Europe, relaying it through the facilities of the British Broadcasting Corp. in London.

In 1946, Norwegian statesman Trygve Lie (TRIHG'-vuh lee) was chosen to be the first secretary-general of the United Nations.

In 1959, men in Switzerland rejected giving women the right to vote by a more than 2-1 referendum margin. (Swiss women gained the right to vote in 1971.)

In 1960, four black college students began a sit-in protest at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, where they'd been refused service.

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, South Vietnam's police chief (Nguyen Ngoc Loan) executed a Viet Cong officer with a pistol shot to the head in a scene captured by news photographers. Richard M. Nixon announced his bid for the Republican presidential nomination.

In 1979, Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (hoh-MAY'-nee) received a tumultuous welcome in Tehran as he ended nearly 15 years of exile.

In 1988, actress Heather O'Rourke, co-star of the 1982 movie "Poltergeist," died in San Diego at age 12.

In 1993, Gary Bettman took office as the National Hockey League's first commissioner, succeeding the NHL's final president, Gil Stein.

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia broke up during re-entry, killing all seven of its crew members: commander Rick Husband; pilot William McCool; payload commander Michael Anderson; mission specialists Kalpana Chawla, David Brown and Laurel Clark; and payload specialist Ilan Ramon (ee-LAHN' rah-MOHN'), the first Israeli in space.

Ten years ago: Exxon Mobil posted a then-record annual profit by a U.S. company — \$40.6 billion — and the biggest quarterly profit to that time. Microsoft announced an unsolicited bid for Yahoo, which later rejected it. Remote-controlled explosives strapped to two mentally disabled women killed at least 100 people in Baghdad.

Five years ago: A suicide bomber struck the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, killing a Turkish security guard. Hillary Rodham Clinton formally resigned as America's 67th secretary of state, capping a four-year tenure. The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 14,009.79, above the 14,000 mark for the first time in more

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than five years. Former New York City Mayor Ed Koch (kahch) died at age 88.

One year ago: The Republican-controlled Senate confirmed Rex Tillerson, 56-43, to be U.S. secretary of state. A nearly 20-hour prison hostage standoff began in Delaware as inmates at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center seized four staff members; one guard was killed, two hostages released before authorities put down the uprising and rescued the remaining captive. Violence and rioting at the University of California, Berkeley, forced the cancellation of a talk by right-wing provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos. Edward Tipper, a World War II paratrooper who was portrayed in the HBO series "Band of Brothers," died in Lakewood, Colorado, at age 95.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Stuart Whitman is 90. Folk singer Bob Shane (The Kingston Trio) is 84. Singer Don Everly is 81. Actor Garrett Morris is 81. Singer Ray Sawyer (Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show) is 81. Bluegrass singer Del McCoury is 79. TV personality-singer Joy Philbin is 77. Comedian-actor-director Terry Jones is 76. Political commentator Fred Barnes is 75. Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., is 74. Rock musician Mike Campbell (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 68. Blues singer-musician Sonny Landreth is 67. Actor-writer-producer Bill Mummy (MOO'-mee) is 64. Rock singer Exene Cervenka is 62. Actor Linus Roache is 54. Princess Stephanie of Monaco is 53. Country musician Dwayne Dupuy (Ricochet) is 53. Actress Sherilyn Fenn is 53. Lisa Marie Presley is 50. Comedian-actor Pauly Shore is 50. Actor Brian Krause is 49. Jazz musician Joshua Redman is 49. Rock musician Patrick Wilson (Weezer) is 49. Actor Michael C. Hall is 47. Rock musician Ron Welty is 47. Rapper Big Boi (Outkast) is 43. Roots rocker Jason Isbell is 39. Country singer Julie Roberts is 39. Actor Jarrett Lennon is 36. Rock singer-musician Andrew VanWyngarden is 35. TV personality Lauren Conrad is 32. Actress-singer Heather Morris is 31. Actress and mixed martial artist Ronda Rousey is 31. Rock singer Harry Styles (One Direction) is 24.

Thought for Today: "Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared." — Eddie Rickenbacker, American war hero (1890-1973).