

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 03, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 207 ~ 1 of 43



Riddle:

A red house is made of red bricks, a blue house is made of blue bricks, what is a greenhouse made of?

Answer at end of AP News

Oven Fresh Sandwiches Hot Desserts Snack Melts
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is

Closed

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- 1- Recycling trailers
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Today's Events

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.

The Life of Lucille Jensen

Services for Lucille Jensen, 87, of Aberdeen will be 11 a.m., Saturday, February 3 at Landmark Gospel Church, 1302 8th Ave NE, Aberdeen. Pastor Scott Drexel will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton.

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

Lucille June was born on November 6, 1930 in Putney to George Jensen and Leona Alberts. She attended Putney School and grew up in the Putney area. Lucy and her mother moved to Aberdeen in 1969 where she was employed at the former Holiday Inn for several years. After retiring, she volunteered helping at the Salvation Army.

Lucille was a member of the First Pentecostal Church where she especially enjoyed the Sunday School and the children.

Celebrating her life are her aunts, Mavis Kirschmann of Aberdeen, Arliss Alberts of Aberdeen, Eunice Alberts of Groton and her uncle, George (Doris) Alberts of Groton.

Preceding her in death was her mother, Leona, her grandparents, Alma and George Alberts, Sr., Uncles, Jesse (Melrose) Alberts, Clarence (Meda) Alberts, Raymond Alberts, Kenneth Alberts, her aunt, Lusena (Stewart) Manning and cousins, Sondra Larson, David Manning and Jerry Manning.

Casketbearers will be Ka Alberts, Karl Alberts, Roy Grottke, Kevin Phillips and Larry Manning.

Memorials may be directed to the Salvation Army, 1003 6th Ave SW, Aberdeen, SD 57401

Three-pointers spark Wambdi win over Groton



The Tiospa Zina defense would collapse in on Jennie Doeden as soon as she got the ball. (Photo by

Julianna Kosel)

Tiospa Zina made five three-pointers in the first quarter as Groton's Lady Tigers were in a big hole after the first quarter, 19-6. The Wambdi would open up a 15-point lead midway in the second quarter, 25-10, before the Tigers would rally and score 10 straight points to slice the lead to five, 25-20. Groton Area then came to within two points, 29-27, and had a chance to tie the game or to take the lead, but it did not happen. The Wambdi, instead, outscored Groton, 12-2, to take a 41-29 lead and they went on to win, 45-39.

Groton Area was two for eight in the first quarter in shooting for 25 percent while the Wambdi were seven of 14 for 50 percent. In the second quarter, Groton Area was four of 11 for 36 percent and the Wambdi were three of nine for 33 percent. Groton was five of 14 in the third quarter for 35 percent and Tiospa Zina was four of eight for 50 percent. The Tigers made 29 percent of its 14 shot attempts in the fourth quarter while Tiospa Zina made half of their 10 attempts.

Groton Area was 10 of 30 in two-pointers for the game for 30 percent and four of 13 in three-pointers for 32 percent. Groton Area made five of 14 free throws. For the game Tiospa Zina made 19 of 41 shots for 41 percent.

Jennie Doeden led the Tigers with nine points followed by Jessica Bjerker with eight, Harleigh Stange and Payton Maine each had seven, Miranda Hanson had six and Eliza Wanner added two. Bjerke had nine of the team's 26 rebounds, Hanson had three of the team's eight steals and Doeden had three of the team's eight assists. Groton Area had 16 turnovers while Tiospa Zina had 15. Tiospa Zina made nine points off of Groton's turnovers and Groton made eight off of Tiospa Zina's turnovers.

Jordyn Lablanc led the Wambdie with 15 points, 13 of them in the first quarter. Gerilyn Felicia had eight, Aubrae Bearsheart and Hailey Shepard each had seven, Lexus Red Thunder had four and Kylee Deutsch and Amerlya Bernard each added two points.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 43-13. Kaycie Hawkins led the Tigers with 13 points followed by Nicole Marzahn with 11, Eliza Wanner had eight, Gracie Traphagen four, Brooklyn Gilbert had three and Tady Glover and Kenzie McInterney each had two points.

Brielle Cook led Tiospa Zina with seven points while Jaylan Flute and Jaylee Labelle each had three points.

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Groton Area 6-12 Band Newsletter Quarter 2



We want to extend a **BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

*Stella Meier and Rease Jandel for being accepted into the 2018 SD Middle School All State Band!

*Kylie Kassube and Emily Thompson for being accepted into the 2018 HS All School All State Band!

We are very proud of you!

HS BAND

Marching season part 2 has been in full swing the past couple of weeks for the high school band. We are currently preparing for our marching performance at Magic Kingdom is Disney World. The band is looking and sounding great as we get closer to this big performance. Following our Disney performance, we will begin our spring concert band season.

HS Band Student of the Quarter: Braden Freeman

Braden is only a freshman, but he has quickly become a leader in our band. He participated in North Area Honor band last December, and prepared an All State Band audition. Braden takes lessons from Mr. Fordham, and often spends his study hall practicing. Braden has really grown as a musician over the course of this year. Thank You Braden for your hard work and dedication to the band program.

FLORIDA REMINDERS:

*Please remember to turn in your medical forms to one of the music directors

*Also, please bring your \$5 if you plan to attend Ash Wednesday Services

6TH GRADE BAND

We have finally finished Essential Elements Book 1. We are starting Book 2 and preparing our piece for the Middle School Talent Show.

Soon we will be working on music for our spring concert. The theme for the MS Concert is "Movies," so we'll be sure to play some pieces that you will enjoy! We also have our solos for contest that we will be playing in May.

Our band has now increased to 20 students, so we are slowly gaining more students back!

JH BAND

JH Pep Band night is this Tuesday February 6th at 6:30 pm. We will be wearing orange or a Groton Tiger Shirt to support band member Ava!

We are also doing a split pot at halftime. The proceeds will go to the Tunheim Family!

We have also been working on our song for the Middle School Talent Show. Our next task is learning our contest music that we will play in May.

MS Band Student of the Quarter: Rease Jandel

Rease plays bass clarinet in the JH Band, and takes lessons from Mrs. Yeigh. She is a strong leader and works hard. Rease switched from clarinet to bass clarinet last year and has earned honors such as receiving a 1+ at contest, being accepted into the Northwestern Middle School Festival, and now MS All State Band. Congratulations Rease and keep up the great work!

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday Feb 6th
JH Pep Band Night- 6:30 pm

Wednesday February 7th
HS Small Group Contest in Aberdeen

February 14-19
HS Music Trip to Orlando, FL

March 2-3
MS All State Band- Pierre

March 22-24
HS All State Band- Rapid City

Wednesday March 28th
Large Group Contest in Aberdeen

Friday April 21st
Middle School Talent Show- 7 pm

Saturday May 5th
5-8 Band Contest in Webster

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)

No. 16 Wolves Outlast Peacocks on the Road

Fayette, Iowa – The No. 16 Northern State University men's basketball team pulled out the 93-80 victory over Upper Iowa University Friday evening. The Wolves improve to 22-3 overall and 15-2 in the league, after a heavily contested game with the Peacocks.

Northern led by just one at the half, as Upper Iowa shot 59.4 percent from the floor in the opening 20 minutes. The Wolves gritted out the victory notching 49 points in the second and holding the Peacocks to just 37. Upper Iowa out-shot Northern from both the floor and the 3-point line, however the Wolves went 11-of-13 from the foul line, while the Peacocks went 5-of-11. NSU shot 50.7 percent from the field and 33.3 percent from the arc, knocking down eight made 3-pointers.

The shining light for NSU was 40 rebounds to the Peacocks 28, including 14 offensive boards, which resulted in 14 second chance points. Northern added 52 points in the paint, 29 points off the bench, and eight points off turnovers and by fast break. The Wolves added 17 assists, four steals, and three blocks.

DJ Pollard led the team with a season high 24 points, hitting 8-of-13 from the floor. Pollard added a team second best eight rebounds, as well as two assists and two steals. Logan Doyle was second on the team with 18 points, notching a double-double with a team high 11 rebounds. The double-double is his fourth in as many games and fifth overall this season. Doyle shot 75.0 percent from the floor and added three assists and two blocks.

Ian Smith and Carter Evans rounded out the double figure scorers with 15 and 12 points respectively. Smith went 6-for-11 from the floor, while Evans went 6-for-10. Smith added a team second best four assists, as well as seven rebounds and one steal, as Evans added four rebounds and one assist. Gabe King and Cole Dahl added seven and six points respectively, as the final Wolves from the starting five. King notched six rebounds, while Dahl tallied one rebound and one block.

Darin Peterka made his return to the court, playing 28 minutes with a team leading five assists. Peterka added five points as well. Andrew Kallman was the final scorer of the night with six points, going 2-of-4 from the arc.

Northern is back in action today for a 6 p.m. tip at Winona State.



All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

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

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Wolves Sneak Past Peacocks on Jill Conrad's Layup

Fayette, Iowa – A Northern State late bucket by Jill Conrad pushed the Wolves over Upper Iowa University 68-66. NSU improves to 19-4 overall and 14-3 in NSIC play.

The first quarter was a back-and-forth affair with the two teams tied at 19-all heading into the second. Northern State took a 4-point lead heading into halftime out-scoring the Peacocks 21-17 in the final ten minutes of the half. The Wolves extended the lead heading into the final quarter to six points. NSU was up nine early in the fourth before Upper Iowa battle back taking a 1-point lead with 5:44 left in the game. The game was tied at 64-all, when Brianna Kusler stepped to the line and knocked down both free throw attempts. The Wolves held the 66-64 lead with 21 seconds left, however Upper Iowa was not finished. The Peacocks tied the game up at 66 with two free-throws of their own, leaving just 11 seconds left on the clock. Jill Conrad hit the game winning shot with three seconds left to sneak by Upper Iowa.

The Wolves shot 39.7 percent from the floor, had 40 points in the paint, and out-rebounded their opponents 40-32 in the win. Defensively, Northern allowed 28.6 percent from behind the arc and only allowed six fast break points. NSU had 40 points in the paint, 13 points off of 12 Peacock turnovers, nine points off of 18 offensive rebounds, and 14 points off the bench.

Miranda Ristau led the Wolves with 24 points, nine rebounds, two blocks, while also notching three assists and one steal. Jessi Marti was the other player in double figures with 11 points, six rebounds, two steals, and one assist. Jill Conrad recorded eight points, three rebounds, two steals, and two assists. Haley Froelich added six points for the Wolves to go along with, four rebounds, four assists, and one steal.

Kusler rounded out the starters with five points, five assists, three rebounds, and one steal, while Alexis Tappe led NSU off the bench with six points and two rebounds. Brynn Flakus put in five points and also added two rebounds and one assist. Anika Fredrick tallied two points and one rebound, followed by Alayna Johnson with one point and one rebound and Sara Tvedt with a rebounds as well.

The Wolves will return to action Saturday afternoon against Winona State University. Tip-off is set for 4 p.m. against the Warriors.

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Berg and Rodriguez Notch Big Wins from NDSU Bison Open

Fargo, N.D. – The Northern State University track and field team opened competition Friday evening from the NDSU Bison Open. The Wolves tallied three event wins and numerous top-5 marks in the first day of competition.

Mackenzie Cruzen kicked off competition for the women, notching a third place finish in the 600m run. The junior finished with a time of 1:43.24. She was followed by Kyra Gardner in sixth, crossing the line at 1:47.42.

The women's distance medley relay team of Lindsey Gast, Isabel Kinzer, Abberly Smith, and Paige Larson finished second overall with a time of 12:56.80. The squad of Hanna Wahl, Gracelynn Miller, Sarah Schafer, and Livia Wallace finish in third with a time of 12:56.80.

Nicolette Kneeland led the throwers finishing fourth in the weight throw with a 15.08m toss on her second attempt of the event. Jordan Menken followed in ninth overall with a 12.77m throw.

Itoitz Rodriguez opened his weekend, winning the 600m run with a time of 1:23.80 in come from behind fashion. He was followed by Luke Wietgreffe and Kelson Brewer in third and fourth with times 1:25.81 and 1:25.99.

The men's distance medley relay team of Donovan Miller, Romario Thomas, Jacob Schweitzer, and Adam Leach notched an event win, crossing the finish line in 10:50.36.

Tanner Berg added to his stellar freshman campaign winning the weight throw for the second straight week. Berg threw 18.71m on his sixth and final attempt of the event, notching four out of his six throws over 18m. Jake Olson and Bryce LeBlanc notched fifth and sixth place finishes, throwing 15.56m and 14.69m.

The Wolves continue competition tomorrow from Fargo and the NDSU Bison Open.

Moore, Olson, and Perryman Notch Decision Wins for the Wolves

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University wrestling team fell to No. 6 Upper Iowa University 37-9 from Wachs Arena on Friday evening. The Wolves drop to 1-10 overall and 0-4 in the NSIC.

With the Wolves down 11-0 heading into the 141-pound match, sophomore Josh Moore stepped up with a big win. Moore defeated Hunter Slifka in a 5-3 decision, giving the Wolves their first win of the dual. Moore notched an early takedown in the first, followed by two escapes in the second to secure the victory. Slifka batted with a takedown in the second and escape in the third, but Moore was able to garner a riding time point.

Northern notched two more decision victories in the match off the backs of their two seniors. Tanner Olson defeated Mac Spotts in the 157-pound match with a score of 5-2. Olson notched the first points of the match, with a takedown in the first. Spotts battled back tying things at 2-all with a pair of escapes to close out the first and open the second. Olson however sealed the victory notching a takedown in the second and escape in the third.

Blake Perryman made his return to the mat with a 5-3 decision win at 165-pounds. The senior opened the match with a takedown on Cody Nelson, who quickly rolled for the reversal and tied things up. The two were scoreless through the second period and Nelson chose down to start the third. Perryman was able to hold off Nelson, notching a 2-point nearfall for the win.

Northern returns to the mat today for a 7 p.m. dual against MSU Moorhead from Wachs Arena.

EARTHTALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard that the chemicals we use to unclog backed-up drains are harmful to our health and the environment. Can you suggest safer alternative products or methods?

— Amy Smith, Rome, NY

Chemical drain clog removers do contain some pretty harmful stuff. The three main types available to consumers—caustic, oxidizing and acid—work by using harsh chemicals that heat up clogs to melt the congealed grease impeding the outflow. All three are acutely toxic to hu-

mans and animals if swallowed, and coming into contact with them can burn your eyes, skin and mucous membranes. Even the fumes can cause respiratory distress. These chemicals can also explode inside your home's pipes—especially if inadvertently mixed with other chemicals or cleaners.

Unfortunately, you'll have to look hard to find drain clog removal formulations that don't come with big risks. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) Guide to Healthy Cleaning gives drain clog removers from the likes of Amway, Clorox, CVS, Drano, Liquid Plumr and Safeway an "F" grade, given their toxicity to humans and animals and harshness to the environment. And don't be fooled by a product's branding, as an eco-friendly name can sometimes belie toxic ingredients. To wit, EWG also gave an "F" to Up and Up Drain Pipe Opener and Earthworm Family-Safe Drain Cleaner for their environmental and health dangers.

EWG found that a few products—Biokleen Bac-Out Drain Care Gel, Drainbo The Natural Solution Natural Drain Cleaner and Earth Friendly Products' Earth Enzymes Drain Opener—did a decent job unclogging drains without using especially toxic chemicals, but it's always better to try to avoid the problem in the first place.

In the kitchen, refrain from putting eggshells, coffee grounds, pasta, potato peels, rice, flour, produce stickers, paint and cleaning products down your sink drain, even if you have a garbage disposal. As for keeping grease out of the drain, try to scrape or mop it up with a paper towel and throw it away. Also, keeping your garbage disposal clean—pour a little dish detergent down the drain and run the disposal under cold water for a minute or two each night after doing the dishes—will also prevent back-ups.

As for the bathroom sink, shower or tub, hair—whether from dad's shaving or sister's styling—is likely the chief suspect in clogs. A hair catcher like the TubShroom (or SinkShroom or ShowerShroom) could help. This ingenious little mushroom-shaped device pops into the drain and attracts and coils hairs around itself before problems start. Pop it out every couple of weeks, peel off and dispose of the collected hair in the garbage, and start the process all over again.

A little preventive maintenance goes a long way to keep drains clear. Health and wellness site Mercola.com suggests filling sinks with a mix of white vinegar and warm water, then releasing the drain so this all-natural dynamic cleaning duo can do its work degreasing your outflow pipes. If the drain still runs slowly, pour in several tablespoons of baking soda followed by a white vinegar chaser.

CONTACTS: HowStuffWorks' "How Drain Cleaners Work," home.howstuffworks.com/home-improvement/plumbing/drain-cleaner2.htm; TubShroom, tubshroom.com; Environmental Working Group's Guide to Healthy Cleaning, ewg.org/guides/cleaners; Mercola.com, mercola.com.

EarthTalk® is a weekly syndicated column produced by the non-profit EarthTalk. To find out more, submit a question, or make a donation, visit us at EarthTalk.org.



Simple devices like the TubShroom can trap hair before it gets into your drain and causes a back-up.

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Today in Weather History

February 3, 1997: A winter storm dropped from 6 to 15 inches of snow across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota deepening the already expansive snowpack. The wind came up from the north at 20 to 30 mph during the morning of the 4th causing blowing and drifting snow blocking some roads and making travel hazardous if not impossible. Several vehicles got stuck or went off the road. Due to the massive snowfall, a roof collapsed in Aberdeen, damaging a car. Many schools started late or were canceled, adding to the number of days missed for the season. Some snowfall amounts included, 5 inches at Wheaton, 6 inches at Britton, Summit, Webster, Browns Valley, Artichoke Lake, and Ortonville, 7 inches at Aberdeen, 6 SE McIntosh, Pollock, Timber Lake, 8 inches at Leola, Ipswich, Eagle Butte and Gettysburg, 9 inches at Miller and Mellette, 10 inches at Mobridge, Wattertown, Clear Lake, Pierre, Kennebec, and Onida, and 11 inches at Clark and Blunt. Snowfall amounts of a foot or more included, 12 inches at Highmore, Bryant, and Gann Valley, 13 inches at Faulkton, 14 inches 23 N Highmore and Murdo, and 15 inches at 1 SE Stephan.

1844: Boston Harbor was so thick with ice on this date that a channel had to be cut through the ice for the "Britannia" ship to leave with 30,000 letters for England.

1947: The record-low temperature for continental North America was recorded in Snag, in the Yukon Territory, Canada. The temperature was 81.4 degrees below zero.

1988: Arctic air continued to invade the central U.S. The temperature at Midland, Texas plunged from a record high of 80 degrees to 37 degrees in just three hours. Morning lows in the higher elevations of Wyoming were as cold as 38 degrees below zero. Heavy snow blanketed southwestern Colorado, with 16 inches reported at Steamboat Springs.

1917 - Downtown Miami, FL, reported an all-time record low of 27 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1947 - The temperature at Tanacross, AK, plunged to a record 75 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Wintry weather was confined to freezing drizzle and light snow in the northeastern U.S., and light rain and snow in the western U.S. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A winter storm brought heavy snow and high winds to the western U.S. Up to three feet of snow blanketed the Sierra Nevada of California, and buried parts of northeastern Washington State under three feet of snow in five days. High winds across Washington State reached 75 mph, with gusts to 105 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe cold gripped the north central U.S. The morning low of 29 degrees below zero at Casper WY was a record for the month of February. Wisdom MT hit 53 degrees below zero. Missoula MT reported a wind chill reading of 85 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

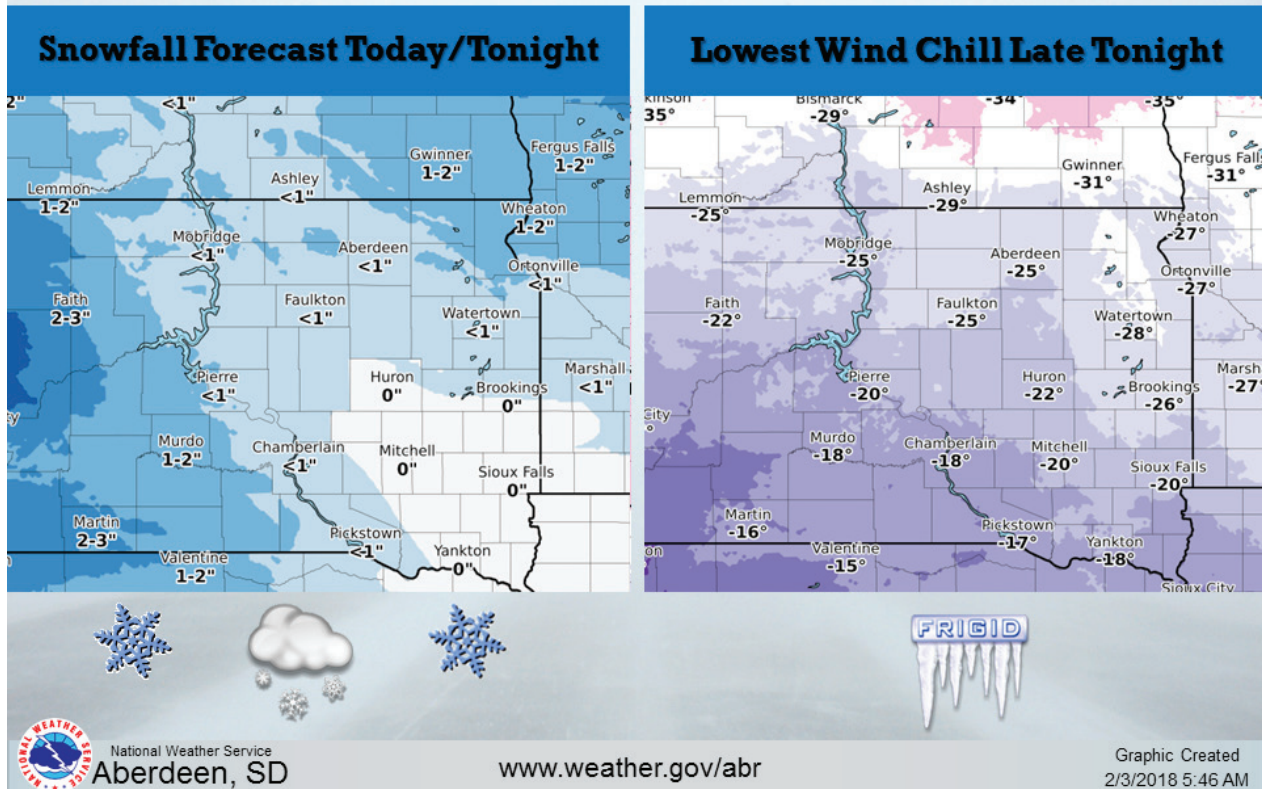
1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather over the central Gulf coast states during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms spawned seven tornadoes in Alabama, including one which touched down north of Birmingham injuring fifteen people and causing nearly three million dollars damage. A tornado at Margaret injured eleven persons and caused a million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Sat Feb 3	Sun Feb 4	Mon Feb 5	Tue Feb 6	Wed Feb 7	Thu Feb 8	Fri Feb 9
16°F	11°F	17°F	18°F	19°F	20°F	21°F
-6°F	-2°F	-4°F	0°F	2°F	1°F	-11°F
NE 22 MPH	NW 14 MPH	N 10 MPH	SSW 6 MPH	NW 6 MPH	NNE 8 MPH	N 8 MPH
Precip 40%				Precip 20%	Precip 30%	

Areas of Light Snow Today Bitterly Cold Wind Chills Late Tonight



Published on: 02/03/2018 at 5:49AM

One round of light snow will move across the region this morning, while another one passes through late this afternoon and evening. Overall, most areas will end up with around an inch of snow or less. Colder air will pour south across the area tonight, with bitterly cold wind chills developing after midnight. Wind chills from 20 below zero to as cold as 30 below zero will develop across northern South Dakota into west central Minnesota.

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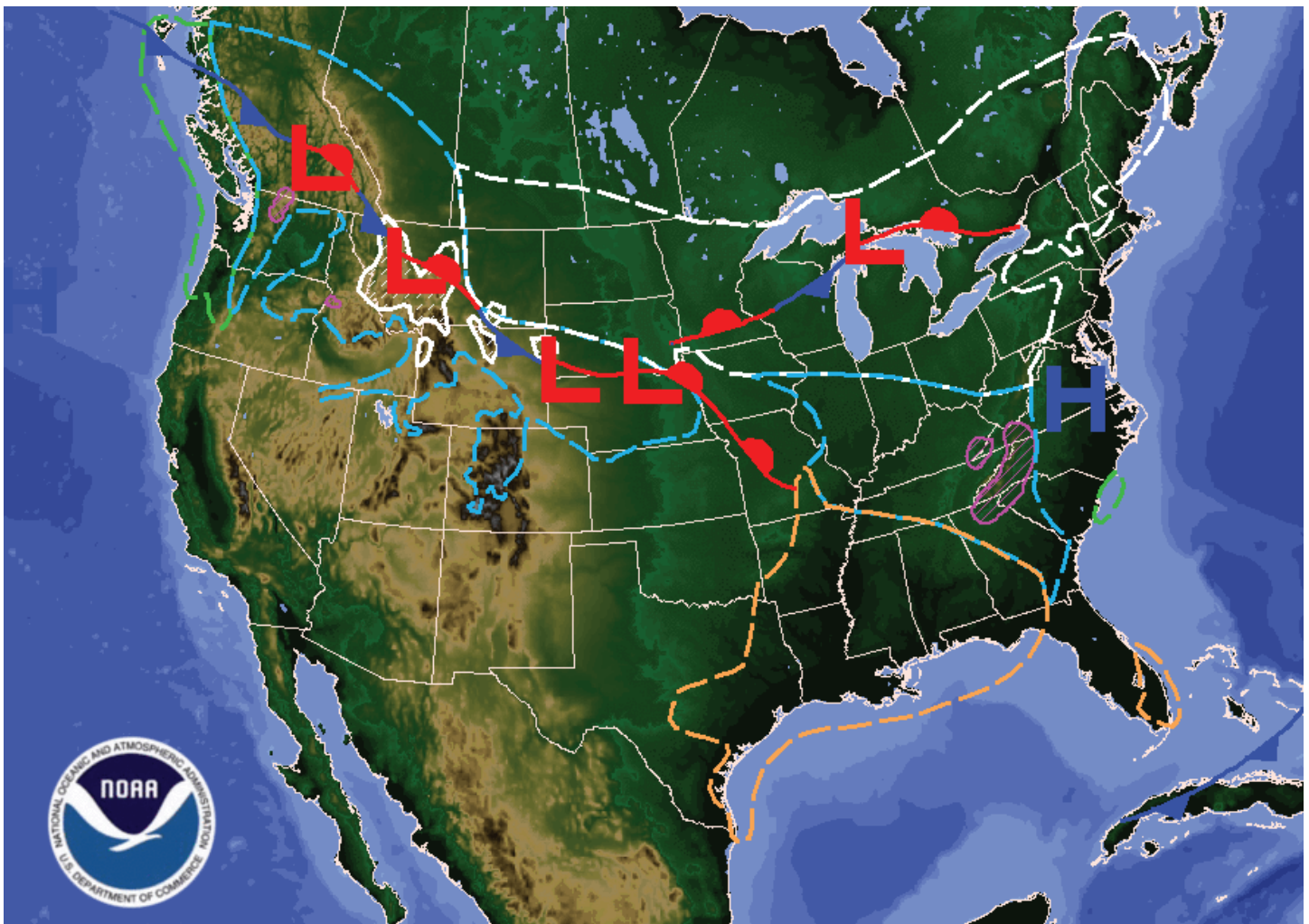
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 25.4 F at 4:11 PM
Low Outside Temp: -6.1 F at 12:31 AM
Wind Chill: -
High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 1:07 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 58° in 1991
Record Low: -38° in 1893
Average High: 25°F
Average Low: 3°F
Average Precip in Feb: 0.04
Precip to date in Feb: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.51
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:43 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:50 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Feb 03, 2018, issued 4:02 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Reinhart with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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ABOVE AND BEYOND

What's the difference between the word "special" and the word "unique?"

The word "special" implies that someone or something surpasses or exceeds the usual or normal. It could refer to an athlete who excels in his or her particular sport and has done things differently or set records that will remain unbroken for many years. It might refer to a vehicle that has been modified to meet the specifications of an owner.

But the word "unique" implies something different. The word unique means that something or someone is the only one of its kind and has no rival. "It" is not only different, but incomparable and unparalleled.

Our God is certainly not an "it." Our God is a Person and yet He certainly is unique. Our Psalmist brings this to our attention when he asks, "For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?"

Of course the answer he would give us is an answer we already know: No one! There is no sun or planet in the sky that is equal to Him. Then he adds that there is no "heavenly being" – none of the angels or holy ones – who inhabit heaven who can be compared to the Lord. Our God is above all and beyond all because He created all.

So what are we to do? We are to "greatly fear" Him and understand that He "is more awesome than all who surround Him." Our "fear" of Him will create a "respect" for Him and when we recognize how "awesome" He is, we will worship in spirit and in truth, in love and humility.

Prayer: Gracious and loving Father, open our minds and hearts to Your greatness. May we worship You in love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 89:6 For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord?

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Beresford 60, Alcester-Hudson 26
Bon Homme 60, Avon 34
Brandon Valley 54, Watertown 49
Britton-Hecla 70, Waverly-South Shore 49
Colome 56, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 50
Dakota Valley 86, Elk Point-Jefferson 62
Dell Rapids 77, Tri-Valley 55
Deuel 56, Clark/Willow Lake 52
Douglas 79, Belle Fourche 44
Elkton-Lake Benton 56, Deubrook 36
Ethan 76, Kimball/White Lake 74
Great Plains Lutheran 74, Wilmot 56
Gregory 60, Parkston 57, 2OT
Hamlin 67, Webster 47
Hitchcock-Tulare 64, Sunshine Bible Academy 54
Hot Springs 59, Custer 41
Huron 68, Spearfish 51
Kadoka Area 60, Wall 53
Marty Indian 61, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 58
McCook Central/Montrose 60, Garretson 45
Menno 71, Howard 37
Rapid City Stevens 57, Rapid City Central 53
Redfield/Doland 61, Milbank Area 57
Sioux Falls Christian 81, Canton 53
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 57, Moorhead, Minn. 50
Sisseton 66, Aberdeen Roncalli 60
St. Thomas More 64, Chadron, Neb. 40
Sully Buttes 63, Potter County 37
Tea Area 66, Aberdeen Christian 32
Viborg-Hurley 63, Freeman Academy/Marion 35
White River 80, Bennett County 35
Yankton 58, Pierre 50
Little Moreau Conference Tournament
Consolation Semifinal
Lemmon 52, McIntosh 29
Tiospaye Topa 65, Dupree 60
Semifinal
Faith 65, Bison 31
Timber Lake 77, Harding County 41

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Belle Fourche 68, Douglas 28
Beresford 61, Alcester-Hudson 35
Brandon Valley 53, Watertown 21

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Bridgewater-Emery 59, Gayville-Volin 29
Centerville 55, Aberdeen Christian 50
Custer 50, Hot Springs 11
Dakota Valley 59, Elk Point-Jefferson 43
Dell Rapids 45, Tri-Valley 39
Dell Rapids St. Mary 60, Arlington 55, 20T
Deubrook 68, Elkton-Lake Benton 40
Estelline 53, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 14
Ethan 66, Kimball/White Lake 23
Flandreau 56, Sioux Valley 45
Florence/Henry 57, Tri-State, N.D. 43
Hanson 63, Tea Area 22
Harrisburg 46, Brookings 44
Howard 66, Canistota 47
Lake Preston 57, Colman-Egan 46
Oelrichs 71, Edgemont 45
Parkston 45, Gregory 36
Redfield/Doland 41, Milbank 33
Spearfish 50, Huron 38
St. Thomas More 57, Chadron, Neb. 11
Sully Buttes 57, Potter County 28
Sunshine Bible Academy 53, Hitchcock-Tulare 52
Tiospa Zina Tribal 45, Groton Area 39
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 71, Marty Indian 44
Viborg-Hurley 59, Freeman Academy/Marion 38
Wall 67, Kadoka Area 52
West Central 50, Madison 39

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

01-04-14-17-40, Mega Ball: 4, Megaplier: 3

(one, four, fourteen, seventeen, forty; Mega Ball: four; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$104 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$145 million

South Dakota county offers disaster training for teens

By TANYA MANUS, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Pennington County is looking for teenagers who are ready to take on disasters. “You can hear a lot about preparedness, but until you put it into action and do hands-on training, you’re probably not going to remember it or even feel like it’s important,” Alexa White, deputy director for Pennington County Emergency Management said. “If there was some type of school incident like an active shooter, a lot of times there’s a very short window when you could save somebody’s life.”

That’s part of the reason Pennington County Community Emergency Management Teams and Partnership Rapid City are sponsoring Teen CERT classes. The five-week course teaches teenagers how to proactively

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help when a disaster occurs in their homes, schools or community. The next session begins Feb. 5, for students in grades 10, 11 and 12.

Teen CERT covers fire safety, medical triage training to set up treatment areas and help those who are injured, light search-and-rescue skills, assisting responders and learning to reduce survivors' stress. Especially in a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical aid may be unable to meet the demand for their services. Teen CERT helps kids understand when it's prudent or safe to help, and when the best course of action might be to take notes and provide information to responders, White said.

"If something were to happen and you want to help those around you, what this program does is it trains you on how to do the greatest good for the greatest number (of people)," White said. "Teens could save somebody's life because they went through the class."

Firefighters, paramedics, search-and-rescue team members and others who work as responders in the Black Hills teach the CERT course, the Rapid City Journal reported. "They're people who have real-life experiences to share. That makes it more realistic for the kids," White said.

Every Teen CERT course concludes with a simulated disaster, such as a traffic accident or an incident in school that teens might actually encounter. The teens assist volunteer "victims," who are bandaged or made up to look bloody and wounded. "There's people making a lot of racket and screaming. ... There could be a mom looking for a kid or somebody asking for somebody who turns out to be a pet," White said. "The teens have to organize themselves into a team and designate a leader ... and figure things out on their own. ... It helps teens to see this is how it could really be (in an actual disaster)."

The simulated disasters often turn out to be teens' favorite part of the class. Some said they feel more prepared for life beyond school — including one teen who was in a car accident six months after completing Teen CERT and was able to help an injured friend, White said.

Parents are welcome to observe Teen CERT to learn more about the course, White said. Teen CERT Classes are offered twice a year in Pennington County; the course will be offered again this fall. Pennington County also offers adult CERT classes; the next one begins in April and contains the same content as the Teen CERT course, White said. The CERT training was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

By offering CERT classes strictly for teens, kids learn to have confidence in crisis situations, White said. "The idea is to teach teens they can do a lot. ... They just need the training to do it," she said. "They are part of the solution."

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

South Dakota reservation school takes new learning approach

By MEGAN RAPOSA, Argus Leader

PARMELEE, S.D. (AP) — If you hit gravel on He Dog Road, you've gone too far.

Just before the pavement ends on the southwest-bound curve, there's an unmarked turn where the road winds south, crosses Cut Meat Creek and ends in front of a red brick schoolhouse.

The cement steps leading to the door are so crumbled and worn they're unusable. An auxiliary staircase leads to the creaking wooden floors inside. The Bureau of Indian Education has recommended the 90-year-old elementary school be condemned, but for now, it's home to 155 students.

Most of these kids are behind academically. Only 1 in 20 can read at grade level, and 1 in 50 are proficient in math. All are close enough to the federal poverty line to qualify for free lunches.

The school is part of Todd County, which was ranked among the poorest in the nation in the last decade. It sits in the northwestern corner of the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota among the rolling plains south of Interstate 90.

Students here could live their lives without riding a taxi or eating at a restaurant.

It's not the kind of place you'd just stumble upon. The reservation is in the south-central part of the state, about a two-hour drive from the nearest town of more than 1,000 people. Interstate drivers can get from one edge of the state to the other without catching a glimpse of Rosebud.

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Out of sight, out of mind.

Twenty miles east of He Dog Elementary, Karen Whitney sits working on the ordered files at her desk. Glimpses of her teaching background peek through the square room with the children's books on the shelf and the brightly colored inspirational posters with messages like "be-YOU-tiful" written in script. Photos on her desk show a life and family outside the four gray walls. Kids. Grandkids.

A large desk surrounds the 57-year-old on three sides. As she sits behind it in a black mesh chair, she's petite and soft-spoken, but her voice can fill the room when she needs it to. Behind the plastic rim of her glasses are the shrewd eyes of a woman who knows how to lead.

It's her third year as superintendent of Todd County schools, a job she applied for on a whim and accepted before she'd had time to tell her husband. She arrived in a county that has endured a teacher shortage for decades. Many educators and administrators who land in Todd County leave within a few years.

Whitney is not Native American, but she's the reason more kids on the Rosebud Indian Reservation are speaking Lakota.

She grew up in California and came to South Dakota, her husband's home state, in 1995.

After 12 years teaching in Huron, she spent most of the last decade working to close the staggering achievement gaps for Native American kids in South Dakota. She earned her education doctorate in 2013 while working in Sisseton on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation, and she wrote her dissertation on the impact of engaging Native American kids in learning by tying lessons to their culture.

In Todd County, Whitney gives more weight to culture than to state standardized test scores.

She knows students in her district aren't going to do well when so few of them are learning at grade level. How can she ask them to excel in math and reading without addressing the more important stressors in their lives like addiction, trauma, broken homes and bullies?

"We've kind of been in panic mode with the test scores . it's not in the best interest of the kids," she said.

But the tide appears to be turning.

This year, teachers aren't worried about teaching students what they're supposed to know at each grade level. Instead, the district bought elementary curriculum for the middle school students and middle-school curriculum for high school students.

It's too soon to tell if the new strategy is working, but in its first few months, some fifth graders in the district are already moving on from third- to fourth-grade math.

At He Dog, the changes go far beyond curriculum as the school shifts to a different education model based on a charter school in Albuquerque, New Mexico that's founded on a blend of rigorous academics and adding culture to all facets of learning.

The model, based on the Native American Community Academy, was started with the help of South Dakota native Duta Flying Earth, who grew up in Wakpala on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Though he never moved back to South Dakota after high school, Flying Earth maintained connections in the state, including ties to a 22-member task force convened in 2015 with the goal of figuring out how to help Native American kids find success.

The task force was captivated by the success of the Albuquerque school, known as NACA. Since opening in 2006, NACA doubled its graduation rate, and last year more than 90 percent of the graduating class was accepted into college, according to a recent article by the Hechinger Report.

After a trip to Albuquerque and a handful of meetings with Flying Earth, task force members decided to bring NACA's curriculum to South Dakota, the Argus Leader reported .

"It's not just a curriculum change, it's an overall philosophy change," said Mato Standing High, director of Indian Education and chair of the 2015 task force.

The model emphasizes localization, having communities find their own solutions.

"This is one of the first times I've seen in Indian education where the folks that are leading . are not only Native, but they're from this reservation, these communities," said Jonathan Santos Silva, South Dakota's education director for the NACA Inspired Schools Network.

For Whitney, that means more opportunity to think about the whole child, not just the test score. In past years, schools have put too much pressure on evaluation at the expense of helping kids socially and

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emotionally.

"I think we're recognizing that and going back to meet their needs and trusting that the academics will come, too," she said.

In a sky blue trailer east of He Dog's crumbling cement stairs, June Elk Looks Back greets each one of her third-grade students. They wear jeans and t-shirts, some of the girls with oblong beaded earrings like those their teacher and principal wear.

"Anpetu Waste."

It means "good day" in Lakota, and Elk Looks Back repeats it over and over until each student has said it back to her in turn.

For the first 10 minutes of class, barely a word of English is spoken. Students recite the days of the week, weather, family members and the Sioux National Anthem all in Lakota.

If nothing changes, only half of them are projected to graduate high school.

He Dog's shift to include more culture is part of a 2016 law — a product of the yearlong task force — to give reservation schools leeway to try new ways of teaching. That law came with a special \$590,000 Native American Achievement School Grant from the state.

The money is intended for closing the achievement gap, but so far spending isn't directly tied to math or reading. Instead, the school is beginning by giving teachers mental health training and boosting its instruction of Lakota culture.

He Dog is experimenting with equine therapy, building a sweat lodge on campus, and integrating Lakota language and culture into day-to-day classroom work.

The school is also looking at options for curriculum specific to indigenous culture, ideally written by a South Dakotan.

A second school, Todd County Middle School, is using the grant to create a comfy, candlelit "recovery room" in lieu of in-school suspension and to add elective classes like quilting and community service.

While the grants are a team effort between the community, administrators and fellows from a national network of schools modeled after NACA, Whitney has been at the helm through all the changes.

She doesn't like to take credit for her leadership, though.

"This isn't my story," she said. "This is the school's story."

The girls are first to enter the corral, a November wind blowing through their dark plaited hair. They have to prove they're calm before they can go near the horses, and once they're up close, the equine therapy leaders help the girls bridle the horses, pet them and lead them in a circle before the boys calm themselves and prepare to take their turn.

Principal Vikki Eagle Bear brought equine therapy to He Dog's campus through a community partnership with the Tiwahe Glu Kini Pi ("Bringing the Family Back to Life") program, a local mental health therapy group. The goal is to give students another resource to process any trauma or mental illness they may be managing.

Eagle Bear, who has a background in student trauma, took over as principal in the fall.

"Suicide, domestic violence, sexual assault, all of those," Eagle Bear said. "Unfortunately, some of the students on this reservation are from environments like that."

Her goal is to add as many supports as possible. The school doesn't have a full-time counselor, only a part-time counselor twice a week.

But Eagle Bear is finding other ways. There are the horses, the recovery room, much like that at the middle school, and the extra mental health training for teachers, partly funded through the grant.

On a much more basic level, He Dog provides students with shoes, coats and other clothing in the school "store," a small pink building next to the main school where kids can take what they need.

"We try to address those needs of significance and belonging and safety and even basic needs like food and clothing because we know kids will learn better if those are met first," Whitney said.

It's hard for Whitney to describe past efforts to close the achievement gap in Todd County because she's only been in her role since 2015.

The superintendent before her stayed for only three years, as did the one before that, each bringing

new ideas to help the struggling schools.

"Looking at the documents of what it was like before, it looks like a lot of things have been tried," Whitney said. "A lot of good plans have been made, and a lot of things implemented that were very good but changed maybe rather quickly when we didn't see movement in the test scores right away."

Those three-year spurts of new curriculum or other short-term changes also don't summarize generations of education systems that have largely failed Native American students.

Statewide, Native American students face racism, poverty and high rates of suicide among other barriers outlined by the state task force. Additionally, today's students are only a couple of generations removed from students who were forced into boarding schools where assimilation to white culture was the only option.

The \$590,000 grant is the greatest stride South Dakota has taken in recent history to remove some of these barriers, but solutions won't come overnight.

"There are no easy fixes," Whitney said.

To see real progress in test scores, it might take a decade — a tall order for a grant meant to expire in 2020.

At a quarterly meeting in mid-November, a group of about 30 parents, teachers, community members, administrators and students gather in the Todd County School District office.

They split into groups to look at academics, social and emotional learning, spirituality, culture, and community partnerships: the key pillars of a new district-wide improvement plan. It's a crowded room — the homemade turkey and dressing sit on a counter in the adjacent hallway, a pre-Thanksgiving treat to start the meeting.

The goal for the morning is to find one concrete step to take to reach goals determined at an earlier meeting.

Whitney mentions offhand that past work groups have been all talk and no action, but she's got no time for that. She wants to hit the ground running.

Try something, and if it doesn't work, try something else.

She works with a sense of urgency. She wants to make the most of the six months she has left leading Todd County schools.

Her contract is up in the spring, and she's not coming back.

Too many sleepless nights worrying about her students have left weariness in her shrewd eyes. At a certain point, she says she has to think about her own health. She's got grandkids she wants to spend time with, and working on the reservation has taken its toll.

Whitney doesn't know what will happen after she leaves. She hopes the principals will carry on the momentum started by the grant, but if history is any indicator, they'll all be gone in another year or two as well.

"It's hard to leave the people, the dedicated people here," Whitney said. "Because I feel like we are on the brink of doing something really good."

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

Flu season has killed 15 people in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State health officials say this year's flu season has claimed the lives of 15 people in South Dakota.

The Argus Leader reports that the state's Department of Health says this year's flu is "widespread" and severe. The data from the department runs through Jan. 27 and flu season is considered to be from October through May.

Dr. Wendell Hoffman at Sanford Health says this season's flu could be the worst since 2009.

State data show 238 people have been hospitalized with the flu this year, compared to 70 during the same timeframe last year.

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

Lawsuit: National American University defrauded government

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former National American University official alleges that the South Dakota-based for-profit system defrauded the federal government out of millions through student loans, according to a federal lawsuit.

The system's website says it operates campuses in a number of other states including Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Former employee Brian Gravely alleges that National American University rigged accreditation for its medical assisting program and unlawfully paid bonuses to employees for recruiting students. The lawsuit alleges the university knowingly misrepresented student loan revenues to make it appear the system was complying with federal rules, the Argus Leader reported .

The lawsuit also alleges that the university required that students have an internship to complete the medical assisting program, but couldn't find enough placements for its students. The delay left many students in the program unable to graduate, though they had completed their required credit hours. Students could only qualify for federal aid if they were enrolled with credit hours, so some students had to take additional classes while awaiting a practicum placement.

"This meant that students had to take unnecessary courses to ensure receipt of financial aid in the quarter in which a practicum was available to them," the lawsuit says.

The suit was filed in April under the False Claims Act, which allows private citizens to file lawsuits to recover money defrauded from the federal government. The lawsuit was unsealed Thursday. It was sealed while under review by the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Dakota.

University President and CEO Ronald Shape said the system is aware of the lawsuit but declined to comment further to the newspaper.

If found liable under the False Claims Act, for-profit schools can lose access to federal student aid programs.

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

Omaha police to get cultural, mental health training

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police officers will undergo Native American cultural sensitivity and mental health training after a mentally ill Native American man died in custody.

Zachary Bearheels, 29, died in June after he was shocked with a Taser multiple times, punched in the head and dragged by his ponytail, the Omaha World-Herald reported . Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer announced plans for training in July after he met with Mayor Jean Stothert, City Council President Ben Gray and members of the Native American community.

Omaha police fired the four officers who were at the scene of Bearheels' death. A grand jury filed a felony second-degree assault charge and weapon use charge against Scotty Payne and a misdemeanor assault charge against Ryan McClarty in December.

Bearheels was traveling on a bus from South Dakota to Oklahoma when he was kicked off the vehicle in Omaha. He was a member of the Rosebud Sioux of South Dakota and also had ties to Apache and Kiowa Tribes of Oklahoma. He had bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, according to relatives.

All officers will attend 90 minutes of Native American cultural training and 90 minutes of mental health training in June, said Lt. Catherine Milone, the training commander.

"When an issue arises, we want to make sure we're as educated as possible on their traditions, interactions, what maybe they've experienced in the past so we bridge and forge relationships that are more positive between that cultural group and the police department," Milone said. "The more we can educate ourselves ... the better off the community will be."

More than 50 members of the basic and veteran police recruit classes received Native American sensitivity training in December.

Stothert also plans to announce the members of the new Native American advisory board this month.

___ Information from: Omaha World-Herald, <http://www.omaha.com>

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Bill banning school administrators from bargaining fails

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State lawmakers have rejected a bill that would have banned public school administrators from collective bargaining in right-to-work South Dakota.

The House Education Committee voted 8-6 Friday against the proposal, which critics called unnecessary. House Speaker Mark Mickelson, the bill's sponsor, says there are times when the actions of the union run contrary to schools' mission to provide good, free education. He says at least 10 school districts, including Sioux Falls and Rapid City, have administrative collective bargaining units.

Mary McCorkle is president of the South Dakota Education Association, a teacher's union. She says administrators aren't members of the union, but do come together locally to bargain.

The committee deferred action until next week on a bill that would prohibit school districts from paying employees while they do union-related work.

Family offers reward in missing man case

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — The family of a 28-year-old man who mysteriously disappeared in Deadwood more than two weeks ago is offering a reward for information about his whereabouts.

Christopher Oien was last seen near the Deadwood Event Center Jan. 14. Police searched the area and found a piece of Oien's clothing, but there was no sign of him. Authorities have used search dogs, a dive team and drones in their search.

The man's mother, Hope Oien, tells KOTA-TV the family is fearful something bad has happened and just wants answers. The family is offering a \$2,000 reward for information.

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

Drive-by shooting in Italy; citizens urged to stay indoors

MILAN (AP) — Italian police say a drive-by shooting has left wounded in the central city of Macerata, and authorities are warning citizens to remain indoors.

Police did not say how many were injured in the town, which has a population of 43,000.

Italian news reports said that the car contained two people. Macerata's mayor has urged citizens to stay indoors Saturday while the suspects remain at-large. The ANSA news agency reported four victims have been wounded while Sky TG24 put the number of wounded at two.

Sky said the shooting started around 11 a.m. (1000 GMT; 5 a.m. EST), and that students were being kept inside schools which are open on Saturday and public transport had been halted.

Trump taking tougher stance on Russia nuclear threat

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Friday announced it will continue much of the Obama administration's nuclear weapons policy, but take a more aggressive stance toward Russia. It said Russia must be convinced it would face "unacceptably dire costs" if it were to threaten even a limited nuclear attack in Europe.

The sweeping review of U.S. nuclear policy does not call for any net increase in strategic nuclear weapons — a position that stands in contrast to President Donald Trump's statement, in a tweet shortly before he took office, that the U.S. "must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes." In his State of the Union address Tuesday, he made no mention of expansion, though he said the arsenal must deter acts of aggression.

A 74-page report summarizing the review's findings calls North Korea a "clear and grave threat" to the U.S. and its allies. It asserts that any North Korean nuclear attack against the U.S. or its allies will result in "the end of that regime."

It also cast China as a potential nuclear adversary, saying the U.S. arsenal is tailored to "prevent Beijing from mistakenly concluding" that it could gain advantage by using its nuclear weapons in Asia, or that

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"any use of nuclear weapons, however limited, is acceptable."

The Pentagon-led review of the U.S. nuclear arsenal and the policies that govern it was ordered by Trump a year ago. In a written statement, Trump said U.S. strategy is designed to make use of nuclear weapons less likely. In an apparent reference to the threat of catastrophic cyberattack, he said the U.S. aims to strengthen deterrence of major attacks against the U.S. and its allies, including those that "may not come in the form of nuclear weapons."

Known officially as a nuclear posture review, and customarily done at the outset of a new administration, the report drew blistering criticism from arms control groups.

"President Trump is embarking on a reckless path — one that will reduce U.S. security both now and in the longer term," said Lisbeth Gronlund, a senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists. She said the administration is blurring the line between nuclear and conventional war-fighting.

The Trump administration concluded that the U.S. should largely follow its predecessor's blueprint for modernizing the nuclear arsenal, including new bomber aircraft, submarines and land-based missiles. It also endorsed adhering to existing arms control agreements, including the New START treaty that limits the United States and Russia each to 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads on a maximum of 700 deployed launchers.

The treaty, negotiated under President Barack Obama, entered into force on Feb. 5, 2011, and its weapons limits must be met by Monday. The U.S. says it has been in compliance with the limits since August and it expects the Russians to comply by Monday's deadline. As of Sept. 1, the last date for which official figures are available, Russia was below the launcher limit but slightly above the warhead limit, at 1,561.

"Moscow has repeatedly stated its intention to meet those limits on time, and we have no reason to believe that that won't be the case," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Thursday.

The Pentagon's nuclear review concluded that while arms control can advance American interests, "further progress is difficult to envision," in light of what the U.S. considers Russia's aggression in Ukraine and violations of existing arms deals. Administration officials briefed Russian and Chinese officials Friday prior to the review's public release.

The Trump nuclear doctrine breaks with Obama's in ending his push to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. defense policy. Like Obama, Trump would consider using nuclear weapons only in "extreme circumstances," while maintaining a degree of ambiguity about what that means. But Trump sees a fuller deterrent role for these weapons, as reflected in the plan to develop new capabilities to counter Russia in Europe.

The administration's view is that Russian policies and actions are fraught with potential for miscalculation leading to an uncontrolled escalation of conflict in Europe. It specifically points to a Russian doctrine known as "escalate to de-escalate," in which Moscow would use or threaten to use smaller-yield nuclear weapons in a limited, conventional conflict in Europe in the belief that doing so would compel the U.S. and NATO to back down.

"Recent Russian statements on this evolving nuclear weapons doctrine appear to lower the threshold for Moscow's first-use of nuclear weapons," the review said.

The administration proposes a two-step solution.

First, it would modify "a small number" of existing long-range ballistic missiles carried by Trident strategic submarines to fit them with smaller-yield nuclear warheads. John Rood, the undersecretary of defense for policy, declined to provide an estimate of the cost, saying it would be partially included in the 2019 budget that will be submitted to Congress later this month. He said the missile would be fielded "in the near term," but he refused to be more specific.

Second, "in the longer term," the administration would develop a nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile — re-establishing a weapon that existed during the Cold War but was retired in 2011 by the Obama administration.

Robert Soofer, a senior nuclear policy official at the Pentagon who helped direct the policy review, said Moscow is likely to push back on the U.S. plan for fielding those two additional weapons.

"I'm sure they won't respond well," Soofer said Thursday.

The press secretary at the Russian Embassy in Washington, Nikolay Lakhonin, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Associated Press writer Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

Not all details in GOP memo help undercut Mueller probe

By ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his supporters are using a congressional memo alleging FBI surveillance abuse to raise questions about the origins of a federal investigation into his campaign's ties to Russia. But the four-page document includes revelations that might complicate the effort to undermine special counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing probe.

The document contends that the FBI relied excessively on an ex-British spy whose opposition research was funded by Democrats when it applied for a surveillance warrant on a Trump campaign associate. Yet it also says the investigation into potential Trump ties to Russia actually began several months earlier — "triggered," it says, by information involving a separate campaign aide.

The spy who compiled the allegations admitted to having strong anti-Trump sentiments, but he was not a random find for the bureau. Rather, he was a "longtime FBI source" with a credible track record, says the memo from the House intelligence committee's Republican chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, and his staff.

The warrant authorizing the FBI to monitor the communications of campaign adviser Carter Page? Approved by a judge on four occasions, according to the memo, and signed off on by Trump's hand-picked deputy attorney general, Rod Rosenstein.

Without the underlying materials being made public, the memo only further intensified a partisan battle over how to interpret the actions of the FBI and Justice Department during the early stages of the counterintelligence investigation Mueller later inherited.

"Having decided to cherry-pick, the Nunes team picked a bunch of the wrong cherries for its own narrative," Matthew Waxman, a Columbia University professor and former Bush administration official, wrote in an email.

The memo, released over the objections of the FBI and Justice Department, could well give Trump and Republicans new grounds to challenge the Mueller investigation as politically tainted. Even before its declassification Friday, Trump had been telling confidants he believed the document would validate his concerns that the FBI and Justice Department conspired against him.

The central allegation is that agents and prosecutors, in applying in October 2016 to monitor the communications of campaign adviser Carter Page, concealed from a judge that a former spy whose findings had provided grounds for suspicion had been funded by Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

That omission is important, Republicans say, because a judge should have known that "political actors" were involved in allegations that led the Justice Department to believe Page might be an agent of a foreign power — something he has consistently and strenuously denied.

Research from former spy Christopher Steele, according to the memo, "formed an essential part" of the application to receive the warrant, though it's unclear how much or what information he collected was included in the application, or how much has been corroborated.

Steele's opposition research effort was initially funded by the conservative Washington Free Beacon. It was later picked up by the Clinton campaign and the DNC through a Washington law firm.

The FBI this week expressed "grave concerns" about the memo and called it inaccurate and incomplete. Democrats called it a set of cherry-picked claims aimed at smearing law enforcement and said its release will do long-term damage to the law enforcement and intelligence communities.

For one thing, Democrats say, it's misleading to say a judge was not told of the potential political motivations of the people paying for Steele's research.

Beyond that, though, the memo confirms the FBI's counterintelligence investigation into the Trump campaign began in July 2016 — months before the surveillance warrant was even sought — and was "triggered" by information concerning a different campaign aide, George Papadopoulos. Papadopoulos pleaded guilty last year to lying to the FBI and is cooperating with Mueller's investigation.

The timing makes clear that other Trump associates beyond Page, who was part of the election effort for only a short period and was not in the president's inner orbit, had generated law enforcement scrutiny. The memo also omits that Page had been on the FBI's radar just a few years earlier as part of a separate counterintelligence investigation into Russian influence.

Though the memo focuses on Page, intelligence committee Democrats wrote in a response, "this ignores the inconvenient fact that the investigation did not begin with, or arise from Christopher Steele or the dossier, and that the investigation would persist on the basis of wholly independent evidence had Christopher Steele never entered the picture."

Other details in the memo could also challenge Republican claims of bias. The warrant requested in October 2016 was subsequently renewed on three additional occasions, meaning that judges approved it four times. And one of the Justice Department officials who approved it was Rosenstein, a Trump appointee.

Trump, who lambasted the FBI and Justice Department on Twitter, was asked later in the day if he was more likely to fire Rosenstein and if he still had confidence in him. The president simply said, "You figure that one out."

Though the document had been classified, since it deals with warrants obtained from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the White House declassified it Friday and sent it to Nunes for immediate release.

The disclosure of the document is extraordinary since it involves details about surveillance of Americans, national security information the government regards as among its most highly classified. Its release is likely to further escalate an intra-government conflict that has divided the White House and Trump's hand-picked law enforcement leaders.

Rosenstein and FBI Director Christopher Wray had personally lobbied against the memo's disclosure, arguing it could set a dangerous precedent.

The memo's release also comes amid an ongoing effort by Trump and congressional Republicans to discredit Mueller's investigation, which focuses not only on whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia but also on whether the president sought to obstruct justice.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Jill Colvin, Catherine Lucey, Matthew Daly, Desmond Butler and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

Marines seek young, tough recruits in Super Bowl ad

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time in 30 years, the U.S. Marine Corps will be airing an ad during a Super Bowl, using an online-only spot Sunday to target a young, tough, tech-savvy audience for potential recruits who are looking for a challenge.

The high-powered, battle-heavy, 30-second ad shows Marines deploying off ships in amphibious vehicles, dropping bombs from aircraft and hurling a shoulder-launched drone into the air.

"It's not just the ships, the armor or the aircraft. It's something more. It's the will to fight and determination to win found inside each and every Marine that answers a nation's call," the announcer says, as the camera follows a squad of Marines storming off helicopters into a mock firefight while explosions erupt around them.

The goal, said Maj. Gen. Paul Kennedy, head of the Marine Corps Recruiting Command, is to reach a key demographic — young men and women who have faced and conquered challenges in their life, probably played combat sports like wrestling or rugby, and have a bit of that fighting spirit.

Network television viewers of the game won't see the Marine spot. But those watching through online streaming services — which charge a fraction of the advertising price — will see it twice.

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"I'm not trying to enlist fathers or mothers, I'm trying to enlist 18 to 24 year olds," said Kennedy. "And they tend to be cord cutters. They take in entertainment differently and they tend to do it on a device rather than a television."

The Marine Corps would not provide the exact cost because the specific pricing is proprietary. But the online ad represents a savings of nearly 85 percent over the broadcast price. Thirty-second slots are going for more than \$5 million for broadcast airtime alone. And the online ad — which can be viewed on www.marines.com — is expected to reach more than 20 million viewers.

As the military services struggle to meet recruitment goals in these times of low unemployment, they are competing for many of the same young people — physically fit high school graduates who can score 50 or higher on the military's aptitude test.

The Marine Corps is on target to meet its recruitment goal of about 38,000 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. But recruiters have historically found that the months of February through May are the toughest for finding new enlistments. By this time, many high school seniors have decided what they will do, or what college they will attend.

So Kennedy is hoping the ad will reach some who may still be open to serving in the Marine Corps. Targeting the streaming broadcast has now become a more effective option as viewership online grows, he said, and is the best way to reach more young people while spending less money.

"I don't have unlimited funds," he said. "And this is probably the most-watched event, as we move into the toughest months of recruiting."

The visuals in the ad, he said, go to the heart of what Marines do, deliberately focusing on the fight rather than some of the intangibles such as the potential for paid college tuition, bonuses or other incentives. And they are designed to attract people who are tough and resilient — key words the Marines use repeatedly to describe the force.

The battle scenes were filmed on the West Coast with actual Marines participating in a military exercise called Dawn Blitz in order to show more realistic scenarios. The ad also shows Marines deployed on the USS Essex, an amphibious assault ship, which was off the California coast for training, to mimic a deployment near the shores of an adversary.

"This ad talks to the fighting spirit of young people that have come up through high school," Kennedy said. "We want young, tough, smart warriors that want to continue to seek challenges, and we're seeking them from men and women from all walks of life."

What the GOP memo says (and doesn't say)

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After more than a week of partisan bickering and social media-fueled buildup, the #releasethememo crowd got their wish.

President Donald Trump declassified it. The GOP majority of the House intelligence committee released it. And the public dissection of the four-page, GOP-authored document began.

Here are a few key takeaways:

WHAT'S THE GIST?

The memo makes a series of allegations of misconduct on the part of the FBI and the Justice Department in obtaining a warrant under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, to monitor former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser Carter Page.

Specifically, it takes aim at the FBI's use of information from a former British spy, Christopher Steele, who compiled a collection of memos containing several allegations of ties between Trump, his associates and Russia.

The memo says the FBI and the Justice Department didn't tell the FISA court enough about Steele's role in an opposition research effort. The research was funded by Democrat Hillary Clinton through a Washington law firm.

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The document also takes aim at several senior FBI and Justice Department officials. Among them is former Associate Deputy Attorney General Bruce Ohr, who it says knew of Steele's anti-Trump leanings and whose wife worked at the firm behind the opposition research effort.

WHAT'S NEW?

The memo provides the first formal government confirmation of the secret FISA warrant and that Page was the person being monitored.

Information like that is ordinarily considered among the most tightly held national security information, and it almost never gets released to the public.

Though the memo takes issue with the FBI's methods, it also confirms that the FBI and Justice Department believed there was probable cause that Page was acting as an agent of a foreign power and a judge agreed — four times over.

The memo fills in the timeline of the Russia investigation, showing that Page was under surveillance for months.

According to the memo, the Justice Department and FBI obtained the FISA warrant on Page on Oct. 21, 2016, and then had it reauthorized three additional times.

Given that FISA warrants must be renewed every 90 days, the memo indicates that the government monitored Page's communications for nearly a year.

IT STARTED WITH PAPADOPOULOS

The whole Russia investigation, that is.

According to the memo, information about former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos "triggered the opening of an FBI counterintelligence investigation in late July 2016."

That's significant because Trump and his allies in the GOP have tried to undermine the Russia investigation by saying it all stems from the Steele dossier.

The memo doesn't provide further details about the information the FBI received about Papadopoulos. But it appears to confirm in part reporting by The New York Times late last year that FBI concerns about Papadopoulos started the investigation.

Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI last year. Court papers show he had several contacts with people representing themselves as being tied to the Russian government starting in the spring of 2016.

Court papers show that Papadopoulos learned the Russians had "dirt" on Hillary Clinton in the form of "thousands of emails" prior to that information becoming public.

THE FBI DID USE INFORMATION FROM STEELE, THOUGH

The memo says Steele's collection of reports "formed an essential part" of the FISA application for Page, but it doesn't specify exactly what information was used or how much.

It also says that the FISA application relied on a September 2016 Yahoo News article, and claims that the information in the article also came from Steele.

The document quotes former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe as telling the House intelligence committee in December that "no surveillance warrant would have been sought" from the FISA court "without the Steele dossier information."

According to the memo, the application also included "Steele's past record of credible reporting on other unrelated matters."

NO UNDERLYING INFORMATION RELEASED

The accuracy of the memo is hard to assess because the majority of the underlying contents are classified or confidential.

The memo cites an initial FISA warrant application — a document which usually has dozens of pages — as well as three additional renewals by the court. None of those documents are public.

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The same is true of the transcripts of the committee's closed-door interviews with McCabe and other senior FBI officials who had contact with Steele.

On Friday, the committee's ranking Democrat, Rep. Adam Schiff of California, took issue with the memo's characterization of McCabe's comments, saying the former FBI deputy director was speaking generally about how any FISA application relies on "each and every component" included.

But the committee's chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes of California, said late Friday on Fox News the description of McCabe's comments is "a summation of a long interview and that's definitely what he said." He noted that other witnesses have said "similar things."

'MINIMALLY CORROBORATED'

It's been a burning question ever since the dossier was published by BuzzFeed News last year: How much did the FBI corroborate?

According to the memo, not much at the time the FBI obtained the FISA warrant on Page. The memo cites FBI Assistant Director Bill Priestap as saying FBI corroboration of the dossier was in its "infancy" when the court authorized the first FISA warrant.

It also says an "independent unit" in the FBI conducted a "source validation report" on Steele's reporting and found it "only minimally corroborated."

But without the underlying documents or transcripts of Priestap's testimony, it's hard to judge the accuracy of the memo's description.

Follow Chad Day on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/ChadSDay>

US stocks swoon, sending Dow down more than 650 points

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks slumped Friday, and the market suffered its worst week in two years, as fears of inflation and disappointing quarterly results from technology and energy giants spooked investors. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped by more than 650 points.

Bond yields rose and contributed to the stock market swoon after the government reported that wages grew last month at the fastest pace in eight years. The Dow had its worst decline since June 2016, while the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index had its biggest one-day percentage drop since September 2016.

"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 increase in bond yields hurts stocks in two ways: it makes it more expensive for companies to borrow money, and it also makes bonds more appealing to investors than riskier assets such as stocks.

Several major companies, including Exxon Mobil and Google's parent company, Alphabet, sank after reporting weak earnings. Apple fell on concerns about iPhone sales.

The sharp decline in stocks this week short-circuited a robust start to the year that was spurred by strong global economic growth, solid company earnings and lingering enthusiasm for the GOP tax overhaul. Even with the pullback, the major indexes are still up more than 3 percent this year.

The downturn also follows a long period of unprecedented calm in the market. Stocks haven't had a pullback of 10 percent or more in two years, and hit their latest record highs just one week ago.

The S&P 500 fell 59.85 points, or 2.1 percent, to 2,762.13. The index has lost 3.9 percent since hitting a record high a week ago.

The Dow lost 665.75 points, or 2.5 percent, to 25,520.96. The Nasdaq slid 144.92 points, or 2 percent, to 7,240.95. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 32.59 points, or 2.1 percent, to 1,547.27.

While interest rates are still low by historical standards, meaning borrowing is still relatively cheap for businesses and people, they've been rising more swiftly, and that's what has markets on edge.

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"The pace of rate increases is more important than the level," said Nate Thooft, senior portfolio manager at Manulife Asset Management.

The increase in rates has been driven by the prospect of stronger economic growth, and higher inflation, in the U.S. and abroad.

Bond prices declined again Friday, pushing yields higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, a benchmark for interest rates on many kinds of loans, including mortgages, climbed to 2.84 percent, the highest level in roughly four years. The rate was at 2.41 percent four weeks ago and 2.66 percent on Monday.

"Once we started going north of 2.5 percent, and you put that together with an overbought market, it had the ingredients of a sell-off, especially since January was so strong," said Jeff Zipper, regional investment strategist at U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management.

The S&P 500, which many index funds track, soared 5.6 percent in January, its biggest monthly gain since March 2016.

One concern for investors is that the Federal Reserve will respond to higher inflation by raising its key interest rate more quickly than expected. The government's latest job and wage data stoked those concerns Friday.

U.S. employers added a robust 200,000 jobs in January, slightly above market expectations for an 185,000 increase. Meanwhile wages rose sharply, 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.

That's good news for Main Street USA, but not for Wall Street. Some economists were predicting Friday that the central bank will raise its benchmark rate four times this year, rather than the three times most previously expected.

The market slide may have been overdue, particularly after the strong start for stocks this year where the S&P 500 had its best January in two decades. Some investors saw a potential buying opportunity.

The global economy is still strong, corporate profits and sales have been better than expected this reporting season and buyers for stocks still remain, all reasons to be optimistic about stocks, said Nate Thooft, senior portfolio manager at Manulife Asset Management.

"It's appealing, these 2 to 3 percent pullbacks," said Thooft, who had been trimming some of his stock holdings after the market's big January gains. "We look at this and say, 'Maybe it's your first day to buy a little bit.'"

While earnings overall have been strong, some big companies have posted disappointing results.

Google's parent company Alphabet slumped 5.3 percent after the search giant reported results that missed analysts' forecasts. The stock slid \$62.39 to \$1,119.20.

Exxon Mobil dropped 5.1 percent, while Chevron lost 5.6 percent after the oil companies' latest quarterly results fell short of forecasts. Shares in Exxon shed \$4.54 to \$84.53. Chevron gave up \$6.99 to \$118.58.

Apple declined 4.3 percent after the technology company said it sold 77.3 million iPhones in the last quarter, below the 80 million analysts expected. The stock slid \$7.28 to \$160.50.

Traders welcomed Amazon's latest results. The e-commerce giant rose 2.9 percent after its fourth-quarter profit increased by more than \$1 billion. Amazon shares gained \$39.95 to \$1,429.95.

Oil futures declined. Benchmark U.S. crude slid 35 cents, or 0.5 percent, to settle at \$65.45 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell \$1.07, or 1.5 percent, to close at \$68.58 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline fell 2 cents to \$1.87 a gallon and heating oil fell 4 cents to \$2.05 a gallon. Natural gas slipped 1 cent to \$2.85 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold fell \$10.60 to \$1,337.30 an ounce. Silver dropped 45 cents to \$16.71 an ounce. Copper lost 2 cents to \$3.19 a pound.

The dollar rose to 110.28 yen from 109.42 yen on Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.2451 from \$1.2502.

Major stock indexes in Europe also declined Friday. Germany's DAX slid 1.7 percent, while France's CAC 40 lost 1.6 percent. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares gave up 0.6 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.

AP Business Writer Stan Choe in New York contributed to this report.

Calls for change grow amid capitol sexual misconduct claims

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

An Arizona lawmaker who repeatedly harassed women has become the first since the swell of the #MeToo movement to get kicked out of office by colleagues but likely will not be the last to face repercussions amid intensifying scrutiny of sexual misconduct in state legislatures.

The heightened focus on harassment and misconduct has led to growing calls for change in a year that already has seen an unusually large number of women expressing interest in running for office.

"This conduct perpetuates the good-old-boys culture all too familiar to women in workplaces across the nation," said Ohio state Rep. Teresa Fedor, one of several female Democratic lawmakers who called this week for the resignation of Republican Rep. Bill Seitz because of offense remarks. "Women and men deserve better, not more of the same tired excuses. It's time for a change."

With his expulsion on Thursday, Arizona Rep. Don Shooter became the 15th state lawmaker to leave office since the start of 2017 (the others resigned) after being accused of sexual misconduct. About 20 others have faced lesser consequences, ranging from forced apologies to suspensions to the loss of powerful leadership posts, according to a state-by-state review by The Associated Press.

Sexual harassment investigations are ongoing against other state lawmakers, including in California, Hawaii, Kentucky and Oregon. On Friday, the Democratic leaders of the California Assembly and Senate released records that show four current lawmakers have faced such complaints since 2006, although none was formally disciplined. They include a 2017 allegation against a female lawmaker, Democratic Assemblywoman Autumn Burke, who later took responsibility for engaging in sexually charged banter.

The issue is already beginning to resonate in election campaigns. Women have stepped forward as candidates in five of the eight upcoming elections across the nation to replace lawmakers who resigned amid sexual misconduct allegations.

In California, a former legislative staffer who says she was aware that a co-worker was being sexually harassed is now running for the lawmaker's seat. The alleged incident happened years ago when former Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra was serving as chief of staff for another lawmaker. Bocanegra resigned in November amid multiple allegations.

Yolie Anguiano said she decided to run for Bocanegra's seat in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley after the allegations surfaced and that she regrets not speaking up at the time about what she knew. Anguiano said she was fearful of retaliation and believes electing more women is critical to addressing issues such as health care and education.

"I want to have that seat at the table to bring up these policy issues but also to hold those folks who are hurting other people, whether they are men and women, to hold them accountable," she said.

In Oklahoma, Amber Jensen, a Democrat who represents a rural part of the state, is running to replace former state Sen. Bryce Marlatt, who resigned in September after being charged with sexual battery stemming from an incident with an Uber driver. Jensen said she attended last year's women's march in Oklahoma City and was inspired to see so many women stepping forward.

"I feel like a woman's voice is missing from the very conversations that affect all women," Jensen said. "I am tired of men making decisions for women."

In what could be a historic election, many women have said they plan to run for office this year for the first time at all levels of government, from statehouses to Congress. That is driven largely by Democratic frustration over the election of President Donald Trump, but the #MeToo movement also is playing a role.

Experts say lawmaker resignations and retirements can provide an opportunity for women, because it's easier for a political newcomer to be competitive in an open seat rather than challenging an incumbent

with name recognition and a stockpile of campaign cash.

"When the issue is sexual harassment and men behaving very badly, it also opens up a window for a woman candidate," said Debbie Walsh, who leads the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. "Whether it's true or not, women are perceived to be more ethical and honest and far less likely to behave in the manner that these lawmakers did."

Some men also are citing accusations of sexual misconduct against male lawmakers as part of their impetus for mounting electoral challenges this year.

Brian Kent Strow, an economics professor at Western Kentucky University, said he was frustrated when negotiations to fix the state's multi-billion public pension debt fell apart last fall following reports that four Republican lawmakers had secretly signed a sexual harassment settlement. One of those lawmakers was Rep. Michael Meredith, Strow's representative and someone he had voted for in the past.

When the daughter of one of Meredith's Republican colleagues subsequently accused the lawmaker of sending her inappropriate Facebook messages, Strow decided to challenge Meredith in the Republican primary.

"That made me upset, that the real business of the state would get sidetracked because people were misbehaving personally," said Strow, adding: "I had basically had enough."

Meredith declined to comment Friday about the accusations or his re-election bid.

Associated Press writers Adam Beam in Frankfort, Kentucky, Bob Christie in Phoenix and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

An earlier version of this report had an incorrect spelling of Amber Jensen's last name.

Prosecutors: Gun went off in girl's backpack at LA school

By AMANDA LEE MYERS and MIKE BALSAMO, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A semi-automatic handgun went off accidentally inside the backpack of a 12-year-old girl in a Los Angeles middle school classroom, sending a single bullet tearing through the wrist of another girl before hitting a boy in the head, police said Friday.

Los Angeles police spokesman Josh Rubenstein said detectives are trying to figure out where the girl got the gun, which was unregistered, and why she brought it to school. It wasn't clear what made it fire.

The girl, who was taken into custody minutes after the shooting, has retained an attorney and isn't answering questions, Rubenstein said. She is expected to be arraigned Monday on two felony charges, including being a minor in possession of a firearm and having a weapon on school grounds, prosecutors said.

Jordan Valenzuela, a 12-year-old classmate of the girl's, told The Associated Press that he was in the room next door when the gun went off and talked to her minutes later.

"She was crying," Jordan said. "She was like, '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.'"

Jordan said he saw a hole in the backpack, which the girl was holding, when she asked him to hide the gun for her.

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

The shooting sent children screaming and crying from the classroom as blood poured from the two students who were hit. Police descended on the school, which was put on lockdown, and the girl was arrested without incident.

Terrified parents rushed to the campus and waited for hours to be reunited with their children. Once they did, many children and parents sobbed as they hugged, walking from the school as they held each other.

The 15-year-old boy who was hit in the head with a bullet initially was in critical condition.

A spokesman at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center where the children were being treated didn't respond to messages about his condition Friday, though a doctor treating the boy said he expected him to make a full recovery.

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The wrist wound to the 15-year-old girl was considered minor. Three others had superficial face or head injuries, some from broken glass.

A review of shootings nationwide by The Associated Press and USA TODAY Network found that at least 141 deaths of minors were attributed to unintentional or accidental shootings in 2015.

Most accidental shootings involve someone actually handling firearms, as opposed to guns getting dropped, said Pete Gagliardi, a former longtime agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. "It's pretty rare to hear about an incident like this," Gagliardi said of Thursday's shooting.

He said the gun wouldn't necessarily had to have been cocked to go off in the girl's backpack, but mostly likely would have had to have become entangled with something inside the bag for the trigger to have been pressed.

A strikingly similar shooting to Thursday's happened just south of Los Angeles in Gardena on Jan. 18, 2011, when a gun went off inside a 17-year-old boy's backpack after he set it on a desk, wounding two students with one bullet, including a girl who was shot in the head.

The teen was convicted of possessing and discharging a firearm in a school zone. He was sentenced to nine months in juvenile camp and put on probation until he turned 21.

The Los Angeles Unified School 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.

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

Arizona man who sold ammo to Las Vegas shooter is charged

By JACQUES BILLEAUD, Associated Press

CHANDLER, Ariz. (AP) — An Arizona man who sold ammunition to the gunman who carried out the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history was charged Friday with manufacturing armor-piercing bullets, according to court documents.

Unfired armor-piercing bullets found inside the Las Vegas hotel room where Stephen Paddock launched the Oct. 1 attack had the fingerprints of ammunition dealer Douglas Haig, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court in Phoenix. It says Haig didn't have a license to manufacture armor-piercing ammunition.

Haig has acknowledged selling 720 rounds of tracer ammunition to Paddock in the weeks before the shooting that killed 58 people. Tracer bullets contain a pyrotechnic charge that illuminates the path of fired bullets so shooters can see whether their aim is correct.

The criminal charge involves another type of ammunition — armor-piercing bullets.

The documents don't say if any ammunition tied to Paddock was used in the attack. Las Vegas police wouldn't say whether armor-piercing bullets were used in the shooting but referred to a preliminary report saying some rifle magazines were loaded with armor-piercing ammunition.

Haig, a 55-year-old aerospace engineer who sold ammunition as a hobby for about 25 years, was charged 35 minutes before holding a news conference where he said he didn't notice anything suspicious when he sold the tracer rounds to Paddock.

Haig told investigators that when Paddock bought the ammunition at his home in suburban Phoenix, Paddock went to his car to get gloves and put them on before taking the box from Haig, the complaint said.

"I had no contribution to what Paddock did," Haig told reporters earlier Friday, adding that there was nothing unusual about the type or quantity of ammunition the shooter bought. "I had no way to see into his mind."

A phone message left for Haig's attorney, Marc Victor, wasn't immediately returned.

The two armor-piercing bullets found in Paddock's hotel room with Haig's fingerprints had an "incendiary capsule" on their noses, the documents said. A forensic analysis of those two bullets had tool marks

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consistent with the equipment in Haig's backyard workshop, according to the complaint.

It also alleges that FBI agents searching Haig's home on Oct. 19 found armor-piercing ammunition.

The complaint said Haig sold such bullets in more than 100 instances to customers across the United States, including Nevada, Texas, Virginia, Wyoming and South Carolina.

He appeared in court Friday and was released under the condition he not possess guns or ammunition. If convicted, he could face up to five years in prison and a fine as high as \$250,000.

Haig and his business partner, whose name wasn't provided, sold 40 to 50 rounds of incendiary rounds to Paddock in late August at a Las Vegas gun show, according to the complaint.

The next month, Haig said he met Paddock at a Phoenix gun show and that he was well-dressed and polite.

He didn't have the quantity of tracer ammunition on hand that Paddock was seeking, so Paddock contacted him several days later and lined up a sale at Haig's home.

Haig said he was shocked and sickened when a federal agent informed him of the massacre 11 hours after it unfolded.

Haig's lawyer said they held the news conference in a bid to protect his reputation after he was revealed earlier this week to be a "person of interest" in the investigation. Haig's identity emerged by mistake after his name was not redacted in court documents.

A law enforcement official previously told The Associated Press that investigators don't believe Haig had any involvement or knowledge of the planned attack when he sold ammunition to Paddock. The official wasn't authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Haig arose in the investigation when a box with his name and address was found in the Mandalay Bay hotel suite where Paddock opened fire on a music festival below.

He gave the box to Paddock to carry the 720 rounds of tracer ammunition from the sale.

Haig said Paddock told him that "he was going to go out to the desert to put on a light show, either with or for his friends. I can't remember whether he used the word 'with' or 'for.' But he said that he was going out at night to shoot it with friends."

Haig, who has closed his ammunition business, said he has received unwanted media attention and death threats since his name was released.

The FBI didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives referred questions to the U.S. attorney's office in Las Vegas, which declined to comment.

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles and Regina Garcia Cano in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

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Trump says Russia-probe memo proves bias; Dems say no

By ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump declassified a top-secret congressional memo Friday and suggested it proved the investigation of his presidential campaign and Russia was fatally flawed from the start. Democrats said the document did nothing to clear him or his campaign, and the FBI called the memo inaccurate and incomplete.

Butting heads just as they had before the memo's release, Trump and his critics stuck to the positions they had staked out in the weeks leading up to the hotly disputed release of the memo prepared by Republicans on the House intelligence committee. The memo makes their case — and Trump's — that politically motivated abuses in the early stages of the FBI's investigation made it worse than worthless.

The Democrats, having none of it, said the four-page memo merely cherry-picks Republican talking points

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in an effort to smear law enforcement and undercut the current federal investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. Rep. Adam Schiff, the committee's top Democrat, said the GOP document "mischaracterizes highly sensitive classified information" and its release "will do long-term damage to the intelligence community and our law enforcement agencies."

The memo's central premise is that the FBI relied excessively on anti-Trump research funded by Democrats in seeking a warrant to monitor the communications of a Trump campaign associate and that federal authorities concealed the full details of who was paying for the information.

The disclosure of the document is extraordinary since it involves details about surveillance of Americans, national security information the government regards as among its most highly classified. Its release is likely to further escalate an intra-government conflict that has divided the White House and Trump's hand-picked law enforcement leaders.

Trump, who lashed out at the FBI and Justice Department Friday morning, refused to express confidence in Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller and is mentioned by name in the memo.

Asked if he was more likely to fire Rosenstein, and if he still had confidence in him, Trump retorted, "You figure that one out."

A senior White House official said later the administration expects Rosenstein to remain in his job.

Trump has been telling confidants he believed the memo would validate his concerns that the FBI and Justice Department conspired against him. Though the document had been classified since it deals with warrants obtained from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the White House declassified it Friday and sent it to the intelligence committee chairman, Republican Rep. Devin Nunes, for immediate release.

The development also comes amid an ongoing effort by Trump and congressional Republicans to discredit the investigation by Mueller that focuses not only on whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia but also on whether the president sought to obstruct justice. Republicans seized on the memo's allegations to argue that the FBI's investigation was politically biased.

The memo does not address obstruction questions that have led Mueller to express interest in interviewing Trump. But it does reveal the FBI investigation actually began in July 2016, months before the warrant was even sought, based on information involving a separate Trump aide, George Papadopoulos, who has already pleaded guilty to federal charges.

Mueller inherited the probe in May 2017. Four people have so far been charged in his investigation.

Trump said Friday of the information in the memo: "I think it's a disgrace. What's going on in this country, I think it's a disgrace."

Earlier in the day, he tweeted: "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."

The memo offered the first government confirmation that the FBI in October 2016 obtained a secret surveillance warrant on a Trump campaign associate, Carter Page, on the basis that agents believed he might be an agent of a foreign power —Russia. That warrant was signed off on multiple times, including by Rosenstein.

In a statement, Page, who served as a foreign policy adviser and came on the FBI radar in 2013 as part of a separate counterintelligence probe, said, "The brave and assiduous oversight by Congressional leaders in discovering this unprecedented abuse of process represents a giant, historic leap in the repair of America's democracy."

The memo asserts that opposition research conducted by a former British spy, Christopher Steele, "formed an essential part" of the initial application to receive the warrant. It's unclear how much or what information Steele collected was included in the application, or how much has been corroborated. Steele's research into Trump and Russia was compiled into a series of memos, or a dossier, containing salacious allegations.

The FBI routinely relies on multiple sources of information when it obtains surveillance warrants. And the memo makes clear that the FBI believed there was probable cause that Page was acting as an agent

of a foreign power and a judge agreed — four times over.

The Republicans argue that top Justice and FBI officials concealed relevant information from the court, namely the full details of Steele's motivations and funding.

Steele's opposition research effort was initially funded by the conservative Washington Free Beacon. It was later picked up by the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign and the Democratic National Committee through a Washington law firm. The memo says the FBI cut ties with Steele, a longtime source, for an improper disclosure to the media about his relationship with the bureau.

Democrats pushed back on multiple assertions from the memo, saying it was not accurate that the FBI had withheld from the court information about Steele's potential political motivations or those of the people who hired him. They say the memo ignores the fact the investigation did not begin with Steele.

Schiff, the top Democrat, said the memo had "cherry-picked" information from Andrew McCabe, who stepped down as FBI deputy director this week. The memo describes him as having told the committee that no surveillance warrant would have been sought without the dossier.

The memo release escalates a clash with the man Trump picked to lead the FBI, Christopher Wray, after firing James Comey as agency director. Wray had warned the White House that the declassification and release could set a dangerous precedent.

Comey weighed in on Twitter, calling the memo "dishonest and misleading" and saying it had "inexcusably exposed classified investigation of an American citizen. For what? DOJ & FBI must keep doing their jobs."

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Jill Colvin, Catherine Lucey, Matthew Daly and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report

Exiled ex-Maldives leader will seek presidency again

By **MOHAMED SHARUHAAN** and **JAYAMPATHY PALIPANE**, Associated Press

MALE, Maldives (AP) — The exiled former leader of the Maldives said he will mount a fresh challenge for the presidency this year after his conviction for abducting a judge was overturned by the country's Supreme Court. Government opponents in the archipelago nation's capital mounted a second straight night of street protests demanding the release of political prisoners whose convictions were also overturned.

President Yameen Abdul Gayoom had been set to run for re-election this year virtually unopposed, with all of his opponents either jailed or exiled.

But ex-President Mohammed Nasheed told The Associated Press in an interview Friday that the court's ruling means he will be eligible to 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 said from Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo.

Nasheed was jailed in 2015 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.

Thursday night's court ruling ordered the release and retrial of politicians opposed to Gayoom, saying their guilty verdicts were politically influenced. It was not immediately clear how retrials would affect the upcoming elections, but the opposition alliance declared that the ruling "effectively ends President Yameen's authoritarian rule."

Protesters late Friday and early Saturday converged on a prison in the capital of Male where the politicians are being held, demanding their immediate release, but police forced them to leave. They then moved to another location for a sit-in protest that was also broken up. Journalists were kept away from both events by police.

The demonstrations marked the second night of protests in the Maldives. After the court's ruling was made public, street celebrations by government opponents transformed into three hours of clashes with

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police, who used tear gas and their batons to break up the gatherings.

Maldives Attorney General Mohamed Anil said he raised government concerns about the ruling with the court's chief justice because the imprisoned politicians were convicted of offenses including terrorism, corruption, embezzlement and treason, said a government statement Friday.

"The attorney general stated that the administration has highlighted concerns over the consequences that may be presented in the immediate implementation of the court's ruling," the statement said.

The prosecutor general is examining cases to determine how best to comply with the ruling, the statement added.

The country's opposition alliance expressed fears that the non-implementation of the court order "could escalate to unrest and incite violence across the country." It called on the U.N., the European Union and neighboring countries to impress upon the government and security services to respect the Supreme Court ruling.

"The government of Maldives immediately resorted to using undue force against demonstrators celebrating the apex court's verdict. Opposition supporters were met with tear gas, arrests and direct police violence while calling on the government to implement the ruling," the opposition said in a statement.

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 end.

He said retrials 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 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.

Nasheed was sentenced to 13 years in prison after he was convicted of the abduction charge under the Maldives' anti-terror laws in a trial that was widely condemned by international rights groups.

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

Adeb was sentenced to 33 years in prison in 2016 on charges of 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.

Palipane reported from Colombo.

This version corrects that former President Mohammed Nasheed was sentenced in 2015, not 2013.

Big pay gains for US workers contribute to Wall St. sell-off

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pay raises, the U.S. economy's Achilles' heel in its long recovery from the Great Recession, finally showed signs of accelerating last month — a trend that fanned inflation fears and sent bond yields rising and stocks sinking.

Wages grew in January from a year ago at the fastest pace in eight years, evidence that low unemployment is forcing some employers to pay more to keep or attract workers. The question is whether the gains

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will endure and spread throughout the economy.

U.S. employers added a robust 200,000 jobs in January, and the unemployment rate stayed at a low 4.1 percent for the fourth straight month, the Labor Department said Friday. But investors saw the wage growth as cause for concern. Higher pay could help swell inflation and spur the Federal Reserve to quicken its pace of interest rate increases in coming months.

The 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.83 percent, from 2.79 percent before the jobs report was released. And the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 666 points, or 2.5 percent, partly on the prospect of sharply higher rates and partly on poor earnings reports from Google's parent company Alphabet, Exxon Mobil and Chevron.

"Everyone has been rooting for wage growth, but be careful what you wish for," said Josh Wright, chief economist at recruiting software company iCIMS.

Still, the jobs data point to an economy on solid footing, fueled by strong consumer spending and global growth. After nearly eight years of steady hiring, employers are increasingly competing for a narrower pool of workers. Raises stemming from Republican tax cuts and minimum wage increases in 18 states also likely boosted pay last month.

"Labor is becoming scarce, and employers have to work to find, retain and train employees," Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, said. "This is new for many employers."

Many economists credit the Fed's low-rate policies, including the measured pace of rate increases under Chair Janet Yellen, with stimulating enough growth to bolster hiring and wages. Yellen will be succeeded as Fed chair on Monday by Jerome Powell, a former investment banker and Fed governor.

In January, average hourly pay rose 9 cents to \$26.74, up 2.9 percent from a year earlier — the biggest gain since the recession ended eight years ago.

S.B. Cha, CEO of Kinestral, a company that makes high-tech windows that can be dimmed to reduce or block sunlight, said he has had to offer higher pay to attract new electrical and software engineers. Cha has ambitious plans to double his 130-person staff within two years.

But it's difficult to find enough workers in San Francisco, where the company is based, so he transferred its cloud computing operations to Salt Lake City. Yet now even Salt Lake City is becoming competitive. As a small company, Kinestral used to pay roughly 60 percent of what tech giants like Google paid. Now, Cha says, it has to pay closer to 80 percent and in some cases 90 percent.

"Every year, hiring gets tougher and tougher," Cha said.

Unemployment among African-Americans surged back up in January to 7.7 percent after having reached a record low of 6.8 percent in December. President Donald Trump, in his State of the Union and other recent speeches, had boasted of the low rate for African-Americans.

Average hourly pay jumped 3.4 percent in the past year in transportation and warehousing, which has benefited from the explosive growth of e-commerce. That's partly been driven by the online giant Amazon, which went on a hiring rampage last year, expanding its workforce by a breathtaking 66 percent — 225,000 jobs. That's more than the entire manufacturing industry added last year.

Still, factories enjoyed a good year and raised pay an average 3.3 percent. Leisure and hospitality firms, which include restaurants and hotels, increased pay 3.5 percent.

Restaurant cooks received the largest salary increase in the past year among the 84 occupations the company tracks, according to pay data compiled by Glassdoor, a job listing website.

With Americans more confident and spending more, restaurants are adding jobs and lifting wages. The industry added 31,000 jobs last month.

"We are finally seeing signs of a 'feel good' economy emerging with consumers able to kick up their heels again," Swonk said.

A measure of hourly wages that excludes managers rose 2.4 percent over the past year, more slowly than the broader figure. That suggests that managers and supervisors have received the biggest benefits.

Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan Chase, notes that very cold weather could have temporarily boosted pay last month. Frontline construction workers might have stayed home during the cold spell,

cutting into their pay, while salaried supervisors would have been paid either way.

But most economists think wage gains will keep rising. Walmart said in January that it would raise its minimum wage to \$11 an hour, from \$10, starting this month.

Cathy Barrera, chief economist at ZipRecruiter, said the low unemployment rate is bestowing other benefits on workers. Employers are hiring more people on a permanent full-time basis.

The number of part-time workers who would prefer full-time jobs has fallen nearly 15 percent in the past year. And temporary hiring has been flat for two months.

Jennifer Fitzgerald, CEO of Policygenius, an online insurance marketplace, is so desperate for workers that her New York City-based company is buying advertising on the New York subway and on San Francisco commuter trains.

The ads are intended in part to raise awareness among potential recruits. Policygenius recruiters also look for companies that are moving out of New York, or who have laid off workers and scour LinkedIn for potential hires from those companies.

"These are the kinds of creative strategies you need," Fitzgerald said.

Fired FBI director Comey slams GOP memo: 'That's it?'

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former FBI Director James Comey scorned the memo that was released by House Republicans after being declassified Friday by President Donald Trump, saying it doesn't add up to much. "That's it?" Comey said on Twitter.

"Dishonest and misleading memo wrecked the House intel committee, destroyed trust with Intelligence Community, damaged relationship with FISA court, and inexcusably exposed classified investigation of an American citizen. For what?" Comey wrote, adding: "DOJ & FBI must keep doing their jobs."

The tweet was the latest in a series from Comey this week as Trump clashed with the FBI over the release of the GOP-written memo. On Thursday, Comey stood up for the bureau's position against the document's disclosure and took 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 and Republicans on the House intelligence committee followed up on those attacks through the publication Friday of a GOP-authored memo that they say shows improper use of surveillance by the FBI in the initial stages of the investigation.

The FBI, Justice Department and Democrats furiously 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 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 prompted 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."

Follow Tucker and Day on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP> and <https://www.twitter.com/ChadSDay>

Rising numbers of lawmakers facing sexual misconduct claims

By The Associated Press

A growing number of state lawmakers across the country have been accused of sexual harassment or misconduct since the start of 2017, particularly since the #MeToo movement gained momentum last fall. Here's a look at those who have resigned, been expelled, faced other disciplinary consequences or had accusations made public about them since the start of 2017:

RESIGNED OR REMOVED FROM OFFICE

1. Alaska: Rep. Dean Westlake, submitted resignation letter Dec. 15 after being accused by several women of inappropriate behavior.
2. Arizona: Rep. Don Shooter, expelled from office Feb. 1 by an overwhelming House vote after an investigation substantiated a lengthy pattern of sexual harassment toward women, including a fellow lawmaker.
3. California: Assemblyman Matt Dababneh, resigned effective Jan. 1 after a lobbyist said he pushed her into a bathroom during a Las Vegas social event and engaged in lewd behavior in front of her.
4. California: Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra, resigned in November after allegations that he had kissed or groped multiple women without their consent.
5. Florida: Sen. Jack Latvala, resigned effective Jan. 5 following allegations of sexual misconduct raised by multiple women.
6. Minnesota: Sen. Dan Schoen, resigned effective Dec. 15 following several allegations from women.
7. Minnesota: Rep. Tony Cornish, resigned effective Nov. 30 following several allegations, including from a lobbyist who said he repeatedly propositioned her for sex.
8. Mississippi: Rep. John Moore, resigned in December after multiple women made complaints against him; the House speaker's office said he had been facing an investigation led by an outside lawyer.
9. Nevada: Sen. Mark Manendo, resigned in July after a law firm concluded that he violated the Legislature's anti-harassment policy and behaved inappropriately toward female staffers and lobbyists.
10. Ohio: Sen. Clifford Hite, resigned in October after being accused of sexually harassing a female state employee.
11. Oklahoma: Rep. Dan Kirby, resigned in February after two former assistants alleged he sexually harassed them, including one with whom he had reached a confidential wrongful-termination settlement that included a \$44,500 payment from House funds.
12. Oklahoma: Sen. Ralph Shortey, resigned in March and later pleaded guilty to a federal charge of child sex trafficking after being accused of hiring a 17-year-old boy for sex.
13. Oklahoma: Sen. Bryce Marlatt, resigned in September after being charged with sexual battery for allegedly groping an Uber driver who picked him up from a restaurant in the capital city.
14. South Dakota: Rep. Mathew Wollmann, resigned in January 2017 after admitting to sexual contact with two interns, which a legislative panel said was a violation of rules.
15. Tennessee: Rep. Mark Lovell, resigned in February as a House ethics panel concluded that he had violated the Legislature's sexual harassment policy.

OTHER ACTIONS

1. Alaska: Sen. David Wilson, placed on probation and disciplined in December by Senate leaders after a review found he engaged in retaliation as he defended himself against sexual harassment allegations.

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2. California: Sen. Tony Mendoza, agreed Jan. 3 to take a one-month paid leave of absence during an investigation into allegations that he behaved inappropriately with three young women who worked for him; he was later suspended by the Senate Rules Committee until the investigation concludes.

3. Colorado: Rep. Steve Lebsack, replaced Jan. 9 as chairman of the House Local Government Committee after allegations he sexually harassed a female lawmaker.

4. Illinois: Sen. Ira Silverstein, resigned in November as majority caucus chairman after a victims rights advocate publicly accused him of sending inappropriate messages to her; a legislative inspector general recommended in January that Silverstein receive counseling from the Senate's ethics officer but said his inappropriate comments did not constitute sexual harassment.

5. Kentucky: Sen. Julian Carroll, removed in July as the minority whip for Senate Democrats after he was accused of groping a man in 2005.

6. Kentucky: House Speaker Jeff Hoover, resigned from his leadership post Jan. 8 after secretly settling a sexual harassment complaint with a female legislative aide and acknowledging he sent inappropriate text messages to her.

7. Kentucky: Rep. Jim DeCesare, removed from a legislative committee chairmanship in November after signing a secret sexual harassment settlement.

8. Kentucky: Rep. Brian Linder, removed from a legislative committee chairmanship in November after signing a secret sexual harassment settlement.

9. Kentucky: Rep. Michael Meredith, removed from a legislative committee chairmanship in November after signing a secret sexual harassment settlement.

10. Massachusetts: Senate President Stan Rosenberg, stepped aside in December from his leadership position pending an investigation by an independent law firm. The firm is looking into whether he violated any rules following a media report alleging that his husband sexually abused several men, including some who had dealings with the Legislature.

11. New Mexico: Sen. Michael Padilla, ousted in December as Democratic majority whip by the caucus after decade-old allegations that he had sexually harassed women in a prior job. Padilla also dropped out of the lieutenant governor's race.

12. New York: Assemblyman Steven McLaughlin, formally sanctioned in November by a legislative ethics panel after allegations that he asked a female legislative staffer for nude photos and leaked her name when she filed a harassment complaint.

13. Ohio: Rep. Bill Seitz, compelled by the House speaker to issue a personal and public apology for reportedly making offensive remarks. Those included jokes he told about other recent sexual misconduct scandals during a Jan. 23 going-away party for a House staff member.

14. Ohio: Sen. Matt Huffman, issued a public apology for reportedly making offensive remarks, including a suggestive reference to female genitalia, during a Jan. 23 going-away party for a House staff member.

15. Oklahoma: Rep. Will Fourkiller, advised in February 2017 to get sensitivity training and blocked from interacting with the Legislature's page program for a year after being accused of making inappropriate comments to a high school page in 2015.

16. Oregon: Sen. Jeff Kruse, removed from committees in October and told in a letter from the Senate president not to touch women after new accusations that he had inappropriately touched female colleagues. He faces an ongoing Senate investigation.

17. Pennsylvania: Sen. Daylin Leach, announced in December that he will "step back" from his campaign for a congressional seat after allegations that he behaved inappropriately toward female employees and campaign aides. Also facing a call from Gov. Tom Wolf to resign.

18. Washington: Rep. Matt Manweller, resigned as assistant floor leader and was removed as ranking member of a House committee in December. Manweller also was placed on paid leave from his job as a political science professor at Central Washington University and barred from contacting past and present students while the university investigates allegations of sexual harassment against him.

19. Wisconsin: Rep. Josh Zepnick, removed from legislative committees in December after being accused

of kissing two women against their will at political events several years ago.

ALSO OF NOTE

1. California: Assemblywoman Autumn Burke, included in sexual misconduct complaint records released Feb. 2 for participating in an inappropriate discussion about anal sex. She was notified of the complaint in February 2017.
2. California: Assemblyman Travis Allen, included in sexual misconduct complaint records released Feb. 2 for being accused of inappropriately touching a female staff member in early 2013.
3. California: Sen. Bob Hertzberg, included in sexual misconduct complaint records released Feb. 2 for being accused of grabbing a female staff member, dancing and singing to her in 2015.
4. Idaho: Rep. James Holtzclaw, accused in a complaint of making inappropriate comments to at least two people during the 2017 session.
5. Hawaii: Rep. Joe Souki, subject of an Ethics Commission complaint of sexual harassment filed in fall 2017 by the former head of Hawaii's Department of Human Services for alleged actions that occurred three years ago.
6. New York: Sen. Jeff Klein, accused in January of sexual harassment in 2015 for allegedly forcibly kissing a former Independent Democratic Conference staff member who has asked for an investigation by the Joint Commission on Public Ethics.
7. Pennsylvania: Rep. Tom Caltagirone, facing calls by Gov. Tom Wolf to resign after reports that House Democrats authorized paying about \$250,000 to settle a sexual harassment claim from a legislative assistant against Caltagirone in 2015.
8. Rhode Island: Rep. Teresa Tanzi, publicly alleged in October that a more senior legislator had suggested that sexual favors would allow her bills to go further, but Tanzi has not publicly identified the lawmaker.
9. Florida: Sen. Jeff Clemens, resigned in October after an extramarital affair with a lobbyist. The House speaker had said that because a lobbyist is dependent on legislators, "the facts here raise a very real question of sexual harassment."
10. Kentucky: Rep. Dan Johnson killed himself in December, just days after being publicly accused of sexually assaulting a teenage girl in 2013.

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 smuggler's 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."

Initially, the Libyan coast guard said a patrol it sent out found no signs of a capsized boat, survivors, or drowned migrants. But late at night, it cited a statement from officials in Zuwara who said that 13 bodies had been found, all Pakistani except for one Libyan woman.

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.

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

Prominent baseball agent suggests spring training boycott

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A prominent baseball agent said players are angered over the slow free-agent market and suggested they consider boycotting spring training.

Brodie Van Wagenen, co-head of CAA Baseball, floated the idea in a statement released Friday, less than two weeks before spring training workouts are to start in Florida and Arizona. He also raised the possibility of a collusion grievance, as did another agent, Seth Levinson of Aces.

"The players are upset. No, they are outraged. Players in the midst of long-term contracts are as frustrated as those still seeking employment," Van Wagenen said. "I would suggest that testing the will of 1,200 alpha males at the pinnacle of their profession is not a good strategy for 30 men who are bound by a much smaller fraternity."

J.D. Martinez, Eric Hosmer, Mike Moustakas, Jake Arrieta, Yu Darvish, Alex Cobb, Greg Holland and Lance Lynn remain among the dozens of unsigned free agents.

"A boycott of spring training may be a starting point, if behavior doesn't change. Players don't receive their paychecks until the second week of April. Fine them? OK, for how much? Sue them? OK, they'll see you in court two years from now."

CAA represents more than 150 baseball players, including Robinson Cano, Yoenis Cespedes, Buster Posey, Shohei Ohtani, Adam Jones, Jacob deGrom and Noah Syndergaard.

Van Wagenen's free agents this offseason include Todd Frazier. Van Wagenen said he chose to speak out now because spring training was approaching.

"The sentiment that I'm hearing from players is that something radical may be necessary to show the other side there is unity and strength in their frustration," he said in a telephone interview.

Spring training workouts begin Feb. 14, but participation is voluntary until the mandatory reporting date on Feb. 24 — the day after major league spring training games are to start.

Levinson praised Van Wagenen and agreed with his conclusions.

"It is disconcerting, and disheartening for clubs that are awash in revenue and or are fully capable of improving its product to choose to do otherwise," he said. "Further, it is deeply troubling to encounter that almost all clubs are operating in a strangely similar fashion. There are no coincidences in a monopoly."

Large-market teams, including the Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees, are cutting payrolls to get under the \$197 million threshold for luxury tax payrolls.

"Every market's different. There's different players, different quality of players, different GMs, different decisions, new basic agreement, different agents who have particular prominence in a particular market in terms of who they represent," Commissioner Rob Manfred said Thursday. "Those factors and probably others that I can't tick off the top of my head have combined to produce a particular market this year. Just like there's been some markets where the lid got blown off in terms of player salary growth, I think I can honestly suggest that occasionally you're going to have some that are a little different, not quite as robust."

New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson, speaking to fans at Citi Field on Thursday, said analytics contributed to the slow pace of negotiations.

"Big data is the reason we've seen so little movement in the free-agent market, because as data becomes more pervasive in the game, as it has, it tends to narrow the range of different evaluations," he said. "The evaluations become much uniform."

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The average salary, according to the players' association, rose 3.3 percent last year to nearly \$4.1 million following an increase of just 0.35 percent in 2016, the lowest rise since 2004. The new collective bargaining agreement, the first since Tony Clark succeeded Michael Weiner as union head, added surtaxes to the competitive-balance tax and additional penalties for high payrolls, including lesser choices in the amateur draft.

"The CBT is designed to be a restraint on the spending of high-payroll clubs," Manfred said. "I think that the system, without singling out the CBT, actually is working pretty well in the sense that the standard deviation of our payrolls that are being projected next year has actually gone down significantly, suggesting that our payrolls are more compressed, top-down, the bottom-up, which we feel is important in terms of preserving the competitive balance in the game."

Clark issued a statement that did not address a boycott or a grievance.

"For decades free agency has been the cornerstone of baseball's economic system and has benefited players and the game alike," he said. "Each time it has been attacked, players, their representatives and the association have united to defend it. That will never change."

Baseball has enjoyed labor peace since a 7½-month strike in 1994-95 led to the first cancellation of the World Series in 90 years, and the labor contract runs through the 2021 season.

The players' association won three collusion grievances against the clubs for behavior toward free agents following the 1985-87 seasons, cases management settled for \$280 million. Van Wagenen, a former Stanford baseball player, says current behavior by teams "feels coordinated, rightly or wrongly."

"Many club presidents and general managers with whom we negotiate with are frustrated with the lack of funds to sign the plethora of good players still available, raising further suspicion of institutional influence over the spending," he said. "Even the algorithms that have helped determine player salaries in recent years are suggesting dramatically higher values than owners appear willing to spend."

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2018. There are 331 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 3, 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship SS Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo in the Labrador Sea; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived. (Four Army chaplains on board gave away their life jackets to save others and went down with the ship.)

On this date:

In 1690, the first paper money in America was issued by the Massachusetts Bay Colony to finance a military expedition to Canada.

In 1783, Spain formally recognized American independence.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, the same day an American cargo ship, the SS Housatonic, was sunk by a U-boat off Britain after the crew was allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1918, actor-comedian Joey Bishop, a member of Hollywood's legendary "Rat Pack," was born Joseph Abraham Gottlieb in the Bronx, New York.

In 1924, the 28th president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington, D.C., at age 67.

In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. (He died just over a month later.)

In 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa. An American Airlines Lockheed Electra crashed into New York's

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East River, killing 65 of the 73 people on board.

In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In 1972, the XI Olympic Winter Games opened in Sapporo, Japan.

In 1988, the U.S. House of Representatives handed President Ronald Reagan a major defeat, rejecting his request for \$36.2 million in new aid to the Nicaraguan Contras by a vote of 219-211.

In 1998, Texas executed Karla Faye Tucker, 38, for the pickax killings of two people in 1983; she was the first woman executed in the United States since 1984. A U.S. Marine plane sliced through the cable of a ski gondola in Italy, causing the car to plunge hundreds of feet, killing all 20 people inside.

Ten years ago: The New York Giants scored a late touchdown to win Super Bowl XLII, 17-14, ending the New England Patriots' run at a perfect season; Giants quarterback Eli Manning, who hit Plaxico Burress on a 13-yard fade with 35 seconds left, was named Most Valuable Player.

Five years ago: Eight people were killed when a tour bus crashed in San Bernardino County, California, while returning 38 tourists to Tijuana, Mexico. A fired Los Angeles police officer launched a revenge war on law enforcement and the families of those he blamed for ending his career, killing four people during a 6-day manhunt that ended with his apparent suicide at a cabin in San Bernardino County. The Baltimore Ravens survived a partial power outage during Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans to edge the San Francisco 49ers 34-31.

One year ago: President Donald Trump launched his long-promised attack on banking rules that were rushed into law after the nation's economic crisis, signing new orders after meeting with business and investment chiefs and pledging further action to free big banks from restrictions. Paris was plunged into panic — again — when soldiers guarding the Louvre Museum shot an attacker who lunged at them with two machetes and shouted "Allahu Akbar!" as the historic landmark went into lockdown; the suspect, believed to be Egyptian, was taken into custody.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., is 85. Football Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton is 78. Actress Bridget Hanley is 77. Actress Blythe Danner is 75. Singer Dennis Edwards is 75. Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese is 73. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 71. Singer Melanie is 71. Actress Morgan Fairchild is 68. Actress Pamela Franklin is 68. Actor Nathan Lane is 62. Rock musician Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) is 62. Actor Thomas Calabro is 59. Rock musician/author Lol Tolhurst (The Cure) is 59. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 57. Actress Michele Greene is 56. Country singer Matraca (muh-TRAY'-suh) Berg is 54. Actress Maura Tierney is 53. Actor Warwick Davis is 48. Actress Elisa Donovan is 47. Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is 42. Actress Isla (EYE'-luh) Fisher is 42. Musician Grant Barry is 41. Human rights activist Amal Clooney is 40. Singer-songwriter Jessica Harp is 36. Actor Matthew Moy is 34. Rapper Sean Kingston is 28. Actor Brandon Micheal (cq) Hall is 25.

Thought for Today: "Your friend will argue with you." — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian writer (1918-2008).

Riddle Answer: Glass