

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 216 ~ 1 of 39

“IF YOU are  
never scared,  
embarrassed  
OR HURT, IT  
means you  
never TAKE  
CHANCES.”

~ JULIA SOUL ~



- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Harr Implement Ad
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## 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.

**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**

**Harry Implement**  
“Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!”

**CERTIFIED DEALER**  
AFS  
DIVIDED FARMING SYSTEMS  
CASE IH

(605) 395-6421  
Ferney



## Valentine's Day is Today!

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

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

## The Life of Lorraine Sippel

GROTON - Lorraine Mae Sippel 93 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.

Lorraine Mae Johnson was born on August 23, 1924 to Hilmer and Augusta (Carlson) Johnson in Detroit Township near Claremont, South Dakota. She became a child of God through Holy Baptism on October 29, 1938. She was confirmed in the Lutheran Faith on October 30, 1938 at Augustana Lutheran Church near Claremont.

She started her first years of school at the Knecht School near Houghton, South Dakota. Her family then moved to a farm east of Claremont and she attended school in Newport Township in Marshall County. When she entered eighth grade, she enrolled at Claremont School and graduated from Claremont High School in 1942.

She went on to further her education at Northern State College in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Afterwards, she moved to Portland, Oregon to be a welder in the ship yards during WWII. After the war in ended 1945, she returned to South Dakota. She took employment with the

South Dakota Unemployment Office in Aberdeen as a typist.

On December 30, 1948 she was united in marriage to Harry A. Sippel. To this union one son, Bruce was born. The family made their home on a farm in Riverside Township. She had a great love for the outdoors as well as her many animals and chickens. She continued to reside on the farm until 2012 when her health forced her to move to Groton Care and Rehab in Groton.

Lorraine had a great talent for crocheting. She was known for her beautiful butterflies, roses, and variety of doilies that she made with love for many. She enjoyed sharing that talent with all who knew her and some that didn't! Lorraine also made many scarves for the Groton School as rewards for the Accelerated Reader Program.

She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton where she was active with the Nursery Circle and quilting group. She was also one of the founders of the ABC Club (Adult Birthday Card).

Lorraine passed away at Groton Care and Rehab at the age of 93 years, 5 months, and 19 days.

She will be forever loved and greatly missed by her son Bruce (Vickie) Sippel of Groton, SD, three grandchildren; Emily (Jesse) Wolff of Mankato, MN, Felicia (James) Ethridge of Redfield, SD, and Adam Sippel of Groton, SD, and five great-grandchildren; Michael and Kaylee Wolff and Jaxon, Haven, and Natalie Ethridge. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one granddaughter Lisa, three sisters, and one brother.

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## 2018-2019 Groton Area School District

Adopted 2/12/2018

August 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2  
4

September 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

4  
5  
5  
5

October 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

4  
4  
5  
5  
3

November 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

2  
5  
5  
2  
5

December 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

80

### August

- 21 - Dual Credit Courses Begin
- 21 - Faculty Inservice
- 21 - Open House/Picnic (5:00 - 7:30)
- 22 - Faculty Inservice
- 23 - 1st Day of School
- 31 - NO SCHOOL

**Student Contact: 6; Inservice: 2**

### September

- 3 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- 24 - Homecoming Coronation (7:30)
- 28 - Homecoming FB vs. Milbank

**Student Contact: 19 ; Inservice: 0**

### October

- 5 - Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL
- 8 - Native American Day - NO SCHOOL
- 11 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:30 - 8:30)
- 12 - Lake Region Marching Festival
- 23 - End of 1st Quarter (40)

**Student Contact: 21 ; Inservice: 2**

### November

- 12 - Veterans Day Program
- 21 - 23 - Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL

**Student Contact: 19 ; Inservice: 0**

### December

- 6 - MS/HS Concert (7:00)
- 21 - End of 1st Semester (40/80)
- 21 - Elementary Christmas Concert (1:00)
- 21 - School Dismisses for Break (2:00 Dismissal)
- 24-31 - Christmas Break - NO SCHOOL

**Student Contact: 15 ; Inservice: 0**

All make-up days will be added to the end of the school calendar.

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January 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January	
3	School Resumes
18	NCSEC Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL
<b>Student Contact: 20 ; Inservice: 1</b>	

February 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

February	
7	Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:30 - 8:30)
8	Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL
18	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
<b>Student Contact: 18; Inservice: 2</b>	

March 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March	
8	End of 3rd Quarter (44)
14-15	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
<b>Student Contact: 19; Inservice: 0</b>	

April 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April	
7	Pops Concert
13	PROM
16	Elementary Concert (7:00)
19	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
22	Easter Monday - NO SCHOOL
25	FCCLA Style Show
26	FFA Banquet
30	Middle School Spring Concert (7:00)
<b>Student Contact: 20; Inservice: 0</b>	

May 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May	
2	HS Concert/Awards Night (7:00)
16	End of 2nd Semester (45/89)
17	Faculty Inservice
19	Graduation (2:00)
27	Memorial Day
<b>Student Contact: 12 ; Inservice: 1</b>	

- Faculty Inservice
- No School
- Important Dates
- End of Quarter/Semester
- Early Dismissal



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## Game Statistics Report Webster Varsity (Home) 28, Groton Varsity (Away) 39, 2/13/18

### Game Statistics

Player	No.	2Pt	2PtA	2Pt%	3Pt	3PtA	3Pt%	FG	FGA	FG%	EFG%	FT	FTA	FT %	Pts	Layup	LayupA	Layup%
Bauer	22	0	3	0.0%	1	2	50.0%	1	5	20.0%	30.0%	1	4	25.0%	4	0	0	0.0%
Baumgarn	44	0	2	0.0%	0	3	0.0%	0	5	0.0%	0.0%	2	2	100.0%	2	0	0	0.0%
Breske	12	1	3	33.3%	0	5	0.0%	1	8	12.5%	12.5%	2	2	100.0%	4	0	0	0.0%
Breske	10	1	7	14.3%	1	5	20.0%	2	12	16.7%	20.8%	0	1	0.0%	5	0	0	0.0%
Dorsett	32	0	1	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Fischer	42	0	2	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Ivy	40	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Mount	20	0	1	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	0	3	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Sattler	30	0	1	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Shoemaker	24	1	11	9.1%	1	1	100.0%	2	12	16.7%	20.8%	5	8	62.5%	10	0	0	0.0%
Snell	14	0	0	0.0%	1	3	33.3%	1	3	33.3%	50.0%	0	0	0.0%	3	0	0	0.0%
<b>Webster Varsity Totals</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>58.8%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Groton Varsity Totals</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>31.7%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Bjerke	45	0	3	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0	4	0.0%	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Doeden	55	4	13	30.8%	0	0	0.0%	4	13	30.8%	30.8%	3	4	75.0%	11	0	0	0.0%
Hanson	23	3	8	37.5%	0	2	0.0%	3	10	30.0%	30.0%	0	3	0.0%	6	0	0	0.0%
Hawkins	53	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Maine	21	0	5	0.0%	1	2	50.0%	1	7	14.3%	21.4%	3	6	50.0%	6	0	0	0.0%
Marzahn	25	0	3	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	3	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Stange	15	1	4	25.0%	4	8	50.0%	5	12	41.7%	58.3%	0	0	0.0%	14	0	0	0.0%
Wanner	11	1	3	33.3%	0	0	0.0%	1	3	33.3%	33.3%	0	0	0.0%	2	0	0	0.0%



## Lady Tigers have clean sweep at Webster

Groton Area's girls' basketball team had a 13-point run in the second half to beat Webster Area, 39-28.

Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 14-8, 20-16 and 33-20. Webster tied the game with 4:45 left in the third quarter at 20 before the Tiger rally of 13 points happened.

Shooting percentages per quarter for Groton Area were 39 percent, 15 percent, 36 percent and 20 percent. For the Bearcats, it was 17 percent, 17 percent, 8 percent and 14 percent.

Harleigh Stange was four for eight in three-pointers on her way to 14 points. Jennie Doeden had 11, Payton Maine and Miranda Hanson each had six and Eliza Wanner added two points.

Groton Area was nine of 32 in two-pointers for 28 percent, five of

14 in three-pointers for 36 percent, and was six of 15 from the line for 40 percent. Doeden finished the night with a double-double as she had 12 rebounds on top of her 11 points. Stange and Doeden each had two of the team's eight steals and Jessica Bjerke had three of the team's eight assists.



**Jessica Bjerke is getting triple teamed under the basket.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



**Jennie Doeden out jumps Emily Breske for the opening tip off.** (Photo by

Julianna Kosel)



**Harleigh Stange eyes the basket for another three-point shot.** (Photo by

Julianna Kosel)

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 35-25.

Kaycie Hawkins led the Tigers with 12 points followed by Payton Colestock with seven, Gracie Traphagen had six, Nicole Marzahn four and Tadyn Glover, Sam Geffre and Caitlyn Barse each had two points.

Groton Area won the C game as well, 32-19, for a clean sweep of the evening at Webster.

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## Today in Weather History

February 14, 1967: The heaviest snow fell in the central part of the state with Pierre receiving 10 inches with 14 inches reported near Harrold. Elsewhere, 1 to 4 inches of snow was common. Winds of 20 to 30 mph with gusts over 40 mph caused extensive drifting and blowing snow reducing visibilities to near zero at times. Many schools were closed and other activities canceled. Temperatures of 5 to 15 degrees below zero were common the morning of the 15th. A farmer died in the storm near Yale where his car stalled, and he attempted to walk.

February 14, 1979: High winds of 50 mph or greater and snow from a half inch to more than 14 inches moved through the state late on the 14th with winds slowly subsiding on the 16th. Visibility was reduced to near zero at the height of the storm, and no travel was advised. Temperatures fell to 25 degrees below zero with wind chills to 80 to 90 below on the 15th. One man suffered frostbite after being stranded in his truck for seventeen hours. Power was lost at Wall due to high winds snapping power lines together.

1895: The greatest snowfall in the history of Houston, Texas occurred on the 14th and 15th. The Houston area saw 20 inches of snow.

1990: Valentine's Day was a snowy one for many parts of Iowa and Illinois. Five to ten inches of snow fell across Iowa. Six to 12 inches of snow blanketed northern Illinois, and strong northeasterly winds accompanied the heavy snow. Air traffic came to a halt during the evening at O'Hare Airport in Chicago, where 9.7 inches of snow was reported. More than 250 traffic accidents were reported around Des Moines, Iowa during the evening rush hour. An ice storm glazed east central sections of Illinois, causing twelve million dollars damage in Champaign County alone.

2010: Vancouver continues to struggle with above average, non-winter-like temperatures during the first weekend of the 2010 Winter Olympics. In fact earlier this morning, Vancouver was warmer, 48 degrees, than Miami, Florida 45 degrees!

1899 - A great blizzard struck the eastern U.S. Washington D.C. received 20.5 inches of snow to bring their total snow depth to nearly three feet. The storm produced 36 inches of snow at Cape May NJ. (David Ludlum)

1940 - A "Saint Valentine's Day Blizzard" hit the northeastern U.S. Up to a foot and a half of snow blanketed southern New England, and whole gales accompanied the heavy snow stranding many in downtown Boston. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A powerful storm spawned severe thunderstorms in Texas and Oklahoma, and produced heavy snow in the Rocky Mountain Region. Snowfall totals in Colorado ranged up to 27 inches at Telluride. Straight line winds gusting to 104 mph howled through Guadalupe Pass in West Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong northerly winds ushered arctic air into the north central U.S. Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in Minnesota and the Dakotas. Winds gusted to 56 mph at Rapid City SD, and reached 65 mph at Cody WY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - While "Valentine's Day" was a soggy one in the Ohio Valley and the Tennessee Valley, unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Seventeen cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s and 80s. (The National Weather Summary)

2004 - Dallas receives 3 inches of snow, wreaking havoc with Valentine's Day flower deliveries. The greatest snowfall since 1978 caused numerous traffic accidents, power outages and flight cancellations at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.



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Wed Feb 14	Thu Feb 15	Fri Feb 16	Sat Feb 17	Sun Feb 18	Mon Feb 19	Tue Feb 20
41°F	19°F	22°F	29°F	30°F	13°F	16°F
16°F	-3°F	11°F	12°F	2°F	-1°F	-10°F
S 10 MPH	N 19 MPH Precip 30%	SW 16 MPH	NW 14 MPH	E 15 MPH Precip 30%	N 14 MPH Precip 30%	N 10 MPH

## Mild Today

### Turning Colder on Thursday

**Today**

**Thursday**

**Breezy  
Mid Teens  
Upper 20s**

**Friday**

**Dry  
Temps  
20 - 30**

**Saturday**

**Upper 20s  
Mid 30s**

**National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD**

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
 @NWSAberdeen
 Updated: 2/14/2018 6:04 AM Central

Published on: 02/14/2018 at 6:06AM

Mild temperatures are expected today with highs reaching the upper 30s and mid-40s. An Arctic front will dive south over the region on Thursday with a return to colder temperatures, and maybe some light snow.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 27.4 F at 3:35 PM

Low Outside Temp: 8.6 F at 6:44 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 32.0 Mph at 10:12 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 57° in 1934

Record Low: -30° in 1936

Average High: 28°F

Average Low: 7°F

Average Precip in Feb: 0.23

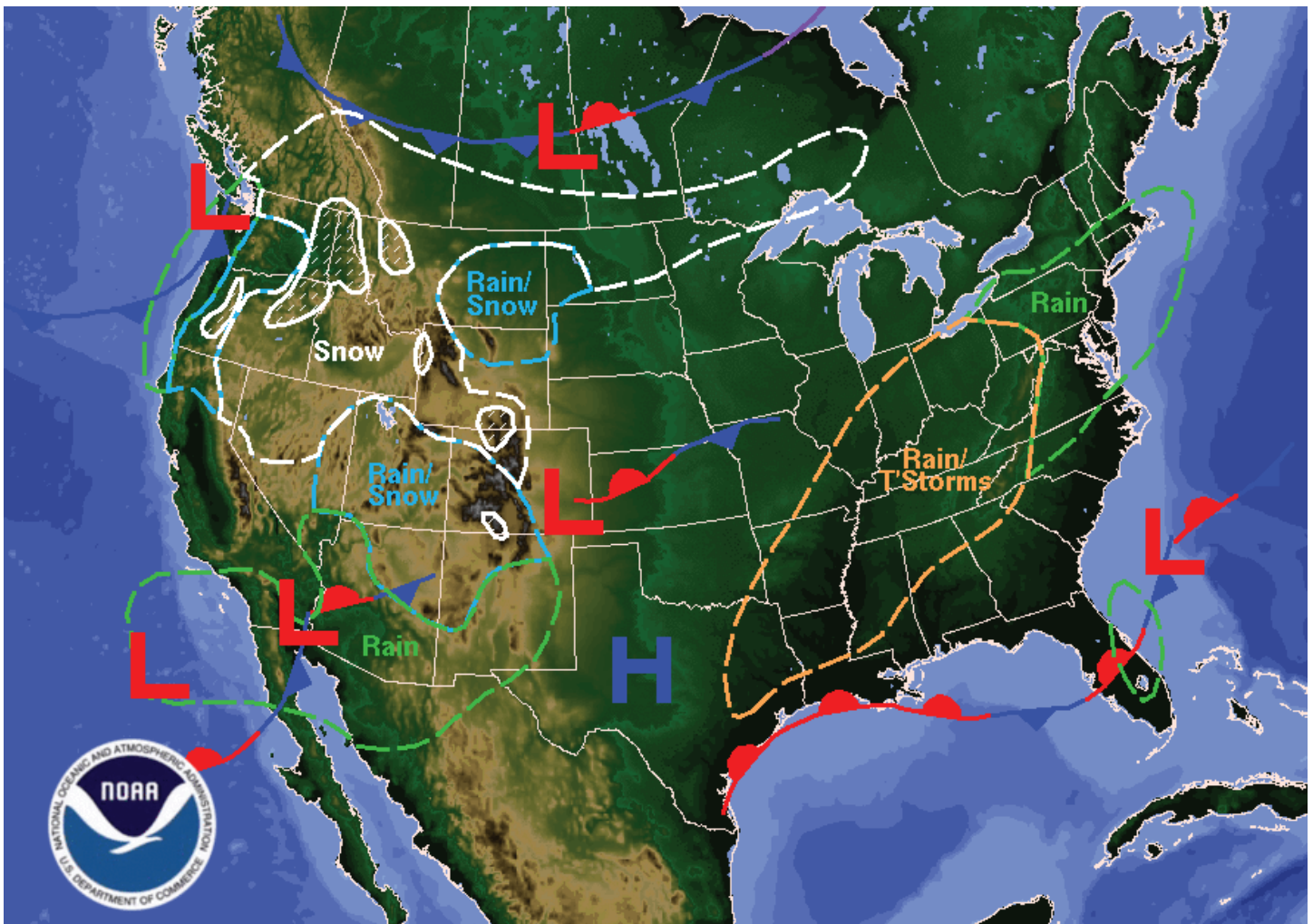
Precip to date in Feb: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.70

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:59 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:35 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Feb 14, 2018, issued 4:41 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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## DELIVERANCE

Several weeks ago I was waiting in line for my "pre-op room" assignment. It was a time of anxiety and fear, apprehension and uncertainty. The surgeon had carefully laid out the risks as well as the rewards. All of the tests and examinations confirmed that my physical condition was strong and I was able to withstand the lengthy procedure.

When it was my turn to speak with the scheduler, I noticed that she had a well-worn Bible in her kiosk next to her computer keyboard. "It's good to see you read the Bible. Obviously you must love the Lord. What are you reading today?" I asked.

"Yes, Sir. I surely do love the Lord. He's my best Friend. And this morning I am reading Psalm 91 and I'm meditating on verse two: 'I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress.'"

Suddenly the God of all comfort appeared and spoke to me through one of His angels. What an unexpected message from God. As I stood before her, tears streamed down my face and splashed on my medical records while her words comforted my heart and put my soul at ease.

The words "refuge" and "fortress" are normally used in a military context. As used here they convey a special significance. God is in control and has established Himself in a defensive position against all enemies. Moreover, the Psalmist says that He is "My God!" assuring us that He is personal, present and prepared to protect us from any and all enemies. Because of His faithfulness in the past, we have no reason to ever doubt His presence and protection.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your Word, the assurance of Your grace when we face life's challenges. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 91:2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."



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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

### Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 60, Brookings 28  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 53, Parkston 48  
Bon Homme 57, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 49  
Bridgewater-Emery 70, Irene-Wakonda 62  
Britton-Hecla 65, Leola/Frederick 57  
Colome 65, Burke/South Central 38  
Corsica/Stickney 65, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 49  
Crow Creek 79, Lower Brule 48  
Dakota Valley 85, Sioux City, West, Iowa 72  
Edmunds Central 78, Wakpala 60  
Flandreau 67, Baltic 39  
Freeman Academy/Marion 65, Flandreau Indian 63  
Hamlin 55, Great Plains Lutheran 47  
Hanson 47, Avon 38  
Harding County 56, New England, N.D. 43  
Harrisburg 70, Mitchell 38  
Hot Springs 49, St. Thomas More 42  
Hulett, Wyo. 84, Edgemont 69  
Kimball/White Lake 59, Wessington Springs 43  
Langford 62, Aberdeen Christian 49  
Lennox 55, Beresford 53  
Milbank Area 60, Ortonville, Minn. 39  
Miller 83, Faulkton 74  
Mobridge-Pollock 57, Stanley County 53  
Northwestern 72, Redfield/Doland 62  
Parker 62, Garretson 47  
Pine Ridge 78, Little Wound 71  
Platte-Geddes 63, Winner 60  
Scotland 58, Alcester-Hudson 48  
Sioux Valley 94, Castlewood 67  
Spearfish 77, Belle Fourche 50  
Sully Buttes 62, Sunshine Bible Academy 30  
Tri-Valley 64, McCook Central/Montrose 47  
Vermillion 62, Wagner 41  
Viborg-Hurley 64, Menno 49  
Wall 61, Oelrichs 46  
Webster 73, Wilmot 49

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 59, Brookings 42  
Aberdeen Roncalli 62, Ipswich 51  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 52, Parkston 39  
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## Rodeo riders ask Congress for driver's license exception

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Rodeo and equestrian competitors are asking the U.S. House of Representatives to make an exception for them as federal horse trailer regulations threaten their travel.

The Billings Gazette reported Tuesday that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration requires a commercial driver's license for anyone driving a truck and horse trailer with a combined weight of 26,000 pounds (11,793 kilograms) — if the trip involves compensation.

The compensation aspect is what worries competitors because rodeos typically offer prize money.

Twenty-seven representatives including some from Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota have asked the administration to clarify that an exemption for horse trailers still applies when the trip involves an event with prizes.

Montana State University's rodeo coach, Andy Bolich, says few competitors actually profit from the sport.

Information from: The Billings Gazette, <http://www.billingsgazette.com>

## Panel rejects Native American boarding school victims' bill

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A state Senate panel has rejected a bill aimed at allowing victims of childhood sexual abuse at Native American boarding schools to file lawsuits against organizations like schools and churches. The Judiciary Committee voted 4-3 Tuesday against the bill.

An amendment to the measure would have created a three-year period for victims to file claims that otherwise would have been barred and repealed a provision banning victims 40 and older from recovering damages from people or entities other than the abuser.

Barbara Charbonneau Dahlen is among nine sisters who unsuccessfully sued over alleged sexual abuse at a boarding school. She says they "will not be silenced."

Sen. Arthur Rusch voted against the bill. Rusch says he was troubled because it wasn't an effort to punish abusers, most of whom are dead, but collect money from non-perpetrators.

## South Dakota House passes bill to end university bargaining

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House has approved a bill that would end collective bargaining at the state's public universities.

The chamber voted 37-28 Tuesday to send the bill to the Senate. House Speaker Mark Mickelson, the sponsor, says the bill would strengthen the mission of educating students to "meet the needs of industry for tomorrow."

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm says "unions promote mediocrity." Democratic Rep. Ray Ring, an opponent, says removing the protections would make it "extremely difficult" for South Dakota to compete.

Union contracts cover more than 1,300 staff members at the state's six public universities and at schools for the blind and deaf.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard supports the legislation. The Republican last year signed a bill banning collective bargaining at the four technical institutes in right-to-work South Dakota.

## Out-of-state money cap for ballot questions stalls in House

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House has narrowly rejected a bill to restrict the flow of money from outside South Dakota into the state's ballot question campaigns.

The bill fell one vote short Tuesday of advancing to the Senate. Republican Rep. Spencer Gosch, the sponsor, moved to reconsider the vote later.

The bill would restrict out-of-state donors to \$100,000 in contributions to a South Dakota ballot question campaign per general election cycle.

Gosch says officials need to give the ballot measure process back to South Dakota citizens.

Republican Rep. David Lust, who opposed the bill, says it's unconstitutional. House Speaker Mark Mickelson says it's a "50-50 call" and worth finding out.

The plan is among proposals lawmakers are considering on out-of-state influence in ballot measure campaigns. It failed in a Senate committee last year.

## Court hears tribal challenge to South Dakota child removals

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

A lawyer representing two American Indian tribes urged a federal appeals court Tuesday to keep in place the changes a judge ordered for a South Dakota county's system of removing children from homes in endangerment cases.

Stephen Pevar, a tribal law specialist with the American Civil Liberties Union, told the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that before those protections were imposed, the system was stacked against tribal families. From 2010 through 2013, the state was granted custody of all 823 Indian children it sought to remove from homes in Pennington County.

"The state won 100 percent of the proceedings," said Pevar, who is representing the Oglala and Rosebud Sioux tribes in the case. "It would have been a miracle if these parents had prevailed because they were denied elementary due process."

The tribes sued the county in 2013, saying its procedures for conducting initial hearings in such cases violated the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. The tribes argued parents were denied basic due process protections in these informal hearings, including the right to a court-appointed attorney and to see and challenge the allegations against them.

The chief U.S. district judge for South Dakota, Jeffrey Viken, sided with the tribes in three rulings in 2015 and 2016. He ordered changes to give parents more rights at those initial hearings, which are required to be held within 48 hours of a child's removal from the home to decide whether the child should be returned to the home or be placed in the custody of the state Department of Social Services. Parents previously weren't guaranteed legal protections until a later stage in the process. The county, which includes Rapid City, is now abiding by the judge's orders.

While the case applies most directly to Pennington County, the case has attracted attention elsewhere in Indian Country. The Cherokee Nation and Navajo Nation, the two largest tribes in the U.S., and other tribal groups filed a friend-of-the-court brief that said this lawsuit is vital to ensuring that courts follow the Indian Child Welfare Act, which was enacted in 1978 in response to widespread abuses by state child welfare systems against Indian children and families.

The law sets standards for removing Indian children from their families, terminating parental rights and placing them in foster or adoptive homes. The brief says other states in the 8th Circuit have statutes or procedures in place to ensure those standards are met.

Lawyers for Pennington County State's Attorney Mark Vargo and other officials named in the case argued that the lower court did not follow proper legal procedures, so its decisions should be overturned. Much of their appeal turns on complex legal arguments over whether the state's attorney or the presiding judge in the southwest corner of the state counted as policy-makers responsible for the old procedures who could legally be sued over them.

Parents did get full legal protections later in the process well before their parental rights could be terminated, said attorney Jeff Hurd, who represents Craig Pfeifle the presiding judge for the South Dakota judicial circuit that includes Pennington County.

The appeals court took the case under advisement. Chief Judge Lavenski Smith called it "a very difficult case" and said the panel would rule as soon as possible, but didn't specify when.

## Standing Rock Sioux Tribe sues 24 opioid industry companies

FORT YATES, N.D. (AP) — The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is suing major opioids manufacturers and distributors, joining several tribes nationwide that have filed similar lawsuits.

The tribe filed the lawsuit Monday in U.S. District Court in North Dakota against 24 defendants in the opioid industry. It alleges companies used false and misleading advertising and failed to prevent drug diversion, the Bismarck Tribune reported .

The lawsuit also alleges that opioid use has taken an enormous toll on the Standing Rock Sioux while the defendants have seen "blockbuster profits."



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The tribe seeks monetary damages for allegations of deceptive trade practices, fraudulent and negligent conduct and violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act.

"The opioid epidemic has hit Indian Country hard, and the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation is no exception," former North Dakota U.S. Attorney Tim Purdon in a statement. Purdon is representing the tribe with former South Dakota U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson.

The tribe's attorneys also filed a similar lawsuit on behalf of the Rosebud Sioux, Flandreau Santee Sioux and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate in January. The Three Native American tribes in the Dakotas followed more than 70 cases filed across the country in states such as Mississippi, Washington, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Their lawsuit was among several consolidated before a federal judge in Ohio.

In a statement, John Parker, senior vice president of the trade association Healthcare Distribution Alliance, called prescription opioids abuse a complex challenge that requires "a collaborative and systemic response."

"Given our role, the idea that distributors are responsible for the number of opioid prescriptions written defies common sense and lacks understanding of how the pharmaceutical supply chain actually works and is regulated," Parker said.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

## Panel projects more money available for South Dakota budget

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers projected Tuesday they will have more money available than previously anticipated when they craft the state budget this legislative session.

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Appropriations set state revenue projections that are millions of dollars higher than those in Gov. Dennis Daugaard's budget from December. Sen. Larry Tidemann, co-chair of the panel, said officials would like to fund increases for education, Medicaid providers and state employees if the dollars can be found.

"Those are the three main ones to take care of at the present time," the Republican from Brookings said.

The panel adopted a \$1.64 billion target for the upcoming budget year 2019, up about \$18.8 million from December. Lawmakers also set a roughly \$1.59 billion current-year ongoing receipts target, which is more than \$16 million higher than December.

Committee member John Wiik, a senator, said the numbers are cautiously optimistic.

New figures show revenues for the first seven months of the current budget year are \$18.2 million higher than Daugaard projected in December. That includes roughly \$7.6 million in higher-than-expected sales taxes receipts, which is the state's main revenue source.

Lawmakers will revise spending for the current 2018 budget year and craft the budget for the upcoming fiscal year before the legislative session ends in March.

Daugaard's December budget plan would add more than \$20 million in education spending, nearly all from K-12 enrollment growth, but schools wouldn't see an inflationary funding increase per student under the plan. It also called for leaving most state workers without raises for the second straight year.

Eric Ollila, executive director of the South Dakota State Employees Organization, said state workers would like to see a cost-of-living increase and legislative investment in the state health plan. He said that a 1.7 percent inflationary increase for state workers would cost roughly \$6.2 million in state general funds, plus additional money from other sources.

"If we come out of this session with the same result as last session, ... I'm certain we'll be seeing increased employee turnover, and that harms the effectiveness of state government," Ollila said.

The employee advocacy group is pushing a bill this year that would write cost-of-living increases for state employees into South Dakota law. The Senate State Affairs Committee is scheduled to debate the bill Wednesday.

Daugaard has said officials wouldn't be able to execute such a law.

## TigerSwan wants scope of North Dakota civil trial reduced

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A private security firm hired by the developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline wants a judge to restrict evidence during an upcoming civil trial over whether it operated illegally in North Dakota.

An attorney for North Carolina-based TigerSwan also wants Judge John Grinsteiner to dismiss company President James Reese as a defendant in the case.

North Dakota's Private Investigative and Security Board sued TigerSwan and Reese last June, saying the company operated without a license during protests against the pipeline. It wants a judge to ban TigerSwan from the state. The board also could seek thousands of dollars in fines and fees.

TigerSwan maintains it provided consulting services that don't require a North Dakota license — not investigative or security services regulated by the board — and relied on information from other companies hired by Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners. Attorney Lynn Boughey in a flurry of recent court filings asked the judge to dismiss the board's allegations, saying any investigative work done by TigerSwan officials occurred at the company's headquarters in North Carolina.

"They were kind of the conduit, bringing all of the information together into something usable," Boughey said in an interview Tuesday. "They didn't need to be licensed."

Board attorney Monte Rogneby said there is no dispute that TigerSwan employees worked in North Dakota.

"Their claim is that none of those employees were engaged in activities that would require a license," he said. "The board disagrees with their assessment."

Pipeline opponents have denounced TigerSwan for allegedly using military-style counter-terrorism measures, having a close working relationship with public law enforcement and using propaganda. TigerSwan maintains it's the victim of a smear campaign.

A five-day trial on the civil suit is scheduled to begin Oct. 8. Boughey has asked Grinsteiner to bar any evidence about TigerSwan activities conducted outside of North Dakota. Rogneby said he thinks that request is premature.

Boughey also wants Reese dismissed as a defendant, saying the state hasn't provided any facts that the company president personally handled any investigative or security services.

Rogneby said the board maintains Reese "caused his company to provide services in North Dakota without being licensed."

Boughey said he plans to make a settlement offer to the state this week, though he declined to provide details. Rogneby said previous settlement discussions failed.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline began moving North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to Illinois last June. While it was being built, six months of protests in North Dakota by opponents who feared environmental harm resulted in 761 arrests.

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

## South Dakota panel shelves bill banning 'lunch shaming'

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota Senate committee has shelved a bill to ban public and private schools from throwing away school meals if students don't have money to pay for them.

The Argus Leader reports the Senate Education Committee voted 4-3 Tuesday to reject the measure. Democratic Sen. Troy Heinert, the sponsor, says lawmakers have a responsibility to make sure students don't go through "lunch shaming" at school.

The bill would have prohibited schools from requiring students unable to pay to throw out meals after they're served. It would have also blocked schools from requiring students to wear a wristband or hand-stamp or do chores to pay for meals.

School nutritionists from Brandon, Brookings and Yankton opposed the bill, saying schools already work to prevent embarrassing situations.

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

## Shaun White wins 3rd Olympic gold in contest for the ages

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Snowboarding at the Olympics turned 20 this year, and there's a good chance that in another two decades, people will still be talking about the contest that went down in the mountains of South Korea on Wednesday.

They will definitely still be talking about Shaun White.

It wasn't so much that White won his third gold medal to place his name among the greatest to compete in the Olympics, or in any realm of sports, for that matter.

It was the way he did it.

His winning run capped a contest that, even before he dropped in for the finale, was the best, in terms of pure difficulty, showmanship and guts that has ever been seen on a halfpipe.

It came with the heart-thumping pressure of knowing he had to land the most difficult run he ever attempted, or settle for silver.

It included back-to-back jumps, each with 1440 degrees of spin, that are, quite literally, death-defying. They were tricks White said afterward that he had never landed in succession — not in practice and, of course, never in a contest.

"I knew I had it in me," he said. "The fear was out of the door. I'm at the Olympics. I had to do it. I'm standing at the top, in my favorite position, with the pressure of the world and one run to go. Man, it brings out the best in me. I'm so glad that's a part of me as a competitor."

On the winning trip, White got the tough stuff out of the way early, dropping straight into the halfpipe, flying nearly 20 feet above it and whipping his body around twice while going head-over-heels two times for the first 1440. He landed high enough on the wall to gather sufficient speed to travel to the other side and essentially do a mirror image of the first trick.

From there, it was simply a matter of staying upright.

He performed what's known as the Sky Hook — a 20-foot vault above the deck in which he bent himself into the shape of a comma, while grabbing the board and tweaking it up toward his backside to show judges the style they demand. His final trick was one he patented: the Double McTwist 1260, in which he took off from the wall for two flips with 1 ½ twists, grabbing the board and practically wrestling it over his head to complete the jump and stick the landing.

He knew he'd done it, but the wait — about 120 seconds — was agonizing.

"I was trying not to make eye-contact with the judges," White said.

The score came up. A 97.75. It was enough to beat Ayumu Hirano, the 5-foot-2, 19-year-old from Japan who has been asked, quite often, exactly when he was going to beat Shaun White.

Australian Scotty James, who made news at the start of the games by complaining about judging, finished third with a run that included three double-cork 1260s; it was a performance that would've won all but a handful of all the contests ever held up through last December.

But it was Hirano, who now has back-to-back Olympic silvers, who set the stakes for these games by becoming the first man to land the back-to-back 14s at the Winter X Games last month. He did it again on his second run under a slate-gray sky in Pyeongchang to set the mark (95.25) that White would have to beat.

White did it.

Shortly after his winning score came up to make him the winner of America's 100th Winter Games gold medal, White was hugging friends and family and sobbing, almost uncontrollably. It was the sort of emotion rarely seen from the man who burst onto the scene as the ebullient redhead shredder dude, then grew into a multi-platform megastar whose light cascades well beyond any halfpipe.

White would be the first to admit that a lot of that fame came because of the Olympics. So the win

wasn't so hard to put into perspective.

"It means everything to me," he said.

It means everything because of the journey that essentially began Feb. 12, 2014 — the day after an overwrought, frenzied trip to the Sochi Games ended in a fourth-place finish that left many people, including White himself, wondering if he wanted to do this anymore.

He decided 'Yes,' and changed up everything — coach, sponsors, PR. He put his guitar-playing career on hold at around the time one of the band members sued him for sexual harassment (The suit has since been settled, and when asked about it Wednesday night, he called it "gossip" and said "I'm proud of who I am.") and tried to rediscover a love for his sport that had gone lacking.

He found it, and was revving up the tricks to get him back to the top, when he bashed his face on the side of the halfpipe during a training run in New Zealand . He still has stitches in his tongue from the accident.

"He ripped his face in half, more or less, and you can still see the scars," said White's coach, JJ Thomas. "And I don't know if anyone else in this world has the mental strength to overcome that fear and lay it down on the world stage."

The debate is now on about where White, now 31, stands in the pantheon of Olympic stars, or sports stars in general.

Even with the tantalizing prospect of him heading to the Summer side for skateboarding's debut in 2020 , then possibly returning to Winter in 2022, he'll never match the nine gold medals Usain Bolt collected, the 28 overall amassed by Michael Phelps or the 13 that cross-country skier Ole Einar Bjoerndalen of Norway has won.

Then again, White only gets one event in which to shine. And he puts his life on the line every time he steps into the arena.

"As an athlete, to see a human being accomplish everything that's expected of him, it's insane," said Jake Burton, the snowboard maker and one of the sport's founding fathers.

Nobody has been harder on himself over the years than White. But after headlining a day on the halfpipe that won't soon be forgotten, he was in no mood to argue.

"I'm really proud of myself, which is something I never say," he said. "This meant the world to me."

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

## Shaun White refers to sexual misconduct lawsuit as "gossip"

By JAKE SEINER, AP Sports Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Shaun White dismissed the sexual misconduct allegations made against him in a 2016 lawsuit as "gossip" and hurried away from reporters trying to ask him more about the allegations Wednesday, just hours after winning his third gold medal in the men's halfpipe.

White has been the world's dominant snowboarder for more than a decade, winning gold medals in 2006, 2010 and again this year, completing a comeback after finishing fourth in 2014.

As White was competing, many on social media resurfaced the details from the lawsuit by a former drummer in White's rock band, Bad Things. Lena Zawaideh said White sexually harassed and refused to pay her wages after he fired her. The lawsuit was settled in May for an undisclosed amount.

White was asked if the allegations might tarnish his reputation.

"I'm here to talk about the Olympics, not gossip and stuff," he said. "I don't think so."

Reporters attempted to follow up about the lawsuit, but US Snowboarding and Freeskiing Event Director Nick Alexakos shut them down.

White immediately left the stage following the conference while reporters continued to question him.

"I have to get to the medal ceremony," he said while being ushered away by Alexakos.

Phone calls and an email to Zawaideh's attorney from the lawsuit were not immediately returned.

In the lawsuit , Zawaideh said White repeatedly sexually harassed her, forced her to watch pornography and told her how to get her hair cut.



The lawsuit included screenshots of text messages allegedly sent by White asking about the haircut and suggesting she wear a provocative outfit.

The lawsuit also said White grabbed Zawaideh's buttocks shortly after leaving a band practice and that he once shoved a bottle of vodka into her mouth and forced her to drink from it. It also said that "White stuck his hands down his pants, approached Zawaideh, and stuck his hands in her face trying to make her smell them." The lawsuit also says White tried to kiss Zawaideh at a Halloween party.

Bad Things signed with Warner Bros. Records in 2013. The rock group released a self-titled album in January of 2014 and toured briefly.

Praise for White's performance in Pyeongchang caught backfire on social media at a time when #MeToo and other movements are calling for more accountability about harassment and abuse.

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Follow Jake Seiner on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/jake\\_seiner](https://twitter.com/jake_seiner)

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

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This story has been corrected to characterize the allegations in the lawsuit as sexual misconduct instead of sexual assault.

## 'Deep down': Rivalry between Koreas, Japan transcends sports

By FOSTER KLUG and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP) — As South Korea's national soccer coach prepared to play Japan in a 1954 World Cup qualifier, President Syngman Rhee, who'd been liberated, with the rest of Korea, from Japan's brutal colonial rule in 1945, had some advice should the Koreans lose: "Don't think about coming back alive," he supposedly told the coach. "Just throw yourself into the Genkai Sea."

There are sports rivalries, and then there's Korea vs. Japan — an often toxic mix of violent history and politics, with a (un)healthy dose of cultural chauvinism and envy mixed in.

The fierce grudges over historical persecution and a thousand perceived national and cultural slights cannot be untwined from the sports for many Koreans. These swirling emotions were front and center Wednesday as a combined team of North and South Koreans played regional power Japan in women's hockey.

Both had yet to win a game these Olympics. Both desperately wanted that win to come against their rival. But Japan pulled it out in the end, defeating the joint Korean team 4-1.

"We did our best," South Korean forward Park Jong-ah said after South Korean fans showered her team with stuffed animals in the moments after the loss.

The two Koreas share much, not least language and culture, but they've also been divided for seven decades and are still in a technical state of war. Just weeks ago, there were real fears of military conflict here. More than any temporary cooperation on the hockey ice, then, it may be their shared hatred of Japan — and the near universal perception that Tokyo has never fully apologized for or acknowledged its colonial evils — that joins them most forcefully.

The last time the Koreas were unified, in fact, was during Japanese rule from 1910 to 1945. The end of WWII saw the division of the peninsula into a U.S.-backed south and Soviet-backed north.

In the South, this history can sometimes feel fresh.

Weekly demonstrations have gone on for more than two decades in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul by an ever-dwindling number of the thousands of Korean women forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military during the colonial era.

Koreans also like to raise the debt Japan owes mainland Asia (Korea and China) for the large elements of religion, culture and language it borrowed during its formative centuries. All but forgotten in Japan, there are angry memories still here about a hill of sliced-off Korean noses collected during a 16th-century

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Japanese invasion of the peninsula.

All this and more was in the air as these two hockey teams met.

"I felt a big thrill when the unified team entered the rink," said Yu Wongsin, 36, a schoolteacher from Daejeon in central South Korea. "When they scored their first goal, my happiness reached its zenith and it was the best and the most touching moment."

In the arena Wednesday, South Korean cheerleaders in yellow miniskirts bounced to K-pop while visiting North Korean cheerleaders sat in matching red jumpsuits. Fans waved flags that showed a single united Korean Peninsula or the South Korean national flag.

Small groups of South Koreans attempted more chaotic, improvised versions of the North Koreans' meticulously choreographed cheering routines — efforts that would occasionally dissolve into giggles. There was even a lookalike of Kim Jong Un, North Korea's dictator, wandering around for a while.

The Koreans scored their first Olympic goal at 9:31 of the second on their 33rd shot over three games. Randi Heesoo Griffin from Cary, North Carolina, whose mother is South Korean, scored from the right circle off an assist from fellow American Marissa Brandt before the Koreans came together jumping and celebrating on the ice. Later, Griffin would call the goal "kind of a lucky bounce."

"I know in reality the unification is difficult at this moment, but I strongly felt we were one at that moment," said spectator Lee Jung-woo, 47, from Incheon, just west of Seoul.

Many in Japan and South Korea watched with unease as the North Korean leader and U.S. President Donald Trump traded threats of war over the last year amid a near-constant barrage of weapons testing by the North, which is approaching its goal of an arsenal of nuclear missiles that can reliably target U.S. cities.

Japanese officials have expressed concern during the games at Kim Jong Un's sister flying south with an invitation to talk, which South Korean President Moon Jae-in is considering.

Past conciliatory moves by the Koreas have only allowed North Korea breathing room so it could continue its weapons programs, Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said this month, according to the Asahi Shimbun. Abe also warned Moon not to fall for North Korea's "smile diplomacy" because the North remains committed to nuclear weapons.

The Korean team has had some tough games. It lost 8-0 to Switzerland on Saturday, then 8-0 to Sweden on Monday. After that game, Korean players had vowed redemption in their last preliminary round match against Japan.

"After the decision was made to combine the teams we didn't see north or south. We just became one team ... we made the best of a tough situation," said Sarah Murray, the combined Korean team's Canadian coach.

"We are still hungry for our win," Murray said. "We are still going to play to win for the last two games."

Sunwoo Yoo, a 44-year-old South Korean spectator watching the game Wednesday, has studied overseas and has many Japanese friends. Yoo had a more subtle take on the proceedings.

"I put more meaning on a unified Korean team, rather than a win or a loss," Yoo said. "It's good for our team to win and I'll root for our country in my heart, but I don't want to do it so openly. I just like this heated atmosphere."

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Foster Klug is South Korea bureau chief for The Associated Press and has covered Asia since 2005. Follow him on Twitter at @apklug. Follow Kim Tong-hyung on Twitter at @KimTongHyung. AP correspondent Hyung-jin Kim contributed to this story.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. FLYING TOMATO REIGNS SUPREME — AGAIN

Shaun White executes a combination of tricks he had never landed until he did it with the halfpipe title on the line to capture his third Olympic gold medal.

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## 2. SHAUN WHITE REFERS TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT LAWSUIT AS 'GOSSIP'

The American gold medalist snowboarder dismisses allegations made against him in 2016 and hurries away from reporters trying to ask more questions about them.

## 3. WHAT HAS PROMINENT REPUBLICAN WOMEN FRUSTRATED

The White House's handling of abuse charges against two senior presidential aides raises new concerns in the struggle to attract female voters.

## 4. 'IT'S LIKE YOU'RE IN A WAR ZONE'

A company tied to Trump's two grown sons owns a 171-acre preserve in upstate New York that they and others use as a private shooting range, AP learns.

## 5. NEW FRONTS EMERGE IN SYRIA AS WAR WINDS DOWN

Chaos persists as al-Qaida-affiliated rebels shot down a Russian jet, Kurdish fighters downed a Turkish helicopter, Israel downed an Iranian drone and the Syrian army shot down an Israeli F-16.

## 6. WHO CALLED FOR NETANYAHU TO STEP DOWN

Israeli opposition leaders call on the embattled prime minister to resign following police recommendations that he be charged with bribery and breach of trust in two corruption cases.

## 7. POLICE RAID BUSINESS FAMILY LINKED TO ZUMA; RESIGNATION ULTIMATUM LOOMS

The Guptas are suspected of using their connections to influence the South African president's Cabinet appointments and win state contracts, fueling corruption allegations.

## 8. OFFSHORE DRILLING PUBLIC HEARINGS NOT SO PUBLIC

Opponents of Trump's plan to open most of the nation's coastline to oil and natural gas drilling are prohibited from speaking at public meetings held by the government on the topic.

## 9. WHO SAYS HE PAID STORMY DANIELS

Trump's personal attorney Michael Cohen says he paid \$130,000 out of his own pocket to the porn actress who allegedly had a sexual relationship with Trump in 2006.

## 10. THIS POOCH IS TOP DOG

Flynn the bichon frise won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club, a choice that seemed to surprise almost everyone in the crowd at Madison Square Garden.

## South Africa's ruling party could replace Zuma on Thursday

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's ruling party moved to replace the defiant President Jacob Zuma as early as Thursday while police raided his business associates at the center of corruption scandals that have infuriated the country. Zuma, breaking his silence, told the state broadcaster that his treatment was "unfair."

African National Congress leaders said they want parliament to vote on a motion of no confidence against Zuma on Thursday and replace him right away with Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa if the president refuses Wednesday to step aside.

As the nation awaited word on whether he would obey the ruling party's order to leave office, Zuma appeared in a live interview with the South African Broadcasting Corporation and insisted that party leaders had not told him why he needed to resign.

"I need to be furnished on what I've done," Zuma said. "What is this hurry?" He said he wasn't refusing to step aside but preferred "after June."

The president's tenure has been marred by corruption scandals and the party wants him to end his second five-year term early so that it can shore up support ahead of 2019 elections.

The ANC will act if Zuma does not respond by the end of Wednesday, said Paul Mashatile, the party's treasurer general.

"We can no longer keep South Africa waiting," Mashatile said.

Ramaphosa, who was elected as the ANC's new leader in December, has said the government will do more to fight the corruption that has hurt the reputation of the ANC, which has led South Africa since the

end of white minority rule in 1994.

An opposition-sponsored motion of no confidence in Zuma had been scheduled for Feb. 22, but opposition parties wanted the date to be moved to this week.

Also Wednesday, an elite police unit raided the compound of the Gupta business family, which is suspected of using its connections to Zuma to influence Cabinet appointments and win state contracts and has been a flashpoint for national anger over corruption in state enterprises. Both the Guptas and Zuma say they've done nothing wrong.

Several people were arrested in operations at various addresses, South African media reported.

Follow Christopher Torchia on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/torchiachris](http://www.twitter.com/torchiachris)

## 1 climber dies, others rescued on Oregon's tallest peak

By STEVEN DUBOIS and GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

GOVERNMENT CAMP, Ore. (AP) — One climber fell to his death and several others had to be rescued after conditions turned treacherous on Oregon's tallest peak.

More than a half-dozen people had been climbing near Mount Hood's peak when a climber fell about 1,000 feet, (304 meters) said Sgt. Brian Jensen, a Clackamas County sheriff's office spokesman.

"One of the guys slipped," said climber Quinn Talley of Welches, Oregon, who had been descending after summiting Tuesday morning. "At first he was just sliding and right before he disappeared, he started cartwheeling."

Talley, who said he's climbed the mountain about 20 times and has never seen worse conditions, said he tried to reach the man, but the ice was too dangerous.

"Normally, you like a frozen crust on snow so your crampons don't ball up with snow, but this is different," Talley said. "With the rain and freeze cycles, there's something called rime ice ... and it's really loose and normally it's just fluffy. But these were like dinner plates, hard ice dinner plates."

KOIN-TV reported that video taken from a helicopter showed other climbers performing CPR on the man before he was airlifted by an Oregon Army National Guard helicopter to a hospital. He was later declared dead. Authorities have not released his identity.

Mount Hood, a peak notorious for loose ice and rocks in warm weather, is a popular climbing site that has seen dozens of accidents and fatalities over the years. Thousands climb it each year, mostly in the spring.

The sun has been out this week and the temperature was around freezing at the spot where the climber fell, said Russell Gubele of Mountain Wave Search and Rescue.

"This is the kind of weather conditions and the time of year where you often get falling ice, falling rocks and problems," Gubele said. "It sounds like the conditions up there are very unsafe right now."

Climbers used their cellphones to report that conditions were hazardous and described the falling rocks and ice "like a bowling alley," said Air Force Maj. Chris Bernard of the 304th Rescue Squadron.

The stuck climbers were on or near the Hogsback area near the summit of the 11,240-foot (3,429-meter) mountain east of Portland.

Rescuers made it up to the other climbers Tuesday afternoon at 10,500-foot (3,200-meter) elevation and assessed them before starting down the mountain.

Two climbers who were in the same party as the man who fell were guided down the mountain to a snow tractor, which took them to Timberline Lodge at 6,000 feet (1,829 meters). Rescuers used a sled and a rope system to bring down a woman in the party who said she was unable to move.

Steve Rollins of Portland Mountain Rescue said the woman arrived at the Timberline Lodge just before 8 p.m.

"It was very hard to move under these types of conditions and she was very brave and very stoic during her evacuation," he said of the woman who was rescued, adding that she was able to get out of the snow tractor under her own power.

Three other climbers made their way down the mountain without assistance, according to the sheriff's



office.

Wyatt Peck, 26, said he started to go up the mountain Tuesday, but turned around. He said the conditions were so treacherous that he and a friend could not get their pickaxes and crampons into the snow that was melting from a hard freeze overnight.

Peck said others in his climbing group continued, and he was concerned that they were among those stranded.

"I saw like I said a lot of people were struggling traversing," he said. "I think they just got to the summit and were so exhausted they didn't know what to do to get back down — and that's the hardest part, to get back down."

Peck said climbers must know when to abandon a summit attempt.

"The mountain's always going to be there — your life's not worth it," he said.

DuBois reported from Portland, Oregon. AP writer Lisa Baumann contributed to this report from Seattle.

## Netanyahu shrugs off police corruption claims, opposition

By ILAN BEN ZION, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday shrugged off police recommendations that he be charged with corruption, calling the allegations "biased, extreme, full of holes, like Swiss cheese" and vowed to remain in office.

Speaking at a local government meeting in Tel Aviv, Netanyahu said his government remains stable despite the police announcement, and that "the truth will come to light and nothing will come of this."

Israeli opposition leaders have called on Netanyahu to step down but the longtime premier angrily rejected those calls as well.

The police announcement late Tuesday that Netanyahu accepted nearly \$300,000 in gifts from two billionaires dealt the embattled prime minister an embarrassing blow after years of investigations, but did not appear to immediately rattle his rule as reaction largely fell along partisan lines.

Nearly all of Netanyahu's Cabinet ministers issued statements of support and no coalition partners appeared ready to bolt. Netanyahu's coalition whip, David Amsalem, accused the police of committing "an illegitimate act here to attempt a coup d'état in Israel."

Opposition politicians, meanwhile, urged Netanyahu's coalition allies to abandon his government.

Labor Party leader Avi Gabbay said that Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon and Education Minister Naftali Bennett — leaders of two of the larger parties in Netanyahu's coalition — need to choose between supporting the prime minister and upholding the rule of law.

"I think it's clear here that this government needs to go to elections. It can't be that this government continues as is," Gabbay told Israel's Army Radio. "A prime minister that busies himself with attacking his police and law enforcement is simply attacking himself, attacking the country."

"There's really a government culture of corruption," he added.

The police recommendations now go to Attorney General Avihai Mandelblit, who will review the material before deciding whether to file charges. Netanyahu can remain in office during that process, which is expected to drag on for months. Both Kahlon and Bennett said they will await Mandelblit's decision to decide how to move forward.

On Tuesday night, Netanyahu accused police of being on a witch hunt and vowed to remain in office and even seek re-election.

"I will continue to lead the state of Israel responsibly and loyally as long as you, the citizens of Israel, choose me to lead you," an ashen-faced Netanyahu said in a televised address.

The police recommendations marked a dramatic ending to a more than a yearlong investigation into allegations that Netanyahu accepted gifts from Hollywood mogul Arnon Milchan and Australian billionaire James Packer, and suspicions that he offered to give preferential treatment to a newspaper publisher in exchange for favorable coverage.

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The police statement said their investigation found sufficient evidence to indict Netanyahu in the first case, known as File 1000, for accepting bribes, fraud and breach of trust. It said Netanyahu had accepted gifts valued at 750,000 shekels (\$214,000) from Milchan, and 250,000 shekels (\$71,000) from Packer. The gifts from Milchan reportedly included expensive cigars and champagne.

Police said that in return, Netanyahu had operated on Milchan's behalf on U.S. visa matters, legislated a tax break and connected him with an Indian businessman. It said he also helped Milchan, an Israeli producer whose credits include "Pretty Woman," "12 Years a Slave" and "JFK," in the Israeli media market.

In news that send shockwaves through the political system, it emerged that Yair Lapid, leader of the opposition Yesh Atid party, had given testimony about the Netanyahu efforts to benefit Milchan he saw during his term as finance minister.

Key members of Netanyahu's Likud Party pointed to this as proof that the investigation was politically motivated and amsalem angrily called Lapid a "snitch."

Lapid said that as a law abiding citizen he gave a short testimony upon request of the police and he called on Netanyahu to resign.

"Someone with such serious accusations against them, many of which he does not even deny, cannot continue to serve as prime minister with responsibility for the security and well-being of Israel's citizens," Lapid said.

During similar circumstances a decade ago, Netanyahu, as opposition leader, urged then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to resign during a police investigation, saying a leader "sunk up to his neck in interrogations" could not govern properly.

But Netanyahu remained defiant. His attorney, Amit Hadad, told Israel Radio Wednesday that the police's claims against his client were false.

"He didn't receive bribes at all. Not in a single day, not in a year, not at all," Hadad said. "The prime minister never acted in Milchan's benefit on any issue, except for one, that of the visa."

Netanyahu said he did so because Milchan had done much for Israel and noted that the late Shimon Peres had also been close with Milchan.

In the second case, known as "File 2000," Netanyahu reportedly was recorded asking Arnon Mozes, the publisher of the Yediot Ahronot daily, for positive coverage in exchange for promoting legislation that would weaken a free newspaper that had cut into Yediot's business.

Police said there was sufficient evidence to charge both Milchan and Mozes with bribery.

Channel 10 TV read a statement that it said came from Milchan's "defense team" saying the bribery charge would not stand. It said his relationship with Netanyahu went back to the early 2000s, before he became prime minister, and that the men and their families were friends.

There was no immediate comment from Packer or Mozes.

## Party's over: Raucous Fat Tuesday gives way to solemn Lent

By REBECCA SANTANA and JANET McCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Families camped out from early morning to catch beads and stuffed animals thrown from float riders. Revelers took to the streets in elaborate or funny costumes evoking Marie Antoinette, President Donald Trump and glamorous vampires. And amused bystanders took in the chaotic scene from lawn chairs.

Carnival season started Jan. 6 and came to a close Fat Tuesday with festivities throughout New Orleans. Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, a period of reflection and restraint after the days of parades, parties and revelry.

Thronges of people were on the median for the final day of Mardi Gras, cooking up crawfish and red beans and rice. Others had set up ladders for their kids to sit on and catch beads and throws from the passing Zulu parade, one of two main parades that take to the streets on Fat Tuesday.

Joseph Rhyans moved to Houston in 2002 but tries to come back every year. This time he'd brought two of his kids, one of whom was sitting on a ladder catching bobbles from the passing Zulu parade.

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"It's a family thing down here. That is what Mardi Gras is all about. Teach the kids and they will come back every year," he said.

Families usually pack up and go home after the parades are over although celebrations in the French Quarter extend into the late evening.

Costumes are a huge part of the Mardi Gras celebrations in the French Quarter, and Tuesday's designs did not disappoint. The French Quarter's most famous street, Bourbon Street, and parallel Royal Street were crowded with costumed tourists and locals, many of them stopping each other for photographs. One group dressed as pink flamingos. Two men, both dressed as Trump, greeted each other in the crowd.

Other costumes included Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, Pac Man and Mrs. Pac Man and an angel of death with black wings and halo.

Shannon Abraham from Reno, Nevada, said she spent dozens of hours designing and making her elaborate silver-sequined dress. She wore a big silver wig of curls piled on top of curls and a pair of silver fangs to complete her look as a "Glampire Extraordinaire."

"We love New Orleans. There's no place else in the world like it," she said. Speaking of the people dressed up in the French Quarter, she said: "The effort that they've poured into this celebration and their costumes is extraordinary. And I like to be part of that. I like to contribute."

On Royal Street, JoAnn Lemoine, from Marrero, Louisiana, was sitting in a lawn chair on the sidewalk watching the ebb and flow of revelers on the streets. For her, the fun was in the people-watching.

"We love it. We come here every year. This is what we do every year, come out and watch all the people on the streets and all the costumes and this is a good year because all the costumes are out because the weather is so good," she said.

Carnival season draws about 1 million visitors and pumps about \$840 million into the city's economy, according to the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau. It also means two weeks of 12-hour, no-vacation shifts for the city's police, who are reinforced by 165 state troopers and officers and deputies from half a dozen nearby areas.

The day's festivities were marred by shootings across New Orleans, some near the parades.

In one incident, police said one man was shot in the head and a juvenile boy was shot in the leg.

Police said a second shooting happened when a fight broke out. Officers working along the parade route heard gunshots and ran over to find a man shot. He was rushed to the hospital but later died from his injuries.

In the third incident police spokeswoman Ambria Washington said five people were shot while in a car and then drove to a nearby gas station in the Lower 9th Ward. Two of them died from their wounds. Dozens of bystanders stood on the median across from the gas station, many still wearing their festive Mardi Gras clothes.

The violence happened toward the end of what had been a fun-filled day. The day started with neighborhood organizations such as St. Anne's parade, an eclectic walking parade and the North Side Skull and Bone Gang, which wakes people up and tells children to behave.

The Half-Fast Walking Club, organized by the late clarinetist Pete Fountain, rolls and strolls to the Quarter from the Commander's Palace restaurant.

Then comes the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, a historically African-American group that parades in blackface and grass skirts. After Zulu comes Rex, which is followed by two "truck parades" with floats built on flatbed trailers and decorated by the families, neighborhood groups and other organizations riding in them.

Although many people associate Mardi Gras with women flashing their breasts for plastic bead necklaces, that bawdiness occurs mostly along Bourbon Street.

Neighbors Christine Stephens and Tracy Thomas said they stay on the traditional parade route, outside the French Quarter.

"Mardi Gras should be for everyone from 8 months to 88 years old," Stephens said.

Follow Santana on Twitter @ruskygal.

## A Westminster wow: Bichon frise becomes America's top dog

By BEN WALKER, AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Flynn the bichon frise won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club on Tuesday night, a choice that seemed to surprise almost everyone in the crowd at Madison Square Garden.

Fans who had been loudly shouting for their favorites fell into stunned silence when judge Betty-Anne Stenmark announced her decision.

No matter, the white powder puff was picked and walked off as America's top dog.

Guided by expert handler Bill McFadden, Flynn beat out Ty the giant schnauzer, Biggie the pug, Bean the Sussex spaniel, Lucy the borzoi, Slick the border collie and Winston the Norfolk terrier.

"It feels a little unreal," McFadden said. "I came in expecting nothing except hoping for a good performance, and I think I got it."

Underdogs and upsets are way more than norm on the green carpet of the Garden — inside dog fanciers indeed fancied Flynn, but the people sitting in the stands was obviously pulling for other dogs.

Ty came into this competition as the nation's No. 1 show dog last year and finished as the runner-up. He endeared himself to the crowd by jumping up and putting his front paws around handler Katie Bernardin after winning the working group earlier in the evening. Slick and Lucy also drew applause.

Cheers of "Let's go, Biggie!" bounced all arena for the popular pug. And Bean was a clear crowd favorite, the way he sat up straight on his hind legs and begged judges for the biggest treat in dogdom.

Almost 6, Flynn posted his 42nd career best in show victory in what is almost certainly his last show before retiring.

The famed JR was the only other bichon to win Westminster, in 2001. McFadden has enjoyed success at the Garden, having guided Mick the Kerry blue terrier to the title in 2003.

Flynn won't get much rest before beginning his victory lap. Wednesday's schedule includes visits to the morning TV news shows, a steak lunch at Sardi's, a trip to the top of the Empire State Building, and he's been invited for a walk-on part at a Broadway hit "Kinky Boots."

The Westminster-winning team gets no prize money. Instead, there's a shiny bowl, lucrative breeding fees and, most of all, a lifetime of memories.

The 142nd Westminster event attracted 2,882 entries in 202 breeds and varieties. Among those who didn't quite make the cut: face-licking Spicy Nacho the miniature bull terrier who drew laughs, just not the judge's look.

Flynn made a goodwill gesture toward Stenmark upon meeting her, offering his paw as if to shake hands when she went down the line to review the final seven dogs.

His full name is Belle Creek's All I Care About is Love, and this champion from the nonsporting group delivered a few minutes before it became Valentine's Day.

"He has my heart," McFadden said. "He is pure joy."

The fans seemed to like Flynn, too, only they hollered a lot more for several others.

"He kept wagging his tail and that sold himself to me," Stenmark said.

## White House, FBI differ in accounts of investigation of aide

By DEB RIECHMANN and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Contradicting the White House, the FBI said it gave the Trump administration information on multiple occasions last year about a top aide accused of domestic abuse by his two ex-wives, and the investigation wrapped up in January.

That account by FBI Director Christopher Wray challenged the White House assertion that Rob Porter's background "investigation was ongoing" and officials first learned the extent of accusations against him only last week, just before he abruptly resigned.

Wray's testimony on Tuesday marked the latest development in a scandal that has called into question



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the judgment of senior members of the White House staff, put new stress on the administration's already strained credibility with the public, and drawn accusations of tone-deaf handling of abuse allegations.

The weeklong fallout from the allegations against Porter, President Donald Trump's staff secretary, has thrown the West Wing into chaos not seen since the earliest months of the administration and has sparked new rounds of recriminations inside the White House.

Privately, officials acknowledge that the public timeline offered last week — that the administration first learned of the ex-wives' charges against Porter last Tuesday — was flawed at best.

Several senior officials, including chief of staff John Kelly and White House counsel Don McGahn, were aware of the broad allegations against Porter for months, officials said.

Kelly found out after requesting an update on the large number of senior staffers operating without full security clearances, according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions. McGahn told Kelly last fall there was concern about information in the background investigation involving Porter's ex-wives, the official said, and Kelly expressed surprise that Porter had previously been married.

Despite that, Porter took on an increasingly central role in the West Wing and was under consideration to serve as Trump's deputy chief of staff, two officials said.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters Monday, "The White House had not received any specific papers regarding the completion of that background check." Yet Wray testified that the FBI sent the White House its preliminary report in March 2017 and its completed investigation in late July. Soon after that, the agency received a request for a follow-up inquiry, and it provided that information in November. Porter was interviewed about the allegations in September, an official said.

"And then we administratively closed the file in January, and then earlier this month we received some additional information and we passed that on as well," Wray added in his congressional testimony Tuesday, without elaboration.

The FBI does not make recommendations about whether to grant or deny a security clearance, officials said, leaving the determination up to the employee's agency, in Porter's case, the White House.

Sanders maintained Tuesday that her statement about an ongoing investigation was accurate because Porter's clearance hadn't received a final sign-off from the White House Office of Personnel Security.

"We find those statements to be consistent with one another," she said.

The White House has refused to divulge the number of staff members who still do not have full clearances, though the list includes Jared Kushner, the president's senior adviser and son-in-law. Kushner's attorney, Abbe Lowell, said in a statement that "there are a dozen or more people at Mr. Kushner's level" who are working without full security clearances.

A senior administration official said as many as two dozen senior officials don't hold permanent clearances. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Separately, Trump's intelligence chief called for top-to-bottom reform of the security clearance process, which allowed Porter to operate in his job for more than a year with only an interim clearance.

"We have a broken system and I think everybody's come to agree with that now," Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence, told The Associated Press. He called for limits on the information made accessible to those with temporary clearances — a practice that is currently not followed in the West Wing, an official said.

Meanwhile, Colbie Holderness, Porter's first wife, pushed back against comments made by presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway that seemed to suggest strong women can't be victims of domestic violence.

Conway, in a weekend interview on CNN, said she had no reason to disbelieve accounts by Holderness and another ex-wife that Porter had abused them. But when asked if she was concerned for top White House aide Hope Hicks, who reportedly was dating Porter, Conway said no because "I've rarely met somebody so strong with such excellent instincts and loyalty and smarts."

Conway went on to say that "there's no question" that domestic violence "knows no demographic or geographic bounds," and she understands there is a stigma that surrounds these issues.

In an opinion piece in The Washington Post, Holderness wrote that Conway's first statement "implies

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that those who have been in abusive relationships are not strong. I beg to differ.”

Porter resigned after Holderness and his second ex-wife, Jennifer Willoughby, came forward with allegations of emotional and physical abuse. Porter has denied harming them.

The White House approach has drawn criticism even from Trump’s own party.

“I think you can’t justify it,” Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst told CNN about a report that the White House arranged for Porter to defend himself privately to reporters after the allegations surfaced. “You can’t justify that.”

Associated Press writers Robert Burns, Sadie Gurman and Juliet Linderman in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

## Costumes, beads and music: Mardi Gras comes to a close

By **REBECCA SANTANA** and **JANET McCONNAUGHEY**, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Families camped out from early morning to catch beads and stuffed animals thrown from float riders. Revelers took to the streets in elaborate or funny costumes evoking Marie Antoinette, President Donald Trump and glamorous vampires. And amused bystanders took in the chaotic scene from lawn chairs.

Carnival season started Jan. 6 and comes to a close Fat Tuesday with festivities throughout New Orleans. Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, a period of reflection and restraint after the days of parades, parties and revelry.

Thronges of people were on the median for the final day of Mardi Gras, cooking up crawfish and red beans and rice. Others had set up ladders for their kids to sit on and catch beads and throws from the passing Zulu parade, one of two main parades that take to the streets on Fat Tuesday.

Joseph Rhyans moved to Houston in 2002 but tries to come back every year. This time he’d brought two of his kids, one of whom was sitting on a ladder catching bobbles from the passing Zulu parade.

“It’s a family thing down here. That is what Mardi Gras is all about. Teach the kids and they will come back every year,” he said.

Families usually pack up and go home after the parades are over although celebrations in the French Quarter extend into the late evening before police do a ceremonial clearing of the streets at midnight.

Costumes are a huge part of the Mardi Gras celebrations in the French Quarter, and Tuesday’s designs did not disappoint. The French Quarter’s most famous street, Bourbon Street, and parallel Royal Street were crowded with costumed tourists and locals, many of them stopping each other for photographs. One group dressed as pink flamingos. Two men, both dressed as Trump, greeted each other in the crowd.

Other costumes included Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, Pac Man and Mrs. Pac Man and an angel of death with black wings and halo.

Shannon Abraham from Reno, Nevada, said she spent dozens of hours designing and making her elaborate silver-sequined dress. She wore a big silver wig of curls piled on top of curls and a pair of silver fangs to complete her look as a “Glampire Extraordinaire.”

“We love New Orleans. There’s no place else in the world like it,” she said. Speaking of the people dressed up in the French Quarter, she said: “The effort that they’ve poured into this celebration and their costumes is extraordinary. And I like to be part of that. I like to contribute.”

On Royal Street, JoAnn Lemoine, from Marrero, Louisiana, was sitting in a lawn chair on the sidewalk watching the ebb and flow of revelers on the streets. For her, the fun was in the people-watching.

“We love it. We come here every year. This is what we do every year, come out and watch all the people on the streets and all the costumes and this is a good year because all the costumes are out because the weather is so good,” she said.

Two shootings near the traditional Mardi Gras parade route left three people wounded, New Orleans Police said. The first shooting happened about 3:15 p.m. Deputy Superintendent Paul Noel said one man was shot in the head and is in critical condition. Another, a juvenile boy, was shot in the leg and is in stable condition.

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Police Chief Michael Harrison said a second shooting happened during a fight that broke out. A man who police believe was shot twice was rushed to the hospital. He later died from his injuries.

Later Tuesday night police spokeswoman Ambria Washington said five people were shot, two men fatally, before driving to a gas station in the Lower 9th Ward.

The victims were on a nearby street when multiple suspects opened fire on them, Washington said.

News media report that the shooting started at a house party a few blocks away from the gas station.

The body of the victim who died could be seen in the back of a red Nissan sedan at the La Express gas. Another victim was transported to the hospital by emergency services and died there. Three other victims were transported to the hospital in private vehicles.

Washington said authorities did not have a motive at this time. The names and ages of the victims were not released.

Carnival season draws about 1 million visitors and pumps about \$840 million into the city's economy, according to the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau. It also means two weeks of 12-hour, no-vacation shifts for the city's police, who are reinforced by 165 state troopers and officers and deputies from half a dozen nearby areas.

Neighborhood organizations are among the first groups out on Mardi Gras. There's St. Anne's parade, an eclectic walking parade and the North Side Skull and Bone Gang, which wakes people up and tells children to behave.

The Half-Fast Walking Club, organized by the late clarinetist Pete Fountain, rolls and strolls to the Quarter from the Commander's Palace restaurant.

Then comes the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, a historically African-American group that parades in blackface and grass skirts. After Zulu comes Rex, which is followed by two "truck parades" with floats built on flatbed trailers and decorated by the families, neighborhood groups and other organizations riding in them.

The 300th anniversary of this Louisiana port city featured prominently in the Rex parade. Rex, which is the city's oldest parading group, decorated 21 of their 28 floats with images of the city's history.

Although many people associate Mardi Gras with women flashing their breasts for plastic bead necklaces, that bawdiness occurs mostly in the French Quarter, often from Bourbon Street balconies.

Neighbors Christine Stephens and Tracy Thomas said they stay on the traditional parade route, outside the French Quarter.

"Mardi Gras should be for everyone from 8 months to 88 years old," Stephens said.

Follow Santana on Twitter @ruskygal.

## Leaping elk crashes low-flying research helicopter in Utah

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — An elk leaped into a research helicopter that was trying to capture it and brought down the helicopter in a collision that also killed the elk, authorities said Tuesday.

The elk jumped into the chopper's tail rotor as the aircraft flew about 10 feet (3 meters) above ground in a mountainous part of eastern Utah, with its crew trying to drop a net on the elk, said Jared Rigby of the Wasatch County Sheriff's Office.

The two people on board weren't seriously hurt, but the elk died of its injuries Monday afternoon.

The state-contracted Texas-based crew was trying to capture and sedate the elk and give it a tracking collar to research its movements in the area about 90 miles (145 kilometers) east of Salt Lake City.

Helicopters are a frequently used and essential tool for monitoring remote wildlife in Utah, said Mark Hadley with the state Division of Wildlife Resources.

The tracking collars help wildlife officials monitor elk migration paths and survival rates. The state captures about 1,300 animals each winter, almost all using helicopters, and Tuesday's downing of the helicopter was the first accident of its kind, he said.

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The crew had launched a net to catch the animal, but when that didn't immediately work the pilot started to slow down so someone could jump out and hobble the elk, Hadley said. As the helicopter slowed down, the elk collided with the rotor, Hadley said.

The helicopter was damaged on its tail rotor, right skid and underside, Rigsby said.

State officials will review the incident that appears to have been a fluke accident, Hadley said.

Environmental groups have protested the use of helicopters to monitor wildlife.

The group Wilderness Watch is objecting to a plan to study mountain goats using helicopters in a central-Utah wilderness area, calling the aircraft "unnecessary intrusion into some of our most treasured lands," according to the Deseret News.

This story has been corrected to show the helicopter crew was based in Texas, not Australia.

## Reports of Russian deaths underscore dangers of Syria's war

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a scenario many feared in the fog of Syria's multi-front war: a confrontation in which U.S. forces, responding to a provocation, kill Russian soldiers or mercenaries on a crowded battlefield.

Russian news reports Tuesday described just such a scenario, with an unknown number of Russian military contractors killed in a ferocious U.S. counterattack last week. But Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and other U.S. officials said they had no such information on casualties, and the Kremlin did not confirm any Russian deaths. U.S. officials also said the Russian government had lodged no complaint about its citizens being killed.

What is not disputed is the fast-changing, often confusing nature of a battlefield in which forces of multiple countries are bumping up against one another, raising the prospect of violent collisions. Whether by accident or intention, such clashes risk plunging Washington and Moscow into a situation they studiously avoided even during some of the darkest hours of their relationship: their forces directly warring with each other.

Russian forces are supporting the Syrian government in its war with opposition groups, some of which are backed by the United States. Elements of both sides are fighting the last remnants of the Islamic State group in Syria. And U.S. and Russian military officials maintain daily contact to avoid battlefield mishaps.

Beyond doubt is the ferocious scale of the U.S. attack on Feb. 7, in response to what the Pentagon called a barrage of artillery and tank fire from several hundred "pro-regime" fighters in Deir el-Zour province, an area in eastern Syria where the last IS fighters have converged among oil fields. Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Harrigian, commander of U.S. air forces in the Middle East, told reporters a broad range of U.S. air power was unleashed.

For more than three hours, American F-15E attack planes, B-52 strategic bombers, AC-130 gunships, Apache attack helicopters and Reaper drones fired on the attacking ground force, which Harrigian said was advancing under covering fire from artillery, mortars, rockets and tank rounds. The air power stopped the attackers' advance and destroyed an unspecified number of artillery guns and battle tanks, he said, but gave no estimate of casualties or full picture of the assailants.

"As the hostile forces turned west and retreated, we ceased fire," Harrigian, speaking from his headquarters in Qatar, said in a video teleconference with reporters at the Pentagon.

In a second episode, the U.S. struck a Russian-made T-72 battle tank on Saturday after it "took a shot at us" in the same general area of Deir el-Zour province, Harrigian said, adding that he did not know who was operating the tank.

Russian media said Russian private contractors were part of pro-Syrian government forces that advanced on oil fields in the Deir el-Zour province and were targeted by the United States. The reports cited activists who said that at least four Russian citizens were killed in Syria on Feb. 7.

The Russian Defense Ministry charged that the incident reflected a U.S. push to grab Syria's economic



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assets under the cover of fighting the Islamic State group.

Without mentioning the U.S. strike, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Tuesday that "Americans have taken dangerous unilateral steps."

"Those steps look increasingly like part of efforts to create a quasi-state on a large part of Syrian territory — from the eastern bank of the Euphrates River all the way to the border with Iraq," he said.

The state news agency Tass on Tuesday cited Natalya Krylova, a municipal lawmaker in the town of Asbestos in the Urals, saying local residents Igor Kosoturov and Stanislav Matveyev were killed in Syria on Feb. 7. The Interfax news agency reported that a Cossack group in the westernmost Kaliningrad region said a member named Vladimir Loginov was killed in combat in the Deir el-Zour province. It also quoted Alexander Averin, the leader of extreme leftist group Another Russia, saying that one of its activists, Kirill Ananyev, was killed by the U.S. strike near Khusham, where the U.S. said its counterattack occurred.

Russian media also cited unconfirmed claims that overall casualties could have been as high as 200 and Russians could have accounted for the bulk of them. Those claims couldn't be verified.

Asked at a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing about Russian deaths, CIA Director Mike Pompeo said, "From an intelligence perspective, we have seen in multiple instances foreign forces using mercenaries in battles that will begin to approach the United States." He deferred on the specifics on the incident to the Pentagon.

Mattis, speaking to reporters Tuesday while traveling in Europe, was adamant he knew of no Russian contractors killed in the fighting, which he attributed to a surprising assault in light of obvious U.S. advantages, including overwhelming air power.

"I don't have any reporting" about Russians being among the casualties, Mattis said. "I can't give you anything on that. We have not received that word" at key U.S. military headquarters, including the Pentagon.

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, wouldn't comment on the reports either, saying they needed to be verified.

He also said Putin didn't speak about anything related to Syria in a phone conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday.

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Isachenkov reported from Moscow. Associated Press reporters Deb Riechmann and Josh Lederman contributed from Washington and Lolita C. Baldor from Brussels.

## Off-duty Chicago police officer fatally shot during pursuit

By DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — An off-duty police commander was shot and killed Tuesday afternoon in downtown Chicago after he spotted a man matching the radio description of an armed suspect officers were chasing on foot, the city's police superintendent said.

Cmdr. Paul Bauer was shot multiple times after he "saw the offender and engaged in an armed physical confrontation," Superintendent Eddie Johnson said. He choked back tears as he spoke to reporters outside Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where Bauer was pronounced dead.

The shooting occurred near the James R. Thompson Center, the state government office building. Johnson said officers initially confronted the suspect because he was acting suspiciously. Police captured the man a short time later, and a gun was recovered at the scene, he said.

Bauer, 53, was a 31-year veteran of the department.

There were initial media reports that the man may have been involved in the robbery of a local business, but Johnson did not provide details about what the man was doing that prompted officers to want to speak with him.

Witnesses to parts of the incident said they heard gunshots.

"I was walking down the street and I heard 'pop pop pop pop pop,'" Noreen Danko, who was walking to her office nearby, told the Chicago Tribune. "And I said to the girl next to me, 'Is that what I think it is?' And she said 'Yep.' I said 'Aw geez.' And everybody is scurrying all over and I see the police head to

the stairs there. There's a stairwell there. And it goes downstairs. I heard that the door is locked there. It used to be a pedway, but now, for security reasons they have it locked."

She told the paper that she saw officers lead the shackled suspect away and put him in a squad car, and then watched as emergency workers administered CPR to Bauer, who was lying on a stretcher, before he was put inside an ambulance and rushed to the hospital.

"I just ask the citizens of this city to keep the Bauer family in their prayers," Johnson said before he turned and left the briefing.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel offered his condolences, too, calling Bauer's death "a tragic reminder of the dangerous duty the men and women of our police department accept to ensure the safety of us all."

## ICE lawyer in Seattle charged with stealing immigrant IDs

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The chief counsel for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Seattle has been charged with stealing immigrants' identities.

Raphael A. Sanchez, who resigned from the agency effective Monday, faces one count of aggravated identity theft and another of wire fraud in a charging document filed Monday in U.S. District Court.

Prosecutors with the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section allege that Sanchez stole the identities of seven people "in various stages of immigration proceedings" to defraud credit card companies including American Express, Bank of America and Capital One.

Neither Sanchez nor his lawyer, Cassandra Stamm, immediately returned emails seeking comment Tuesday.

According to court rules, the type of charging document filed in Sanchez's case — called an information — can be filed only when a defendant has agreed to waive his or her right to be indicted by a grand jury; it's typically an indication that a plea agreement is in the works. The court's calendar showed that Sanchez is due to enter a plea Thursday.

The charging document contained few specifics about the allegations, but did give one example: It said that in April 2016, Sanchez sent an email from his government account to his Yahoo account that included personal information pertaining to a Chinese national identified only as R.H. The information Sanchez sent included an image of R.H.'s U.S. permanent resident card, the biographical page of R.H.'s Chinese passport and a utility bill in R.H.'s name.

## Is inflation rising as investors fear? 5 ways to keep track

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After nearly a decade of being all but invisible, inflation — or the fear of it — is back.

Tentative signs have emerged that prices could accelerate in coming months. Pay raises may be picking up a bit. Commodities such as oil and aluminum have grown more expensive. Cellphone plans are likely to appear costlier.

The specter of high inflation has spooked many investors, who worry it would force up interest rates, making it costlier for consumers and businesses to borrow and weighing down corporate profits and ultimately the economy. Historically, fear of high inflation has led the Federal Reserve to step up its short-term interest rate increases.

It's a big reason investors have dumped stocks and bonds in the past two weeks.

Yet for all the market turmoil, inflation for now remains quite low: Prices, excluding the volatile food and energy categories, have risen just 1.7 percent in the past year. That's below the Fed's target of 2 percent annual inflation.

Most economists expect inflation to edge up and end the year a few tenths of a percentage point above the Fed's target. But most foresee only minimal effect on the economy.

"I don't think that's a huge tragedy," said Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo Securities.

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Inflation, though, is hard to forecast. One widely followed gauge is the government's monthly report on consumer price inflation. The January CPI report will come out Wednesday.

Here are some ways to track the direction of inflation in the coming months:

## HOW MUCH DOES YOUR CELLPHONE PLAN COST?

Roughly a year ago, major wireless carriers like Verizon and AT&T began offering unlimited wireless data plans. This enabled their customers to watch more video, stream more music and trade more photos. It also lowered inflation.

That's because government statisticians don't simply review price changes when they calculate inflation. They also try to measure what consumers actually receive for what they pay. Because unlimited data plans are a better deal, they in effect lowered the overall cost of wireless phone services. Many economists cited this as a reason inflation slowed last year even as the unemployment rate fell.

Still, the cellphone plans were a one-time change. In March, their impact will pass from the government's year-over-year inflation calculations. Most analysts expect this change to boost that month's inflation estimate.

## HOW MUCH WILL PAYCHECKS RISE?

There are tantalizing early signs that many employers, grappling with low unemployment and a shortage of workers, are finally raising pay to attract and keep more workers. Average hourly pay rose 2.9 percent in January from a year earlier, the sharpest year-over-year increase in eight years. A separate quarterly measure from the Labor Department showed that wages and salaries in the final three months of last year grew at the fastest pace in almost three years.

In theory, higher pay can lead to inflation: Companies raise prices to offset their higher wage bill.

But it doesn't always work that way. Pay climbed at a 4 percent annual clip in the late 1990s, for example, and yet core inflation barely rose. It edged up to about 2.6 percent from 2.3 percent.

Companies can choose to eat the extra cost and report lower profits. They could also use the proceeds from last year's tax cut to pay higher wages even while keeping prices in check.

## HOW PLENTIFUL ARE WORKERS?

Another factor that may keep wages low and limit inflation is that plenty of workers are still available overseas. Companies could shift work abroad if pay gets too high.

And there may be more people in the United States available to fill jobs than the low 4.1 percent unemployment rate would suggest. The proportion of Americans who have jobs still hasn't returned to its pre-recession peak.

## WHAT DO CONSUMERS EXPECT?

Whether consumers expect inflation to accelerate or stay the same can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Once consumers' inflation expectations pick up, they typically demand higher pay, which can lead companies to raise prices to cover the costs.

That makes expectations of inflation an important gauge to watch. And yet such expectations have changed little this year, which could keep inflation in check.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, consumers think inflation will be about 2.7 percent a year from now. Last April, consumers expected inflation to be 2.8 percent in a year.

## HOW MUCH ARE YOU PAYING IN RENT?

As millennials flooded cities and postponed home purchases, rents soared from Seattle to New York. Yet builders also constructed thousands of new high-rises. And there are signs that rents are leveling off. More young people are also starting to buy homes, which lowers demand for rental apartments.

This could help lower inflation over time. In December, rents rose 3.7 percent from a year earlier. While

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that's faster than paychecks are rising — squeezing many renters — it is still below the recent peak of 4 percent, reached in December 2016. That was the highest in nearly a decade.

## 'New generation of Nigerians' marks Olympic bobsled debut

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Growing up in St. Paul, Minnesota, Akuoma Omeoga was raised on Nigerian food, language and culture. Next week, the 25-year-old will represent her parents' homeland in the Winter Games, hurtling down the bobsled track with her tresses — dyed green as a tribute to the country — flapping beneath her helmet like a flag.

"One of the biggest things my parents did was speak the language at home," Omeoga recalled in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday. "It's super familiar to me, even though it's not something that I speak fluently ... I can also relate."

Omeoga and fellow brakeman Ngozi Owumere, along with driver Seun Adigun, are all Americans of Nigerian descent who will represent the African nation in its Winter Olympics debut. 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.

For Adigun, her roots are as important as her birthplace, which is what pushed her to create Nigeria's first-ever bobsled team. To be a first-generation Nigerian is to have the patriotism of your homeland "almost pounded into you" by parents who don't want you to forget where you come from, explains Adigun, who also competed as a track athlete for Nigeria in the 2012 London Games.

"Although we're American, we're also Nigerian," she said. "We're actually Nigerian first. That's the one culture that we know, that we were raised to respect and understand. To show people that it's okay to be both and it's okay to represent where you're from is a powerful message that, hopefully, we've been able to translate."

Owumere said the preservation of her African culture was especially important being raised in America. The team's Olympic journey has only reinforced the importance of that heritage, she said, and of leaving a legacy in Nigeria's name.

"After our parents are gone, who's going to be there?" she said. "The weight rests on us. We're the new generation of Nigerians."

It's a point that took on added meaning after President Donald Trump's reported comments earlier this year referencing some African nations as "shithole countries." Omeoga said she hopes the team's presence in South Korea this month offers a new image of who and what African immigrants can be and contribute.

The women are unapologetically Nigerian on social media, at public appearances and on the competition circuit, where they blast Nigerian music before races. At last week's opening ceremony, they entered the Olympic Stadium wearing green and white *aso-oke*, a Yoruba cloth worn on special occasions.

The team has also been eager to connect with fellow African athletes from such countries as Madagascar and Eritrea — also making its debut this year— and is close to Ghanaian skeleton athlete Akwasi Frimpong.

It is an important statement for the continent to be represented in the Winter Olympics, Adigun said.

"Just because you don't know what it means to see snow or to understand temperatures that are equivalent to ice, that doesn't mean you have to shy away from it," she said. "That's what Africa is representing — that we can take those risks and still be able to compete with the best in the world."

Not that it's not cold, Owumere concedes, laughing. The Texan in her is shivering, but the Olympian is ready.

"Honey, it's super cold!" she said. "But we're here for the Winter Olympics. This is what we expected. We welcome it. We want it to be a little warmer, but we're fine with how it is."

Omeoga's attitude for those who would suggest that Nigeria doesn't belong is, "Why not?"

"There's nobody on this Earth that can tell you that you don't belong somewhere that you are," she said. "That's the biggest thing that we bring to this Games. You shouldn't be asking why (we are here); you should be asking how."



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Errin Haines Whack is The Associated Press' national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow her on Twitter at @emarvelous.

## What to watch from Pyeongchang - Day 5

By **MAGAN CRANE, Associated Press**

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Happy Valentine's Day from Pyeongchang! Wondering where the romance will be at the Olympics? AP's has the low down. All times Eastern.

### FIGURE SKATING

Pairs final starts at 8:30 p.m., just in time to cuddle up with your Valentine and try to imagine the kind of trust required to allow someone to throw you up in the air, over ice, so you can land on one ¼-thick-blade. Just sayin'.

In pairs competition, the scoring is the same as singles skating, with one score for technical elements and one for performance. Watch for the elements that are unique to pairs skating like lifts, death spirals and the aforementioned throw jumps. Choreographing pairs is challenging considering that side-by-side movements should be done in sync but one partner is much larger, making the physics different. Real life couple Alexa Scimeca-Knierim and Chris Knierim are competing in their first Olympics for the U.S.

### ICE HOCKEY

The U.S. women play the Canadians at 10:10 p.m. The Canadians have taken home the last four gold medals in this event and the U.S. are their most difficult opponent as they try to grab a fifth. Watch to see if the U.S. goaltender has the Statue of Liberty on her helmet. The IOC reportedly ordered both goalies to cover their markings, but USA Hockey tells the AP that the masks are approved. The goalie wore hers in Tuesday's rout of the Russians. The U.S. men play Slovenia at 7:10 a.m., the same time the Russians play Slovakia.

### CURLING

If it's Wednesday, there must be curling. The round robins continue, with the U.S. women playing the UK at 7:05 p.m. Watch, or more specifically listen, as the players shout commands at each other to "clean" (lightly clear the ice of debris) or go "hard," (sweep as hard and fast as you can) to move the stone in its desired path. In Olympic curling, athletes are mic'd up so viewers can listen to their banter at home. When team tensions rise, the mics give a reality-TV feeling to the sport some call shuffleboard on ice. Don't miss the Norwegian men's crazy pants! Actually, it is impossible to miss them.

### SNOWBOARD CROSS

The men's final starts at 11:30 p.m., with the medal run set for after midnight. After solo timed seeding rounds, racers take to the course of banked turns and jumps in groups for elimination runs. The clock is the only judge, but racers can be disqualified for intentionally blocking or making contact with another racer. The jockeying for position through tight turns makes crashes common and has given the sport a dangerous reputation. U.S. racer Nick Baumgartner competed in this event in 2010 and 2014.

### ALPINE SKIING

After bad weather delayed several alpine events, including the already postponed women's giant slalom, the marquee men's downhill race is scheduled to start at 9:30 p.m. There are no gates, poles or technical elements in the downhill. Skiers have one goal: find the fastest route down the 1¾-mile course. Top times will be around 1 minute, 40 seconds which is about 60 mph (97 kph)! The men's downhill often serves up a surprise, but world champion Beat Feuz of Switzerland and 2010 silver medalist Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway are popular picks.

### SPEEDSKATING

The Dutch will try to maintain their sweep of speed skating gold medals in Pyeongchang with the women's 1,000-meter final starting at 5:00 a.m. Look for their enthusiastic fans decked in orange, the color of the royal family. You might even spot King Willem-Alexander, who has been in the stands cheering for the team.

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

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2018. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Feb. 14, 1918, Russia converted from the Old Style Julian calendar to the New Style Gregorian calendar, "losing" 13 days in the process (for Russians, the day before was Jan. 31). The musical "Sinbad," starring Al Jolson and featuring the song "Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody," opened on Broadway.

On this date:

In 1663, New France (Canada) became a royal province under King Louis XIV.

In 1778, the American ship Ranger carried the recently adopted Stars and Stripes to a foreign port for the first time as it arrived in France.

In 1849, President James K. Polk became the first U.S. chief executive to be photographed while in office as he posed for Matthew Brady in New York City.

In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state.

In 1903, the Department of Commerce and Labor was established. (It was divided into separate departments of Commerce and Labor in 1913.)

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union as President William Howard Taft signed a proclamation.

In 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

In 1949, Israel's Knesset convened for the first time.

In 1962, first lady Jacqueline Kennedy conducted a televised tour of the White House in a videotaped special that was broadcast on CBS and NBC (and several nights later on ABC).

In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In 1988, Broadway composer Frederick Loewe, who wrote the scores for "Brigadoon," "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot," died in Palm Springs, California, at age 86.

In 1990, 92 people were killed when an Indian Airlines passenger jet crashed while landing at a southern Indian airport.

Ten years ago: A former student dressed in black walked onto the stage of a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University and opened fire on a packed science class; the 27-year-old gunman killed five students before committing suicide. Republican campaign dropout Mitt Romney endorsed John McCain for the party's presidential nomination.

Five years ago: Double-amputee and Olympic sprinter Oscar Pistorius shot and killed his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, at his home in Pretoria, South Africa; he was later convicted of murder and is serving a 13-year prison term. Billionaire Warren Buffett agreed to buy H.J. Heinz Co. for \$23.3 billion. American Airlines and US Airways announced an \$11 billion merger that turned American into the world's biggest airline.

One year ago: Authorities lifted an evacuation order for nearly 200,000 Northern California residents living below the Oroville Dam after declaring that the risk of catastrophic collapse of a damaged spillway had been significantly reduced. A former store clerk was convicted in New York of murder in one of the nation's most haunting missing-child cases, nearly 38 years after 6-year-old Etan Patz (AY'-tahn payts) disappeared while on the way to a school bus stop. The Senate confirmed former wrestling entertainment executive Linda McMahon to lead the Small Business Administration. Rumor the German shepherd won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality Hugh Downs is 97. Actor Andrew Prine is 82. Country singer Razy

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Bailey is 79. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is 76. Jazz musician Maceo Parker is 75. Movie director Alan Parker is 74. Journalist Carl Bernstein is 74. Former Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., is 71. TV personality Pat O'Brien is 70. Magician Teller (Penn and Teller) is 70. Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet (doo-SAY') (Beausoleil) is 67. Actor Ken Wahl is 61. Opera singer Renee Fleming is 59. Actress Meg Tilly is 58. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Kelly is 58. Singer-producer Dwayne Wiggins is 57. Actress Sakina Jaffey is 56. Actor Enrico Colantoni is 55. Actor Zach Galligan is 54. Actor Valente Rodriguez is 54. Rock musician Ricky Wolking (The Nixons) is 52. Tennis player Manuela Maleeva is 51. Actor Simon Pegg is 48. Rock musician Kevin Baldes (Lit) is 46. Rock singer Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) is 46. Former NFL quarterback Drew Bledsoe is 46. Actor Matt Barr is 34. Actress Stephanie Leonidas is 34. Actor Jake Lacy is 32. Actress Tiffany Thornton is 32. Actor Brett Dier is 28. Actor Freddie Highmore is 26.

Thought for Today: "Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese." — Jack Benny, American actor-comedian (born this date in 1894, died in 1974).