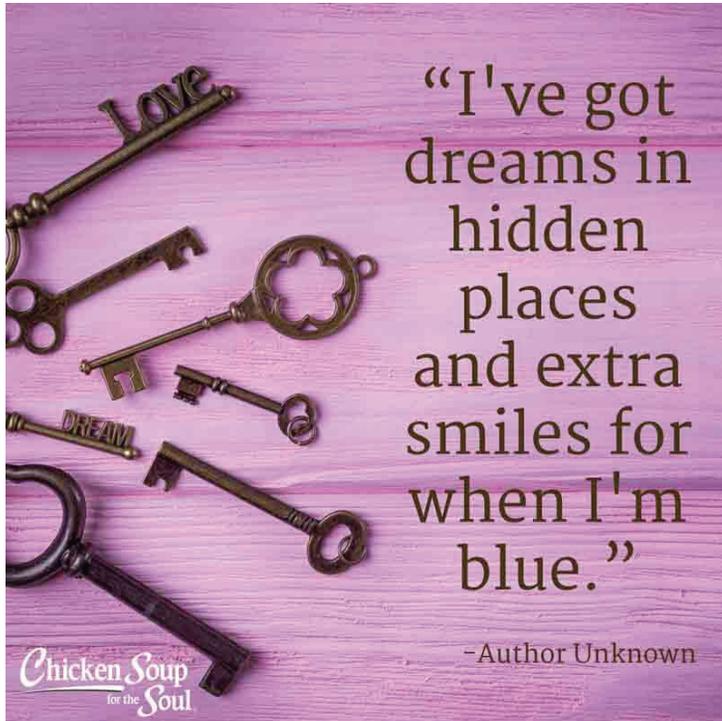


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Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

OPEN GYM GHS ARENA

December 3, 10, 17
January 7, 14, 21, 28
February 4, 11, 25
March 4, 11

Grades JrK-8 2:30-4:30 PM

Students grades JK-8 must be accompanied by an adult from 2:30-4:30.

Grades 6-12 4:30-6:30 PM

Students will be admitted free of charge.
They must sign in when they arrive.
Students are expected to behave appropriately.
HAVE FUN!

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



Know Your Heart

Never underestimate the power of your story. Earlier this year, Aletha Maki visited our Washington, D.C., office from Rapid City. Her granddaughter had been diagnosed with high cholesterol at age two, a condition brought on, the family learned, by a genetic disorder called familial hypercholesterolemia (or FH). Once diagnosed, the disease is manageable. But 90 percent of those with FH are unaware, and therefore, go untreated.

According to the FH Foundation, "Left untreated, men are at a 50% risk of a fatal or non-fatal coronary event by age 50, and women are at a 30% risk by age 60." Aletha's family each got tested after her granddaughter's diagnosis. Her daughter, son-in-law, and grandson were also found to have the condition. With as many as 1,700 South Dakotans likely to have the disease, Aletha's "ask" of our office was to help spread awareness. February is recognized as American Heart Month, so it seemed like an appropriate time to help raise awareness about FH and other heart conditions.

Cardiovascular disease can be the result of genetics, lifestyle or a combination of the two. Understanding the root of your condition may help your doctor hone in on a treatment. Additionally, as is the case with FH, an early diagnosis of a genetic condition could help reduce your risk of a cardiovascular event later in life. So, don't wait until you have a problem to get to know your heart. Schedule a trip to your doctor's office and ask them about heart health. Use your doctor as a resource to help set goals. Then, listen to their advice. If you need medication – for high blood pressure, cholesterol, or something else – take it as prescribed. If you're having trouble doing so, you can talk to your doctor about that too.

In many cases, lifestyle changes might help too. Even 15 minutes of walking a few times a week can make a difference. Why don't you try it for February and see if you can make it a habit? While you're at it, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends kicking some other unhealthy habits too, like smoking.

Simple changes on your plate can make a big difference too. The American Heart Association posts great heart-healthy recipes at recipes.heart.org, if you're looking for something new to cook up.

Every year, 610,000 people lose their life to heart disease, an astounding number when you consider that's nearly equivalent to South Dakota's population. The number is certainly troubling, but as time goes on, research teaches us about more ways in which we can manage this disease. To take advantage of that information, however, you must first get to know your heart. Take inspiration from Aletha's family. Get a check-up. Learn what can be done to minimize any risk factors you have. And make a change today.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Olympic Victory Should Be Celebrated, Not Taxed

It was September 1988 – nearly 30 years ago today – when the torch was lit over Seoul, South Korea, for the Summer Olympic Games, which took place just a short distance away from where the Winter Olympic Games are being held this year in Pyeongchang. Athletes from around the world, including the United States, assembled to compete on the greatest stage on the globe, as they are now, and their countrymen were watching.

As the games were getting underway, President Reagan addressed the nation and described the strength of Team USA, which, as he explained, came “from all over our nation, from the rough and tumble streets of our brawny cities to the quiet lanes of our vast countryside ... They represent every aspect of our country’s life and a shining hope, too, a crystalline beacon of opportunity that we know is the heart of America.”

Reagan’s words transcend time, as I’ve found they often do. His description of the 1988 team could easily be affixed to the dedicated, hardworking athletes who are in Pyeongchang this year for what will be the pinnacle of many of their careers – as it should be, for all of the time, money, and effort that has gone into their journey to the games.

As many Olympic and Paralympic athletes will tell you, unlike their professional counterparts, they’re not paid to compete. They have day jobs. They’re teachers, nurses, moms and dads, sisters and brothers. They’re paying their own way for gym memberships, personal trainers, equipment, and travel. Long story short, being on Team USA is a big personal investment, and it can come at a significant cost, too.

When these mentors to the next generation of Olympians return home from the games, their success should be celebrated with friends, family, and communities. They deserve it. Unfortunately, up until just a few years ago, in addition to the parades and other celebrations, these athletes were also welcomed home with a victory tax, as it became known, courtesy of the IRS.

I can’t think of anything more unpatriotic than the federal government profiting off of the success of Olympians and Paralympians by taxing the value of their medals and prize money. That’s why I helped lead a successful effort to repeal the victory tax once and for all. As a result, victorious Olympians and Paralympians with an adjusted gross income of \$1 million or less – the bulk of the amateur athletes who are the heart of Team USA – will not be taxed on their Olympic success. Guys like the University of South Dakota’s Derek Miles, to whom I was lucky enough to present an overdue Olympic bronze medal last year.

While I believe this is an important issue, nothing accomplished in athletics is as important as how a person responds when an abused child asks for help, which is why the Senate Commerce Committee, which I chair, has been working closely with the Senate Judiciary Committee to address sexual abuse in the Olympic movement.

We’ve made important progress, most recently with the passage of the bipartisan Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act, which combined legislation I authored with a provision spearheaded by the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee. These reforms are happening because brave athletes had the courage to stand up and call out wrongdoing to stop abuse, which I hope serves as inspiration to some and a serious warning to others.

President Reagan ended his 1988 address with a message as applicable then as it is now: “So, as you watch these Olympics, remember – win, lose, or draw – how much we have to be proud and thankful for. After all, we’re Americans.” Good luck, Team USA. You’ve got 300 million fans in your corner.

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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



The Complex Issue Of Addiction

As a state, we grapple with many issues. Some are very complex, with no easy fix or single solution. These may require sustained effort over long periods, through different administrations and legislatures and generations of South Dakotans. Drug abuse is one such issue.

We continue to wrestle with methamphetamine use in our state. On the prevention front, the Department of Social Services has funded more than 245 presentations, to thousands in communities and schools, urging against methamphetamine use. The Attorney General's office has also undertaken a preventive education campaign. This month Prevention Resource Centers will complete a meth prevention toolkit for communities.

For the most part, we are seeing less meth manufactured in home-grown laboratories. It is more often manufactured on a larger scale and trafficked into the Midwest. The drug interdiction task force, made up of Division of Criminal Investigation agents and Highway Patrol officers, has been hard at work over the last year to stop meth from coming into our state and we need to continue to do more to choke off these distribution channels.

For those who are severely addicted, the Department of Social Services is working to expand and increase access to treatment, ensuring treatment is evidence-based and that providers are equipped and trained to provide intensive treatment models.

We've recently seen some hopeful results from our treatment programs. In the last year, more than 2,000 offenders have received treatment for substance abuse under the Public Safety Improvement Act. In 2017 over 69 percent of individuals entering treatment for substance abuse completed successfully, 25 percent higher than the national average. Ninety-eight percent of those that completed treatment in 2017 reported an ability to control alcohol, 94 percent reported the ability to control drug use, and over 85 percent reported employment at discharge.

We're seeing a promising trend in smoking as well. The smoking rate among young adults in South Dakota went from 34 percent in 2011 to 13 percent in 2017. High school smoking rates went from 23 percent to 10 percent in that same period, putting us below the national average for the first time.

We can celebrate that we are turning the tide on smoking and seeing success among those who seek drug treatment. These facts make me hopeful that South Dakota can meet the addiction challenges ahead.

We cannot mandate away addiction; no legislative fix will completely solve the meth problem. Some answers simply extend beyond government's capabilities. But we must do all we can, and we need all hands on deck. Private organizations, law enforcement, communities and individuals all have a role to play. Progress may be incremental but it will come so long as South Dakotans are persistent.

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Mitchell TI President's List

Mitchell—A total of 336 students at Mitchell Technical Institute have been placed on the Fall Semester 2017 President's List, according to MTI President Mark Wilson. To be named to the list, students must earn a term GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and complete at least 12 credit hours of academic work during the semester.

Included on the Fall 2017 President's List are Tyler Stark, Conde; Jayden Mikkonen and Austin Sumption, Frederick; Peyton Jondahl and Brody Sombke, Groton; and Stephen Haas, Westport.



All auto owners!

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by choosing low carbon

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same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,

slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;

*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's**

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

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Steven McCleerey Legislative Column

Happy 5th week of the South Dakota Legislative Session! I hope everyone has had a great week, and I would like to take the time to thank my constituents for allowing me to represent them. This week was Nurse's week in the Capitol, and the Capitol building was bustling with some of our finest nurses and nursing students. It was incredible to be able to talk with these amazing men and women who want to see a healthier South Dakota. Some of the bills that are moving through the Capitol this week in conjunction with Nurse's week were Senate Bill 31, which reimburses health care professionals who chose to practice in rural areas that don't have as much access to health care. Another is Senate Bill 105, which allows a health care practitioner to administer a toxicology test to an infant when it seems like the parent may have drugs in their system. This is incredibly important legislation as too many children are being born withdrawing from drugs that the mother was using, with healthcare professionals unable to help. This legislation would aid in clearing the roadblocks between these infants and the care they need. The South Dakota Nurse's Association were also concerned with HB 1230, which increases the penalty for using electronics while driving. It has now moved past the House Committee of the Judiciary, which is great considering the number of deaths each year in South Dakota attributed to electronics. Lastly, the legislation concerning the controlled substances schedule has passed through the legislature, and is currently awaiting the governor's signature.

I am in 4 committees, which are Health and Human Services, Commerce and Energy, Retirement Laws, and Local Government, all of which have seen some important and exciting bills this session! These will be covered more next week.

We have had some contentious bills and resolutions in committees this week, with education being no exception. Some of the bills that managed to make it through were House Bill 1221 and House Concurrent Resolution 1001, both based in education. While I am not enthusiastic about the education tax credit program as a whole, as it has its flaws, it is good to extend it to tribally controlled schools assist those schools with scholarship funds, which is why I believe HB 1221 is a good bill. House Concurrent Resolution 1001 is purely to acknowledge the "Brain Drain" or the exodus of college educated citizens out of South Dakota after graduation. While this may not take any immediate action on the issue, this is a statewide recognition on an issue that is affecting our workforce. It passed through the house this week and is scheduled for a hearing in the senate next week. We hope that this acknowledgement serves as a critical primary step in expanding our workforce.

Judiciary committee has had some great bills pass through this week, including one that began with parents who were aching to adopt their 13-year-old child, but were deemed 1 year too young to do so. This bill would leave such decisions up to the discretion of a judge, who could then decide if a parent who may be young is responsible enough to care for a child closer in age to them. This bill will be a wonderful blessing to this family, so fingers crossed it becomes law for them. Another great bill working its way through the legislature allows tribal law enforcement officers to be included in state law enforcement training. While this was already being implemented, this bill just puts this practice in statute. The last bill that I would like to focus on from Judiciary committee is a bill that clarifies reimbursement procedures for hospitals that perform forensic medical exams for victims of rape and sexual assault. While we have many great hospitals in this state that have insurance reimbursement relationships that keep the victim out of the payment procedure, some hospitals operate differently and therefore, and not purposefully, make the system more complex and therefore more traumatic for the victim. This statute clears some of the paperwork that the victim has to fill out, and helps hospitals clarify where the money for these exams come from.

After the legislation on night vision equipment passed last year, it seems that the legislature is more willing to explore more privileges related to this equipment. This week a bill ran through the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and the House floor that expands the practice of these tools. While I believe that the use of night vision equipment in hunting should be only by practiced users, expanding the privileges of these practiced users may prove to be a good thing.

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A committee that I am incredibly proud to be a part of is the Committee on Retirement Laws. I am more than excited to take on the task of aiding our seniors. Notable legislation moving through this committee is Senate Bill 36, which cleans up previous law, and makes grievance and appeal processes, refunds, and domestic relations orders easier to handle. Another piece of legislation that is moving through is Senate Bill 37, which revises automatic enrollment of the deferred compensation plan to allow employers to offer auto enrollment for their employees who aren't currently deferring, and to allow employees to opt out of this program.

Thank you all again for allowing me to serve as your representative, and as always, feel free to contact me at Steven.McCleerey@sdlegislature.gov, or by phone at (605)742-3112.

Hot Shooting Propels Wolves to Commanding Win

Bemidji Minn. – Northern State University won in convincing fashion Saturday afternoon over Bemidji State University 89-48. The NSU women improve to 22-4 overall and 17-3 in NSIC play, heading into the final week of the regular season.

The Wolves held the Beavers scoreless in the final three minutes and 30 seconds of the first half, after taking a 15-9 lead after the first quarter. Northern State extended the lead to 19 heading into the intermission, and doubled up on Bemidji State in the third quarter 24-12. In the final ten minutes of action, the Wolves out-scored the Beavers 23-13, cruising to victory.

The Wolves shot over 50 percent from the field in back-to-back games, shooting 52.9. NSU shot 54.5 percent from the 3-point line and 64.7 percent from the free-throw line as well. Defensively, The Wolves forced 18 Beaver turnovers, as BSU shot 37.3 percent for the game. NSU added 40 points in the paint, 19 points off turnovers, 13 second chance points off of 14 offensive rebounds, and 33 bench points.

Miranda Ristau led the game with 27 points and seven rebounds. She also recorded one assist, two blocks, and one steal. Jill Conrad was the only other starter in double figures with 15 points, going along with her two rebounds, and five assists. Brynn Flakus had eight points, seven assists, five rebounds, and two steals. Haley Froelich poured in six points, five rebounds, two assist, and one block.

Gabby Laimer was the leading scorer off the bench for the Wolves with eight points, one rebound, one assist, and one steal. Alexis Tappe and Sara Tvedt each had six points for NSU, Tvedt had four rebounds and one assist. Tappe also had five rebounds, three assists, one block, and one steal. Brianna Kusler didn't record a bucket but she had three rebounds, and two assists

Alayna Johnson added five points, two rebounds, and one assist. Haley Rithmiller made both of her shots putting in five points and two rebounds. Anika Fredrick was the last player for Northern State in the scoring column with three points, three rebounds, and one assist, while Tori Mekash added one rebound off the bench.

Northern State will return to Wachs Arena for the last weekend of the regular season. On Friday the Wolves will face Minnesota Duluth and St. Cloud State on Saturday for Senior Night. Tip-off for Friday is scheduled for 6 p.m. against the Bulldogs and 4 p.m. Saturday against the Huskies.

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Lana's Annals

**Lana
Greenfield
District 2
State
Representative**

Greetings once again. The bills are coming through at a rapid rate. Some will be debated on the House floor while others will meet their demise in local committees.

Our local commerce committee listened to a bill regarding the storage of wine on certain licensed premises. It would seem that some people go to country clubs where their choice of wine is not served. As some certain clubs have private lockers, the testifier asked if those who preferred a wine of another type could be allowed to store a different kind. Meanwhile the club could charge a cork fee on that bottle. We agreed that this would be permissible. Obviously, this passage was important to someone from somewhere, so it was a unanimous vote. It now

goes to the floor. HB1153 called for accommodations and protections for breast feeding mothers during employment hours. The wording was so vague (allowing frequent, longer breaks, job re-constructing) that we sent it to the 41st day. We felt such wording opened the employer up to unfair litigation. Most employers are already complying with fair labor laws when it comes to this. HB1223 requested that a moratorium be placed on oil pipeline construction in our state. It was not specific to say crude oil, only oil, which prompted questions. My question to one of the proponents was if the declaration of eminent domain would make this bill void. No one had the answer. As I truly think it would, I voted against the bill as did others, and it died in committee. I appreciated the sponsors bringing this forth; if nothing else, it creates more awareness about the environment that we may be setting forth for future generations.

Local government also had a couple of bills die in committee. Both were Pennington County issues with little testimony available to warrant new laws. One dealt with city and county fines for the same infraction not being aligned with each other. One treated possible septic issue violations with a small fine while the other called for a larger fine and possible jail time. These are not state issues, but rather local ones to be worked out with city councils and county commissioners. The question for me has always been and remains this: if there are local and county governing bodies, should the state micro-manage all of their business? I think not.

On the floor we heard HB1129 would allow the use of night vision when hunting. However, only certain types of ammunition could be used and the written permission must be issued from the landowner. This was passed on the House Floor and now goes over to a Senate committee for review.

Special House handbook rules were used also on the floor this week, which may have put new members into somewhat of a "tail spin." A fellow legislator had her homeschool bill fail in the education committee, but she asked for it to be "smoked out" so testimony could be presented on the floor. Why? She had 40 House co-sponsors sign on to her bill and only a few were able to vote in committee on this subject. After it was smoked out, the education committee then met and sent it to the floor with a "do not pass" recommendation. On the day we were to vote, a rule 5-17 request was presented, and this delayed action until early this coming week. So stay turned.

A big bill week will be forthcoming. Some items are as follows: wind tower and water legislation, petition and ballot issues....these that are near to many and becomes a real turf battle.

This week we made a resolution, as introduced by Rep. Julie Bartling, to encourage Congress and the Federal Motor Safety Carrier Safety Administration to OVERTURN the rules regarding electronic logging devices. This resolution passed. While we know that federal law overshadows our South Dakota Legislature on this, it is my opinion that we do not want nor do we need this law. This is what happens when outside influences make laws that are not beneficial to our state.

Until next week, may you be well and keep a proper perspective on any types of issues which may cause consternation in your lives. May God richly bless you.

Remember the upcoming Cracker Barrels on Feb 19th at 10:30 in Clark and 2:00 in Redfield .

Rep. Lana Greenfield

Groton Boys upset Warner in overtime, beat Mobridge-Pollock in double overtime; Girls lose to Warner and then to Mobridge-Pollock in overtime

It's been a wild ride for the Groton Area Tigers on the court with three of the last four games going into overtime.

It all started with the Groton Area boys upsetting Warner, 61-58 in overtime in games played at Warner on Friday. Groton Area led for most of the game, taking a 12-7 first quarter lead, the game was tied at 26 at halftime and Groton Area held a 40-34 lead at the end of the third quarter. Jonathan Doeden made a shot at the end of regulation to send the game into overtime, tied at 49. Groton Area was quick to pounce on the Monarchs in overtime, opening up an eight-point lead, a lead that Warner was not able to overcome, as the Tigers went on to win, 61-58. There were six lead changes in the game and the game was tied seven times.

Head Girls Coach Shaun Warner has been saying all season, "If you play hard, something good will happen." Then he would always add, "And it could be tonight." While it didn't happen for the girls, it did happen for the boys and Head Boys Coach Justin Hanson said, "Warner said it best. We've played hard all season and the boys finally got to reap the benefits."

Just how good was Warner? It was only their third loss on the season as Warner is now 16-3. Hanson said, "I was super impressed with our confidence, self control, execution and most of all our teamwork. We had a lot of kids step up and make some big plays when we needed them and that's what makes a team click. The boys are bought in and trusting the process. Back to the grind tomorrow. There isn't another Coach in the state as proud as I am, and I'm super happy for this group of boys."

Groton Area made 42 percent of its field goals in the first quarter, 45 percent in the second quarter, 56 percent in the third quarter, 30 percent in the fourth quarter and 67 percent in the overtime. Warner made 7 percent in the first quarter, 50 percent in the second quarter, 18 percent in the third quarter, 33 percent in the fourth quarter and 50 percent in the overtime.

Four players hit double figures for Groton Area with Andy Rintala and Treyton Diegel each having 14 points, Brodyn DeHoet had 12, Seric Shabazz 11, Jonathan Doeden eight and Marshall Lane added two points. Diegel made four three-pointers, Rintala made two and Shabazz made one.

Daylin Simon led the Monarchs with 19 points followed by Alex Bohle with 15, Jackson Cramer had 11, Joel Young seven and Danzan Gilborne and Ben Fishbach with three points each. Bohle made three three-pointers and Young and Fishbach each made one.

The Lady Tigers lost to Warner, 57-40. Warner led at the quarterstops at 18-13, 32-21 and 41-27.

Miranda Hanson made three-pointers on her way to 11 points, Jennie Doeden added nine, Harleigh Stange eight, Payton Maine mde one three-pointer and finished with five points, Nicole Marzahn had three



Seric Shabazz dribbles the ball behind his back as he is guarded by Warner's Danzan Gilborne. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Harleigh Stange is being guarded very closely by this Warner defender. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

and Eliza Wanner added two points.

Laurie Rogers led the Monarchs with 17 points, Haylee Hanson had 11, Ashley Fishbach 10, Morgan Rozell six, Sydney Leidholt and Laura Ochsner each had five and Keeley Fishbach added three points.

Groton Area made 11 of 29 two-pointers for 38 percent, made four of 14 three-pointers for 31 percent and was four for four from the free throw line. Doeden had eight of Groton's 26 rebounds and two of Groton's five steals. Stange, Doeden and Maine each had two assists. Groton had 13 turnovers.

Warner girls won the junior varsity game, 28-26. Kenzie McInerney and Gracie Traphagen each had five points, Eliza Wanner, Tadyn Glover and Nicole Marzahn each had four and Kaycie Hawkins and Payton Colestock each had two points.

Laura Ochsner led the Monarchs with 10 points.

The Warner boys won the junior varsity game, 34-29. Treyton Diegel had 11 points, Kaden Kurtz

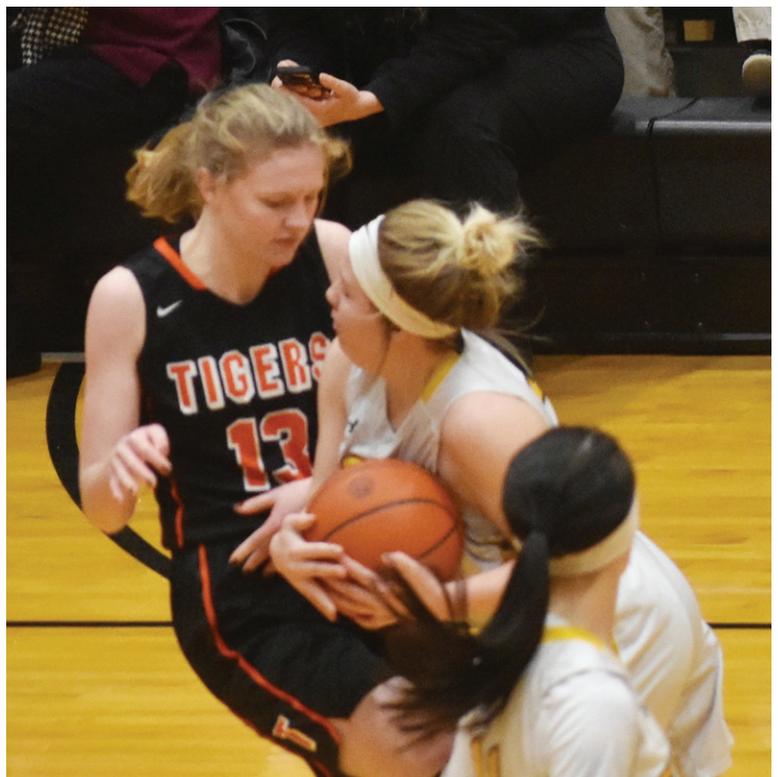
nine, Cade Guthmiller six and Chandler Larson three.

Then Mobridge-Pollock came to town for a double header on Saturday. The Groton Area girls won the junior varsity game, 24-14. Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 7-1, 13-5 and 21-7. Kenzie McInerney and Kaycie Hawkins each had six points, Nicole Marzahn had five, Payton Colestock had three and Eliza Wanner and Gracie Traphagen each had two points. Mobridge-Pollock was led by Maya Runnels with four points.

Mobridge-Pollock boys defeated Groton Area, 45-38. The visiting Tigers led at the quarterstops at 14-5, 26-8 and 33-23. Darrien Shabazz led Groton Area with 13 points followed by Cade Guthmiller and Tristan Traphagen with six each, Kaden Kurtz and Chandler Larson each had five and Austin Jones added three points. Braden Goehring led Mobridge-Pollock with 12 points.

That set the stage for the two varsity games with a total of three overtimes.

Mobridge-Pollock made a free throw with 35 seconds left to lift the visiting Tigers to a 34-33 overtime win. Mobridge-Pollock held a 13-8 first quarter lead, the game was tied at 17 at halftime, Mobridge-Pollock led at the end of the third quarter, 27-23, and the game was tied



Miranda Hanson snatched the ball away from Mobridge-Pollock's Gennie Krause. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Marshall Lane plays tough defense for Groton Area. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

at the end of regulation, at 31. The game featured nine lead changes and the game was tied seven times.

Groton Area had 21 turnovers which turned into 10 points for Mobridge-Pollock. Mobridge-Pollock had 15 turnovers and the Tigers did not convert on any of them.

Groton Area was 10 of 32 in two-pointers for 31 percent, two of 19 in three-pointers for 11 percent, and was seven of 11 from the line for 64 percent.

Jennie Doeden had a double-double night with 13 points and 12 rebounds. Jessnica Bjerke had two of the team's six assists and Stange, Doeden and maine each had two of the team's eight steals.

Miranda Hanson added 11 points, Harleigh Stange seven and Jessica Bjerke added two points.

Jadin Monsen and Jestice Talley each had 10 points for Mobridge-Pollock, Hayley Borah and Megan Zahn each had six and Hannah Stroeder added two points.

Groton Area made three of 12 field goals in the first quarter for 25 percent, was two of 14 in the second quarter for 14 percent, three of 11 in the third quarter for 27 percent, three of 13 in the fourth quarter for 23 percent and one of five in the overtime for 20 percent. Mobridge-Pollock was five of 11 in the first quarter for 45 percent, two of 13 in the second quarter for 15 percent, four of 10 in the third quarter for 40 percent, two of 11 in the fourth quarter for 18 percent and one of three in the overtime for 25 percent.

Then came the finale where the Groton Area boys squeezed out a double overtime win over Mobridge-Pollock, 72-66. The game featured 12 lead changes and the game was tied nine times.

Mobridge-Pollock had a 19-18 lead after the first quarter, Groton Area led at halftime, 34-30 and led at the end of the third

quarter, 42-41. The game was tied at 56 at the end of regulation and Mobridge-Pollock's Reese Cerney made a three-pointer at the buzzer to tie the game at the end of regulation at 56. Seric Shabazz made a shot for Groton Area with 10 seconds left to tie the game at the end of the first overtime at 64. Groton Area got a rally going in the second overtime and scored four straight points to end the game with a 72-66 win.

Groton Area made six of 14 field goals in the first quarter for 43 percent, was four of 10 in the second quarter for 40 percent, three of 13 in the third quarter for 23 percent, three of nine in the fourth quarter for 33 percent, two of four in the first overtime for 50 percent and three of five in the second overtime for 60 percent.

Mobridge-Pollock was seven of 13 in the first quarter for 54 percent, three of 13 in the second quarter for 23 percent, five of 13 in the third quarter for 39 percent, three of 13 in the fourth quarter for 23 percent, two of four in the first overtime for 50 percent and one of five in the second overtime for 20 percent.

Brodyn DeHoet had a season high 29 points for Groton Area followed by Seric Shabazz with a season high of 16, Treyton Diegel had 12, Jonathan Doeden 11 and Andy Rintala added four points. Groton's 72 points was also a season high.

Both teams had nine turnovers and Mobridge-Pollock had the upper hand on the rebounds, 34-24. DeHoet had nine rebounds for Groton Area. Rintala had three of the team's 12 assists and Doeden and Shabazz each had two of the team's six steals.

Albers and Reese Cerney each had 15 points to lead Mobridge-Pollock.

-Paul Kosel

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Game Statistics Report Groton Varsity (Home) 72, Mobridge Varsity (Away) 66, 2/10/18

Game Statistics

Player	No.	2Pt	2PtA	2Pt%	3Pt	3PtA	3Pt%	FG	FGA	FG%	EFG%	FT	FTA	FT %	Pts	Layup	LayupA	Layup%
DeHoet	42	6	12	50.0%	4	7	57.1%	10	19	52.6%	63.2%	5	5	100.0%	29	1	1	100.0%
Diegel	55	0	1	0.0%	4	11	36.4%	4	12	33.3%	50.0%	0	0	0.0%	12	0	0	0.0%
Doeden	4	2	5	40.0%	1	2	50.0%	3	7	42.9%	50.0%	4	5	80.0%	11	0	0	0.0%
Kurtz	14	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Lane	10	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Rintala	11	1	1	100.0%	0	1	0.0%	1	2	50.0%	50.0%	2	4	50.0%	4	0	0	0.0%
Shabazz	5	4	8	50.0%	1	2	50.0%	5	10	50.0%	55.0%	5	7	71.4%	16	0	0	0.0%
Sippel	3	0	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Groton Varsity Totals		13	27	48.1%	10	24	41.7%	23	51	45.1%	54.9%	16	21	76.2%	72	1	1	100.0%
Mobridge Varsity Totals		15	30	50.0%	9	25	36.0%	24	55	43.6%	51.8%	9	19	47.4%	66	1	1	100.0%
Albers	21	1	2	50.0%	4	9	44.4%	5	11	45.5%	63.6%	1	2	50.0%	15	0	0	0.0%
Cerney	5	4	7	57.1%	1	4	25.0%	5	11	45.5%	50.0%	4	9	44.4%	15	0	0	0.0%
Cerney	40	4	7	57.1%	0	0	0.0%	4	7	57.1%	57.1%	0	0	0.0%	8	1	1	100.0%
Feyereisen	12	3	6	50.0%	1	3	33.3%	4	9	44.4%	50.0%	0	1	0.0%	9	0	0	0.0%
Goehring	3	0	1	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Halsey	32	0	0	0.0%	2	7	28.6%	2	7	28.6%	42.9%	2	2	100.0%	8	0	0	0.0%
Norder	45	1	4	25.0%	0	0	0.0%	1	4	25.0%	25.0%	0	1	0.0%	2	0	0	0.0%
Zott	50	2	3	66.7%	1	2	50.0%	3	5	60.0%	70.0%	2	4	50.0%	9	0	0	0.0%

Player	No.	Paint Pt	Paint Att	TO Pts	OReb	DReb	Rebs	Ast	TO	Force TO	Dflc	Dflc Vic	Stl	Blk	Blk Vic	Chrg	Recov
DeHoet	42	10	8	3	3	6	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Diegel	55	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Doeden	4	0	3	2	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Kurtz	14	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lane	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rintala	11	2	1	0	1	1	2	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Shabazz	5	6	7	0	5	2	7	6	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Sippel	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Groton Varsity Totals		18	19	5	10	14	24	12	8	0	0	0	6	1	0	1	8
Mobridge Varsity Totals		24	22	2	13	21	34	10	9	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Albers	21	2	2	0	1	4	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerney	5	8	6	2	1	4	5	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Cerney	40	6	4	0	4	3	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Feyereisen	12	6	6	0	4	5	9	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

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Holland Invitational Results for Groton

Four Groton Grapplers placed at the Holland Invitational Wrestling Tournament held Saturday in Howard. Adrian Knutson, Wyatt Locke and Brandyn Anderson all placed second and Thomas Cranford placed fourth.

170: Thomas Cranford (2-2) placed 4th and scored 11.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Thomas Cranford (Groton) 2-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Thomas Cranford (Groton) 2-2 won by decision over Loren Schabot (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) 11-18 (Dec 6-4)

Semifinal - Kyle Laubach (Canton) 27-9 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton) 2-2 (Fall 3:07)

Cons. Semi - Thomas Cranford (Groton) 2-2 won by fall over Gabe Baas (Andes Central/Dakota Christian) 2-8 (Fall 2:50)

3rd Place Match - Blake Eldeen (Parker) 32-14 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton) 2-2 (Fall 2:58)

195: Adrian Knutson (8-14) placed 2nd and scored 18.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Adrian Knutson (Groton) 8-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Adrian Knutson (Groton) 8-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Adrian Knutson (Groton) 8-14 won by fall over Jacob Dold (Howard) 5-12 (Fall 3:57)

1st Place Match - EJ Leetch (Howard) 35-4 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton) 8-14 (Fall 0:09)

220: Wyatt Locke (16-9) placed 2nd and scored 18.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Locke (Groton) 16-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton) 16-9 won by fall over Dylan Ender (Stanley County) 10-18 (Fall 0:33)

Semifinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton) 16-9 won by decision over Preston Worth (Potter County) 27-8 (Dec 5-3)

1st Place Match - Evan Kizer (Howard) 33-4 won by fall over Wyatt Locke (Groton) 16-9 (Fall 2:31)

285: Brandyn Anderson (26-3) placed 2nd and scored 18.00 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Brandyn Anderson (Groton) 26-3 received a bye () (Bye)

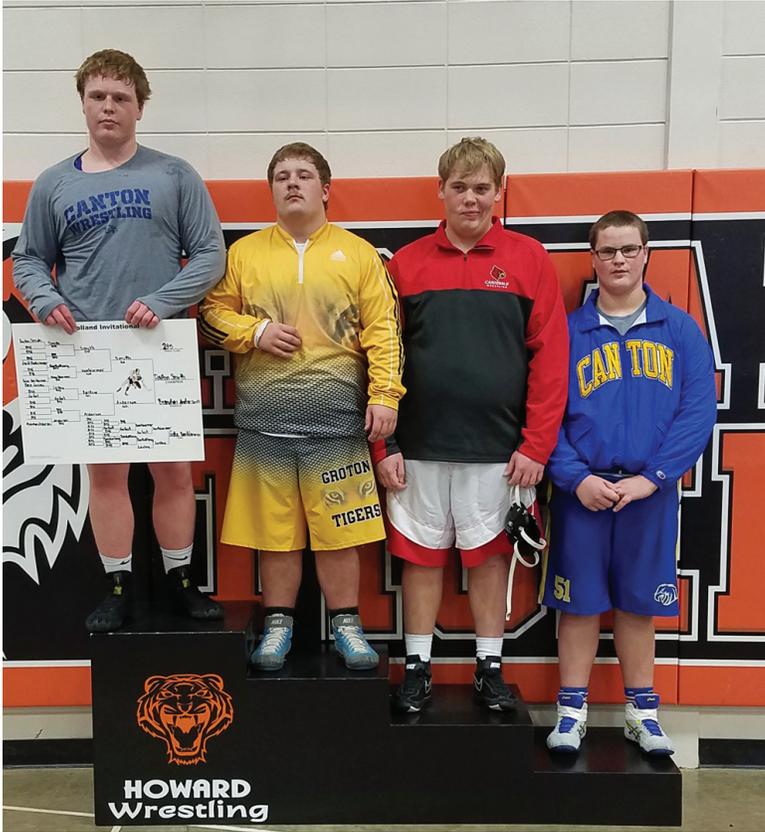
Quarterfinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton) 26-3 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton) 26-3 won by fall over Ben Lasley (Canton) 10-7 (Fall 0:10)

1st Place Match - Payton Smith (Canton) 33-2 won by decision over Brandyn Anderson (Groton) 26-3 (Dec 7-6)

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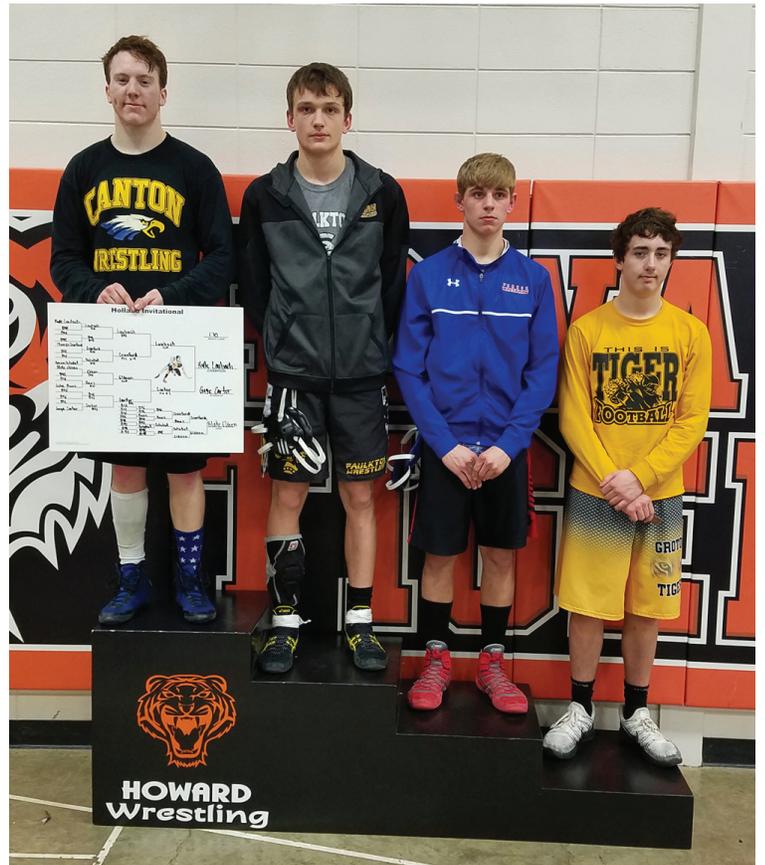


Brandyn Anderson placed second at 285 pounds at the Howard Invitational Wrestling Tournament held Saturday.

(Photo by Kara Anderson)

Thomas Cranford placed fourth at 170 pounds at the Howard Invitational Wrestling Tournament held Saturday.

(Photo by Kara Anderson)



King Lights it up From Beyond the Arc in 104-76 Win at Bemidji State

Bemidji, Minn. – The No. 12 Northern State University men's basketball team defeated Bemidji State by 28-points in their second triple figure scoring game of the season. With the 104-76 win, Northern improves to 25-3 overall and 18-2 in the league. The Wolves also clinched at least a share of the NSIC North Division and overall titles. The NSIC overall crown will be the first for the program since 2002-03.

It was a balanced attack for the Wolves with 52 points in each half and six players in double figures. Northern shot 60.0 percent from the floor, 44.4 percent from the arc, and 73.7 percent from the foul line. They out-rebounded Bemidji State 38-24, notching 12 second chance points off of eight offensive rebounds. NSU tallied 42 points in the paint, 26 points off the bench, 16 points off turnovers, and four fast break points, combining for 22 assist, three blocks, and four steals.

Four of the starting five scored in double figures, led by sophomore Gabe King with a new career high of 21. King hit 7-of-8 from the floor, 5-of-5 from the 3-points line, and added two rebounds for the team. He was followed by Darin Peterka with 20 points of his own. The senior notched four rebounds and three assists, while shooting 72.7 percent from the field and 83.3 percent from the arc.

DJ Pollard and Carter Evans each tallied 15 points in the win. Pollard tallied a team second best six rebounds and four assists, while shooting 71.4 percent from the floor. Evans led the team dishing out a team leading seven assists, and added five rebounds and one block. The senior knocked down 7-of-12 from the floor. Ian Smith rounded out the starting five with seven points, five rebounds, and one block.

Logan Doyle led the team off the bench with 11 points and seven rebounds. He shot 75.0 percent from the floor and added three assists, one block, and one steal. Andrew Kallman followed with five points of his own, while Logan LeGrand notched four. Bo Fries, Ethan Kranhold, and Justin Decker tallied three, two, and one point respectively.

The Wolves return to Wachs Arena for the regular season finale next Friday and Saturday against Minnesota Duluth and St. Cloud State. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Friday and 6 p.m. on Saturday.

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The Tiger Booster Club of Mobridge gave \$500 to pay for the shirts for all of the boys and girls basketball players of Mobridge-Pollock in support of Ava Tunheim. Ava, a Groton Area seventh grader, has been diagnosed with leukemia. After the announcement of the \$500, the Groton Area fans gave a standing ovation in recognition of the support. Pictured above are the Mobridge-Pollock players and coaches wearing the Tunheim shirt. (Photo taken from Tiger Booster Page on Facebook)



The Mobridge-Pollock players are in front, the Groton Area players in back, and the Mobridge-Pollock fans are in the bleachers wearing orange, all in support of Ava Tunheim. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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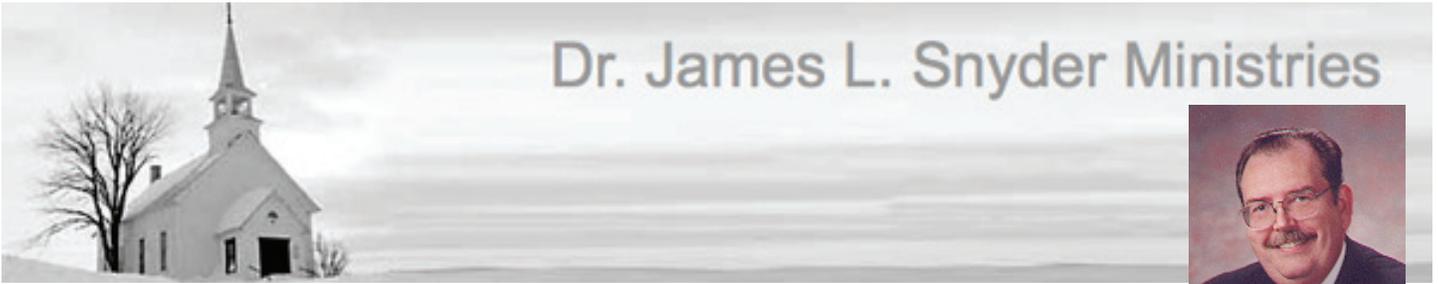
The Groton Area student body all gathered together at the end of the game for a photo for Team Ava. It should also be noted that a thank you was played over the sound system from Ava and her parents. (Photo by Tina Kosel)



Groton Area's seventh graders held a fundraiser for their classmate, Ava Tunheim, during the Mobridge-Pollock doubleheader on Saturday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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A Bug on the Plate Is Worth How Much?

Did you ever have a smile on your face that no matter what you did you could not wipe it off?

Well, that is quite a regular occurrence with me. But this past week was a "smile-on-the-face" to beat all "smiles-on-the-face." My only regret is that I did not do a Selfie.

It all began in the morning when I suggested that we go out for lunch for a pre-Valentine's Day celebration. Sometimes with our schedule we cannot celebrate a celebration on that celebration day.

Of course, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage responded in the positive.

"You," she said rather sarcastically, "will be picking up the check?"

"It's the least," I said in response, "I can do for your Valentine's Day present."

Smilingly she said, "It sure is the least thing you could do."

We chuckled simultaneously, which is something we rarely do, but this was a special occasion.

As a culinary whiz, my wife has served me some of the most delightful meals on the globe. No question about it.

So, going out for lunch at a nearby restaurant was a blessing to her, but not quite the blessing to me. Until this luncheon.

The host of the restaurant took us to our table and we sat down to begin our luncheon activity. At this point, everything was going fine.

The waitress took our order and we set back to relax waiting for our meal to arrive. We filled the time with chitchat of which my wife is an excellent chit-chatter. I, on the other hand, am a great chitchat listener. In this regard, we make an excellent team.

The fun was just about to begin. If I knew how much fun was going to take place, I could have prepared myself a little better. But, you never know what's going to take place.

Within a few moments, the waitress brought our order.

We both had hamburgers. I had fries with mine while she ordered a plate of vegetables.

The thing I hate about going to a restaurant like this is that I have to pay for the vegetables. I know vegetables are good for you, but do I have to eat them all the time?

We said our prayer over the food and then commenced eating. Looking back on the situation, I do not think my prayer was sufficient for the situation at hand.

My wife always orders her hamburger medium-well. I like mine cooked all the way through. No pink allowed in my burger.

As my wife cut her hamburger in two, that's the way she likes to eat it, when all of a sudden red liquid leaked all over her plate.

"Oh, my goodness," she exclaimed, "what is this pink stuff?"

I thought I knew what that pink stuff was, but I was not going to mention it in her presence.

When she pulled both halves apart, both sides were red and oozing pink juice. I could tell immediately that the hamburger was not cooked all the way through. I could have mentioned it to her, but I know better than to jump in where I don't belong.

She called the waitress over and showed her that her hamburger was not cooked. The waitress immediately apologized, took the hamburger, went and got her another one and this time it was cooked all the way through just like she likes it.



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One calamity fixed. So we set back and began to enjoy the rest of our lunch together.

I couldn't help but snicker and she said, "And what are you snickering about?"

Then we both began laughing together. There is no sense in trying to grouch your way through a situation like this. There was a problem, the problem was fixed, now we could enjoy lunch together.

If I thought that was the end of our fun, I was to be surprised.

I mentioned to her several times how her hamburger was, and she just looked at me and smiled and I had to smile right back at her. Usually, I'm the one that gets the bloody hamburger. I like mine well done and there are times when it is not well done. This time the joke was on her.

We finished our hamburgers, I was eating my French fries and she was nibbling at her vegetables. I think a French fry is a vegetable, but I'm not going to contest it.

Then I heard her scream, "What's that?"

Everybody in the restaurant heard her and was looking at me as though I was the culprit. When I got over her scream, I asked her what in the world was wrong.

"Look at that," she stated.

I looked at her vegetables, which is something I don't like to do, and then I saw it. It was one of those little things with legs that creep around. Yes, there was a bug in her vegetables.

How do you keep from laughing at something like that?

The waitress came and was duly upset and finally said, "I don't know how that happened. Please forgive us; your lunch is on us."

Solomon had it right when he said, "He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he" (Proverbs 16:20).

Sometimes God allows things to happen to see if we really have joy in our hearts. I must confess that at this luncheon I did have joy in my heart.

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Today in Weather History

February 11, 2002: High winds of 35 to 45 mph gusting to 60 to 65 mph affected central and north-east South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota through the afternoon and into the evening hours. The high winds caused some spotty tree and roof damage along with a few power outages. A few downed power lines in Aberdeen resulted in a short power outage for some people. Also, a street-light pole was knocked down in Aberdeen. Some wind gusts included 55 mph at Wheaton, 58 mph at McLaughlin, 59 mph at Pierre, 61 mph at Sisseton and Aberdeen, 62 mph at Mobridge, and 63 mph at Graceville, Minnesota.

1895: The low temperature was 11 degrees below zero at Moline, Illinois marking the last of a station record 16 consecutive days on which the low temperature was at or below zero. During the first 11 days of February, the highest temperature recorded at Moline was only 13 degrees above zero. Their current average high temperature for early February is in the lower 30s.

1899 - Perhaps the greatest of all arctic outbreaks commenced on this date. The temperature plunged to 61 degrees below zero in Montana. At the same time a "Great Eastern Blizzard" left a blanket of snow from Georgia to New Hampshire. The state of Virginia took the brunt of the storm, with snowfall totals averaging 30 to 40 inches. (David Ludlum)

1935: Africa's lowest recorded temperature occurred on this date in 1935. A bitterly cold 11 degrees below zero was registered at the Atlas Mountains village of Ifrane, Morocco.

1983: Called the "Megalopolitan blockbuster snowstorm," this major snowstorm impacted the Mid-Atlantic and southern New England. Snowfall up to 25 inches fell at Allentown, Pennsylvania. Snowfall amount of 35 inches occurred in parts of the Blue Ridge Mountains of West Virginia at Glen Cary. Windsor Locks, Connecticut recorded a record 19 inches in 12 hours. A ship sunk off the Virginia/Maryland coast killing 33. There were 46 total storm-related fatalities. New 24-hour snowfall records were set in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Allentown Pennsylvania and Hartford Connecticut. Five inches of snow in one hour was recorded at Allentown and Hartford.

1987 - Denver, CO, reported only their third occurrence of record of a thunderstorm in February. Ten cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Huron SD reported February temperatures averaging 19 degrees above normal. Williston ND reported readings averaging 24 degrees above normal for the month. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Bitter cold air gripped the north central U.S. Morning lows of 35 degrees below zero at Aberdeen SD, Bismarck ND and International Falls MN were records for the date. Bemidji MN was, officially, the cold spot in the nation with a low of 39 degrees below zero, however, a reading of 42 degrees below zero was reported at Gettysburg SD. In the Northern High Plains Region, Baker MT warmed from 27 degrees below zero to 40 above. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - While much of the continental U.S. enjoyed sunshine and seasonable temperatures, a strong weather system over the Hawaiian Islands deluged Honolulu with 2.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A winter storm produced up to ten inches of snow in Vermont, and up to nine inches of snow in Aroostook County of northeastern Maine. A three day snowstorm began to overspread Oregon, and the winter storm produced 29 inches of snow at Bennett Pass. Mild weather continued in the central U.S. La Crosse WI reported a record forty-seven consecutive days with temperatures above normal. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 - North Dakota Governor John Hoeven declares a snow emergency as winds gusting over 70 mph along with heavy snow produces low visibilities and drifts up to 20 feet in northwestern North Dakota. Amtrak train service is interrupted in the region. The Weather Doctor

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Sun Feb 11	Mon Feb 12	Tue Feb 13	Wed Feb 14	Thu Feb 15	Fri Feb 16	Sat Feb 17
18°F	13°F	27°F	41°F	16°F	25°F	29°F
-6°F	4°F	14°F	8°F	2°F	4°F	29°F
SW 9 MPH	NNE 9 MPH	SSW 10 MPH	SW 13 MPH	NNW 15 MPH	WNW 15 MPH	WSW 11 MPH

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
2/10/2018 3:46 PM

Tonight

Lows: 0 to -12°
Wind Chills: -20 to -25°

Overview

*Scattered chances for light snow Monday into Tuesday

*Below average temps through Monday, warming Tuesday into Wednesday

3 Day Forecast

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
16 to 24° 0 to -6°	10 to 14° -2 to 6°	24-32° 13-23°

Published on: 02/10/2018 at 3:49PM

Cold with scattered chances for light snow over the next few days.

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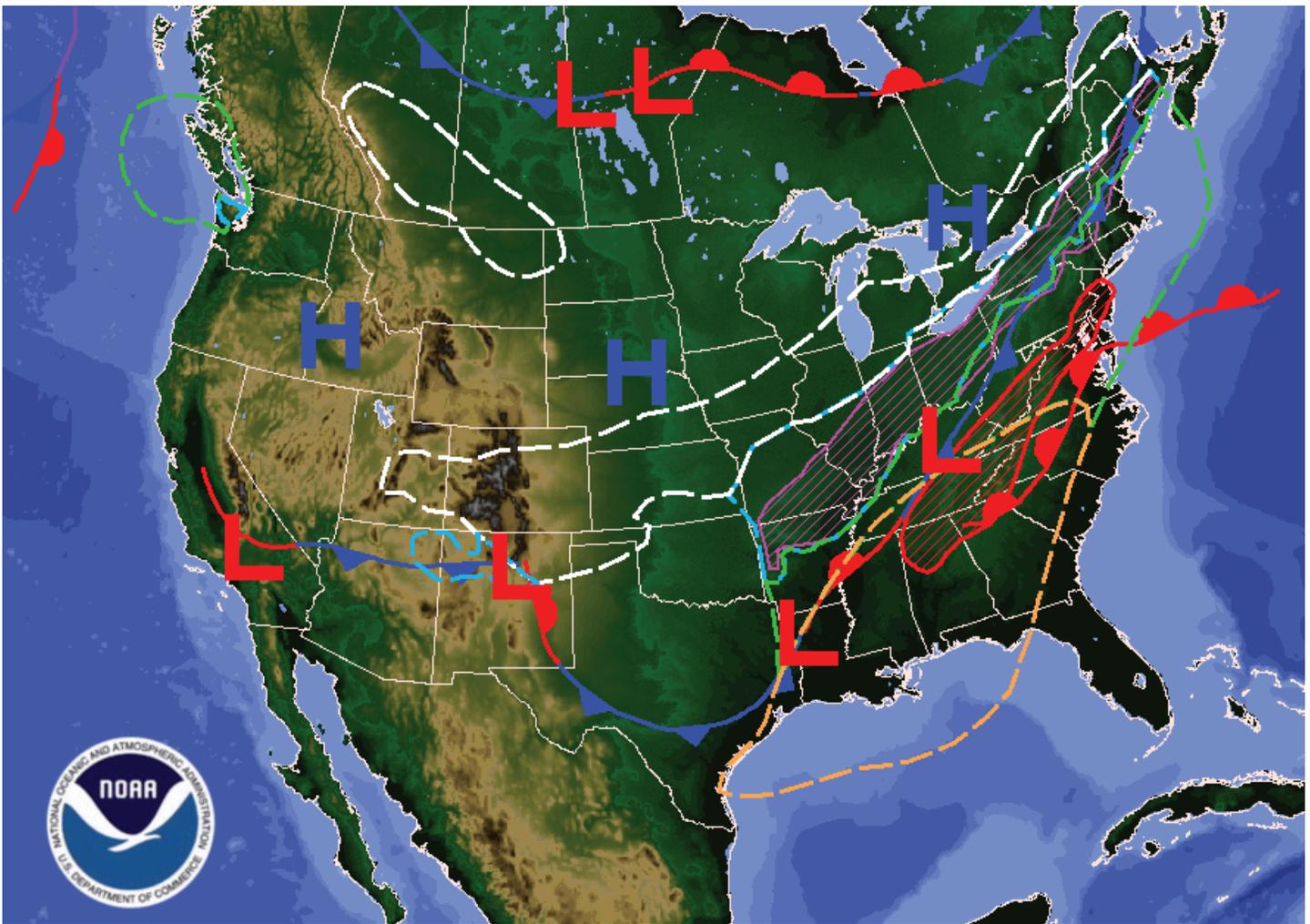
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 7.5 F at 4:24 PM
Low Outside Temp: -18.2 F at 7:57 AM
Wind Chill:
High Gust: 16.0 Mph at 12:47 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 58° in 1987
Record Low: -35° in 1988
Average High: 27°F
Average Low: 6°F
Average Precip in Feb: 0.17
Precip to date in Feb: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.64
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:55 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:39 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Feb 10, 2018, issued 4:49 PM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hurley with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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PASS IT ON

Goethe is recognized as one of the greatest German politicians and authors. Having keen insight into the life and future of his nation he wrote, "The destiny of our nation can be determined by the opinions of our youth!" Few would disagree with his observation.

The statesmen of our nation say the same: "The future lies with our youth." If that is true, and it is, we must admit that "the future of our youth lies with us!" And since that is true, and it is, we must ask ourselves, "What are we doing to prepare our youth to lead our nation?" Will they know the God of the Prophets and the Christ of the Apostles and disciples of the early church? Will they learn and follow and lead with the "faith that was once delivered to the saints?" Or will they surrender their lives to the attractions of materialism and self-centeredness?

Recent studies reveal that 60% of our youth will no longer attend church when they turn twenty. And even though some churches have vibrant youth programs, they are having no long lasting influence on their lives. Few make a lifelong commitment to Christ and a willingness to serving Him. It seems obvious that our churches are entertaining but not evangelizing.

What needs to be done? Moses, once again, provides insight and advice: "May Your deeds be shown to Your servants, Your splendor to their children."

The fact of the matter is that His deeds and splendor can only be seen in our lives. If our faith does not work for us, "why" they will ask, "should we believe in Your God?"

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to live a faith that demonstrates Your deeds and splendor that will attract others to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 90:16 Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/13/2018 Elementary School Carnival, 5 p.m.
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
01-05-09-17-32
(one, five, nine, seventeen, thirty-two)
Estimated jackpot: \$157,000

Lotto America
28-42-43-44-52, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 2
(twenty-eight, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four, fifty-two; Star Ball: seven; ASB: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$20.46 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$153 million

Powerball
01-13-27-41-59, Powerball: 20, Power Play: 5
(one, thirteen, twenty-seven, forty-one, fifty-nine; Powerball: twenty; Power Play: five)
Estimated jackpot: \$184 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 64, Yankton 55
Burke/South Central 46, Alcester-Hudson 34
Chester 65, Dell Rapids St. Mary 46
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 63, St. Francis Indian 55
Flandreau 68, Clark/Willow Lake 52
Groton Area 72, Mobridge-Pollock 66 (2OT)
Harrisburg 57, Huron 54
James Valley Christian 62, Estelline 32
Leola/Frederick 61, Webster 53
Madison 91, Canton 64
Miller 85, Todd County 67
Northwestern 70, Eureka/Bowdle 45
Potter County 60, Hitchcock-Tulare 47
Rapid City Christian 68, Newell 36
Rapid City Stevens 64, Sioux Falls Lincoln 63
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 71, Brookings 61
Sioux Falls Washington 69, Rapid City Central 62
Stanley County 60, Wall 44
Tea Area 64, Lennox 42
Viborg-Hurley 80, Ethan 71

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DWU Culver's Classic
Bridgewater-Emery 65, White River 52
Canistota 41, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 37
Corsica/Stickney 48, Colman-Egan 35
Dell Rapids 62, St. Thomas More 52
DeSmet 63, Freeman Academy/Marion 43
Irene-Wakonda 70, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 68
Pine Ridge 64, Parker 55
Sioux Falls Christian 66, Aberdeen Roncalli 49
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Guernsey-Sunrise, Wyo. vs. Edgemont, ccd.d.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 49, Yankton 45
Castlewood 60, Arlington 40
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 73, St. Francis Indian 53
Crazy Horse 63, Bison 45
Edgemont 62, Hulett, Wyo. 23
Flandreau 57, Clark/Willow Lake 53
Gregory 40, Jones County 35
Harrisburg 51, Huron 37
Hendricks, Minn. 49, Aberdeen Christian 41
Lennox 77, Tea Area 30
Madison 60, Canton 30
Milbank 50, Chamberlain 38
Mobridge-Pollock 34, Groton Area 33 (OT)
Mott-Regent, N.D. 44, McIntosh 42
New Underwood 64, Upton, Wyo. 27
Newell 49, Rapid City Christian 48
Northwestern 44, Eureka/Bowdle 28
Potter County 62, Hitchcock-Tulare 49
Sioux Falls Lincoln 55, Rapid City Stevens 54
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 55, Brookings 50
Sioux Falls Washington 48, Rapid City Central 33
St. Thomas More 79, Hill City 30
Todd County 62, Miller 37
Wall 46, Stanley County 26
Waubay/Summit 38, Deubrook 36, OT
Webster 70, Leola/Frederick 54
Warner Classic
Freeman 49, Highmore-Harrold 34
Herreid/Selby Area 58, Wilmot 40
Sully Buttes 58, Little Wound 38
Timber Lake 49, Florence/Henry 45
Waverly-South Shore 47, Ipswich 43

Daum leads South Dakota State over Oral Roberts 85-75

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Mike Daum had 27 points and 14 rebounds and made all 11 of his foul shots to help South Dakota State beat Oral Roberts 85-75 on Saturday night.

David Jenkins scored 16 points for the Jackrabbits (22-6, 10-1 Summit League), who won their fifth

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straight and 13th of the last 14. Skyler Flatten made all six of his shots from the field, including three 3s, and added 15 points and six assists. It was Daum's seventh straight double-double.

South Dakota State led 43-25 at halftime and had its largest lead at 69-45 with 8:50 to go. Oral Roberts had a late run to close the gap in the final four minutes but never got closer than 10.

Austin Ruder and Sam Kearns had 14 point apiece and Emmanuel Nzekwesi and Jontray Harris added 11 each for the Golden Eagles (10-18, 4-7).

South Dakota State has a one-game lead over South Dakota (9-2) for first place in the conference standings.

University of South Dakota president suffers heart attack

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — University of South Dakota President James W. Abbott has suffered a heart attack and was airlifted to Sioux Falls where he underwent surgery

The university says that the 69-year-old Abbott drove himself to the emergency room in Vermillion Saturday morning.

He was resting comfortably Saturday afternoon but will be hospitalized for a couple of days and will undergo more tests. The university says he is expected to make a full recovery.

Abbott has been president of the university for 21 years and plans to retire in June.

Authorities identify teen found dead in Box Elder median

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a teenager killed in a pedestrian accident in Box Elder. Pennington County authorities say 16-year-old Jaylen Twiss of Manderson was found lying in the median of Highway 14-16 on Thursday.

Authorities say the driver and vehicle have been located. Investigators are treating the incident as a vehicle-pedestrian accident.

Woman sneezes, crashes into semi in North Dakota

EDGELEY, N.D. (AP) — Authorities say a sneeze sent a North Dakota woman into a crash with a semi-truck. The Highway Patrol says 44-year-old Michele Eckmann of LaMoure was traveling north on Highway 281 Friday afternoon when she sneezed, causing her SUV to drift onto the southbound lane and into truck's path.

The semi driver tried to avoid the collision, but the SUV struck the tanker trailer loaded with gasoline before coming to rest in the center of the road. The truck driver maintained control as the rig entered the ditch.

KQDJ reports Eckmann was taken to a Jamestown hospital. The truck driver, from Aberdeen, South Dakota, was not hurt. No gas was spilled from the tanker.

Corrects Eckmann's age to 44, per North Dakota Highway Patrol.

Body found in rubble of South Dakota apartment fire

ANDOVER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have recovered a body from the rubble of an apartment fire in northeastern South Dakota.

The South Dakota attorney general's office said Saturday that local police confirmed that a body was found in the apartment complex.

The fire was reported about 1:30 a.m. Friday at the complex in Andover.

The Aberdeen News reports a spokeswoman for the attorney general's office would not comment on whether the victim was killed by the fire, but said law enforcement officers do not feel there is a threat to public safety.

Day County officials say the four-unit apartment building is a total loss.

The attorney general's office says the investigative is active and more details will be released once the body is identified.

South Dakota city seeks to recoup county ambulance costs

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A push for fire and ambulance tax districts to serve a city and county in western South Dakota didn't gather enough support to put the issue on the April ballot.

Sturgis sought tax districts as a solution to recover costs for providing fire and ambulance services to surrounding Meade County areas outside of city limits.

City Manager Daniel Ainslie told the Black Hills Pioneer they're considering next steps.

"It is highly likely that we are going to be providing an invoice to the county," Ainslie said.

In 2013, the two entities signed an agreement saying Sturgis will serve as a contractor for the ambulance service, which means the city will make all the purchases and hire employees. The agreement also says the city and county will split the service's operating expenses.

Ainslie said that the Sturgis Ambulance Service is losing about \$82,000 a year and that the fund is operating at a loss of about \$640,000, as of November. The county could then be accountable for \$320,000.

"We understood that any shortfalls would be met half and half, but from the time it was approved, we never received an invoice," said Meade County Commission Chairman Galen Niederwerder. "If they would have submitted a bill any of those years, we would have negotiated it or paid the bill."

Ainslie said Sturgis taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for rural residents' emergency services.

If more signatures were submitted within the coming weeks, it could be possible to schedule a special election on the tax district issue.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

South Dakota university city wants to attract graduates back

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A university town in eastern South Dakota is trying to increase its population growth by marketing to a specific target group: families who left after graduation and want to put down roots.

Brookings is home to nearly 24,000 people and South Dakota State University's campus.

Brookings' Economic Development Corporation officials have launched the website liveinbrookings.com, which offers resources for finding a job, buying a house and applying for child care or health care, the Argus Leader reported. The group's year-old digital marketing campaign is looking to attract families such as Kirstin Girard's.

Girard and her high school sweetheart attended South Dakota State University to study elementary education. They both taught and lived in Dallas, Texas for about 10 years, but missed small town living.

Girard said Brookings offered a tight-knit community for their children and plenty of opportunities for entrepreneurs.

"We always knew we wanted to come home," Girard said. "And you know, life just happens and all of a sudden it's 10 years later."

Stacy Aesoph, the team's workforce development director, said, "It's just reaching them at that right time."

Aesoph said the city need workers, particularly in manufacturing, retail and construction. She also said the town will need manager-level job applicants as older residents retire.

Russell Halgerson and his wife are South Dakota State University graduates who were looking for a place that fit their vision for raising a family. Halgerson returned to Brookings after seven years because the city has a small-town feel but things to do on nights and weekends.

"Our plan, our intention: This is kind of where we'll stay," Halgerson said. "We really love it here."

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

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Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 63, Brandon Valley 52
Baltic 60, Alcester-Hudson 36
Beresford 63, Elk Point-Jefferson 40
Chamberlain 67, Wagner 47
Colman-Egan 52, Arlington 51
Custer 68, Belle Fourche 64
Dell Rapids 72, Dakota Valley 68, OT
Gayville-Volin 68, Centerville 36
Great Plains Lutheran 64, Waubay/Summit 43
Gregory 59, Scotland 56
Groton Area 61, Warner 58, OT
Harrisburg 65, Watertown 58
Irene-Wakonda 68, Canton 47
Kimball/White Lake 83, Sunshine Bible Academy 55
Langford 42, Faulkton 37
LeMars, Iowa 63, Vermillion 61, OT
Lennox 77, West Central 52
Leola/Frederick 65, Florence/Henry 44
Lower Brule 80, Wessington Springs 41
Lyman 61, Philip 60
McLaughlin 66, Winner 60
Northwestern 68, Wilmot 41
Oelrichs 67, Santee, Neb. 50
Parker 65, Viborg-Hurley 59
Platte-Geddes 64, Bon Homme 55
Redfield/Doland 55, Hamlin 52
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 52, Highmore-Harrold 48
Sisseton 69, Webster 52
Sully Buttes 82, Ipswich 53
Tea Area 85, Parkston 44
Tiospa Zina Tribal 64, Deuel 53
Tiospaye Topa 63, Crazy Horse 48
Yankton 54, Mitchell 34
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Rapid City Stevens vs. Sioux Falls Washington, ccd.
Sioux Falls Lincoln vs. Rapid City Central, ppd.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 46, Brandon Valley 43
Alcester-Hudson 38, Baltic 33
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 41, Kimball/White Lake 39
Belle Fourche 63, Custer 35
Beresford 53, Elk Point-Jefferson 31
Bon Homme 53, Platte-Geddes 41
Castlewood 46, Waverly-South Shore 36
Chester 50, Canistota 47
Crow Creek 66, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 53

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Dell Rapids 63, Dakota Valley 55
Elkton-Lake Benton 64, Dell Rapids St. Mary 54
Ethan 57, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 46
Faith 55, Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. 38
Faulkton 61, Langford 41
Gayville-Volin 53, Centerville 34
Irene-Wakonda 63, Canton 36
Kadoka Area 72, Colome 41
Lake Preston 75, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 21
LeMars, Iowa 58, Vermillion 56
Lyman 49, Philip 45
Parker 59, Viborg-Hurley 49
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 56, Highmore-Harrold 54
Scotland 48, Gregory 29
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 50, Watertown 48
Sully Buttes 58, Ipswich 44
Timber Lake 51, Newell 10
Tri-Valley 55, Tea Area 46
Wagner 51, Chamberlain 45
Wall 55, Dupree 25
Warner 57, Groton Area 40
Waubay/Summit 56, Great Plains Lutheran 23
Winner 69, McLaughlin 39
Wolsey-Wessington 53, Iroquois 14
Yankton 42, Mitchell 40
Dakota Plains Invitational
Third Place
Flandreau Indian 34, Freeman Academy 26
Championship
Santee, Neb. 73, Oelrichs 71
DWU Culver's Classic
Corsica/Stickney 65, Bridgewater-Emery 44
Hanson 51, DeSmet 32
Howard 58, Burke/South Central 52
Pine Ridge 58, Parkston 41
Sioux Falls Christian 53, McCook Central/Montrose 51
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 47, Avon 44, OT
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Sioux Falls Lincoln vs. Rapid City Central, ppd.
Sioux Falls Washington vs. Rapid City Stevens, ccd.

Teacher launches drone club at South Dakota high school

By MEGAN RAPOSA, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — It's a Friday night, and the Roosevelt High School gym smells like popcorn. Parents file into the bleachers, and about a dozen students prepare to show off their skills on the court, or rather, in the air above the court.

The Jan. 12 event is only the second of its kind hosted by the fledgling Flight Club, which works with drones. The drones buzz around the gym, through navigation challenges including an obstacle course designed by one of the Flight Club members. Standing below them, you can feel the wind from their spin-

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ning propellers.

Teacher Nathan Hofflander estimates Roosevelt is the only high school in the state currently using drones in education, but he's doing everything he can to make the technology accessible to other schools.

"It seemed like a natural fit that we learn how the technology works and how to make the technology work for us," Hofflander said.

Hofflander started the Flight Club during the 2016-17 school year when he realized his personal interest in drones could bring a new learning tool to his classroom, especially with increasing push for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning in education.

He purchased a handful of drones after a successful crowdfunding campaign on DonorsChoose.org in the fall of 2016, and the following spring, he received a grant from the Sioux Falls Education Foundation to purchase even more. Roosevelt currently has a fleet of 12 drones.

The Flight Club is also engaging students who aren't active in other extracurricular groups.

Kim Weaver, 17, joined Flight Club after taking a computer science course with Hofflander. The obstacle course used in the winter drone event was her design.

"This is kind of the first time I've been a part of something like this," Weaver said.

She'd also like to see a day when different schools can host drone competitions or races.

Students in Flight Club aren't necessarily the same students taking Hofflander's computer science or programming classes, but for those involved in both, drones are one way to see practical ways to use what they're learning.

Freshman Adam Mace, 14, enjoyed working with drones so much, he went out and bought one exactly like the ones used in class. Mace plans to work in cyber security someday, and Flight Club fuels his interest in technology.

Drones aren't necessarily just for future programmers, Hofflander said. He sees the possibilities for drones to help in agriculture, real estate, marketing, inspections for roofs and bridges, and even health care.

Hofflander is currently working with Sanford Health on concussion research by sharing aerial drone footage of football games, the Argus Leader reported .

The drones are also helping other student groups including the marching band, which has also used drone footage to get a birds-eye view of the marching arrangement.

To encourage other schools to bring drones into learning, Hofflander shares classroom examples and other resources on a forum he calls "The Volare Project" based on the Latin word "to fly." For now, Roosevelt is ahead of the curve when it comes to drone use in the classroom, but Hofflander hopes more schools will pick up on the trend.

"We'll get there," he said. "We'll see more drones . (but) for South Dakota I think we're way ahead."

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

South Dakota students encounter mother, daughter teachers

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND, Aberdeen American News

GROTON, S.D. (AP) — When Groton seventh-graders start family and consumer sciences class, many of them don't know they've already encountered their teacher's mother.

Renee Swisher is one of two kindergarten teachers at Groton Elementary School. Her eldest daughter, Lindsey Tietz, is the family and consumer sciences teacher at the high school.

Both felt called to the profession.

"When I was a little girl I always played school," said Swisher, a 1975 Northern State University graduate. "Every little girl and every child in the neighborhood had to play school with me. ... I just always knew I was going to be a teacher. ... I never had any real questions, that was what I knew I was always going to do."

While her mom might have been a part of the influence, Tietz, 38, was drawn to family and consumer sciences on her own, she said.

Between 4-H and family and consumer science class in high school, she said she really fell in love with

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the subject.

"To be able to put the two together — between the cooking and nutrition and sewing. ... There's a lot of facets to FACS and there's a lot of different areas that we cover, but it's really all life-skill type things," Tietz said

Because they don't share a last name anymore, many people don't realize that Tietz is Swisher's daughter right away.

"My first year of teaching (in Groton), the seniors that I had that year were my mom's first class of kindergarten students," Tietz said. "It's kind of a weird little happening."

Both Tietz and Swisher graduated from Groton High School. Swisher went on to Northern, Tietz to South Dakota State University.

And they both taught elsewhere before moving back to their home community, Aberdeen American News reported .

Swisher first taught third grade in Watertown, then fifth grade in Groton, before moving on to kindergarten 20 years ago, she said.

Tietz taught in Minnesota for a year before moving to Sioux Falls and eventually settling back in Groton, she said. She's taught for 11 years.

Now in her 41st year, Swisher said she has gotten to teach her children and her grandchildren.

"I think as a teacher you almost are stricter with a family member because you never want to feel like you're showing any partiality," she said.

Tietz said she has noticed in her own home that her kids draw a line of separation between teacher and grandmother.

"Even at home, my son, when he's talking about school, and talking about Grandma, he still refers to her as Mrs. Swisher at home," Tietz said. "It's almost like he separates her into two different people."

Because the elementary and high schools are in separate buildings, the pair doesn't see each other much during the course of a day, they said.

"Our schedules are very, very busy, and so we very seldom see anybody (outside of their building)," Tietz said.

Occasionally, though, they'll do some projects together.

"One thing we do together, and it's fun sometimes, different times during the school year, the FACS curriculum has something to with early childhood, so they'll come over and they'll observe our 5- and 6-year-olds in kindergarten," Swisher said.

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

Head of FBI for Minnesota, Dakotas to retire

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The head of the FBI for Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota is retiring. Special Agent in Charge Rick Thornton plans to leave the FBI's Minneapolis division at the end of February. He has led the division since 2014 and oversaw several major cases, including a 2016 stabbing at a St. Cloud mall that left 10 people injured, and the case of nine young men who were convicted of conspiring to join the Islamic State group.

Thornton also oversaw the FBI's work in solving the decades-old abduction and killing of 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling. Thornton, then-U.S. Attorney Andy Luger and others worked out a deal to get a confession from Danny Heinrich, who pleaded guilty to child pornography.

Jacob's remains were discovered in September 2016, nearly 27 years after he was kidnapped.

Teen Gerard wins slopestyle snowboarding for USA's 1st gold

By WILL GRAVES, AP Sports Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Red Gerard and his brothers built their own snowboarding features park in the backyard of their Colorado home as kids, one that provided them a gateway into a sport that

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is an equal mix of technical precision and daring creativity.

Halfway across the world from his makeshift beginnings, the teenager made the Olympic stage look like just another afternoon back in Silverthorne, Colorado.

The 17-year-old won gold in men's slopestyle snowboarding on Sunday, drilling his final run to put up a score of 87.16, good enough to edge Canadians Max Parrot and Mark McMorris and give the United States its first gold medal at the Pyeongchang Games.

"It's a little bit hard to believe, that's for sure," Gerard said. "I'm just absolutely just mind-blown. I can't believe everything worked out."

Gerard stumbled his way through his opening two runs at tricky, windy and sun-splashed Phoenix Snow Park. It hardly mattered.

He found the line and the rhythm he was missing his third time down the mountain, using some of the techniques he first learned in his backyard to navigate the series of rails at the top before soaring through the moonscape at the bottom.

"I think I was just a little bit nervous (at first)," Gerard said. "I was just like, 'I came all the way out here, I was just trying to land a run most of all.'"

He didn't just land it, he stomped it, finishing with a backside triple cork — three twists and a flip — to the delight of his father, Conrad, and the other 17 family members and friends who followed him to South Korea.

"I don't understand all the tricks he does," Conrad Gerard said. "I asked my boys, was that good? They said, 'Yeah, it's good.'"

And ultimately golden.

Gerard exulted in the moment as he took a few minutes to chat with International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach.

"(Bach) was like, 'What were you thinking during all those spins?'" Gerard said. "And I was like, 'I just want to land a run, that's about it.' He was kind of joking around."

Gerard, who lived in the Cleveland, Ohio, area early in his life before his family moved to Colorado when he was 7, stood at the bottom of the hill to see if anyone in the rest of the field could catch him.

They couldn't. Not this time.

McMorris, a bronze medalist when slopestyle made its Olympic debut in Sochi four years ago, put up an 85.20 during his second run but under-rotated during the last jump of his final landing.

Norwegians Staale Sandbech and Markus Kleveland slipped up during their last shots, too, leaving only Parrot in Gerard's way.

Parrot topped qualifying on Saturday, just as he did in Sochi as a 19-year-old before sliding to fifth in the finals. Parrot washed out in his first two runs on Sunday, failing to post a score anywhere close to podium-worthy. He collected himself during the short break between the second and third runs and put together a solid set. He made a brief fist-pump after landing and exchanging high-fives with Gerard in a sport that's built less on competition and more on camaraderie.

Gerard, Parrot and McMorris stood near one another waiting for Parrot's score to post. When the video board flashed 86.00, Gerard celebrated becoming the youngest American snowboarder to win Olympic gold. He's also the second straight American to win the event, which made its Olympic debut in 2014. Sage Kotsenburg claimed the top spot in Sochi.

McMorris' second bronze medal came less than 12 months removed from a harrowing free-riding accident that left him with a litany of injuries and threatened to put his career at risk.

Gerard, Parrot and McMorris will have a chance to win another medal when Big Air makes its first Olympics appearance later in the games. That's heady territory for Gerard, a kid who grew up not aiming for Olympic glory but just a chance to shred.

"I just didn't think I knew what the Olympics is (as a kid)," Gerard said. "I just kind of grew up watching Dew Tour and X Games. I never really realized how big it is."

He does now.

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More AP Olympics: <https://wintergames.ap.org>

Come visit: South Korea's leader invited to North Korea

By FOSTER KLUG and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — A rare invitation to Pyongyang for South Korea's president marked Day Two of the North Korean Kim dynasty's southern road tour, part of an accelerating diplomatic thaw that included some Korean liquor over lunch and the shared joy of watching a "unified" Korea team play hockey at the Olympics.

Nothing has been settled on any trip north by South Korean President Moon Jae-in. But the verbal message on Saturday to come at a "convenient time" from dictator Kim Jong Un, delivered by his visiting younger sister, Kim Yo Jong, is part of a sudden rush of improving feelings between the rivals during the Pyeongchang Olympics. The result: a heady, sometimes surreal, state of affairs in a South Korea that has seen far more threat than charm out of the North.

Still, it wouldn't be South Korea if people weren't asking the perennial question when it comes to North Korea changing gears and showering its rival with apparent affection: What's in it for Pyongyang?

Past "charm offensives" have been interpreted as North Korea trying to recoup from crippling sanctions on their nuclear program, or trying to drive a wedge between Seoul and its U.S. ally.

A massive military parade in Pyongyang on the eve of the just-opened Pyeongchang Games has been used as Exhibit A by skeptics. In it, Kim Jong Un highlighted several huge intercontinental ballistic missiles, which were successfully flight tested three times last year and could reach deep into the U.S. mainland when perfected.

Even so, there's also cautious optimism, or curiosity at least. If peace isn't imminent, a summit in Pyongyang between Moon and Kim Jong Un seems preferable to recent months' threats.

Moon told Kim Yo Jong that the North and South should continue to build conditions for a summit, Moon spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said. The U.S. and the North should quickly resume dialogue, he said.

Kim Yo Jong was to have lunch Sunday with South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon, the country's No. 2 official, and return to Pyongyang on Kim Jong Un's private jet later in the day.

The lunch Saturday at Seoul's presidential mansion between Moon and Kim Yo Jong was the most significant diplomatic encounter between the rivals in years. The night before, Kim and other North Korean delegates attended the opening ceremony of the Olympics, watching a "unified" Korean team march under a banner showing an undivided Korean Peninsula.

In a surreal mixture of dignitaries, the Olympic Stadium's VIP box included Kim Yo Jong and North Korea's nominal head of state, Kim Yong Nam, sitting above and behind U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and fellow hard-liner Shinzo Abe, Japan's prime minister. Pence and the Kims seemed to go out of their way not to acknowledge each other.

That was not the case with Moon — either at the games, when he enthusiastically reached up to shake Kim Yo Jong's hand, or at the lunch the next day. South Korean television showed its smiling president entering a reception room Saturday and shaking hands with the North Koreans.

The opening part of the talks was mostly about the weather: Pyeongchang was colder than Seoul, it was agreed.

"You went through a lot of trouble braving the cold until late" last night, Moon told the North Koreans, referring to their attendance at the frigid opening ceremonies.

At the luncheon proposed a toast, calling for peace and "mutual prosperity" for the two Koreas. He then recalled his past visit to the North's Diamond Mountain resort, where he and his mother met his North Korean aunt during a temporary reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

He also talked about visiting the North Korean border town of Kaesong, where the countries operated a jointly-run factory park that had been a symbol of rapprochement before South Korea shut it down in 2016, after North Korea's fourth nuclear test.

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"But I haven't been to Pyongyang," Moon said, according to comments provided by his office.

Kim Yo Jong said she hopes to see Moon in Pyongyang soon so that he and her brother could "exchange views over many issues," which she said would make "North-South relations develop like yesterday was a long time ago."

"We hope that President (Moon) could leave a legacy that would last over generations by leading the way in opening a new era of unification," she said.

After sitting at a table, Kim Yo Jong placed a blue document folder in front of her. She later gave that folder to Moon, and Moon's office said it was a personal letter from her brother. Officials didn't reveal what was written in it.

After meeting with Moon, the North Korean delegates boarded a bullet train to Gangneung, a coastal city hosting some Olympic events. Later Saturday night, they all joined the chief of the International Olympic Committee to watch the debut of the inter-Korean team in the women's ice hockey tournament. The Koreans were crushed by Switzerland, 8-0.

Pence's office didn't directly address Kim's invitation to Moon. "The vice president is grateful that President Moon reaffirmed his strong commitment to the global maximum pressure campaign and for his support for continued sanctions," Pence spokeswoman Alyssa Farah said when asked about the developments.

But Pence said that Moon told him "a bit" about his meeting with the North Koreans, and that he "appreciated him sharing his perspective on that."

"I leave here very confident that we are going to continue to do the things we've known have to be done to continue to pressure North Korea to abandon their nuclear ambitions," Pence said.

Moon is eager to use Kim Yo Jong's presence at the games to restore regular communication with North Korea and eventually pull it into nuclear talks. Many in Seoul, however, while interested in the warming high-level contacts, are also tempering expectations for a real breakthrough.

There's worry, too, that the proposed summit in Pyongyang may come with preconditions — a North Korean specialty. A big one could be a demand to cease the U.S.-South Korean war games that North Korea claims are preparation for invasion.

But Moon, a liberal who has always wanted to engage the North, will also have to convince a good portion of his own people who are deeply wary about North Korean intentions.

Among the reasons for skepticism: The accusations that South Korea has had to arrange huge payouts for past meetings, and that these earlier encounters, while producing indelible images, have done little to slow North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Even if there are more meetings between the rivals after the Games, accomplishing something is another matter. South Korea wants a northern neighbor without nukes; North Korea vows to keep its weapons until the United States discards its "hostile" policies against the country.

Hours before Friday's opening ceremony in Pyeongchang, Japan's Abe warned Moon not to fall for North Korea's "smile diplomacy" during the Olympics, according to Moon's office. Pence carried a similar message.

They seem to have gone unheeded.

"Kim Jong Un is clearly serious about reviving talks with the South to improve relations," said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University and a security adviser to Moon.

"It seems clear," he said, "that the countries have entered a phase of restoring a regular level of contact."

Foster Klug is South Korea bureau chief for The Associated Press. Follow him on Twitter at @apklug. Kim reported from Seoul.

On drug costs, modest steps follow Trump's big promises

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and MATTHEW PERRONE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump makes big promises to reduce prescription drug costs, but his administration is gravitating to relatively modest steps such as letting Medicare patients share in manufacturer rebates.

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Those ideas would represent tangible change and they have a realistic chance of being enacted. But it's not like calling for Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

Skeptics say the overall approach is underwhelming, and Trump risks being seen as an ally of the powerful pharmaceutical industry, not its disrupter.

The White House Council of Economic Advisers has released a 30-page strategy for reducing drug costs, and it calls current policies "neither wise nor just." The plan, outlined before Trump releases his new budget proposal Monday, focuses mainly on Medicare and Medicaid changes, along with ideas for speeding drug approvals and fostering competition.

"Despite promises to drastically lower prices the mix of proposed changes does not appear likely to do so, even though there are some constructive proposals," said John Rother, CEO of the National Coalition on Health Care, an advocacy group whose members include consumer organizations, medical societies, hospitals and insurers.

Polls show the high cost of drugs is a top concern of Americans, regardless of political leanings. In his State of the Union speech, Trump seemed to foreshadow major change, saying "fixing the injustice of high drug prices" is a top priority this year.

"And prices will come down substantially," Trump added. "Watch."

As a candidate, Trump advocated Medicare negotiations and he called for allowing consumers to import lower-priced medicines from abroad. But the White House strategy paper veers away from such dramatic steps. His new health secretary, Alex Azar, was a top executive at pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly.

Medicare negotiations and drug importation are unacceptable to the drug industry, which has spent tens of millions of dollars since Trump's inauguration to influence the Washington conversation around drug prices, including a high-profile TV advertising campaign portraying its scientists as medical trailblazers.

The White House strategy largely sidesteps the question of whether drugmakers set their prices too high to start with. Rather, it recommends changes to policies that the administration believes unwittingly lead to higher prices, and suggests ways to speed drugs to market and increase competition.

It takes aim at foreign governments that dictate what drug companies can charge their own citizens. Trump often has noted that the same medications Americans struggle to pay for can be bought for much less abroad. The White House report examined 35 economically advanced countries, and found that U.S. consumers and taxpayers pay for more than 70 percent of drug company profits that fund innovation.

"Other nations are free-riding, or taking unfair advantage," according to the review.

The industry defends its pricing by saying companies have to recoup considerable research and drug development costs within the limited window when brand drugs are protected from generic competition. But examples of profit-seeking abound.

An investigation by Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., in 2015 found that the makers of the breakthrough hepatitis C drug Sovaldi decided to charge roughly \$1,000 per pill even though the company's own analysis showed a lower price would allow more patients to be treated. Gilead Sciences disagreed with the senators' conclusion that it put profits before patients.

The White House strategy recommends:

—working with states to revise Medicaid rules so manufacturers don't have an incentive to set artificially high prices due to the rebates they provide the program for low-income people.

—changing the way Medicare pays for drugs administered in a doctor's office so Medicare doesn't reimburse based on a fixed percentage of a drug's cost. Critics say the current system creates an incentive for doctors to prescribe more expensive medications. The Obama administration proposed a similar change, but had to back off.

—changing a requirement that insurers in Medicare's prescription program cover at least two different medications in each broad class of drugs. In some cases, that can tie the hands of insurers trying to negotiate lower prices.

—requiring insurers to share rebates from drug companies with patients. Drugmakers use the rebates to help gain market share. Insurers say they plow the money into reducing premiums. But patient co-payments are usually based on the full price of the drug, before rebates. The issue is a major source of

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friction between drug companies and insurers.

—revising the Food and Drug Administration's drug review and approval process to promote competition. Many of the ideas can be pursued by the administration through rule-making, which means Trump can drive change without a balky Congress. But whether that translates into a big hit with the public is unclear. There's no estimate from the White House of the potential impact on prices.

Financial analyst and former drug company executive Richard Evans said the administration plan would help bring down costs, but not to the same degree as giving Medicare a direct role in setting prices.

"Convincing the average voter who is upset about drug prices that this is the path to righteousness is going to be a hard sell," Evans said.

Trump accuses Democrats of playing politics with memo

By CHAD DAY and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday accused the Democrats of playing politics with classified information, asserting that their memo countering GOP allegations about the conduct of the FBI's Russia probe was a trap meant to "blame the White House for lack of transparency."

Citing national security concerns, the White House notified the House Intelligence Committee on Friday that the president was "unable" to declassify the Democratic memo. White House counsel Don McGahn said in a letter to the committee that the memo contains "numerous properly classified and especially sensitive passages" and asked the committee to revise it with the help of the Justice Department.

He said Trump was still "inclined" to release the memo in the interest of transparency if revisions are made.

Trump weighed in with a tweet on Saturday.

"The Democrats sent a very political and long response memo which they knew, because of sources and methods (and more), would have to be heavily redacted, whereupon they would blame the White House for lack of transparency," he tweeted. The meaning of the "(and more)" was not immediately clear.

Trump urged the Democrats to "re-do and send back in proper form!"

The president's rejection of the Democratic memo was in contrast to his enthusiastic embrace of releasing the Republican document, which accuses the FBI and Justice Department of abusing their surveillance powers in obtaining a secret warrant to monitor former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser Carter Page.

Even before reading the GOP document, Trump pledged to make it public and was overheard telling one congressman after the State of the Union address that he would "100 percent" put it out. It was published in full a week ago over the objections of the Justice Department.

The Intelligence Committee's top Democrat, California Rep. Adam Schiff, criticized Trump for treating the two documents differently, saying the president is now seeking revisions by the same committee that produced the original Republican memo. Still, Schiff said, Democrats "look forward to conferring with the agencies to determine how we can properly inform the American people about the misleading attack on law enforcement by the GOP."

He responded to Trump's tweet Saturday with one of his own, writing "Mr. President, what you call "political" are actually called facts, and your concern for sources and methods would be more convincing if you hadn't decided to release the GOP memo ("100%") before reading it and over the objections of the FBI."

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said the move is "part of a dangerous and desperate pattern of cover-up on the part of the president." California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, has read the classified information both memos are based on. She tweeted that Trump's blocking the memo is "hypocrisy at its worst."

The head of the House committee, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., who produced the GOP memo, encouraged Democrats to accept the Justice Department's recommendations and "make the appropriate technical changes and redactions."

Trump has said the GOP memo "vindicates" him in the ongoing Russia investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller. But Democrats and Republicans, including House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Rep.

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Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., who helped draft the GOP memo, have said it shouldn't be used to undermine the special counsel.

The House Intelligence Committee voted Monday to release the Democratic memo. Republicans backed the release, but several said they thought it should be redacted. Ryan also said he thought the Democratic document should be released.

In declining to declassify the document, the White House also sent lawmakers a letter signed by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and FBI Director Christopher Wray, as well as a marked-up copy of the memo, laying out portions it considers too sensitive to make public. Among those passages are some that the Justice Department says could compromise intelligence sources and methods, ongoing investigations and national security if disclosed.

The White House message caps off a week in which Republicans and Democrats on the committee have publicly fought, with the panel now erecting a wall to separate feuding Republican and Democratic staffers who had long sat side by side.

The disagreements have escalated over the last year as Democrats have charged that Republicans aren't taking the panel's investigation into Russian election meddling seriously enough. They say the GOP memo is designed as a distraction from the probe, which is looking into whether Trump's campaign was in any way connected to the Russian interference.

Republicans say they're only alerting the public to what they say is serious misconduct they've uncovered in the FBI and Justice Department.

Trump declassified the GOP-authored memo over the objections of the FBI, which said it had "grave concerns" about the document's accuracy.

In the Nunes' memo, Republicans took aim at the FBI and the Justice Department over the use of information from former British spy Christopher Steele in obtaining a warrant to monitor Page under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA. The main allegation was that the FBI and Justice Department didn't tell the court enough about Steele's anti-Trump bias or that his work was funded in part by Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

They argued that the reliance on Steele's material amounted to an improper politicization of the government's surveillance powers.

Democrats have countered that the GOP memo was inaccurate and a misleading collection of "cherry-picked" details.

They noted that federal law enforcement officials had informed the court about the political origins of Steele's work and that some of the former spy's information was corroborated by the FBI. They also noted that there was other evidence presented to the court besides Steele's information, though they have not provided details.

The Democratic memo is believed to elaborate on these points.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Read the letter: <http://apne.ws/OeAhbxf>

Follow Chad Day and Jonathan Lemire on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/ChadSDay> and <https://www.twitter.com/JonLemire>

Israel strikes Syria, downs Iranian drone, as F-16 crashes

By ARON HELLER and SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In its most serious engagement in neighboring Syria since fighting there began in 2011, Israel shot down an infiltrating Iranian drone Saturday and struck Iranian targets deep in Syria before one of its own jets was downed.

The sudden escalation offers what could be a harbinger of what lies ahead as the Syrian fighting winds

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down and an emboldened Iran establishes a military presence that Israel vows it will never accept.

Israel has issued several stern warnings of late about the increased Iranian involvement along its border in Syria and Lebanon. The Israeli Cabinet just held a meeting near the Syrian border to highlight the new threats, which it attributes to Iran's growing confidence given the success of the government of Bashar Assad in the Syrian civil war thanks to their support.

Israel called the drone infiltration a "severe and irregular violation of Israeli sovereignty" and warned that Iran would be held accountable for its meddling, raising the specter of a larger confrontation in an area that has remained largely stable since a monthlong war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006.

"This is a serious Iranian attack on Israeli territory. Iran is dragging the region into an adventure in which it doesn't know how it will end," Israel's chief military spokesman, Brig. Gen. Ronen Manelis, said in a special statement. "Whoever is responsible for this incident is the one who will pay the price."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman convened the top brass at military headquarters in Tel Aviv for long hours of emergency consultations throughout the Jewish Sabbath to discuss their next steps.

Netanyahu said he spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin and vowed to strike back hard.

"Iran seeks to use Syrian territory to attack Israel for its professed goal of destroying Israel," he said. "Israel holds Iran and its Syrian host responsible for today's aggression. We will continue to do whatever is necessary to protect our sovereignty and our security."

Israel also appealed to the United Nations Security Council to denounce Iran's aggression and "put an immediate end to Iranian provocations."

Israel would not confirm whether its aircraft was actually shot down by enemy fire, which would mark the first such instance for Israel since 1982 during the first Lebanon war.

Israel fears Iran could use Syrian territory to stage attacks or create a land corridor from Iran to Lebanon that could allow it to transfer weapons more easily to Hezbollah — Lebanon's Iranian-backed political party and militant group sworn to Israel's destruction. Though Israel has largely stayed out of the Syrian conflict, it has struck weapons convoys destined for Hezbollah — which is fighting alongside Syrian forces — almost 100 times since 2012.

But Israel has refrained from striking Iranian sites directly. Syria has also repeatedly said it will respond to Israeli airstrikes but has rarely returned fire. Both of those trends came to an abrupt end Saturday as a rapid escalation played out in the early morning hours.

At dawn, Israel said it shot down an Iranian unmanned aircraft that penetrated its airspace and then destroyed the Iranian site in central Syria that it said launched it. Upon their return, Israel's jets came under heavy Syrian anti-aircraft fire and the pilots of one of the F-16s had to eject and the plane crashed in northern Israel. One pilot was seriously wounded and the other one lightly.

In subsequent attacks, the Israeli military said it struck four additional Iranian positions and eight Syrian sites, causing significant damage. The Israeli jets again faced a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft missiles but returned home safely, as large explosions were reported in Syria and warning sirens blared in northern Israel.

Israel says the strikes destroyed the main command and control bunker of the Syrian military and marked its most devastating assault against Syria in decades.

Iran denied Israel's shooting down of a drone, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasem calling the account "ridiculous," while the joint operations room for the Syrian military and its allies insisted the drone had not violated Israeli airspace and was on a regular mission gathering intelligence on Islamic State militants.

Regardless, Hezbollah said Saturday's developments signaled a "new strategic phase" in engaging Israel, which has been mostly off the guerrilla group's radar as it has been knee-deep in the fighting in Syria.

Former Syrian lawmaker and political commenter Sharif Shehade said the anti-aircraft fire marked a political decision in Syria to respond to Israeli strikes, and that tensions would continue to rise unless Washington and Moscow intervened to calm the situation.

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"It is a decisive decision to confront the Israeli air force and its careless behavior," he told The Associated Press in Damascus, "I think what happened today is a lesson for Israel."

However, a former Israeli Air Force pilot, retired Lt. Col. Reuven Ben-Shalom, said the fierce Israeli response actually sent "very clear messages" to the other side, showing Iran how deep Israel's knowledge was of its activity in Syria.

"The fact that a drone like this is identified, tracked and intercepted so smoothly by the Israeli air force demonstrates our capabilities, demonstrates our resolve not to allow the breach of Israeli sovereignty," he said. "I think it's good that our enemies learn and understand these capabilities."

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said Saturday's incident marked the most "blatant and severe violation of Israeli sovereignty" yet. He said while Israel had no interest in further escalation it was prepared to "extract a heavy price" for such aggression.

Conricus said Iran was "playing with fire" by directly sending the drone into Israel on a military mission.

Russia, which backs Assad and maintains a large military presence in the country, called for restraint and appeared to criticize Israel's actions.

"It is absolutely unacceptable to create threats to the lives and security of Russian servicemen who are in Syria at the invitation of its legitimate government to assist in the fight against terrorists," Russia's foreign ministry said.

Israel has long complained about the involvement of archenemy Iran, and Iranian proxy Hezbollah, in the Syria war. Both have sent forces to back Assad, who appears headed toward victory after years of fighting. Israel has said it will not accept a permanent military presence by Iran and its Shiite allies in Syria, especially near the Israeli border.

Israel has shot down several drones that previously tried to infiltrate its territory from Syria. The capture of an Iranian drone and the targeting of Iranian sites in response, however, marked a dramatic escalation in the Israeli retaliation. The military confirmed that the initial target in Syria — the unmanned aircraft's launch components — was successfully destroyed and released grainy footage of the strike. Israel also said it had recovered the remnants of the drone, which proved that it belonged to Iran.

El Deeb reported from Beirut. Associated Press writers Zeina Karam in Beirut, Albert Aji in Damascus and Amir Vahdat in Tehran contributed to this report.

After S. Korea visit, Pence insists 'no daylight' on North

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE TWO (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence's efforts to keep North Korea from stealing the show at the Winter Olympics proved short-lived, drowned out by images of the two Koreas marching and competing as one.

And as the South appeared to look favorably on warming ties on the Korean Peninsula, Pence insisted Saturday "there is no daylight" among the United States and allies South Korea and Japan in intensifying pressure on the North over its nuclear and missile programs.

Pence spent the days leading up to the Pyeongchang Olympics warning that the North was trying to "hijack the message and imagery" of the event with its "propaganda." But the North was welcomed with open arms to what South Korean President Moon Jae-in called "Olympic games of peace."

It was the U.S. that appeared to be the one left in the cold, especially after the sister of the North Korean dictator extended an invitation from her brother for Moon to visit the North. That was the clearest sign yet of an expanding diplomatic opening opposed by the Trump administration.

Pence said Moon updated him about the meeting he had with North Korean officials and "both of us reiterated to each other tonight that we will continue to stand strong and work in a coordinated way to bring maximum economic and diplomatic pressure to bear on North Korea."

Moon was all smiles as he greeted Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and Kim Yong Nam, the country's 90-year-old nominal head of state, for lunch at the presidential residence.

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Pence said Friday that the U.S. would oppose talks between the two Koreas until the North agreed to open negotiations on ending its nuclear program.

On his flight to Alaska on Saturday, the vice president said he left Asia "encouraged that we will continue to work very closely to continue and intensify the maximum pressure campaign" against North Korea.

He said war had forged "the core of the bond" between the U.S. and South Korea and that helps explain "why there is no daylight and there will be no daylight" between the two.

At the opening ceremonies Friday, Pence sat stone-faced in his seat as Moon and North Korean officials stood together with much of the stadium to applaud their joint team of athletes. White House officials stressed that Pence had applauded only for the American team, but Asia experts said the vice president's refusal to stand could be seen as disrespectful to the hosts.

U.S. officials have been urging South Korea to be cautious in its rapprochement with the North. But North Korea's record on human rights and the growing threat from its nuclear weapons program appeared out of mind.

Even Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has shared the American skepticism of warming North-South relations and pressed Moon against falling for the North's "smile diplomacy," greeted Kim Jong Nam.

At a Friday VIP reception for delegation leaders, Pence arrived late and stayed for just five minutes — and did not interact with the delegation from the North.

"The Koreans will think it's a mood kill," said Frank Jannuzi, an expert on East Asia at the Mansfield Foundation in Washington. He criticized the Trump administration for straining too hard to signal disgust of Kim Jong Un's government.

"The grievances that the world has about North Korea are very legitimate. But the Olympic moment that President Moon is trying to generate here is not a time to nurse those grievances," Jannuzi said. "It's a time to focus on messages of reconciliation and peace."

As it turned out, with the two Koreas celebrating a moment of unity, the United States was left outmaneuvered by an adversary and out of step with an ally.

Associated Press writers Matthew Pennington and Jonathan Lemire in Washington contributed to this report.

His West Wing rattled, Trump casts doubt on aide's exit

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday seemed to frame the downfall of a pivotal aide accused of abusing his wives as a character assassination, adding to the tumult that has engulfed the White House, splintered the staff and imperiled chief of staff John Kelly's hold on his position.

Trump vented in a tweet that appeared to take aim at the rising #MeToo movement about sexual abuse and echoed his own denials of sexual impropriety in the face of accusations from more than a dozen women.

"Peoples lives are being shattered and destroyed by a mere allegation," Trump wrote. "Some are true and some are false. Some are old and some are new. There is no recovery for someone falsely accused - life and career are gone. Is there no such thing any longer as Due Process?"

His response also reflected his growing discontent with Kelly, once hailed for bringing discipline to the West Wing but recently at the center of his own controversies.

The president has fumed that Kelly was too slow in bringing the allegations against staff secretary Rob Porter to his attention. That has added to Trump's frustrations about the chief of staff's attempts to control him and Kelly's recent inflammatory comments about immigrants, according to two people who speak to the president regularly but are not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

The two strong-willed men have clashed and Trump has begun floating possible names for a future chief of staff in conversations with outside advisers, according to three people with knowledge of the conversations. Among the names being considered: Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Rep. Mark Meadows and CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

But there was no sign that a move was imminent, according to the people with knowledge of the con-

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versations. Trump is known to frequently poll his advisers about the performance of senior staff and is often reluctant to actually fire aides.

As the aftershocks of the accusations against Porter reverberated for a fifth day, Trump stayed out of sight on a rainy Saturday in Washington and tweeted along while watching Fox News shows. Most West Wing offices remained dark.

Kelly has indicated he would step aside if he lost the faith of the president. But he has not offered to resign, according to a White House official who was not authorized to discuss personnel matters publicly and spoke Friday on condition of anonymity.

But Kelly's hold on his post seemed the shakiest since he took the job in July, in part because several West Wing aides have had their faith shaken by his handling of the Porter accusations. At a senior staff meeting on Friday, Kelly tried to push his own timeline concerning Porter. Some aides in that meeting privately questioned Kelly's account, thinking his version of events was self-serving, according to one official with knowledge of the meeting but not authorized to discuss it publicly.

Kelly has said he found out only Tuesday night that the accusations against Porter were true and he was gone immediately. That clashes with the events of Tuesday night, when the White House released a statement of support for Porter from Kelly, who had initially urged his right-hand-man to remain in his post. The chief of staff said Friday that the decision was made before photos of one of Porter's ex-wives with a black eye were published.

Other White House officials have said it was the release of the photos Wednesday morning that sealed Porter's fate. The staff secretary resigned later Wednesday.

On Friday, a second White House staffer, speechwriter David Sorensen, resigned as a result of abuse allegations. Sorensen worked for the Council on Environmental Quality, which is part of the Executive Office of the President.

Many White House senior staff members remained stunned by the accusations against Porter, a well-liked and seemingly mild-mannered graduate of Harvard and Oxford. When the allegations first emerged against Porter, who downplayed the claims from two ex-wives, a number of senior aides rallied around him, and the White House acknowledged that personal relationships may have played a role in their response.

Communications Director Hope Hicks, who was dating the staff secretary, helped draft the original statements defending him, according to three current and former White House officials. Deputy White House press secretary Raj Shah said Hicks later "recused" herself from some aspects of the matter.

It was a rare moment in the spotlight for Hicks, Trump's longest-serving aide who is usually content to remain in the background. Hicks has become one of Trump's closest confidants, and while the president has groused about her involvement in the Porter flareup, he had not suggested ousting her, according to the two people familiar with his private discussions.

The fallout from the Porter resignation also cast a spotlight on White House counsel Don McGahn, who was apprised of at least some of the accusations about the staff secretary at least four times, including as early as January 2017.

Kelly, meanwhile, told reporters the only other indication he had that something could be wrong came in November, when he got an update on pending background investigations and learned "there was some things that needed to be looked into. And literally that was it."

Porter's departure, along with Kelly under fire, could deprive the West Wing of some of its steadier hands and worried some staffers that the sense of order that been installed in recent months could evaporate.

The president's tweet Saturday came a day after he set off a firestorm when he wished Porter well in his future endeavors and made no mention of his alleged victims. "He said very strongly yesterday that he's innocent," Trump said.

Routinely, Trump has accepted claims of innocence from men facing similar allegations, including Fox News head Roger Ailes, anchor Bill O'Reilly and former Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, who was accused of inappropriate contact with teenage girls.

Trump's comments were a sharp contrast to those of Vice President Mike Pence, who told NBC's Lester Holt on Friday "there's no tolerance in this White House and no place in America for domestic abuse."

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Pence said in an interview in South Korea that he was "appalled" by the allegations and that he would look into the matter when he got back to Washington.

Meanwhile, a number of Democrats denounced Trump's comments about Porter and his lack of empathy for the women who alleged abuse.

"That's like saying that axe murderer out there, he's a great painter," said former Vice President Joe Biden. "Is there any other crime — and it's a crime — where there would be an explanation that the reason why we shouldn't pay attention to the transgression is because they're good at something?"

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Juliet Linderman and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire and Colvin on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Colvin at <http://twitter.com/@colvinj>

Kim Cattrall to Sarah Jessica Parker: You're not my friend

NEW YORK (AP) — Kim Cattrall has a message for Sarah Jessica Parker: Spare me your sympathy. Cattrall lashed out Saturday at her former "Sex and the City" co-star after Parker expressed her condolences over the death of Cattrall's brother, Chris.

"Your continuous reaching out is a painful reminder of how cruel you really were then and now," Cattrall wrote on Instagram. "Let me make this VERY clear. (If I haven't already) You are not my family. You are not my friend. So I'm writing to tell you one last time to stop exploiting our tragedy in order to restore your 'nice girl' persona."

The two actresses reportedly have not gotten along for years. Cattrall's brother was found dead last week. He was 55.

Canadian PM Trudeau and LA mayor toast friendship with hike

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Capping off a three-day swing through California that's mostly been focused on business and trade, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau toasted his country's friendship with Los Angeles on Saturday by taking a brisk morning hike with Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Dressed in shorts and athletic shirts, the two men spoke with reporters before walking through Griffith Park. The appearance came the morning after Trudeau gave a speech about the importance of the North American Free Trade Agreement at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

A California Highway Patrol officer accompanying the prime minister was injured in a crash that happened shortly after Trudeau's motorcade left the library Friday night. Garcetti said Saturday that the officer is expected to recover from a broken clavicle.

Trudeau's vehicle was not involved and he was not injured.

Asked by a reporter if the officer's injury was overshadowing the purpose of his trip, Trudeau said the message that the two countries share close ties has not been lost.

"That emphasis that we are working together for the betterment of our citizens is a message that does continue and does resonate," he said.

The two men made statements in English, French and Spanish.

Garcetti warmly welcomed Trudeau to Los Angeles and said that Canada was a major trading partner for the city.

"It's very important for us in this moment, when there is so much supposed division in the world to reinsure that there is friendship and strength," Garcetti said. "We see friendship as a strength and conflict as a weakness."

The two men, both in their 40s, then set off at a brisk pace. They chatted with other hikers and posed for a "selfie" with one group.

Trudeau said the hike was "awesome" and "beautiful."

Trudeau came with an unambiguous message that NAFTA is a success that needs to be modernized

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and not abandoned. The next round of talks over the trade pact is set to begin in Mexico later this month. President Donald Trump called the 24-year-old agreement a job-killing "disaster" on the campaign trail, and he has threatened to pull out unless the deal requires more auto production in the U.S., while shifting additional government contracts to U.S. companies.

Trudeau argued that the deal has sent benefits both ways across the border.

But he added: "President Trump and I agree about this: Too many people have been left behind, even as our economies surged."

Trudeau was in San Francisco Thursday, where he picked up promises of investments and jobs during his first official visit to the city. Among them, Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff announced the online business software company will invest another \$2 billion in its Canadian operations.

Friday's speech was a centerpiece on his swing in which he warned Canada won't be muscled into a trade deal that is unfavorable to his country, while promoting the country as a destination for California technology firms uneasy with shifting U.S. immigration policy.

WH response to abuse claims shines light on victims' fears

By JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Jennifer Willoughby and Colbie Holderness stepped forward to tell the story of how they were physically, verbally and emotionally abused by their ex-husband, who had since become a top White House aide, President Donald Trump had nothing but good things to say about the man they had accused of domestic violence.

Rob Porter "did a great job while he was at the White House. And we hope he has a wonderful career," Trump said Friday, adding that the aide had vehemently maintained his innocence.

The president followed that up Saturday with a tweet that "lives are being shattered and destroyed by a mere allegation."

Porter's resignation was announced Wednesday, just hours after a photograph was published of Holderness with a black eye, allegedly inflicted by Porter. Trump's staff secretary called the allegations from his former spouses "outrageous" and "simply false."

Trump's chief of staff, John Kelly, had defended Porter on Tuesday as "a man of true integrity and honor" and "a friend, confidante and trusted professional." By some accounts, White House counsel Don McGahn had been apprised of some accusations about Porter at least four times, including as early as January 2017.

The White House response serves as a high-profile illustration of the obstacles many women face in speaking out about their abuse. First and foremost: Will anyone believe them?

"It so clearly illustrates that even today, in 2018, a lot of people react to these sorts of allegations by assuming that the woman is lying, or by indicating that, in essence, how a man behaves with women is nobody's business, that it's irrelevant," said Emily Martin, National Women's Law Center general counsel and vice president for education and workplace justice. "It suggests that what we really need to worry about is how these allegations will impact the man who is accused."

Months before Willoughby spoke to reporters and identified Porter by name, she published a blog post explaining the fear and anxiety she felt about leaving her marriage and going public about the abuse she said she had suffered at the hands of a powerful man who was well-liked and well-respected.

"Everyone loved him. People commented all the time how lucky I was. Strangers complimented him to me every time we went out. But in my home, the abuse was insidious. The threats were personal. The terror was real. And yet I stayed," she wrote. "When I tried to get help, I was counseled to consider carefully how what I said might affect his career. And so I kept my mouth shut and stayed."

In an interview on CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360," Willoughby said she's often asked why she stayed in a relationship with Porter if he was a "monster."

"The reality is he's not a monster," she said. "He is an intelligent, kind, chivalrous, caring, professional man. And he is deeply troubled and angry and violent. I don't think those things are mutually exclusive."

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Martin said victims of domestic violence and abuse often hesitate to come forward or to leave their relationships, no matter how toxic, because they worry nobody will believe their accounts, particularly when the balance of power between the abuser and the victim is uneven.

"That dynamic leaves many simply unwilling to consider the possibility that he has engaged in acts of violence, and when people aren't willing to imagine that, the easiest thing to do is disbelieve the woman making these allegations," Martin said.

Both Holderness and Willoughby spoke of how Porter's abuse shattered their confidence and manipulated their emotions, making the women feel powerless. In an interview with NBC, Willoughby said she didn't even realize she was in an abusive relationship until she had been suffering for a year.

Jessica Corbett is the wife of David Sorensen, who on Friday resigned as a White House speechwriter amid allegations that he physically and emotionally abused her. She wrote in a blog post that she was "embarrassed to tell anyone because I thought that this wasn't something that happened to women like me; it didn't happen in my social circles."

"It's lonely enough being a victim of abuse," she wrote. "It's even worse when the victim is made to stand alone."

Sorensen has denied the allegations.

Debby Tucker, president of the board of directors for the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, said women are far more likely to be accused of fabricating stories than men. Such long-standing social biases play into victims' reluctance to share their stories.

"The societal belief system supports the idea that women are vindictive, spiteful, and lie for advantage in custody and other matters," she said.

In the days since Willoughby's story became public, comments on social media from abuse survivors tell stories of being afraid to come forward — and not being believed when they do.

Vice President Mike Pence, striking a markedly different tone than Trump, said in an interview Friday on MSNBC that "there's no tolerance in this White House and no place in America for domestic abuse."

But this is not the first time the White House has found itself in the middle of the #MeToo moment.

Trump, who was recorded on tape prior to his presidency boasting about sexually assaulting women, has denied allegations of sexual misconduct from more than a dozen women, and said he was the victim of a "smear campaign."

Apart from disbelief, the White House also has showed ambivalence about allegations of mistreatment of women: Steve Bannon was brought on as Trump's chief strategist despite misdemeanor charges in a 1996 domestic violence case. After Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, was arrested and charged with assaulting a female reporter, Trump asked, "How do you know the bruises weren't there before?"

Ex-hostage wants British IS kidnappers put on trial in UK

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former Islamic State hostages and families of the group's victims are urging Britain and the United States to put two recently captured extremists on trial, arguing that denying them justice will fuel the hatred and violence they supported.

French journalist Nicolas Henin, who was held by the men and their comrades for 10 months, said he wants justice following the arrest of the two Britons, who were part of the notorious cell dubbed "The Beatles." Henin said the men should be tried in the U.K., not shipped to Guantanamo Bay, because revenge will just breed more violence.

"What I'm looking for is justice and Guantanamo is a denial of justice," he told The Associated Press on Friday. "There hasn't been a single trial in 16 years there....Guantanamo was actually one of the reasons for their engagement in extremism, in jihad. So if we perpetrate this kind of atrocity, we are not helping our quest for justice."

U.S. officials have confirmed that El Shafee Elsheikh and Alexandra Amon Kotey, who grew up in London before traveling to the Middle East to join the Islamic State group, were captured in early January in

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eastern Syria.

U.S. officials have interrogated the men, who were part of the IS cell that captured, tortured and beheaded more than two dozen hostages, including American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and American aid worker Peter Kassig.

Hundreds of foreign citizens fought alongside IS as it took control of large parts of Syria, raising concerns that they will bring terrorism with them if they ever return home.

The capture of Elsheikh and Kotey could yield precious intelligence about what happened to those fighters as IS was defeated on the battlefield, and information about the fate of their hostages, said Shiraz Maher, a senior research fellow at the International Center for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence at King's College London.

"It's hugely significant for a lot of the Western countries who had hostages who were captured by Islamic State," he said. "I think it demonstrates that there remain high-value, significant players at large."

Maher agreed that Elsheikh and Kotey should be brought to trial because it will help bring closure to their victims and send a message to anyone who considers joining IS or other extremist groups.

"These guys had an absolute sense of their own invincibility," he said. "They were filled with euphoria. (Trials) will make people think twice."

The two are believed to be linked to Mohammed Emwazi, the masked British insurgent known as Jihadi John who appeared in several videos that showed the beheading of Western hostages. The cell was nicknamed "The Beatles" because all four members had English accents.

The American-backed Syrian Democratic Forces captured the two men last month, and the U.S. helped identify them with biometric data and other tools. Their capture was first reported by The New York Times.

The U.S. has been training the SDF in border and internal security, including how to screen individuals and determine if they are foreign fighters or other enemies hiding in the general population.

Elsheikh a former child refugee, was a mechanic from White City in west London. Kotey is from London's Paddington neighborhood. Kotey's family issued a statement saying they were aware of the arrest and asking that their privacy be respected.

The U.S. State Department last year imposed sanctions on the two men after declaring they were terrorists.

Elsheikh traveled to Syria in 2012, initially joining al-Qaida's branch in the country before moving on to IS, the State Department said. Kotey served as a guard for the execution cell.

Elsheikh, it said, "earned a reputation for waterboarding, mock executions and crucifixions while serving as an (IS) jailer."

"As a guard for the cell, Kotey likely engaged in the group's executions and exceptionally cruel torture methods, including electronic shock and waterboarding," the State Department said.

Emwazi died in a U.S. air strike in 2015. The fourth member of the cell, Aine Lesley Davis, was convicted of being a member of a terrorist organization and jailed for 7 1/2 years by a court in Turkey in May 2017.

Diane Foley, James Foley's mother, said Elsheikh's and Kotey's crimes are "beyond imagination" and they should spend the rest of their lives in prison.

"I'd like them to be brought to trial in the U.S., but as long as they're brought to fair trial and detained and justice is served I would be most grateful," she told the BBC.

His father, John Foley, told WMUR-TV in New Hampshire that giving the men the death penalty would make them martyrs, so he'd prefer that they spend the rest of their lives in prison.

Pennsylvania race to test how tax law plays with voters

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

NORTH HUNTINGDON, Pa. (AP) — In southwest Pennsylvania, Democratic congressional hopeful Conor Lamb hammers the new Republican tax law as a gift to corporations and the wealthy that will add to the national debt and give the GOP-led Congress an excuse to gut Social Security and Medicare.

Rick Saccone, Lamb's opponent in the 18th Congressional District that wraps around Pittsburgh, says the

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sweeping tax changes will goose the economy and give Americans bigger paychecks. National Republican groups, meanwhile, are blanketing television stations here with ads to tell voters that Lamb simply doesn't want them to have lower taxes.

It's a defining fault line ahead of the 2018 midterm elections, and the outcome for Lamb could serve as a guidepost for Democrats as they try to reclaim a House majority this November.

Democrats must flip at least 24 GOP-held seats to regain a majority, and the Pennsylvania seat — in a district Trump won by almost 20 points in 2016 — would be an unexpected boost.

The emphasis being placed on taxes ahead of the March 13 special election here also may remind the power players in Washington that the midterm elections will not revolve exclusively around the tempests that regularly consume the nation's capital — the Russia investigations, a lingering immigration stalemate, the occasional government shutdown. The November outcome will turn as much or more on voters' fundamental impressions about how Congress is affecting their wallets, now and in the future.

"Voters care about the economy and health care," Lamb said in an interview the same day Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi spent eight hours on the House floor to emphasize Democratic support for young immigrants threatened with deportation.

But as Lamb tries to make his race about those bread-and-butter matters, he's getting hammered by Republicans.

The GOP's House campaign committee has aired a television ad hailing Saccone as a faithful tax cutter and accusing Lamb of using "the same crummy words" as Pelosi to decry the tax bill. Pelosi has mocked some U.S. corporations for giving employees one-time bonuses after the tax cuts; she called them "crumbs" in comparison to benefits for many large businesses and their executives.

Lamb doesn't usually describe bonuses or wage hikes as crumbs when talking to voters — though he's used the word before in at least one interview. His preferred description is to call the law a "betrayal" of middle-class households.

"It's great we got tax relief for the working class and middle class, too, but we could have had that without adding a penny to the national debt," the former federal prosecutor told about 150 voters at a recent campaign stop.

He said Republicans had to "give tax relief to their donors, to the 1 percent and big corporations," while setting up Speaker Paul Ryan's long-term aims of limiting the price tag of Medicare and Social Security.

"Paul Ryan came out and said it the very next day," Lamb said, referring to Ryan's comments after Congress passed the tax law. The speaker told a Denver radio station, "We're going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform."

Saccone, 59, is keeping his argument plain.

"Tax cuts, lower regulations and smaller government" are good for business and the people who work for them, he said in an interview. That's "the Trump agenda" and "the Saccone agenda."

The Pennsylvania state representative is sidestepping nonpartisan analyses that the law will add \$1.5 trillion to the national debt over the course of a decade, despite Republicans' insistence that economic growth will replenish the treasury with higher tax receipts.

Asked about the congressional spending agreement — after it was announced but before it had passed — Saccone said, "I haven't reviewed the details." He added that he'd "never" cut Social Security or Medicare.

Lamb acknowledges he may not have the easier sell, and some other Democrats agree with him.

"If we spend all of our cycle running against the tax bill, it's probably going to be a mistake," said Julie Greene, a former Democratic National Committee aide who now leads midterm campaign efforts for the AFL-CIO, the nation's largest union organization.

During fall debate over the tax overhaul, public opinion aligned with Democrats against the bill. But the GOP believes opposition will wane now that workers who thought they wouldn't get a tax cut are seeing benefits.

"When I see a real-time improvement in my paycheck, I'm not thinking about what the CEO is making or his tax windfall. We need to take a more holistic approach," Greene warns.

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Lamb insists that's what he's doing. Voters, he believes, can see GOP priorities in a tax law that makes corporate tax rate cuts permanent, while putting a 2026 expiration date on changes for individuals. They can see that the long-term balance sheet "puts us in a weaker position" when considering a trillion-dollar commitment to infrastructure that will require more borrowing on top of a rising debt, he says.

Even if they pay less in taxes, Lamb says, voters who hear simplistic arguments are "insulted."

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

Bengals cheerleader and husband launch golf cart transit

By DAN SEWELL, Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — An entrepreneurial Cincinnati Bengals cheerleader and her husband have teed off on a new way of getting around the city's downtown: golf carts.

GEST Carts offers rides on weekend nights to attractions such as riverfront restaurants, a casino and other entertainment spots. Co-founders Patrick and Lauren Dye have rolled out the service slowly, with plans to expand in time for Cincinnati's popular Opening Day festivities in late March when the Reds begin baseball season.

Long associated with retirement communities, golf carts are increasingly being seen as urban transit options.

Services similar to GEST (Green, Easy, Safe Transportation) are running from Auburn, Alabama, to Toledo, Ohio. They offer environmentally friendly rides at low rates — in advertising-sponsored GEST's case, for free — at slow speeds suited for sightseeing or mingling. Patrick liked the one in Nashville, and he saw an opportunity in Cincinnati with its revitalized downtown area.

"I think it would be great anywhere," Lauren Dye said as her husband drove past Cincinnati's recently renovated Music Hall. "It's just a really fun mode of transportation."

Prince was singing "Little Red Corvette" in the background, part of the '80s music mix among the choices passengers can make for their rides.

The service comes as regional leaders have identified improving transportation as a key priority.

Cincinnati area officials last month announced a partnership with Uber to create the Cincinnati Mobility Lab. Uber will share transportation data and launch studies of such issues as curbside congestion and bus services in the Cincinnati-northern Kentucky region.

Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley said working with Uber is an example of looking to the future for better transportation options.

The Dyes, who operate the Scene Ultra Lounge downtown, launched GEST just before New Year's, relying mainly on word-of-mouth. Attention grew quickly, especially as the city's streetcar system suffered repeated shutdowns because of cold weather and ice.

Patrick Dye said the golf carts aren't meant to compete with the streetcar, and they've had good cooperation with city administrators on getting their business running.

He said that they've averaged 300 to 500 passengers a night and will begin daytime service on Opening Day, March 29, with a cart fleet up to 10 from the current six.

"This is just one more piece to bring and entice people to come to downtown Cincinnati and another tool that people can use to get around," he said.

Follow Dan Sewell at <http://www.twitter.com/dansewell>

The White House's promised Spanish website? Nada de nada

By LUIS ALONSO LUGO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nada de nada — nothing at all.

A year into the Trump administration, the White House website still has no Spanish-language content,

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unlike during the two previous administrations and even though nearly 1 in 5 people in the United States speaks Spanish.

Even Iran and reclusive North Korea have made efforts to reach out to the Spanish-speaking world. In the U.S., meanwhile, President Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric and his plan to build a wall on the border with Mexico are alienating some Hispanics.

A year ago, then-presidential press secretary Sean Spicer said the new administration had deleted Spanish content on the White House webpage but its information technology folks were "working overtime" to develop a new site. In July, the White House director of media affairs, Helen Aguirre Ferre, said she expected a Spanish website to launch at the end of 2017.

Now, Aguirre Ferre declines to say whether there are still plans to have a Spanish-language website. "We continue to work on improving the White House website providing important content in English pertaining to the initiatives and policies the Trump administration is undertaking," she said in an email.

Javier Palomarez, president and CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, said the absence of a White House webpage in Spanish "sends a very troubling message."

"There are over 4 million Hispanic-American entrepreneurs and businesspeople in this country, many of whom are receptive to the administration's pro-business agenda," Palomarez wrote in an email. "If they made even a little effort to communicate and engage with the Latino community, perhaps they would win a few of them over."

As Latinos became the largest minority in the U.S., President George W. Bush's administration added Spanish-language content to the White House website for the first time.

Luis Miranda, director of Hispanic media at the White House under President Barack Obama, said the Spanish-language site during Obama's tenure included information geared to Latinos on topics such as immigration, health issues, banking and veterans affairs.

During his presidential campaign, Trump criticized GOP rival Jeb Bush for answering a reporter's question in Spanish, saying the former Florida governor "should really set the example by speaking English while in the United States." Trump also turned off many Hispanic voters with his harsh anti-immigration rhetoric, referring to many Mexican immigrants as "criminals" and "rapists."

The Trump White House does keep a Spanish Twitter account, @LaCasaBlanca, but it is not very active. Created the same month, January 2017, as its English equivalent, @White House, it has about 200 tweets compared with almost 3,200 on the English version.

The U.S. does provide news in Spanish and 40 other languages through the government-funded news outlet Voice of America. Also, the official guide to government information and services runs gobierno.usa.gov, and other agencies — including the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Homeland Security — offer information in Spanish in their websites.

The current White House website offers a clear contrast with efforts of other countries to communicate with Spanish speakers, who number at least 572 million worldwide, according to The Instituto Cervantes, created by the government of Spain.

In North Korea, the government's Korea Central News Agency, the only news agency in the communist country, offers content not only in Korean but also in English, Russian and Spanish.

Alejandro Cao de Benos, a Spanish citizen who says he's been a special delegate for North Korea's Committee of Cultural Relations since 2002, told The Associated Press that Spanish "is a very important language to share Korean reality from Korea."

Cao de Benos said North Korea shares its message in Spanish because it wants to foster relations with Latin American nations. The North has embassies in several capitals in the region, including Brasilia, Brazil; Caracas, Venezuela; Havana; and Mexico City.

In 2012, Iran launched Hispan-TV, a 24-hour Spanish-language TV station based in Tehran.

The foreign ministries of China and Russia offer abundant content in several languages, including Spanish.

AP Bureau Chief Eric Talmadge in Pyongyang, North Korea, contributed to this report.

Follow Luis Alonso Lugo on Twitter: www.twitter.com/luisalonsolugo

False alarms highlight weaknesses in national alert system

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM, Associated Press

Weather junkie John Grosso knew it was highly unlikely a monster wave was barreling toward the Connecticut coast. Still, when a tsunami warning appeared out of the blue on his phone Tuesday, he felt a twinge of fear. His co-workers, who got the same alert, asked whether they should evacuate.

It turned out to be a false alarm, a computer glitch. The damage? An erosion of trust.

"Now I have to check every single time, God forbid, there's a tornado warning, a tsunami alert, pick your poison," said Grosso, 25, a social media manager from Stamford. "I have to look at it and go, 'Is it a test? Was it sent in error?'" And I could be wasting precious time in case it was real."

Last month's bogus ballistic missile warning in Hawaii and, now, this week's tsunami snafu have highlighted trouble spots and prompted calls for change in the nation's increasingly complex system for alerting Americans about dangerous weather, active shooters, kidnapped children, plant explosions and other emergencies.

Both incidents have prompted calls for reform, including better training for emergency workers in charge of sending alerts.

More than 1,000 federal, state and local government agencies have the ability to issue emergency alerts through an array of federally managed communications networks. It is a patchwork system that usually works as intended but can wreak havoc when it doesn't.

In the Senate, legislation introduced this week in response to the false missile alert would establish standards for state and local agencies' participation in the national alert system, require federal certification of their incident management systems, and recommend steps for avoiding false alarms.

Additionally, the Federal Communications Commission has ordered wireless providers to do a better job of targeting emergency alerts to only those in the affected area, with a geographic "overreach" of no more than one-tenth of a mile.

Aside from the false alarms, emergency agencies have been criticized for sending alerts to too many people or too few. In Alaska, for instance, a tsunami warning triggered by an undersea earthquake in January reached residents of Anchorage even though the city wasn't in danger. In Northern California wine country, where wildfires killed dozens of people in October, some residents complained that authorities failed to send an emergency alert to their phones.

"The emergency alerting system is really a whole collection of systems, and there are various places where it can break down," said Dan Gonzales, a scientist at RAND Corp. who studies emergency alert systems. "With so many organizations involved, it's difficult to make it foolproof."

The risk of too many false alarms, Gonzales said, is that "people will ignore warnings if they believe they're not accurate or not relevant."

That was on vivid display Tuesday when AccuWeather, the private forecasting service, took what was intended to be a routine, monthly National Weather Service test message and sent it as a real warning to subscribers up and down the East Coast, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

Katia Del Negro, 33, was at home in New York City when she got the alert, her surprise quickly turning to skepticism.

"I definitely got a bit concerned when I saw that many people along the East Coast received the alert," she said. "But at the same time it seemed so weird, so I thought something was off, thinking back about what happened in Hawaii not long ago."

AccuWeather, based in State College, Pennsylvania, blamed the weather service, saying the government agency miscoded the test message. That caused the company's computers to interpret it as real and push it to subscribers' cellphones, according to AccuWeather.

The weather service insisted its message was coded properly.

Daryl Herzmann, a systems analyst in the agronomy department at Iowa State University, said the mes-

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sage contained a "T" flag, indicating test. But the weather service also recycled a tracking number it used in a previous tsunami warning, probably confusing AccuWeather's computers, he said.

The weather service has been recycling tracking numbers for years, said Herzmann, who runs an environmental data project that compiles information from the weather service.

Weather service spokeswoman Susan Buchanan had no comment on Herzmann's observation. She pointed to an earlier statement that said the agency is "working with private sector companies to determine why some systems did not recognize the coding."

It was human error, not a computer problem, that caused last month's panic in Hawaii. A state worker mistook a drill for a missile attack and sent an emergency alert to cellphones and broadcast stations. It took nearly 40 minutes for the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to figure out a way to retract the alert. The worker was fired and the agency chief resigned.

"This cry of wolf damaged the credibility of alert messaging, which can be dangerous when a real emergency occurs," Lisa Fowlkes, an FCC official, said Tuesday during a House committee hearing on the nation's emergency messaging system.

Jeremy DaRos, of Portland, Maine, who lives near the water and got the erroneous tsunami alert, said he is concerned that people won't take seriously the emergency alerts they get in an actual crisis.

"People need to trust the alerts they're pushing out," he said. "This is important stuff, and to have two incidents in the span of a month is just unacceptable."

Pence upstaged by 2 Koreas' efforts to warm ties

By ZEKE MILLER and MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence's efforts to keep North Korea from stealing the show at the Winter Olympics proved to be short-lived, quickly drowned out by the images of the two Koreas marching and competing together, as the South appeared to look favorably on warming ties on the Korean Peninsula.

Pence spent the days leading up to the games warning that the North was trying to "hijack the message and imagery of the Olympic Games" with its "propaganda." But the North was still welcomed with open arms to what South Korean President Moon Jae-in called "Olympic games of peace" and the U.S. appeared to be the one left out in the cold.

Moon was all smiles Saturday as he greeted Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, and Kim Yong Nam, the country's 90-year-old nominal head of state, for lunch at the presidential residence. Kim Yo Jong offered an invitation from her brother for Moon to visit the North, in the strongest sign yet of an expanding diplomatic opening opposed by the U.S.

Pence said Friday that the U.S. would oppose talks between the two Koreas until the North agreed to open negotiations on ending its nuclear program, and he was silent Saturday on the news of the invitation.

"The vice president is grateful that President Moon reaffirmed his strong commitment to the global maximum pressure campaign and for his support for continued sanctions," Pence spokeswoman Alyssa Farah said when asked about the development.

Moon and Pence spoke Saturday while taking in the speedskating competition, but aides did not immediately say whether the invitation came up during the discussion.

At the opening ceremonies on Friday, Pence sat stone-faced in his seat as Moon and North Korean officials stood together with much of the stadium to applaud their joint team of athletes. White House officials stressed that Pence had applauded only for the American team, but Asia experts said the vice president's refusal to stand could be seen as disrespectful to the hosts.

U.S. officials have been urging South Korea to be cautious in its rapprochement with the North — a point Pence drilled home in private meetings with Moon on Thursday.

But North Korea's terrible record on human rights and the growing threat from its nuclear weapons program appeared out of mind.

Even Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has shared the American skepticism of warming inter-

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Korean relations and pressed Moon against falling for the North's "smile diplomacy," greeted Kim Yong Nam. Pence arrived late and stayed for just five minutes — and did not interact with the delegation from the North — at a Friday VIP reception for delegation leaders.

"The Koreans will think it's a mood kill," said Frank Jannuzi, an expert on East Asia at the Mansfield Foundation in Washington. He criticized the Trump administration for straining too hard to signal disgust of Kim Jong Un's government.

"The grievances that the world has about North Korea are very legitimate. But the Olympic moment that President Moon is trying to generate here is not a time to nurse those grievances," Jannuzi said. "It's a time to focus on messages of reconciliation and peace."

As it turned out, with the two Koreas celebrating a moment of unity, the United States was left outmaneuvered by an adversary and out of step with an ally.

Past administrations have been wary of efforts by Pyongyang to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul, but still generally supportive of efforts to calm tensions at the heavily militarized border that divides the Koreas.

Although South Korea has been a trenchant supporter of Trump's campaign of "maximum pressure" against North Korea, Moon has been keen to use the Olympics to pry open the door to better relations with its adversary. North Korea has jumped at the opportunity.

The downside for Washington is that it could expose growing differences with Seoul on the best way to deal with North Korea and achieve the ultimate goal of denuclearization.

American officials attempted to paint a rosier picture of Friday's ceremony as showing solidarity among allies. They stressed the North Koreans in the VIP box had watched Pence, Moon and Abe hold a running discussion in the front row for the more than two-hour ceremonies.

The officials, who spoke on condition because they were not authorized to discuss the U.S. approach publicly, also denied that Pence had been blindsided by the seating arrangement — with the North Koreans in the row behind him, allowing Kim Yo Jong to be easily pictured in profile next to the vice president.

Although some White House aides were leery that the arrangement could produce less-than-ideal optics for Pence, there was no concerted effort to lobby their Korean counterparts for a change, in part out of fear of upsetting the Olympic hosts, said one administration official.

"It's not a complete disaster," said James Schoff, former senior Pentagon adviser for East Asia policy. He supported Pence's moves to meet with North Korean defectors, paying respects at a memorial to the 46 South Korean sailors killed in a 2010 torpedo attack blamed on the North. Pence also invited as his Olympics guest the father of U.S. college student Otto Warmbier, who died after he was imprisoned by North Korea for stealing a propaganda poster.

But Schoff said that by pouring cold water on hopes for better inter-Korean relations, Pence's stance could be viewed as critical of Moon's outreach to North Korea.

"The fact that's become the narrative is due in part to things that he's said and his body language," Schoff said.

While Moon did not hesitate to shake hands and smile with his North Korean visitors, Pence didn't appear to even look in the direction of the North Korean delegation during the Friday event.

Pennington and Associated Press writer Jon Lemire contributed from Washington.

Missing bookseller hits out at Sweden in arranged interview

By GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A detained Swedish bookseller at the center of an escalating row between Western governments and China has accused Sweden of using him as a "chess piece" in a media appearance arranged by Chinese police.

Gui Minhai, a Hong Kong-based publisher who sold books of salacious gossip about Chinese leaders, told several outlets including the South China Morning Post on Friday that he never wanted to leave China

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and that Stockholm has been using his case to "create trouble" for China's government.

The statement from Gui, who spoke in a detention facility flanked by police, was immediately denounced by rights activists as coerced. In putting Gui before the press this week, Chinese state security appeared to be responding to Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom, who on Monday sharply questioned the rule of law in China and blasted Beijing's "brutal" treatment of Gui after weeks of relatively mild pleas for his release.

Gui was seized in January by 10 plainclothes agents while traveling by train with Swedish diplomats. Sweden said its officials were taking him to seek medical treatment.

In a 20-minute appearance on Friday, Gui told reporters that officials in Sweden had "sensationalized" his case for political purposes ahead of this year's general election, according to the Post. The newspaper said it was approached by China's Ministry of Public Security about an interview on Wednesday — a day after Wallstrom's statement — and it agreed to take part, provided that it could ask any questions it wanted.

"Looking back, I might have become Sweden's chess piece. I broke the law again under their instigation," Gui was quoted by the Post as saying. "My wonderful life has been ruined and I would never trust the Swedish ever again."

The Swedish foreign ministry said in an email that "Sweden has acted strictly in accordance with basic international rules on consular support."

"We continue to demand that our citizen be given the opportunity to meet with Swedish diplomatic and medical staff, and that he be released so that he can be reunited with his daughter and family," it said.

Patric Nilsson, a foreign ministry spokesman, told Swedish media on Friday that Gui's comments would not sway Sweden's calls for his release, which have been echoed by Germany, the European Union and the United States.

"We have a clear demand that he be set free, so that he can meet his family," Nilsson told the TT news agency. "Those demands remain."

Police in the eastern Chinese city of Ningbo, where Gui was released into house arrest in October, did not respond to a fax seeking comment. But earlier in the week, China's foreign ministry heavily criticized Sweden for advocating on Gui's behalf and warned against efforts to interfere in Chinese judicial matters.

It is not the first time Gui, 53, has been detained by Chinese authorities, nor is it his first interview conducted in Chinese captivity.

He was believed to have been abducted by Chinese agents for the first time in 2015 from his seaside home in Thailand. At the time, speculation swirled in publishing circles that Gui was on the verge of releasing a new book about the personal lives of top Chinese leaders, explaining the all-out efforts to silence him.

Several of Gui's colleagues from his Hong Kong publishing house also went missing in quick succession, sparking street protests in Hong Kong against what was widely viewed to be efforts by mainland security forces to snuff out independent voices in the semi-autonomous city.

Gui was released into house arrest after Chinese authorities said he turned himself in over a hit-and-run accident allegedly committed years before. Gui's overseas friends and family, including his daughter Angela, say that the charges were bogus and that Gui was keen to leave China for Europe.

But in his interview Friday, Gui told reporters he was in fact living happily in Ningbo and playing mah-jong with his mother several months ago when Swedish officials exaggerated the diagnosis of a muscular ailment and convinced him that he should return to Sweden as soon as possible to seek treatment for a severe neurological disease.

He eventually "fell for it," he explained, while adding that he was not allowed to leave the country because he was still under investigation for conducting illegal business.

"I have seen through the Swedish government," he said. "I may consider giving up my Swedish citizenship."

Gui's case has deeply frustrated Western governments who say they had assurances early this year from China's foreign ministry that Gui's liberty had been restored and that Gui's seizure in January in full view of Swedish consular officials came as a shock.

Although Chinese authorities have long pressed dissidents for confessions, Gui's latest interview adds

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to a growing pattern in recent years of the government using high-profile political detainees and state-controlled or sympathetic press to directly rebut criticism. In some instances, detainees, including a Swedish human rights activist and one of Gui's colleagues, have recanted their jailhouse confessions aired by the state broadcaster CCTV as soon as they left China.

Gui previously issued a televised confession while in detention in 2016, telling CCTV that he was being legally held for his traffic violation and was "willing to accept any punishment."

"In yet another embarrassing move, #China is forcing Swedish citizen #GuiMinhai to 'confess' and make public statements," Mans Molander, Sweden and Denmark director of Human Rights Watch, said on Twitter Friday. "We have seen it before."

Follow Gerry Shih at www.twitter.com/@gerryshih

In US swing, Trudeau mixes job deals with defense of NAFTA

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came with an unambiguous message on his latest US visit: the North American Free Trade Agreement is a success that needs to be modernized, not abandoned.

With the next round of talks over the trade pact set to begin in Mexico later this month, Trudeau used a speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on Friday to cast the deal as part of a long history between the two countries that has been beneficial for both.

Yet he also echoed frequent criticism from President Donald Trump, who has threatened to pull out of NAFTA, that too many workers are being left behind in the global economy.

"We need to collectively do a much better job of ensuring the benefits of trade are shared more broadly," Trudeau said.

The speech was a centerpiece on his swing in which he warned Canada won't be muscled into a trade deal that is unfavorable to his country, while promoting Canada as a destination for California technology firms uneasy with shifting U.S. immigration policy.

After the speech, a California Highway Patrol motorcycle officer who was part of Trudeau's motorcade crashed and was sent to a hospital with moderate injuries, the Ventura County Fire Department said. The vehicle carrying the prime minister was not involved and he was not hurt.

Trudeau picked up promises of investments and jobs during his first official visit to San Francisco. Among them: Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff announced the online business software company will invest another \$2 billion in its Canadian operations.

He was scheduled to appear on Saturday in Los Angeles, with Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Trump called the 24-year-old agreement a job-killing "disaster" on the campaign trail, and he has threatened to pull out unless the deal requires more auto production in the U.S., while shifting additional government contracts to U.S. companies.

Trudeau argued that the deal has sent benefits both ways across the border.

He said 9 million jobs in America are tied to trade and investment with Canada and "the truth is that both Canada and the United States are winning. And so is Mexico. And that's exactly how we should keep it."

But he added: "President Trump and I agree about this: Too many people have been left behind, even as our economies surged."

But an agreement, he warned, will take "a willingness to compromise on all sides."

The location of the speech carried symbolic weight, alluding to the longstanding trade relationship between the U.S. and Canada. In 1988, Reagan and then-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signed the first free trade agreement — a precursor to NAFTA.

In his speech, Trudeau made repeated references to the historic connections between the two countries and argued that backing away from NAFTA could unspool deep ties across the continent — with an unknown cost.

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The liberal Trudeau argued that differing political views need not stand in the way of trade agreement, alluding to the Republican president.

Reaching agreements has always required "persistence and no shortage of sunny, Reagan-esque optimism on both sides," he said.

Uncertainty over Trump's immigration policies has provided momentum for Trudeau's economic pitch to Silicon Valley, where many companies that rely on foreign workers have become uneasy.

On his visit to Northern California, Trudeau promoted his country's fast-track employment permit for certain workers, dubbed the "global skills strategy visa."

Trudeau also met Thursday with Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos as Bezos considers possible locations for a second headquarters. Toronto, which has created a government-sponsored innovation hub for tech companies, was the only one of several Canadian cities that made the shortlist.

Trudeau's stop in San Francisco highlighted the already strong ties between Canada and California, particularly in research, academia and technology.

While much of the attention on the North American Free Trade Agreement has focused on physical commodities such as vehicle manufacturing, dairy and timber, skilled workers have also become increasingly mobile between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Google built its latest DeepMind artificial intelligence facility at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

Associated Press Writer Juliet Williams in San Francisco contributed.

Trump won't declassify Democratic memo on Russia probe

By CHAD DAY and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing national security concerns, the White House on Friday formally notified the House intelligence committee that President Donald Trump is "unable" to declassify a memo drafted by Democrats that counters GOP allegations about abuse of government surveillance powers in the FBI's Russia probe.

White House counsel Don McGahn said in a letter to the committee that the memo contains "numerous properly classified and especially sensitive passages" and asked the intelligence panel to revise the memo with the help of the Justice Department. He said Trump is still "inclined" to release the memo in the interest of transparency if revisions are made.

The president's rejection of the Democratic memo is in contrast to his enthusiastic embrace of releasing the Republican document, which he pledged before reading to make public. The president declassified the document last week, allowing its publication in full over the objections of the Justice Department.

The top Democrat on the intelligence panel, California Rep. Adam Schiff, criticized Trump for treating the two documents differently, saying the president is now seeking revisions by the same committee that produced the original Republican memo. Still, Schiff said, Democrats "look forward to conferring with the agencies to determine how we can properly inform the American people about the misleading attack on law enforcement by the GOP."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi was less measured, saying the White House move is "part of a dangerous and desperate pattern of cover-up on the part of the president." California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who is the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee and has read the classified information both memos are based on, tweeted that Trump's blocking the memo is "hypocrisy at its worst."

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, R-Calif., who produced the GOP memo, encouraged Democrats to accept the Justice Department's recommendations and "make the appropriate technical changes and redactions."

Trump has said the GOP memo "vindicates" him in the ongoing Russia investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller. But congressional Democrats and Republicans, including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Rep. Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, who helped draft the GOP memo, have said it shouldn't be used to

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undermine the special counsel.

Earlier Friday, White House spokesman Raj Shah said Trump was discussing the Democratic document with the White House counsel's office, FBI Director Christopher Wray and another top Justice Department official.

The president had until Saturday to decide whether to allow the classified material to become public after the House intelligence committee voted Monday to release it. Republicans backed releasing the memo in committee with a unanimous vote, but several said they thought it should be redacted. Ryan also said he thought the Democratic document should be released.

In declining to declassify the document, the White House also sent lawmakers a letter signed by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and Wray, as well as a marked-up copy of the memo, laying out portions it considers too sensitive to make public. Among those passages are some that the Justice Department says could compromise intelligence sources and methods, ongoing investigations and national security if disclosed.

The White House message caps off a week in which Republicans and Democrats on the committee have publicly fought, with the panel now erecting a wall to separate feuding Republican and Democratic staffers who had long sat side by side.

The disagreements have escalated over the last year as Democrats have charged that Republicans aren't taking the panel's investigation into Russian election meddling seriously enough. They say Nunes' memo is designed as a distraction from the probe, which is looking into whether Trump's campaign was in any way connected to the Russian interference.

Trump declassified the GOP-authored memo over the objections of the FBI, which said it had "grave concerns" about the document's accuracy.

In Nunes' memo, Republicans took aim at the FBI and the Justice Department over the use of information from former British spy Christopher Steele in obtaining a secret warrant to monitor former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser Carter Page. The warrant was obtained under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA. The main allegation was that the FBI and Justice Department didn't tell the court enough about Steele's anti-Trump bias or that his work was funded in part by Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

They argued that the reliance on Steele's material amounted to an improper politicization of the government's surveillance powers.

Democrats have countered that the GOP memo was inaccurate and a misleading collection of "cherry-picked" details. They noted that federal law enforcement officials had informed the court about the political origins of Steele's work and that some of the former spy's information was corroborated by the FBI.

They also noted that there was other evidence presented to the court besides Steele's information, though they have not provided details. The Democratic memo is expected to elaborate on these points.

House Republicans who have seen the document predicted that portions would have to be redacted to protect intelligence sources and methods. Earlier this week, White House officials said the Democratic memo would go through the same national security and legal review as the Republican document. But White House chief of staff John Kelly hinted at possible redactions, saying the Democratic version is "not as clean" as the GOP's.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Read the letter: <http://apne.ws/OeAhbxf>

Follow Chad Day and Mary Clare Jalonick on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/ChadSDay> and <https://www.twitter.com/MCJalonick>

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 2018. There are 323 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 11, 1968, New York City's fourth and current Madison Square Garden, located on Manhattan's West Side at the site of what used to be the Pennsylvania Station building, opened with a "Salute to the USO" hosted by Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. (The same evening, the New York Rangers played their final game at the third Garden, tying the Detroit Red Wings 3-3.)

On this date:

In 1531, the Church of England grudgingly accepted King Henry VIII as its supreme head.

In 1812, Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry signed a redistricting law favoring his Democratic-Republican Party — giving rise to the term "gerrymandering."

In 1858, a French girl, Bernadette Soubirous (soo-bee-ROO'), reported the first of 18 visions of a lady dressed in white in a grotto near Lourdes. (The Catholic Church later accepted that the visions were of the Virgin Mary.)

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson began in Tennessee. (Union forces led by Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant captured the fort five days later.)

In 1929, the Lateran Treaty was signed, with Italy recognizing the independence and sovereignty of Vatican City.

In 1937, a six-week-old sit-down strike against General Motors ended, with the company agreeing to recognize the United Automobile Workers Union.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin signed the Yalta Agreement, in which Stalin agreed to declare war against Imperial Japan following Nazi Germany's capitulation.

In 1963, American author and poet Sylvia Plath was found dead in her London flat, a suicide; she was 30.

In 1972, McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. and Life magazine scrapped plans to publish what turned out to be a fake autobiography of reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes.

In 1986, Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky was released by the Soviet Union after nine years of captivity as part of an East-West prisoner exchange.

In 1990, South African black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in captivity.

In 2012, pop singer Whitney Houston, 48, was found dead in a hotel room bathtub in Beverly Hills, California.

Ten years ago: The Pentagon charged Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (HAH'-leed shayk moh-HAH'-med) and five other detainees at Guantanamo Bay with murder and war crimes in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks. (Charges against one were later dropped; proceedings against the other five have stalled in part over allegations they were tortured.) Yahoo Inc. rejected Microsoft Corp.'s unsolicited takeover bid. Tom Lantos, a 14-term California congressman who was a forceful voice for human rights, died in Bethesda, Maryland, at age 80.

Five years ago: With a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope had done in more than half a millennium: announced his resignation. The bombshell came during a routine morning meeting of Vatican cardinals. (The 85-year-old pontiff was succeeded by Pope Francis.)

One year ago: A massive crowd energized in opposition to President Donald Trump and to a North Carolina law limiting LGBT rights streamed into the capital, Raleigh, for an annual civil rights march. Yale University announced it would change the name of a residential college honoring 19th-century alumnus and former U.S. Vice President John C. Calhoun, who was an ardent supporter of slavery. At the NAACP Image Awards, "Hidden Figures," the fact-based movie about the contributions of black female mathematicians to the U.S. space program, won the award for best movie.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Conrad Janis is 90. Fashion designer Mary Quant is 84. Actor Burt Reynolds is 82.

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Actress Tina Louise is 80. Bandleader Sergio Mendes is 77. Actor Philip Anglim is 66. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is 65. Actress Catherine Hickland is 62. Rock musician David Uosikkinen (aw-SIK'-ken-ihn) (The Hooters) is 62. Actress Carey Lowell is 57. Singer Sheryl Crow is 56. Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is 54. Actress Jennifer Aniston is 49. Actor Damian Lewis is 47. Actress Marisa Petroro is 46. Singer D'Angelo is 44. Actor Brice Beckham is 42. Rock M-C/vocalist Mike Shinoda (Linkin Park) is 41. Singer-actress Brandy is 39. Country musician Jon Jones (The Eli Young Band) is 38. Actor Matthew Lawrence is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kelly Rowland is 37. Actress Natalie Dormer is 36. Singer Aubrey O'Day is 34. Actress Q'orianka (kohr-ee-AHN'-kuh) Kilcher is 28. Actor Taylor Lautner is 26.

Thought for Today: "Respect for ourselves guides our morals; respect for others guides our manners."
— Laurence Sterne, Irish-born English author (1713-1768).