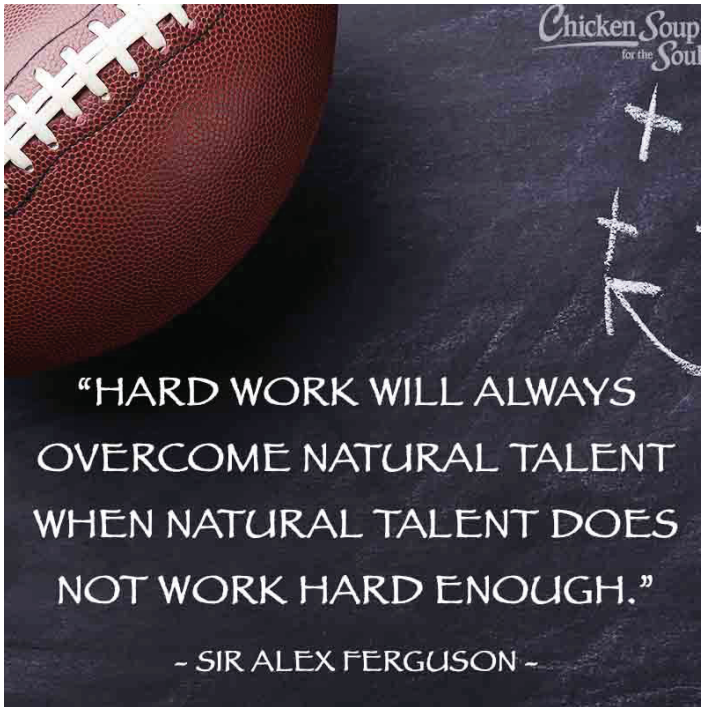


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**Brain Teaser Time! Only One Letter In The Alphabet Is Not In Any U.S. State's Name
Answer at end of AP News**

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"

NOW OPEN

Harris
Auto Body ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

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

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is

Closed

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- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Harr Auto Body Ad
- 1- Riddle
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Tuesday, Feb. 12

Girls' Basketball at Webster
C game at 5:15 p.m. followed by JV and Varsity
Boys' Basketball at Groton Area with 7th grade
game at 6 p.m. and 8th grade game at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15

Girls' Basketball hosts Milbank. C game at 5:15
p.m. followed by JV and Varsity
JH Basketball at Webster: 7th grade at 4 p.m.,
8th grade at 5 p.m.

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DeHoet led all scorers in the Brown County battle

Aberdeen Roncalli had a net gain of nine points off of Groton's turnovers Monday evening as the Cavaliers squeaked out a 61-58 win over the Tigers.

The first quarter was close until the end when the Cavaliers scored



Seric Shabazz makes his way to the basket for two points. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



10 straight points to take a 26-18 lead. The game was tied three times in the first quarter and the lead changed hands seven times. Groton was six of nine from the field for 69 percent and the Cavaliers were nine of 13 for 69 percent. Groton Area had four turnovers in the first quarter and that resulted in eight points for the Cavaliers.

Groton Area closed to within one point in the second quarter and Roncalli's lead then fluctuated between one and four points in the quarter. Roncalli led at half time, 37-34. In the second quarter, Groton Area was six of 11 in shooting for 55 percent and Roncalli was five of 16 for 31 percent. Roncalli gained an additional three points off of Groton's three turnovers. The Cavaliers had three turnovers in the first half.

The game was tied once in the third quarter and the lead changed hands twice as the Cavaliers led, 49-47, going into the fourth quarter. Both teams put up 10 shots in the third quarter with Groton making five and Roncalli three.

The fourth quarter opened with Groton Area tying the game and from there, the game was tied four more times and the lead switched sides four times. The game was tied at 58 with 1:30 to go in the game. The Cavaliers took a 61-58 lead. Brodyn DeHoet stole the ball with 14 seconds, but a three-pointer with 4.3 seconds left was off its mark and the Cavaliers won the game, 61-58.

DeHoet led all scorers with 22 points. Treyton Diegel and Seric Shabazz each had a dozen, Jonathan Doeden and Andy Rintala each had five points and Anthony Sippel had two points.

Jonathan Doeden found an opening to make his way to the hoop. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Brodyn DeHoet could not be contained in the Roncalli matchup as he led all scorers with 22 points. Here he gets in front of Roncalli's Buechler to score again. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

For the game, Roncalli made 13 of 22 two-pointers for 59 percent while Groton was 11 of 20 for 55

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Brandon Keith is back in the game after a two-game absence due to the flu. (Photo

by Julianna Kosel)

en, Gunderson had five, Chamberlain four and Buechler and Goetz each had two points.

Roncalli won the junior varsity game, 43-36. Chandler Larson led all scorers with 16 points followed by Kaden Kurtz with nine, Cade Guthmiller had four, Austin Jones, Darien Shabazz and Tristan Traphagen each had two and Riley Thurston added a free throw.

Roncalli won the C game, 39-25. Jackson Cogley, Chandler Larson and Anthony Schinkel each had six points, Cyrus DeHoet had three and Jordan Bjerke and Jayden Zak each had two points.

The regular season finale will be Friday at Milbank.

- Paul Kosel

percent. In three-pointers, Groton Area was nine of 17 for 53 percent and Roncalli was just seven of 25 for 28 percent. The Cavaliers were 14 of 18 from the line for 78 percent and the Tigers were nine of 12 for 75 percent.

The Cavaliers had the edge in rebounding, 22-20, with DeHoet having five for the Tigers. Groton Area had 14 turnovers and the Cavaliers 10. Seric Shabazz had six of the team's 14 assists.

Max and Gus Reede each led the Cavaliers with 14 points, Brady Morgan had 13, Scipo Jeme added sev-



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slashed benzene & related

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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")



Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

Last week, the Senate to up a triad of bills dealing with the topic of shared parenting. Because I have heard emotional pleas from a number of parents and grandparents regarding the child custody issue, I am highlighting this right away in my article. SB's 140, 165, and 167 were all on the floor on Tuesday. I was the prime sponsor on SB 167, but the reality is that the three bills

were all championed by Representative Tom Pischke. Rep. Pischke had decided to start the bills on the Senate side. He also had two bills on the House side that were part of the shared parenting package. All interested parties appear to have come to an agreement that will make the broader discussion of child custody better in South Dakota going forward. As part of the compromise, the three Senate bills were extensively amended and the House bills were withdrawn by Rep. Pischke. The lobbyists for the SD Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault and the State Bar Assn were instrumental in crafting the new language. Should all three bills pass into law, some of the new language would state, "If the order for temporary custody results in less than a substantially equal parenting time, the court shall construct a parenting time schedule that maximizes the time each parent has with the child and is consistent with ensuring the child's welfare...In making an order for temporary custody, the order for custody shall reflect the degree of each parent's demonstrated participation in the child's life." The language also allows for a court to stipulate the rights and responsibilities of each parent and allows the court to impose sanctions under certain circumstances, including modifying the existing visitation or custody schedule for violations of the agreement. Finally, SB 167, which I carried, establishes an additional nine criterion (beyond the fourteen currently in statute) which are to be considered by the courts in relation to child custody proceedings. For years, this has been an extraordinarily controversial issue, but due to yeoman's efforts on the part of many, the three bills met with unanimous support on the Senate floor and now move to the House for further consideration.

SB 110 was brought in response to Planned Parenthood's deliberate defiance of South Dakota law. Current law speaks to a host of Legislative findings from 2006 through the present that have established certain statements of fact, based upon the 2005 proceedings of the South Dakota Task Force to Study Abortion. These Legislative findings have been challenged in the courts, and have been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. The direct quote from Planned Parenthood's informed consent process says, "Politicians in the State of South Dakota require us to tell you that some studies have found that women who have had abortions have a higher rate of suicide or thoughts of suicide than other women. We dispute this statement...". It goes on to state Planned Parenthood opinions that are in direct contradiction with SD Codified Law. It should not come as a surprise that the provider of 98% objects to revealing statistically significant risk factors associated with the abortion services they provide. What SB 110 would do is require a third-party counseling service to provide pre-abortion counseling for the pregnant mother. While it is ultimately an honest attempt to provide for better informed consent regarding a major procedure, it did devolve to a debate, albeit a respectful one, that cut across the pro-life/pro-"choice" lines. The bill did pass, 28-7.

A shotgun discussion on a few other bills is as follows: SB 112 is an act to repeal certain provisions requiring the attorney general to obtain the consent of the Governor prior to commencing an investigation. It was discovered that this language existed in our law books. Also, a conflicting statute exists that does NOT require the AG to go through this process. This bill has passed the Senate, 20-15.

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SB 63 seeks to revise certain prohibitions regarding methamphetamines and to create a mandatory penalty for a violation thereof. This bill was brought by the Attorney General, and it passed out of Judiciary Committee, 4-3. I believe there will be an attempt to amend the bill on the floor to address some of the concerns of the opponents. I supported the bill, and I will continue to do so throughout the process.

SB 185 is an act to revise certain provisions regarding criminal record expungement. It would allow for the expungement process to be streamlined in the instance that a person completes a diversion program and is not convicted of any subsequent crimes over the course of the following year. The bill passed Judiciary 6-0, and awaits discussion on the floor.

On Thursday, I had the opportunity to preside over the Senate in anticipation of the Lieutenant Governor being out of town this week. By the time you read this, I will have served as the presiding officer for the majority of Week 6. I do plan on turning the gavel over to at least one or two other Senators to allow them the opportunity to preside. It remains a tremendously humbling honor to serve you in the Senate and to have been elected to the the President Pro Tempore by my fellow Senators.

God bless you and yours!

Brock

Groton Coffee Cup League

2-12-18

Team Standings: James Valley 17, Kens 14, Ten Pins 14, James Valley 11.

High Games: Mary Jane Jark 201, 187; Vicki Walter 185, 177; Myrna Stange 176.

High Series: Mary Jane Jark 543, Vicki Walter 501, Joyce Walter 459.

Conde National League

2-12-18

Team Standings: Pirates 16, Braves 16, Mets 15, Colts 13, Cubs 12, Giants 12.

Men's High Games: Ryan Bethke 225, Larry Frohling 214, Russ Bethke 208, Butch Farmen 203

Men's High Series: Larry Frohling 584, Butch Frohling 584, Ryan Bethke 526, Russ Bethke 522

Women's High Games: Nancy Radke 191, Alice Severson 177, Mary Larson 168.

Women's High Series: Alice Severson 488, Nancy Radke 483, Mary Larson 479.

Service Notice: Lorraine Sippel

GROTON - Lorraine Mae Sippel 96 of Groton passed away Sunday February 11, 2018 at Groton Care and Rehab in Groton.

Funeral Services will be 10:30 a.m., Friday February 16, 2018 at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Groton. Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Burial will be in the Groton Union Cemetery near Groton.

Visitation will be at the church Thursday 5-7 P.M. closing with a prayer service.

Pump Prices Cheaper on the Week for South Dakota and the Majority of the Country

February 12, 2018 - At \$2.58, the national gas price average has decreased for the first time week-over-week this year. Today's price is 3 cent less than last week, 6 cents more than a month ago and 30 cents more than a year ago. Motorists can find gas for \$2.50 or less at 53 percent of gas stations across the country.

"Gas price averages are less expensive for 78 percent of states, including South Dakota, as compared to last Monday. Motorist filling up in the Midwest, South and East Coast are most likely to see the positive change at the pump," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "Unfortunately, it's too early to know if this one-week decline is the start of a cheaper gas price trend."

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg.	\$2.556
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.575
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.477
Year Ago Ave.	\$2.335

Quick Stats

The largest weekly changes in the nation's top ten markets are: Indiana (-14 cents), Michigan (-11 cents), Kentucky (-9 cents), Ohio (-8 cents), Illinois (-6 cents), Utah (+6 cents), Hawaii (+5 cents), Missouri (-4 cents), Maryland (-4 cents) and Florida (+4 cents).

The nation's top ten most expensive markets are: Hawaii (\$3.44), California (\$3.35), Alaska (\$3.04), Washington (\$3.00), Oregon (\$2.89), Pennsylvania (\$2.86), Nevada (\$2.78), Washington, D.C. (\$2.77), New York (\$2.76) and Connecticut (\$2.74).

Central and Great Lakes Region

Gas prices are less expensive on the week across the Great Lakes and Central region, except North Dakota where prices remained stable. Indiana (-14 cents), Michigan (-11 cents), Kentucky (-9 cents), Ohio (-8 cents) and Illinois (-6 cents) saw not only the largest decreases in the region, but in country. In the region, North Dakota (\$2.63) and Iowa (\$2.60) are selling the most expensive gasoline. At \$2.37, Ohio is selling the cheapest gas in the region and the 7th cheapest in the country.

Compared to one month ago, Michigan (-16 cents), Ohio (-13 cents), Illinois (-12 cents), Indiana (-11 cents) and Kentucky (-5 cents) are five of only six states in the country that are paying less at the pump. These states have seen very volatile gas prices since January.

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI dropped by nearly \$2 to settle at \$59.20. Price gains made throughout January, which saw a closing high of \$66.27, were wiped away after trading last week. Last week's losses, which were buoyed by a strengthening dollar, may continue into this week after EIA's latest weekly petroleum report revealed that U.S. crude production hit 10.25 million b/d – a new record weekly production rate.

The continuing growth in U.S. crude oil production may give the market some pause as it continues to assess the long-term impact of OPEC's production reduction agreement, which remains in effect through the end of 2018.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

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Summer Camping Reservations Open Soon In State Parks

PIERRE, S.D. – This weekend, campers can begin making reservations for summer stays in the South Dakota State Parks.

Feb. 17 is the first day to make camping reservations for a Friday, May 18, arrival – the State Parks' Open House Weekend and traditional kick-off to the summer season.

Reservations for other summer dates will follow in succession, becoming available 90 days before arrival. Over 40 parks offer camping reservations on the 90-day schedule. The exception is Custer State Park, which offers reservations one year before arrival.

State Parks Director Katie Ceroll encourages campers to keep an eye on the calendar and make reservations for camping trips as soon as possible. Memorial Day reservations open Feb. 24 for a Friday arrival, and campers can reserve for Father's Day weekend starting March 17.

"The sooner you can plan your camping trip, the better," said Ceroll. "We had a record number of campers at our parks last year, and campsites at popular parks go quickly."

Campsites become available at 7 a.m. Central Time on the first day of the 90-day window, but reservations for available campsites can be made until the day you arrive. The 90-day window calendar can be found online at gfp.sd.gov.

Reservations can be made 24 hours a day, both online at campsd.com and by calling 1.800.710.2267. Taxes and reservation fees may apply.

-GFP-

Tree Stands Must be Removed from Public Lands by Feb. 15

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) reminds hunters that all tree stands and climbing devices must be removed from lands owned, leased or controlled by GFP by Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018.

-GFP-

Deadline Nears for Game, Fish and Parks Summer Employment

PIERRE, S.D. – The deadline is fast approaching to apply for summer employment with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP).

The department offers a variety of summer employment opportunities across the state.

State park positions include general maintenance, entrance station attendant, maintenance worker, campground attendant, law enforcement, heavy equipment operator, and naturalist/programmer positions.

Positions with the Division of Wildlife include habitat technician, habitat aide, fisheries technician, wildlife technician, conservation crew leader, naturalist/programmer, and wildlife damage technician. Most listings have multiple positions available.

All applicants must be 17 years of age and available to work mid-May through Labor Day. Applications received after the Feb. 16 deadline will only be considered for any remaining positions.

Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than Feb. 16. A complete list of seasonal jobs is available at bhr.sd.gov/workforus/gfp.aspx.

Internships with GFP are available through Executive Intern Program positions. To qualify for an internship, applicants must be full-time students of at least sophomore standing and currently be enrolled at a college, university or vocational-technical institute.

For the complete internship listing and to apply, visit bhr.sd.gov/workforus/intern.aspx.

The Great Backyard Bird Count Returns Feb. 16-19

PIERRE, S.D. - Millions of novice and accomplished bird watchers can make their love of nature count for science during the 21st Annual Great Backyard Bird Count.

On Feb. 16-19, anyone can count birds wherever they are and enter their results online. These reports

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create a real-time picture of where birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.

"During the count, bird watchers tally up birds for as little as 15 minutes, or for as long as they like, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time," said Eileen Dowd Stukel, wildlife diversity coordinator for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). "People are encouraged to report birds from public lands, local parks and their own backyards."

Participants enter their numbers online at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/> where they can explore sightings maps, lists and charts as the count progresses.

There is no fee to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. The event is led by the National Audubon Society, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.



Valentine's Day is Tomorrow!

Stop on down at the GDI News office at 21 N Main today and pick out your arrangement, balloons or candy bouquet and have free delivery in town tomorrow. Supply is limited! Some flowers and candy bouquets are already spoken for.

You can also order on-line at 397news.com or call the office at 397-NEWS (6397).

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Today in Weather History

February 13, 1995: Snow fell over a broad strip from southwest to northeast South Dakota. The snow began as freezing rain in the northeast, and there were several vehicle accidents attributed to the icing. The most substantial snow was at Custer in the Black Hills with 14 inches. A few amounts of six to eight inches were reported over the plains of the southwest, central, and northeast South Dakota. Strong winds caused some blowing and drifting snow in northeastern South Dakota.

1905: Freezing temperatures were recorded over the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri. Morning lows of 29 degrees below zero at Gravette, Arkansas, 40 below at Lebanon Kansas, and 40 below at Warsaw Missouri established all-time records for those three states.

The low temperature at Vinita, Oklahoma plummeted to 27 degrees below zero. This temperature would be tied in the city of Watts in January 1930, and at Blackwell and Medford in February 2011. The negative 27-degree reading is cold enough to be the 2nd lowest temperature on record in Oklahoma. The coldest is 31 degrees below zero, recorded at Nowata on February 10th, 2011.

1958: Tallahassee, Florida recorded their most substantial snowfall on record with close to 3 inches.

1995: A National Weather Service Survey Team concluded a weak (F1) tornado occurred at the General Motors Desert Proving Grounds facility in Mesa Arizona. Moderate damage was observed. A roof was damaged, and about 20 vehicles were damaged and moved around. One car was lifted, moved several feet, and set down inside a roped off area containing solar exposure equipment. The tornado traveled northeast and lasted about five minutes.

2000: Late in the day and into the early morning hours of the 14th, severe thunderstorms spawned six tornadoes over southwestern Georgia that killed 19, injured 202, and caused \$35 million dollars in damages. An F3 tornado hit southern Camilla, killing 11 and injuring 175 in the town.

1784 - Ice floes blocked the Mississippi River at New Orleans, then passed into the Gulf of Mexico. The only other time this occurred was during the "Great Arctic Outbreak" of 1899. (David Ludlum)

1885 - The "Friday the 13th" avalanche at Alva, UT, killed sixteen persons, and left thirteen others buried for twelve hours before being rescued. (David Ludlum)

1889 - It was the coldest morning of record along the Gulf Coast. The temperature dipped to 7 above zero at New Orleans LA and Pensacola FL, and plunged to -1 degree at Mobile AL. The mercury dipped to -2 degrees at Tallahassee, the coldest reading of record for the state of Florida. (David Ludlum)

1905 - Morning lows of -29 degrees at Pond AR, -40 degrees at Lebanon KS, and -40 degrees at Warsaw MO established all-time records for those three states. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm in the western U.S. produced heavy rain over central California. Chews Ridge reported nearly eleven inches of rain in 24 hours, and extensive flooding occurred in San Benito County. The Mount Rose ski resort in Nevada experienced a "white-out" with 60 mph winds and 36 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


1988 - Strong winds in the wake of a storm in the northeastern U.S., gusting to 60 mph at Oswego NY, produced six foot snow drifts in northeastern Ohio. High winds in the mountains of Utah, gusting to 106 mph at the Snowbird ski resort, contributed to a forty car pile-up on Interstate 15, near the town of Bluffdale. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain and flash flooding from central Texas to western Pennsylvania. Up to ten inches of rain deluged western Kentucky in two days, with five day totals ranging up to 13.16 inches at Gilbertsville Dam KY. Flooding caused tens of millions of dollars damage, including 18 million dollars damage at Frankfort KY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Tue Feb 13	Wed Feb 14	Thu Feb 15	Fri Feb 16	Sat Feb 17	Sun Feb 18	Mon Feb 19
30°F	40°F	17°F	22°F	37°F	30°F	15°F
13°F	12°F	-5°F	12°F	17°F	4°F	5°F
S 18 MPH	S 10 MPH	N 19 MPH Precip 30%	SSW 13 MPH	W 9 MPH	NNW 16 MPH Precip 20%	N 12 MPH Precip 30%




Warming Trend
Gusty Southerly Winds Today



Today

 **25 to 35°**
Tonight: Lows in the teens and lower 20s

Wednesday

 *warmer*
35 to 45°

National Weather Service

weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen

Graphic Created 2/13/2018 4:47 AM
Published on: 02/13/2018 at 4:50AM

Gusty southerly winds will bring warmer temperatures into the area today with highs reaching the upper 20s and lower 30s. Warmer temperatures are expected on Wednesday.

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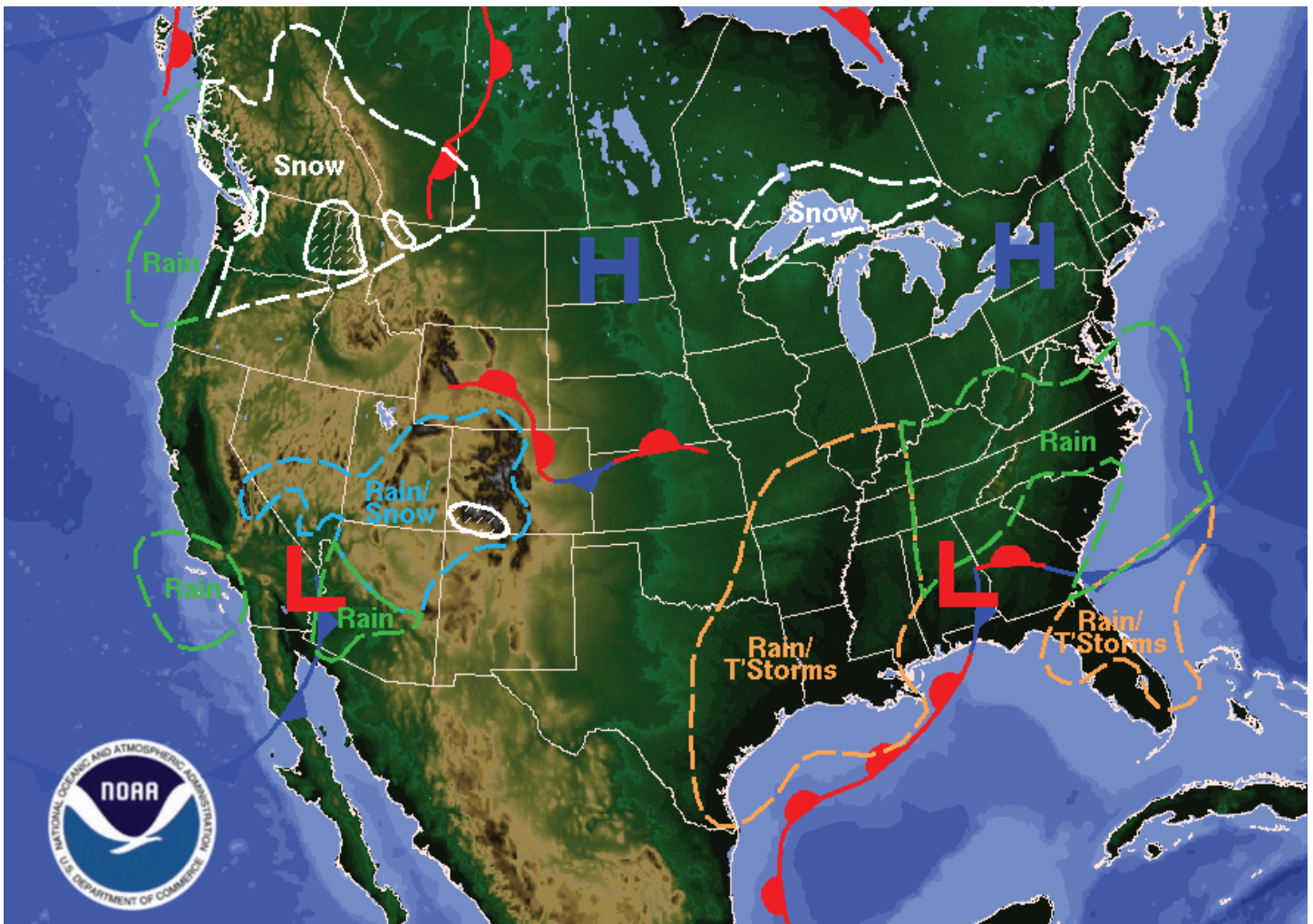
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 12.4 F at 4:41 PM
Low Outside Temp: -5.5 F at 6:40 AM
Wind Chill:
High Gust: 15.0 Mph at 11:18 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1901
Record Low: -34° in 1905
Average High: 27°F
Average Low: 6°F
Average Precip in Feb: 0.21
Precip to date in Feb: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.68
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:58 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:36 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Feb 13, 2018, issued 4:27 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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HIDDEN WITH GOD

Nine-one-one is the national number to use in the event of an emergency. When we use it, we know someone is there who will come to our rescue. Though we have heard stories of the misuse of that number and reports of incompetent responders answering calls of people in a crisis, it is comforting to know that help is available.

Psalm ninety-one and verse one is a number for Christians to "re-call" when there is a need for assurance and reassurance. It firmly states that our God is on guard and "standing by" to guide us through the crises of life.

The word "dwells" is such an important word for us to understand. It invites the believer "to remain, stay, tarry, endure, and find peace in one's abode." It suggests continuance and permanence. It is a place where God's people can "live" – forever. How comforting it is to know that our God is a "shelter" and a "refuge" in times of life's storms. For the Christian, He is our dwelling place for life.

Shortly after a submarine had been commissioned, the commanding officer took it to sea. It was to undergo various tests to make certain that it was trustworthy and ready for service. Shortly after leaving the christening he gave the order to "submerge." Several days later after he returned to shore, the reporters besieged him with many questions. Asked one, "How did the storms affect you?" "Storms? What storms?" he replied. "We were not aware of any storms. We were dwelling in a safe and secure place in the valleys between the ocean's mountains."

What comfort we have when we dwell in God.

Prayer: Thank You, God, for the peace we have because You love us and care for us and offer us Your protection. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

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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

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 61, Groton Area 58
Avon 54, Gayville-Volin 52
Bon Homme 48, West Central 47
Canistota 87, Howard 33
Castlewood 60, Deuel 51
Colman-Egan 85, Dell Rapids St. Mary 61
Corsica/Stickney 74, Freeman 71
Dell Rapids 84, Canton 67
DeSmet 73, Estelline 21
Elk Point-Jefferson 76, Viborg-Hurley 63
Flandreau Indian 72, Centerville 56
Florence/Henry 57, Iroquois 44
Kadoka Area 61, Wall 42
Lake Preston 52, Elkton-Lake Benton 48
Madison 86, Vermillion 70
Platte-Geddes 58, Scotland 46
Timber Lake 58, Eureka/Bowdle 33
Webster 59, Waubay/Summit 48
Wolsey-Wessington 59, Mitchell Christian 44

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Avon 56, Gayville-Volin 30
Dell Rapids 65, Canton 26
Elk Point-Jefferson 52, Viborg-Hurley 31
Flandreau Indian 44, Centerville 28
Gregory 62, Colome 57
Harding County 51, Bison 28
Howard 59, Menno 46
McCook Central/Montrose 67, Tri-Valley 52
Mitchell 48, Harrisburg 42
Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta, Minn. 52, Sisseton 41
New Underwood 47, Bennett County 31
Pine Ridge 76, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 64
Rapid City Christian 46, Crazy Horse 42
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 57, James Valley Christian 35
Scotland 47, Alcester-Hudson 28
Timber Lake 52, Eureka/Bowdle 23
Waverly-South Shore 63, Tri-State, N.D. 27
West Central 67, Bon Homme 40
Wilmot 63, Webster 53
Winner 52, Platte-Geddes 18

University president released from Sioux Falls hospital

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VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — University of South Dakota President James Abbott has been released from the hospital after suffering a heart attack over the weekend.

The Argus Leader reports Abbott was released Monday from the Sioux Falls hospital where he underwent surgery Saturday.

The 69-year-old Abbott is expected to make a full recovery. He plans to retire in June, after 21 years of leading the Vermillion school.

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

Arrest made in fatal shooting of Oglala Sioux police officer

KYLE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have made an arrest in the fatal shooting of an Oglala Sioux police officer. Fifty-two-year-old Officer Brian Garrett, of Kyle, was shot about 4 a.m. Saturday in what investigators believe to be a domestic dispute while he was off duty. The FBI, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Oglala Sioux police are investigating.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the tribe's Department of Public Safety says in a statement that an arrest has been made, but no other details are being released while the investigation continues.

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

Teacher sentenced to 20 years for sex with student

HARTFORD, S.D. (AP) — A former special education teacher from Hartford has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for having a sexual relationship with a teenage student.

Thirty-one-year-old Kari Jo Boll earlier pleaded guilty to fourth-degree rape and sexual contact with a child under 16 after admitting to having sex multiple times with the student, who was 15 at the time.

The Argus Leader says Boll initially faced 21 charges that could have led to a maximum 300 years in prison upon conviction. A plea deal capped the sentence at 30 years.

Boll was a teacher at West Central for three years before her arrest. She told investigators her relationship with the student began after he started working at her Hartford farm.

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

Authorities identify woman found dead in fire, make arrest

ANDOVER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have made an arrest after a fatal fire in Andover and identified a woman found dead inside the building.

Authorities recovered a body from the rubble of an apartment fire in the northeastern South Dakota town on Friday. The victim has been identified as 25-year-old Tawny Rockwood, of Andover.

Attorney General Marty Jackley and Day County State's Attorney Danny Smeins say a 36-year-old Aberdeen man has been arrested on a domestic violence aggravated assault charge. They say the charge stems from the man's alleged conduct before the fire.

Authorities didn't release the cause of death for Rockwood. The investigation continues.

The four-unit apartment building was destroyed. The cause of the blaze hasn't been released.

Former Rapid City jail worker accused of sex with inmate

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City woman has pleaded not guilty to having sexual contact with an inmate while employed at the Pennington County Jail.

Thirty-eight-year-old Kimberly Johnson is accused of having a romantic relationship with a 39-year-old male inmate in September, while working as a staff assistant in the jail's medical department. She was fired after the alleged incident.

The Rapid City Journal reports Johnson could face up to two years in prison if convicted of the felony offense.

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

Native American boarding school abuse victims seek new law

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers are considering establishing a three-year window for victims of childhood sexual abuse at Native American boarding schools to file lawsuits against organizations like schools and churches, a move that supporters say would allow survivors to have their stories heard.

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to debate a measure Tuesday that would create the new time frame for victims to file civil claims and repeal a provision in state law banning victims 40 and older from recovering damages from people or entities other than the actual abuser.

Louise Charbonneau Aamot is one of nine sisters who unsuccessfully sued over alleged sexual abuse committed before 1975 at St. Paul's Indian Mission, a boarding school in Marty, South Dakota. The 67-year-old member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa said officials need to ensure it never happens again at any school or church.

"We know that God's with us on this journey. We've been through so much, and there's so much pain," she said. "But we're hoping, you know, they listen to us this time."

The Associated Press typically doesn't identify sexual assault victims unless they come forward publicly. Attorney Michelle Dauphinais Echols, the bill's author, said it's for "healing and justice." Victims haven't had an opportunity to have their cases heard on the merits of their claims, she said.

"I think this would be a great first step to just try to help them along their journey to healing and closure," Dauphinais Echols said.

The South Dakota Supreme Court in 2012 dismissed the sister's and others' claims against religious groups including the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls. The court found that the lawsuits were filed years after the applicable statute of limitations had expired and that the diocese wasn't liable because it wasn't responsible for the children.

The new legislation would clarify that any person or organization engaged in the Native American boarding school system may be held liable for childhood sexual abuse. The bill's original language would eliminate the statute of limitations, but an amendment aims to create a three-year window for filing claims, Dauphinais Echols said. It also would revive claims barred because the applicable statute of limitations has expired.

Christopher Motz, executive director of the South Dakota Catholic Conference, said the organization doesn't have a position on the bill.

Democratic Sen. Kevin Killer, the bill's sponsor, said lawmakers have the chance to end "this sad chapter" of South Dakota history by giving people due process and their day in court.

"I will fight till the day that I die," Charbonneau Aamot said in 2015. "There is no child in this world that should ever go through what we went through."

Man charged for role in fatal South Dakota stabbing

Associated Press, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A 24-year-old man faces felony charges for his alleged role in a weekend stabbing in Sioux Falls that left one man dead and another injured.

Franklin Roberto Aguilar-Romero was charged Monday with attempted murder and aggravated assault. Authorities said he stabbed and wounded a 17-year-old boy during an altercation in a Sioux Falls apartment Saturday.

Aguilar-Romero pleaded not guilty. He is being held on \$1 million bond.

The Argus Leader reports police said the altercation was a result of a "shared romantic relationship."

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The 17-year-old allegedly stabbed by Aguilar-Romero suffered several upper body injuries but is expected to survive.

Police say a 26-year-old man died from his injuries. His name has not been released.

Aguilar-Romero is also being held on a federal immigration detainer while authorities investigate his residency status.

Girl's Basketball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school girl's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.<

Class AA

Rank-School FPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. Aberdeen Central (24) 15-1 120 1
 2. Sioux Falls Lincoln - 13-3 92 3
 3. Rapid City Stevens - 15-3 62 2
 4. Harrisburg - 13-3 51 4
 5. Sioux Falls O'Gorman - 11-5 35 5
- Others receiving votes: None.<

Class A

Rank-School FPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. Belle Fourche (14) 18-1 105 1
 2. St. Thomas More (10) 15-2 104 2
 3. Hamlin - 17-2 70 4
 4. Lennox - 16-3 39 5
 5. McCook Central-Montrose - 17-2 35 3
- Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Roncalli 3, Crow Creek 3, Winner 1.<

Class B

Rank-School FPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. Sully Buttes (13) 17-1 105 1
 2. Warner (7) 17-3 89 3
 3. Faith (4) 19-0 86 2
 4. Castlewood - 15-2 37 T5
 5. Irene-Wakonda - 17-2 15 RV
- Others receiving votes: Ethan 7, Hanson 7, Avon 7, Waubay/Summit 4, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 3.<

Boy's Basketball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school boy's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Rapid City Stevens;(22);14-2;115;1
2. Harrisburg;(1);15-2;97;3
3. Rapid City Central;(1);13-3;59;2
4. Sioux Falls Lincoln;-;11-5;46;4

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5. Sioux Falls Washington;-;10-7;41;5
Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Central 2.<

Class A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Sioux Falls Christian;(24);17-0;115;1
2. Madison;-;16-1;95;2
3. Sioux Valley;-;16-2;75;3
4. Dell Rapids;-;14-4;26;RV
5. Tea Area;-;13-5;21;RV

Others receiving votes: Dakota Valley 17, Miller 5, Crow Creek 2, Red Cloud 2, Bon Homme 2.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Bridgewater-Emery;(19);14-3;114;1
2. Sully Buttes;(5);15-1;100;2
3. Clark-Willow Lake;-;14-4;57;3
4. White River;-;15-2;41;4
5. Corsica-Stickney;-;14-2;22;RV

Others receiving votes: Canistota 11, Irene-Wakonda 9, Warner 5, Langford Area 1.<

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World Archery Indoor Championships kick off in South Dakota

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — As international attention turns to the Winter Olympics in South Korea, South Dakota is hosting its own global sporting event starting this week.

The 2018 World Archery Indoor Championships kick off at the National Field Archery Association Easton Yankton Archery Center in Yankton, with the first events to be held on Wednesday.

NFAA spokeswoman Nancy Wenande told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan that 32 teams are arriving Monday and Tuesday. The tournament runs through Feb. 19. She said teams are coming from as far as New Zealand, Paraguay and Japan.

Wenande said some countries, such as Russia, faced challenges with obtaining visas a year in advance. Russia didn't have qualification trials until January, so competitors had to receive visas in Armenia, according to Wenande.

"We did have some teams that didn't sign up for the event that we would've loved to have come," she said. "One of those reasons being the political climate around the world, and some of it was the political situation here in the U.S. and some of the teams are restructuring because it's a non-(Summer) Olympic year."

Wenande said the event brings tourism to the area during offseason.

"It's in the shoulder season, and hotels and restaurants in the community were asking for an event that would bring people in the winter, and that's exactly what we did," Wenande said. "The hotels have been great to work with as far as reservations and holding rooms for us. I just wish we could've had more people come to compete."

This year's tournament is free and open to the public.

Yankton also will host the 2020 World Archery Field Championships.

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

3 have died of injuries in crash near Hermosa Feb. 3

HERMOSA, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says three people have died as a result of injuries suffered in a one-vehicle crash more than a week ago.

The driver, 44-year-old Gregory Fayson, of Rapid City, died Wednesday of injuries suffered in the Feb 3 crash on Highway 40 east of Hermosa.

Thirty-four-year-old Paul Fast Wolf, of Pine Ridge, died on Feb. 5 and 47-year-old Matilda Waters, also of Pine Ridge, died the day after the crash. Both Fast Wolf and Waters were thrown from the vehicle, which drifted off the road, into a ditch and rolled over.

Fatal shooting of Oglala Sioux police officer investigated

KYLE, S.D. (AP) — Federal and tribal officials are investigating the fatal shooting of an Oglala Sioux police officer.

KNBN-TV says officials have identified the officer as 52-year-old Brian Gerard Garrett, of Kyle. The FBI says the officer has killed Saturday about 4:30 a.m. Saturday on the Pine Ridge Reservation during an apparent domestic dispute.

The FBI, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Oglala Sioux tribal police are investigating.

The FBI's Minneapolis field office, which covers South Dakota, did not immediately return a call for further details Monday.

Information from: KNBN-TV, <http://www.newscenter1.com>

YMCA, school district buy former Black Hills Corp. building

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The YMCA of Rapid City has purchased the former headquarters of Black Hills Corp. for \$5 million.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the YMCA has since sold a half interest in the property to Rapid City Area Schools for \$3 million.

The YMCA and school district will split the space in the eight-floor building. The YMCA plans to use its space for an expansion of its child care and preschool program, and the school district will house its administrative offices there.

The Black Hills Corp. energy company recently moved into new headquarters on Mount Rushmore Road.

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

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Yankton also will host the 2020 World Archery Field Championships.

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

Trump prods Congress amid debate on immigration

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump warned Tuesday that it's now or never when it comes to extending protections for young immigrants who have stayed in the country illegally.

Trump, in an early-morning tweet, said Congress must act now to provide legal protections to young "Dreamer" immigrants even as legislation faces an uncertain prospect in Congress.

"Wouldn't it be great if we could finally, after so many years, solve the DACA puzzle," he wrote, adding: "This will be our last chance, there will never be another opportunity! March 5th."

Trump was referring to a deadline he announced last year to end a program protecting young immigrants from deportation. But a recent court ruling has rendered that deadline all but meaningless.

The comments came the day after the Senate voted 97-1 — Ted Cruz, R-Texas, provided the sole "no" vote — to plunge into an open-ended immigration debate that's been promised by McConnell. Both parties' leaders hope debate can be concluded this week, but it's unclear if that will happen or what the product, if any, will be.

"This is going to be done or not done this week," No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas told reporters.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., threw his weight behind a wide-ranging bill that mirrors Trump's approach. It would pave a path to citizenship for up to 1.8 million young "Dreamer" immigrants in the U.S. illegally, a lure for Democrats that many Republicans oppose. Trump also wants \$25 billion for Trump's border wall with Mexico and other security measures, as well as curbs on legal immigration — a must for many Republicans.

"This proposal has my support, and during this week of fair debate, I believe it deserves the support of every senator who's ready to move beyond making points and actually making a law," McConnell said in beginning Senate debate Tuesday.

McConnell and other GOP supporters describe the measure as the Senate's best shot of passing a bill that the president will sign. McConnell's endorsement is key for generating Republican support, but many Democrats consider some of the proposals, including limiting the relatives that legal immigrants can bring to the U.S., to be non-starters.

Leading up to the debate, the Senate's two top leaders put on a show of comradery, but also laid down markers underscoring how hard it will be to reach a deal that can move through Congress.

"We really do get along, despite what you read in the press," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Monday at a previously scheduled appearance alongside McConnell at the University of Louisville.

Still, just days after the two leaders brokered a bipartisan \$400 billion budget agreement and helped shepherd it into law, both men made clear that an immigration agreement will be tough.

Schumer has expressed repeated opposition to Trump's sweeping approach.

"The only enemy here is overreach," Schumer said. "Now is not the time nor the place to reform the entire legal immigration system. Rather, this is the time for a narrow bill" — which Democrats have said would help the Dreamers and provide some money for border security.

Trump's overall immigration plan, opposed by many Democrats, stands little chance of prevailing because any measure will need 60 votes. That means proposals will need substantial bipartisan support since the GOP majority is 51-49, and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has been absent in recent weeks battling cancer.

Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Arkansas, one of the lawmakers who introduced a bill based on Trump's plan, described it as a "best and final offer" and said there's no room for negotiations.

He told Fox News' "Fox and Friends" Tuesday morning that Congress has just two options: "the president's framework bill or nothing."

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Arizona, also proposed a modification of the bill late Monday that he painted as a potential compromise.

Highlighting the partisan gap, there was plenty of finger-pointing on Monday.

Trump put the onus on Democrats, saying, "I hope the Democrats are not going to use it just as a

campaign" issue.

No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois said the key impediment to a bipartisan deal was Trump's history of switching positions on the issue.

"Nailing the president down has been next to impossible," he said.

Meanwhile, Trump made clear he continues to take his March 5 deadline seriously, even though because of a judge's ruling, federal immigration officials have been renewing permits under President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program for immigrants' whose status expires beyond that date.

"Negotiations on DACA have begun. Republicans want to make a deal and Democrats say they want to make a deal," Trump wrote even though negotiations have been underway for months.

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking and Jill Colvin in Washington and Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this report.

Conservatives lash out at GOP spending binge

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The GOP is the party of fiscal responsibility no more.

That's according to some conservatives who are grappling with a Republican-backed spending binge that threatens to generate trillion-dollar deficits for years to come while staining a cherished pillar of the modern-day Republican Party.

While President Donald Trump and his allies hope economic growth may ease future deficits, few fiscal conservatives cheered Monday's release of the president's \$4 trillion-plus budget, which would create \$7.2 trillion in red ink over the next decade if adopted by Congress. That follows congressional passage of last week's \$400 billion spending pact, along with massive tax cuts, which some analysts predict will push deficits to levels not in generations.

Deficit hawks in Congress and conservative activists who railed against President Barack Obama's spending plans called the GOP debt explosion "dangerous," "immoral" and "a betrayal."

American Conservative Union chairman Matt Schlapp warned the Republican-controlled Congress not to underestimate the impact of responsible spending for voters.

"If the Republicans in Congress don't realize that spending control is one of the most important issues that our winning coalition cares about, if they are cavalier about spending decisions, I think we do risk our ability to go to the voters and say it matters to have us in the majority," he said.

The conservative backlash against government spending comes at a delicate moment for Trump's Republican Party.

Barely a year into his first term, the populist president has shown inconsistent commitment at best to the three planks that have defined his party since the Reagan era: fiscal responsibility, traditional family values and a strong national defense. With the GOP's fiscal responsibility now in question, the party's commitment to family values also continues to suffer as Trump and some high-profile allies struggle under the weight of repeated allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse.

Fiscal discipline has long helped unify an otherwise divided GOP, but that no longer appears to be the case as Republicans brace for a difficult midterm election season.

Americans for Prosperity, the political arm of the network backed by the conservative billionaires Charles and David Koch, described the recent spending from Trump and Congress "a far cry from the so-called fiscal responsibility Americans heard on the campaign trail."

Voters may forgive Trump's spending habits because he's new to Washington, but they will not be as kind to Republicans on the midterm ballots, said David McIntosh, president of the conservative Club for Growth, who lashed out at last week's Republican-backed spending plan as "of the swamp, by the swamp and for the swamp."

"They're not going to give a pass to the Republicans in Congress unless they start doing something to

restrain the growth of government," he said.

"You can't let (Senate Majority Leader) Mitch McConnell and the spenders in the Senate set the agenda this year," McIntosh continued. "Because politically, if they set the agenda, then you're going to see big losses in the House and the Senate."

All told, Trump's budget plan sees accumulating deficits of \$7.2 trillion over the coming decade. And that's assuming Trump's rosy economic predictions come true and Congress follows through — in an election year — with politically toxic cuts to social programs, farm subsidies and Medicare providers.

The president's spending outline for the first time acknowledges that the Republican tax overhaul passed last year would add billions to the deficit and not "pay for itself" as Trump and his Republican allies asserted. If enacted as proposed — though no presidential budget ever is — the plan would establish an era of \$1 trillion-plus yearly deficits.

Trump's spending plan is like "throwing gasoline on a house that's already on fire," said David Biddulph, co-founder of a national organization fighting for a balanced budget amendment. "I think it's awful what we're doing to our grandkids."

A self-described fiscal conservative, he blamed the political system more than the Republican Party for the latest spending binge. Yet he encouraged Trump to do more to cut spending on Medicare and Social Security, which he left largely untouched in his budget.

If not, Biddulph said, "I don't know that we'll ever dig our way out of this hole."

UK judge upholds arrest warrant for WikiLeaks founder

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A British judge on Tuesday upheld an arrest warrant for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who has spent more than five years evading the law inside Ecuador's London embassy.

Judge Emma Arbuthnot rejected arguments by Assange's lawyers that it is no longer in the public interest to arrest him for jumping bail in 2012 and seeking shelter in the embassy to avoid extradition to Sweden, where prosecutors were investigating allegations of sexual assault and rape made by two women. He has denied the allegations.

Arbuthnot said Assange should come to court and make his case like any other defendant and did not mince words in leveling her decision at Westminster Magistrates' Court. She said that by jumping bail Assange had made "a determined attempt to avoid the order of the court," before rejecting each argument made by his attorneys.

"The impression I have ... is that he is a man who wants to impose his terms on the course of justice," she said. "He appears to consider himself above the normal rules of law and wants justice only if it goes in his favor."

Assange is able to appeal, but his lawyers don't yet know whether he will.

Swedish prosecutors dropped their investigation last year, saying there was no prospect of bringing Assange to Sweden in the foreseeable future. But the British warrant for violating bail conditions still stands, and Assange faces arrest if he leaves the embassy.

Assange's lawyers had asked for the warrant to be withdrawn since Sweden no longer wants him extradited, but the judge rejected their request last week.

Assange's attorney had gone on to argue that arresting him is no longer proportionate or in the public interest. Lawyer Mark Summers said that the 5½ years Assange has spent inside the embassy were "adequate, if not severe" punishment for his actions, and cited a report by a U.N. committee which said the 46-year-old was being arbitrarily detained.

He also claimed the Australian was justified in seeking refuge in the embassy because he has a legitimate fear that U.S. authorities are seeking to arrest him for WikiLeaks' publication of secret documents.

Summers also argued that Assange's actions had not stalled Sweden's legal case, because Assange had offered to be interviewed by Swedish prosecutors at the embassy. He said emails recently released

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after a freedom of information request showed that a British state prosecutor had advised Sweden "that it would not be prudent for Sweden to try to interview Mr. Assange in the U.K."

Some lawyers who have followed the case suggest the impasse will continue in the case.

Edward Grange, a partner at law firm Corker Binning, said the fact remained that Assange had chosen to enter the embassy to avoid arrest.

"It would be a dangerous precedent to set if the warrant could just be withdrawn on public interest grounds, because that would be seen as a reward for individuals who decide to avoid administrative justice," he said.

Assange suspects there is a secret U.S. grand jury indictment against him for WikiLeaks' publication of classified documents, and that American authorities will seek his extradition. Arbuthnot rejected that contention as well.

"I do not find that Mr. Assange's fears were reasonable," Arbuthnot said.

Another Assange lawyer, Jennifer Robinson, said the WikiLeaks chief was willing to face legal proceedings in Britain — if he receives a guarantee that he will not be sent to the U.S. to face prosecution.

"Mr. Assange remains ready to face British justice and to resolve any outstanding matters related to his seeking protection in the Ecuadorean embassy — but not at the risk of being forced to face American injustice for exercising the freedom to publish," Robinson said.

South Africa's ruling party demands that Zuma resign

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African President Jacob Zuma must leave office promptly so that the country can move toward political stability and economic recovery, the ruling party said Tuesday, finally disowning a leader who has been discredited by corruption scandals.

However, the African National Congress said it does not know whether the politically isolated president will heed the decision of the party's national executive committee, which expects a response from Zuma on Wednesday.

If Zuma refuses the order, parliament might vote on a motion of no confidence in the president, deepening the embarrassment of the party that was the main movement against white minority rule and has led South Africa since apartheid ended in 1994.

"I don't know what will happen, but let's leave it to President Jacob Zuma," said Ace Magashule, the ANC's secretary-general. He said there was no deadline for 75-year-old leader to reply, leaving open the possibility that the political crisis could drag on.

Zuma had agreed to resign and wanted to stay in office for several more months, but the national executive committee agreed at a 13-hour meeting that he had to leave at once, Magashule said. He spoke respectfully of Zuma, saying the president had contributed to the struggle against apartheid and had not been "found guilty in any court of law" despite various scandals over the years.

The ANC looks forward to an "amicable solution" and "it's obvious" that the party wants Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa to succeed Zuma, the secretary-general said. Ramaphosa was elected party leader in December and has vowed to fight corruption.

Zuma, who took office in 2009 and is in his second five-year term, has not made any public appearances in recent days. He met with ruling party leaders who visited him at his Pretoria residence late Monday and again on Tuesday morning to ask him to quit. Magashule described the discussions as "cordial."

South Africa, which has one of Africa's biggest economies, has faced extended uncertainty over Zuma's fate. Government leaders hope the standoff can be resolved ahead of the unveiling of the national budget in parliament on Feb. 21, which would go some way toward reassuring investors that the country is getting back on track.

"We are determined to restore the integrity of the public institutions, create political stability and urgent economic recovery," Magashule, once a staunch supporter of Zuma, told reporters.

A motion of no confidence sponsored by an opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, has been

scheduled for Feb. 22 in parliament. Opposition parties want the vote to be moved up to this week and then want parliament to be dissolved so that early elections can be held.

Zuma has survived similar motions in the past, but ruling party members now see him as a political liability ahead of 2019 elections and likely would vote against him on the orders of the party leadership.

The ANC once commanded moral stature as the party of Nelson Mandela, but scandals linked to Zuma, who denies wrongdoing, have cut into its popularity.

South Africa's top court ruled in 2016 that Zuma violated the constitution following an investigation of multi-million-dollar upgrades to his private home using state money. A judicial commission is about to start a probe of alleged looting of state enterprises by Zuma's associates, and prosecutors are expected to announce soon whether they will reinstate corruption charges tied to an arms deal two decades ago.

Ramaphosa has held private talks in recent days with the president on a power transition, angering opposition parties who described the process as an affront to South Africa's democracy.

Follow Christopher Torchia on Twitter at www.twitter.com/torchiachris

Palestinian teen goes on trial, Israeli judge bars public

By KARIN LAUB, Associated Press

OFER MILITARY BASE, West Bank (AP) — The closely watched trial of a Palestinian girl who slapped and punched two Israeli soldiers opened before an Israeli military court on Tuesday, but the judge ordered proceedings to be held behind closed doors in a case that has drawn wide criticism of Israel for prosecuting the teenager.

Ahed Tamimi, who turned 17 in prison last month, appeared fresh and confident as she was led into a courtroom packed with journalists and foreign diplomats.

She briefly gestured to relatives in the back of the room before the judge ordered everyone out except her family.

"Stay strong! Stay strong!" shouted her father, Bassem Tamimi.

After the prosecution read the 12-count indictment, the trial was adjourned until next month. Tamimi potentially faces years in prison if convicted of all charges, including assault and incitement in several incidents going back to April 2016.

She has been in detention since her arrest Dec. 19, four days after she was filmed confronting the soldiers outside her West Bank home.

Defense lawyer Gaby Lasky said she considers the court as an organ of what she described as an "illegal occupation" and that the indictment must be thrown out.

"It is a trial of occupation," Lasky told reporters after the session. "This is a court of occupation, and Ahed was resisting occupation."

Several senior Israeli officials have called for harsh punishment for Tamimi, describing her either as a terrorist, a serial troublemaker or a gullible teen being cynically manipulated by others.

The high-profile trial of Tamimi, one of an estimated 300 Palestinian minors in Israeli jails, has become the latest arena for the long-running battle between Palestinians and Israelis over global public opinion.

It also touches on the debate over what constitutes legitimate resistance to Israel's rule over several million Palestinians, now in its 51st year.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in 1967, lands Palestinians seek for a future state. Repeated rounds of U.S.-led Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on a partition deal have failed, and gaps have only widened between the sides.

Israel has framed Tamimi's actions as purely criminal offenses. Among other things, she is being accused of incitement for comments she made on the same widely watched video that captured her scuffling with the soldiers.

In the Dec. 15 video, she talks about President Donald Trump's recognition a week earlier of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. She calls for large demonstrations as "the only way to reach results," but says Trump

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must bear responsibility for any Palestinian reaction, including stabbings and suicide attacks, and that "everyone needs to do something and to unite."

Tamimi's family has said that she struck the two soldiers outside her West Bank home in frustration after having just learned that Israeli troops seriously wounded a 15-year-old cousin, shooting him in the head from close range with a rubber bullet during nearby stone-throwing clashes.

International human rights groups have criticized the full-throttle prosecution of a minor. Diplomats from the European Union and several European countries, including Germany and the Netherlands, attended Tuesday's hearing as observers before they were kicked out along with journalists.

In his decision, the judge, Lt. Col. Menachem Lieberman, said the trial would remain closed for Tamimi's own protection. "I didn't think it's good for the minor that there are 100 people in the courtroom," he said.

Lasky, the defense lawyer, objected, saying the family wants the proceedings to be public. She accused the court of closing the hearings to prevent the world from watching.

"The court decided what is best for the court, and not what is good for Ahd," she said. "The way to keep it out of everybody's eyes is to close doors and not allow people inside the court for the hearing."

She said her strategy would be to argue that Israel's continued occupation over the West Bank, captured in the 1967 Mideast war, is illegal and that the indictment is aimed at deterring Ahd and other Palestinian youths "from resisting occupation nonviolently."

Lasky said that her client did not respond to the charges read in court and that the next hearing was scheduled for March 11.

Earlier in the day, Tamimi's father told The Associated Press as he headed into the court that he came "with no good expectations, because this a military court and it's part of the Israeli military occupation."

The Tamimis are from Nabi Saleh, a West Bank village of about 600 people, all members of the extended Tamimi family

Since 2009, residents there have staged regular anti-occupation protests that often ended with stone-throwing clashes.

Ahd Tamimi has participated in such marches from a young age, and has had several highly publicized run-ins with soldiers. One photo shows the then 12-year-old raising a clenched fist toward a soldier towering over her.

Victory lap: Chloe Kim takes her family on a gold-medal ride

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Chloe Kim stamped her name on a new era of snowboarding with a run down the halfpipe that, officially, did not mean anything. To her, it meant everything.

The Olympic gold medal was already hers but she knew she could do better. So she cinched on her gloves, cranked up "Motorsport" on her iPod, said "This one's for you, Grams" — a shout-out to her South Korean grandmother, who was watching her in person for the first time — and dropped into the halfpipe to make history.

On the last run of Tuesday's sun-splashed final, Kim hit back-to-back 1080-degree spins on her second and third jumps — repeating a combination no other woman has ever done in a competition.

She landed them squarely, sent her already super-hyped family at the bottom into overdrive, scored a 98.5 and sent out the message that everyone from grandma to those at the roots of this sport love to hear: "I knew I wasn't going to be completely satisfied taking home the gold, but knowing that I could've done better."

The 17-year-old from California made it look easy, but only afterward did she concede how difficult the past several months have been. Her story has been told and sold and marketed for gold: Her parents both emigrated to the United States from South Korea, and though it was more coincidence than any grand plan, Kim making her Olympic debut in the country where her family was from set up a sure path to stardom in the halfpipe and beyond.

She has commanded the progression in women's snowboarding for at least two years now, and it was

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hard to imagine anyone beating her on the sport's biggest stage, at her official coming-out party. But halfpipes are hard, the snow is slippery and nothing is for sure.

"There is a lot of pressure revolving around these games," she said. "You wait for four years to come here and it's definitely a lot of hype around a 1 1/2, 2-hour time period. It's pretty nerve-wracking. You know you're at the Olympics. It's been a dream of mine since I was a little girl, to land a run that's very important for me."

She didn't have to do it.

In the first of the day's three runs, she flew higher than anyone on her opening straight air, then landed one 1080, and closed with a pair of inverted spins, each with well-timed, easy-to-see grabs of the board that the judges appreciate. Her score there was a 93.75, which put her nearly nine points clear of the other 11 riders, none of whom would crack 90.

The rest of the day was a contest for second, and China's Liu Jiayu won it. She said injuries made her reboot and reconnect with her love of the sport, regardless of the result. It will be interesting to see how the 25-year-old's attitude shifts four years hence, at the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

Third place went to another young American: 21-year-old Arielle Gold, who casually announced afterward that she had separated her shoulder here on the second day of training, much the way she did on a practice run in Sochi four years ago that forced her to scratch from the competition.

"The doctors (say) that the more that it happens, the less impactful it is," Gold said.

That bronze-medal run pushed Kelly Clark — she of the one gold and two Olympic bronzes — into fourth. This was Clark's fifth Olympics, and the 34-year-old left the halfpipe with her own future to consider, but knowing the future of the sport she helped bring to the masses is in very good hands.

"Chloe's an outstanding snowboarder, but I'm more proud of her for how she's handled herself as a person," Clark said. "She's handled success and pressure with grace and class, and it's refreshing."

Kim's journey included two years in Switzerland, where she lived with her aunt, learned French and honed her snowboarding skills.

Her father, Jong Jin, gave up his job to chase his daughter's dream.

Down in the fans section, where Jong Jin was joined by his wife, Boran, along with Chloe's two sisters, three aunts, two cousins, and her 75-year-old grandma, dad pointed to himself and said "American dream," then let out a big whoop.

"I did, like, a 12-year sacrifice, and finally I got my reward," he said. "Thank you very much (to) my daughter."

She put on quite a show, and she will be rewarded in ways large and small. Heck, her Instagram following nearly doubled, to 350,000, since she arrived in South Korea — and that was before she won the gold.

But deep down, she knows where the real thanks belonged. Her way of giving it was the classic run she put down at the end.

"To just quit work and travel with your kid full-time, leaving your wife behind and really chasing this dream because your kid is really passionate about this sport, I'm always so thankful for that," she said. "And today, I really did it for my family and everything they've done for me."

AP Sports Writer Jake Seiner contributed to this report.

More AP Olympic coverage: <https://wintergames.ap.org>

US tells anti-IS coalition to 'keep eyes on prize'

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The Trump administration, increasingly concerned that the 74-strong coalition it cobbled together to destroy the Islamic State group is losing sight of the prime objective, pressed its partners on Tuesday to refocus their efforts, overcome rivalries and concentrate on the task at hand: the eradication from Iraq and Syria of the extremist group.

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The alarm U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson sounded at a coalition gathering in Kuwait came with the fight at a critical moment and the mission shifting from offensive military operations to stabilization.

Distractions are adding up, such as Turkey's fighting with U.S.-backed Kurdish rebels in Syria and intensifying anti-American rhetoric from Turkish leaders. Meanwhile, renewed spillover from Syria's civil war, including hostilities between non-coalition actors — Iran, its proxies in Syria, and Israel — risk creating a new conflict in an already crowded battle space.

"The end of major combat operations does not mean we have achieved the enduring defeat of ISIS," Tillerson told the meeting in Kuwait City, using an alternative acronym for the Islamic State group.

"ISIS remains a serious threat to the stability of the region, our homelands and other parts of the globe," he said. "Without continued attention and support from coalition members, we risk the return of extremist groups like ISIS in liberated areas of Iraq and Syria and their spread to new locations."

Tillerson announced that the United States would contribute an additional \$200 million "to further support critical stabilization and early recovery initiatives in liberated areas of Syria," bringing Washington's total contribution to humanitarian efforts to nearly \$7.9 billion since the conflict in Syria began in 2011.

It was not immediately clear how that money would be distributed. Tillerson reaffirmed that the U.S. "would maintain a conditions-based and ISIS-focused military presence in Syria" that would in part continue to train local security forces.

U.S. officials said the thrust of Tillerson's message was that "eyes have to be on the prize" and anything that hinders IS' defeat will impair broader objectives such as a political transition in Syria that ultimately leads to an end of the war and blunts Iranian behavior throughout the region.

"It's complicated enough as it is. Let's not make it more so," one official said in describing the administration's view.

Rising tensions between the U.S. and NATO ally Turkey over Turkish military operations against the Syrian Kurds are a primary concern and Tillerson will end his five-nation swing through the region in Ankara on Friday, after stops in Jordan and Lebanon.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ramped up his criticism of the U.S. on Tuesday, reacting angrily to reports that the Trump administration has proposed a boost in funding to Syrian Kurdish militia in its proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Erdogan also took aim at comments from U.S. commanders in northern Syria, who said any attack on them or Kurdish partners would be met with force.

"To those who say 'if they hit us, we will respond with force,' it is clear that they have never experienced the Ottoman slap," Erdogan said.

A day earlier, Turkish Foreign Minister Melvut Cavusoglu said Tillerson's upcoming visit, which follows a similar trip by national security adviser H.R. McMaster, comes at a make-or-break time for relations between the U.S. and Turkey.

Ankara is riled over Washington's support for the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG — the top U.S. ally in the fight against IS. Turkey considers the YPG a "terrorist" group linked to Kurdish insurgents fighting within Turkey's own borders.

At the meeting in Kuwait, Tillerson made a point of noting concerns about the situation and urged "all parties to remain focused on defeating ISIS, deescalating and resolving the Syrian conflict and protecting innocent civilians."

U.S. officials allowed that Tillerson's talks in Ankara would be difficult.

But, they maintained — as Tillerson did again on Tuesday — that the U.S. appreciates Turkey's legitimate security concerns. However, the officials also stressed that addressing those should not come at the expense of the anti-IS mission. If the Syrian Kurds feel threatened, the officials said, they will move their forces away from Islamic State fronts, prolonging the fight.

In addition to keeping the fight against IS in Iraq and Syria on the front burner, Tuesday's meetings in Kuwait will also focus on preventing the spread into Europe and elsewhere of retreating IS fighters.

Tillerson said the U.S. supports a new blueprint for boosting intelligence and information sharing and law enforcement cooperation to halt the flow of those fighters.

"In Iraq and Syria, ISIS is attempting to morph into an insurgency. In places like Afghanistan, the Philip-

piners, Libya, West Africa and others it is trying to carve out and secure safe havens," Tillerson said. "We have seen in Iraq and Syria the consequences of an ISIS territorial presence. History must not be allowed to repeat itself elsewhere."

Associated Press writer Susan Frazer in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

Winners and losers under Medicare drug plan in Trump budget

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some Medicare beneficiaries would face higher prescription drug costs under President Donald Trump's budget even as the sickest patients save thousands of dollars, a complex trade-off that may make it harder to sell Congress on the plan in an election year.

In budget documents, the administration said its proposals strike a balance between improving the popular "Part D" prescription benefit for the 42 million seniors enrolled, while correcting design flaws that increase program costs for taxpayers. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar is expected to testify on the proposal later this week in Congress.

Trump has made bringing down drug costs a top priority, but his administration's plan would create winners and losers. The high cost of medicines is the leading health care concern among consumers.

Independent experts said the administration's plan will help beneficiaries with the highest prescription drug costs, an estimated 1 million of the sickest patients, those whose individual bills reach a total of more than \$8,418 apiece.

But about 4.5 million seniors in the group just behind them could end up spending more of their own money. That's because the budget proposes a change in how Medicare accounts for manufacturer discounts received by patients whose total bills range between \$3,750 and \$8,418. They could wind up paying about \$1,000 more.

A senior Senate Democrat said the Trump plan missed the mark.

"Instead of picking winners and losers and leaving big pharma unscathed, the president should follow through on his promise to lower high drug prices by getting Republicans in Congress to work with Democrats on behalf of Americans who are getting clobbered at the pharmacy counter," Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said in a statement. Wyden is the ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee, which oversees Medicare.

"The package reduces costs for some but increases costs for others, and the effect on premiums is not clear," said Tricia Neuman, a Medicare expert with the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. Also unclear is how the Trump plan interacts with changes to the Medicare prescription plan enacted by Congress just last week.

Medicare's prescription drug benefit is delivered through private insurance plans. Here's more detail on the trade-off for beneficiaries:

— The budget eliminates cost sharing for Medicare beneficiaries who reach the program's "catastrophic" coverage threshold, currently \$8,418 in total costs. Instead of paying 5 percent of the cost of their medications, the sickest patients would pay nothing. They'd be the winners.

— A second group just behind the sickest patients would lose ground financially. Currently Medicare counts manufacturer discounts received by patients in this group to calculate total spending that determines when they qualify for catastrophic coverage. That practice would stop, meaning beneficiaries would have to spend more of their own money to reach the threshold for the richer catastrophic coverage.

"It's complicated," said Joe Baker of the Medicare Rights Center. "The winners in this proposal are people with very high drug spending. The people who are the losers here are the people who are stuck in the middle."

In other Medicare drug changes, the budget calls for requiring insurers to share manufacturer rebates with patients, and it expands coverage for medications to treat substance abuse.

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The AP Asks: What would South Koreans ask a North Korean?

By ERIC TALMADGE and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — The Korea share a border, a culture and a language. But 70 years after they were separated, North and South are about as divided as divided gets.

With almost any kind of contact blocked or barred or banned by law, the gap between them has grown to the point where they almost seem like strangers in many ways. And while the Pyeongchang Olympics have brought North Korean athletes, musicians, martial artists, singers and cheering squads flooding into the South, tight security means it's still almost impossible for either side to interact.

So, embedded in a crowd of excited South Korean Olympic fans waiting to get into a united Korea women's ice hockey match, The Associated Press posed a question:

If you had the chance, what would you ask a North Korean?

(Quick note: Our reporter Kim Tong-hyung had a question, too. It's at the bottom.)

MARRIAGE, FREEDOM ... BUT IS IT EVEN OK TO ASK?

Lee So-mi, a 28-year-old jobseeker, said she was curious about life in North Korea. But when asked what she would say if the chance ever actually arose, she giggled and struggled to come up with ideas. She wondered about what life would be like in a society where she imagines there is little personal freedom.

But she couldn't imagine asking a North Korean directly about it.

Her question:

"If you are a (North Korean) woman in your late 20s ... Oh, how do I say this? Marriage life? Jobs? I want to ask about those things, like whether life is good for them."

But, she added quickly, "You really can't ask them so straightforwardly."

When asked how she might delicately phrase such the question, she burst into laughter and said, "I don't know! It's too hard!"

OUR UNIFICATION OR YOURS?

Office worker Kim Jae-in, 54, said he doesn't think North Korea's bad because — nukes and all — it's doing what it's doing "just to survive."

"North Koreans are part of the same nation with us. They are pursuing their own ways just to survive. I don't have bad things to say about that."

His question:

"I want to ask whether they really want unification. Of course, our brethren in North Korea would want unification, but what kind of unification would that be? We in the South want a democratic peaceful unification, while they might want a socialist unification. There could be differences."

A KID'S TAKE...

Park Jin-woo, a 14-year-old middle school student, came to the game with his father, a newspaper reporter. He went right to what he's been taught about the North and said his opinions have been changing, and not just because of the Olympics.

"I first thought they were bad. But after learning in school, I now have good thoughts about them. They are not people with cold hearts — the North Koreans are part of our nation."

His question:

"I want to ask whether they want unification with South Korea. It would be great for all of us if we can unify with our friends in North Korea. I would like to think that our friends in North Korea would think that unification will happen, and want it to happen."

THE FOOD CHANNEL?

Hong Seong-hun, a 59-year-old pipe organ designer, said he didn't know there would be a joint North-South team when he reserved the ice hockey tickets. He said the flurry of diplomacy and conciliatory

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measures between the Koreans over the North's participation in the Olympics made him "giddy like I am a child again."

"We don't know much about North Korea. But considering their characteristics, they would be a truly rigid society. There's no other country like that in the world. Any narrow-mindedness they might have, I hope that we could help change that."

His question:

"Well, even the language is different now, and we would need to unify that first. We would need a lot of talk to overcome cultural differences. Maybe we can start with food — that would help us understand their thoughts and emotions and change the views we had about each other. ... We only have a superficial understanding of North Korean food. What can North Korea tell us about itself through its food?"

"Maybe if we talk a lot of about food, we will begin to understand each other."

IMPRESSIONS OF THE CAPITAL

Seoul-based AP writer Kim Tong-hyung, who's a South Korean, too, did most of the question-asking for this story. And he has one of his own.

His question: "What would you do if you had a day in Seoul? I'm really interested in what they think of South Korean culture. I think their answer would reveal a lot about that."

Eric Talmadge, the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief, is on assignment in Pyeongchang. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @erictalmadge. Follow Kim Tong-hyung at @kimtonghyung.

Can gene therapy be harnessed to fight the AIDS virus?

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

For more than a decade, the strongest AIDS drugs could not fully control Matt Chappell's HIV infection. Now his body controls it by itself, and researchers are trying to perfect the gene editing that made this possible.

Scientists removed some of his blood cells, disabled a gene to help them resist HIV, and returned these "edited" cells to him in 2014. So far, it has given the San Francisco man the next best thing to a cure.

"I've been off medications for three and a half years," he said. He even was able to keep the virus in check despite cancer treatments last year that taxed his immune system.

Chappell was lucky, though. Only a few of the 100 others in those experiments were able to stay off HIV drugs for a couple years; the rest still need medicines to keep HIV suppressed.

Now researchers think they can improve the treatment and are trying again to tackle HIV by doctoring DNA. New studies to test these tweaked approaches in people are getting underway.

"Gene therapy techniques have advanced greatly," said Dr. Otto Yang of the UCLA AIDS Institute, one place working on this. "A lot of people are thinking it's the right time to go back."

They include Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is funding some of the new studies. He doesn't think the technique will become common because millions of people do well on existing treatments. But he says it could help those who can't easily control the virus, and should be pursued because it holds potential for a cure.

"They're very bold, innovative techniques, mostly to try and cure people," he said. "It's worth trying because the science is there."

ONE MAN'S CURE GAVE HOPE

Only one person is known to have been cured of HIV infection, a man who had a cell transplant a decade ago from a donor with natural immunity to the virus. The donor lacked a common gene that makes an entryway HIV uses to infect T cells, immune system soldiers in the blood.

The transplant gave the recipient that protection, but procedures like that are too risky and impractical for wide use. Scientists have been trying to find a way to create similar immunity by altering some of a patient's own cells. They use a gene editing tool called zinc finger nucleases, which cut DNA at a precise spot to disable the HIV entryway gene.

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The California company that makes the editing tool, Sangamo Therapeutics, sponsored the initial studies. "It worked, the T cells were edited," said Sangamo's president, Dr. Sandy Macrae. But it didn't work quite well enough: The altered T cells were outnumbered by T cells that were not altered and could still be infected.

Now, Dr. John Zaia at City of Hope, a research center in Duarte, California, is trying the approach with a twist. He's using blood stem cells — parent cells that produce many others. Once a stem cell is altered the benefit should multiply and last longer, Zaia said.

THE SILVER LINING

Though the initial gene editing experiments were disappointing, there was a silver lining. Patients in those studies had a big drop in the number of cells where HIV lurked in a dormant state — the so-called reservoir of silent disease.

At Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Dr. Rafick-Pierre Sekaly is trying to capitalize on that drop. His study will try the same gene editing — disabling the gene that makes the HIV entryway — while keeping patients on strong antiviral medicines for at least a year before discontinuing them.

"As long as we're not able to get rid of this reservoir, we'll never be able to stop treatment," he explained.

The hope is that the medicines plus the altered cells will knock down the virus and reduce the reservoir to a point where the body can control any residual disease by itself, as Chappell seems to be doing.

PROTECT AND ATTACK

University of Pennsylvania scientists are trying a two-part approach: Besides knocking out the gene for the HIV entryway, they're adding a gene to help T cells recognize and kill HIV. This second part is called CAR-T therapy, a treatment approved last year for treating cancer.

The new study's leader, scientist James Riley, is encouraged that some patients at Penn who were in the early studies kept HIV suppressed for nearly a year without drugs.

"You'd never know they were sick" even though the virus could still be detected, Riley said. "At some point you're going to have confidence that it's not going to come back."

Chappell's doctor, Christopher Schiessl at One Medical, a health clinic in San Francisco, hopes that's the case for Chappell. Although he's doing well now, Chappell is showing signs that his immune system may be weakening, Schiessl said.

Chappell is optimistic, and believes gene therapy ultimately will provide a long-term solution.

"If we're going to cure HIV," he said, "this is how it's going to happen."

Marilynn Marchione can be followed on Twitter: @MMarchioneAP

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Trump budget again targets regional water cleanup programs

By JOHN FLESHER, AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — For a second consecutive year, President Donald Trump is trying to drastically reduce or eliminate federal support of cleanups for iconic U.S. waterways including the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay.

Trump's proposed 2019 budget for the Environmental Protection Agency released Monday would cut funding by 90 percent for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative — an Obama-era plan for dealing with pervasive pollution in the world's biggest surface freshwater system — and a similar program for Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary.

It would remove all EPA funding of cleanup programs for the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Champlain, Long Island Sound, San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound and South Florida, including the Everglades and Keys. The administration's EPA spending plan said the agency would "encourage state, tribal and local entities to continue to make progress" in those places.

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The administration sought to zero out spending on the regional water initiatives in its first budget a year ago, describing them as “primarily local efforts” and contending state and local governments were capable of paying for them.

But Congress decided otherwise, illustrating the popularity of the cleanups among lawmakers of both parties and voters who want progress on long-standing problems such as toxic algae that fouls beaches, invasive species that starve out native fish, and industrial toxins embedded in river bottoms.

The Great Lakes program is the largest, taking in about \$300 million annually since it was established in 2010. Trump’s budget would give it \$30 million. Chesapeake Bay, which is getting nearly \$73 million this year, would receive \$7.3 million. The other programs receive significantly less federal funding.

Supporters pledged another fight to keep them intact.

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, a Michigan Democrat, denounced the proposed Great Lakes cuts as “outrageous.” Rep. Bill Huizenga, a Michigan Republican, pledged to seek full funding of the initiative, which he said boosts the economy and environment of an eight-state region extending from New York to Minnesota.

“Why the Trump administration would continue to try to slash funding for the world’s most important freshwater resource is beyond my comprehension,” said Mike Shriberg, regional director for the National Wildlife Federation.

The Chesapeake Bay program, which dates to 1983, has accelerated in recent years in the watershed’s six states and Washington, D.C., with adoption of pollution reduction targets. Trump’s budget would provide money for water quality monitoring but none for cleanup work, advocates said.

“A cut of this magnitude would severely damage Bay restoration efforts, just at a time when we are seeing significant progress,” said William Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox declined comment.

Associated Press writer Sarah Rankin in Richmond, Virginia, contributed to this report.

Trump’s high-spending budget reverses longtime GOP dogma

By **ANDREW TAYLOR** and **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.4 trillion budget plan Monday that envisions steep cuts to America’s social safety net but mounting spending on the military, formally retreating from last year’s promises to balance the federal budget.

The president’s spending outline for the first time acknowledges that the Republican tax overhaul passed last year would add billions to the deficit and not “pay for itself” as Trump and his Republican allies asserted. If enacted as proposed, though no presidential budget ever is, the plan would establish an era of \$1 trillion-plus yearly deficits.

The open embrace of red ink is a remarkable public reversal for Trump and his party, which spent years objecting to President Barack Obama’s increased spending during the depths of the Great Recession. Rhetoric aside, however, Trump’s pattern is in line with past Republican presidents who have overseen spikes in deficits as they simultaneously increased military spending and cut taxes.

“We’re going to have the strongest military we’ve ever had, by far,” Trump said in an Oval Office appearance Monday. “In this budget we took care of the military like it’s never been taken care of before.”

Trump’s budget revived his calls for big cuts to domestic programs that benefit the poor and middle class, such as food stamps, housing subsidies and student loans. Retirement benefits would remain mostly untouched by Trump’s plan, as he has pledged, though Medicare providers would absorb about \$500 billion in cuts — a nearly 6 percent reduction. Some beneficiaries in Social Security’s disability program would have to re-enter the workforce under proposed changes to eligibility rules.

While all presidents’ budgets are essentially dead on arrival — Congress writes and enacts its own spending legislation — Trump’s plan was dead before it landed. It came just three days after the president signed a bipartisan agreement that set broad parameters for spending over the next two years. That deal, which includes large increases for domestic programs, rendered Monday’s Trump plan for 10-year, \$1.7

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trillion cuts to domestic agencies such as the departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development even more unrealistic.

The White House used Monday's event to promote its long-awaited plan to increase funding for infrastructure. The plan would put up \$200 billion in federal money over the next 10 years in hopes of leveraging a total of \$1.5 trillion in infrastructure spending, relying on state and local governments and the private sector to contribute the bulk of the funding.

But after his aides talked up that plan over the weekend, Trump suggested that his infrastructure proposal wasn't a big deal for him.

"If for any reason, they don't want to support to it, hey, that's going to be up to them," he said of the Republican-controlled Congress. "What was very important to me was the military; what was very important to me was the tax cuts."

Trump also is proposing work requirements for several federal programs, including housing subsidies, food stamps and Medicaid. Such ideas have backing from powerful figures in Congress including Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, who promises action on a "workforce development" agenda this year.

There was immediate opposition from Democrats.

"The Trump budget proposal makes clear his desire to enact massive cuts to health care, anti-poverty programs and investments in economic growth to blunt the deficit-exploding impact of his tax cuts for millionaires and corporations," said Rep. John Yarmuth of Kentucky, the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

Some Republicans, on the other hand, said spending was much too high.

"This budget continues too much of Washington's wasteful spending — it does not balance in ten years, and it creates a deficit of over a trillion dollars next year," said Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida. "We cannot steal from America's future to pay for spending today

Trump's plan aims at other familiar targets. It would eliminate the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The administration wants NASA out of the International Space Station by 2025 and private businesses running the place instead.

But the domestic cuts would be far from enough to make up for the plummeting tax revenue projected in the budget.

Trump's plan sees a 2019 deficit of \$984 billion, though White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney admits \$1.2 trillion is more plausible after last week's congressional budget pact and \$90 billion worth of disaster aid is tacked on. That would be more than double the 2019 deficit the administration promised last year.

All told, the new budget sees accumulating deficits of \$7.2 trillion over the coming decade; Trump's plan last year projected a 10-year shortfall of \$3.2 trillion. And that's assuming Trump's rosy economic predictions come true and Congress follows through — in an election year — with politically toxic cuts to social programs, farm subsidies and Medicare providers.

Last year Trump's budget promised such ideas could generate a small budget surplus by 2027; now, his best-case scenario is for a \$450 billion deficit that year, more than \$300 billion of which can be traced to his December tax cut.

In stark numbers, the budget rewrites the administration's talking points for last year's tax plan, which administration figures such as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin promised would more than pay for itself.

"Not only will this tax plan pay for itself, but it will pay down debt," Mnuchin declared in September.

Instead, Trump's budget projects that tax revenues will plummet by \$3.7 trillion over the 2018-27 decade relative to last year's "baseline" estimates.

The budget also includes \$1.6 billion for the second stage of Trump's proposed border wall, a 65-mile segment in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. Trump's request last year for 74 miles of wall in San Diego and the Rio Grande Valley is pending before lawmakers right now.

Once again, there's no mention of how Mexico would have to pay for it, as Trump repeatedly promised during the presidential campaign and after his victory.

The plan reprises proposals to curb crop insurance costs, cut student loan subsidies and reduce pension benefits for federal workers. They went nowhere last year.

Trump's plan promises 3 percent growth for the nation's economy, continuing low inflation and low interest yields on U.S. Treasury bills despite a flood of new borrowing. That likely underestimates the mounting cost of financing the government's \$20 trillion-plus debt, many economists say.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said a surge in stimulus from higher government spending and tax cuts would boost growth but for only for a short time.

"This will meaningfully raise the odds that after juiced-up growth in 2018 and 2019, we will get a much weaker economy, possibly a recession in the next decade," Zandi said. "In good times, budget policy should be working to get the deficits down because bad times are sure to come."

14 worms pulled from woman's eye after rare infection

By **MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — An Oregon woman who had worms coming out of her eye is being called the first known human case of a parasitic infection spread by flies.

Fourteen tiny worms were removed from the left eye of the 26-year-old woman in August 2016. Scientists reported the case Monday.

The woman, Abby Beckley, was diagnosed in August 2016 with *Thelazia gulosa*. That's a type of eye worm seen in cattle in the northern United States and southern Canada, but never before in humans.

They are spread by a type of fly known as "face flies." The flies feed on the tears that lubricate the eyeball, scientists said.

She had been horseback riding and fishing in Gold Beach, Oregon, a coastal, cattle-farming area.

After a week of eye irritation, Beckley pulled a worm from her eye. She visited doctors, but removed most of the additional worms herself during the following few weeks.

The worms were translucent and each less than half an inch long.

After they were removed, no more worms were found and she had no additional symptoms.

Eye worms are seen in several kinds of animals, including cats and dogs. They can be spread by different kinds of flies.

Two other types of *Thelazia* eye worm infections had been seen in people before, but never this kind, according to Richard Bradbury of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He was the study's lead author.

The report was published in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*.

This story has been corrected to reflect that the infected woman, not doctors, removed most of the worms from her eye.

Dog show's young handlers take a grown-up sport in stride

By **JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Fenric Towell isn't nervous about his first time competing at the nation's top dog show. After all, he's heading to the Westminster Kennel Club ring this week with 100-plus shows under his belt, a record of wins and a champion Lakeland terrier.

So what if he's only 11?

"I'm going to try to think of it as a normal show," the Oklahoma City boy says. "I just try to focus on the highest place that I can get."

Westminster is best known for the dog that will be crowned best in show Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden. As judging began Monday night, a borzoi named Lucy won the hound group, a pug dubbed Biggie won the toy group and a bichon frise called Flynn took the nonsporting group. Slick, a border collie,

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won the herding group.

But the event is also a showcase for youngsters who can handle both dogs and grown-up competition.

While there's a special contest for junior handlers, many also exhibit their dogs in the breed judging that goes toward best in show. They go up against adults in an atmosphere that prizes poise and formality.

"It's hard because they're top people, and we're just kids," says Faith Rogers, 14, of Bordentown, New Jersey, now at her fourth Westminster. But when she started showing dogs at age 9, she decided: "This is what I love, and I didn't really care if there were older people or not."

Or, as twin sister Emma puts it, "Let's just show 'em what we got."

Dogs ranging from wee Chihuahuas to rangy Irish wolfhounds showed what they've got in Monday night's group judging, helped by adult handlers.

Lucy "knows when there's a big stage," said handler Valerie Nunes-Atkinson. Handlers, meanwhile, need to "go Zen" so their dogs won't pick up jitters, Bill McFadden said after leading Flynn.

Slick has won best of breed previously at Westminster, but Monday's herding group win "means a lot to us," handler Jamie Clute said.

Biggie's handler, Esteban Farias, called the dog "a dream come true" after a tragedy: a previous pug pal suddenly died during a routine walk.

About 5,000 junior handlers nationwide are registered with the American Kennel Club, a governing body for Westminster and many other dog shows. Young handlers also can compete through 4-H and other kennel clubs.

AKC "junior showmanship" competitions are open to youngsters ages 9 to 18. They're judged on their presentation, not their dogs' particulars.

But there's no age minimum for handlers in the breed rings, a point driven home to Thanksgiving Day TV watchers who saw (emphasis on the "awwww") 6-year-old Mackenzie Huston and her long-coat Chihuahua in a semifinal round at the Kennel Club of Philadelphia's National Dog Show.

Mackenzie sometimes feels scared as she waits to show. But "when I get in the ring, I don't feel nervous," says the now 7-year-old girl from Bellmawr, New Jersey.

She isn't going to Westminster — yet — but super-young handlers have shown there, including then-7-year-old Raina McCloskey last year (with a borzoi, no less.)

Westminster's 95 junior invitees are "very competitive, they're very talented and very, very good," show chairman David Helming said. Westminster is boosting its top juniors' prize, a scholarship, from \$6,000 to \$10,000 this year. The eight finalists all get some education money.

Dog showing requires an investment of money and, particularly, time. Junior handlers can spend hours per week training, grooming and exercising their dogs, weekends traveling to shows and years balancing it all with school, other activities and friends.

All that to don dress clothes and notch accomplishments many of their peers can't quite understand. ("You're running around in a circle with dogs?")

But young handlers say it's worth it for the bond they develop with their animals.

"You go and spend time with your best friend," says Emma Rogers, who's returning to Westminster as a 2016 juniors finalist (older sister Sophia won).

Juniors come away with human friends all over the country, plus an education in animal behavior and patient teamwork.

"You have to be very resilient," says Erin LaPlante, 17, of Caledonia, Wisconsin. "You're going to lose far more than you're going to win, but you learn far more than you win."

About five years after her dog show debut ended in tears, she won juniors at the AKC National Championship in December and is returning to Westminster. So is sister Maren, 13.

Their family had never shown dogs before Erin started, at the suggestion of their Doberman's breeder. Molly Anne Forsyth, on the other hand, comes from two generations of breeders of greyhound-like Salukis. But "we trust each other even more from showing together," says the 16-year-old from Davis, California.

For parents, the sport requires acclimating to the occasional double take when a 6-year-old uses the word "bitch" —appropriately, for a female dog — plus a lot of driving and helping out.

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"I can dress a little boy in a suit in my sleep," laughs Alysha Towell. Her daughter and six of her seven sons, including Fenric, either show dogs or soon will.

Cortlund, 17, was a juniors finalist at Westminster last year, earning a turn in the big ring at Madison Square Garden. He placed fourth and is returning this year.

"It's not like any other sport," he says. "If you play soccer or football and quit, they can live without you. You can't quit on a dog."

Asian shares lifted by Wall Street rally, China leads gains

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian shares tracked an overnight rally on Wall Street, with China leading Tuesday's gains.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 jumped 1.0 percent to 21,595.81 and South Korea's Kospi rose 1.5 percent to 2,420.05. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index surged 2.2 percent to 30,108.75 and the Shanghai Composite Index advanced 1.8 percent to 3,212.01. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.6 percent to 5,854.60. Share benchmarks in Southeast Asia and New Zealand were all higher.

ANALYST'S TAKE: A key question is whether the correction has already hit bottom, said Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG. "Nevertheless, the worst is likely not over for this week for the simple reason that we have U.S. CPI sitting as a mammoth event risk this week," said Pan, referring to the Wednesday release of U.S. consumer price index data for January.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks finished higher on Monday. The Standard & Poor's 500, the benchmark for many index funds, gained 1.4 percent to 2,656. The Dow climbed 1.7 percent to 24,601.27 and the Nasdaq composite advanced 1.6 percent to 6,981.96. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks rose 0.9 percent to 1,490.98.

WHERE THINGS STAND: Investors remain wary of turbulence. It took just nine days for stocks to plunge 10 percent from their latest peak, which was reached on Jan. 26. A drop of that size is known on Wall Street as a market "correction." According to LPL Financial, it was the swiftest move from a record high to a correction in the history of the S&P 500. The index rose 1.5 percent Friday but still wound up with its worst weekly loss in more than two years.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 40 cents to \$59.69 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 9 cents to \$59.29 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, advanced 43 cents to \$63.03 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 108.68 yen from 108.66 yen. The euro rose to \$1.2293 from \$1.2289.

Senate GOP, Dem leaders say it's time for immigration deal

By **ALAN FRAM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate's two top leaders put on a show of comradery Monday as their chamber launched its immigration debate, but also laid down markers underscoring how hard it will be to reach a deal that can move through Congress.

"We really do get along, despite what you read in the press," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., at a previously scheduled appearance alongside his counterpart, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., at the University of Louisville.

There was even ribbing when Schumer presented McConnell with a bottle of bourbon made in his home New York City borough of Brooklyn. McConnell, whose state knows a thing or two about bourbon, proclaimed, "There's no such thing as Brooklyn bourbon."

But just days after the two leaders brokered a bipartisan \$400 billion budget agreement and helped shepherd it into law, both men made clear that an immigration agreement will be tough.

"The time for political posturing is behind us," McConnell said later Monday on the Senate floor. He said while Democrats have called for "swift action" on immigration, "Now's the time to back up the talk with

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the hard work of finding a solution.”

That, he pointedly said, would mean passage by the Senate and the House of a measure “which the president will sign.”

McConnell expressed his support for a wide-ranging proposal by President Donald Trump that the Senate is expected to vote on this week. It would pave a path to citizenship for up to 1.8 million young “Dreamer” immigrants in the U.S. illegally, a lure for Democrats that many Republicans oppose.

Trump also wants \$25 billion for Trump’s border wall with Mexico and other security measures, as well as curbs on legal immigration — a must for many Republicans. Many Democrats consider some of the proposals, including limiting the relatives that legal immigrants can bring to the U.S., to be non-starters.

In his own remarks on the Senate floor, Schumer expressed opposition to such a sweeping approach.

“The only enemy here is overreach,” Schumer said. “Now is not the time nor the place to reform the entire legal immigration system. Rather, this is the time for a narrow bill” — which Democrats have said would help the Dreamers and provide some money for border security.

The comments came as the Senate voted 97-1 — Ted Cruz, R-Texas, provided the sole “no” vote — to plunge into an open-ended immigration debate that’s been promised by McConnell. Both parties’ leaders hope debate can be concluded this week, but it’s unclear if that will happen or what the product, if any, will be.

“This is going to be done or not done this week,” No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas told reporters.

Lawmakers’ focus will be the Dreamers, hundreds of thousands of young immigrants who have lived in the U.S. illegally since being brought here as children.

They had been given temporary protection from deportation by President Barack Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. Trump has said he’ll end that program March 5, though a federal court has temporarily blocked him from scuttling it.

Trump’s overall immigration plan, opposed by many Democrats, stands little chance of prevailing because any measure will need 60 votes. That means proposals will need substantial bipartisan support since the GOP majority is 51-49, and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has been absent in recent weeks battling cancer.

Highlighting the partisan gap, there was plenty of finger-pointing Monday.

Trump put the onus on Democrats, saying, “I hope the Democrats are not going to use it just as a campaign” issue.

No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Dick Durbin of Illinois said the key impediment to a bipartisan deal was Trump’s history of switching positions on the issue.

“Nailing the president down has been next to impossible,” he said.

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking in Washington and Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this report.

Grand Canyon copter crashed on tribal land with fewer rules

By **FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press**

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A helicopter crash that killed three British tourists and left four others critically injured happened on tribal land in the Grand Canyon where air tours are not as highly regulated as those inside the national park.

The group of friends was in Las Vegas to celebrate a birthday and took a helicopter sightseeing tour of the Grand Canyon on the Hualapai reservation, family and friends said. Killed were veterinary receptionist Becky Dobson, 27; her boyfriend Stuart Hill, a 30-year-old car salesman; and his brother, Jason Hill, a 32-year-old lawyer.

Unlike the national park, air tours on the Hualapai reservation are not subject to federal regulations that restrict routes, impose curfews and cap the amount of flights over the Grand Canyon each year. The Federal Aviation Administration granted the Hualapai Tribe an exemption nearly two decades ago after

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finding that the regulations would harm the tribe's economy where tourism is a major driver.

Most of the flights over the reservation originate from Las Vegas, and air tour operators aggressively market them. The pilots can fly between canyon walls and land at the bottom next to the Colorado River on the reservation, which isn't allowed at the park other than for emergency operations.

Landing pads sit upstream and downstream from where the copter owned by Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters crashed Saturday, constantly ferrying people on and off aircraft.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating what led to the crash in a remote area where rescuers had to fly in, hike to the site and use night-vision goggles to find their way around, Hualapai Nation police Chief Francis Bradley said. Windy conditions and the rugged terrain made it difficult to reach the wreckage.

The flight left Boulder City, Nevada, destined for Quartermaster Canyon near the west rim of the Grand Canyon, NTSB lead investigator Stephen Stein said Monday. The air tour pilots there operate off a common frequency, talking to each other and explaining their direction, though it's not mandatory, he said.

The agency won't say with any certainty what caused the crash until its investigative report is released in a year and a half to two years. The NTSB generally releases preliminary information about a week after investigators wrap up work at the site.

Papillon said it is cooperating with the investigation and abides by flight safety rules that exceed those required by the FAA. A company spokeswoman did not respond to requests for more information Monday.

Hualapai tribal leaders said Monday that they're halting helicopter tours at the canyon for now and are working with federal investigators to "find out exactly what happened here, in what marks the first such incident to claim the life of a passenger at the West Rim in 15 years."

Aviation attorney Gary C. Robb said potential factors were winds of 10 mph (16 kph) with gusts of 20 mph (32 kph), pilot error, mechanical failure or pressure within the company to meet the demand for tours.

"You can replace a helicopter. You can't replace those three lives that were lost," he said. "The irony here is it was to be a joyful, fun experience and it ended in the worst possible fashion — in death and serious injury."

Robb said the EC-130 helicopter flown Saturday generally lacks a system to keep it from exploding, denying passengers a few extra minutes to try to escape.

Stein said the NTSB would be looking closely into the aircraft components.

Flights into the canyon outside the national park were restricted Monday, and Stein said they were expected to resume in the next few days under the direction of the FAA.

FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Investigators hope to speak to the four survivors as they begin to recover from critical injuries, Stein said.

The pilot, 42-year-old Scott Booth, suffered a limb injury, tribal police said. The other survivors from the United Kingdom are: Ellie Milward, 29; Jonathan Udall, 32; and Jennifer Barham, 39.

Dobson's father, Peter, told Britain's Press Association news agency that his daughter and Stuart Hill "were really happy together" and they were celebrating his 30th birthday with friends.

"They were always going out and doing things, just enjoyed being with each other," he said. "The whole thing is just terrible."

The brothers' father, the Rev. David Hill, said his sons were "incredibly close."

"The two brothers loved each other and were very close, and so our misfortune is their support — because they went together, and I will thank God every day for them," he said.

Associated Press writers Jill Lawless in London and Regina Garcia Cano in Boulder City, Nevada, contributed to this report.

Vanessa Trump taken to hospital after white powder scare

By JAKE PEARSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump Jr.'s wife was taken to a New York City hospital on Monday as a precaution after she opened an envelope addressed to her husband that contained an unidentified white powder, though police later said the substance wasn't dangerous, authorities said.

The frightening episode happened after 10 a.m. when Trump, 40, opened the letter addressed to the president's son at her mother's midtown Manhattan apartment, investigators said. She called 911 and said she was coughing and felt nauseous, police said.

"Thankful that Vanessa & my children are safe and unharmed after the incredibly scary situation that occurred this morning," Donald Trump Jr. wrote on Twitter. "Truly disgusting that certain individuals choose to express their opposing views with such disturbing behavior."

The New York Fire Department said it treated three patients who were then taken to a hospital for evaluation.

Police said the envelope contained a letter but provided no other details.

Detectives from the New York Police Department's intelligence division and Secret Service agents were investigating.

Secret Service Special Agent Jeffrey Adams said in a statement that agents were investigating "a suspicious package addressed to one of our protectees" in New York but said he couldn't comment further.

Vanessa Trump, a former model, and Donald Trump Jr. have five children, none of whom were home at the time of the incident.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that the president spoke by phone to Vanessa Trump about the incident.

Later, the Republican president's daughter-in-law posted a tweet thanking New York's police and fire departments, the FBI and the Secret Service for their help.

"I appreciate all the quick response to make sure that I was safe! Thank you," she wrote.

The Trump family has had to deal with a number of similar scares.

In March 2016, police detectives and FBI agents investigated a threatening letter sent to the Manhattan apartment of Donald Trump Jr.'s brother, Eric, that also contained a white powder that turned out to be harmless. Envelopes containing white powder were also sent to Trump Tower, which served as Trump's campaign headquarters, twice in 2016.

Hoax attacks using white powder play on fears that date to 2001, when letters containing deadly anthrax were mailed to news organizations and the offices of two U.S. senators. Those letters killed five people.

⁻⁻⁻
This story has been corrected to show the envelope was sent to Vanessa Trump's mother's apartment, not hers.

North Korea leader impressed with South's delegation welcome

By YOUKYUNG LEE, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Tuesday it is important to continue a reconciliatory mood between the Koreas and expressed satisfaction with the North Korean delegation's visit to the South, in his first remarks since the high-level guests led by his sister returned to the North.

The North's state-owned Korean Central News Agency reported that Kim was impressed with Seoul's welcome and treatment of the high-level delegation. He expressed gratitude to the South for "making their possible and sincere efforts" for their guests from the North.

Kim emphasized the importance of continuing dialogue between two Koreas, according to the North's official news agency.

North Korea sent its nominal head of state and Kim's sister Kim Yo Jong, who extended an invitation to South Korean President Moon Jae-in to visit Pyongyang for a summit in the near future.

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Moon didn't immediately accept the North Korean offer.

He said the Koreans should create an environment so that a meeting of the two leaders could take place. He also called for a quick resumption of dialogue between North Korea and the United States, apparently aware that being friendly with the North could alienate an American ally critical to the defense of the South.

The North delegation returned home Sunday night. During a three-day visit, the delegation members sat among world dignitaries including the U.S. Vice President Mike Pence at the opening ceremony of Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games, had lunch with Moon at his presidential palace and joined Moon in cheering for the first-ever inter-Korean Olympic team as it debuted in the women's ice hockey tournament.

The North Koreans were the subject of intense media scrutiny during their busy schedule visiting Seoul and the Olympic towns of Pyeongchang and Gangneung.

South Koreans were especially fascinated by Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong, who seemed relaxed and smiled most of the time.

The 30 year-old, an increasingly prominent figure in her older brother's government, was the North's first ruling family to visit the South since the end of the Korean War.

South Korean media closely documented every move and gesture of the North Korean leader's younger sister, commenting on everything from the purse she carried to her writing style in a message she left in the presidential palace guest book.

An hour before the North Korean news agency report, Pence declared that the U.S. is open for talks without preconditions with nuclear North Korea, in a subtle shift in White House policy.

The vice president's remarks provided a little more leverage for South Korea in its path-finding outreach to the North and could reduce potential strains in the U.S.-South Korean alliance.

But diplomacy between Washington and Pyongyang won't start unless Kim Jong Un wants it to.

While the North Korean dictator, who has yet to meet a foreign leader, has invited the South Korean president for a rare summit, Kim has given no sign of being ready to talk to the U.S.

Trump's budget balloons deficits, cuts social safety net

By **ANDREW TAYLOR** and **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.4 trillion budget plan Monday that envisions steep cuts to America's social safety net but mounting spending on the military, formally retreating from last year's promises to balance the federal budget.

The president's spending outline for the first time acknowledges that the Republican tax overhaul passed last year would add billions to the deficit and not "pay for itself" as Trump and his Republican allies asserted. If enacted as proposed, though no presidential budget ever is, the plan would establish an era of \$1 trillion-plus yearly deficits.

The open embrace of red ink is a remarkable public reversal for Trump and his party, which spent years objecting to President Barack Obama's increased spending during the depths of the Great Recession. Rhetoric aside, however, Trump's pattern is in line with past Republican presidents who have overseen spikes in deficits as they simultaneously increased military spending and cut taxes.

"We're going to have the strongest military we've ever had, by far," Trump said in an Oval Office appearance Monday. "In this budget we took care of the military like it's never been taken care of before."

Trump's budget revived his calls for big cuts to domestic programs that benefit the poor and middle class, such as food stamps, housing subsidies and student loans. Retirement benefits would remain mostly untouched by Trump's plan, as he has pledged, though Medicare providers would absorb about \$500 billion in cuts — a nearly 6 percent reduction. Some beneficiaries in Social Security's disability program would have to re-enter the workforce under proposed changes to eligibility rules.

While all presidents' budgets are essentially dead on arrival — Congress writes and enacts its own spending legislation — Trump's plan was dead before it landed. It came just three days after the president signed a bipartisan agreement that set broad parameters for spending over the next two years. That deal, which includes large increases for domestic programs, rendered Monday's Trump plan for 10-year, \$1.7

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trillion cuts to domestic agencies such as the departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development even more unrealistic.

The White House used Monday's event to promote its long-awaited plan to increase funding for infrastructure. The plan would put up \$200 billion in federal money over the next 10 years in hopes of leveraging a total of \$1.5 trillion in infrastructure spending, relying on state and local governments and the private sector to contribute the bulk of the funding.

But after his aides talked up that plan over the weekend, Trump suggested that his infrastructure proposal wasn't a big deal for him.

"If for any reason, they don't want to support to it, hey, that's going to be up to them," he said of the Republican-controlled Congress. "What was very important to me was the military; what was very important to me was the tax cuts."

Trump also is proposing work requirements for several federal programs, including housing subsidies, food stamps and Medicaid. Such ideas have backing from powerful figures in Congress including Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, who promises action on a "workforce development" agenda this year.

There was immediate opposition from Democrats.

"The Trump budget proposal makes clear his desire to enact massive cuts to health care, anti-poverty programs and investments in economic growth to blunt the deficit-exploding impact of his tax cuts for millionaires and corporations," said Rep. John Yarmuth of Kentucky, the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

Some Republicans, on the other hand, said spending was much too high.

"This budget continues too much of Washington's wasteful spending — it does not balance in ten years, and it creates a deficit of over a trillion dollars next year," said Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida. "We cannot steal from America's future to pay for spending today

Trump's plan aims at other familiar targets. It would eliminate the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The administration wants NASA out of the International Space Station by 2025 and private businesses running the place instead.

But the domestic cuts would be far from enough to make up for the plummeting tax revenue projected in the budget.

Trump's plan sees a 2019 deficit of \$984 billion, though White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney admits \$1.2 trillion is more plausible after last week's congressional budget pact and \$90 billion worth of disaster aid is tacked on. That would be more than double the 2019 deficit the administration promised last year.

All told, the new budget sees accumulating deficits of \$7.2 trillion over the coming decade; Trump's plan last year projected a 10-year shortfall of \$3.2 trillion. And that's assuming Trump's rosy economic predictions come true and Congress follows through — in an election year — with politically toxic cuts to social programs, farm subsidies and Medicare providers.

Last year Trump's budget promised such ideas could generate a small budget surplus by 2027; now, his best-case scenario is for a \$450 billion deficit that year, more than \$300 billion of which can be traced to his December tax cut.

In stark numbers, the budget rewrites the administration's talking points for last year's tax plan, which administration figures such as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin promised would more than pay for itself.

"Not only will this tax plan pay for itself, but it will pay down debt," Mnuchin declared in September.

Instead, Trump's budget projects that tax revenues will plummet by \$3.7 trillion over the 2018-27 decade relative to last year's "baseline" estimates.

The budget also includes \$1.6 billion for the second stage of Trump's proposed border wall, a 65-mile segment in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. Trump's request last year for 74 miles of wall in San Diego and the Rio Grande Valley is pending before lawmakers right now.

Once again, there's no mention of how Mexico would have to pay for it, as Trump repeatedly promised during the presidential campaign and after his victory.

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"This will meaningfully raise the odds that after juiced-up growth in 2018 and 2019, we will get a much weaker economy, possibly a recession in the next decade," Zandi said. "In good times, budget policy should be working to get the deficits down because bad times are sure to come."

Workers comb snowy field for clues to Russian plane crash

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Wading through knee-deep snow, hundreds of emergency workers searched a vast field near Moscow on Monday for remains of the 71 victims from the crash of a Russian airliner, and aviation experts began deciphering the jet's two flight recorders.

Investigators quickly ruled out a terrorist attack in Sunday's crash of the An-148 regional jet bound for Orsk in the southern Urals. The air disaster has reignited questions, however, about the twin-engine plane that was developed jointly by Russia and Ukraine but phased out of production amid the political crisis between the neighbors.

The model has a spotty safety record, with one previous crash and a string of major incidents in which pilots struggled to land safely. The carrier, Saratov Airlines, has grounded several other An-148s in its fleet pending the crash investigation.

The plane crashed several minutes after taking off from Moscow's Domodedovo airport, and all 65 passengers and the crew of six were killed when the aircraft hit the ground and exploded in a giant fireball.

The Investigative Committee, Russia's top agency for looking into such disasters, said that before the crash, the plane was intact and there had been no fire on board. Officials would not speculate on possible causes.

The plane's fuel tanks exploded on impact, gouging a deep crater and scattering wreckage across 30 hectares (74 acres), according to the Emergencies Ministry, which used drones to direct the search. Pieces of the plane and human remains were buried in deep snow; some debris was found in nearby trees.

Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich told a Cabinet meeting that emergency teams found both flight data and cockpit voice recorders, which will be significant to determining the cause of the crash. Investigators said they have started working on them.

President Vladimir Putin put off a planned trip to Sochi and stayed in Moscow to monitor the investigation Monday. The Kremlin said U.S. President Donald Trump called Putin to express his condolences.

Officials said the search for victims' remains will take a week. The passengers ranged in age from 5 to 79, according to a list from the Emergencies Ministry. Most victims were from Orsk, where authorities declared Monday to be an official day of mourning.

Saratov Airlines said the jet had received proper maintenance and passed all the necessary checks before the flight. The plane was built in 2010 for a different airline that operated it for several years before putting it in storage. Saratov Airlines commissioned it last year.

The captain had more than 5,000 hours of flying time, 2,800 of them in an An-148, the airline said. The other pilot had 812 hours of experience, largely in that model.

Another Russian operator that uses the plane, Angara, based in eastern Siberia, said it would keep flying them. The Defense Ministry and other government agencies that also use the aircraft haven't grounded them either.

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President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine also has used that model of plane for some of his trips.

The An-148, developed by Ukraine's Antonov company in the early 2000s, once was touted as an example of Russian-Ukrainian cooperation, but it fell into trouble as relations between the two countries unraveled following Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

Most of about 40 such planes built under the cooperative agreement were manufactured by a Russian manufacturer in Voronezh, with Ukraine providing the engines and many other components.

Its production in Russia was halted last year, and media reports indicated that some carriers, including Saratov Airlines, experienced a shortage of spare parts. Some airlines reportedly had to cannibalize planes to keep others airworthy.

Alexander Neradko, the head of Rosaviatsiya, the state agency overseeing civil aviation, said it will make a detailed scrutiny of Saratov Airlines' operations, but he added that the company had a decent record.

Some regional carriers in Russia reportedly have cut corners on servicing aircraft.

Pilot Andrei Litvinov told independent Dozhd TV that the government should help smaller carriers that are struggling to stay in business.

"They are trying to save money on maintaining their planes to prevent going under," he said.

One An-148 crashed during a training flight in Russia in March 2011, killing all six crew members on board. Investigators blamed pilot error.

In 2010, another An-148 operated by a Russian carrier suffered a major failure of its control system, but its crew managed to land safely.

In September, one engine of a Saratov Airlines An-148 shut down minutes after takeoff, but it landed safely. And in October, another An-148 that belonged to a different Russian carrier suffered an engine fire on takeoff but also managed to land. Engine shutdowns have occurred on several other occasions.

The last major airline crash in Russia occurred on Dec. 25, 2016, when a Tu-154 operated by the Defense Ministry on its way to Syria crashed into the Black Sea minutes after takeoff from Sochi. All 92 people aboard were killed. The investigation into that crash is ongoing, but officials have indicated it was due to pilot error.

Obama jokes he failed to get artist to give him smaller ears

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Barack Obama speaks, people listen. At least they did when he was in the White House. But that kind of authority didn't hold much sway when it came time for his presidential portrait.

At a ceremony Monday to unveil portraits of him and former first lady Michelle Obama, the former president said artist Kehinde Wiley cheerfully ignored almost all of his suggestions.

"He listened very thoughtfully to what I had to say before doing exactly what he always intended to do," he said. "I tried to negotiate less gray hair, but Kehinde's artistic integrity would not allow it. I tried to negotiate smaller ears and struck out on that as well."

The final product depicts Obama sitting in a straight-backed chair, leaning forward and looking serious while surrounded by greenery and flowers. Michelle Obama's portrait, painted by Amy Sherald, shows her in a black and white dress looking thoughtful with her hand on her chin.

Both artists were personally chosen by the Obamas.

The portraits will now hang in the National Portrait Gallery, which is part of the Smithsonian group of museums. The gallery has a complete collection of presidential portraits. A different set of portraits of the former first couple will eventually hang in the White House.

"I am humbled, I am honored, I am proud," Michelle Obama said. "Young people, particularly girls and girls of color, in future years they will come to this place and see someone who looks like them hanging on the walls of this incredible institution."

Barack Obama spoke of his choice of Wiley, saying the two men shared multiple parallels in their upbringing; both had African fathers who were largely absent from their lives and American mothers who

raised them.

The former president drew multiple laughs from the audience for his remarks, starting out by praising Sherald for capturing, "the grace and beauty and charm and hotness of the woman that I love."

Obama said he found the process of sitting for the portrait to be a frustrating experience.

"I don't like posing. I get impatient and start looking at my watch," he said, "but working with Kehinde was a great joy."

Wiley said the depiction of Obama surrounded by greenery and flowers was meant to "chart his path on earth" through the choice of flowers. The painting includes chrysanthemums, which are the official flower of Chicago; jasmine to evoke Hawaii, where Obama largely grew up; and African blue lilies to honor Obama's Kenyan father.

"Being the first African-American painter to paint the first African-American president, it doesn't get any better than that," he said.

The portraits drew wildly divergent reactions on Twitter and elsewhere, with the hashtag #obamaportraits trending throughout the day.

Obama opponents took the opportunity to take shots at the former president and digitally edit Make America Great Again hats onto the portrait. Others dug into Wiley's previous body of work and found a pair of racially charged paintings that showed black women holding the severed heads of white women.

Among Obama supporters online, there was a bit of grumbling that Michelle Obama's portrait didn't resemble her enough, but the overall tone was of how much people missed having the Obamas in the White House.

Trump says 'OK with me' if plan to rebuild roads funders

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump sent Congress a sweeping plan Monday to rebuild the nation's depleted roads and bridges — then immediately raised doubts about how committed he was to delivering on that campaign promise.

"If you want it badly, you're going to get it," Trump told state and local officials during a meeting at the White House. "And if you don't want it, that's OK with me too."

Trump suggested that his proposal — aimed at spurring \$1.5 trillion in spending over a decade — was not as important to him as other recent administration efforts to cut taxes and boost military spending.

"If for any reason, they don't want to support to it, hey, that's going to be up to them," Trump said of the Republican-controlled Congress. "What was very important to me was the military, what was very important to me was the tax cuts, and what was very important to me was regulation."

Speaking of infrastructure, Trump added: "This is of great importance, but it's not nearly in that category. Because the states will have to do it themselves if we don't do it. But I would like to help the states out."

The administration's plan is centered on using \$200 billion in federal money to leverage more than \$1 trillion in local and state tax dollars to fix America's infrastructure, such as roads, highways, ports and airports. The administration released a 55-page "legislative outline" for lawmakers who will write the legislation.

With the plan heavily dependent on state and local dollars, Democrats warned it would raise tolls on commuters, sell off government-owned infrastructure to Wall Street and eliminate critical environmental protections.

The proposal lists Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Dulles International Airport as examples of assets that could be sold. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., warned that the proposal included studying whether the Tennessee Valley Authority, the nation's largest public utility, should sell its transmission assets. He called it "a looney idea" with "zero chance of becoming law."

"After a full year of empty boasts, the president has finally unveiled a puny infrastructure scam that fully fails to meet the need in America's communities," said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

Convening a roomful of state and local leaders, Trump listened as governors and mayors pitched individual projects in their states and described the challenges involved with gaining federal permits.

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"It seems to me that the pyramids in Egypt were built faster than some of the projects that we're contemplating," said Esteban Bovo, chairman of the Miami-Dade County Commission in Florida.

Trump vowed repeatedly that the federal permitting process would be streamlined but said it would be up to state and local leaders to ensure that local permits don't hold up worthy projects.

"Washington will no longer be a roadblock to progress. Washington will now be your partner," Trump said.

During the meeting, the former real estate developer revealed in his past life as a builder, pointing to his 1980s completion of a troubled renovation of Wollman Rink in New York City's Central Park.

When a local official from Pennsylvania noted plans to add connections for an interstate highway — estimated to cost more than \$500 million — Trump was blunt. "Get the price down a little bit," he said to laughter.

"To me this is a very, very sexy subject," Trump said. "The media doesn't find it sexy. I find it sexy because I was always a builder, I always knew how to build on time, on budget."

The proposal features two key components: an injection of funding for new investments and to speed up repairs of crumbling roads and airports, as well as a streamlined permitting process that would reduce the wait time to get projects under way. Officials said the \$200 billion in federal support would come from cuts to existing programs.

Half the money would go to grants for transportation, water, flood control, cleanup at some of the country's most polluted sites and other projects.

States, local governments and other project sponsors could use the grants — which administration officials cast as incentives — to cover no more than 20 percent of the costs. Transit agencies generally count on the federal government for half the cost of major construction projects, and federal dollars can make up as much as 80 percent of some highway projects.

About \$50 billion would go toward rural projects — transportation, broadband, water, waste, power, flood management and ports. That is intended to address criticism from some Republican senators that the administration's initial emphasis on public-private partnerships would do little to help rural, GOP-leaning states.

The remaining federal dollars include: \$20 billion for expanded loan programs and private bonds, \$20 billion for "transformative projects" that seen as visionary and \$10 billion for a capital financing fund and office-building by the federal government.

"This plan recognizes what everyone in America knows firsthand: America's infrastructure is in disrepair, and it's long past time we start building again," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.

Associated Press writer Kevin Freking in Washington and Jonathan Mattise in Nashville, Tenn., contributed reporting.

Follow Thomas on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@KThomasDC>

Satellites show warming is accelerating sea level rise

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Melting ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica are speeding up the already fast pace of sea level rise, new satellite research shows.

At the current rate, the world's oceans on average will be at least 2 feet (61 centimeters) higher by the end of the century compared to today, according to researchers who published in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences.

Sea level rise is caused by warming of the ocean and melting from glaciers and ice sheets. The research, based on 25 years of satellite data, shows that pace has quickened, mainly from the melting of massive ice sheets. It confirms scientists' computer simulations and is in line with predictions from the United Nations, which releases regular climate change reports.

"It's a big deal" because the projected sea level rise is a conservative estimate and it is likely to be higher, said lead author Steve Nerem of the University of Colorado.

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Outside scientists said even small changes in sea levels can lead to flooding and erosion. "Any flooding concerns that coastal communities have for 2100 may occur over the next few decades," Oregon State University coastal flooding expert Katy Serafin said in an email.

Of the 3 inches (7.5 centimeters) of sea level rise in the past quarter century, about 55 percent is from warmer water expanding, and the rest is from melting ice.

But the process is accelerating, and more than three-quarters of that acceleration since 1993 is due to melting ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica, the study shows.

Like weather and climate, there are two factors in sea level rise: year-to-year small rises and falls that are caused by natural events and larger long-term rising trends that are linked to man-made climate change. Nerem's team removed the natural effects of the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption that temporarily chilled Earth and the climate phenomena El Nino and La Nina, and found the accelerating trend.

Sea level rise, more than temperature, is a better gauge of climate change in action, said Anny Cazenave, director of Earth science at the International Space Science Institute in France, who edited the study. Cazenave is one of the pioneers of space-based sea level research.

Global sea levels were stable for about 3,000 years until the 20th century when they rose and then accelerated due to global warming caused by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, said climate scientist Stefan Rahmstorf of the Potsdam Institute in Germany, who wasn't part of the study.

Two feet of sea level rise by the end of the century "would have big effects on places like Miami and New Orleans, but I don't still view that as catastrophic" because those cities can survive — at great expense — that amount of rising seas under normal situations, Nerem said.

But when a storm hits like 2012's Superstorm Sandy, sea level rise on top of storm surge can lead to record-setting damages, researchers said.

Some scientists at the American Geophysical Union meeting last year said Antarctica may be melting faster than predicted by Monday's study.

Greenland has caused three times more sea level rise than Antarctica so far, but ice melt on the southern continent is responsible for more of the acceleration.

"Antarctica seems less stable than we thought a few years ago," Rutgers climate scientist Robert Kopp said.

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

Daughter: Popular crooner Vic Damone dies in Florida at 89

By JENNIFER KAY and BOB THOMAS, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Vic Damone, whose mellow baritone once earned praise from Frank Sinatra as "the best pipes in the business," has died in Florida at the age of 89, his daughter said.

Victoria Damone told The Associated Press in a phone interview Monday that her father died Sunday at a Miami Beach hospital from complications of a respiratory illness.

Damone's easy-listening romantic ballads brought him million-selling records and sustained a half-century career in recordings, movies and nightclub, concert and television appearances.

Damone's career began climbing in the 1940s after he won a tie on the radio show "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Hunt." His hit singles included "Again," "You're Breaking My Heart," "My Heart Cries for You," "On the Street Where You Live" and, in 1957, the title song of the Cary Grant film "An Affair to Remember."

Damone's style as a lounge singer remained constant through the years: straightforward, concentrated on melody and lyrics without resorting to vocal gimmicks. Like many young singers of his era, he idolized Sinatra.

"I tried to mimic him," Damone said in a 1992 interview with Newsday. "I decided that if I could sound like Frank maybe I did have a chance. I was singing his words, breathing his breaths, (doing) his interpretation, with the high notes, the synergy."

Sinatra and Damone, along with Tony Bennett, Perry Como, Dean Martin and others, formed a group of

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Italian Americans who dominated the postwar pop music field. And far from resenting the mimicry, Sinatra praised Damone's singing ability.

Born Vito Farinola in Brooklyn, New York, on June 12, 1928 to immigrants from Bari, Italy, Damone dropped out of high school after his father, an electrician, was injured on the job.

Damone adopted his mother's maiden name when he began his career, after catching an early break while working as an usher at the Paramount Theater in New York City, according to a family statement.

The 14-year-old bumped into Perry Como in an elevator at the theater, stopped it between floors, and started singing. Then he asked Como whether he should continue voice lessons, and Como said simply, "Keep singing!" and referred him to a local bandleader.

Damone still drew crowds in nightclubs and concerts into his 70s, before illness prompted his retirement to Palm Beach with his fifth wife, fashion designer Rena Rowan.

Damone appeared in several MGM musicals and he was originally cast in "The Godfather," but the role of a budding singer seeking mob help in a Hollywood career eventually went to Al Martino.

He wrote in his memoir, "Singing Was the Easy Part," that he never considered himself a showman like Milton Berle or Sammy Davis Jr.

"That wasn't my particular gift," he wrote. "My gift was singing."

In 1954, Damone married the Italian actress Pier Angeli, after her mother refused to allow her to marry James Dean. The couple had a son and named him Perry before divorcing in 1959.

Marriages to actress Judy Rawlins, with whom he had three daughters, and Houston socialite Becky Ann Jones also ended in divorce. In 1987, Damone and actress-singer Diahann Carroll married after a long romance, and they paired for night club and concert tours. They divorced in 1996.

Rowan died in November 2016.

Damone is survived by two sisters, his three daughters and six grandchildren.

The late Associated Press writer Bob Thomas in Los Angeles contributed to this report before his death in 2014.

The Latest: Luge win keeps Germany atop gold medal standings

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — The Latest on the Pyeongchang Olympics (all times local):
12:20 a.m.

Chloe Kim's win in the women's halfpipe final was the early highlight before attention moved to Alpine skiing and Marcel Hirscher's victory in the men's combined. Tuesday finished with a rush of six gold medals.

Canadian curlers Kaitlyn Lawes and John Morris won gold in the debut of mixed doubles, Kjeld Nuis led a Dutch double in the men's 1,500-meter speedskating final, Italian short-track speedskater Arianna Fontana won the women's 500 meters in a photo finish and Natalie Geisenberger successfully defended her women's luge title in a 1-2 finish for Germany. In the cross-country sprints, Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo of Norway won the men's gold medal shortly after Stina Nilsson of Sweden won the women's race.

Germany led the gold medal standings with five by the end of the day's competition, one ahead of Netherlands and two clear of Norway, Canada and the United States.

11:20 p.m.

American Jocelyne-Lamoureux Davidson has set the Olympic hockey record for the fastest consecutive goals by a man or woman, helping the United States shut out the Russians 5-0. Lamoureux-Davidson scored 6 seconds apart in the second period.

According to the International Ice Hockey Federation, that topped not only the mark previously held by Caroline Oullette of Canada at 16 seconds in 2006 against Italy in Turin but also the men's mark of 8 seconds apart set by Carl Goran Oberg of Sweden in 1960 at Squaw Valley.

A three-time Olympian, Lamoureux-Davidson also had an assist on the United States' first goal by Kacey Bellamy. Lamoureux-Davidson started a three-goal second. Gigi Marvin and Hannah Brandt each had a goal.

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Up next for the Americans is an early showdown with their biggest rival on Thursday against Canada to wrap up the preliminary round.

10:35 p.m.

Five more cases of norovirus have been reported at the Pyeongchang Olympics, bringing the total confirmed cases to 199 since the beginning of the month.

Of the new cases reported Tuesday, two are in Pyeongchang and two are in Gangneung, the South Korean city where ice sports are taking place.

Authorities say 154 of those affected have recovered and been released from quarantine.

Earlier in the Olympics, about 1,200 security workers were sequestered over norovirus fears, forcing the military to step in to help with security.

Norovirus is a common, infectious bug that causes symptoms including diarrhea and vomiting but doesn't require medical treatment.

There are signs all over the Olympics reminding people to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer.

10: p.m.

Natalie Geisenberger has another Olympic women's luge gold medal.

The German star is now the two-time Olympic champion, after finishing off the historic win at the Pyeongchang Games. Germany's Dajana Eitberger was second and Alex Gough earn bronze, giving Canada its first Olympic luge medal.

Geisenberger becomes the third woman to win consecutive Olympic golds, joining fellow German stars Steffi Martin Walter and Sylke Otto. She also becomes the first woman to win three Olympic luge golds, the two singles races added to the team relay victory at Sochi in 2014.

Erin Hamlin of the U.S. was sixth. Summer Britcher was 19th and Emily Sweeney crashed out midway through her final run. She was being evaluated but a preliminary assessment indicated she may have avoided serious injury.

9:50 p.m.

Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo of Norway has won the gold medal in the classic sprint at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Frederico Pellegrino of Italy edged out Alexander Bolshunov, an Olympic athlete from Russia, in a photo finish to win silver. Bolshunov got the bronze.

Kalebo, the world's No. 1-ranked cross-country sprinter, pulled away midway through the race and won by 1.34 seconds while coasting to the finish line.

9:45 p.m.

American goaltenders Nicole Hensley and Alex Rigsby wore the Statue of Liberty on each of their helmets, uncovered and untouched before their game with the team from Russia.

The IOC reportedly ordered Hensley to cover up the Statue of Liberty over the left side of her helmet and Rigsby to blanket over her smaller version at her chin.

But Andrea Mazzarelli of USA Hockey tells The Associated Press that the masks are approved as is, requiring no modifications.

The Americans had not listed a starting goalie in their pregame notes, and both Hensley and Rigsby were on the ice for warmups.

9:40 p.m.

Sweden's Stina Nilsson won the women's cross-country sprint from Maiken Caspersen of Norway and Yulia Belorukova.

Yet again, there was no medal for an American woman.

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Jessica Diggins failed in her quest to become the first American woman to win an Olympic medal in cross-country skiing, placing sixth.

For Nilson, it is the second career medal after taking bronze in Sochi four years ago.

Diggins reached the finals after beating out Natalia Nepryaeva, an Olympic athlete from Russia, in a photo finish in the second semifinal heat. Diggins had the fourth-fastest time overall in the semifinals. She was more than 11 seconds behind the leader in the finals.

9:35 p.m.

Another night at the Olympic Oval and another Dutch double in speedskating.

Kjeld Nuis set off at a blistering pace and had more than enough to hold off teammate Patrick Roest for a time of 1: 44.01, clinching a fourth gold medal for the Netherlands in as many Olympic races. The 22-year-old Patrick Roest took silver, 0.85 seconds behind. Kim Min-seok of South Korea took bronze.

With 8 of 12 medals, the Dutch kept up the stunning medal pace of the 2014 Sochi Games, where they finished with 23 out of 36.

The event was seriously affected by the exclusion as part of the Russian doping scandal of Denis Yuskov, who has been a dominating force over 1,500.

9:35 p.m.

Emily Sweeney of the United States has crashed in the final run of the women's luge event at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Sweeney lost control around Curve 9, the track's most treacherous spot, and then began careening all over the track. She wound up sliding feet-first up one curve toward the track roof before getting thrown from her sled.

Sweeney remained on the ice for several minutes, then was able to sit on the track wall while medical personnel tended to her.

The competition was delayed while she was evaluated. There was no immediate word on the nature of her injury.

9:25 p.m.

Arianna Fontana of Italy has won the women's 500 meters in short-track speedskating.

That makes Fontana the second woman to claim short track medals at four different Winter Olympics.

There was a photo finish for first involving Fontana and Choi Min-jeong of South Korea.

But Choi was penalized much to the dismay of the local fans who chanted her name.

As a result, the silver medal goes to Yara van Kerhof of the Netherlands and the bronze to Kim Boutin of Canada.

Elise Christie of Britain finished fourth.

9:20 p.m.

Canada has beaten Switzerland 10-3 to win the first Olympic gold medal in curling mixed doubles.

The event made its Olympic debut in Pyeongchang.

Switzerland conceded in the sixth end of the match after missing an opportunity for a takeout with its last shot of the end. That gave Canada another two points. Seeing no way to come back from the deficit, the Swiss ended the game.

Switzerland earns the silver medal. Russia beat Norway in an earlier match to claim the bronze.

9:00 p.m.

The U.S. has failed to make the A final in the men's 5,000-meter relay in short-track speedskating.

The team of J.R. Celski, Thomas Hong, John-Henry Krueger and Aaron Tran finished third in their heat, relegating them to the B final. Four years ago in Sochi, Celski was part of the U.S. team that earned a silver medal in the event to keep the Americans from a complete shut out in speedskating.

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The home crowd cheered South Korea to victory in the heats. Besides the host country, the final on Feb. 22 will feature China, Canada and Hungary.

8:40 a.m.

Ingvild Flugstad Oestberg, the 2014 silver medalist from Norway, finished fourth in her quarterfinal heat and failed to advance to the semifinals of the women's classic sprint.

Americans Jessie Diggins and Sophie Caldwell are still in contention and hoping to set a new benchmark for the United States. No American female has ever won an Olympic cross-country skiing medal.

Diggins appears to be the best hope. She had the second-best time in the quarterfinals, behind only Yulia Belorukova, an Olympic athlete from Russia.

Maiken Caspersen Falla, the gold medalist in the event in Sochi, was also among the 12 to qualify for the semis.

8:15 p.m.

American John-Henry Krueger has advanced to the quarterfinals of the men's 1,000 meters in short-track speedskating.

Krueger won his heat, avoiding a collision that knocked down two other skaters.

His teammate, J.R. Celski, wasn't so lucky. The three-time Olympian was taken down in a three-man crash that caused him to need work on his right skate.

Pavel Sitnikov, the Olympic Athlete from Russia who caused the pileup, was penalized for impeding.

That left Celski and two other skaters to compete in the re-start. Celski was in contention early before finishing third, one spot out of advancing to the next round on Saturday.

7:25 p.m.

American teenager Maame Biney has been eliminated from the 500 meters in short-track speedskating.

Biney landed in a tough quarterfinal that included former world champion Fan Kexin of China. The 18-year-old from Virginia trailed throughout after trying to go for the lead early and getting crowded out by Fan and Sofia Prosvirnova of the Olympic Athletes from Russia.

Only the top two in each heat advance to the semifinals later Tuesday.

Tough luck also befell medal contender Marianne St-Gelais of Canada, who was penalized for impeding shortly after the start of her heat and left the ice.

Among those moving on are Arianna Fontana of Italy, Elise Christie of Britain, Kim Boutin of Canada and crowd favorite Choi Min-jeong of South Korea. Choi survived a three-way photo finish for second and the crowd cheered wildly when she advanced.

7:10 p.m.

Jarl Magnus Riiber has led all three jumps in training for the nordic combined individual Gundersen normal hill at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

The 20-year-old Norwegian hasn't won on the World Cup circuit this season and upstaged the gold medal favorites on the eve of the normal hill final.

Japan's Akito Watabe, who leads the World Cup standings, had a second-place finish and a third-place finish in Tuesday's training at Alpensia Ski Jumping Center.

Norway's Jan Schmid, who is second in the standings, finished fourth in the final jump for his best result of the day.

Nordic combined features ski jumping and a cross-country ski race. The athlete who wins the ski jumping stage starts first followed by the remaining athletes in their order of finish.

7 p.m.

Canada has beaten Finland 4-1 in pursuit of the country's fifth straight gold medal in women's hockey. Meghan Agosta and Melodie Daoust each scored a goal and an assist. With the win, the Canadians now

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have outscored consecutive opponents 9-1 going into their preliminary round showdown against their biggest rivals, the United States.

Finland came to the Olympics third in the world, yet the Finns have scored just two goals combined against Canada and the United States. The Americans play the Olympic athletes from Russia in the second game.

Captain Marie-Philip Poulin and Jillian Saulnier also scored. Shannon Szabados made 22 saves for the win.

6:45 p.m.

They were born in America, but members of Nigeria's first-ever bobsled team say they're representing the culture they were raised in. For these first-generation immigrants, their African heritage is second nature and a chance to show the world their pride and pioneering spirit in Pyeongchang.

Akuoma Omeoga grew up in Minnesota, where she was raised on Nigerian food, language and culture. Next week, the 26-year-old will represent her parents' homeland in the Winter Games. She'll hurtle down the bobsled track with her tresses dyed green as a tribute to the country. The other team members are fellow brakeman Ngozi Owumere and driver Seun Adigun.

The country is one of eight African nations competing in South Korea as part of the largest contingent of African athletes ever at a Winter Games.

4:45 p.m.

Olympic flag bearer Pita Taufatofua is concerned about his home country of Tonga after it was hit by a cyclone that destroyed Parliament House as well as churches and homes.

The 34-year-old cross-country skier thanked people on Facebook for their messages of support and said he still hasn't heard if friends and family are safe.

Taufatofua gained international attention at the Winter Olympics when he marched bare chested into the opening ceremony carrying his country's flag. He also marched bare chested in the opening ceremony of the 2016 Summer Games in Rio, albeit in more mild conditions.

Now that he's in South Korea preparing to compete, part of him wishes he was back home with his countrymen. In the meantime, he is looking to help raise funds for the damaged country.

He competed in the Summer Olympics in taekwondo and decided to try his hand at cross-country skiing. He only picked up the sport within the last two years, but managed to qualify for the games on his last attempt.

3:50 p.m.

Marcel Hirscher of Austria has won the men's Alpine combined event, the first career Olympic gold medal for one of skiing's greats.

Hirscher used his elite skills in the slalom leg to rise from 12th place after the opening run of downhill.

His combined two-run time was 0.23 seconds faster than silver medalist Alexis Pinturault of France. Another Frenchman, Victor Muffat-Jeandet, took bronze, 1.02 behind Hirscher.

The fastest downhill racer, Thomas Dessen of Germany, dropped to ninth place, trailing Hirscher by 2.44. Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway did not even bother to race the slalom despite placing second in downhill.

Hirscher has a record six overall World Cup titles as the season's best all-round skier, and four career world championships gold medals.

But he had taken just a silver medal — in slalom at the 2014 Sochi Olympics — from two previous Winter Games.

3:20 p.m.

Shaun White has won halfpipe qualifying at the Pyeongchang Olympic Games and will drop in last for what's shaping up as an epic final.

The two-time gold medalist scored a 98.5 to edge Australia's Scotty James for the prime spot in Wednesday's three-run final.

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Sochi silver medalist Ayumu Hirano of Japan finished third.

Hirano won the Winter X Games last month with back-to-back 1440-degree double corks, a combination that had never been successfully landed in competition. White has said he's working on the same tricks, while James has the most technically on-point package in the game.

2:30 p.m.

Ryan Zapolski will start in goal for the U.S. men's hockey team in its opener against Slovenia.

USA Hockey announced the decision Tuesday, removing the kind of intrigue the women's team had before naming Maddie Rooney.

Zapolski was the no-doubt No. 1 goaltender. He was the first player late general manager Jim Johansson brought up to coach Tony Granato last summer. The 31-year-old from Erie, Pennsylvania, has been one of the best players in the Kontinental Hockey League this season.

1 p.m.

The International Ski Federation is being hit hard with questions about why it allowed the women's slopestyle event to go ahead amid bitter winds and iced-over jumps.

Forty-one of the 50 runs ended with either a rider falling or bailing out because she could not build up enough speed to reach the crest of a jump.

Federation spokeswoman Jenny Wiedeke says only one team "voiced concerns" about going ahead with the event. She declined to name the country. It was different at the end of the runs when riders complained openly in the mix zone, the area where athletes speak to reporters.

Wiedeke says "we know it was very difficult conditions for the riders." She says "no athlete is forced to go down and compete."

Wiedeke says the federation has concussion protocols and "most teams come with their own doctors. Those that don't, there are local doctors on hand and we also have an official FIS doctor. So there are plenty of people on hand to diagnose if they feel it's necessary."

12:25 p.m.

With a long break between the team competition and the ice dance and women's events at the Pyeongchang Olympics, many figure skaters are leaving the Olympics atmosphere for a few days of quiet training.

The pairs program begins Wednesday and the men take the ice for their individual event Friday, but the rest are off until next week.

Canadian ice dancers Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir and the women's contingent of Kaetlyn Osmond, Gabrielle Daleman and Larkyn Austman were on their way back to Seoul for a few days of work in an out-of-the-way rink.

Mirai Nagasu became only the third woman and first American to land a triple axel in Olympic competition, helping the U.S. secure its bronze. Now, she's headed to a secret location outside the host city of Gangneung with teammates Karen Chen and Bradie Tennell to keep the jump sharp. They'll be joined there by the three American ice dance teams.

Russian and Japanese skaters, meanwhile, are heading to Japan.

11:35 a.m.

Chloe Kim's coronation is complete.

The 17-year-old from Torrance, California, dominated the Olympic women's halfpipe snowboarding final on Tuesday, soaring to a gold medal four years in the making.

Kim put up a score of 93.75 on the first of her three finals runs and then bettered it with a near-perfect 98.75 on her final run with the gold already well in hand. With members of her family in the stands, including her South Korean grandmother, Kim put on a show that delivered on her considerable pre-Olympic hype.

Liu Jiayu took silver with an 89.75 to become the first Chinese snowboarder to medal at the Olympics.

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Arielle Gold edged U.S. teammate and three-time Olympic medalist Kelly Clark for bronze.

10:50 a.m.

A team of Russian athletes have won the bronze medal in mixed doubles curling after beating Norway 8-4 and recovering from a rare tumble on the ice.

The Russians' win on Tuesday gives them the distinction of nabbing the first-ever Olympic medal in mixed doubles curling. The event is making its Olympic debut in Pyeongchang.

The most dramatic moment of the match came in the third end, or round. Russia's Anastasia Bryzgalova was strategizing with her teammate Aleksandr Krushelnitckii when she suddenly seemed to lose her footing. She recovered but seconds later, her foot went flying out from under her. She promptly landed on her backside.

It is very rare for a curler to fall in professional curling.

10:30 a.m.

The first doping case of the Pyeongchang Olympics has been announced.

Japanese short-track speedskater Kei Saito has tested positive for acetazolamide, a diuretic that is also a masking agent which can disguise the use of other banned substances.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport says Saito "accepted on a voluntary basis to be provisionally suspended and to leave the Olympic Village."

Saito did not race in any event before the test result from a pre-competition sample was confirmed.

CAS says its judging panel handling Olympic doping cases will issue a final verdict after the games are over.

The highest court in world sports handles the prosecution of doping cases, and the International Olympic Committee is responsible for testing athletes.

In a statement, Saito denied intentionally doping and said he was "extremely shocked" by the results.

"I have never considered doping. I have never used anabolic steroids so I have never needed to try to hide it," he said in the statement.

He said he accepted the provisional suspension because "I do not want to be a disturbance to my teammates competing at the Olympic Games ... and will leave the team and the athletes village voluntarily."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2018. There are 321 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 13, 1633, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for trial before the Inquisition, accused of defending Copernican theory that the Earth revolved around the sun instead of the other way around. (Galileo was found vehemently suspect of heresy, and ended up being sentenced to a form of house arrest.)

On this date:

In 1542, the fifth wife of England's King Henry VIII, Catherine Howard, was executed for adultery.

In 1741, Andrew Bradford of Pennsylvania published the first American magazine. "The American Magazine, or A Monthly View of the Political State of the British Colonies" lasted three issues.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was officially declared winner of the 1860 presidential election as electors cast their ballots.

In 1914, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, also known as ASCAP, was founded in New York.

In 1933, the Warsaw Convention, governing airlines' liability for international carriage of persons, luggage and goods, went into effect.

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In 1935, a jury in Flemington, New Jersey, found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve was officially established.

In 1968, actress Mae Marsh, known mostly for her silent film work ("The Birth of a Nation"; "Intolerance"), died in Hermosa Beach, California, at age 73.

In 1974, Nobel Prize-winning Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1988, the 15th Winter Olympics opened in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

In 1998, Dr. David Satcher was sworn in as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States during an Oval Office ceremony.

In 2016, Justice Antonin Scalia, the influential conservative and most provocative member of the U.S. Supreme Court, was found dead at a private residence in the Big Bend area of West Texas; he was 79.

Ten years ago: Under oath and sometimes blistering questioning, seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens told Congress: "I have never taken steroids or HGH," while his accuser, former personal trainer Brian McNamee, sat a few feet away. Hollywood writers returned to work a day after voting to end their 100-day strike that had disrupted the TV season and canceled awards shows. Japanese movie director Kon Ichikawa died in Tokyo at age 92.

Five years ago: Beginning a long farewell to his flock, a weary Pope Benedict XVI celebrated his final public Mass as pontiff, presiding over Ash Wednesday services inside St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

One year ago: President Donald Trump's embattled national security adviser, Michael Flynn, resigned following reports he had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other officials about his contacts with Russia. The Senate confirmed David Shulkin to be secretary of Veterans Affairs and Steven Mnuchin to be treasury secretary. Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, died after falling ill at an airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; two women are accused of killing him by smearing a nerve agent onto his face. Actor Harrison Ford mistakenly landed his single-engine plane on a taxiway of John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California, after passing over an American Airlines jet.

Today's Birthdays: U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager (ret.) is 95. Actress Kim Novak is 85. Actor George Segal is 84. Actor Bo Svenson is 77. Actress Carol Lynley is 76. Singer-musician Peter Dinklage (The Monkees) is 76. Actress Stockard Channing is 74. Talk show host Jerry Springer is 74. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., is 72. Singer Peter Gabriel is 68. Actor David Naughton is 67. Rock musician Peter Dinklage is 62. Actor Matt Salinger is 58. Singer Henry Rollins is 57. Actor Neal McDonough is 52. Singer Freedom Williams is 52. Actress Kelly Hu is 50. Rock singer Matt Berninger (The National) is 47. Rock musician Todd Harrell (3 Doors Down) is 46. Country musician Scott Thomas (Parmalee) is 45. Singer Robbie Williams is 44. Singer-songwriter Feist is 42. Rhythm-and-blues performer Natalie Stewart is 39. Actress Mena Suvari (MEE'-nuh soo-VAHR'-ee) is 39. Rock musician Dash Hutton (Haim (HY'-ehm)) is 33. Actress Katie Volding is 29. Michael Joseph Jackson Jr. (also known as Prince Michael Jackson I) is 21.

Thought for Today: "To go against the dominant thinking of your friends, of most of the people you see every day, is perhaps the most difficult act of heroism you can have." — Theodore H. White, American political writer (1915-1986).

Which letter not in any state? Q