

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Today's Events

### 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**

## SUPPORT 4-H'S FRUIT SALES

Fruit may now be ordered from any 4-H member in Brown County as part of their annual fundraiser. The fresh fruit choices include five different Washington apples, and D'Anjou pears, Texas Rio Star red grapefruit, California navel oranges and jet fresh whole Hawaiian pineapple. Also offered are beef sticks, smokey snack sticks and string cheese.

The funds that are raised will be used for community service projects, 4-H educational programs, awards for project work and to help fund trip and training expenses. The funds will benefit all Brown County 4-H members and reach many others through the community service work 4-H members complete.

4-H youth, ages 6 to 19, pledge their heads, hearts, hands and health to better living. 4-H youth challenge everyone to eat healthy which includes two to four servings of fruit each day. Contact any 4-H family you know to order your fruit, which will be delivered to your door on March 20. For more information contact the SDSU Extension/Brown County 4-H office at 605-626-7120. Orders may be placed at the 4-H Office if accompanied by payment through February 28. Orders will not be taken by phone.

Eat healthy, order fruit, and support America's largest out-of-school educational youth program---4-H.

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## Wambdi rally in closing seconds to pull out one-point win



**Seric Shabazz is being guarded by Johnny German.** (Photo by Julianna

Kosel)

make it 48-47. Jamison Pratt would block a shot by Jonathan Doeden under the basket and the Wambdi would salvage the ball. Johnny German would make a tough shot with five seconds left to give Tiospa Zina a 49-48 lead. A last second shot was short and the Wambdi pulled out the win.

Brodyn DeHoet led the Tigers with 13 points followed by Seric Shabazz with 12, Jonathan Doeden had nine, Brandon Keith five, Andy Rintala had four, Treyton Diegel three and Anthony Sippel added two points.

Three players hit double figures for Tiospa Zina with German leading the way with 13 points, Jacob LaBlanc and



**Marshall Lane tries to get a shot off in front of Divante Greeley.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Pepton Halseide each had 11 points, Divante Greeley had eight, N y t o n Owen and Jamison Pratt each had three, and Sam Shepard added two points.

Groton Area opened up a six point lead midway in the fourth quarter, 39-33, and again later at 48-42, with 1:18 left in the game. Seconds later, Peyton Halseide would make a three-pointer to make 48-45 with 1:05 left. Halseide would then pick off a Groton pass and go the distance to score with 48 seconds left to

make it 48-47. Jamison Pratt would block a shot by Jonathan Doeden under the basket and the Wambdi would salvage the ball. Johnny German would make a tough shot with five seconds left to give Tiospa Zina a 49-48 lead. A last second shot was short and the Wambdi pulled out the win.

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Owen and Jamison Pratt each had three, and Sam Shepard added two points.

Groton hung on to win the junior varsity game, 36-34. The Tigers led at the quarter stops at 15-9, 23-19 and 27-24. Treyton Diegel led Groton Area with 13 points followed by Kaden Kurtz with eight Cade Guthmiller had six, Tristan Traphagen five and Austin Jones added four points.

Quintin Abbey led Tiospa Zina with eight points.

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Quintin Abbey led Tiospa Zina with eight points.



**Jonathan Doeden goes high in the air to put up this shot in front of the Wambdi defenders.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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## Archived Video Link has been moved

The Archived Video Link on the 397news.com website has been moved to its new location. It is now located in the black bar, far left.



GDI  
Groton, SD

Temperature: 13.4F  
Humidity: 65% Dew Point: 4.0F  
Rainfall: 0.00in Pressure: 30.43in  
updated: 10 minutes ago



Fri HI: 25F Lo: 8F  
Sat HI: 10F Lo: -5F  
Sun HI: 10F Lo: -5F  
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### Today's Featured Business Link

GDI Clean Laundromat, 19 North Main St, 605-397-6397

DVDS

GDI CLEAN LAUNDRMAT

When you click on Archived Videos, you will see a sub category 2017-18

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When you click on the sub category 2017-18, three more sub categories show up (More will show up later).

Click on one of them and the videos for that sub category will show up.

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2017-18

Boys Basketball Girls' Basketball Boys' Junior Varsity

Sort Alphabetically: A to Z 12 Per Page



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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)

## Service Notice: Lucille Jensen

Services for Lucille Jensen, 87, of Aberdeen will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 3rd at Landmark Gospel Church, 1302 8th Ave NE, Aberdeen. Pastor Scott Drexel will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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

Lucille passed away Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center, after a short illness.



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Anderson (Merle is 94  
year old founder of Ace  
and legendary ethanol  
supporter... "because it is  
the right thing to do")**



## Lessons of Homeownership

For more than a century, the Garfield building in north Rapid City served as a schoolhouse, but today, different lessons are being learned there: the lessons of homeownership.

In 2012, plans began for what's now known as the Garfield Green Project, a mixed-income, mixed-housing development. The school itself would be converted into 12-unit apartment building while eight, single-family "Habitat for Humanity" homes would be constructed beside it.

I had the opportunity to tour the campus this January and was absolutely blown away. Of course, the school was beautifully redone into contemporary apartments, and the single-family homes, built primarily by volunteers, were lined with new appliances and large closets. But what stuck with me most was the sense of community.

I got to meet soon-to-be-homeowners Valeriah and Tera during my visit. They'll be neighbors in two of the Habitat homes. Both are moms, working hard to support their families, and both had seen homeownership as too high a financial hill without the support of Habitat. Now, they'll each have mortgages designed with their financial situations in mind.

Many South Dakotans are in a similar position to Valeriah and Tera. Despite South Dakota's relatively low cost of living, finding affordable housing can still be a challenge for low- and middle-income families. That makes it no surprise that there are 120 families on the waiting list for Habitat Homes. But projects, like Garfield Green, help.

Unfortunately, overreaching government regulations can make it more difficult to keep the cost of these homes low. For instance, appraisals can cost more than \$1,000 and are required for a mortgage. Some appraisers offered to donate their services to non-profit charity groups, but found such a donation was a violation of the federal Dodd-Frank Act. Habitat for Humanity explained the regulation made it difficult to provide "responsible homeownership opportunities to families" as you couldn't get affordable access to bank mortgages. This was one of the issues Black Hills Habitat for Humanity discussed with me.

The week after I visited the Garfield Green Project, I was thrilled to help the House pass H.R.2255, the Housing Opportunities Made Easier (HOME) Act. If enacted, this legislation would simply allow mortgage appraisal services to be donated by fee appraisers to non-profit organizations.

In response to the bipartisan legislation's passage, Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International explained: "This bill will help us keep affordable housing affordable... By ensuring that professional appraisers are also able to volunteer their services, this legislation will help keep loan origination fees low for new homebuyers. That's good news for people buying Habitat homes, and it's good news for the more than 1,300 local Habitat organizations across the nation that will be able to use the savings to build, rehabilitate and repair more homes."

We absolutely need more options for low- and middle-income housing in South Dakota. Not only do families need it, but it's also difficult to recruit businesses that want to hire people if there's not housing available. While I'm eager to work on more in this area, I'm confident that in repealing this regulation, we take a step forward, expanding homeownership opportunities for hardworking South Dakotans.

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South Dakota Governor  
Dennis Daugaard



## Planting Trees Now

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." This old saying is a good description of how we have approached managing state government in the last seven years.

Before us come so many issues – deferred maintenance, highways, criminal justice, teacher pay – that can't be solved in one year. But a start must be made. We could kick the can down the road, but the problem would only worsen. And so, we must do what we can, with patience, persistence and attention to small details, to be a good steward of the state and its assets.

When I was running for governor, I promised to analyze state-owned property and right-size or sell unneeded assets. In the 1800s, when South Dakota became a state, we housed people with mental or physical problems in large, state-owned institutions, often for life. We built big state hospital campuses in Yankton, Redfield and Custer. Sadly, many people were often sent away, and forgotten by their families.

We now know that, in most cases, it is better to serve our citizens in their homes and communities, often through community-based providers. But the state has continued to own these large, old campuses, decades later. Some of the buildings were still being used, but others had fallen into disrepair after being vacant for decades.

It's irresponsible to let vacant buildings fall in on themselves, and also irresponsible to spend taxes maintaining unneeded property. It's better to return these properties to the tax rolls.

We began to address this in Yankton at the Human Services Center. We demolished several dilapidated buildings, sold land that was no longer needed, and negotiated a lease-purchase with the local Historical Society to preserve the historic Mead Building. That restoration, funded by charitable gifts and local taxes, is well-underway, and the progress is impressive.

We have addressed this problem on other state campuses – selling surplus property in Redfield, Custer County and Minnehaha County. We sold STAR Academy to a local entrepreneur and the Plankinton training school campus to the for-profit company that was leasing and operating it. And the Board of Regents is exploring options to better use the School for the Deaf campus in Sioux Falls.

This philosophy extends to current state buildings as well. We must properly maintain them, so future governors and legislatures aren't left with more rundown buildings. We have set a goal of appropriating two percent of value in maintenance and repair of state buildings, including university buildings. This year I'm proposing to add state-owned technical institute buildings as well.

On our farm, when I was a boy, we always had a big garden, and we ordered plants and seeds by mail from Gurney's in Yankton. With every order, Gurney's would always enclose a "bonus" item, as a gift. One year, our bonus was a hackberry bare-root seedling, only a foot long. My dad and I planted that seedling, and now, 50 years later, it's strong and tall.

Five decades from now, when a new generation of South Dakotans is at the helm, I have no doubt they will benefit from the trees we are planting today. We are sowing seeds which will leave our state better than we found it.

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## South Dakota Destination Imagination Trading Pins

Four new pins are being made for this year's trading pins for Destination Imagination. Here are their designs.



- Blue 300
- Blue Glitter on dreamcatcher
- Red 185
- Teal 3268
- Magenta 253
- Yellow 106
- White
- brass plate



- Purple Glitter B0800
- on dreamcatcher w
- Purple 253
- Blue 3268
- Blue 7462
- Yellow 106
- White
- brass plate

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### Pantone® COLOR LEGEND

- Red Glitter in Dreamcatcher
- Magenta 253
- Blue 7462
- Teal 3268
- Yellow 102
- Red 185
- Black
- White
- silver tone plate



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## Today in Weather History

February 2, 1960: Heavy icing from freezing rain accumulations from the afternoon of the 2nd to the afternoon of the 3rd occurred mainly across the eastern half of the state. Severe damage to power lines and telephone service happened in the Watertown and Wessington Springs area. Ice coatings of up to 3 inches thick and has an estimated weight of nine pounds per foot of wire formed around telephone and some power lines over a wide area of the eastern counties. A 300-foot tower high collapsed at Wessington Springs, and in some areas, utility wires were entirely down for stretches of 2 to 3 miles. Some 170 long distance telephone circuits were knocked out in larger cities, and 19 towns from Bonesteel to Watertown on the north were completely without phone service for two to three days after the storm. Many highways were treacherous, and numerous vehicles collided or slid off the road into the ditch. Many schools were also closed.

February 2, 2003: Widespread freezing rain developed across parts of central and into northeast South Dakota through the late night hours producing significant icing of a quarter to a half inch by the late morning hours. No significant tree damage or power outages occurred. Although, travel was greatly disrupted with many accidents and vehicles sliding off the road. The freezing rain changed over to snow during the mid-morning hours and became heavy with 6 to 9 inches of snow accumulating before it ended in the late evening. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Ree Heights, Miller, and Faulkton, 7 inches at Clear Lake, 8 inches at Bryant, and 9 inches at Milbank.








February 2, 2011: Blizzard conditions developed along and east of the Sisseton Hills late on February 2nd and continued into the mid-morning hours of February 3rd. Strong southwest winds of 30 to 40 mph gusting to around 55 mph picked up the existing snow cover causing blizzard conditions which wreaked havoc along Interstate-29. Whiteout conditions and heavy drifting brought traffic to a halt along a stretch of Interstate-29 from north of Wilmot to Sisseton. One-hundred fifty to two-hundred vehicles were stranded along this stretch. A full-scale rescue operation ensued during the night and continued into the next day. Interstate-29 was closed from Watertown to the North Dakota border as it took most of the day to clean up all of the stalled vehicles. There were also many accidents along the stretch of the interstate with many people stranded for up to twelve hours. There were also many other people stranded on secondary roads which had to be rescued. No injuries occurred as a result of this incident. The Roberts County Emergency Manager was stranded and conducted emergency operations from his vehicle. Interstate-29 reopened the evening of the 3rd.

1898: The naming of hurricanes after women was always the center of controversy. In the Southern Hemisphere near Australia, tropical cyclones were once called Willy-Willies. An Australian Meteorologist, Clement Wragge is credited for giving girls names to tropical cyclones by the end of the 19th Century. On this date, Wragge's weather journal showed a Willy-Willy named "Eline."

1996: An Arctic outbreak that lasted from late January through early February produced nearly 400 hundred record lows, 15 all-time low readings and over 50 new record lows for February. Four states recorded their all-time record low temperatures including Tower, Minnesota on this date with a reading of 60 degrees below zero, canceling Tower's annual Icebox Days festival because it is too cold. Locations that reported their all-time record low or tied included: Cresco, IA: -36°, Osage, IA: -34°, Charles City, IA tied their all-time record low with -32° and Lancaster, WI tied their all-time record low with -31°. International Falls, MN, and Glasgow, MT set records for February with -45° and -38°, respectively. The temperature at Embarrass, MN plummeted to -53°. Rochester, MN dipped to -34° for its coldest temperature in 45 years. Green Bay, WI only reached -16° for the high temperature for the day, their coldest high temperature on record in February. The place to be this day was in Orlando, FL where it was a balmy 85 degrees.

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Fri Feb 2	Sat Feb 3	Sun Feb 4	Mon Feb 5	Tue Feb 6	Wed Feb 7	Thu Feb 8
						
25°F 6°F	12°F -6°F	11°F -6°F	16°F -2°F	18°F 1°F	19°F 5°F	26°F -1°F
SSE 10 MPH	NE 14 MPH Precip 60%	WNW 13 MPH	N 6 MPH	SSW 7 MPH	NNW 7 MPH	WSW 10 MPH Precip 30%

**“SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER”**



Today's Highs:  
20° – 40°  
Warmest in  
Southcentral SD  
Colder Weekend  
Ahead

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 [weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 2/2/2018 8:30 AM Central

Published on: 02/02/2018 at 8:31AM

In South Dakota, we can usually count on winter lasting through March. The region will get a taste of winter's chill again this weekend as highs top out in the single digits and teens on Saturday and Sunday. We could also see an inch or two of snow Saturday and Saturday night.

# Groton Daily Independent

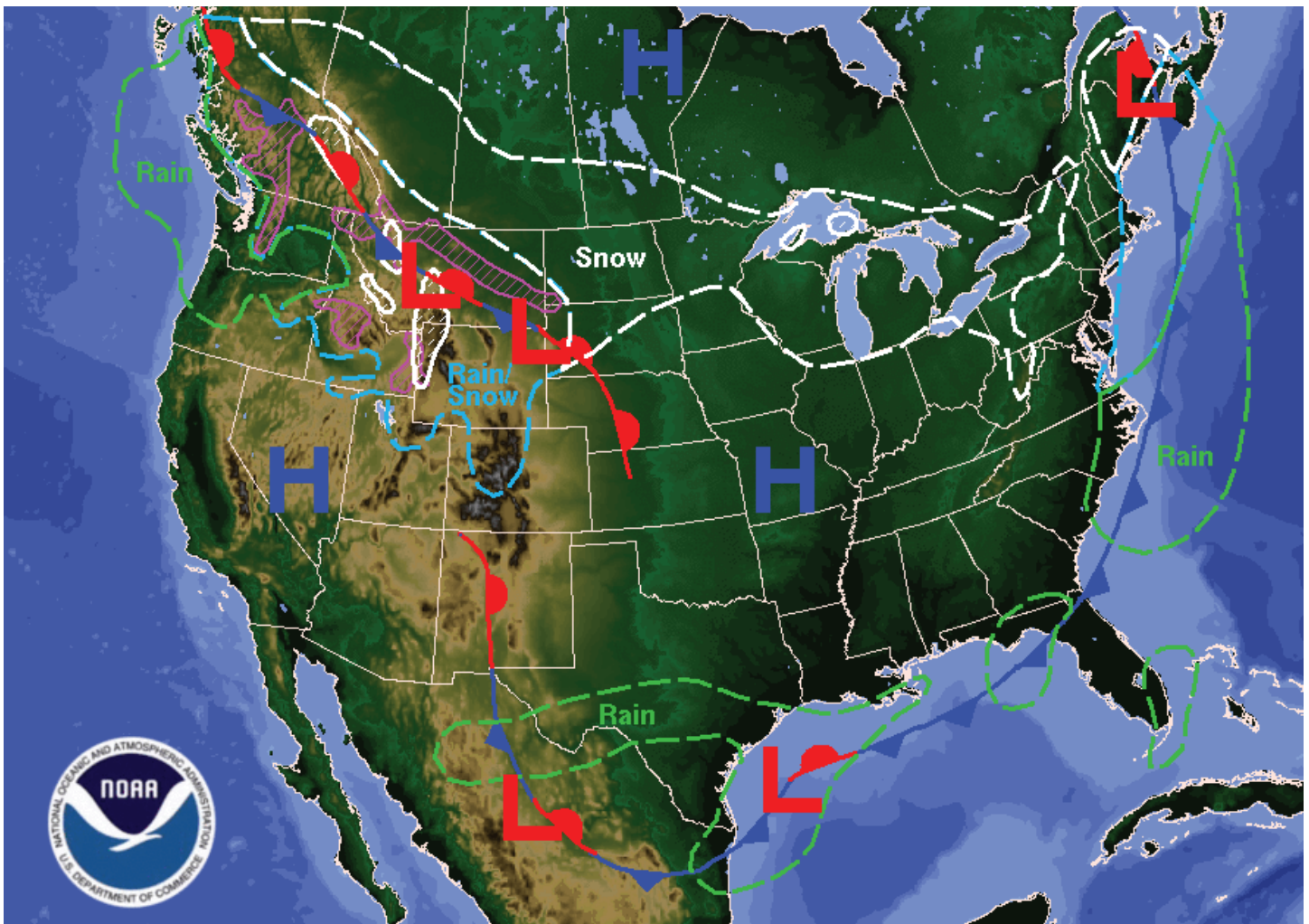
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 8.4 F at 4:02 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: -5.4 F at 11:20 PM**  
**Wind Chill: -**  
**High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 12:48 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 60° in 1991**  
**Record Low: -39° in 1917**  
**Average High: 24°F**  
**Average Low: 3°F**  
**Average Precip in Feb: 0.03**  
**Precip to date in Feb: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.50**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:42 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:52 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Feb 02, 2018, issued 4:38 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)**



## WHEN GOD DOES NOT ANSWER

We pray and we persevere. We watch and we wonder. We wait and we become weary. We know that God is there – somewhere. He responded before. But where is He now? We stand before Him with great expectations and outstretched hands yet nothing is happening. We cannot help but ask why. He promised us that He would never leave us nor forsake us. Where is He when we need Him?

What happens when we pray and there is no answer? Listen to our Psalmist: "Why, O Lord, do You reject me and hide Your face from me?" He seems to have turned from confidence to confusion. This God whom he called upon constantly with outstretched arms and unflinching faith is nowhere to be found.

This happened to Jesus. In the Garden He cried, "If there is any other way than my death on the cross to save mankind, please make it known. Why, Father, can't You come up with plan 'B'?" And God was silent.

On the cross He said, "My God, my God, where are You? Why have You abandoned me? I am alone, suffering for something I didn't do and now You've left me to be humiliated and suffer and die." And God was silent.

The prayer of the Psalmist, much like the prayer of Jesus on the cross, does not end in resolution – like many of our prayers. But that does not mean that God does not hear or does not care and will never answer our requests.

Often when we pray for and do not get the results we ask for, God is quietly saying: "You may not get what you asked for. Just trust me. What I have planned for you is far better."

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to know that You are at work in our lives completing the plan You have designed for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 88:14 Lord, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me?

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### Nebraska women's hoops rebound with 2nd-year coach Williams

By ERIC OLSON, AP Sports Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — As measured by wins, the Nebraska women's basketball team had its worst season in program history in 2016-17. The Cornhuskers were emerging from the resignation of their most successful coach, the team was divided, and there were questions whether new coach Amy Williams had the chops for the Big Ten.

Look at the Huskers now.

They've won five straight and eight of their last nine after a 62-47 victory over Illinois on Thursday night to improve to 17-6 overall and 8-2 in the conference. They'll be playing for first place when No. 11 and league-leading Maryland visits Sunday — which makes last year's seven-win season seem like a long time ago.

"To be honest, I don't feel vindicated," Williams said. "I believe in my staff and what we do. I didn't feel there was any need for vindication and, to be quite honest with you, we knew this was going to be a process that took some time. Am I happy that maybe we're having a little bit of success earlier than the outside world's expectations would have been? Yeah. I'm happy for our seniors, and I'm happy for our program moving forward."

Nebraska definitely needed to move forward after the tumult of two years ago. The university investigated allegations, brought by a faction of players and staff, that coach Connie Yori was abusive. A number of players defended Yori, and she repeatedly denied the allegations. She resigned anyway in April 2016.

Enter Williams, who played at Nebraska from 1995-98. She had spent the previous four years at South Dakota of the low-Division I Summit League.

The Huskers went 7-22 overall and 3-13 in the Big Ten and were outscored by an average of 17.3 points in conference games. After the season, two-time All-Big Ten center Jessica Shepard decided to transfer for reasons that were never made public. The NCAA granted her immediate eligibility at Notre Dame for special circumstances, and she's the second-leading scorer and top rebounder for the fifth-ranked Irish.

Shepard's departure turned out to be anything but crushing.

"We won't go into too much detail other than to say we were supportive of Jessica and her decision," Williams said. "I think we're all very happy she's having the success she's having and that she's found ways to blossom as a player in her new environment, and we've found ways to blossom as a team with our situation."

Sophomore guard Hannah Whitish, one of five players in the Big Ten shooting more than 40 percent from 3-point range, averages 13.6 points to lead a balanced offense. Center Kate Cain (10.5 ppg, 6.6 rebounds) and guard Taylor Kissinger (10.4 ppg) are two of the top freshmen in the conference.

The Huskers allow 63.8 points after giving up 76.3 last season, and Cain is blocking a Big Ten-leading 3.4 shots per game.

After going 0-13 away from home last year, the Huskers are 8-0 in true road games.

The turnaround of Williams' team has coincided with the surge of Tim Miles' men's team. Miles' squad has won 10 of its last 13 to get to 17-8, and it is fourth in the Big Ten at 8-4.

The men's and women's programs have finished with winning conference records in the same season just four times in 35 years.

"No pressure," Williams said when told of the history. "We better keep it going."

Williams and Miles and their staffs are enjoying their combined success. They pop into each other's offices on the upper level of the Hendricks Training Complex, make light conversation and sometimes even talk X's and O's.

"So the second floor, everybody is kind of skipping up the steps right now and smiling and feeling happy," Miles said.

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NCAA Tournament talk has started for both teams. Last year at this time Miles was uncertain about his job security. Williams had her hands full managing personalities while trying to build trust and improve the product on the court.

"I'm really happy for Amy," Miles said. "Last year was a struggle for her just to come from such a successful program at South Dakota, and then that rebuild seems like it makes you question everything. We're really proud of them and happy to see their success, and it's just a matter of time before that women's basketball is back in that top 25 on a regular basis."

The success of Nebraska basketball — men's and women's — has provided a diversion for a fan base that spends much of February following football recruiting and counting the days to spring football practice. This year the fans are more football-minded than usual because of the hiring of new coach Scott Frost.

"There is plenty of time for Husker Nation to be excited about men's and women's basketball AND football recruiting," Williams said. "We certainly are."

## **Eagle Butte man sentenced for spitting on federal officer**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Eagle Butte man has been sentenced to seven months in custody for spitting on a federal officer.

The U.S. attorney's office says 29-year-old Matthew Dupris spit on an officer while being arrested in May 2017 for violating conditions of his tribal bond by drinking alcohol.

He pleaded guilty last October to assault on a federal officer and was recently sentenced. He'll be on supervised release for two years following his time in custody.

## **Death of Mitchell man deemed accidental**

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Police say the death of an 80-year-old man found outside a property he owned in Mitchell was accidental.

Bernard Tegethoff was found by officers Monday. Investigators believe he slipped on some ice and hit his head, eventually leading to his death.

The Daily Republic says Tegethoff was a businessman who started Dakota Redi Mix, J & B Construction and Bernie Tegethoff Construction.

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

## **University of Missouri-Kansas City offers tuition deal**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri's Kansas City campus is cutting tuition costs for more Kansas students and making it cheaper for students in seven other states.

The Board of Curators said yes Thursday to offering in-state tuition rates to all Kansas students. It's an expansion of a program that had benefited students from 11 Kansas counties.

The university also will allow residents of surrounding states to pay 150 percent of the in-state rate. The seven new states to benefit from the so-called Heartland Rate are South Dakota, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Already receiving the discount are students in North Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

Full-time Kansas students save nearly \$14,000 a year from the discount. The Heartland Rate saves students about \$10,000 a year.

## **Ohio fugitive arrested in South Dakota after 4 years on lam**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of shooting three people in Ohio four years ago has been arrested in South Dakota.

The U.S. Marshals Service says 38-year-old Herbert Allen was taken into custody without incident in Aberdeen on Thursday on three counts of felony assault stemming from the incident on February 27, 2014, in Columbus, Ohio.

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Allen also is accused of tampering with evidence by taking the shell casings from the scene. He's jailed awaiting extradition back to Ohio.

## Agtegra Cooperative begins operations in the Dakotas

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A large agriculture cooperative formed by the merger of two co-ops in the Dakotas has started operations.

North Central Farmers Elevator and Wheat Growers officially began business as Agtegra Cooperative on Thursday, headquartered in the northern South Dakota city of Aberdeen.

Members of the two co-ops voted last September to merge. North Central had about 2,400 members in South Dakota and North Dakota, while Wheat Growers had 5,100 members in the two states.

The new co-op has nearly 6,800 members and 900 employees and is serving more than 60 communities in the two states.

## Thursday's Scores

By The Associated Press

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Andes Central 57, Wagner 28  
Arlington 74, Dell Rapids St. Mary 52  
Burke/South Central 52, Marty Indian 40  
Colman-Egan 54, Lake Preston 38  
Corsica/Stickney 59, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 56  
Douglas 79, Hot Springs 57  
Edgemont 54, Hay Springs, Neb. 48  
Eureka/Bowdle 83, Wakpala 52  
Hanson 44, Centerville 22  
Harrisburg 57, Brookings 43  
Hill City 70, Newell 36  
James Valley Christian 67, Iroquois 51  
Kimball/White Lake 48, Platte-Geddes 46, OT  
Lennox 63, Chamberlain 34  
Miller 81, Ipswich 69  
Oelrichs 62, Minatare, Neb. 30  
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 65, Estelline 48  
Parker 66, Canistota 46  
Philip 63, Lead-Deadwood 60  
Rapid City Christian 49, Kadoka Area 41  
Scotland 59, Ethan 58  
Sioux Valley 66, Flandreau 59  
Standing Rock, N.D. 72, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 65  
Tea Area 87, West Central 51  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 49, Groton Area 48  
Warner 49, Leola/Frederick 43  
Waverly-South Shore 50, Waubay/Summit 36  
White River 85, Wall 36  
Little Moreau Conference Tournament  
First Round  
Bison 65, Tiospaye Topa 30  
Faith 53, Dupree 21



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Harding County 54, Lemmon 51  
Timber Lake 69, McIntosh 25

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Aberdeen Roncalli 78, Sisseton 44  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 56, Wagner 54  
Avon 51, Bon Homme 32  
Corsica/Stickney 40, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 31  
Deuel 52, Clark/Willow Lake 47  
Eureka/Bowdle 48, Wakpala 47  
Faulkton 54, Aberdeen Christian 34  
Flandreau Indian 34, Hendricks, Minn. 21  
Freeman 54, Alcester-Hudson 21  
Great Plains Lutheran 39, Wilmot 32  
Hamlin 79, Webster 45  
Hanson 66, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 33  
Hay Springs, Neb. 53, Edgemont 52  
Hitchcock-Tulare 49, Highmore-Harrold 30  
Ipswich 49, Miller 39  
James Valley Christian 46, Iroquois 18  
Kadoka Area 56, Rapid City Christian 27  
Langford 57, Britton-Hecla 27  
McCook Central/Montrose 63, Garretson 39  
Mitchell 52, Watertown 49  
New Underwood 42, Jones County 24  
Newell 52, Hill City 40  
Parker 64, Canistota 50  
Philip 38, Lead-Deadwood 37  
Pine Ridge 66, Bennett County 21  
Rapid City Stevens 57, Rapid City Central 38  
Scotland 48, Viborg-Hurley 43  
Sioux Falls Christian 61, Vermillion 52  
Todd County 56, Chamberlain 46  
Wall 57, White River 50  
Warner 53, Leola/Frederick 41  
Waverly-South Shore 45, Waubay/Summit 41  
Western Christian, Hull, Iowa 60, Sioux Falls Washington 44  
Winner 63, Crow Creek 57

## **Hagedorn leads South Dakota past Western Illinois 80-54**

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Tyler Hagedorn scored 19 points and pulled down nine rebounds, Matt Mooney added 12 points and eight boards and South Dakota cruised to an 80-54 win at Western Illinois on Thursday night.

South Dakota took a 4-2 lead on a Hagedorn layup before the game was two minutes old, stretched it to as many as 31 four times and sent all 14 players into the game.

The Coyotes (19-6, 7-2 Summit League) made 29 of 61 field goals (47.5 percent) with eight 3-pointers and out-rebounded Western Illinois 48-31. With the win, South Dakota keeps pace with South Dakota State (20-6, 8-1) atop the Summit and has won five of its last six, including a win at South Dakota State.

Western Illinois (10-11, 1-7) was led by 13 points from C.J. Duff and nine points each from Kobe Webster, Dalan Ancrum, and Isaac Johnson. Webster, who has had a breakout freshman year, was held to 3 of 12 shooting. The Leathernecks are in a four-game skid.

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## 1st place South Dakota State beats North Dakota State, 82-63

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum scored 31 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as South Dakota State maintained its lock on first place in the Summit League by rolling past rival North Dakota State on Thursday night.

Daum drilled a 3 seven minutes into the game to give South Dakota State the lead, 15-12, and the Jack-rabbits never trailed again. South Dakota State holds a one-game lead over second-place South Dakota, which beat Western Illinois 80-54, atop the Summit.

Daum, who now has scored 66 points in his last two games, was 10 of 25 from the field, including 4 of 10 from distance as South Dakota State (20-6, 8-1) picked up its 20th win of the season. David Jenkins Jr. added 20 points and Tevin King contributed 16 points, grabbed seven boards and collected six steals.

Paul Miller scored 17 points to lead North Dakota State (12-11, 4-4). Deng Geu added 12 and Cameron Hunter 11.

## Lawmaker proposes out-of-state disclaimer for initiative ads

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota voters may start seeing ballot question advertisements with a new disclaimer: "Paid for in-part with out-of-state money."

Republican Rep. Greg Jamison proposed a bill Thursday that would require ballot measure campaigns that accept money from outside South Dakota to put the disclaimer on communications such as brochures, billboards and broadcast advertisements.

Jamison says the measure would improve transparency and inform voters. The secretary of state would impose a civil penalty if campaigns failed to provide the disclaimer.

The bill is among proposals lawmakers are considering on out-of-state influence in ballot measure campaigns. A different plan would cap contributions from outside of South Dakota for ballot measures.

Out-of-state donors pumped over \$10 million into campaigns for or against South Dakota questions during the 2016 election cycle.

## Bill aims to bar refugee settlement from travel ban nations

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A group of state lawmakers has proposed a bill aiming to suspend refugee resettlement in South Dakota from countries appearing on "any federal travel ban list."

Republican Sen. Neal Tapio's bill would direct the state to refuse "chain migration" into South Dakota from citizens of countries on such a list. That preferential system gives advantages to the relatives of legal immigrants.

The Supreme Court is to decide the legality of President Donald Trump's ban on travel to the U.S. by residents of six majority-Muslim countries.

The South Dakota bill, introduced Thursday, would require legislative approval for the state or contracted agencies to help with refugee resettlement or "chain migration" of people from Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Iran, Libya, Yemen and North Korea.

Tapio says the state should have a right to determine who comes to South Dakota.

## Industrial hemp bill introduced at South Dakota Capitol

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers are set to debate a perennial proposal to allow the cultivation of industrial hemp in the state.

The bill introduced Thursday would allow people to apply to the state Department of Agriculture for a license to grow industrial hemp if they pass background checks.

The bill restricts the allowable content of THC — a main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana — for industrial hemp.

Supporters say hemp would be a useful product for South Dakota's agriculture industry.

Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard has opposed such measures. Industrial hemp proposals have failed

in at least the past two legislative sessions.

## South Dakota adds more tow plows to snow-removal fleet

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota is expanding its fleet of snow-removal tow plows to manage winter weather conditions.

The state Transportation Department bought three tow plows before the start of this winter, and officials are planning to buy three more before next winter.

The anticipated purchases would be used in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Chamberlain, the Daily Republic reported. Each tow plow costs about \$140,000.

"These tow-plows help us do our jobs more efficiently and get the roads cleared sooner," said Jason Humphrey, a Transportation Department engineer.

Humphrey said tow plows save money. A traditional snow plow truck costs \$3 per mile to operate. A tow plow costs about \$1.37 per mile and uses fewer operators.

Tow plows are pulled behind a typical snow plow truck like a trailer. They function on the back of a snow plow at the same time as the truck's front plow. Tow plows allow operators to remove snow from one lane and the shoulder in one pass.

Some tow plows are equipped to treat roads with a liquid salt mixture.

"As far as the efficiency, I'm doing the job of two guys out there," said Curt Theisen, the department's lead highway maintenance worker. "Instead of having two trucks clearing the interstate, you have one truck and the tow-plow doing the same job."

Humphrey said South Dakota took direction from nearby states like Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota, where tow plows have been used for between six and eight years.

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

## Judge upholds death penalty sentence for South Dakota man

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge says a man who pleaded guilty to killing a prison guard during an escape attempt does not have an intellectual disability and can face the death penalty.

Fifty-five-year-old Rodney Berget pleaded guilty in April 2012 to killing Ronald "R.J." Johnson in a failed prison escape attempt in April 2011 along with fellow inmate Eric Robert. Berget was scheduled to be executed in May 2015.

The ruling follows a nearly-week long court hearing in Sioux Falls

Attorney General Marty Jackley says the facts demonstrate that Berget was a leader, not a follower, and has a highly developed planning and problem solving ability. Jackley says he will now seek a warrant for Berget's execution.

Robert also pleaded guilty in the April 2011 killing of Johnson. Robert was executed in 2010.

## Native American tribes push back against Yankton casino plan

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Native American tribes and a Deadwood gambling association are pushing back against a proposed casino and entertainment complex in southeastern South Dakota.

Officials said Thursday that the Port Yankton project would hurt tribes and the state. A coalition of Nebraska and South Dakota tribes opposes the push, which would require a change to the state constitution.

A measure introduced this week at the state Capitol would ask voters to allow a nonprofit group one gaming license in Yankton. Supporters say it would help the community compete with Iowa and Nebraska for tourists.

Thelma Thomas is general manager of the Santee Sioux Nation's Ohiya Casino and Resort in Nebraska. She says the Port Yankton project would cause economic harm to her tribe and those in South Dakota.

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## **Beadle County crash involving 2 vans kills 69-year-old man**

CARPENTER, S.D. (AP) — A crash in Beadle County involving two vans has killed a 69-year-old man. The Highway Patrol says the man was a passenger in a minivan that was struck by a van on any icy stretch of state Highway 28 near Carpenter.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene about 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. He wasn't immediately identified. The two drivers suffered undisclosed injuries that the patrol says are not life-threatening.

## **Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials**

**By The Associated Press**

### **Capital Journal, Pierre, Jan. 29**

#### **The legislature needs to pass Senate Bill 84**

There is a bill of momentous import to South Dakota citizens currently making its way through the state legislature.

It's called Senate Bill 84 and it aims to change a few things in the state's public records law. First and foremost, the bill will ban governments in the state from entering into secret legal settlements with third parties.

For those unfamiliar with current state law, there exists a broad exemption that allows the parties to a lawsuit to keep out of court settlement terms secret provided they all agree to do so. Now, this makes perfect sense in the private sector. Confidential settlements can help streamline the legal process and the public doesn't have a right to know what two private parties agree to behind closed doors.

The problem is that state law doesn't bar public entities i.e. city governments from using this particular exemption to hide their mistakes. You see when a city, or really any government for that matter, is sued, it's usually because someone thinks the city screwed up. And if the city admits to making a mistake, as often as not, they pay a financial penalty for it.

If there are two things local governments shouldn't be allowed to keep from their constituents, it's a mistake and what they spent taxpayer money on. In South Dakota, however, that's exactly what's been allowed to happen.

The people of Fort Pierre had a brush with this early last summer when the city council voted to enter into secret settlement to end a lawsuit over its handling of the Riverwalk Landing project. The city's taxpayers don't know what the city agreed to or how much the city agreed to pay to end the lawsuit and that's just wrong.

Hopefully, Senate Bill 84 will make it to the Governor's desk. To help it along, give your legislators call or shoot them an email telling them to vote for the bill.

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### **The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Jan. 25**

#### **Lake, infrastructure should top '18 priorities**

It's time to prioritize Mitchell's needs.

Lake Mitchell and many aspects of our city's infrastructure are in a state of despair. This year is the time to make significant progress in both areas.

As January winds down and City Council members continue considering what they hope to accomplish in 2018, it's our great hope we get some resolve this year on how to improve algae-filled Lake Mitchell. We also hope to hear a plan to significantly improve the city's infrastructure, such as the major pothole-filled thoroughfares and the aging water and sewer system.

In recent years, city leaders chose to bring new features to Mitchell — with the addition of the second sheet of ice at the Mitchell Activities Center, an indoor pool that was eventually approved through a city-wide vote and an upgraded Corn Palace with new, LED, light-up domes.

And we're proud of those additions. Each of those projects has made the city a more attractive com-

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munity for tourists, visitors or people considering calling Mitchell their home.

We've also seen the addition of the Sixth Avenue plaza, veterans park and the beginning phase of a Burr Street renovation. Again, we're happy to see all those areas of improvement, but those projects pushed the lake and infrastructure improvements to the back burner.

We waited months for results of a costly study on the lake to give us options on how to fix Lake Mitchell, only to have a good portion of the City Council question the findings. We don't know exactly how or why, but the lake actually grew greener in 2017 than the previous year.

It's time, we believe, for the council to step forward and decide on a concrete plan. Is one of the study's options the right route? Is draining the lake a better route? Mitchell leaders should realize this year that having a clean, desirable lake is a need for the city — and that it's time to pick a solution.

In the same vein, we're hopeful City Council members focus on improvements to our largest roads and fixing water mains as infrastructure needs grow. We're glad to see Sanborn Boulevard get its much-needed attention. But following multiple breaks this week in a water main in eastern Mitchell, we hope council members will push to upgrade what seems to be deteriorating pipes. Who knows where the next major water main problem will occur?

So as our elected leaders ponder what's best for our city, we hope 2018 brings improvements to the not-so-glamorous projects.

Sure, plazas, parks and pools help make us a thriving city. But a clean lake and running water are absolutely necessities.

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## **Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Feb. 1** **Tougher texting while driving penalties needed**

The Legislature is about to consider a bill to require what 44 other states already do — make texting while driving a primary offense. Now — like with the seat belt law — it is a secondary offense, meaning a law enforcement officer can't stop a driver just for texting, which is an everyday occurrence in Rapid City and nationwide.

The current law was approved in the 2014 session after a lengthy debate about the difficulties of enforcing it and whether it was fair to single out texting while driving since it is not unusual to also see drivers eating, grooming or putting on makeup, or serving as a car seat for their dog while behind the wheel. The current fine for texting while driving is \$100.

In the past four years, the reach of digital social media has grown considerably as well as Americans' love affair with their phones, which seem to have a firm hold on more people every day — even while they are driving a vehicle that weighs three or more tons.

It is showing up in traffic statistics, as well. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nine people are killed and more than 1,000 injured every day in crashes involving distracted drivers. In 2016, the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) reported that 3,450 people died as a result of distracted driving, which was 9 percent of all fatal crashes. Teenagers were the most likely to be distracted in a fatal crash. Drunken-driving crashes, meanwhile, took 10,497 lives in 2016.

And while distracted driving takes into account a number of circumstances, experts point out that cell-phone use is clearly the number one culprit. According to the NHTSA, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cellphones while driving during daylight hours.

It is becoming more clear every day that texting while driving or looking at social media sites or videos or pictures is becoming a bigger threat to public safety since it endangers the driver, other drivers, passengers, bicyclists and pedestrians. There is no doubt that drivers who text engage in risky behavior.

Distracted driving also can have other serious consequences for the driver. In November, a U.S. District Court judge in Rapid City sentenced a 27-year-old woman to 37 months in prison for her role in an accident that killed one and maimed two others. She was looking at Facebook while traveling on U.S. Highway 18 and plowed into another vehicle. In announcing the sentence, Chief Judge Jeffrey Viken called distracted driving an "enormous risk in modern society."

The current bill, HB 1230, reflects those concerns. It would make texting while driving a class two misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$500, which should be enough to get the attention of most drivers.

At the same, however, it is less costly than a funeral or serving a prison term for causing the death of an innocent person.

The Legislature needs to get up to speed on this public safety issue and send the message that texting while driving is a crime. If 44 other states can do it, so can South Dakota.

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## Senate push to drug-test South Dakota Legislature advances

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill to require South Dakota lawmakers to be drug-tested has moved forward in the state Senate a day after House lawmakers rejected the proposal.

The Argus Leader reports that the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 4-3 Thursday to advance the bill to the chamber's floor.

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

Supporters say the plan is aimed at showing leadership and giving voters evidence that lawmakers aren't using drugs in Pierre.

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

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

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

## Report: Midwest business conditions index slipped in January

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — 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, according to a survey report released Thursday.

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

Manufacturing and other business sectors in the region are adding jobs at a solid pace, said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey.

"Both the national and our regional indices indicate the manufacturing sector is advancing at a very healthy pace and will continue to spill over into the broader national and regional economies in the next three to six months," Goss said.

The January employment index remained above growth neutral with a reading of 52.3, though it was down from December's 57.7.

"Regional job growth continues to be restrained by the availability of qualified workers," Goss said. "More than half of the supply managers, or 53.3 percent, named the difficulty in finding and hiring qualified workers as the greatest 2018 challenge to their business growth."

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, while a score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Economic optimism climbed higher last month, according to the report. The business confidence index reached 80.5 in January, compared with 73.2 in December.

"Healthy profit growth, still low interest rates, and the recently passed tax reform package pushed business confidence to its highest level ever," Goss said.

## White House declassifies partisan memo on Russia probe

By ZEKE MILLER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Friday declassified a partisan and bitterly disputed memo on the Russia investigation, clearing the way for House Republicans to release allegations of what they say is FBI misconduct.

The move came over the fierce objections of the FBI and Justice Department, which have said the document prepared by Republicans on the House intelligence committee is inaccurate and missing critical context.

The memo alleges that the FBI abused U.S. government surveillance powers in its investigation into Russian election interference. Trump, who has called the investigation a “witch hunt,” has supported the release of the memo in the apparent hopes that it could help undermine the probe being led by special counsel Robert Mueller.

Trump, dogged by the unrelenting investigation into his campaign’s ties to Russia, lashed out anew Friday at the FBI and Justice Department as politically biased against Republicans.

“The top Leadership and Investigators of the FBI and the Justice Department have politicized the sacred investigative process in favor of Democrats and against Republicans - something which would have been unthinkable just a short time ago. Rank & File are great people!” Trump tweeted.

The tweet came as U.S. news coverage was dominated by reports that the FBI and DOJ had objected strenuously to the memo’s release. Earlier this week, the FBI declared it had “grave concerns” about its accuracy.

Trump’s tweet sets up a clash with the man he picked to lead the FBI, Christopher Wray, after firing James Comey as agency director. It also seemed at odds with House Speaker Paul Ryan who said a day earlier “this memo is not an indictment of the FBI or the Department of Justice.”

Democrats say the memo cherry-picks intelligence in an effort to smear law enforcement investigating whether Trump associates collaborated with Russia to sway the 2016 presidential election.

“This is designed to impugn the credibility of the FBI, to undermine the investigation, to give the president additional fodder to attack the investigation. And it’s a tremendous disservice to the American people,” Rep. Adam Schiff, the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on CBS “This Morning.”

The document was written by GOP lawmakers as part of an effort to reveal what Republicans say are surveillance abuses by the FBI and the Justice Department early in Russia investigation, before special counsel Robert Mueller was appointed to take it over.

White House officials say Trump intends to clear the way for publication of the memo. One White House official said Congress would probably be informed of Trump’s decision Friday, adding that the president was “OK” with its release. A second White House official said Trump was likely to declassify the congressional memo but the precise method for making it public was still being figured out. The officials were not authorized to be quoted about private deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The House intelligence panel voted along party lines Monday to put the memo out, giving Trump five days to reject the release under committee rules. But Trump also has the power to declassify the document himself and either release it or hand it to Congress to release. One of the White House officials said the memo would be in “Congress’ hands” after Trump declassified it and there were unlikely to be any redactions to the document.

Senior FBI officials, including Wray, have also made direct appeals to the White House, warning that it could set a dangerous precedent.

Democrats on the intelligence panel made a last-ditch effort Wednesday evening to stop the release, saying the memo had been “secretly altered” by the Republicans who wrote it. In a letter to the House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, Schiff wrote that committee Democrats had discovered changes that were made after the vote Monday.

“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 asked Nunes for another vote on the memo, but Republicans didn’t appear to waver. Nunes spokesman Jack Langer said the committee vote was “procedurally sound.”

"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," Langer said.

This all comes as special counsel Mueller is investigating whether the Trump campaign improperly coordinated with Russia and whether Trump sought to obstruct the inquiry by, among other actions, firing Comey. Republicans have intensified their pressure on the Justice Department as Mueller's probe has moved closer to Trump's inner circle.

Trump has been telling confidants in recent days that he believes the document will validate his concerns that the FBI and Justice Department 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 claim that accusations of collusion between his campaign and Russian officials are false and part of a conspiracy to discredit his election.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer are pressing House Speaker Paul Ryan to stop the release.

Comey weighed in on Twitter as well: "All should appreciate the FBI speaking up. I wish more of our leaders would. But take heart: American history shows that, in the long run, weasels and liars never hold the field, so long as good people stand up. Not a lot of schools or streets named for Joe McCarthy."

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Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey, Matthew Daly, Eric Tucker and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

## **Victims' father tries to attack Larry Nassar in courtroom**

**By DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press**

CHARLOTTE, Mich. (AP) — A father of three victims of Larry Nassar rushed and tried to attack the disgraced former sports doctor on Friday during a sentencing hearing in Michigan, after the judge declined his request for "five minutes" alone with Nassar in a locked room. He was quickly tackled by bailiffs.

Two of the man's daughters had just told the judge they and another sister had been sexually abused by Nassar under the guise of medical treatment. Their father, Randall Margraves, later addressed the court, telling the judge he was a "distraught father."

Margraves looked at Nassar, shook his head and called him a profanity while speaking at the courtroom podium. The judge cautioned Margraves against using such language. He then asked for "five minutes" alone with Nassar. The judge said she couldn't allow that. Margraves asked for one minute, but she again declined.

The father then lunged at Nassar, who was sitting nearby.

Crying could be heard in the courtroom as Nassar was escorted out. Assistant Attorney General Angela Povilaitis told families in the courtroom to "use your words," not physical violence.

"This is letting him have this power over us," she said. "We cannot behave like this. I understand this is a remarkable situation. But you cannot do this. This is not helping your children. This is not helping your community. This is not helping us."

The incident occurred during the third and final sentencing hearing for Nassar on sexual abuse charges. The charges in this case focus on his work with Twistars, an elite Michigan gymnastics club. The judge resumed the hearing after about 25 minutes.

More than 30 victims have given statements so far during the hearing, which began Wednesday and resumed Friday morning.

During a similar hearing that ended last week, more than 150 girls and women came forward to say Nassar abused them under the guise of medical treatment while he worked with Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics. He was sentenced to up to 175 years in prison in that case. He had already been sentenced to 60 years in prison on child pornography charges.

Earlier Friday, the judge opened the hearing by saying controversial comments made by one of Nassar's attorney the previous day were "unfortunate." The lawyer, Shannon Smith, told radio station WWJ that



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she had doubts about the large number of women and girls who say they are victims.

Judge Janice Cunningham said Friday that Nassar didn't authorize the statements and has disavowed them. Cunningham said was unfortunate Smith made the comments during the sentencing proceedings.

"What is relevant is for the court to hear each individual story and how the criminal actions of the defendant impacted each individual's life," Cunningham said.

More victims were expected to speak Friday. The proceedings are likely to extend into next week.

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

## Exiled ex-Maldives president says he'll run again for office

By MOHAMED SHARUHAAN, Associated Press

MALE, Maldives (AP) — The exiled former president of the Maldives said Friday he will run again for office, hours after a surprise Supreme Court decision to free a group of political prisoners led to overnight clashes in the capital of the Indian Ocean archipelago.

President Yameen Abdul Gayoom had been set to run for re-election virtually unopposed, with all of his opponents either jailed or exiled. But ex-President Mohammed Nasheed, who is among the prisoners ordered freed, said he would challenge Yameen, who has rolled back many democratic reforms since coming to power five years ago.

"I can contest and I will contest and hopefully we will win it again," Nasheed told the AP in Colombo, the capital of neighboring Sri Lanka.

Nasheed was jailed in 2016 but received asylum in Britain later that year after traveling there on medical leave from prison. He has lived in exile ever since.

Nasheed also called for reforms in the country's security services, telling the AP that "a small element within the military and police want to prop up the dictatorship" of Yameen.

The capital city, Male, was calm Friday, with stores open and people going to work, despite the overnight violence between police and protesters. Scuffles between protesters and police broke out again Friday night, and two people were arrested, but the confrontation ended quickly.

The Thursday night court ruling ordered the release of the political dissidents, saying their guilty verdicts had been influenced by politics. It also ordered new trials for all nine. It was not immediately clear how retrials would affect the upcoming elections, but the opposition alliance welcomed the ruling in a statement, saying it "effectively ends President Yameen's authoritarian rule."

Hundreds of joyous Nasheed supporters poured into the streets of Male after the verdict, waving flags. But clashes broke out quickly after Yameen fired the country's police chief, whose department had announced that it would uphold the Supreme Court verdict.

The clashes lasted about three hours, with police dispersing rock-throwing crowds using pepper spray and batons.

Atul Keshap, the U.S. ambassador to the Maldives, welcomed the Supreme Court order. "I urge the government and security services to respect this ruling, which bolsters democracy and rule of law for all Maldivians," he wrote on Twitter.

Human rights group Amnesty International said the court decision should be a turning point for the nation.

The group's South Asia director, Biraj Patnaik, said the ruling must be implemented and the government's "witch-hunt against the political opposition and other critics" must come to an end.

He said re-trials of the opposition leaders must be conducted in line with international standards, and authorities must restore judicial independence.

Known for its luxury tourist resorts, the Maldives became a multiparty democracy 10 years ago after decades of autocratic rule by the current president's half brother, strongman Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. But the nation lost much of its democratic gains after Yameen was elected in 2013. He has maintained a tight grip on power, controlling institutions such as the judiciary, police and the bureaucracy. The half

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brothers have since fallen out, and the former leader has joined the opposition.

The court also reinstated 12 lawmakers who had been ousted for switching allegiance to the opposition. When those lawmakers return, Yameen's Progressive Party of the Maldives will lose its majority in the 85-member Parliament.

The government said in a statement it was trying to "vet and clarify" the court's ruling and "will work to engage, and consult with, the Supreme Court in order to comply with the ruling in line with proper procedure and the rule of law."

In 2015 Nasheed was sentenced to 13 years in prison, convicted of terrorism charges in a trial widely condemned by international rights groups.

Yameen's former deputy, Ahmed Adeen, who had been jailed on accusations of plotting to kill the president, was also ordered released.

Adeen was sentenced to 33 years in prison in 2016, charged with corruption, possession of illegal firearms and planning to kill Yameen by triggering an explosion on his speedboat. However, FBI investigators said they found no evidence of a bomb blast.

## Groundhog Day report: Flu's worsening shadow blanketing US

By MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It looks like Groundhog Day for the nation's flu report, too: It's gotten worse, and there are weeks of suffering ahead.

The government's latest report out Friday shows the flu season continued to intensify last week.

One of every 14 visits to doctors and clinics were for symptoms of the flu. That's the highest level since the swine flu pandemic in 2009.

Last week, 42 states reported high patient traffic for the flu, up from 39. Hospital stays because of the flu were also up.

Experts had thought this season might be bad, but its intensity has surprised most everyone. The flu usually peaks in February.

Friday's report is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Federal judge: Florida's felon voting restoration flawed

By GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — In a ruling that could reverberate in this year's crucial elections, a federal judge ruled that Florida's system of restoring voting rights for felons who have served their time is arbitrary and unconstitutional and needs to be changed as soon as possible.

U.S. District Judge Mark Walker issued the blistering ruling Thursday in response to a lawsuit filed last year against Gov. Rick Scott by a voting rights organization. Plaintiffs include people whose requests to restore their right to vote were turned down even though they completed their prison sentences.

Walker, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, ordered both sides to offer ways to remedy the system by Feb. 12. His 43-page ruling blasted Scott and state officials for the current system to restore voting rights, which can take years.

"A person convicted of a crime may have long ago exited the prison cell and completed probation," Walker wrote. "Her voting rights, however, remain locked in a dark crypt. Only the state has the key — but the state has swallowed it."

John Tupps, a spokesman for Scott, defended the process and suggested an appeal is likely.

"The governor believes that convicted felons should show that they can lead a life free of crime and be accountable to their victims and our communities," said Tupps. "While we are reviewing today's ruling, we will continue to defend this process in the court."

The ruling comes just months before Florida voters will be asked to alter the current ban. Backers of a constitutional amendment last week won a place on the November 2018 ballot. If sixty percent of voters

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approve, most former prisoners would have their rights automatically restored.

For decades, Florida's constitution has automatically barred felons from being able to vote after leaving prison. The state's clemency process allows the governor and three elected Cabinet members to restore voting rights, although the governor can unilaterally veto any request.

Walker said in his ruling that the automatic ban is legal, but the process can't be arbitrary or swayed by partisan politics. He noted, for example, that Scott and the Cabinet restored voting rights to a white man who had voted illegally but told Scott that he had voted for him. Walker also pointed out that others who acknowledged voting illegally — but were black — had their applications turned down.

Florida has a slow process for restoring voting rights to felons who have completed their sentences. It requires a hearing, and applicants are often denied. Shortly after taking office in 2007, then-Republican Gov. Charlie Crist convinced two of the state's three Cabinet members to approve rules that would allow the parole commission to restore voting rights for non-violent felons without hearings, and within a year, more than 100,000 felons were granted voting rights.

But Gov. Rick Scott and Attorney General Pam Bondi pushed to end automatic restoration of voting rights as one of their first acts upon taking office in 2011. Since then, most former prisoners have to wait at least five years before they can even apply to have their rights restored. Over the last seven years, fewer than 3,000 of them have had their rights restored.

"Today a federal court said what so many Floridians have known for so long: that the state's arbitrary restoration process, which forces former felons to beg for their right to vote, violates the oldest and most basic principles of our democracy," said Jon Sherman, an attorney with the Fair Elections Legal Network. "While the court has yet to order a remedy in this case, it has held in no uncertain terms that a state cannot subject U.S. citizens' voting rights to the limitless power of government officials."

Florida's ban on felon voting — along with a voting list purge that took some non-felons off voting rolls — likely cost then-Vice President Al Gore the 2000 presidential election. Republican George W. Bush won Florida that year, and thus the White House, by 537 votes in an election that took five weeks to sort out.

Before the 2000 election, then-Secretary of State Katherine Harris hired a company to purge felons from the state's voting lists. But the process was flawed and many eligible voters were removed from rolls because of mistaken identity. Others were convicted of misdemeanors and not felonies.

## James Comey defends FBI, takes aim at 'weasels and liars'

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump clashes with the FBI over the planned release of a classified memo, former director James Comey has stood up for the bureau's position against the document's disclosure and taken aim at unnamed people he calls "weasels and liars."

"All should appreciate the FBI speaking up. I wish more of our leaders would," Comey tweeted Thursday night amid news that the FBI had lobbied the White House to block the release of a partisan memo on the Russia investigation.

On Friday morning, the president continued his verbal attacks against the FBI, writing on Twitter, "The top Leadership and Investigators of the FBI and the Justice Department have politicized the sacred investigative process in favor of Democrats and against Republicans — something which would have been unthinkable just a short time ago. Rank & File are great people!"

Trump and congressional Republicans have been attacking the FBI for its investigation of potential ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign. Trump is expected to clear the way soon for the publication of a classified memo that Republicans say shows improper use of surveillance by the FBI in the initial stages of the investigation.

The Justice Department and Democrats have lobbied Trump to stop the release, saying it could harm national security and mislead the public.

On Twitter, Comey urged his former colleagues to "take heart: American history shows that, in the long run, weasels and liars never hold the field, so long as good people stand up."

He concluded, "Not a lot of schools or streets named for Joe McCarthy" — a reference to the senator

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who, in the 1950s, conducted hearings aimed at rooting out Communists in the U.S. government.

Since his firing last May, Comey has made his personal feelings about Trump known, testifying in detail about personal interactions he says troubled him.

He also authorized a close friend to share with reporters details from a memo he produced documenting one such encounter — a February conversation in the Oval Office in which he said Trump encouraged him to drop an FBI investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn. That revelation promoted the Justice Department's appointment of a special counsel to run the Russia investigation.

Comey has also used language about "weasels" before, most notably in a September 2016 congressional hearing when he defended the FBI's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation.

"You can call us wrong, but don't call us weasels," Comey said. "We are not weasels. We are honest people and we did this in that way."

## Handlers: Punxsutawney Phil sees 6 more weeks of winter

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania's most famous groundhog foresees no early end to winter. The handlers of Punxsutawney Phil said the furry rodent has called for six more weeks of winter after seeing his shadow at dawn Friday.

The top hat-wearing members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club's Inner Circle reveal Phil's forecast every Feb. 2. It is based on a German legend surrounding Candlemas. The legend says if a furry rodent casts a shadow that day, winter continues. If not, spring comes early.

In reality, Phil's prediction is decided ahead of time by the group on Gobbler's Knob, a tiny hill just outside Punxsutawney about 65 miles (about 100 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh.

Thousands of people gathered overnight to await the forecast, bundled up against the cold and entertained by folk music and a fireworks display, with temperatures around 11 degrees (minus-12 Celsius).

The groundhog's prediction is typically contained in a short poem.

"Up early this morning. Far from home. Are you searching for the Phil-osopher's stone? Well, even my best friends, they don't know. Is it an early spring or just more snow," the proclamation read. "My faithful followers, your hands (and my paws) are getting cold so here is my forecast. Not lead, but solid gold: I see my royal Shadow! Six more weeks of Winter to go!"

Records dating to 1887 show Phil has now predicted more winter 103 times while forecasting an early spring just 18 times — including last year. There are no records for the remaining years.

At the Staten Island Zoo in New York, Staten Island Chuck had a difference of opinion with Phil. Chuck — a three-decade veteran of weather predictions — did not see his shadow. That means he's predicting an early spring.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio skipped Friday's ceremony, several years after dropping a groundhog that later died.

## US added strong 200K jobs in January; pay up most in 8 years

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers added a robust 200,000 jobs in January, and wages rose at the fastest pace in more than eight years, evidence of a consistently healthy job market. The unemployment rate remained 4.1 percent, the lowest level since 2000, the Labor Department said in its monthly jobs report Friday.

The pay gains suggest that employers are increasingly competing for a limited pool of workers. Raises stemming from Republican tax cuts and minimum wage increases in 18 states also likely boosted pay last month. The figures point to an economy on strong footing even in its ninth year of expansion, fueled by consumer spending and global growth.

The pickup in wages could make it likelier that the Federal Reserve will raise short-term interest rates more quickly in coming months. In anticipation of inflation pressures and of a possible acceleration of Fed

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rate hikes, investors sent the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note surging after the jobs report was released.

The yield reached 2.84, from 2.79 before the jobs report was released. Stock prices were also poised for a sharp drop.

In January, average hourly pay rose 9 cents to \$26.74 after an even bigger increase in December. Compared with 12 months earlier, wages are up 2.9 percent — the biggest gain since the recession ended eight years ago.

Weak wage growth has been one of the economy's most persistent shortcomings for nearly a decade. But with fewer workers to hire, employers are being forced to raise pay.

Hiring was broad-based last month. Construction companies added 36,000 jobs, lifted by demand for new homes and remodeling.

Manufacturers added 15,000, health care 26,000. Professional and business services, which includes highly-paid jobs in engineering and accounting, added 23,000. Restaurants, hotels, bars and entertainment gained 35,000.

Most other recent economic data have also been encouraging. Factories, for example, expanded rapidly in January, according to a survey of purchasing managers, in part because a weaker U.S. dollar and solid growth overseas have boosted U.S. exports.

And many Americans appear confident enough to buy homes: Sales of existing houses reached their highest level in 11 years in 2017. At the same time, would-be buyers are struggling to find suitable homes because so few properties are available for sale. The demand for housing helped lift home building in 2017 to its fastest pace in a decade. Construction companies added 210,000 jobs last year, the most in two years.

## **UN: 90 migrants feared drowned after boat capsizes off Libya**

**By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press**

GENEVA (AP) — About 90 people are feared drowned after a smugglers' boat carrying mostly Pakistani migrants capsized off Libya's coast early Friday, the U.N.'s migration agency said.

Ten bodies have washed ashore near the Libyan town of Zuwara following the tragedy in the early morning, said International Organization for Migration spokeswoman Olivia Headon, citing information from its partner agencies.

"We are told that two survivors swam to shore, and one person was rescued by a fishing boat," Headon said by phone from Tunisia's capital to reporters at the U.N. in Geneva. "We are working to get more details on the (capsizing) and where the survivors are so that we can assist them better."

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said 11 of its citizens had drowned in the incident. Ministry spokesman Mohammad Faisal told The Associated Press that Pakistani diplomats reached Libya's coastal area to collect more details and begin the process of repatriating the bodies of the deceased.

Headon said Pakistani nationals are increasing among the number of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Italy and Europe via Libya. By nationality, Pakistanis last year made up the 13th largest nationality represented among migrants making the crossing, but they were the third-largest contingent in January.

Headon said the reason for the increasing flow of Pakistanis wasn't immediately clear, nor whether the greater influx is likely to continue, but added: "We're looking into it."

IOM says 6,624 people crossed the Mediterranean in January — about two-thirds of them to Italy — about a 10-percent increase from a year earlier. About 250 people died in the crossing in January, six fewer than a year ago.

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Associated Press writer Munir Ahmed in Islamabad contributed to this report.

## Van carrying gas canisters injures 18 in Shanghai crash

By ERIKA KINETZ and GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — The driver of a minivan hauling gas canisters in Shanghai set fire to his vehicle while smoking a cigarette and plowed into pedestrians Friday, leaving 18 people injured in the heart of the Chinese financial hub, police said.

Police ruled out the possibility of a deliberate attack and described the crash as an accident. The 40-year-old minivan driver, whom police identified only by his surname Chen, lost control after a fire erupted in his van, which held several plastic bottles of gasoline as well as six canisters of liquid gas.

A cigarette butt found by investigators in the van likely started the fire, Shanghai police said in a statement Friday evening. They said Chen had been alone in the vehicle.

Chen was being treated for severe smoke inhalation and was in a coma, and nine other people were still hospitalized, police said. Chen works for a Shanghai metals company and had no criminal record but is now under suspicion for transporting dangerous materials.

The incident, which took place during a morning commute period near Shanghai's People's Park and a vast plaza that is also home to the headquarters of the municipal government, provided a brief scare for a city that was hosting British Prime Minister Theresa May. Vehicle attacks by extremists have killed scores globally in recent years, including some in Chinese cities.

The minivan veered onto a sidewalk and burst into flames around 9 a.m. on busy Nanjing West Road in the heart of Shanghai, a metropolis of almost 25 million people that is widely regarded as China's most cosmopolitan city.

"It couldn't stop, crashed into the corner and caught fire," said a cleaner who works in a building across the street from the crash site. Like many Chinese, she asked only to be identified by her surname, Xu.

She told The Associated Press she saw smoke coming out of the van as it drove down the street before careening out of control.

The website of the local Xinmin Wanbao newspaper and other local news media said the van struck five to six people waiting for a light change at a busy pedestrian crossing.

Videos on social media showed injured people lying on the pavement next to a Starbucks cafe and others pinned under the tires of the van. Firefighters were seen trying to put out a blaze inside the vehicle.

Xu, the cleaner, said she saw two men struggling to pull a person out of the van. "Other people told them to stop. Then the police and ambulance arrived," she said.

A man who witnessed the crash on his way to People's Park said in a video interview carried by Chinese media that the minivan seemed to be moving fast as it veered across the road.

"The minivan did not slow down. The driver must have been in a panic at the time. He didn't slow down and just directly crashed," said the witness, who wasn't identified. "It was on the other side of the road and made a turn over to this side. People saw it and quickly tried to get away but a lot of people were still hit."

The man said firefighters removed liquefied gas canisters from the vehicle.

At the nearby Changzheng Hospital, Shanghai resident Liu Axing told AP that his daughter, Liu Jianying, was crossing the street on her way to work when she was struck by the van.

She was undergoing surgery for a broken shoulder and pelvis, Liu said as he pulled up a picture on his phone of his daughter pinned under the vehicle's front wheel, seemingly unconscious.

Three people were more seriously injured than her, Liu added.

A relative of one patient in the emergency room, who declined to be identified, said at least five or six crash patients were being treated there.

Before police declared the crash an accident, there were fears of a repeat of 2013, when five people, including three attackers, were killed when a four-wheel drive vehicle plowed into a crowd in front of Tiananmen Gate in the center of Beijing. The attack was blamed on separatist extremists from the Turkic Muslim Uighur ethnic group native to northwestern China.

Vehicle attacks have also taken place in Europe and the United States, most recently in October, when eight people in New York City were killed by an attacker claiming allegiance to the Islamic State group.

Friday's crash occurred just as the British prime minister was speaking at a business event in Shang-

hai. May's speech was at a forum in the Lujiazui district on the opposite side of the Huangpu River from People's Park.

Other speakers at the event included Li Shufu, the chairman of Chinese carmaker Geely, and Nobel Prize-winning physicist Kostya Novoselov. May on Thursday met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing as part of her three-day visit aimed at establishing a new trading relationship after Britain leaves the European Union.

The crash came at the start of the Lunar New Year travel period, when hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns for the most important family holiday of the year. During the weeks-long travel period, authorities emphasize safety on the road and aboard planes, trains and ferries.

Li Jing, a professor of disaster management at Beijing Normal University's School of Social Development and Public Policy, said the incident also points to the need for increased safety awareness in China, where gas canisters and other highly dangerous objects are sometimes transported on flatbed tricycles even in major cities such as Beijing.

"Because of his complete ignorance of safety rules, his action has amplified harm and risk to the public resulting in such casualties," Li said of the driver. "It indicates how urgent it is for the government to step up promotion of public safety knowledge and awareness."

Hours after the crash, Shanghai police posted a social media message warning drivers to "never, ever smoke" — or toss cigarette butts in proximity of flammable objects.

Shih reported from Beijing. Associated Press researchers Fu Ting and Si Chen contributed to this report.

## **New witnesses emerge in actress Natalie Wood's 1981 drowning**

**By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — New witnesses have emerged in the 1981 drowning of actress Natalie Wood, prompting investigators to deem it a "suspicious death" and name her former husband, 87-year-old actor Robert Wagner, a "person of interest," Los Angeles sheriff's officials said.

For nearly four decades, mystery and speculation have swirled around the death of the actress who was nominated for three Academy Awards and starred in "West Side Story" and "Rebel Without a Cause."

She was on a yacht with Wagner, actor Christopher Walken and the boat captain on Thanksgiving weekend of 1981. After a night of drinking, her body was found floating in the waters off Southern California's Catalina Island. She was 43.

Investigators initially ruled it an accident but reopened the case in 2011 to see whether Wagner or anyone else played a role after the boat's captain said he heard the couple arguing the night of her disappearance. The coroner's office amended Wood's death certificate the next year to include "drowning and other undetermined factors."

In a statement Thursday, sheriff's spokeswoman Nicole Nishida said new witnesses interviewed since the case was reopened gave statements that "portray a new sequence of events on the boat that night."

One of the witnesses described hearing yelling and crashing sounds coming from the couple's stateroom, she said. Shortly after that, separate witnesses heard a man and woman arguing on the back of the boat and believe the voices were those of Wood and Wagner, Nishida said.

The statements differed from the original version of events provided by witnesses, including those who were on the boat, she said.

The sheriff's department said Wagner is considered a person of interest.

"Do we have enough to make an arrest at this moment? No," Nishida said.

The police statement was issued after CBS News aired an interview with Los Angeles County sheriff's Lt. John Corina, who said he doesn't believe Wagner has told the whole story about what happened.

Investigators have said Wagner has not been interviewed since the probe was reopened. They said in 2013 that they had tried at least 10 times to interview him but he refused.

Wagner has denied any involvement in his wife's death and no charges have been filed. His publicist,

Alan Nierob, declined to comment Thursday.

Conflicting versions of what happened on the yacht have contributed to the mystery of her death. Wood, Wagner and Walken had all been drinking heavily in the hours before the actress disappeared.

Wagner wrote in a 2008 memoir that he and Walken argued that night. He wrote that Walken went to bed and he stayed up for a while, but when he went to bed, he noticed that his wife and a dinghy that had been attached to the yacht were missing.

Follow Michael Balsamo on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1> .

## 12-year-old girl booked after accidental LA school shooting

By **AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jordan Valenzuela was in class when he heard the bang, and then the screaming. In a classroom next door, a 15-year-old boy had been shot in the head, a 15-year-old girl was shot in the wrist and several others were struck by broken glass.

Jordan tells The Associated Press that his 12-year-old classmate at Salvador B. Castro Middle School told him it was an accident.

The sobbing girl told him: "I didn't mean to. I had the gun in my backpack and I didn't know it was loaded and my backpack fell and the gun went off," the seventh-grader said.

The shooting was reported just before 9 a.m. at the school, which has about 365 students in grades 6-8.

The girl was taken into custody minutes after the shooting. TV video from helicopters showed a dark-haired girl in a sweatshirt being led from the school in handcuffs as anxious parents and family members gathered on a street corner, many crying and talking on their phones as they waited.

Police interviewed the girl and agreed it was an accident. On Thursday evening, long hours after chaos and panic had subsided, the girl was booked into Juvenile Hall on suspicion of negligently discharging a firearm on school grounds.

Police haven't said from where the girl got the semi-automatic handgun or why she brought it to the downtown campus.

Five people were injured in the shooting. The most seriously hurt was a 15-year-old boy who was shot in the head but doctors said the bullet didn't hit anything vital or life-threatening.

"This child was extremely lucky," said Dr. Aaron Strumwasser at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center. "I think he will do fine ... I anticipate he'll make a full recovery."

A 15-year-old girl was shot in the wrist but Strumwasser said the injury was minor.

Three other people had minor face or head injuries, some from broken glass, but weren't shot, officials said.

An 11-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl were treated at the hospital and released while a 30-year-old woman who is a school staff member had only minor injuries, Los Angeles city police said in a statement.

Shallin Lopez, a seventh-grader, was in the room at the time of the shooting. She said she never saw a gun.

"I just saw something pop," she said. "It was loud. I didn't see her shoot."

Jordan Valenzuela, the 12-year-old student who was next door, told The Associated Press by telephone that after her heard the gunshot and screaming, children in the other classroom started banging on the door connecting the two rooms.

He and some other children opened it and began trying to help the victims. Jordan said he noticed his friend sitting at her desk with her hands covering her face.

Jordan said later, the girl asked him to hide the backpack with the gun in it.

"I said 'No,'" he said. "Then I moved away from her because I was a little bit scared."

But, he said, "she doesn't do bad things, she just stays quiet."

The campus was locked down but later most classes continued, although parents were permitted to take their children home early if they wished.



The shooting left parents shaken.

Claudia Anzueto, Jordan Valenzuela's mother, said the boy was crying when he called her from a borrowed cellphone to tell her he was OK.

"Not safe, very insecure," Anzueto said of the school. "I fear for my son's life. You know what I mean, you really hear about things like this in the news, and just to hear that something like that happened so close to home, it scared the life out of me."

Most weapons "that our young people get their hands on" come from their homes or those of other family members, Los Angeles School Police Department Chief Steve Zipperman said.

It wasn't immediately clear how she managed to bring it into class, he said.

The district has a policy requiring every middle and high school campus to conduct daily random searches by metal-detector wands at different hours of the school day for students in the sixth grade and up.

Student Melanie Valencia, 13, said the school did a random security search Thursday, but that she's never been checked.

Some officials used the shooting to call for gun safety legislation and others said it should give gun owners pause.

"This is a very important call to action to every adult in our community who has a gun," City Attorney Mike Feuer said. "You must store it safely and keep it out of access for any child to reach. It could result in a tragedy."

Associated Press writers Christopher Weber, John Antczak, Michael Balsamo, Krysta Fauria and Brian Melley in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## **Emails: Pruitt monitored changes to EPA webpages on climate**

**By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly released emails show Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt personally monitored efforts last year to excise much of the information about climate change from the agency's website, especially President Obama's signature effort to reduce planet-warming carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The internal EPA messages from April 2017 were released earlier this week following a Freedom of Information Act request filed by the advocacy group Environmental Defense Fund. They show then-newly arrived political appointees in the agency's press office directing career staffers to make a list of changes to epa.gov. The emails show Pruitt wanted the updates to appear as soon as possible and had specific changes he wanted made.

John Konkus, a former Republican campaign operative hired as EPA's deputy associate administrator for Public Affairs, emailed staffers on the evening of Saturday, April 1.

"We need to start building an updated page for the clean power plan ASAP with the goal of having it go live sometime on Monday," Konkus wrote. "Is there any way we can get a little time put in on this project over the weekend so that we're off on the right foot on Monday morning?"

Four days before the email, President Donald Trump signed an executive order on energy independence that included a directive to start the process of rescinding the Clean Power Plan and other environmental regulations that "potentially burden" the domestic production of fossil fuels.

Konkus' message triggered a flurry of emails over the following days about extensive changes to the agency's web pages, including some edits ordered directly by Pruitt. Among the changes were stripping away data about climate change and modifying search results for "Clean Power Plan" to feature a page touting Trump's executive order featuring a photo of the president posing with smiling coal miners, Pruitt and other members of his cabinet.

EPA began its formal repeal of the Clean Power Plan in October. President Trump also announced last summer he intends to withdraw from the Paris climate accord signed by Obama in 2015, potentially making

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the United States the only nation in the world that is no longer committed to reducing carbon emissions under the landmark international agreement.

Pruitt previously served as Oklahoma's attorney general, a post where he repeatedly sued EPA to block stricter environmental regulations while reaping political donations from the state's powerful oil and gas industry. Like Trump, Pruitt has publicly questioned the veracity of evidence compiled by climate scientists, including those in his own agency, that global warming is overwhelmingly caused by man-made carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels.

"How close are we to launching this on the website?" emailed Lincoln Ferguson, an EPA senior adviser for public affairs who previously served as Pruitt's spokesman in Oklahoma, on April 5. "The Administrator would like it to go up ASAP. He also has several other changes that need to take place."

"You can tell him we have already mocked it up, and are just finishing up. Should happen this week," replied J.P. Freire, then EPA's associate administrator for public affairs and a former GOP congressional staffer.

"Just asking because he is asking ...," Ferguson emailed back.

Versions of the edited pages are still available on an archived "snapshot" of EPA's website as it appeared prior to Trump's inauguration, but those pages are no longer updated and many links to the underlying documents and data are now broken, leading to error messages.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said Thursday that staff is constantly updating the agency's website to reflect new initiatives.

"Of course the site will be reflective of the current administration's priorities," Wilcox said. "With that said, all the content from the previous administration is still easily accessible and publicly available through the banner across the top of our website."

The changes made to epa.gov last year sparked widespread concern from scientists, environmentalists and others worried a key public repository of information and data about climate change was being lost. A coalition of scientific and academic groups rushed to make copies of the government webpages before they disappeared.

The Environmental Data & Governance Initiative, which tracks changes to thousands of government websites under the Trump administration, says over 200 webpages providing climate information have been omitted from epa.gov over the last year. Other pages, including the agency's homepage, have been substantially altered to removing mentions of climate and climate change.

"Obscuring information thwarts meaningful public participation in EPA's work to protect Americans' health and safety," said Ben Levitan, a lawyer with the Environmental Defense Fund. "It reinforces serious concerns that Pruitt has predetermined that he will repeal the Clean Power Plan, and that the current rulemaking process is a sham."

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Follow Associated Press environmental reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

## Hot heads or cold feet? North Korea's mixed Olympic messages

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Despite all the attention North Korea is getting for its conciliatory gestures ahead of the South Korean Winter Olympics, it is stepping up some unusually pointed verbal attacks on Donald Trump's administration and conservatives in the South Korean government and media.

The U.S. president, its state media claim, is waging a cynical campaign to keep the rival Koreas apart and speeding up preparations for a nuclear war. And those conservatives in South Korea, it says, need to show more respect, or North Korea may just have to rethink its proposed participation altogether.

North Korea is certainly no stranger to the art of the bluff. Diatribes against enemies perceived and real are a staple of its messages to the outside world and a complete withdrawal from the Olympics would seem unlikely at this late stage. But its tone has been particularly schizophrenic since leader Kim Jong Un suggested sending a delegation to the games in his New Year's Day address.

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Could more surprises lie ahead?

Here's a look at the hand North Korea is trying to play as the Olympics near.

## BEHIND THE OLIVE BRANCH

North Korea has a lot to gain by participating in the Olympics.

It's clearly hoping to get a much-needed breather after a year of intense political and military tensions. It has already scored one victory — massive annual joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises that it believes are a dress-rehearsal for an invasion have been postponed until after the games are over. North Korea is now demanding the maneuvers, which regularly lead to heightened tensions as both sides rev their militaries up to maximum readiness, be called off permanently.

Washington isn't buying.

The U.S. position is that the exercises are an essential part of assuring that American and South Korean troops are ready and capable of defending against a North Korean incursion. But a smooth Olympics would put North Korea in a better position to win wider support, particularly in the South, for its claim that the wargames shouldn't be considered sacrosanct.

Barring a major incident, North Korea can also pick up some diplomatic points simply by joining in a big, global event. Its athletes, cheering groups and musical performances are a great vehicle for generating good will among South Koreans — and millions of Olympic viewers around the globe — who will be watching and hoping to see the Olympic spirit produce positive signs of a Korean rapprochement.

In the long term, if North Korea can keep the detente going, its economy could benefit from more engagement with the South. Officials are already hinting that they are very interested in wooing South Korean tourists. Skiers from the North and South on Thursday completed a joint training session at the Masik Pass ski resort, one of the spots North Korea most wants to promote.

## HOT HEADS, COLD FEET?

Almost as soon as Kim suggested sending a delegation to the Olympics, North Korea's media turned up its anti-Trump, anti-U.S. rhetoric.

Of course, it's no big surprise to find anti-U.S. rhetoric in the North Korean media. But the North is unusually concerned about what Trump's next moves might be and whether he is seriously considering a military option.

That concern has been pretty clear from its now almost-daily diatribes against Washington's deployments of two and possibly three aircraft carriers and their battle groups to the region and the positioning of strategic bombers on the Pacific island of Guam.

"The U.S. is bringing dark clouds of a nuclear war to the peninsula over which doves should fly, revealing that it is the heinous enemy of peace and a war maniac which should not exist on the Earth," said a typical commentary Thursday in the ruling party newspaper.

Reading between the lines, one likely motivation for the heightened verbal campaign is to tell Washington it will not let down its guard during the games. Another motive is to try to gain sympathy in Seoul — along with Beijing and Moscow — for the argument that the U.S., not North Korea, is the threat to peace and stability in the region.

Not all South Koreans, meanwhile, are happy about North Korea's Olympic overtures.

Large-scale protests, especially if they involve burning Kim in effigy, could be a deal-breaker for North Korea. Its barrages against anti-North elements in the South began in earnest after that very thing happened during a visit of one of its advance teams to Seoul.

If a similar incident were to occur again, the North has suggested it may pull out and go home.

## CONTROLLING THE MESSAGE

South Korea is the Olympic host, but North Korea may get the opening spotlight.

Not long after Kim made the Olympic offer, the North announced it will hold a major military event in Pyongyang, its capital, on Feb. 8, the day before the games begin. Officials refuse to confirm details, but

it will likely be a mass rally and military parade. What kind of weaponry it will put on display remains a secret, but such events are scrutinized closely by military experts and are guaranteed to receive big media coverage around the world.

To further control what the world sees, North Korea appears to have considered but then decided to deny access to journalists and photographers who are not based in the North.

It isn't clear how much of the Olympics North Koreans will be able to see. Live broadcasts are unlikely and only a trickle of information about the country's athletes and delegates to South Korea has been reported so far. Repeated requests by The Associated Press to interview athletes, officials or any members of the delegation were refused.

Athletes from North Korea have been increasingly competing abroad since Kim Jong Un assumed power in late 2011 and defections are unheard of.

But with several hundred people expected to go to the Olympics — including an orchestra, singers, dancers, a taekwondo demonstration team and an all-female cheering group — North Korea will be hard-pressed to avoid the "ideological contamination" that might result from too much exposure to the South's affluence and social freedoms.

Judging by past precedent, they can all expect to be kept on a very short leash.

Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @EricTalmadge

## **Girl in Slender Man stabbing gets maximum mental commitment**

**By IVAN MORENO, Associated Press**

WAUKESHA, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin girl who stabbed a classmate to curry favor with the fictional horror character Slender Man will be committed to a mental hospital for 40 years, a judge ordered Thursday, explaining his decision as "an issue of community protection."

Judge Michael Bohren granted the maximum penalty that prosecutors had sought and discounted Morgan Geyser's youth — she was just 12 — at the time of the attack in 2014.

"What we can't forget is this was an attempted murder," Bohren said. Earlier, he heard from four doctors who talked about how Geyser is making progress with her mental illness, to various degrees. But Bohren called the teenager "a fragile person" whose long history suffering from delusions make her a risk to hurt herself and others.

Geyser, now 15, spoke briefly before she was sentenced, breaking down in tears as she apologized to the girl she stabbed, Payton Leutner.

"I just want to let Bella and her family know that I'm sorry," she said, using a nickname for Leutner. "And I hope she's doing well."

Geyser and another girl, Anissa Weier, admitted that they lured Leutner into some woods near a suburban Milwaukee park. Geyser stabbed Leutner 19 times while Weier urged her on, according to investigators. They left Leutner for dead but she crawled out of the woods and got help from a passing bicyclist. All three girls were 12 at the time.

"Really judge, it's a miracle that Peyton is still with us, that she survived this," said prosecutor Ted Szczupakiewicz.

Geyser and Weier said they carried out the attack to appease Slender Man, a fictional online horror character who they said they feared would otherwise harm them and their families. Slender Man is often typified by spidery limbs and a blank white face.

Weier was sentenced to 25 years in a mental hospital in December. She pleaded guilty in August to being a party to attempted second-degree intentional homicide, but she claimed she wasn't responsible for her actions because she was mentally ill. In September, a jury agreed.

At Geyser's sentencing Thursday, doctors who evaluated her gave conflicting opinions about the type of institutional care she needs and the severity of her continued hallucinations.

Prosecutors presented testimony from a doctor who said Geyser reported still hearing voices from some-

one named "Maggie" as recently as September.

Dr. Brooke Lundbohm acknowledged that Geysler has made significant progress over the last three years, but said she emphatically believes she is still a danger to herself and others.

"This is not a close call," she said.

Geysler's attorneys argued for her to be moved to a less restrictive facility with children her age and the possibility of being able to be on outings with supervision if she's well enough.

"She has a condition she didn't choose to have," said Anthony Cotton, one of Geysler's attorneys.

They argued in court documents that she suffered from schizophrenia and psychotic spectrum disorder, making her prone to delusions and paranoid beliefs. But three doctors the defense called Thursday said she no longer shows psychotic symptoms and would benefit being in a residential facility where she can socialize with other teenagers. She's currently at a state mental facility with adults and doctors said she is the youngest patient there.

"I believe at the present time she is no more dangerous than any adolescent her age," said Dr. Kenneth Robbins.

Geysler pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree intentional homicide in October in a deal with prosecutors to avoid prison. She may seek conditional release before the 40 years are up.

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Follow Ivan Moreno on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IvanJourno>

## Dallas man executed for killing daughters while mom listened

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A former Dallas accountant condemned for fatally shooting his two young daughters while their mother listened helplessly on the phone was put to death Thursday night in Texas.

John David Battaglia was executed for the May 2001 killings of his 9-year-old daughter, Faith, and her 6-year-old sister, Liberty. Battaglia and his wife had separated, and he shot the girls at his Dallas apartment during a scheduled visit.

His lethal injection was the nation's third this year, all in Texas. The punishment was delayed more than three hours until the U.S. Supreme Court rejected appeals from his lawyers to review his case. They contended the 62-year-old was delusional and mentally incompetent for execution and that a lower court improperly refused Battaglia's lawyers money to hire an expert to further examine legal claims regarding his mental competency.

Battaglia smiled as the mother of his slain children, Mary Jean Pearle, and other witnesses to his execution walked into the death chamber viewing area.

Asked by the warden if he had a final statement, the inmate replied: "No," then changed his mind.

"Well, hi, Mary Jean," he said, looking and smiling at his ex-wife. "I'll see y'all later. Bye."

After that, he told the warden: "Go ahead, please."

Battaglia then closed his eyes and looked directly up. A few seconds later he opened them back up and lifted his head. "Am I still alive?" he asked.

The powerful sedative pentobarbital began to take effect. "Oh, I feel it," he said. He gasped twice and started to snore. Within the next few seconds, all movement stopped.

The time of death: 9:40 p.m. CST — 22 minutes after the lethal dose began.

Pearle turned away from an execution-viewing window after Battaglia stopped breathing and walked to the back of the witness area.

"I've seen enough of him," she said. She returned several minutes later to watch as a physician examined Battaglia and pronounced him dead. Pearle declined to be interviewed afterward.

The Supreme Court has ruled that prisoners can be executed if they're aware the death penalty is to be carried out and have a rational understanding of why they're facing that punishment. Attorneys for Battaglia contended he didn't have that understanding and that the state's highest court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, misapplied the Supreme Court's guidance when it ruled that Battaglia was competent.

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Another unsuccessful appeal challenged the effectiveness of the pentobarbital Texas uses as its execution drug. Attorneys contended the state's supply was outdated and Battaglia was at risk for unconstitutionally cruel punishment.

A state judge and the state appeals court described Battaglia as highly intelligent, competent, not mentally ill and faking mental illness to avoid execution.

Testimony at a hearing showed Battaglia used the prison library to research capital case rulings on mental competence and discussed with his father during a phone call from jail the "chess game" of avoiding execution. State Judge Robert Burns, who found him competent, said Battaglia's intelligence and education — he had a master's degree — showed he had the "motive and intellectual capability to maintain a deliberate ploy or ruse to avoid his execution."

According to prosecutors, Battaglia became enraged that Pearle notified police about his harassment of her and he used a visit with their daughters to act on his anger. Pearle returned a call from one of her daughters and heard Faith pleading with her father, who put the call on speakerphone.

"No, daddy, please don't, don't do it!" Faith begged.

Pearle yelled into the phone for the children to run, then heard gunshots.

"Merry ... Christmas," Battaglia told Pearle, the words of the holiday greeting derisively divided by an obscenity.

There were more gunshots. Pearle called 911.

At the time of the killings, Battaglia was on probation for a Christmas 1999 attack on Pearle. His profanity-laced Christmas greeting to Pearle was an apparent reference to that.

Faith was shot three times, Liberty five. Hours later, Battaglia was arrested outside at a tattoo shop where he had two large red roses inked on his left arm to commemorate his daughters. It took four officers to subdue him. A fully loaded revolver was found in his truck and more than a dozen firearms were recovered from his apartment.

Battaglia told The Dallas Morning News in 2014 his daughters were his "best little friends" and that he had photos of them displayed in his prison cell.

"I don't feel like I killed them," he said. "I am a little bit in the blank about what happened."

## Cuba state media: Fidel Castro's son has killed himself

By **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — The oldest son of late Cuban leader Fidel Castro killed himself on Thursday after months of treatment for depression, state media reported. He was 68.

Official website Cubadebate said Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart had been in a "deeply depressed state." A brief note read on state television said his treatment had "required an initial hospitalization then outpatient follow-up."

The oldest son of Cuba's late revolutionary leader was known for his resemblance to his father, earning him the nickname Fidelito or Little Fidel.

Castro Diaz-Balart studied nuclear physics in the former Soviet Union and served as scientific adviser to Cuba's Council of State. He was vice president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. He previously led its nuclear program.

Castro Diaz-Balart was born to Fidel Castro's first wife, Mirta Diaz-Balart, a woman from Cuba's aristocracy who Fidel married in his youth before beginning the revolutionary struggle that later brought him and his brother Raul to power.

Because of his maternal lineage, Castro Diaz-Balart is cousin to Republican Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, who represents Cuban exiles in Florida.

Fidel Castro, the father, died in November 2016 at age 90.

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Andrea Rodríguez is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ARodriguezAP>

## Griffin scores 24 in Detroit's 104-102 win over Memphis

By NOAH TRISTER, AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Blake Griffin was Detroit's best player in his debut with the Pistons.

Griffin had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and although his new team is still very much a work in progress, the Pistons edged the Memphis Grizzlies 104-102 on Thursday night.

Detroit traded for Griffin earlier in the week. The Pistons haven't had much time to work with him, but they were clearly a better team when he played against the Grizzlies.

"We were plus-23 with him on the floor in 35 minutes, so we were fairly dominant in that time," coach Stan Van Gundy said. "I don't know why we haven't gotten to all this in the hour and 15 minutes we've had together, but we've really got to get our spacing down and understand where we want people to be."

Griffin's teammates looked uncertain at times, but Detroit was able to outlast a Memphis team that is without Tyreke Evans and Mike Conley.

"I wanted to just come out and play hard, being very limited in my knowledge of our offense," Griffin said. "I thought coach Van Gundy did a great job of just putting in five things that we could go to, and we ran them to death, but they worked and everybody just played hard."

Anthony Tolliver's 3-pointer with 1:49 remaining gave Detroit a 101-100 lead, and the score stayed that way until the final seconds. Marc Gasol attempted to drive on Griffin but missed his shot, and a wild scramble led to a jump ball between Tolliver and Dillon Brooks with 10.4 seconds left.

The Pistons controlled that tip, with Reggie Bullock running the ball down in the corner. Tolliver gave Detroit a three-point lead with a pair of free throws, and then purposely fouled Wayne Selden with 2.6 seconds remaining. Selden made the first free throw and the second went in even though he was trying to miss and give his team a chance at an offensive rebound.

Bullock made it 104-102 when he made the second of two free throws with 2 seconds left. The Grizzlies were out of timeouts, and after Gasol caught the ensuing inbound pass near midcourt, his long attempt at the buzzer wasn't close.

"We can't say that our goal is to give ourselves a chance to win, the goal has to be to win," Gasol said. "We have to go out and grab these games when we have the chance."

Griffin was the first Detroit starter announced before the game and received a big hand from the crowd. The arena still didn't appear full — the Pistons have struggled with attendance for several years — but the atmosphere was lively, especially during the tight finish.

Griffin's first points came when he powered to the basket and made a shot off the glass. He lobbed a nice alley-oop to All-Star Andre Drummond in the second quarter, although that duo didn't look totally in rhythm together. Drummond had 14 points and 15 rebounds but sat out some of the crucial possessions late.

### DISPARITY

Grizzlies interim coach J.B. Bickerstaff received a technical foul early in the fourth quarter and wasn't thrilled about the difference in free throws. Memphis went 14 of 14, but Detroit was 27 of 37.

"The free throws are the bottom line — 37-14. No one can overcome that," Bickerstaff said. "Our guys compete too hard to be put in this situation every night. We've asked the league for help. Maybe someone can sit down with us and tell us what we're doing wrong."

### SMALLER STAFF

Van Gundy said before the game that only two of his seven assistant coaches would be on the bench with him. Tim Hardaway had a funeral to attend, and four others were sick.

"If anybody wants to sit on the bench with me tonight, we have plenty of room," Van Gundy said. "That flu is no joke."

### ANOTHER DEBUT

Detroit received two other players in the trade with the Clippers. Brice Johnson did not play Thursday, but Willie Reed did, picking up three fouls in just 5:22.

### TIP-INS

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Grizzlies: Evans was not with the team and missed a second straight game amid trade speculation about his future. Conley has a left heel injury. ... Gasol had 19 points and 14 rebounds. ... Memphis dropped to 3-8 on the second night of back-to-backs.

Pistons: Griffin was the first player with at least 20 points, 10 rebounds and five assists in a debut with the Pistons since Grant Hill (25 points, 10 rebounds and five assists) in 1994.

UP NEXT

Grizzlies: Visit the Toronto Raptors on Sunday.

Pistons: Host the Miami Heat on Saturday night in the third game of a six-game homestand.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball>

Follow Noah Trister at [www.Twitter.com/noahtrister](http://www.Twitter.com/noahtrister)

## **GOP legislators gather in search of winning 2018 agenda**

**By MATTHEW DALY and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press**

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, West Virginia (AP) — Congressional Republicans in sweater vests and fleece gathered at a West Virginia resort Thursday in search of a winning election-year agenda, facing the notion that the best they have to offer in 2018 may be a recitation of the tax cuts approved in 2017 — and well aware of the looming threat of another government shutdown.

The legislators had forums on topics such as infrastructure, national security and the economy — but noticeably not on immigration, the major issue that bedevils them.

They got a pep talk from President Donald Trump reliving passage of the tax bill and highlighting other GOP victories from his first year in office. But the president offered no clear strategy for resolving the immigration-and-spending standoff that produced a three-day government shutdown in January and threatens a second shutdown next week. And he offered no new policy details on infrastructure, prescription drug prices or other items he's mentioned as ripe for attention in 2018.

As for an immigration strategy, Trump said: "We have to get help from the other side, or we have to elect many more Republicans." He then proceeded to take jabs at Democrats just days after calling for bipartisan unity in his State of the Union address.

Trump took a similar tack at a second GOP event Thursday night in Washington.

"You know the Democrats are AWOL. They're missing in action," Trump said at the Republican National Committee's winter meeting at his Washington hotel. "We're saying, 'Where are they?' We have a proposal. We never hear from them."

Republicans appear headed into the year with the idea that 2017 was when they got bigger items done and that 2018 will be a time to deal with necessary business, including spending and immigration. Infrastructure would likely require a sustained push from the president. The message for the midterms is expected to be the economy and tax cuts.

"Tax reform is working," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, citing investments by UPS and employee bonuses by Lowe's as the latest evidence. Take-home pay is going up, while consumer confidence is at a 17-year high and unemployment at a 17-year low, Ryan said.

Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa., chairman of the House Transportation Committee, gamely told reporters that Trump's history as a developer makes him the ideal person to push a major infrastructure plan.

"He understands how to bring projects in on time and under budget," said Shuster, who added that he brought up the "elephant" in a room full of Republicans: raising the gas tax to pay for more highways.

Shuster acknowledged that a tax increase was a tough sell in an election year but said public-private partnerships such as those used by Connecticut at highway rest stops could be an alternative.

Trump mentioned a "right to try" bill to speed approval of life-saving drugs, but the plan received little or no buzz among lawmakers.

Besides tax cuts and the strong economy, Republicans said they have a not-so-secret weapon: House



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Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, who said the GOP tax bill would provide mere "crumbs" for many taxpayers. Trump compared the remark to Hillary Clinton's 2016 description of his supporters as "deplorables," and Rep. Steve Stivers, R-Ohio, chairman of the House campaign arm, said Pelosi's words will be repeated in TV ads around the country.

"Her 'crumbs' comment is something I think we can use pretty effectively," Stivers said.

Amid the optimism were nagging questions about whether lawmakers will enact immigration changes or deadlock over Trump's calls for a wall along the Mexican border and a path to citizenship for young immigrants here illegally. Meanwhile Congress faces a Feb. 8 deadline to avert another government shutdown.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell promised that wouldn't happen, saying, "There's no education in the second kick of a mule."

Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., said he doubted there will be a unified Republican approach on immigration, noting that House and Senate Republicans have vastly different visions on the bill. And while there was no formal immigration session on the agenda, Lankford and other lawmakers said the issue has come up frequently in informal talks among lawmakers.

"There's a lot of dialogue happening in the hallway" on immigration, Lankford said, adding that he hopes the GOP will coalesce around a White House framework Trump outlined last week and reiterated during his State of the Union address.

The White House has proposed creating a path to citizenship for up to 1.8 million young people living in the country illegally in exchange for billions for a border wall and dramatic cuts to legal immigration. Democrats have blasted the plan and called it dead on arrival.

Trump claimed that if Democrats don't agree to the immigration framework he's presented, it will be because they want the issue to animate voters in the 2018 midterm elections.

"It's now an election issue that will go to our benefit, not their benefit," he said.

In Washington later, he said: "I don't think they want to solve the DACA problem. I think they want to talk about it. I think they want to obstruct. ... That's all they do is resist."

Even later, Trump tweeted that Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer "have to get moving fast, or they'll disappoint you again."

Days after calling on both parties to come together, Trump criticized Democrats for the less than enthusiastic reception they gave his 80-minute State of the Union speech on Capitol Hill.

"They sat there stone cold, no smile, no applause," Trump said, suggesting that "perhaps they'd rather see us not do well than see our country do great."

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Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Andrew Taylor in Washington contributed to this story.

## Arizona House kicks out Rep. Don Shooter over sex misconduct

By **BOB CHRISTIE, Associated Press**

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona House kicked out Republican Rep. Don Shooter on Thursday because of a lengthy pattern of sexual misconduct, making him the first state lawmaker in the U.S. to be expelled since the #MeToo movement emerged last year.

Other legislators nationwide have resigned or been stripped of their leadership posts after being accused of misconduct. But the expulsion marked a new escalation in handling such cases after a report ordered by the legislative leader of his own party showed Shooter engaged in a pattern of sexual harassment toward women.

The drama on Arizona's House floor lasted for about two hours, with bipartisan female lawmakers in red gathering in a circle, holding hands and hugging before the vote began. Then Shooter took center stage, saying he had said and done stupid things but "I stood on the carpet, I took it like a man, I apologized."

"It's been my honor to represent the people of District 13," Shooter said. "I have faithfully executed my duties. I've never taken bribes, I've never considered one way or another except on the merits of a bill."

At the end of his speech, he held his arm out, dropped the microphone on the floor and walked out. He

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was one of three lawmakers to vote against his ouster, with 56 House members supporting it.

The fallout comes months after Republican Rep. Michelle Ugenti-Rita said Shooter propositioned her for sex and repeatedly commented on her breasts. Many other women, including the then-publisher of Arizona's largest newspaper, then complained that he subjected them to inappropriate sexual comments or actions.

Shooter said earlier in the day that he deserved to be punished but did nothing to justify expulsion.

He had been facing censure, but Republican House Speaker J.D. Mesnard moved for a vote to expel him after the embattled lawmaker sent a letter to fellow legislators Thursday. It alleged that the investigative report Mesnard commissioned into Shooter's and Ugenti-Rita's behavior whitewashed accusations against another House member that were worse than the claims he faced.

Shooter wrote that the report omitted a young woman's complaint that another lawmaker subjected her to unwanted sexual advances. He would not name the lawmaker.

The report says Ugenti-Rita's boyfriend sent sexually explicit communications to someone. Investigators determined that happened but that there was no evidence Ugenti-Rita knew or was involved.

Mesnard said he talked to the woman and learned Shooter's description her concerns weren't true.

"It was then I realized Rep. Shooter's letter was nothing more than an effort to use this individual as a pawn," Mesnard said. "So he was not, in fact, standing up for the victim but rather further victimizing this person."

The House speaker told Shooter that the vote was now about expulsion and asked for any weapons he had with him. Mesnard said Shooter turned over a handgun. Firearms are banned at the Legislature, but lawmakers have been known to carry them in gun-friendly Arizona and the rule generally isn't enforced.

Shooter was elected to the Senate in 2010, and moved to the House in 2016. The lawmaker from the southern Arizona city of Yuma was known around the Capitol as a politically incorrect jokester who threw booze-fueled parties in his office on the last day of legislative sessions.

The initial complaints against him came from Ugenti-Rita in mid-October. In the following weeks, the woman then working as the publisher of the Arizona Republic newspaper and a number of others also complained about inappropriate behavior and comments.

Former newspaper publisher Mi-Ai Parrish, who is Asian-American, wrote in a column that Shooter told her last year during a meeting in his office that he had done everything on his "bucket list," except for "those Asian twins in Mexico."

The investigation substantiated some of the allegations, but not all.

Shooter has denied sexual harassment but acknowledged that he had made "jarring, insensitive and demeaning" comments. He asked for the investigation after Ugenti-Rita said he propositioned her.

His seat was immediately declared vacant and will be filled by another Republican. GOP committee members in his district will nominate three people for the post, and officials in Yuma County will make the final choice.

The #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct spread widely in October, targeting men in Hollywood, politics and elsewhere. It came a year after the Tennessee state House removed Rep. Jeremy Durham after an investigation detailed accusations of improper sexual contact with at least 22 women.

In Arizona, Republican Rep. Noel Campbell said Shooter's actions should be condemned but voted against kicking him out.

"I believe it is up to the people of his district to either expel him or not," he said. "I think that is the real judging body."

## Drivers say safety arms at crash site seemed to malfunction

By HEIDI BROWN, Associated Press

CROZET, Va. (AP) — The safety arms at a railroad crossing where a train carrying Republican lawmakers slammed into a garbage truck appeared to be malfunctioning the day before the deadly crash, drivers who regularly cross over the tracks at the crash scene said Thursday.

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Gene Locke, who lives near the tracks in Crozet, said he pulled up to the crossing between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Tuesday and saw that the safety arms were down and the signal light was flashing, but no train was approaching from either direction. After waiting a minute or so, he backed up, turned around and took a different route, assuming there was either a malfunction of the signal crossing or workers were testing it.

"I did not report this, as it was the first time this has happened in my observation since I have been using that crossing for several years," Locke told The Associated Press.

Jane Rogers, who lives about 2 miles (3 kilometers) from the crash site, said that when she arrived at the crossing Tuesday, the gate was down, even though there were no trains approaching. She said after waiting, one car in front of her and two cars behind her turned around. Then, as she started to turn around, the gate went up. One car then crossed the tracks, but Rogers said she waited another 30 seconds and the gate went down again. No trains passed, she said.

"It was a weird up-and-down thing," she said. "Then the next day, the accident happened at that intersection."

Pete Kotowski, the lead investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, said it was too early to say whether the arms were working at the time of the accident, which killed an employee of the trash company and injured six others.

The train was traveling "about 61" miles per hour ("about 98" kph) only seconds before it slammed into the truck, Kotowski said. The speed limit at that crossing is 60 mph (97 kph), he said.

Investigators have spoken with four eyewitnesses, interviewed one of the crew members from the train and scheduled an interview with the engineer, Kotowski said. They are "in the process" of trying to interview the driver of the truck, he said.

The trash company, Time Disposal, has been in business for 33 years and has 17 drivers and 15 trucks, Kotowski said.

"The company has been subject to six roadside safety inspections with two of them resulting in vehicles being placed out of service," Kotowski said.

He also said the company had two reported crashes — one in 2015 and one in 2016 — but gave no further details on those accidents.

Wednesday's collision happened at an intersection that crosses the tracks at the top of a hill where visibility is limited.

Carrie Brown, human resources manager at Buckingham Branch Railroad, which leases the stretch of track and is responsible for maintenance, said Wednesday that she was unaware of any problems with equipment at the crossing. She declined further comment Thursday and referred all questions to the NTSB.

No safety inspection records for the crossing were immediately available.

The State Corporation Commission, which inspects railroad facilities including track and equipment, does not maintain inspection records but turns them over to the Federal Railroad Administration, SCC spokesman Andy Farmer said.

A spokesman for the FRA said details on inspections would require a public records request.

The lawmakers were on their way to a strategy retreat in West Virginia when the collision occurred around 11:20 a.m. in Crozet, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) southwest of Washington. Kotowski said Thursday that hundreds of people were on board.

Time Disposal identified its employee who was killed as Christopher Foley, 28, and said he was the father of a 1-year-old boy. Six other people were injured. One remained in critical condition Thursday and one was in fair condition, according to the University of Virginia Medical Center. Four people had been released.

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.

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

Rogers said she reported the trouble to the police after she heard about the fatal crash. She said she

would have called about the malfunctioning arm Tuesday, "but who do you call? No one knows."

Associated Press writers Denise Lavoie and Sarah Rankin in Richmond, Virginia, contributed to this report.

## Holocaust survivor, US lawmaker Lantos gets Budapest statue

By PABLO GORONDI, Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — A statue of Hungarian-born U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor ever to serve in the U.S. Congress, was unveiled Thursday in Budapest as those attending praised the man known for his advocacy of democracy and human rights around the world.

A California Democrat in office from 1981 until his death in 2008, Lantos frequently visited his homeland, often warning against anti-Semitism while also supporting Hungarian minorities in neighboring countries.

"During his whole life, his heart was in Hungary," said his widow Annette, speaking at the unveiling ceremony on what would have been Lantos' 90th birthday.

The top U.S. diplomat in Hungary remembered Lantos as "Hungarian by birth and a dedicated American by choice" who worked to build consensus and strengthen relations between the two countries.

"Tom Lantos called on all of us — not just those in government service, but all citizens, all human beings — to show courage in the face of fear, to smooth difficulties and correct mistakes," said David Kostelancik, the charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy. "He called on us to remember that the very essence of our civilization, the belief we hold most dear, is the inherent dignity and worth of every single person."

During World War II, the teenage Lantos, like many other Jews, was sent to a forced labor camp, this one not far from Budapest. He escaped but was caught and severely beaten, escaped again and managed to survive the final stages of the war with relatives in a Budapest safe house set up by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who helped save the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews by issuing Swedish diplomatic passes.

Lantos joined Wallenberg's anti-Nazi underground network, carrying messages, food and medicines around the Hungarian capital. After the war ended, Lantos found out that his mother and other relatives had been killed in the Holocaust. At just 19, he arrived in the United States in 1947 on an academic scholarship.

In 1983, Lantos co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which after his death was renamed the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. In 2011, the Hungarian government and the U.S. Senate established the Budapest-based Tom Lantos Institute, a research institute and think-tank focusing mainly on Jewish and Roma issues.

In a video during Thursday's ceremony, former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden recalled being Lantos' guest in Hungary and said he often cited a Lantos quote in his own speeches — "The veneer of civilization is paper thin. We are its guardians, and we can never rest."

The bronze statue with a special red patina, depicting a slightly larger-than-life Lantos sitting on a bench with his favorite dogs, was created by Mamikon Yengibarian, a Budapest-based Armenian sculptor. It was placed on Tom Lantos Promenade in Budapest's 13th district, near his high school, the Berzsényi Daniel Gimnázium.

Yengibarian said he wanted to show "a magnificent, brilliant man who is not afraid ... and fights for justice and humanity until the end."

## US says Syria making new chemical weapons despite 2013 deal

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Thursday accused Syrian President Bashar Assad's government of producing and using "new kinds of weapons" to deliver deadly chemicals despite committing to abolish its program in 2013, and said the world must find a way to stop it.

President Donald Trump has not ruled out additional military action to deter attacks or punish Assad, administration officials said, although they did not suggest any action was imminent. They emphasized

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that the United States was seeking a new way to hold chemical weapons-users accountable and wanted cooperation from Russia, Assad's patron, in pressuring him to end the attacks.

Raising the alarm about the continued threat, U.S. officials said it was "highly likely" that Assad kept a hidden stockpile of chemical weapons after 2013 that he failed to properly disclose. They said information gathered from recent alleged attacks also suggested that Assad retained a "continued production capacity" — also banned under the 2013 deal.

There were no indications that the Syria government, after seven years of civil war, had developed new, deadlier chemicals. Rather, the officials said Assad's forces are using the same chemicals — chlorine and sarin — but in more sophisticated ways, potentially to evade international accountability by making the origins of attacks harder to trace.

Barrel bombs used earlier in the war to disperse chemicals indiscriminately, for example, have been replaced by ground-launched munitions, officials said. More recent attacks have involved both chlorine, which has nonchemical uses and is easier to acquire, and the more sophisticated chemical sarin, the officials said.

The officials weren't authorized to speak on the record and briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Though evidence-collection is different in the middle of a war zone, the officials said the U.S. has a firm understanding of the extent of chemical use in Syria through a combination of intelligence, sample testing by third countries, and social media and other open-source information, the officials said.

Assad's government has denied using chemical weapons. Syria's chief ally, Russia, has claimed that the reports are false attempts to pressure Syria's government or provocations perpetrated by opposition groups.

Syria and Russia have dismissed the conclusions of the Joint Investigative Mission, an expert body set up by the United Nations and Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, that Assad's government used chlorine gas in 2014 and 2015, and sarin in April 2017. Late last year, Russia used its U.N. Security Council veto to prevent the investigative body from being renewed, arguing it had been discredited. That led the U.S. and other nations to accuse Moscow of covering for chemical use by Assad's forces.

Use of such widely deplored weapons comes with great risk for Assad, raising questions about why he would take the chance. But the officials said the U.S. believes Assad's government sees chemical attacks as an effective way to terrorize rebels and sympathetic populations into fleeing, therefore altering the demographic balance in the Alawite heartland where Assad is trying to consolidate control. Assad is a member of the Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam that forms a minority of Syria's population.

Yet Syria's government isn't the only chemical weapons threat in the region, according to the officials. The Islamic State group continues to use them, they said, although the militants' arms are said to be more rudimentary.

Though IS no longer controls large parts of Syria or Iraq, the officials said the extremist group continues to use sulfur mustard, via artillery shells, and chlorine, delivered by improvised explosive devices. The officials noted that the underlying chemicals are easy to acquire or produce, and said the U.S. does not believe IS has gotten ahold of military stockpiles in either Iraq or Syria.

Years of efforts by two U.S. presidents have failed to end the harrowing reports on chemical weapons use in Syria.

Under President Barack Obama, the United States stopped short of striking Assad's forces in response, but brokered a deal with Russia to rid Syria of its stockpiles. After another alleged attack in April 2017, President Donald Trump ordered a retaliatory missile strike, but 10 months later, the U.S. and international observers say the weapons are still used.

Reports of chemical attacks have continued to stream in from Syria, including as recently as Thursday, when rescue workers in the rebel-held Damascus suburb of Douma reported what they described as a suspected chlorine gas attack that injured a number of civilians. The opposition-run Ghouta Media Center reported in a posting on its Facebook page that three people were killed and dozens suffered shortness of breath as a result of surface-to-surface missiles, some of them carrying chlorine gas.

The reports could not be independently verified and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war in Syria via activists on the ground, was unable to confirm the reports

either. The accounts followed a suspected attack in late January near Damascus that activists and rescue teams said affected nearly 20 civilians.

Associated Press writer Zeina Karam in Beirut contributed to this report.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

## Timberlake rules out 'N Sync reunion at Super Bowl show

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Justin Timberlake was asked about a bromance with Tom Brady, a possible 'N Sync reunion and serenaded with "Happy Birthday," but the superstar didn't get a question about the wardrobe malfunction that rocked the world during a press conference Thursday to promote his return to the Super Bowl halftime show.

Timberlake ruled out any chance his former boy band 'N Sync would join him Sunday or other potential special guests would show up — including Janet Jackson herself. Timberlake revealed only that his band, The Tennessee Kids, would join him onstage and predicted a show that will include things "never done before."

"It's a moment where you have the opportunity to bring so many people together through what I think is the greatest art form, which is music," he said. "And so that has been sort of the ethos of inspiration behind putting the set list together."

"And, you know, I like to make dance music so I hope everyone is dancing," he added.

Timberlake is returning to the halftime show 14 years after the "wardrobe malfunction" with Jackson caused a national controversy. He was not asked about the incident during the press availability.

Timberlake was Jackson's special guest during her performance when he ripped off a piece of her clothing and revealed her bare, pierced nipple. Timberlake later described it as an unintended "wardrobe malfunction." CBS, which aired the Super Bowl that year, drew a \$550,000 fine from the Federal Communications Commission that was later overturned.

During his 20-minute press conference, Timberlake mentioned Jackson's name when he spoke about who people thought he would invite as a guest during the halftime show. He also named Jay-Z, Chris Stapleton and 'N Sync.

He also admitted he had a "man-crush" on Brady, the New England Patriots quarterback, complimenting his skills and hair. But when asked if he was rooting for the Patriots or the Philadelphia Eagles, he punted: "Go, Pack, go," he said, referencing the Green Bay Packers, who didn't make the playoffs at all.

Timberlake will be making his third Super Bowl musical appearance — a record. He first performed in 2001 when 'N Sync performed alongside Britney Spears, Aerosmith, Mary J. Blige and Nelly.

He praised Minneapolis-born Prince, calling the late superstar "in my opinion, the greatest all-around musician I can think of in popular culture."

"He's a huge influence on me. ... The time that I got to spend around him, with him, talking about music — those are memories that I will take with me forever because he's always been such a big idol of mine," Timberlake said.

Timberlake has a new album, "Man of the Woods," out Friday and will host a listening party Thursday night at Paisley Park, Prince's old estate.

"There's a lot of bucket list things that are happening this week for me and that's definitely at the top of that list," he said. "I get to walk the hallowed, sacred ground of Paisley Park."

Timberlake turned 37 years old on Wednesday, and some of the media serenaded him by singing "Happy Birthday" at the Hilton Minneapolis' Grand Ballroom.

When asked if he would let his son, Silas, perform at the Super Bowl and follow in his footsteps, Timberlake said, "I'd rather not think about it because he's about to turn three."

"But (Silas) did come to rehearsals yesterday and I was shocked at how quickly he could cover 100

yards," he said.

"Speed runs in our family. I've been running routes, too. I just want to throw this out there to (Patriots coach Bill) Belichick, 'If all of your receivers go down I'll be ready, so shoot me a text.'"

Online:

<https://www.justintimberlake.com/>

This story has been corrected to show that Timberlake, not Jackson, called the incident a "wardrobe malfunction."

## 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 President Vladimir Putin said the ruling "can't fail to please us, and it confirms our position that the overwhelming majority of our athletes are clean athletes."

However, Putin also called for respect for the IOC, saying in comments reported by state news agency RIA Novosti that "there should not be any euphoria from our side and we need to be calm about this."

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko said at a televised cabinet meeting that the government would back further legal action to allow the athletes to compete in Pyeongchang "if the IOC does not accept them."

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.

In the urgent verdicts, 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 World Anti-Doping Agency, whose investigator Richard McLaren verified Rodchenkov's claims, said late Thursday it "notes with serious concern" the CAS decision and did not rule out an appeal.

"WADA understands that this decision will cause dismay and frustration among athletes. The agency supports the IOC's intention to analyze these decisions very carefully and consider all options, including an appeal to the Swiss Federal Tribunal."

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

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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.

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

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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.

## Climate change diet: Arctic sea ice thins, so do polar bears

By SETH BORENSTEIN AND MARK THIESSEN, Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Some polar bears in the Arctic are shedding pounds during the time they should be beefing up, a new study shows. It's the climate change diet and scientists say it's not good.

They blame global warming for the dwindling ice cover on the Arctic Ocean that bears need for hunting seals each spring.

For their research, the scientists spied on the polar bears by equipping nine female white giants with tracking collars that had video cameras and the bear equivalent of a Fitbit during three recent springs. The bears also had their blood monitored and were weighed.



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What the scientists found is that five of the bears lost weight and four of them lost 2.9 to 5.5 pounds (1.3 to 2.5 kilograms) per day. The average polar bear studied weighed about 386 pounds (175 kilograms). One bear lost 51 pounds (23 kilograms) in just nine days.

"You're talking a pretty amazing amount of mass to lose," said U.S. Geological Survey wildlife biologist Anthony Pagano, lead author of a new study in Thursday's journal *Science*.

Researchers studied the bears for 10 days in April, when they are supposed to begin putting on weight so they can later have cubs, feed the cubs and survive through the harsh winter. But because the ice is shrinking, the bears are having a harder time catching seal pups even during prime hunting time, Pagano said. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service lists polar bears as a threatened species.

Polar bears hunt from the ice. They often wait for seals to pop out of holes to get air and at other times they swim after seals. If there is less sea ice and it is broken apart, bears have to travel more — often swimming — and that has serious consequences, such as more energy use, hypothermia and risk of death, said University of Alberta biology professor Andrew Derocher, who wasn't part of the study.

The study found that on the ice, the polar bears burn up 60 percent more energy than previously thought, based on these first real-life measurements done on the ice. A few of the bears travelled more than 155 miles (250 kilometers) in about 10 days off the northern coast of Alaska in the Beaufort Sea, Pagano said. The average bear female burned about 13,200 calories a day — six times more than an active human female.

"Just to break even they have to capture at least one seal every five to 10 days — and that's just to break even," said study co-author George Durner, a USGS research zoologist. "And if they don't do that they're going to lose weight."

The ice cover in the Arctic grows in the winter and melts in the summer. Because of climate change, the ice is shrinking and thinning more and earlier, he said.

As the ice dwindles, "we are essentially pulling the rug out from underneath the polar bears," Durner said.

The bear videos showed researchers all sorts of usually private aspects of polar bear life, including courtship and hunting. They recorded dramatic, and at times, bloody seal hunts from the bear's perspective.

"You're seeing everything it is seeing," Durner said.

Researchers only tracked female bears because males can't keep collars on — their heads are too small and their necks too big — Pagano said.

Blaine Griffen, a Brigham Young University biology professor who wasn't part of the study, praised the USGS work, noting that past studies have looked at resting polar bears and polar bears on treadmills in the lab.

In the long run, climate change "will result in smaller bears that produce fewer cubs and that have lower survival rates," Griffen said in an email.

All over the Arctic, scientists have seen evidence of weakened polar bears, Pagano said. Last month, a video of a starving polar bear went viral, but it is from a different part of the Arctic and unlikely to be related to global warming, Durner said.

"If it's bad for polar bears, it might be affecting us in other ways — us being humans," Durner said. "It's part of a larger picture."

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Borenstein reported from Washington.

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Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears . His work can be found here .

Follow Mark Thiessen on Twitter at @MThiessen . His work can be found here .

## Tech companies lead stocks sharply lower in morning trading

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Stocks fell sharply in morning trading Friday, putting the market on track for its worst week in two years, as several large companies sank after reporting weak earnings. Exxon Mobil, Chevron and Google's parent

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company, Alphabet, all dropped. Bond yields shot higher after the government reported another month of strong job gains, further stoking fears of inflation and worries that higher interest rates could weigh on companies and stock prices. Crude oil prices headed lower.

**KEEPING SCORE:** The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 23 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,798 as of 11:08 a.m. Eastern Time. The benchmark index is down 2.7 percent since hitting a record high a week ago. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 281 points, or 1.1 percent, to 25,905. The Nasdaq slid 54 points, or 0.7 percent, to 7,331. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 16 points, or 1 percent, to 1,563.

**THE QUOTE:** "We've enjoyed low interest rates for so long, we're having to deal with a little bit higher rates now, so the market is trying to figure out what that could mean for inflation," said Darrell Cronk, head of the Wells Fargo Investment Institute. "The concern for the stock market is as interest rates go up so does the cost of debt service, the discount rate that you would use in factoring earnings growth for companies."

**JOBS DATA:** U.S. employers added a robust 200,000 jobs in January, slightly above market expectations for a 185,000 increase. Meanwhile wages rose at the fastest pace in more than eight years, suggesting employers are competing more fiercely for workers. The figures point to an economy on strong footing even in its ninth year of expansion, fueled by global economic growth and healthy consumer spending at home.

**FED IMPLICATIONS:** The pickup in hourly wages, along with a recent uptick in inflation, may make it more likely the Federal Reserve will raise short-term interest rates more quickly in the coming months.

**BOND YIELDS:** Bond prices declined again Friday, sending yields higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 2.84 percent from 2.79 percent late Thursday. European bond yields also rose after the U.S. jobs report came out.

The yield on 10-year Treasury note, the benchmark for many kinds of loans including mortgages, has risen swiftly in recent months, having traded as low as 2.17 percent in September. The yield is now the highest it's been since January 2014. The increase has been driven by the prospect of stronger economic growth, and higher inflation, in the U.S. and abroad.

Investors are worried that higher interest rates could weigh on company earnings and stock prices, by making bonds more appealing than stocks and by making it more expensive for companies to borrow money.

**SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS:** Google's parent company Alphabet slumped 5 percent after the search giant reported results that missed analysts' forecasts. The stock slid \$58.92 to \$1,112.67.

**FALLING SHORT:** Exxon Mobil dropped 5.7 percent, while Chevron lost 3.9 percent after the oil companies' latest quarterly results fell short of forecasts. Shares in Exxon shed \$5.05 to \$84.02. Chevron gave up \$4.85 to \$120.72.

**X FACTOR:** Apple declined 2.5 percent after the technology company said it sold 77.3 million iPhones in the last quarter, below the 80 million analysts expected. The stock was down \$4.17 to \$163.61.

**HOLIDAY BOOST:** Amazon climbed 5.5 percent after its fourth-quarter profit increased by more than \$1 billion. The online retail giant said it sold more voice-activated gadgets, enlisted new Prime members and benefited from its recent purchase of Whole Foods. Amazon shares gained \$77 to \$1,467.

**ENERGY:** Oil futures declined. Benchmark U.S. crude slid \$1.12, or 1.7 percent, to \$64.68 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell \$1.62, or 2.3 percent, to \$68.03 per barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar rose to 110.40 yen from 109.42 yen on Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.2440 from \$1.2502.

**BITCOIN:** The price of bitcoin was down 0.5 percent to \$9,006, according to the tracking site CoinDesk. Bitcoin futures on the Cboe Futures Exchange slid 0.6 percent to \$9,030.

**MARKETS OVERSEAS:** Major stock indexes in Europe declined. Germany's DAX slid 1.4 percent, while France's CAC 40 lost 1.3 percent. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares gave up 0.4 percent. In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell 0.9 percent and South Korea's Kospi slid 1.7 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dipped 0.1 percent.

## Robot makes coffee at new cafe in Japan's capital

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan has a new robot cafe where customers can enjoy coffee brewed and served by a robot barista.

The robot named Sawyer debuted this week at Henna Cafe in Tokyo's downtown business and shopping district of Shibuya. The shop's name in Japanese means "strange cafe."

The single-armed robot scans a ticket purchased from a vending machine and greets the customer.

"Would you care for a delicious coffee?" the barista, with a screen showing a pair of cartoon eyes, asks in a flat tone. "I can make one better than human beings around here."

It grinds the coffee beans, fills a filter and pours hot water over a paper cup for up to five people at once. A cup of brewed coffee costs 320 yen (\$3) and takes a few minutes.

Sawyer can also operate an automated machine for six other hot drinks including cappuccino, hot chocolate and green tea latte.

Customers, many of them young men, took photos with their smartphones while they waited in line.

The cafe operator, travel agency H.I.S. Co., says robots can increase productivity while also entertaining customers.

"An essential point is to increase productivity," said Masataka Tamaki, general manager of corporate planning at H.I.S. He said only one person needs to oversee the robot cafe, compared to several people needed at a regular coffee shop, so it can serve better quality coffee at a reasonable price.

Tamaki says it's not just about efficiency. "We want the robot to entertain customers so it's not like buying coffee at a vending machine," he said.

Takeshi Yamamoto, a 68-year-old restaurant employee who works in the neighborhood, said his first experience with the robot cafe was very enjoyable, and his robot-made coffee was delicious.

"It's quite rich, and tastes very good," Yamamoto said, as he took a sip. "You can get machine-made coffee at convenience stores, too, and it's actually good. But here, I had great fun."

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Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at [twitter.com/mariyamaguchi](https://twitter.com/mariyamaguchi)

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

## Tax issue pushes Deutsche Bank to third straight annual loss

By DAVID McHUGH, AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Deutsche Bank CEO John Cryan says Germany's largest financial institution is making progress in its drawn-out effort to cut costs and restore profits — despite posting a third straight annual loss.

Cryan said Friday that many important steps would take time to show up in improved earnings.

Cryan said it's "always been clear that it would take more than two or three years" to achieve the bank's full potential. He added that "good progress" was being made.

He cited slashing the number of overlapping computer systems, ditching businesses in less-profitable countries, and installing a low-cost culture.

Cryan spoke at a news conference after Deutsche Bank posted a 2017 loss of 497 million euros (\$627 million). That would have been a profit of 900 million euros had the bank not have had to adjust deferred tax assets due to recent U.S. corporate tax changes.

The bank said the new tax regime would be positive for its earnings in the future.

Even so, the results sent the bank's shares sharply lower. They were down 4.5 percent on the day at 14.11 euros in early afternoon trading in Europe.

The results showed the bank, a pillar of Germany's economy, still struggling to turn solid profits after years of wrenching restructuring and legal trouble.

Earnings have been eroded by a low interest rate environment that has squeezed interest margins — by

charges for past misconduct, including a \$7.2 billion settlement with U.S. authorities over complex securities based on house mortgages, and by new regulatory and compliance burdens aimed at stabilizing the banking system after the global financial crisis.

Deutsche Bank has also taken write-downs and losses on businesses and investments that it decided to shed as it refocused its business and reduced risky holdings. The bank has slashed its workforce and withdrawn from doing business in some countries.

Earnings last year were helped by dwindling expenses for litigation resulting from past misconduct and by lower asset impairments.

The bank's fourth-quarter loss of 2.2 billion euros reflected the tax charge — but also weakness in key businesses such as bond and currency trading, where income fell 29 percent.

Unusually low market volatility during the fourth quarter led to lower client activity and thus less revenue for the bank. Equity sales and trading also fell, by 25 percent year on year.

The bank said it was the most difficult trading environment it had encountered since 2008, when the markets were in the grip of the global financial crisis.

Cryan said that the current zero-interest rate environment — the result of the European Central Bank's stimulus efforts — was hurting earnings. He said if the ECB raised its benchmark by just one percentage point, then the bank would gain 1.4 billion euros in the first year and 1.6 billion in the second without any additional expense. The ECB's main interest rate is currently zero.

ECB officials have pointed out that the stimulus, which involves the purchase of bonds to keep market interest rates low, has actually helped banks by supporting the economic recovery. That reduces the amount of loans that are not repaid by businesses.

## **Sony taps CFO Yoshida as new president, replacing Hirai**

**By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — Sony Corp. named Chief Financial Officer Kenichiro Yoshida as its new president and CEO on Friday, replacing Kazuo Hirai, who led a turnaround at the Japanese electronics and entertainment company and will stay on as chairman.

Yoshida has experience in Sony's U.S. operations, as well as its network, financial and investor relations businesses. Yoshida and Hirai shook hands, appearing together before reporters at Sony's Tokyo headquarters.

Hirai stressed Yoshida will continue the path he had set in place. Sony is about to record its best results in two decades this fiscal year. And both said management must not grow complacent.

"His way of thinking on what Sony must do is similar to mine," Hirai said on why Yoshida was chosen.

Sony's board members said they were surprised Hirai wanted to step down. But Hirai said he decided the timing was right to "pass the baton" to the next leadership, although the choice appeared to indicate the company's determination to stay on track, rather than shift too quickly to a younger generation of leadership. Yoshida, at 58, is one year older than Hirai.

Hirai became president and CEO in 2012, taking over from Howard Stringer, an American. He turned around an embattled Sony, which had sunk into losses as its once prized TV business lost out to rivals such as Samsung Electronics Co. of South Korea. Sony is now headed to booming profits, outpacing company targets, as its sensors are in demand for mobile devices made by rivals, including Apple.

"It excites me to hear more and more people enthuse that Sony is back again. As the company approaches a crucial juncture, when we will embark on a new mid-range plan, I consider this to be the ideal time to pass the baton of leadership to new management, for the future of Sony and also for myself to embark on a new chapter in my life," Hirai said of the company's three-year plan set to start in April.

Yoshida, who also served as executive deputy president, acknowledged he was taken aback when he learned about his new job late last year. But he promised to maintain a "sense of crisis," realize solid profits and growth to stay globally competitive. He said Sony still had a long way to go to become a top global technology company.

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Hirai has had a difficult task of juggling the widespread operations of Sony, including household appliances, medical equipment and video game machines, as well as movies, financial services and music. It was hard to make sure every sector was profitable.

But Hirai always stressed the importance of Sony's roots, pointing to how Sony brought the world portable music players like the Walkman, the reel-to-reel tape recorder and other gadgets that went on to pioneer entire sectors because of what he described as an exciting emotional appeal.

Sony was founded in 1946 by Akio Morita and Masaru Ibuka as Japan was reconstructing from the destruction of World War II. Their dream had always been to climb to global success.

Also Friday, Sony reported fiscal third quarter profit of 296 billion yen (\$2.7 billion), up dramatically from 19.6 billion yen the same period a year ago.

Quarterly sales rose nearly 12 percent to 2.67 trillion yen.

Sony said it fared better in semiconductors, games and network services, imaging products and home entertainment systems.

In its pictures division, global reception was favorable for "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," as well as on-demand TV sales for "The Crown," according to Sony.

Also helping lift results were the absence of losses that had hurt results before, such as the damage from an earthquake in Kumamoto in southwestern Japan in 2016. A favorable exchange rate also helped. A weak yen is a boon to Japanese exporters like Sony. Sony raised its net profit forecast to 480 billion yen (\$4.4 billion) for the fiscal year through March, up dramatically from the 73 billion profit it recorded the previous fiscal year.

"We must stay close to creators," Yoshida said, stressing the importance of content and innovation. "That is the direction Sony must go."

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## Asian shares lower as investors mull earnings, yields weigh

By **KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Friday as investors evaluated the latest earnings reports and worries about rising U.S. bond yields weighed on sentiment.

**KEEPING SCORE:** Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 sank 1.3 percent to 23,181.34, reversing a big gain from the previous day, and South Korea's Kospi fell 1.5 percent to 2,530.04. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dipped 0.1 percent to 32,626.36 and the Shanghai Composite index edged 0.1 percent lower to 3,444.58. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.3 percent to 6,106.70.

**EARNINGS:** Investors were digesting a full plate of corporate earnings and plenty more are on the way. Among the latest, Amazon reported quarterly profit soared past \$1 billion for the first time but Google parent Alphabet said it swung into a \$3 billion loss because of a U.S. tax overhaul. Automaker Honda is due to report third quarter earnings Friday while Nissan and Toyota are expected next week, as are China trade figures, which will give the latest update on the world's No. 2 economy.

**YIELDS:** The yield on U.S. 10-year Treasury notes, which are the benchmark for interest rates, has risen swiftly, stoking investor concerns that higher rates could weigh on company earnings and equity prices. This week yields hovered at their highest level since April 2014, fueled by the prospect of stronger economic growth in the U.S. and abroad.

**MARKET VIEW:** "U.S. and global shares had become overbought and overdue a decent correction, which in turn will impact Australian shares" said Shane Oliver, head of investment strategy at AMP Capital. The rise in bond yields is "likely providing the trigger and it could have further to go with more volatility likely expected this year as inflation risks shift to the upside and the Fed gets more aggressive."

**US ECONOMY:** Manufacturing expanded again in January but at a slower pace than the previous month, according to a monthly index, while a Commerce Department report found construction spending rose at

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its weakest pace since the end of the global financial crisis. Monthly job data is due later Friday, providing another indicator for the U.S. economy, the world's biggest.

**WALL STREET:** Major U.S. benchmarks ended mostly lower. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.1 percent to 2,821.98. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 0.1 percent to 26,186.71. The Nasdaq composite lost 0.3 percent to 7,385.86.

**ENERGY:** Oil futures extended gains as benchmark U.S. crude climbed 25 cents to \$66.04 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.07, or 1.7 percent, to settle at \$65.80 per barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 25 cents to \$69.90 per barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar rose to \$109.67 yen from 109.41 yen in late trading Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.2494 from \$1.2514.

## Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Friday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2018. There are 332 days left in the year. This is Groundhog Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 2, 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

On this date:

In 1536, present-day Buenos Aires, Argentina, was founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.

In 1653, New Amsterdam — now New York City — was incorporated.

In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican-American War, was signed.

In 1887, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, held its first Groundhog Day festival.

In 1914, Charles Chaplin made his movie debut as the comedy short "Making a Living" was released by Keystone Film Co. The musical "Shameen Dhu," featuring the song "Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Rai," opened on Broadway.

In 1925, the legendary Alaska Serum Run ended as the last of a series of dog mushers brought a life-saving treatment to Nome, the scene of a diphtheria epidemic, six days after the drug left Nenana.

In 1932, Duke Ellington and His Orchestra recorded "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" for Brunswick Records.

In 1959, public schools in Arlington and Norfolk, Virginia, were racially desegregated without incident.

In 1964, Ranger 6, a lunar probe launched by NASA, crashed onto the surface of the moon as planned, but failed to send back any TV images.

In 1971, Idi Amin, having seized power in Uganda, proclaimed himself president.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan pressed his case for additional aid to the Nicaraguan Contras a day ahead of a vote by the U.S. House of Representatives. (The three major broadcast TV networks declined to carry the speech, which was covered by CNN; a divided House voted to reject Reagan's request for \$36.2 million in new aid.)

In 1990, in a dramatic concession to South Africa's black majority, President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela.

Ten years ago: A gunman killed five women at a Lane Bryant store in Tinley Park, Illinois, in an apparent botched robbery (the case remains unsolved). French President Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE') and former supermodel Carla Bruni were married at the presidential Elysee Palace. Former Washington Redskins players Art Monk and Darrell Green were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame along with New England linebacker Andre Tippett, San Diego/San Francisco defensive end Fred Dean, Minnesota/Denver tackle Gary Zimmerman and senior committee choice, Kansas City cornerback Emmitt Thomas. Former Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz died at age 98. Actor Barry Morse died in London at age 89.

Five years ago: Former Navy SEAL and "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle was fatally shot along with

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a friend, Chad Littlefield, at a gun range west of Glen Rose, Texas; suspect Eddie Ray Routh (rowth) was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole. Coach Bill Parcells, Warren Sapp, Cris Carter, Jonathan Ogden and Larry Allen were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Adrian Peterson of the Minnesota Vikings closed out the season with two of the top NFL awards from The Associated Press: Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year. Actor John Kerr, 81, died in Pasadena, California.

One year ago: Declaring that religious freedom was "under threat," President Donald Trump vowed to repeal a rarely enforced IRS rule that said pastors who endorse candidates from the pulpit risked losing their tax-exempt status. Using a backhoe to smash through a barricade of water-filled footlockers, police stormed Delaware's largest prison, ending a nearly 20-hour hostage standoff with inmates; one hostage, a guard, was killed.

Today's Birthdays: Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (val-eh-REE' ZHEES'-kahr deh-STANG') is 92. Actor Robert Mandan is 86. Comedian Tom Smothers is 81. Rock singer-guitarist Graham Nash is 76. Television executive Barry Diller is 76. Actor Bo Hopkins is 74. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 72. TV chef Ina (EE'-nuh) Garten is 70. Actor Jack McGee is 69. Actor Brent Spiner (SPY'-nur) is 69. Rock musician Ross Valory (Journey) is 69. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, is 66. The former president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye (goon-hay), is 66. Model Christie Brinkley is 64. Actor Michael Talbott is 63. Actress Kim Zimmer is 63. Actor Michael T. Weiss is 56. Actor-comedian Adam Ferrara is 52. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 52. Actress Jennifer Westfeldt is 48. Rock musician Ben Mize is 47. Rapper T-Mo is 46. Actress Marissa Jaret Winokur is 45. Actress Lori Beth Denberg is 42. Rock musician Jesse Siebenberg (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 42. Singer Shakira is 41. Actor Rich Sommer is 40. Country singer Blaine Larsen is 32. Actress Zosia Mamet is 30.

Thought for Today: "It was naive of the 19th century optimists to expect paradise from technology — and it is equally naive of the 20th century pessimists to make technology the scapegoat for such old shortcomings as man's blindness, cruelty, immaturity, greed and sinful pride." — Peter F. Drucker, Austrian-born American business management consultant (1909-2005).