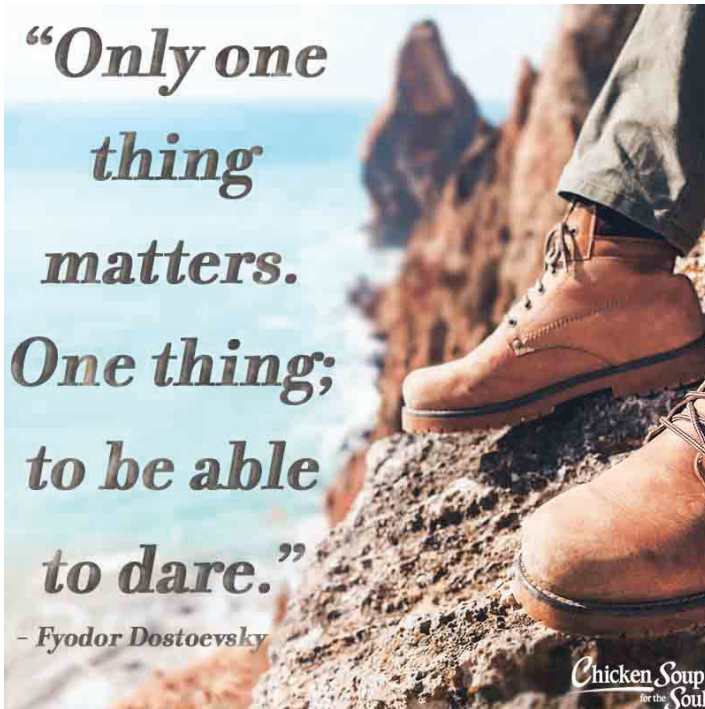


Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 1 of 45



- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Riddle of the Day
- 1- Frost Construction Ad
- 2- Two big rallies give Roncalli win over Groton Area
- 3- Cathy McNickle Announces Republican Candidacy for Brown County Auditor
- 3- McCrory Gardens Launches App
- 4- The Life of Joy Stiklesdtad
- 5- Farmers Union PSA
- 5- Secretary of State Sees 13 Percent Increase in Business Filings
- 6- SD State Fair Announces First Grandstand Act
- 7- Susan Wismer Week 4 Column
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- Today's Weather Info
- 10- National Weather Map
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

Riddle:

What goes up and never comes down?

Answer at end of AP News

FROST
CONSTRUCTION INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
605.290.1535
custom homes | remodels | additions

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

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is

Closed

Today's Events

Thursday, Feb. 8

Boys Junior High Basketball at Frederick. 7th Grade at 4p.m, 8th Grade at 5p.m

Friday, Feb. 9

Doubleheader at Warner. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5:15 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.

Two big rallies give Roncalli win over Groton Area



Eliza Wanner dribbles the ball around the Roncalli defense. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Two big runs by Aberdeen Roncalli put a halt on Groton's attempt to revive a win as the Cavaliers defeated Groton Area, 53-28. The game was played Tuesday in Groton.

Groton Area jumped out to a 10-5 lead before Roncalli would score 12 straight points to take a 17-10 lead. Groton Area led after the first quarter, 10-8, then trailed at half time, 28-16, and at the end of the third quarter, 41-23. Roncalli had an 11-point run in the fourth quarter.

The Cavaliers put up nearly twice as many shots, with many of them coming from offensive rebounds. In the first quarter, Groton Area was five of eight in shooting for 63 percent and Roncalli was three of 14 for 21 percent. In the second quarter, the Tigers were two of nine from the field for 22 percent and the Cavaliers were seven of 14 for 50 percent. Both teams shot 33 percent in the third quarter with Groton making three of nine and Roncalli four of 12. Both teams shot 14 percent in the fourth quarter with Groton making one of seven and Roncalli three of 21. For the game, Groton was 11 of 34 for 33 percent and Roncalli was 17 of 61 for 28 percent.

Jennie Doeden had 11 points before fouling out in the fourth quarter. Harleigh Stange added 10 points followed by Jessica Bjerke and Payton Maine with three each and Kaycee Hawkins added a free throw. Doeden had nine of Groton's 30 rebounds and two of Groton's three assists. Groton Area had four steals. Roncalli made 11 points off of Groton's 21 turnovers and Groton made two points off of Roncalli's six turnovers.

Grace Imbery led the Cavaliers with 16 points, Mariah Winegar had 14, Jami Ewart had four, Morgan Streier and Allison Dix each had three points and Jori Ewart had two.

Roncalli also won the junior varsity game.



The junior high band played for the crowd last night. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Cathy McNickle Announces Republican Candidacy for Brown County Auditor



Cathy McNickle is pleased to announce her candidacy for Brown County Auditor.

Cathy McNickle is born and raised in the county seat of Aberdeen where she currently resides with her husband, Murdock McNickle. Cathy has five years of auditing experience and currently works as an Accountant for the State of South Dakota. Formerly, Cathy worked as Deputy Brown County Auditor and her education includes a Bachelor Degree from the University of South Dakota. As an experienced accountant and auditor, Cathy will work hard to ensure the financial stability of Brown County. As an experienced public administrator, Cathy will ensure fair and impartial elections in Brown County.

"I am running for County Auditor because I want to serve the citizens, taxpayers, and voters of Brown County. I am passionate about public administration and look forward to serving you." – Cathy McNickle, Candidate for Brown County Auditor.

McCrary Gardens Launches App

BROOKINGS, S.D. - McCrary Gardens recently released a new interactive learning tool, the McCrary Gardens Explorer App. The mobile and web application was launched at the Third Thursday at the Gardens event on Jan. 18.

Made possible through a 3M Eco Grant, the user-friendly resource is an Internet application that provides the public with access to information about the gardens. Users can find plants, locate dedicated items, discover what plants are in bloom, and use an interactive map to explore the gardens or create a personalized tour. The app also links to reputable outside sources for more information.

"This app goes right along with our mission of connecting people and plants," said Christina Lind-Thielke, Assistant Gardener and Education Coordinator. "It supplements our educational programming and is a way to further connect youth with the garden."

So far information and GPS locations of 6,693 individual plants, representing 1,493 different types of trees, shrubs and perennials, is available. There are many more plants in the garden so information, locations and photos of plants will continually be added to the app.

The grant also funded a free education festival in spring 2017, transportation sponsorships for schools to facilitate field trips and 10 tablets that can be checked out from the front desk and used in the gardens.

McCrary Gardens is maintained by professional staff under the authority of South Dakota State University, with more than 25 acres of gardens and 45 acres of arboretum. The gardens are funded primarily by donations from the Friends of McCrary Gardens, admission fees, other special gifts, and endowment returns.

The app can be found at mccrorygardensexplorer.sdstate.edu.

The Life of Joy Stiklesdtad



Memorial services for Joy Stiklestad, 68, of Claremont will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 8th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Pastor Sara Sorenson will officiate. Burial will take place a later date.

Visitation will be held at the chapel for one hour prior to services on Thursday.

Joy passed away February 3, 2018 at Avera St. Lukes's Hospital, Aberdeen.

Joy Linn was born on December 22, 1949 in Britton to Arthur and Faith (Koch) Grupe. She attended school in Britton. On March 12, 1968, she was united in marriage with Larry Stiklestad at the Presbyterian Church in Groton. Together, they had two sons. When the boys were older, Joy began cooking at the Cozy Café in Groton and later at the Red Horse. She also drove bus for the Bristol School for many years. Joy went through seven years of kidney dialysis, before receiving a transplant in 2014. Her family is forever grateful for the extra years they had with Joy.

Joy was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Groton. She enjoyed outdoor activities of all kinds, including, fishing, camping, gardening, flowers and drives touring the countryside. She also like playing cards, word finds and entertaining friends with home cooked meals. Joy lived for her grandchildren and cherished the time spent with them. She also cared deeply for her dialysis family, often baking treats to share with the group. She made many lasting friendships during those seven years.

Celebrating her life is her husband of 49 years, Larry of Claremont, her sons, Michael (Kristi) Stiklestad of Pierpont and Lanny Stiklestad of Bowdle, her grandchildren: Lance Stiklestad, Heidi Stiklestad, Ryan Stiklestad and Mikayla Bonnet and her first great-granddaughter to be born in April. She is also survived by two brothers, Doug Grupe of Webster, Ed Grupe of Kansas, two brother-in-laws, Rick (Julie) Stiklestad of Minneota, Minnesota, Cliff (Lois) Stiklestad of Castlewood, her sister, Cytha Grupe of Britton, her sister-in-law, Tammie (Jeff) Higgins of Milan, Minnesota and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her in-laws, one sister, Patty Jones, two sister-in-laws, Pam Sticklestad and Linda Klemensen and brother-in-law, Butch Sticklestad.

Honorary Urn Bearers will be her grandchildren.

Secretary of State Sees 13 Percent Increase in Business Filings

PIERRE, S.D. – With the release of the fourth quarter business and economic data analysis report, Secretary of State Shantel Krebs announced that South Dakota ended the fourth quarter of 2017 with new business filings reaching the highest number since 2013.

The increase in entity filings were specifically domestic (in state) limited liability companies (LLCs). The Secretary of State's office perceives the 13.3 percent increase in 2017 was due to the new online business filing system the office implemented at the end of the 2016 calendar year.

"My goal when I took over this office in 2015 was to make it operate at the speed of business, not at the speed of government," stated Secretary Krebs. "We moved from paper filings that were over six weeks behind when I took office to an online service for today's fast-paced business world where you can form a business within 15 minutes and have your certificate in hand."

Of the LLCs that formed in calendar year 2017, 81 percent formed online utilizing the new system implemented by Secretary Krebs. The Secretary of State's business division expects that number to continue to increase in the coming months.

About the Northern State University Quarterly Report: The South Dakota Secretary of State's office partners with the Northern State University School of Business to compile a quarterly business and economic report for the state of South Dakota analyzing employment trends, business filings and income statistics.

One-page summary: 2017 Q4 Business & Economic Data Analysis - <https://sdsos.gov/docs/economic-report/2017Q4-EconomicReportSummary.pdf>

Full report: 2017 Q4 Business & Economic Data Analysis - <https://sdsos.gov/docs/economic-report/2017Q4-EconomicReportFull.pdf>



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")**

SD State Fair Announces First Grandstand Act

HURON, S.D. – The South Dakota State Fair and C&B Operations welcome classic rock and roll acts Foreigner and Night Ranger to the SD State Fair grandstand on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018.

With 10 multi-platinum albums and 16 top 30 hits, Foreigner is universally hailed as one of the most popular rock acts in the world with a formidable musical arsenal that continues to propel sold-out tours. Foreigner has been rocking the charts for more than 40 years and is responsible for some of rock and roll's most enduring anthems like "Juke Box Hero," "Cold as Ice," the world wide number one hit "I Want to Know What Love Is," and more.

Opening for Foreigner will be the guitar heavy, melodic hard rock of Night Ranger. With more than 17 million albums sold world wide and over 3,000 live shows performed, Night Ranger is proof that powerful songs, plus accomplished musicians is the perfect formula for continued success. Hits include instantly recognizable legends like "Sister Christian," "Don't Tell Me You Love Me," and more.

"We are excited for this first concert announcement. Foreigner and Night Ranger are a great rock and roll combination for Saturday night at the grandstand." said Peggy Besch, SD State Fair director.

Pre-sale on tickets will begin June 4 for backrest holders, followed by Friends of the Fair ticket sales on June 7. General public ticket sales will begin June 11.

The 2018 South Dakota State Fair will run from Thursday, Aug. 30 through Monday, Sept. 3. Channel Seeds Preview Night will be Wednesday, Aug. 29. This year's theme is "Experience the Magic." For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit www.sdstatefair.com or find them on Facebook or Twitter.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota's economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Susan Wismer Week 4 Column

I am forwarding a portion of some remarks I made last week on the House floor about Senate Joint Resolution 2, which was a bit of a history lesson on our state's laws that allow non-union employees to benefit from the advocacy unions provide. They seem pertinent in a broader context as well.

We are a state that struggles daily with workforce shortages. Why would we want to be gloating about the imbalance of power between employers and employees enabled by our state laws? This resolution sends the wrong message to our potential workforce. It isn't employers we're missing in this state. It's a workforce. We've chased them away with attitudes such as those expressed in this resolution. We have employers all over the state trying to fill their job openings. We've refused to compete with the rest of the country for our children and grandchildren. Generation after generation, we've sent them out of state to find a better life, and now we're spending millions of tax dollars to educate special niches of employees, and come up with other special programs that will encourage them to stay.

What does this resolution say to potential or current employees? What does it say to people who are struggling in their workplace with less than safe working conditions, or who have no recourse to address sexual harassment in the workplace? This resolution says we aren't interested in helping workers maintain a safe and fair workplace, and furthermore, we are darn proud that our state laws make it difficult for you to have no recourse within your grasp.

In this resolution, we are bragging about working conditions that many workers feel are unfair to them. This resolution may make some employers feel good in this election year. But many current and potential employees are also our audience. They are making decisions about whether or not to take a job in our communities; they are young people who have seen their parents scrape by with both parents working; they are potential workers who have seen their co-workers mistreated with no recourse.

Now I am not a natural union ally. I've seen their advantages and disadvantages close to my home communities. But historically, unions are responsible for some very basic worker rights that we take for granted today: the 40 hour work week, paid holidays, sick leave, and appeal procedures. There are bad apples in each and every walk of life, both among employers and employees. There are times and industries when a third party does need to intervene on the part of the employees. We should not be spending our legislative time intimidating working families who wish to democratically organize.

On Monday the fifth, I presented a vote by mail proposal to a House committee. Oregon, Washington, and Colorado conduct all of their elections this way. It decreases the cost per vote and increases voter turnout there. The bill failed in committee, so hopefully the initiated measure makes it to the ballot for everyone to vote on this fall.

I have signed on to a couple of alcohol tax increases, assessed at the wholesale level, that would distribute the new revenue between the state and counties. The search for new revenue is ongoing here. I view that as somewhat encouraging, as it means more and more legislators are understanding the degree to which we are not meeting our obligations in funding of education, mental health, state employee compensation competitiveness levels, and Medicaid providers.

The non meandered waters issue continues to percolate as well, with sportsmen and landowners at loggerheads over the basic issue of ownership of water over private land. Senate Bill 199 will be heard in committee this week.

As we continue through the legislative session, I want to encourage anyone to reach out to me with ideas as to how we can strengthen South Dakota. I welcome your questions and concerns. I will continue working diligently for all of you and for our state.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 8 of 45

Today in Weather History

February 7, 1994: Snow falling over the area produced heavy accumulations from central into north-east South Dakota with 11 inches at Kennebec and eight inches at Watertown from the 7th through the 9th. Extreme cold accompanied and followed the snow with low temperatures of 52 below zero at Promise and 45 below zero at Aberdeen on the 9th. Snow accumulation caused a roof to cave in on a drugstore at Bristol. A man died of exposure attempting to walk home near Sioux Falls after his car became stuck in a ditch.

February 7, 2001: Heavy snow of 6 to 16 inches fell across central and northeast South Dakota resulting in school and activities cancellations, closing of some businesses, and challenging if not impossible travel. Several people became stranded and had to be rescued. There were also flight cancellations and delays along with some vehicle accidents resulting in minor injuries. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Mound City, Mobridge, Eureka, 7 inches at Milbank and 6 SE McIntosh, 8 inches at Aberdeen, Ipswich, Selby, Iona, and Britton, 9 inches at Clark, 1 S Columbia, Isabel, Webster, and 10 inches at Roscoe, Watertown, and 1 W of Summit. Locations with snowfall of a foot included, Mission Ridge, Murdo, 4 NW Onida, Castlewood, 23 N Highmore, and Timber Lake. Thirteen inches of snow fell at Canning, and Fort Pierre, 14 inches fell at Gettysburg, Eagle Butte, and Pierre with 15 inches at Miller and 16 inches of snow at Clear Lake, Mellette, and Faulkton.

February 7, 2010: A compact but strong area of low pressure moved from Canada and across the Northern Plains from the 7th through the 9th. A prolonged period of moderate to heavy snow developed over far northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota bringing 6 to 8 inches of snow to the area. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Milbank, Wheaton, and Ortonville; 7 inches at Clear Lake, Sisseton, and Artichoke Lake; 8 inches at Summit, Victor, Wilmot, and Browns Valley.

1812: The Hard Shock of the New Madrid Earthquake series strikes the area around the small town of New Madrid Missouri. A three-mile long island, Island #32 was completely sunk! The Mississippi River once again ran backward. This major shock marked the beginning of the end of New Madrid's long ordeal, even though aftershocks would continue to be felt for years and the fault is still active.

1835: A Great Freeze took place from February 2-9 across southern Georgia, southeastern South Carolina, and northern Florida. During this freeze, the St. Johns River was frozen, "several rods from the shore," and people were able to walk a distance from the shore. Many citruses and other fruit trees were killed to the ground, never to grow again, when temperatures reached as low as 1°F in Charleston and 8°F in Jacksonville. A Florida gentleman told a newspaper that the state, "appeared as desolate as if a fire had swept over it," after the severe freeze of that winter season. According to Florida Citrus Mutual, this freeze was so severe that it is considered an impact freeze. This indicates that the freeze, annihilate entire groves across the state, killing both mature and young citrus trees while causing a profound economic impact on the citrus industry and prompting growers to replant farther south. This freeze ended attempts to grow citrus in southern Georgia, southeastern South Carolina, and northern Florida.

1882: The temperature falls to 90 degrees below zero in Verkhoyansk, Russia on this day. This was considered the coldest temperature ever recorded in Asia. However, this reading was done by a spirit thermometer, which is less accurate than a mercury thermometer. The accepted record was 90 degrees below zero in Oymyakon on February 6, 1933.

1933: The USS Ramapo, a 478 ft. Navy oiler found was traveling from Manila to San Diego when it encountered the tallest rogue wave ever recorded. The wave measured 112 feet in height was caused by 70 mph winds over a broad fetch of the ocean.

Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 9 of 45

Wed Feb 7	Thu Feb 8	Fri Feb 9	Sat Feb 10	Sun Feb 11	Mon Feb 12	Tue Feb 13
14°F	13°F	9°F	16°F	22°F	30°F	29°F
0°F	-5°F	-5°F	-1°F	7°F	12°F	0°F
W 9 MPH	N 8 MPH Precip 20%	N 7 MPH	WNW 9 MPH	SW 11 MPH	S 13 MPH	NW 11 MPH

Your Wednesday Forecast:



Highs 10 to 25° (warmest over central SD)

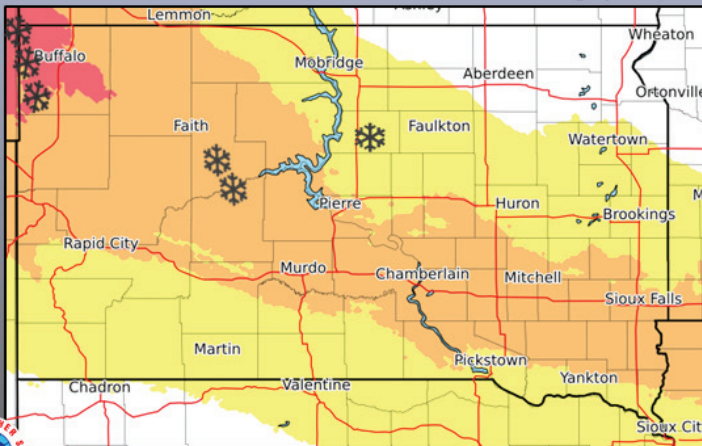
Increasing Clouds

Light Snow (little to no snow accumulation)

west of the Missouri River by mid afternoon, sliding to southeastern SD in the evening

Snow Threat: Extended period of mainly light snow Thursday through Friday

Over central SD, most of the accumulating snow is expected to fall Thursday afternoon into Thursday evening. Stay tuned to the latest forecast for additional details on this evolving system, as timing and snow amounts change.



None

This snow hazard is not expected to impact your area

Minor ❄️

Light accumulations with minor road impacts possible

Moderate ❄️❄️

Slippery roads and low visibility are possible

Significant ❄️❄️❄️

Snow over roads and local whiteout conditions are possible

Extreme ❄️❄️❄️❄️

Major impacts are possible, travel may be impossible



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
2/7/2018 5:07 AM

Published on: 02/07/2018 at 5:15AM

Below normal temperatures will continue through the start of the weekend. Look for increasing clouds from the west today, with the potential for light snow to slide into central and southeastern South Dakota from mid afternoon through this evening. Otherwise, an extended period of mainly light snow is expected Thursday through Friday, with most of the accumulating snow over central South Dakota Thursday afternoon into Thursday evening. If you have travel plans, stay tuned to the latest forecast for additional details on this evolving system, as timing and snow amounts change. www.weather.gov/abr

Groton Daily Independent

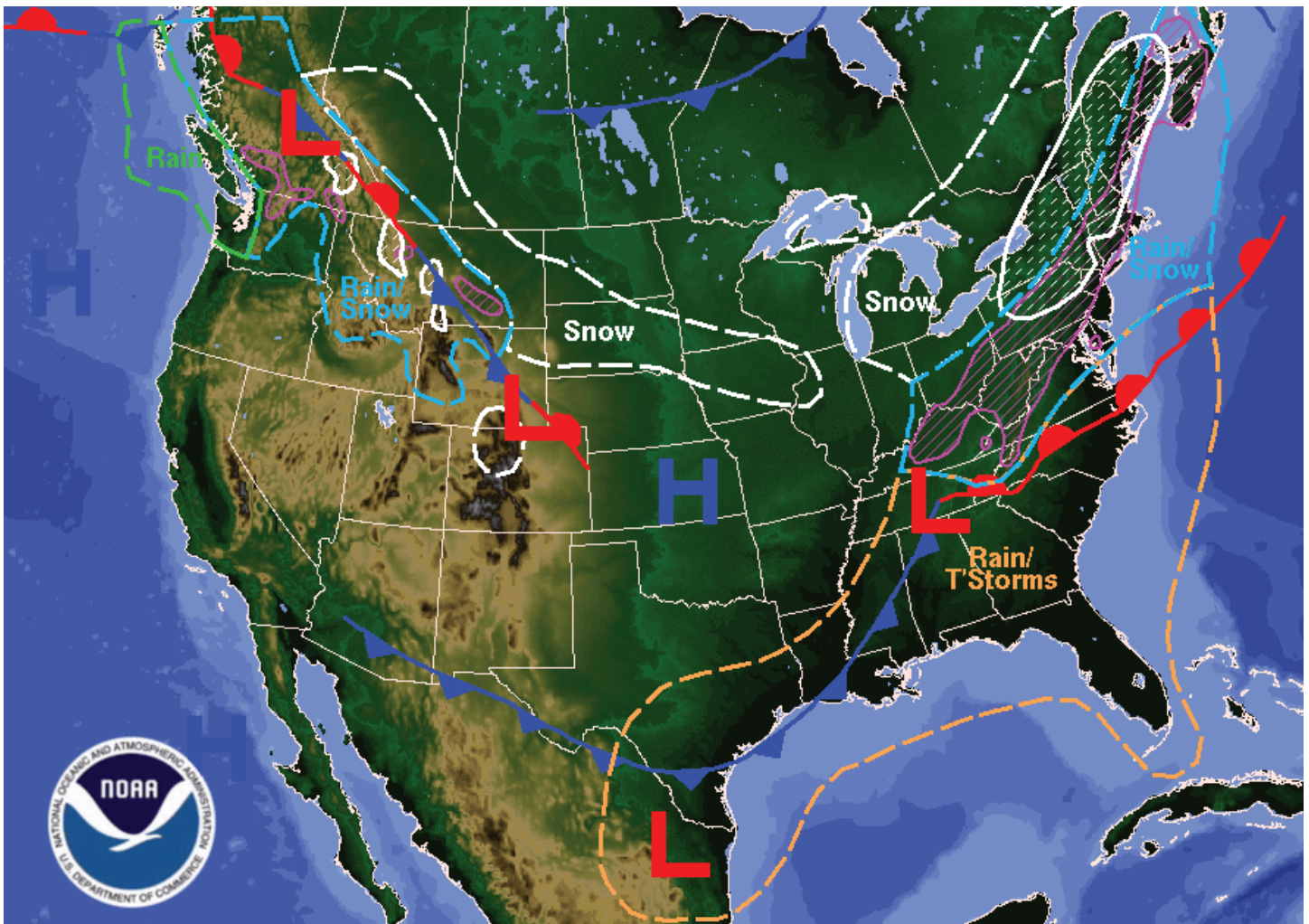
Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 10 of 45

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 10.9 F at 3:14 PM
Low Outside Temp: -16.6 F at 4:54 AM
Wind Chill: -28.0 F at 7:34 AM
High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 4:33 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 62° in 1987
Record Low: -42° in 1895
Average High: 26°F
Average Low: 4°F
Average Precip in Feb: 0.11
Precip to date in Feb: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.58
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:49 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:45 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Feb 07, 2018, issued 4:28 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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



FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING

Who better to write of God than "the man of God?" Not only was Psalm 90 written by Moses, but beneath the number of the Psalm and before the verses in the Psalm are the words: "A Prayer of Moses the Man of God."

What a powerful description of a Statesman and a servant-leader of God. Moses was not only God's lawgiver and leader, but was chosen by God to bring the Hebrews out of Egypt, mold them into a nation for His service and lead them to within reach of the land He promised them.

There are marvelous statements made about Moses in the book of Hebrews: He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and put himself at great risk. He chose to share the oppression of God's people when he could have lived a life of sin and worldly pleasure. He decided to suffer for the sake of the Lord rather than own the treasures of Egypt as he looked to his future with his King. He left the land of Egypt unafraid of the king's anger and wrath and never looked back because he kept his eyes on God who he knew would never leave or forsake him. In a bold move of leadership he commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and sprinkle blood on their doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons.

What gave him his vision, his focus, his strength and his courage? What enabled him to look beyond the fleeting moments of pleasures in a palace to an eternity with God? Where did his wisdom and insight, patience and discipline come from? Why did he refuse worldly wealth and power?

Because of his faith in His God, the God, Who is everlasting!

Prayer: Lord, give us a faith that will empower us to live a life that knows no fear as we follow You each day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 12 of 45

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 13 of 45

News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Andes Central 69, Marty Indian 57
Arlington 54, Florence/Henry 37
Baltic 55, Howard 36
Bison 55, Lead-Deadwood 48
Bon Homme 56, Burke/South Central 31
Brookings 62, Mitchell 55
Castlewood 62, Milbank Area 55
Clark/Willow Lake 73, Tiospa Zina Tribal 46
Colome 61, North Central, Neb. 36
Crow Creek 71, Chamberlain 49
Dakota Valley 77, Vermillion 67
Dell Rapids 65, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 33
Dell Rapids St. Mary 66, Centerville 25
Flandreau 70, Parker 58
Gayville-Volin 51, Freeman Academy/Marion 37
Hamlin 64, Deubrook 46
Highmore-Harrold 74, Hitchcock-Tulare 44
Kadoka Area 67, New Underwood 56
Kimball/White Lake 74, Lyman 61
Leola/Frederick 59, Edmunds Central 23
McCook Central/Montrose 62, Crofton, Neb. 52
Mitchell Christian 55, James Valley Christian 54
Northwestern 77, Webster 73
Parkston 47, Scotland 39
Pierre 43, Huron 39
Pine Ridge 62, Bennett County 51
Platte-Geddes 73, Todd County 38
Rapid City Christian 53, Belle Fourche 44
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 51, Iroquois 25
Sioux Falls Lincoln 75, Sioux City, West, Iowa 57
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 48, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 45
Sioux Valley 99, Deuel 47
Sisseton 45, Britton-Hecla 28
St. Thomas More 65, Red Cloud 64
Sully Buttes 72, Herreid/Selby Area 35
Tea Area 92, Flandreau Indian 47
Tri-Valley 63, Lennox 54
Viborg-Hurley 69, Avon 51
Wagner 53, Tripp-Delmont 52
Warner 52, Redfield/Doland 29
Wolsey-Wessington 56, Wessington Springs 28
Yankton 50, Sioux Falls Washington 39

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 14 of 45

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 53, Groton Area 28
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 60, Marty Indian 34
Avon 53, Viborg-Hurley 37
Beresford 51, Chester 37
Burke/South Central 60, Bon Homme 45
Clark/Willow Lake 63, Tiospa Zina Tribal 42
Corsica/Stickney 76, Canistota 49
Dakota Valley 46, Vermillion 41
Dell Rapids 55, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 38
DeSmet 46, Flandreau 32
Douglas 57, Hill City 48
Dupree 62, Harding County 42
Elkton-Lake Benton 43, Garretson 42
Faith 58, Wall 34
Faulkton 53, Potter County 46
Gayville-Volin 46, Freeman Academy/Marion 45
Hamlin 69, Deubrook 25
Hanson 48, Freeman 31
Harrisburg 46, Watertown 42
Howard 61, Baltic 42
Kimball/White Lake 45, Lyman 39
Lead-Deadwood 45, Hot Springs 30
Lemmon 63, Bison 23
Leola/Frederick 61, Edmunds Central 18
Lower Brule 66, Crazy Horse 38
Madison 66, Milbank 57
Miller 53, Stanley County 11
Mitchell Christian 43, James Valley Christian 27
North Central, Neb. 75, Colome 33
Northwestern 53, Webster 33
Parkston 41, Scotland 32
Philip 51, Jones County 25
Rapid City Christian 45, Bennett County 31
Rapid City Stevens 64, Sturgis Brown 57
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 60, Iroquois 17
Sioux Falls Christian 56, Tri-Valley 31
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 49, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 21
Sioux Falls Washington 66, Yankton 42
Sioux Valley 74, Deuel 47
Sisseton 50, Britton-Hecla 41
Tea Area 43, Flandreau Indian 17
Tiospaye Topa 70, Takini 37
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 77, Wagner 58
Warner 38, Redfield/Doland 37
Waverly-South Shore 43, Langford 33
Wolsey-Wessington 56, Wessington Springs 30

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 15 of 45

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

14-17-25-48-58, Mega Ball: 25, Megaplier: 3

(fourteen, seventeen, twenty-five, forty-eight, fifty-eight; Mega Ball: twenty-five; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$120 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$165 million

Group of local investors to reopen lone grocery in Tyndall

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — A group of local investors is buying the recently closed lone grocery in Tyndall and plans to have the business reopened as early as April.

The previous owner closed the store and also the lone grocery in Tripp on Jan. 31 because of insufficient sales and revenue. A third CashSmart store remains open in Scotland.

The group Tyndall Market LLC is expected to take ownership of the store in that town later this month, begin remodeling and find an operator.

Group President Ron Wagner tells the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan that the store will need to have weekly sales of at least \$30,000 to be viable, and he's confident that's achievable. About 1,100 people live in Tyndall.

The city will offer six months of free utilities.

___ Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Panel advances out-of-state disclaimer for initiative ads

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota House panel has approved a bill that would require ballot measure campaigns that accept money from outside South Dakota to put a disclaimer on their advertisements.

The House State Affairs Committee voted Tuesday to advance the bill to the chamber's floor. Republican Rep. Greg Jamison, the sponsor, says the purpose is to help inform voters.

Campaigns that accept funds from outside the state would have to include the disclaimer on communications such as brochures, billboards and broadcast advertisements. It would read: "Paid for in-part with out-of-state money."

The secretary of state would impose a civil penalty if campaigns failed to provide the disclaimer.

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

South Dakota Senate rejects terror resolution

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Senate has rejected a resolution that pressed federal officials to identify the "root cause" of terrorism.

The resolution noted the global war on terror is being fought "in primarily Muslim majority countries against Islamic fundamentalist terror organizations."

Republican sponsor Neal Tapio said the resolution was necessary to give hope and purpose to American armed forces. But it failed on a 19-16 vote.

Democratic Sen. Troy Heinert, an opponent, urged his colleagues to resist the resolution. Lawmakers added a provision saying many Muslims have fought against "Islamic terrorism."

Resolutions express the Legislature's opinions but don't have the force of law.

Federal officials investigate possible gray wolf shooting

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is investigating the case of a South Dakota man who may have illegally shot a gray wolf.

Mike Werner of Britton alleges he was hunting coyotes in Marshall County on Jan. 13 when he shot and killed what he thought was a larger, dark coyote, Aberdeen American News reported. Werner said he called the local game warden after noticing the animal resembled a wolf.

Gray wolf sightings are uncommon in the northeast part of the state, but some transient wolves occasionally pass through the area.

"Northern Minnesota has a healthy population of gray wolves," said Mike Klosowski with the state Game, Fish and Parks Department. "Then when you go out west near Yellowstone National Park, you have a very healthy population of wolves out there, too."

Wolves are protected under the state's Endangered Species Act. Klosowski said harvesting, trapping or recreational hunting of wolves is an illegal act in the state.

The Game, Fish and Parks Department has no wolf management authority, so cases involving gray wolves are handled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Casey Dowler, a conservation officer with the Game, Fish and Parks Department, said the animal that Werner shot is being tested at a federal lab.

Federal officials said they're unable to comment on the ongoing investigation.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Woman injured in Dakota Access protest sues for evidence

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A New York City woman who suffered a serious arm injury in an explosion while protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota is suing the federal government to obtain evidence, hoping it will bolster a civil rights lawsuit she plans to file against law enforcement.

Sophia Wilansky's lawsuit seeks the return of shrapnel and clothing taken from her while she was hospitalized following her November 2016 injury, or an opportunity to have the items analyzed by a forensic scientist she hired a year ago. She filed the federal lawsuit Friday against the FBI and other federal agencies.

Wilansky's father willingly surrendered the evidence after his daughter was injured in an explosion. He has since made several efforts to re-obtain it, but he has been rebuffed by federal authorities for more than a year, according to the family's attorney, Matthew Pelikan.

"Forensic analysis of Sophia's clothing and shrapnel may generate evidence relevant to Sophia's ability to obtain legal and financial redress for her injuries, including her massive medical bills, ongoing pain and suffering, and permanent disability and disfigurement," Pelikan argued in court documents.

Wayne Wilansky had told The Associated Press late last year that his daughter planned to file a lawsuit against law enforcement seeking money damages and that the evidence could bolster her case.

The evidence lawsuit names numerous federal agencies and officials as defendants, including Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Delorme in North Dakota and FBI agents Brian VanOosbree and Christian Freichels. Delorme didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday from the AP. FBI spokesman Craig Lisher in Minneapolis declined comment.

Wilansky, who is in her early 20s, was injured during a violent clash between protesters and police that's become the emblematic skirmish of the months-long protest in North Dakota that tried to block the pipeline's final construction phase. The four-state pipeline began carrying North Dakota oil to Illinois in June.

Protesters tried to push past a blocked highway bridge near their main encampment in late November 2016, but they were turned back by authorities using tear gas, rubber bullets and water sprays. Police said protesters threw objects including rocks, asphalt and water bottles at officers.

Wilansky suffered a left arm injury in an explosion and has had several surgeries. Protesters allege the blast was caused by a concussion grenade thrown by officers, but police maintain it was caused by a

propane canister that protesters rigged to explode.

Court documents unsealed last fall indicate the government last spring sought evidence that might implicate Wilansky of federal crimes dealing with homemade explosives. She has not been charged with any crime.

"In light of this lack of activity, the government has no good faith basis for claiming an ongoing criminal investigation or a need for Sophia's clothing and shrapnel," Pelikan said.

Opponents of the pipeline fear it could cause environmental harm, and four Native American tribes in the Dakotas are still fighting it in court. Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners says it's safe.

At times during the demonstrations, thousands of pipeline opponents gathered in southern North Dakota to protest the \$3.8 billion project, resulting in 761 arrests in a six-month span in 2016 and 2017.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Apple mulls refunds for battery replacement on old iPhones

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is mulling refunds to customers who paid full price for battery replacements on older iPhones.

Apple now offers a \$50 discount as part of its apology for secretly slowing down the devices. Apple isn't providing details on a potential rebate yet. The possibility was mentioned in Apple's five-page letter to Sen. John Thune, a South Dakota Republican who demanded more details about the iPhone slowdown.

Thune released Apple's Feb. 2 response on Tuesday. Thune says Apple will follow up with additional information at a future date.

Apple has been replacing batteries on older iPhones for \$29 since late December, down from the usual \$79. The offer is good through this year. A new battery is supposed to prevent older iPhones from bogging down.

Sioux Falls population still growing

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — City officials say job growth and another record year of construction helped fuel a 2.6 percent growth in its population.

The number of people in Sioux Falls has grown to an estimated 183,200 — an increase of 4,700 more people over the last year.

Sioux Falls has averaged about 3,200 additional people each year over the last decade. The city's chief planning official, Jeffrey Schmitt, says the rate of growth relates directly to the region's strong residential housing growth.

By 2025, the population is projected to be 202,000.

South Dakota lawmakers advance under-21 tobacco sales ban

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota would join five other states that have raised the legal age to buy tobacco from 18 to 21 under a bill that passed its first legislative test on Tuesday.

The House Health and Human Services Committee voted 8-4 to advance the plan to the chamber's floor. The panel passed the bill at the urging of health organizations, but lobbyists for stores that sell tobacco opposed it.

Megan Myers, a lobbyist for the American Heart Association in South Dakota, said the state has the opportunity to pass a policy that can save thousands of lives and millions of dollars in health care costs. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in South Dakota and the nation, she said.

"Simply put, tobacco use is not a right of passage or a sign of adulthood," Myers said. "It's a gateway to a lifetime of addiction to the only legally available, over-the-counter product in the United States that, when used as directed, can kill you and often those people around you."

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids says California, New Jersey, Oregon, Hawaii and Maine, along with

many localities, have increased the tobacco age to 21.

Larry Mann, a lobbyist for Rapid City-based M.G. Oil Company, said the sale of fuel isn't necessarily a highly profitable business, and in-store sales such as tobacco are a significant portion of convenience stores' profit.

Republican Rep. Tim Rounds, an opponent, said he despises cigarette smoke, but said tobacco use is a choice that adults make.

"Tobacco is icky," he said. "But people choose to do it. Adults choose to do it, and that's where I'm going to stand on this bill."

Legislative staff will do a fiscal review of the bill's potential effects.

Weekend dryer fire damages Aberdeen laundry business

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A weekend fire extensively damaged a laundry business in Aberdeen.

The American News reports that State Street Laundromat and Pub is closed until repairs can be completed.

Fire Marshall Mike Thompson says the Sunday afternoon fire originated in a dryer, though the specific cause isn't known. He says a connection then failed on a gas line and the fire became a gas-fed blaze.

No one was hurt, and there was no damage to neighboring properties.

___ Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Weekend house fire in Burbank injures 4, 2 of them seriously

BURBANK, S.D. (AP) — Four people were injured in a weekend house fire in Burbank.

Vermillion Fire Chief Matt Callahan says the injured were taken to a Vermillion hospital. Two of them were treated there and released, and the other two were flown to a Minnesota hospital. Their conditions aren't known.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that the victims of the Sunday evening fire weren't identified. The cause of the blaze wasn't immediately determined.

___ Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Cattle and sheep numbers up in South Dakota over 2017

SIOUXFALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has more cattle and sheep than it did a year ago.

New reports from the federal Agriculture Department show 4 million cattle and calves in the state on Jan. 1, up 4 percent from last year at the same time.

Sheep and lambs totaled 260,000 head, up 10,000 from last year.

The 2017 calf crop totaled 1.84 million head, up 9 percent from 2016. Last year's lamb crop totaled 190,000 head, down 5,000 to a record low.

Judge says Sioux Falls officers used reasonable force

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that three Sioux Falls police officers who were attacked by a man did not use excessive force when they fought to restrain him during a brawl that lasted at least five minutes.

Rocky Traversie sued officers Matthew Starr, Matthew Hanisch and Dave Dunteman for excessive force after they used pepper spray and batons to subdue him on Feb. 5, 2014. He claimed the fight and resulting injuries left him with mental and emotional damage.

The Argus Leader reports Judge Karen Schreier ruled Traversie "actively and violently resisted arrest," and police force was reasonable.

All three officers were injured in the brawl. Traversie was sentenced to 65 years in prison for assaulting police officers and also kidnapping for holding family members hostage while high on drugs.

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

6 dead, 76 missing after strong quake hits Taiwan

By TAIJING WU, Associated Press

HUALIEN, Taiwan (AP) — Rescuers worked Wednesday to free people trapped after a strong earthquake near Taiwan's east coast caused several buildings to cave in and tilt dangerously. At least six people were killed and 76 could not be contacted following the quake.

Videos and photos showed several midsized buildings in worst-hit Hualien county leaning at sharp angles, their lowest floors crushed into mangled heaps of concrete, glass, iron and other debris. Firefighters climbed ladders hoisted against windows to reach residents inside apartments.

The shallow, magnitude 6.4 quake late Tuesday night caused at least four buildings to cave in and shift on their foundations. That was likely caused by soil liquefaction, when the ground beneath a building loses its solidity under stress such as that caused by an earthquake.

A maintenance worker who was rescued after being trapped in the basement of the Marshal Hotel said the force of the earthquake was unusual even for a region used to temblors.

"At first it wasn't that big ... we get this sort of thing all the time and it's really nothing. But then it got really terrifying," the worker, Chen Ming-hui, told Taiwan's official Central News Agency after he was reunited with his son and grandson following the quake. "It was really scary."

Two employees of the hotel were killed in the disaster, CNA said. Taiwan's National Fire Agency said rescuers freed another employee from the rubble.

Other buildings slanted at alarming degrees and rescuers used ladders, ropes and cranes to move residents to safety.

Six people were killed in the quake, while 256 others were injured and 76 unaccounted for, according to the fire agency. CNA reported that seven had been killed.

The force of the tremor buckled roads and disrupted electricity and water supplies to thousands of households, the fire agency said.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said nine Japanese were among the injured. Six mainland Chinese were also injured, the Chinese Communist Party-run People's Daily reported.

Rescuers focused on the Yunmen Tsuiti residential building that was tilted at a nearly 45-degree angle, erecting long steel beams to prevent it from collapsing.

Concrete blocks were laid on the steel rods to anchor them. Half a dozen excavator trucks surrounded the site, where rescue efforts were temporarily suspended because the building was "sliding," according to Taiwan's Central Emergency Operation Center.

More than a hundred rescue workers were around the building, including military personnel and volunteers who were distributing food and hot drinks. Away from the disaster area, the atmosphere in the city was calm as rain beat down on largely deserted streets.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen moved to reassure the Taiwanese public that every effort would be made to rescue survivors. In a post on her official Facebook page, Tsai said she arrived in Hualien on Wednesday to review rescue efforts.

Tsai said she "ordered search and rescue workers not to give up on any opportunity to save people, while keeping their own safety in mind."

"This is when the Taiwanese people show their calm, resilience and love," she wrote. "The government will work with everyone to guard their homeland."

Bridges and some highways along Taiwan's east coast were closed pending inspections.

With aftershocks continuing to hit after the quake, residents were directed to shelters, including a newly built baseball stadium, where beds and hot food were provided.

Speaking from a crisis center in Taipei, Cabinet spokesman Hsu Kuo-yung said rail links appeared to be unaffected and the runway at Hualien airport was intact.

"We're putting a priority on Hualien people being able to return home to check on their loved ones," Hsu said.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake struck just before midnight Tuesday about 21 kilometers (13

miles) northeast of Hualien at a relatively shallow depth of about 10.6 kilometers (6.6 miles).

Taiwan has frequent earthquakes due to its position along the "Ring of Fire," the seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

Exactly two years earlier, a magnitude 6.4 quake collapsed an apartment complex in southern Taiwan, killing 115 people. Five people involved in the construction of the complex were later found guilty of negligence and given prison sentences.

A magnitude 7.6 quake in central Taiwan killed more than 2,300 people in 1999.

FBI texts reveal admiring view of then-director James Comey

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The day in July 2016 that FBI Director James Comey defended to Congress the bureau's decision in the Hillary Clinton email probe, two FBI officials traded admiring texts about his verbal dexterity — and mocking jibes at the lawmakers questioning him.

Congress, wrote FBI lawyer Lisa Page in one text, is "utterly worthless." "Less than worthless," replied Peter Strzok, a seasoned FBI counterintelligence agent assigned to that investigation. "Utterly contemptible."

The officials' assessment of Comey, facing hours of questions about his decision not to seek charges against Clinton for her use of a private email server, was unmistakably flattering.

"God he is SO good," Strzok said. "I know," Page responded. "Brilliant public speaker. And brilliant distillation of fact."

That exchange is included among 384 pages of text messages between Page and Strzok provided by the Justice Department to Congress and reviewed by The Associated Press. The texts, part of an inspector general investigation into the handling of the Clinton email probe, are most notable for derogatory messages about President Donald Trump — the discovery of which led to Strzok's reassignment from special counsel Robert Mueller's team. But they also include wide-ranging and unguarded discussion about a variety of current events and public figures, including Edward Snowden, Julian Assange and an encryption court fight with Apple, as well as candid assessments of their colleagues and their FBI careers and futures.

Among the thousands of texts, the dialogue about Comey is especially striking because it further calls into question White House characterizations of an FBI in "tatters," where "countless" agents complained about their director before his removal. Employee surveys released last year show FBI employees consistently gave Comey high marks. And emails published this week by the Lawfare blog show FBI field office leaders using words like "profound sadness" and "hard to understand" in spreading the news about Comey's May 9 termination, one of the events now under investigation by Mueller for possible obstruction of justice.

The texts proved an explosive development when revealed in December, giving rise to Republican allegations of bias in the FBI and the Justice Department and leading Trump to make an extraordinary allegation of "treason" against Strzok that the agent's lawyer dismissed as "beyond reckless." Strzok was removed from Mueller's group in July after Mueller learned of the texts. Page, who'd also been detailed to that team, left that assignment before the messages were discovered.

Since then, amid attacks on the bureau, Director Christopher Wray has defended the FBI as home to "tens and thousands of brave men and women." Attorney General Jeff Sessions, meanwhile, has been more muted in his support, saying criticism can be appropriate and that political bias "in either direction" must be eliminated.

There's no question both Strzok and Page were stridently opposed to Trump's candidacy and the prospect of a Trump administration, using words like "idiot," "loathsome," "menace" and "disaster" to describe him. In one text four days before the election, Page told Strzok that the "American presidential election, and thus, the state of the world, actually hangs in the balance." They frequently texted each other news stories about Russian election meddling, denigrated Trump associate Roger Stone and, in one profanity-laced message, Strzok cursed out the "cheating (expletive) Russians."

But the texts, which encompass a two-year period beginning around the start of the Clinton email investigation in 2015, cover far more ground than Trump.

They underscore how the Clinton inquiry, well before the launch of the investigation into the Trump campaign and Russia, caused anxiety and tension within the FBI and Justice Department as witness interviews, strategic decisions and even public statements were picked apart internally and in the news media in the months preceding the election.

Strzok was distressed, for instance, that former President Bill Clinton had an impromptu meeting with Attorney General Loretta Lynch aboard her plane in the investigation's final stages. Lynch subsequently announced that she would accept the FBI's recommendations, setting the stage for Comey's announcement that the FBI would not seek charges.

"All the airport tarmac articles finally burst out. Took a little bit. Not a big deal, just ASTOUNDINGLY bad optic. And doesn't help what the D is trying to do," he texted in an apparent reference to the FBI director.

Weeks before that, Strzok confided to Page that Justice Department lawyers were concerned by the late discovery of classified marking notations along some paragraphs in State Department emails.

"No one noticed. And while minor, it cuts against, 'I never send or received anything marked classified,'" he wrote. "Because they're worried, holy cow, if the FBI missed this, what else was missed?"

He was also flummoxed at one point by what he said was the "worst news" — that a computer specialist had used wiping software to delete email messages, making it, he said, potentially "much harder" to recover what they needed.

The texts also make clear that FBI leadership knew weeks before Comey alerted Congress that a trove of emails relevant to the Clinton investigation had been found on a laptop belonging to former Rep. Anthony Weiner. It remains unclear why the FBI waited a month before revealing the discovery of new emails and before obtaining a warrant to scour them. On Sept. 28, 2016, one month before the news became public, Strzok told Page that he'd been summoned to the deputy director's office because "hundreds of thousands of emails" had been turned over by Weiner's attorney to prosecutors as part of a sexting investigation, with a "ton of material" believed to be from Weiner's wife.

"This," Strzok wrote, "will never end."

But for a time, it did seem to have ended. Comey closed out the case July 5, 2016, and two days later, faced hours of questioning from a House committee. The two officials watched, and though Strzok lamented that he was a "control freak" and that some answers were imprecise, they also texted admiringly of his performance — even he joked that he had to use the bathroom for the last half-hour.

"I did get a chuckle out of D's gotta pee joke...," Strzok said.

"Everyone did," Page replied. "That's why he's as good at this as he is."

Pence says US to unveil 'toughest' sanctions on N. Korea

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence said the U.S. is preparing to announce the "toughest and most aggressive" economic sanctions against North Korea in the coming days, boosting pressure on the bellicose government during the Winter Olympics.

Pence, who is set to lead the U.S. delegation at the opening ceremonies Friday, made the announcement in Japan on Wednesday, following meetings with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"The United States of America will soon unveil the toughest and most aggressive round of economic sanctions on North Korea ever — and we will continue to isolate North Korea until it abandons its nuclear and ballistic missile programs once and for all," Pence said.

U.S. officials declined to provide details of the expected sanctions beyond Pence's comments, citing concerns that any additional information could be used by those trying to skirt the new measures. They are expected to be implemented before the conclusion of the games.

On a six-day trip to Japan and South Korea, Pence is seeking to reassure and refocus American allies on the growing nuclear threat from North Korea.

In meetings with government leaders, military officials and U.S. service members, Pence said he wants

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 22 of 45

to make sure the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics don't distract from North Korea's human rights abuses and nuclear program. He met with Abe at his official residence to discuss increasing pressure on the North.

"The United States is with you in this challenge," Pence told Abe as they began their talks. "And we will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Japan, the people of South Korea, and our allies and partners across the region until we achieve the global objective of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

Pence watched Japanese troops demonstrate the simulated deployment of Japan's surface-to-air missile defense system, which would attempt to intercept a North Korean missile. He also participated in a briefing at Japan's Ministry of Defense on the threat.

"The people of Japan can be assured: The full range of the Armed Forces of the United States will continue to be dedicated to the protection of Japan," Pence said, promising again that "all options are on the table" to address the North Korean threat.

Pence will travel on to South Korea on Thursday for meetings with President Moon Jae-in, where he will promote the Trump administration's campaign of "maximum pressure" against the North, as the South pursues a diplomatic opening around the Winter Olympics.

As North Korea's march toward obtaining nuclear-tipped missiles capable of reaching the U.S. has exceeded the American government's estimates, the Trump administration has worked to rally the international community to embrace tougher economic sanctions and isolation of the North.

At the same time, Pence has not ruled out a potential meeting with North Korean officials at the Olympics, telling reporters, "we'll see what happens." But he pledged that his message in any potential interaction would include the same message he has been delivering publicly: that the North renounce its nuclear weapon and missile programs.

"We will not allow North Korean propaganda to hijack the message and imagery of the Olympic Games," he said. "We'll be there to cheer our athletes, but we'll also be there to stand with our allies, and remind the world that North Korea is the most tyrannical and oppressive regime on the planet."

Abe echoed Pence's comments, urging countries "not to be lured by the charm offensive of North Korea." He added that the U.S. and Japan are "100 percent on the same page" on North Korean policy.

As his personal guest at the opening ceremony of the games, Pence invited Fred Warmbier, the father of Otto Warmbier, an American who died last year days after his release from captivity in North Korea.

Pence is expected to take other symbolic moves on the trip to keep attention on North Korea, including a Friday morning meeting with defectors from the North.

It comes after President Donald Trump welcomed Warmbier's parents and a prominent defector at his State of the Union speech last week, as well as a larger group of those who fled the North at the Oval Office on Friday.

Trump continues to paint immigrants as criminals

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is continuing his habit of painting immigrants as criminals, highlighting gang connections, calling family reunification a national security threat and bemoaning the death of a pro football player involved in a car accident with a man living in the country illegally.

Speaking to law enforcement officials at the White House on Tuesday, Trump singled out the MS-13 gang, which is believed to be behind 25 killings on New York's Long Island in the past two years, and has become a prime target of the Trump administration.

"We've really never seen anything quite like this, the level of ferocity, the level of violence, and the reforms we need from Congress to defeat it," Trump told law enforcement officials and lawmakers, eventually threatening another federal government shutdown if Democrats don't agree to pass an immigration package he said would help keep gang members out.

"If we don't get rid of these loopholes where killers are allowed to come into our country and continue to kill ... if we don't change it, let's have a shutdown," Trump suggested. "I'd love to see a shutdown if we

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 23 of 45

don't get this stuff taken care of."

Trump's latest threat is part of a pressure campaign he has been waging to try to get Democrats to sign onto a sweeping immigration plan that they've rejected. The president wants billions for a southern border wall, major cuts to legal immigration, and more money for interior enforcement and other changes in exchange for granting a pathway to citizenship for up to 1.8 million young immigrants living in the country illegally.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump called on Democrats to "get tough" on immigration, citing the death of Indianapolis Colts linebacker Edwin Jackson, who was killed in a suspected drunken-driving crash involving a Guatemalan citizen living illegally in the U.S.

"So disgraceful that a person illegally in our country killed @Colts linebacker Edwin Jackson," Trump tweeted. "This is just one of many such preventable tragedies. We must get the Dems to get tough on the Border, and with illegal immigration, FAST!"

Trump has also continued to criticize the nation's legal immigration system, insisting that limiting immigrants' ability to sponsor their family members to join them in the country, and ending a visa lottery aimed at promoting diversity, will make the country safer.

"In the age of terrorism, these programs present risks we can no longer afford," he said in his State of the Union speech.

It's an issue that has been near and dear to the president's heart — and his base— since the day he launched his campaign and accused Mexico of sending its rapists across the border. Since his inauguration, Trump has marshalled government resources to try to portray immigration as a threat, despite several studies that have shown immigrants are actually less likely to commit crimes than people born in the United States.

Indeed, critics have repeatedly accused the administration of using faulty data and cherry-picked examples to make its case.

On Tuesday, Trump zeroed in on MS-13, or the Mara Salvatrucha, a gang established in the 1980s in Los Angeles by Central American refugees fleeing violence in their counties.

Federal prosecutors believe MS-13 now has thousands of members across the country, though statistics show they account for just a tiny fraction — less than 1 percent — of total U.S. gang membership. And while Trump administration officials have tried to portray the gang as comprised of a never-ending flow of illegal immigrants, some figures suggest most members are U.S. citizens.

Trump complained that thousands of gang members are arrested and deported from the U.S. only to return to the country. "Not another country in the world has the stupidity of laws that we do," he complained.

Trump has given Democrats until March 5 to agree to an immigration deal, though it's unclear exactly what will happen on that date.

White House chief of staff John Kelly spent much of the day on Capitol Hill, meeting with congressional leaders about immigration. But he also drew criticism when he suggested some young immigrants were "too lazy" to sign up for the Obama-era program that offered protection from deportation and renewable work permits.

Kelly said Trump's recent offer to provide a path to citizenship for up to 1.8 million immigrants went "beyond what anyone could have imagined." A bipartisan offer by six senators that Trump rejected would have made citizenship possible for the 690,000 "Dreamers" registered under the program, known by its acronym DACA.

"There are 690,000 official DACA registrants and the president sent over what amounts to be two and a half times that number, to 1.8 million," Kelly said. "The difference between (690,000) and 1.8 million were the people that some would say were too afraid to sign up, others would say were too lazy to get off their asses, but they didn't sign up."

Immigration experts cite various reasons as to why people eligible for DACA's protections never applied, including fears that participating would expose them to immigration authorities.

___ Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Casino mogul Steve Wynn resigns amid sex misconduct claims

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Casino mogul Steve Wynn resigned Tuesday as chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts amid sexual misconduct allegations.

The Las Vegas-based company in a statement said Wynn's resignation was effective immediately. It came less than two weeks after the Wall Street Journal reported that a number of women said Wynn harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a \$7.5 million settlement.

"In the last couple of weeks, I have found myself the focus of an avalanche of negative publicity," Wynn said in a written statement. "As I have reflected upon the environment this has created — one in which a rush to judgment takes precedence over everything else, including the facts — I have reached the conclusion I cannot continue to be effective in my current roles."

The billionaire has vehemently denied the report's allegations, which he attributes to a campaign led by his ex-wife. An attorney for Elaine Wynn has denied that she instigated the news report.

Wynn now faces investigations by gambling regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts, where the company is building a roughly \$2.4 billion casino just outside Boston. The company earlier said a committee of independent directors would investigate the allegations that surfaced Jan. 26.

Shares of Wynn Resorts' China arm, Wynn Macau Ltd., were suspended from trading on the Hong Kong stock exchange on Wednesday in Asia. Gambling regulators in Macau, the world's biggest casino market, said they were officially notified about the resignation.

Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau also said in a statement that its director, Paulo Martins Chan, and the city's financial and economic secretary, Lionel Leong, met last week with Wynn Macau Executive Director Linda Chen to request a detailed explanation of the allegations and demand Wynn notify it of any "result, progress or important information" from the investigation within an unspecified time frame.

The company, which said previously it would cooperate with the regulator's requests, operates two casino-resorts in the Chinese enclave that generate about two-thirds of its total revenues.

A wave of sexual misconduct claims against prominent figures in entertainment, media and politics gained momentum last fall in the aftermath of articles detailing movie producer Harvey Weinstein's decades of alleged rape and harassment. But Wynn is the first CEO and founder of a major publicly held company to come under scrutiny since the Weinstein allegations surfaced.

Wynn is a titan in Sin City and played a major role in the revitalization of the Las Vegas Strip in the 1990s. He built the Bellagio, Treasure Island and Mirage before he sold his Mirage Resorts company in 2000. Two years later, he founded Wynn Resorts, which now operates two luxurious casino-resorts in the city and is in the process of building a lake and hotel development called Paradise Park on the site of a former golf course.

Wynn's two Macau casinos include the older Wynn Macau near the former Portuguese colony's historic old town, and the Wynn Palace, which in 2016 became the latest opulent resort to open in the new district of Cotai, joining lavish developments by rivals including Las Vegas Sands.

In announcing Wynn's resignation, the company's board of directors made clear it had done so "reluctantly."

"It is with a collective heavy heart, that the board of directors of Wynn Resorts today accepted the resignation of our founder, CEO and friend Steve Wynn," said Boone Wayson, who was named non-executive chairman of the board. Matt Maddox, the company's president since 2013, was named CEO effective immediately.

Details of Wynn's separation agreement were not immediately disclosed.

Wynn resigned as finance chairman of the Republican National Committee a day after the allegations were published.

Since 2013, Wynn has contributed nearly \$2.4 million to GOP candidates and party organizations around the country, including Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval and 2017 special election winners. Some Republicans

in Congress, including Nevada's Dean Heller, have already announced they are donating contributions they received from Wynn to charity.

Associated Press business writer Kelvin Chan in Hong Kong contributed to this report.

Follow Regina Garcia Cano on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/reginagarciakNO>

Sister of North Korean leader to come to South for Olympics

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister, an increasingly prominent figure in the country's leadership, will be part of the North's delegation to the South Korean Winter Olympics, officials said Wednesday.

Kim Yo Jong, believed to be around 30, will be the first member of North Korea's ruling family to visit South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Analysts say her inclusion in the Olympic delegation shows North Korea's ambition to use the Olympics to break out from diplomatic isolation by improving relations with the South, which it could use as a bridge for approaching the United States.

By sending a youthful, photogenic person who will undoubtedly attract international attention during the Olympics, North Korea is also trying to construct a fresher and warmer public image and defuse potential U.S. efforts to use the Pyeongchang Games to highlight the North's brutal human rights record, experts say.

Kim Jong Un might also have seen that U.S. President Donald Trump was sending his daughter, Ivanka, to the Olympics ceremony and decided to match the move by sending his sister, said Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

By sending a relative, "Kim Jong Un may be trying to present himself as an equal to Donald Trump," Hong said.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said North Korea informed it that Kim Yo Jong, first vice director of the Central Committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, would be part of the delegation led by the country's nominal head of state, Kim Yong Nam.

The ministry said Kim Yo Jong's schedule in the South has yet to be determined, and it wasn't immediately clear whether she will meet with President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who has expressed a desire to reach out to the North.

Moon's office welcomed the decision to send Kim Yo Jong, which it said showed the North's willingness to cooperate in efforts to ease tensions in the Korean Peninsula.

"First Vice Director Kim Yo Jong is Chairman Kim Jong Un's sister who has an important role in the Workers' Party, (so her visit) is that much more meaningful," presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said in a statement read on television.

Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University, said Kim Yo Jong, as Kim Jong Un's relative and apparently one of the few people who has earned his absolute trust, carries more weight as a dialogue partner for the South than any other official the North could send.

It's unclear whether any member of the North Korean government delegation will hold talks with U.S. officials during the Olympics. But Kim Yo Jong's presence would give North Korea a better opportunity to win South Korean help in reaching out to the United States, Hong said. He also said Washington may see Kim Yo Jong as an avenue to deliver messages to Kim Jong Un.

"With any other North Korean official, even the so-called No. 2 Choe Ryong Hae, you are getting a person who's just parroting orders given by Kim Jong Un," Hong said. "But with Kim Yo Jong, you are getting a person who's chiefly involved in designing Kim Jong Un's rule, a person whom the leader actually listens to."

North Korea said the delegation will also include Choe Hwi, chairman of the country's National Sports Guidance Committee, and Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North's agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs.

Seoul previously said the delegation would arrive Friday, but Wednesday's statement was the first confirmation that a member of the North's ruling family will be included.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 26 of 45

Kim Yo Jong and Kim Jong Un were born to the same mother, Ko Yong Hui. They had a half brother, Kim Jong Nam, who was murdered last year at a Malaysian airport.

Kim Yo Jong was promoted by her brother last year to be an alternate member of the decision-making political bureau of the ruling party's central committee, which analysts said showed that her activities are more substantive than previously thought.

The war-separated Koreans are cooperating on a series of conciliatory measures during the Olympics, which the South sees as an opportunity to ease tensions with the North following an extended period of animosity over its nuclear weapon and missile programs. Skeptics think North Korea is trying to use the Olympics to weaken U.S.-led sanctions and pressure against it and buy time to advance its weapons programs.

North Korea has 22 athletes competing in the Winter Olympics but also has sent performing artists and a large cheering group.

A decision by North Korea to send the artists by sea has triggered debate in the South, where conservatives see the move as a clear indication the North is trying to use the Olympics to ease sanctions against it.

South Korea is deciding whether to accept North Korea's request that it provide fuel for the ferry that transported the artists. Seoul exempted the ferry from sanctions to allow it in South Korean waters.

"We will closely discuss with the United States and other related nations the matter of providing convenience to the Mangyongbong ferry so that no problem regarding sanctions would occur," said Seoul's Unification Ministry spokesman, Baik Tae-hyun.

SpaceX's big new rocket blasts off, puts sports car in space

By MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX's big new rocket blasted off Tuesday on its first test flight, carrying a red electric sports car aiming for an endless road trip past Mars.

The Falcon Heavy rose from the same launch pad used by NASA nearly 50 years ago to send men to the moon. With liftoff, the Heavy became the most powerful rocket in use today, doubling the liftoff punch of its closest competitor.

For SpaceX, the private rocket company run by Elon Musk, it was a mostly triumphant test of a new, larger rocket designed to hoist supersize satellites as well as equipment to the moon, Mars or other far-flung points. For the test flight, a red sports car made by another of Musk's companies, Tesla, was the unusual cargo, enclosed in protective covering for the launch.

The three boosters and 27 engines roared to life at Kennedy Space Center, as thousands watched from surrounding beaches, bridges and roads, jamming the highways in scenes unmatched since NASA's last space shuttle flight. At SpaceX Mission Control in Southern California, employees screamed, whistled and raised pumped fists into the air as the launch commentators called off each milestone. Millions more watched online, making it the second biggest livestream in YouTube history.

Viewers were left with video images beamed from space of Musk's red Roadster circling the blue planet after the protective covering had dropped away and exposed the car. A space-suited mannequin was at the wheel, named "Starman" after the David Bowie song.

"It's kind of silly and fun, but I think that silly and fun things are important," said the SpaceX chief who also runs Tesla and is keen to colonize Mars. "The imagery of it is something that's going to get people excited around the world."

Two of the boosters— both recycled from previous launches — returned minutes after liftoff for on-the-mark touchdowns at Cape Canaveral. Sonic booms rumbled across the region with the vertical landings.

Musk later revealed the third booster, brand new, slammed into the Atlantic at 300 mph and missed the floating landing platform, scattering shrapnel all over the deck and knocking out two engines.

He was unfazed by the lost booster and said watching the other two land upright probably was the most exciting thing he's ever seen.

Before liftoff, "I had this image of just a giant explosion on the pad, a wheel bouncing down the road,

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 27 of 45

the Tesla logo landing somewhere," he said. "But fortunately, that's not what happened."

Musk's rocketing Roadster is shooting for a solar orbit that will reach all the way to Mars.

Ballast for a rocket debut is usually concrete — "so boring," Musk said in a post-launch news conference.

The Roadster was anything but. Cameras mounted on the car fed stunning video of "Starman" tooling around Earth, looking something like a NASCAR racer out for a Sunday drive, with its right hand on the wheel and the left arm resting on the car's door.

A sign on the dashboard read: "Don't panic!" Bowie's "Life on Mars?" played in the background at one point. A Hot Wheels roadster was also on the dash with a tiny spaceman on board.

The Falcon Heavy is a combination of three Falcon 9s, the rocket that the company uses to ship supplies to the International Space Station and lift satellites. SpaceX is reusing first-stage boosters to save on launch costs. Most other rocket makers discard their spent boosters in the ocean.

Unlike most rockets out there, the Falcon Heavy receives no government funding. The hulking rocket is intended for massive satellites, like those used by the U.S. military and communication companies. Even before the successful test flight, customers were signed up.

"It was awesome like a science fiction movie coming to reality," said former NASA deputy administrator Dava Newman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Apollo professor of astronautics. "They nailed it. Good for them."

Given the high stakes and high drama, Tuesday's launch attracted huge crowds not seen since NASA's final space shuttle flight seven years ago. While the shuttles had more liftoff muscle than the Heavy, the all-time leaders in both size and might were NASA's Saturn V rockets, which first flew astronauts to the moon in 1968.

On the eve of the flight, Musk said the company had done all it could to maximize success. Musk has plenty of experience with rocket accidents, from his original Falcon 1 test flights to his follow-up Falcon 9s, one of which exploded on a nearby pad during a 2016 ignition test.

"I've seen rockets blow up so many different ways, so, yeah, it's a great relief when it actually works," Musk said after liftoff.

Not counting Apollo moon buggies, the Roadster is the first automobile to speed right off the planet.

The car faces considerable speed bumps before settling into its intended orbit around the sun, an oval circle stretching from the orbit of Earth on one end to the orbit of Mars on the other. It has to endure a cosmic bombardment during several hours of cruising through the highly charged Van Allen radiation belts encircling Earth. Finally, a thruster has to fire to put the car on the right orbital course. The car battery was expected to last for about 12 hours after liftoff.

If it weathers all this, the Roadster will reach the vicinity of Mars in six months, Musk said. The car could be traveling between Earth and Mars' neighborhoods for a billion years, according to the high-tech billionaire.

"Maybe discovered by some future alien race, thinking what were you guys doing? Did they worship this car? Why did they have a little car? That will really confuse them," Musk said.

Musk acknowledged the Roadster could come "quite close" to Mars during its epic cruise, with only a remote chance of crashing into the red planet.

Also on board in a protected storage unit is Isaac Asimov's science fiction series, "Foundation." A plaque contains the names of the more than 6,000 SpaceX employees.

The Heavy already is rattling the launch market. Its sticker price is \$90 million, less than one-tenth the estimated cost of NASA's Space Launch System megarocket in development for moon and Mars expeditions.

SpaceX has decided against flying passengers on the Heavy, Musk said, and instead will accelerate development of an even bigger rocket to accommodate deep-space crews. His ultimate goal is to establish a city on Mars.

"If people think we're in a race with the Chinese, this is our secret weapon: the entrepreneurship of people like Elon and others like Jeff Bezos," said Stanford University's G. Scott Hubbard, NASA's first Mars czar.

Amazon's Bezos heads Blue Origin, which is developing a big, reusable orbital-class rocket and already is making suborbital flights in Texas.

“Woohoo!” Bezos said in a congratulatory tweet.

AP Science Writer Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed to this report.

Rail industry says key safety technology not due until 2020

By JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The railroad industry is downplaying expectations that a safety technology that could have prevented recent deadly train crashes will be in operation across the country by the end of the year.

Indeed, freight and commuter rail officials speak as if there never was any plan to complete their work on the technology known as positive train control, or PTC, by Dec. 31.

Congress required in 2008 that railroads adopt PTC and gave them seven years to do the job. When it became clear that wasn't enough, Congress gave them another three years. The discussion at the time was that a few railroads might need even more than three extra years, and provisions were added to the legislation to allow railroads that showed substantial progress, but couldn't meet the new deadline of Dec. 31, 2018, the ability to obtain extensions of up to two additional years.

Officials for the trade associations representing the seven major freight railroads operating in the U.S. and the nation's commuter railroads now say they view Dec. 31 as the date by which railroads must meet several PTC milestones to qualify for an extension rather than the ultimate deadline.

The Transportation Department has little choice but to grant the extensions as long as railroads meet the milestones, said Kathryn Kirmayer, the Association of American Railroads' general counsel. One milestone is that freight railroads have PTC in operation on half their route miles where it's required.

“By the end of 2020 is the absolute deadline everybody has to have it installed and implemented, which means operating everywhere they are required to have it operating,” she said.

Members of Congress expressed frustration that railroads appear to be backing off this year's deadline.

Congress never intended the extensions be used “to allow railroads that have dragged their feet to just blow off the mandate,” said Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon, the House transportation committee's senior Democrat. Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, the Senate commerce committee's senior Democrat, said, “Every railroad should be taking the recent deadly train accidents seriously and doing everything they can to meet the 2018 deadline.”

Quarterly progress reports filed with the Federal Railroad Administration show some railroads have nearly completed their work, while others have made little progress.

Randy Clarke, the American Public Transportation Association's vice president for operations, said three or four of the nation's 27 commuter railroads have already received extensions past Dec. 31 and more extensions are expected.

“We are actively working as an industry to get everyone to the milestones necessary for extension or to completion,” he said. “We know not every agency is in the same place and some have more complications than others.”

The National Transportation Safety Board has said the technology could have prevented a collision between an Amtrak train and an out-of-service CSX freight train on Sunday near Cayce, South Carolina, and the derailment of an Amtrak train in December near Olympia, Washington. Five people were killed and dozens more injured in the two crashes.

Amtrak has said it will complete its work on PTC by the end of the year, but its trains often operate on tracks owned by other railroads like the CSX.

Sarah Feinberg, who led the railroad administration under President Barack Obama, drew a distinction between large freight railroads and smaller commuter railroads that often struggle for funds.

“The freight industry should be embarrassed by the way they've approached the PTC mandate and deadline, and the Congress should be embarrassed for letting them get away with it,” she said.

But industry officials said the obstacles to developing PTC systems are under appreciated. It took many

years just for the railroad administration to develop standards and then to approve systems that meet those standards, Clarke said.

Despite some federal aid, commuter railroads have had a hard time scraping up the money to pay for the technology.

"We're public transit agencies. It's not like we have a surplus of money lying around," he said.

Mike Rush, vice president of freight rail group, estimated that freight railroads will ultimately spend \$10 billion implementing PTC, and commuter railroads about \$3 billion.

Other challenges have included acquiring wireless spectrum, taking locomotives out of service to install hardware and software, installing communications towers along tracks, and competing with other railroads for the services of the handful of specialized contractors able to install the systems, Clarke said.

"You don't have a lot of available (contractors), and everyone is trying to hit the deadline at the same time," he said. "We don't have a surplus of money and the technical challenges are immense, especially on the larger, more complicated railroads."

Shutdown less likely as Senate closes in on budget agreement

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Buoyed by the sudden likelihood of a budget pact, lawmakers are on track to avoid a repeat of last month's government shutdown — though President Donald Trump unexpectedly raised the possibility of closing things down again if he can't have his way on immigration.

"I'd love to see a shutdown if we can't get this stuff taken care of," Trump declared Tuesday, repeating the sentiment for emphasis.

Trump's comments were strikingly disconnected from the progress on Capitol Hill, where the House passed a short-term spending measure Tuesday night and Senate leaders were closing in on a larger, long-term pact ahead of a Thursday night deadline. The broader agreement would award whopping spending increases to both the Pentagon and domestic federal programs, as well as approve overdue disaster relief money and, perhaps, crucial legislation to increase the government's borrowing limit and avoid possible default.

Democratic leaders have dropped their strategy of using the funding fight to extract concessions on immigration, specifically on seeking extended protections for the "Dreamer" immigrants who have lived in the country illegally since they were children. Instead, the Democrats prepared to cut a deal that would reap tens of billions of dollars for other priorities — including combatting opioids — while taking their chances on solving the immigration impasse later.

Tuesday night's 245-182 House vote, mostly along party lines, set the machinery in motion. The six-week stopgap spending bill contains increases for the military that long have been demanded by Trump and his GOP allies. But the measure appears increasingly likely to be rewritten by the Senate to include legislation implementing the brewing broader budget pact.

House Democrats canceled a scheduled three-day retreat on Maryland's Eastern Shore to develop a strategy for the midterm elections. A spokeswoman blamed the cancellation on "the pressing issues Congress will likely vote on over the next three days."

The budget negotiations, conducted chiefly by the Senate's top leaders, Republican Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Chuck Schumer of New York, have intensified in recent days — and the looming government shutdown at midnight Thursday added urgency to the talks. In addition to the military and domestic spending, the deal taking shape would approve overdue disaster relief money and, perhaps, crucial legislation to increase the government's borrowing limit and avoid possible default.

Both McConnell and Schumer reported progress Tuesday morning.

"I think we're on the way to getting an agreement and getting it very soon," said McConnell.

Prospects for dealing with immigration, however, were as fuzzy as ever. The Senate is slated next week to begin a debate to address the dilemma of immigrants left vulnerable by the looming expiration of former President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

Weeks of bargaining have left the two parties divided over how to extend protections for such Dreamer immigrants and a court ruling has blunted a March 5 deadline.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 30 of 45

McConnell said Tuesday that while he hopes "we will end up having something," he was unsure if any proposed measure would get the 60 votes needed for approval.

On Tuesday, White House chief of staff John Kelly threw fuel on the dispute as he defended Trump's proposed solution. The retired general noted the White House proposal would expand protection for some 1.8 million immigrants. That group includes both the 690,000 currently shielded and also "the people that some would say were too afraid to sign up, others would say were too lazy to get off their asses, but they didn't sign up," he said.

No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Dick Durbin of Illinois, his party's chief immigration negotiator, bristled at the comment.

"I'm sorry for that characterization. It doesn't surprise me from Gen. Kelly," he said.

The budget talks appeared to be going more smoothly.

GOP defense hawks were prevailing over the party's depleted ranks of deficit hawks, championing major new spending on military programs. Democrats, meanwhile, leveraged their influence to increase spending for domestic priorities such as combating opioid misuse.

The result could be the return of trillion-dollar deficits for the first time since Obama's first term.

The stopgap spending bill would keep the government open through March 23 to allow time to write and pass detailed follow-up "omnibus" legislation to fund the government through the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year.

The prospective longer-term budget agreement would give both the Pentagon and domestic agencies relief from a budget freeze that lawmakers say threatens military readiness and training as well as domestic priorities such as combating opioid abuse and repairing the government's troubled health care system for veterans.

The temporary funding measure would also reauthorize funding for community health centers, which enjoy widespread bipartisan support.

Aides in both parties said the budget measure may also contain a provision to raise the government's \$20.5 trillion borrowing limit. Legislation to increase the debt ceiling is always a headache, especially for House GOP leaders whose rank and file have in the past used the votes to register objection to deficit spending.

Another likely addition is more than \$80 billion in long-overdue hurricane relief for Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, a top priority of lawmakers in both parties.

Under Congress' arcane ways, a broad-brush agreement to increase legally binding spending "caps" — which would otherwise keep the budgets for the military and domestic agencies essentially frozen — would be approved, then followed by a far more detailed catchall spending bill that would take weeks to negotiate.

It's clear that Senate Democrats have no appetite for another government shutdown. Their unity splintered during last month's three-day closure.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., had linked progress on the budget with action to address the immigration program, but other Democrats are beginning to agitate for delinking the two, lest the opportunity for a budget pact be lost. And having tried and failed to link progress on the budget to DACA during last month's government shutdown battle, many Democrats aren't spoiling for a repeat.

"It's hard. If we can get a good deal that funds disaster relief, funds domestic priorities, funds the opioid crisis it would be a difficult call," said Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash. "DACA's important and it ought to get done. But what's the path?"

Schumer said he and Pelosi are "working from the same page," appearing to discount speculation that she might oppose the coming pact.

AP Writers Jill Colvin, Ken Thomas and Darlene Superville contributed.

Asian shares mirror Dow comeback, dollar steady

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares saw a broad rebound on Wednesday, mirroring the bounce-back rally on Wall Street, though gains were in a modest range and most benchmarks gave up some gains after opening sharply higher.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index surged as soon as trading began as investors sought bargains, finishing morning trading up 3.1 percent at 22,270.56. South Korea's Kospi, which saw only modest losses on Tuesday, fell back by midday, losing 0.7 percent to 2,435.05.

The Nikkei 225 tumbled as much as 7.1 percent on Tuesday before regaining some lost ground to close 4.7 percent lower.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was up 1.0 percent at 5,889.60. Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 1.2 percent to 30,953.48, while the Shanghai Composite gained 0.1 percent to 3,376.36.

U.S. stocks rallied Tuesday as a late surge helped them regain almost half their losses from the day before, when they had their biggest plunge in 6 ½ years amid heavy trading and huge swings for the market.

Major indexes in Asia and Europe sank Tuesday and U.S. markets started sharply lower, zigzagging between gains and losses. After its 1,175-point nosedive Monday, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 567 points right after trading began but eventually gained 567 points, adding 2.3 percent to 24,912.77.

"While today would be crucial in seeing if the bulls can wrestle back control for Asian markets, it does appear that we have finally entered a period of increased volatility," says Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

"This increased volatility had been one that the market was anticipating at the start of the year, but certainly took its time to arrive and may retain a spot in the market after this week's tumultuous turn."

Tuesday was the busiest day of trading on the New York Stock Exchange since Nov. 10, 2016, two days after the presidential election.

Throughout the turbulence, investors bought companies that do well when economic growth is strongest. Gainers included technology companies, retailers like Amazon and Home Depot, and industrial companies and banks.

Bond yields reversed after a sharp drop Monday. As a result, the biggest losses went to high-dividend companies such as utility and real estate companies whose stocks become less appealing than bonds to investors seeking income. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.80 percent from 2.71 percent.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index, a broader market barometer tracked by many index funds, climbed 1.7 percent to 2,695.14. The Nasdaq composite rose 2.1 percent to 7,115.88.

The steep drops Friday and Monday wiped out the gains the Dow and S&P 500 had made since the beginning of the year. But the Dow is up 24 percent in the past 12 months the S&P 500 has gained 18 percent.

After Tuesday's rebound the S&P 500 is still down 6.2 percent from the record high it set on January 26. That's less than the 10 percent seen as a correction. Corrections are seen as entirely normal and even helpful in curbing excessive gains during bull markets. The last market correction ended almost two years ago.

Investors remain fearful that signs of rising inflation and higher interest rates could stifle the bull market that has pushed stocks to record high after record high in recent years.

Also Wednesday, U.S. crude oil added 60 cents to \$63.99 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell 76 cents, or 1.2 percent, to close at \$63.39 a barrel in New York Tuesday. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, rose 54 cents to \$67.40 a barrel in London.

In currency trading, the dollar fell to 109.32 yen from 109.54 yen late Tuesday. The euro was trading at \$1.2384.

On Monday, the Dow finished down 4.6 percent, the biggest decline in percentage terms since August 2011, when investors were fretting over Europe's debt crisis and the debt ceiling impasse in Washington that prompted a U.S. credit rating downgrade.

AP Markets Writer Jay Marley contributed to this report.

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Pentagon says Trump ordered Washington military parade

By **ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has asked the Pentagon to plan a grand parade of the U.S. armed forces in Washington this year to celebrate military strength, officials said Tuesday.

The Washington Post, which was first to report the plan, said Trump wants an elaborate parade this year with soldiers marching and tanks rolling, but no date has been selected.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders confirmed the request Tuesday evening. She said Trump wants the Pentagon to “explore a celebration” that will allow Americans to show appreciation for the military.

A Pentagon spokesman, Charlie Summers, said Pentagon officials are aware of the request and are “looking at options.”

Muscular military parades of the kind that are common in authoritarian countries like China and North Korea are not quintessentially American. The U.S. traditionally has not embraced showy displays of raw military power, such as North Korea’s parading of ballistic missiles as a claim of international prestige and influence.

U.S. military members commonly participate in parades on the Fourth of July and other holidays to mark appreciation and remembrance of military veterans, but these typically do not include gaudy displays of military hardware.

In her brief comment on Trump’s order to the Pentagon, Sanders did not elaborate on what sort of event he envisions.

Although Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has not commented publicly on the idea of a Washington military parade, the idea is not an obvious fit with his emphasis on focusing strictly, if not exclusively, on military activities that either improve the lethality of the armed forces or enhance their preparation for combat, or both.

The Post report said a Jan. 18 meeting between Trump, Mattis and top generals at the Pentagon marked a tipping point in Trump’s push for a parade. It quoted an unidentified military official as saying, “The marching orders were: I want a parade like the one in France.” It was thus interpreted as a presidential order, the Post said, adding that the cost of shipping tanks and other military hardware to Washington could run in the millions of dollars.

The Post also reported that the Pentagon would prefer to hold such a parade on Veteran’s Day in November, in part because it would coincide with the 100th anniversary of the victorious end of World War I. It would thus be less directly associated with the president and politics, the Post said.

John Kirby, a retired Navy rear admiral and former spokesman for the State Department and the Pentagon, reposted on Twitter Tuesday night an article he wrote for CNN’s website last summer after Trump mentioned he had been dazzled by the Paris parade. Kirby said a big military parade in Washington is a bad idea.

“First of all, the United States doesn’t need a parade down Pennsylvania or any other avenue to show our military strength,” he wrote. “We do that every day in virtually every clime all over the world.”

It has long been conventional wisdom that the U.S. does not need to boast of its military strength because it already is recognized as the leader of the NATO alliance and a model of military professionalism that countries across the globe seek to emulate.

Last September, at a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, Trump announced his idea of staging a grand parade of the armed forces in Washington on July 4.

Trump reminisced about watching France’s Bastille Day military parade when he visited Paris in July. He said the two-hour parade was a “tremendous thing for France and for the spirit of France,” and said he wanted one on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington that would be grander than the one he saw in Paris.

On Trump's desk: Dems' classified memo on Russia probe

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, CHAD DAY and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump met with a top Justice Department official Tuesday to review a classified Democratic memo on the Russia investigation, less than a week after he brushed aside objections from the same agency over releasing a Republican account.

The dueling memos — and Trump's silence so far on whether he will release the Democratic version — have set up a standoff between Trump and congressional Democrats and deepened partisan fights on the House intelligence panel. The memos have become the recent focus of the committee's probe into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, taking attention away from investigations into whether Trump's campaign was involved.

The Democratic document is intended to counter the GOP memo, which criticized methods the FBI used to obtain a surveillance warrant on a onetime Trump campaign associate. The president has until the end of the week to decide whether to make it public.

On Tuesday, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump met with Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein to discuss differences between the two memos, and "we are undergoing the exact same process that we did with the previous memo, in which it will go through a full and thorough legal and national security review."

White House chief of staff John Kelly said later that he's instructed officials to complete an evaluation of the Democratic memo no later than Thursday. After that, Kelly said, "we'll brief the president on it and he will have a decision to make" on whether to declassify it entirely, or perhaps declassify it with some redactions.

Kelly said the Democratic version is "not as clean a memo as the first one."

The House panel voted unanimously Monday to release the Democratic memo, sending it to the White House.

Separate Russia investigations are underway by the Senate intelligence committee and special counsel Robert Mueller, whose team is scheduled to interview former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon next week.

The Mueller interview was confirmed by two people familiar with it. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about details of the interview.

Bannon is expected to face questions about key events during his time in the White House including Trump's firings of former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former FBI Director James Comey.

Also Tuesday, the House intelligence committee gave Bannon another week to negotiate the terms of a closed-door interview as the White House has put limits on what he can tell Congress. Bannon was under subpoena to appear Tuesday as part of the panel's Russia probe, but Republicans pushed the deadline to next week as talks about the terms of his interview continued.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the intelligence panel, said Bannon's lawyer has told the committee that the White House will only permit him to answer 14 "yes" or "no" questions. He said Bannon is barred by the White House from talking about matters during the presidential transition, his time at the White House and communications with Trump since he left in August.

Schiff said the panel is in rare bipartisan agreement that the terms offered are unacceptable.

"Should Bannon maintain his refusal to return and testify fully to all questions, the committee should begin contempt proceedings to compel his testimony," Schiff said.

Despite unity on the Bannon interview, partisan tensions continued to run high on the committee as lawmakers issued their dueling memos.

Schiff and other Democrats have raised questions about whether the committee chairman, Republican Rep. Devin Nunes of California, coordinated with the White House in drafting the GOP memo. After the document's release last week, the president quickly seized on it to vent his grievances against the nation's premier law enforcement agencies and said it "totally vindicates" him in the Russia investigations.

"The goal here is to undermine the FBI, discredit the FBI, discredit the Mueller investigation, do the

president's bidding," Schiff said, adding that he thinks "it's very possible" that Nunes' staff worked with the White House.

Nunes was asked during a Jan. 29 committee meeting whether he had coordinated the memo with the White House. "As far as I know, no," he responded. He refused to answer when asked whether his congressional staff members had communicated with the White House. He had previously apologized for sharing with the White House secret intelligence intercepts related to an investigation of Russian election interference before talking to committee members.

The Republican memo released last Friday alleges misconduct by the FBI and the Justice Department in obtaining a warrant under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to monitor former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser Carter Page. Specifically, the memo takes aim at the FBI's use of information from former British spy Christopher Steele, who compiled a dossier containing allegations of ties between Trump, his associates and Russia.

The GOP memo's central allegation is that agents and prosecutors, in applying in October 2016 to monitor Page's communications, failed to inform fully a judge about Steele's political bias and that his opposition research was funded in part by Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Pence won't rule out NKorea meeting, will 'see what happens'

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said he has not ruled out the possibility of meeting with North Korean officials at the upcoming Olympics in South Korea.

"Let me say President Trump has said he always believes in talking, but I haven't requested any meeting," Pence said before departing Monday on a six-day Asia trip. "But we'll see what happens."

Pence arrived Tuesday in Japan, where he will meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. service members.

The vice president's trip will be highlighted by his stop at the Pyeongchang Games. He said no plans have been made for him to meet with any members of the North Korean delegation.

Yet both he and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson have conspicuously kept the door open to such an interaction, while simultaneously avoiding any suggestion that the U.S. was pushing or seeking to initiate one. That delicate balance has led to some verbal gymnastics as U.S. officials try to explain what is and isn't in the offing.

"We've been clear in not saying there definitely will not be a meeting," Undersecretary of State Steve Goldstein said as he traveled with Tillerson in Latin America. "The secretary always believes that if there's an opportunity for a negotiation, regardless of what the issue is, we should try to take that."

North Korea is sending its nominal head of state, Kim Yong Nam — the highest-level visitor to the South from the North in recent memory.

Pence said his message, if he met any officials from the North, would be the same as it has been in public. "And that is that North Korea must once and for all abandon its nuclear weapons program and ballistic missile ambitions," he said.

Pence said he aims to ensure North Korea doesn't "hijack" the games as it participates on a joint team with the South, in the view of the White House. He'll hold symbolic events of his own to highlight the North's human rights abuses and nuclear ambitions, according to White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to preview the trip publicly.

"We'll be telling the truth about North Korea at every stop," Pence told reporters after touring missile defense facilities Monday that monitor and could respond to a launch by the North. "We'll be ensuring that whatever cooperation that's existing between North and South Korea today on Olympic teams does not cloud the reality of a regime that must continue to be isolated by the world community."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 35 of 45

In South Korea, Pence will visit a memorial to the 46 South Korean sailors killed in a 2010 torpedo attack attributed to the North, and hold meetings with President Moon Jae-in.

"Missile defense is essential to our national defense," Pence said before a briefing with U.S. Northern Command at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. He touted the coming deployment of an additional 20 ground-based interceptors that would respond to an enemy launch.

Leading the U.S. delegation to the Olympic Opening Ceremonies, Pence will bring to the games Fred Warmbier, the father of Otto Warmbier, the U.S. student who died in 2017 shortly after he was released from North Korean detention.

"He & his wife remind the world of the atrocities happening in N Korea," Pence tweeted Monday.

The trip comes after President Donald Trump hosted a group of North Korean defectors in the Oval Office on Friday, including Ji Seong-ho, whom the president referenced in his State of the Union address last week. The White House cast the meeting as part of the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign to counter the North Korean nuclear program. The plan centers around rallying the international community to further isolate North Korea both diplomatically and economically.

White House officials said Pence was expected to continue to bring attention to North Korea's human rights abuses on the trip, and offer of reminder of grim conditions in North Korea.

On Sunday, the North Korean government shot back that its nuclear missile program would "deter Trump and his lackeys from showing off on the Korean peninsula."

"If Trump does not get rid of his anachronistic and dogmatic way of thinking, it will only bring about the consequence of further endangering security and future of the United States," the government said in comments carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

Trump and other senior officials have repeatedly said that time is running out before North Korea gains the capability to strike the U.S. mainland with a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile. The isolated country has proven it can launch missiles of sufficient range, but has yet to develop a vehicle that can withstand the hazards of atmospheric re-entry.

Associated Press writers Matthew Pennington and Josh Lederman in Washington contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that North Korea is sending its nominal head of state, Kim Yong Nam, not Kim Jong Nam.

Pennsylvania redistricting decision gives Democrats a boost

By **BILL BARROW** and **MARK SCOLFORO**, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pennsylvania already figured prominently in Democrats' attempt to win back control of the U.S. House. A decision this week in a long-running redistricting case is set to give those efforts a boost.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene after the state's high court declared unconstitutional Pennsylvania's existing House map, which had been heavily gerrymandered by Republicans. A reshuffled map is expected to make several districts friendlier for Democratic candidates in November.

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and the leaders of the Republican-run Legislature face a court-ordered Friday deadline to find a compromise approach to drawing the new boundaries.

"It's still early in the process ... but I'm very encouraged by what this decision could mean for the people of Pennsylvania," said Rep. Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico, who heads Democrats' House campaign arm.

Before the redistricting decision, Democrats had zeroed in on six Pennsylvania congressional districts out of 91 they are targeting nationwide. Only California and New York have more top targets for House Democrats.

The scramble to redraw districts for this year's elections in Pennsylvania is a preview of redistricting dominoes in several states that could alter the balance on Capitol Hill in the coming years.

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule later this year on partisan gerrymandering cases in Wisconsin

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 36 of 45

and Maryland. A decision against maps that are overtly political, overwhelmingly favoring one party over another, ultimately could force congressional districts to be redrawn elsewhere, including battleground states such as Michigan, North Carolina and Virginia.

Unlike in Pennsylvania, potential changes in those states are unlikely to affect elections this year.

The hustle to redraw the state's congressional maps has left candidates such as Democrat Chrissy Houlahan wondering what district they'll ultimately represent if they win. The Air Force veteran wants to unseat Republican Rep. Ryan Costello in the Philadelphia suburbs. The state's 6th Congressional District appears on a map roughly shaped as a boomerang.

Costello won 57 percent of the vote in 2016, but Democrat Hillary Clinton outpaced President Donald Trump in the district.

"It's going to be strange for me the next few weeks," Houlahan said of waiting on new boundaries. But she called the ruling "a win for democracy" and said it won't affect her approach, focusing on health care, jobs and education.

The new maps will not affect a March 13 special election in southwest Pennsylvania, where state Rep. Rick Saccone and Democrat Conor Lamb are vying to replace Republican Tim Murphy, who resigned amid a sex scandal. But the winner in the 18th Congressional District could still find himself in a redesigned district running for re-election in November.

"You could have a new congressman drawn out of his district completely," said Republican strategist Bob Branstetter, who is advising Saccone.

The current boundaries resulted from Republicans who controlled the Legislature and governor's office breaking decades of geographic precedent when drawing boundaries after the 2010 census. They shifted whole counties and cities into different districts and produced contorted boundaries in an effort to protect a Republican advantage in the congressional delegation.

Some of the districts were so oddly shaped to benefit Republicans that they drew derisive descriptions: Goofy Kicking Donald Duck; a malnourished hammerhead shark winding through six counties; the state of Florida, with a longer panhandle.

The maps had the desired effect. Republicans hold a 13-5 advantage in congressional seats in a state where Democrats have 800,000 more registered voters and hold all but one statewide elected office. In 2016, President Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton by less than 1 percentage point out of more than 6 million votes cast.

Competition also has suffered under the Republican-drawn maps. With the three previous House maps after the Census in 1980, 1990 and 2000, between two and six Pennsylvania congressional seats changed party hands during a given decade. Since the 2012 elections, when the new boundaries went into effect, none has.

An Associated Press analysis published last June found Pennsylvania Republicans won about three more congressional seats in the 2016 election than would have been expected based on the party's overall share of the vote. That ranked second nationally behind Texas and slightly ahead North Carolina and Michigan. Overall, the AP analysis found Republicans won as many as 22 additional U.S. House seats over what would have been expected based on the average congressional vote share across the country.

Pennsylvania Republican Party Chairman Val DiGiorgio insists the GOP's advantage is a natural result of Democrats' concentration in cities. He said a more even map would require another form of gerrymandering by carving up Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

At the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a project of former Attorney General Eric Holder, executive director Kelly Ward rejected that. She said there are enough Democrats beyond the major cities to draw maps leading to competitive elections "so that the swing nature of the state is reflected" in Washington.

Associated Press reporters David A. Lieb in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

Scolforo reported from Harrisburg. Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrow> and Scolforo at <https://twitter.com/houseofbuddy>

2nd man has gene editing; therapy has no safety flags so far

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer**

A second patient has been treated in a historic gene editing study in California, and no major side effects or safety issues have emerged from the first man's treatment nearly three months ago, doctors revealed Tuesday.

Gene editing is a more precise way to do gene therapy, and aims to permanently change someone's DNA to try to cure a disease.

In November, 44-year-old Brian Madeux became the first person to have gene editing inside the body for a metabolic disease called Hunter syndrome that's caused by a bad gene. Through an IV, he received many copies of a corrective gene and a genetic tool to put it in a precise spot in his DNA.

"He's doing well and we were approved to go ahead with the second patient who also is doing well," said Dr. Paul Harmatz of UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, who treated both men for the same disease.

At a medical conference in San Diego, Harmatz reported safety results for the first six weeks after Madeux's treatment. Sangamo Therapeutics, the company that makes the gene editing tool called zinc finger nucleases, is testing them for two metabolic diseases and hemophilia, a bleeding disorder.

The company said more safety information and initial results on effectiveness should come by mid-year.

Madeux had dizziness, cold sweats and weakness four days after the treatment but they went away on their own in a day, Harmatz said. Madeux also had a severe cough and a partially collapsed lung, but these were deemed unrelated to the gene therapy because he had had similar problems previously.

Importantly, there were no signs of harm to his liver.

"That's the big worry" because changes in the liver might mean the immune system was fighting the treatment and possibly undermining its effectiveness, Harmatz said.

The liver results were welcome news after some other recent reports caused alarm. A prominent gene therapy scientist, Dr. James Wilson of the University of Pennsylvania, published two studies reporting liver and other serious problems in monkeys and piglets that were given experimental gene therapies. Several had to be euthanized.

The animal studies tested very high intravenous doses of a therapy that used a certain virus to carry the gene into cells. Relatives of this virus are widely used in human gene therapies, but Wilson said he does not believe that the results in animals have any bearing on use of lower doses, different types of the virus, or therapies given in different ways such as a shot.

The results might mean it will be harder to develop gene therapies for some neuro-muscular disorders — higher doses in the animal studies were thought necessary to get the therapy into the brain and throughout muscles.

The Sangamo study that Madeux is in used much lower doses of a different type of the virus.

Wilson said it was important to the field that any safety concerns be published quickly. He helped lead a very early gene therapy experiment that killed a teen in 1999, putting some other studies on hold for years.

An editorial in the journal *Human Gene Therapy*, which published one of Wilson's animal studies, said gene therapy experiments should not stop because that might deprive patients of potentially life-saving treatments.

In the last year, the first gene therapies were approved in the United States to treat cancer and an inherited form of blindness.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed on Twitter: @MMarchioneAP

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Trump aide: Some immigrants 'too lazy' to sign up for DACA

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some immigrants may have been “too afraid” or “too lazy” to sign up for the Obama-era program that offers protection from deportation, White House chief of staff John Kelly said Tuesday as he defended President Donald Trump’s proposal on the divisive issue.

Kelly discounted the possibility that Trump would announce a temporary extension of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program beyond March 5, when its protections could expire. He said the administration would not ask Congress to set a later date to give bargainers more time to reach a bipartisan deal, but said the government would not start deporting “Dreamers” who don’t have criminal records.

“They are not a priority for deportation,” he told reporters.

Kelly spoke as lawmakers have deadlocked in an effort to reach an immigration compromise. Barring an unlikely last-minute agreement, the Senate is expected to begin debating the issue next week, and it is unclear what if any plan will survive.

“We just don’t know where 60 votes are for any particular proposal,” said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., citing the votes needed for passage. Republicans have a slim majority and any measure will need around a dozen Democratic votes to succeed.

Kelly said Trump’s recent offer to provide a path to citizenship for up to 1.8 million immigrants went “beyond what anyone could have imagined.” A bipartisan offer by six senators that Trump rejected would have made citizenship possible for the 690,000 “Dreamers” registered under the program, nicknamed DACA, which shields immigrants who came to the U.S. as children and stayed here illegally.

“There are 690,000 official DACA registrants and the president sent over what amounts to be two and a half times that number, to 1.8 million,” Kelly said. “The difference between (690,000) and 1.8 million were the people that some would say were too afraid to sign up, others would say were too lazy to get off their asses, but they didn’t sign up.”

Immigration experts cite various reasons why people eligible for DACA’s protections do not apply. These include lack of knowledge about the program, a worry that participating will expose them to deportation and an inability to afford registration fees.

“I’m sorry for that characterization. It doesn’t surprise me from Gen. Kelly,” No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois, his party’s chief immigration negotiator, said of the White House staff chief’s remarks.

At a later bargaining session among lawmakers and White House officials, No. 2 House Democratic leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland “had an exchange” with Kelly about the comments, Durbin said.

Hoyer later declined to describe his comments, saying, “I want to get a deal done.”

Durbin also scoffed at Kelly’s assertion that “Dreamers” would not be deported after the March 5 deadline arrives.

“It’s cold comfort to DACA people that if Congress does nothing, they’re still safe in the loving arms of the Department of Homeland Security,” said Durbin.

With leaders working on a separate track toward a budget pact, Trump threw a knuckle ball into the mix, saying he’d “love to see a shutdown” if Democrats didn’t meet his immigration demands.

Trump said last September that he was ending DACA but gave lawmakers until March 5 to pass legislation shielding the Dreamers. A federal judge has indefinitely blocked Trump from terminating the program’s protections, blunting the deadline’s immediate impact.

Many lawmakers are uneasy about what might happen to the Dreamers after March 5, and Democrats — and Trump himself — are using that uncertainty as leverage to help force a deal.

Kelly rejected the idea of asking lawmakers to extend the deadline, saying, “What makes them act is pressure.”

In exchange for making citizenship a possibility, Trump wants \$25 billion for border security, including money to build parts of his coveted wall along the U.S.-Mexico boundary. He also wants to curb legal immigration, restricting the relatives that legal immigrants could sponsor for citizenship and ending a lottery

that distributes visas to people from diverse places like Africa.

"I can't imagine men and women of good will who begged this president to solve the problem of DACA" would oppose Trump's proposal, Kelly said. He added, "Right now, the champion of all people who are DACA is Donald Trump."

Democrats strongly oppose limiting legal immigration, and conservatives are against giving citizenship to DACA recipients, and Trump's bill has gotten little traction in Congress. Durbin, his party's chief vote counter, said Trump's proposal would not get 60 Senate votes, saying, "I don't think it will get any votes on the Democratic side."

Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

Down, then up: Stock market goes on another wild ride

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Wall Street is making a good case for buying stock in Maalox and Tums.

In another stomach-churning day Tuesday, stocks plunged in the morning, then pulled off a late-afternoon rally, ending the day in positive territory and recouping some of the losses from the market's two-day plunge.

"The positive for the market is that we came back today in very convincing fashion, but I certainly would not say it's all done, the Wicked Witch is dead," said JJ Kinahan, chief investment strategist for TD Ameritrade. "Brace for volatility and strap yourself for the next couple of weeks."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index is now up just under 1 percent for the year. It had been up as much as 7.5 percent less than two weeks ago.

The bounce-back no doubt came as relief to many Americans made queasy by the drop in their retirement savings and investment accounts.

But for a while Tuesday, it was ugly and getting uglier.

After its 1,175-point nosedive Monday, the Dow Jones industrial average sank an additional 567 points right after trading began Tuesday. Several ups and downs later, the Dow finished the day with a neatly symmetrical gain of 567 points, closing at 24,913.

The big sell-off over the past few days was triggered, at least in part, by fears of inflation and higher interest rates. But the rebound showed that even after going through the worst market tumble in more than six years, some investors are still in a buying mood.

That's been one of the characteristics of the remarkably resilient, nearly nine-year bull market: Time and again, buyers have stepped in within a day or two of a market drop and wiped out the decline.

"While the sharp decline in the S&P 500 on Monday was unnerving, it is important to keep in mind that these kinds of moves have tended to be buying opportunities in the post Financial Crisis era," Lori Calvasina, head of equity strategy at RBC Capital Markets, wrote in a research note Tuesday.

Going back to 2010, the S&P 500 index has fallen 3 percent or more in a single day 15 times. And each time, the index, which is the benchmark most professionals and many index funds use, had been meaningfully higher six months later, Calvasina noted.

Even so, one couldn't blame investors for forgetting this trend, as the market didn't drop more than 3 percent on a single day all last year.

The question is, was Tuesday too soon to buy back in?

"There's no question that the level of risk in buying the dip from this point forward is going to be higher than it was through any time last year and really even a year before that," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading & derivatives at Charles Schwab. "That's why it's wise to just sit and watch here for another day or two and see where things settle out."

Other Wall Street insiders say the worst is over.

"I believe this is the bottom," said Phil Blancato, CEO of Ladenburg Thalmann Asset Management. "This is not 2008, when we were really seeing a massive broad-breadth market sell-off. Economically, we're in too good a shape."

The turbulence has yet to rattle Susan McCauley, of Marietta, Georgia, a 66-year-old investment portfolio administrator who said she is not shifting away from stocks, despite the big tumble.

She recently decided to push back her retirement from 68 to 70 to give her more time to save up a bigger nest egg.

"Now that looks even more like a good decision, because it will give me time to invest more and give the market time to recover," she said.

To give or not Samsung phone to North Korean Olympians

By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Here is an Olympic question that Pyeongchang Winter Olympics organizer is wrestling with: to give or not to give the Samsung Galaxy phone to the 22 North Korean athletes.

Olympic Partner Samsung Electronics has donated some 4,000 Galaxy Note 8 phones for athletes and officials at the International Olympic Committee so that they can document every moment and share their memories with the world.

But the Winter Olympic Games organizer is in limbo whether giving the device that costs at least \$1,000 to North Koreans would violate global sanctions designed to punish their government's nuclear ambitions. It's also unclear if the phones would work on networks inside North Korea.

The Galaxy Note 8 Olympic Games phone distributed to athletes is a limited edition not for sale, but Samsung's Note series are some of the most expensive available in the market. The United Nations sanctions ban supplying or transferring luxury items to North Korea or to North Korean nationals.

The International Olympic Committee has advised the organizer that North Korean athletes can use the phone during the Olympics that open Friday but must return them before their departure.

Even after the IOC's response, the Pyeongchang Organizing Committee is still unsure what to do.

"Somebody should make a clear call but there is no one who can," said Sung Baik-yoo, the committee's spokesman. "So we have not given the phone (to North Koreans) and we cannot give the phone until we confirm this is not a violation of the U.N. sanctions."

The committee should also take into consideration that all athletes are to be treated equally regardless of their nationality, Sung said.

Athletes from Iran are another group that won't be given the phone due to global sanctions, according to the committee. Other Olympians receive the Samsung phone upon arrival at the Olympic Village.

The phone is one of the sticking issues that South Korea is dealing with as it conducts a careful dance of welcoming North Koreans for the Olympics to send a message of peace while trying to avoid causing any frictions with its allies worried about the North's nuclear weapons.

In order to accommodate North Korean artists arriving by sea, South Korea's government had waived its own sanctions imposed against Pyongyang that bans entrance of North Korean vessels. While South Korea says the move was inevitable to ensure the successful hosting of the Olympics, some critics say Seoul is sending the wrong message to North Korea and also the international community, which has been stepping up financial and maritime sanctions against the North in recent months.

On Wednesday, Seoul's Unification Ministry said it is considering North Korea's request to provide fuel to the ferry that transported more than 100 artists for performances at the Olympics. Spokesman Baik Tae-hyun said the government will discuss with the United States and other countries so it would raise no problem with sanctions.

More Americans hold stocks, for better or for worse

By STAN CHOE, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A plunge in stock prices always stings, but this recent one dug deeper because more Americans are participating in the market, particularly older ones.

Slightly more than half of all U.S. families own stocks in some way, from workers who got automatically

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 41 of 45

enrolled into their 401(k) retirement accounts to day-traders working their personal accounts. The rate of stock ownership is the highest since the dawn of the Great Recession in 2007.

On the whole, higher stock ownership can be a good thing: It means more Americans, not just the wealthiest, have benefited from the record-setting returns that stocks have delivered since the current bull market started in early 2009. But there can be a downside: Many Americans are also keeping bigger portions of their portfolios in stocks than experts recommend, led by baby boomers, which accentuates the impact of each swing in the market. Even Americans aged 75 and over are more likely to own stocks than at any time since the 1980s, according to data from the Federal Reserve.

Some investors may have been blissfully unaware that stocks were growing to an ever-larger portion of their portfolio as stock prices swelled in recent years. Others bought even more stocks because they were afraid of missing out on the amazingly big and smooth gains that the market had been delivering before Monday's loss, the worst day in more than six years.

Either way, nearly 23 percent of savers with a 401(k) at Fidelity had a bigger percentage of their account in stocks than the investment giant recommends, according to the company's most recent data from this past autumn.

Savers nearing retirement, for example, should have a portfolio with roughly 60 percent in stocks and 40 percent in bonds and cash, Fidelity says. The average baby boomer handling investment decisions for their 401(k) has 70 percent in stocks, according to Fidelity.

"We give them the same advice when the market is high as when it's low," said Jeanne Thompson, senior vice president at Fidelity Investments. "Make sure to check that you're properly allocated and not taking too much risk. Make sure you're able to sleep at night."

FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE

Investors of all ages can benefit from investing in stocks. Despite their long history of sharp swings in price, stocks have gone on to recover — eventually — from every decline they've had and deliver some of the best long-term returns.

Financial pros generally recommend that younger investors ignore the market's gyrations and, if anything, use drops as an opportunity to buy more stocks at a lower price. They have the luxury of waiting decades for a recovery. Investment companies often recommend savers in their 20s keep about 90 percent of their portfolios in stocks.

For older Americans nearing retirement or already in it, the math is messier. They may not have as long a timeframe for investing as fresh graduates, but longer lifespans mean they may have more than a decade.

And bonds, which are traditionally supposed to be the safe part of a nest egg, are looking riskier. If interest rates rise as expected, bond fund prices would fall and drag down returns.

"This is the trickiest time, at least in my memory, for an older person, as to where to invest," said JJ Kinahan, chief market strategist at TD Ameritrade.

Regardless of age, investors should be able to sleep at night if the stock portion of their portfolio falls 10 percent or more, which is a relatively regular occurrence for the market. If they can't, they likely have too much invested in stocks.

HOLDING STEADY

John Wall, 65, is semi-retired and keeps a part-time job with a rideshare app to help pay bills.

While sitting in a park in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida, on Tuesday and smoking a cigar as he waited for a rideshare customer, Wall shrugged when asked if he'd do anything different in light of the market dip.

"Work a little harder so I can make money back that I lost," he chuckled. "I'm just going to go on like I have been."

THE INCREASINGLY STOCK-OWNING SOCIETY

Fifty two percent of all U.S. households owned stocks in 2016, up 3 percentage points from three years earlier, according to the most recent data from the Federal Reserve.

Some of the biggest increases in stock ownership have come from households toward the lower end of the income bracket. Because of the stronger labor market, more people are getting automatically enrolled

into workplace plans or can afford to start saving, said Peter Brady, senior economist at the Investment Company Institute.

Workers in the bottom half for income took some of the biggest hits during the Great Recession, and stock-ownership rates for them dropped sharply. "They're finally starting to recover," Brady said.

Associated Press Writer Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida, and AP Personal Finance Writer Sarah Skidmore Sell in Portland, Oregon, contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to restore the words "have been" to the 4th paragraph.

Russian hackers exploit weakness in US cyber defense

BY JEFF DONN, DESMOND BUTLER and RAPHAEL SATTER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian hackers exploited a key vulnerability in U.S. cyber defenses to come within reach of stealing some of the nation's most secret and advanced defense technology, an Associated Press investigation has found.

What may have been stolen is uncertain, but the cyberspies clearly took advantage of poorly protected email and scant direct notification of victims.

The hackers known as Fancy Bear, who also intruded in the U.S. election, went after at least 87 people working on military drones, missiles, rockets, stealth fighter jets, cloud-computing platforms, or other sensitive activities, the AP found. Thirty-one agreed to interviews.

Employees at both small companies and defense giants like Lockheed Martin Corp., Raytheon Co., Boeing Co., Airbus Group and General Atomics were targeted. Contacted by the AP, those companies offered no comment.

"The programs that they appear to target and the people who work on those programs are some of the most forward-leaning, advanced technologies," said Charles Sowell, a former senior adviser in the Office of the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, who reviewed the list of names for the AP. "And if those programs are compromised in any way, then our competitive advantage and our defense is compromised."

"That's what's really scary," added Sowell, who was himself one of the hacking targets.

The AP identified Fancy Bear's prey from about 19,000 lines of the hackers' email phishing data collected by the U.S.-based cybersecurity company Secureworks, which calls the hackers Iron Twilight. The data is partial and extends from March 2015 to May 2016.

Most of the people on the target list worked on classified projects. Yet as many as 40 percent clicked on the hackers' phishing links, the AP analysis indicates. That's the first step in potentially opening their accounts or computer files to digital theft.

Hackers predominantly targeted personal Gmail, with a few corporate accounts mixed in. Personal accounts can convey classified information — whether through carelessness or expediency — and lead to more valuable targets or carry embarrassing personal details that can be used for blackmail or to recruit spies.

Among their interests, the Russians seemed to be eyeing the X-37B, an American unmanned space plane that looks like a miniature shuttle.

Referring to an X-37B flight in May 2015, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin invoked it as evidence that his country's space program was faltering. "The United States is pushing ahead," he warned Russian lawmakers.

Less than two weeks later, Fancy Bear tried to penetrate the Gmail account of a senior engineer on the X-37B project at Boeing.

The hackers also chased people who work on cloud-based services, the off-site computer networks that enable collaborators to work with data that is sometimes classified. For example, the cyberspies tried to get into the Gmail of an employee at Mellanox Federal Systems, which helps the government with high-speed storage networks, data analysis and cloud computing. Its clients include the FBI and other intel-

ligence agencies.

Yet of the 31 targets reached by AP, just one got any warning from U.S. officials.

The FBI declined to give on-the-record details of its response to this Russian operation. Agency spokeswoman Jillian Stickels said the FBI does sometimes notify individual targets. "The FBI takes ... all potential threats to public and private sector systems very seriously," she said in an email.

However, three people familiar with the matter — including a current and a former government official — previously told the AP the FBI knew the details of Fancy Bear's phishing campaign for more than a year.

Pressed about notification in that case, a senior FBI official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the hacking operation because of its sensitivity, said the bureau was overwhelmed by the sheer number of attempted hacks. "It's a matter of triaging to the best of our ability the volume of the targets who are out there," he said.

A Pentagon spokeswoman, Heather Babb, said the department recognizes the evolving cyber threat and continues to update training and technology for military, civilian and contract personnel. But she declined to comment on this hacking operation.

The Defense Security Service, which protects classified U.S. technology, focuses on safeguarding corporate computer networks.

"We simply have no insight into or oversight of anyone's personal email accounts or how they are protected or notified when something is amiss," spokeswoman Cynthia McGovern said in an email.

Donn reported from Plymouth, Massachusetts; Butler, from Washington; Satter, from Paris.

In this classroom, every student's name is 'Judge'

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — They're already being called "Your Honor" in courtrooms across the country, but this week some of America's newest federal judges are students. They're together for training on their new jobs, a workshop affectionately called "Baby Judges School."

The training is the first to be held for judges appointed by President Donald Trump, but there will be more.

The new judges are learning everything from how to manage the hundreds of cases they'll oversee to how to pick a jury, try civil and criminal cases, and take a guilty plea. And they're attending sessions on ethics, on sentencing and on how to talk to victims, defendants and their families.

Officially, it's called the "Phase 1 Orientation Seminar for Newly Appointed District Judges." But few call it that.

"The goal of the baby judge program is to make sure that people have the fundamentals that they need to be able to do the job," said Judge Jeremy Fogel, the director of the Federal Judicial Center, the judicial branch's research and education agency and organizer of the training.

The training, which began in the late 1960s, isn't mandatory, but the vast majority of new, federal trial-level judges choose to attend, and some appeals court judges do, too. Thirteen Trump-appointed judges with backgrounds ranging from work as prosecutors to lawyers in private practice are attending the training in Texas this week.

Lawmakers have confirmed 24 Trump nominees, and the president has 145 judicial vacancies to fill. His two-term predecessors, Barack Obama and George W. Bush, each appointed more than 300 judges out of a total of almost 900.

Fogel and Judge William E. Smith, one of two sitting federal judges serving as mentors during this week's training, said the program is designed to present judges with options, not dictate how they should do their jobs.

"I think one thing that we want people to get out of this is a certain level of comfort with the basic tasks of the job, and there's no one right style of being a federal court judge," Smith said.

The Federal Judicial Center declined The Associated Press' request to observe some of the training, saying the sessions are private to encourage the judges' participation and candor. But organizers and judges

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 44 of 45

involved in the program described the week in interviews.

In addition to lectures and discussion, the judges will spend time roleplaying different scenarios. And for the first time a portion of the class will be dedicated exclusively to discussing workplace harassment.

Last year, prominent federal appeals court Judge Alex Kozinski retired following accusations of sexual misconduct, including that he had touched women inappropriately and asked law clerks to view pornography in his chambers. Judges will discuss that behavior, along with other scenarios such as whether it's ever appropriate to tell a sexually explicit joke or ask a clerk to pick up dry cleaning.

The judges will also spend a half-day touring a federal prison. Previous groups have sometimes eaten a prison meal, and they always talk with prisoners about their experiences in the courtroom and as inmates.

"It sort of humanizes the people that you're going to have to work with on your criminal docket and makes you really think hard of the human consequences of what you're doing," said Judge Robin S. Rosenbaum, a federal appeals court judge who attended Baby Judges School after becoming a district judge in 2012 and is speaking to the new judges this week.

Judges say they often make friends with their Baby Judges School classmates, who also become people they can call on for advice. Judge Benita Pearson, an Ohio judge who is also a mentor at this week's training, said one of her former classmates is a Delaware judge who handles many complex intellectual property cases. Pearson said when she has an intellectual property question, calling her classmate "can usually save me an hour's worth of work."

The training isn't the only one new judges will attend in their first year. A second training takes place in Washington and includes more advanced education sessions.

Ira Robbins, an American University professor who has been teaching one of those advanced sessions since 1982, said judges take more notes than students in his semester-long classes.

Said Robbins: "They're going back to their offices and they have to use this."

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 7, the 38th day of 2018. There are 327 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 7, 1943, the government abruptly announced that wartime rationing of shoes made of leather would go into effect in two days, limiting consumers to buying three pairs per person per year. (Rationing was lifted in October 1945.)

On this date:

In 1497, "The Bonfire of the Vanities" took place in Florence, Italy, as followers of Dominican friar Girolama Savonarola burned a huge pile of items considered to be sinful distractions, such as books, artwork, fine clothing and cosmetics.

In 1795, the 11th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, dealing with states' sovereign immunity, was ratified.

In 1817, America's first public gas street lamp was lighted in Baltimore at the corner of Market and Lemon streets (now East Baltimore and Holliday streets).

In 1857, a French court acquitted author Gustave Flaubert of obscenity for his serialized novel "Madame Bovary."

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized a flag for the office of the vice president.

In 1948, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as U.S. Army chief of staff; he was succeeded by Gen. Omar Bradley.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy imposed a full trade embargo on Cuba.

In 1971, women in Switzerland gained the right to vote through a national referendum, 12 years after

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 07, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 210 ~ 45 of 45

a previous attempt failed.

In 1984, space shuttle Challenger astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered spacewalk, which lasted nearly six hours.

In 1986, the Philippines held a presidential election marred by charges of fraud against the incumbent, Ferdinand E. Marcos. Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier (doo-VAHL-yay') fled his country, ending 28 years of his family's rule.

In 1998, the Winter Olympic Games were opened in Nagano, Japan, by Emperor Akihito.

In 1999, Jordan's King Hussein died of cancer at age 63; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdullah.

Ten years ago: John McCain effectively sealed the Republican presidential nomination as chief rival Mitt Romney suspended his campaign. Fourteen refinery workers were killed in a sugar dust explosion in Port Wentworth, Georgia. A gunman opened fire at a Kirkwood, Missouri, council meeting, killing three city officials and two police officers before being fatally shot by law enforcement. In Los Angeles, a man who claimed responsibility for the deaths of three relatives opened fire on a SWAT unit, killing one officer; the gunman was killed by a police sniper. After two months of delay, shuttle Atlantis blasted into orbit with Europe's gift to the international space station, a \$2 billion science lab named Columbus.

Five years ago: CIA Director-designate John Brennan strongly defended anti-terror attacks by unmanned drones under close questioning at a protest-disrupted confirmation hearing held by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

One year ago: Charter school advocate Betsy DeVos won confirmation as education secretary by the slimmest of margins, pushed to approval only by the historic tie-breaking vote of Vice President Mike Pence. Actor Richard Hatch, perhaps best known for playing Captain Apollo in the original "Battlestar Galactica" film and TV series, died in Los Angeles at age 71.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gay Talese is 86. Former Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., is 83. Reggae musician Brian Travers (UB40) is 59. Comedy writer Robert Smigel (SMY'-guh) is 58. Actor James Spader is 58. Country singer Garth Brooks is 56. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 56. Actor-comedian Eddie Izzard is 56. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 53. Actor Jason Gedrick is 51. Actress Essence Atkins is 46. Rock singer-musician Wes Borland is 43. Rock musician Tom Blankenship (My Morning Jacket) is 40. Actor Ashton Kutcher is 40. Actress Tina Majorino is 33. Actress Deborah Ann Woll is 33. NBA player Isaiah Thomas is 29.

Thought for Today: "Do not read as children do to enjoy themselves, or, as the ambitious do to educate themselves. No, read to live." — Gustave Flaubert, French author (1821-1880).

Riddle Answer: Your Age