

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 219 ~ 1 of 28

"I feel the capacity to care is
the thing which gives life its
deepest significance."

- Pablo Casals -

Chicken Soup
for the Soul



BLOCKER CONSTRUCTION
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MS Wrestling in Groton today

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

Clay Target League Sign-up is Feb. 19

There will be a parent meeting and sign up for students in grades 6-12 interested in participating in the South Dakota Clay Target League on Monday, February 19 at 7:00 PM in the GHS Gymnasium.

Questions should be direction to Stephan Wright (605-396-7695) or Tom Mahan (605-380-1253).

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Date: 2/16/2018

Arena:

Time: 7:21 pm

City, State: Milbank, SD

VISITOR: Groton Tigers ()

NO	PLAYER	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT		FTA		REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT								
4	Doeden, Jonny	*	3	5	0	2	3	6	0	4	4	3	9	0	0	0	1	24:00	
5	Shabazz, Seric	*	4	5	0	1	2	4	1	2	3	0	10	0	2	0	0	32:00	
11	Rintala, Andy	*	7	9	0	2	2	3	1	1	2	4	16	0	0	0	2	0:04	
42	DeHoet, Brodyn	*	6	18	1	3	5	5	3	5	8	2	18	0	1	1	1	23:58	
55	Diegel, Treyton	*	1	3	1	1	6	6	1	2	3	4	9	0	2	0	0	23:58	
3	Sippel, Anthony		3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	0	0	0	1	31:56	
20	Keith, Brandon		0	5	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	16:02	
50	Taphagen, Tristan		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:02	
TEAM REBOUNDS										3	4	7				0			
Team Totals			24	48	3	12	19	26	9	20	29	18	70	0	7	1	7	160	

Total FG% - 1st: 11/22 0.500 2nd: 13/26 0.500 Game: 0.500 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/6 0.167 2nd: 2/6 0.333 Game: 0.250 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 7/11 0.636 2nd: 12/15 0.800 Game: 0.731 (2,0)

HOME: Milbank Bulldogs ()

NO	PLAYER	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT		FTA		REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT								
1	Aho, Derrick	*	2	5	2	2	1	3	0	1	1	2	7	3	1	0	1	32:00	
2	Ash, Jonny	*	5	10	5	10	0	0	0	2	2	2	15	4	1	0	0	32:00	
13	Morton, Preston	*	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	0	3	0	1	23:56	
24	Peery, Chandler	*	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00	
42	Quade, Mitch	*	0	7	0	3	2	2	3	9	12	4	2	3	3	0	0	16:02	
3	Weber, James		1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	15:58	
4	Brandriet, Braden		3	6	3	6	0	0	1	0	1	2	9	1	1	0	1	16:00	
20	Fox, Jake		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00	
23	McCulloch, Max		5	7	0	0	5	6	2	5	7	5	15	4	2	1	0	16:02	
41	Riley, Jordan		4	6	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	4	9	0	1	0	0	0:02	
TEAM REBOUNDS										0	2	2				0			
Team Totals			21	46	10	22	9	14	8	20	28	22	61	16	13	1	4	160	

Total FG% - 1st: 10/25 0.400 2nd: 11/21 0.524 Game: 0.457 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 4/11 0.364 2nd: 6/11 0.545 Game: 0.455 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 3/5 0.600 2nd: 6/9 0.667 Game: 0.643 (1,0)

Technical Fouls: GHS (0)
 : MHS (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton Tigers	18	12	17	23	70
Milbank Bulldogs	13	14	15	19	61

Last FG: Groton Tigers 4th- 8:00, Milbank Bulldogs 4th- 8:00
 Largest lead: Groton Tigers by 9 4th- 8:00, Milbank Bulldogs by 2 1st- 8:00
 Score tied: 5 times, Lead changed: 7 times

Tigers finish regular season with win over Milbank Area

Groton Area finished the regular season at Milbank on Friday and the boys came home with a 70-61 win over the Milbank Area Bulldogs.

The Tigers had control for most of the game with the exception of the game being tied five times and the lead changed hands seven times. Milbank's biggest lead was two points while Groton's biggest lead was nine as the Tigers scored the last five points from the free throw line to make it 70-61. Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 18-13, 30-27 and 47-42.

In the first quarter, Groton Area made seven of 13 field goals for 54 percent and Milbank Area made six of 15 for 40 percent. Both teams were four of 12 from the field for 33 percent in the second quarter. The Tigers were five of 14 in the third quarter for 36 percent and Milbank was five of nine for 56 percent. In the final quarter, Groton was eight of 13 for 61 percent and Milbank was seven of 15 for 47 percent.

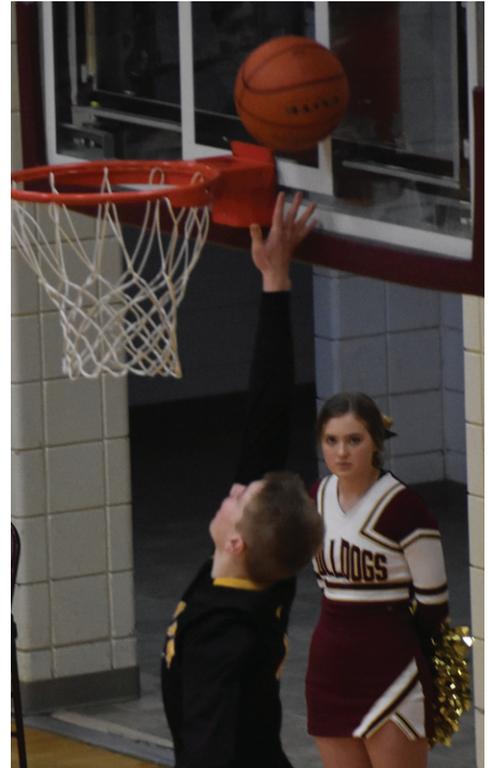
Andy Rintala had a season high 16 points and Brodyn DeHoet teamed for an extra 16 points to lead all scorers. Seric Shabazz added 10 points followed by Treyton Diegel and Jonathan Doeden with nine each, Anthony Sippel had seven and Brandon Keith added a free throw.

Jonny Ash and Max McCulloch led the Bulldogs with 15 points apiece followed by Braden Brandriet and Jordan Riley with nine each, Derrick Aho had seven and Preston Horton, Mitch Quade and James Weber each had two points.

The Tigers made 50 percent of its total field goals and Milbank made 46 percent. DeHoet, Diegel and Sippel each made a three-pointer. Groton Area was 19 of 26 from the line for 73 percent off of Milbank's 22 team fouls. The Bulldogs were nine of 14 for 64 percent off of Groton Area's 18 team fouls.

Groton Area had the edge in rebounds, 29-28, with DeHoet having eight for Groton Area and Quade having a dozen for Milbank Area. Groton Area had seven turnovers, four of which were steals. Milbank Area had 13 turnovers, seven of which were steals with Rintala having two. DeHoet and McCulloch each had one block.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 41-31. Cade Guthmiller had 15 points, Kaden Kurtz and Chandler Larson each had eight, Austin Jones had five, Tristan Traphagen four and Darrien Shabazz one.



Jonathan Doeden gets the easy layup. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Treyton Diegel puts up a shot over the Milbank defense. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Three wrestlers advance to state

Dragr Monson at 113 pounds, Wyatt Locke at 220 pounds and Brandyn Anderson at 285 pounds will advance to the state wrestling tournament after placing at the regionals held Saturday in Webster.

Anderson took first with a tie breaker win in the championship match, Monson placed second and Wyatt Locke placed fourth.



113: Dragr Monson (16-9) placed 2nd and scored 15.00 team points.

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 16-9 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 16-9 won by major decision over Brayden Schlachter (Potter County) 18-10 (MD 12-3)

1st Place Match - Isiah Grimm (Sisseton) 27-10 won by decision over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 16-9 (Dec 9-2)

160: Thomas Cranford (10-21)

Quarterfinal - Cade Shoemaker (Webster) 13-3 won by major decision over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 10-21 (MD 12-3)

Cons. Round 1 - Christian Virchow (Kingsbury County) 18-18 won by fall over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) 10-21 (Fall 0:15)



220: Wyatt Locke (18-11) placed 4th and scored 9.00 team points.

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 18-11 won by decision over Preston Worth (Potter County) 30-9 (Dec 6-3)

Semifinal - Kaeden Metz (Sisseton) 26-7 won in sudden victory - 1 over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 18-11 (SV-1 3-1)

Cons. Semi - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 18-11 won by fall over Teigen Hadrick (Faulkton Area) 3-5 (Fall 0:30)

3rd Place Match - Preston Worth (Potter County) 30-9 won by decision over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 18-11 (Dec 2-0)



285: Brandyn Anderson (28-3) placed 1st and scored 20.00 team points.

Quarterfinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 28-3 received a bye () (Bye)

Semifinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 28-3 won by fall over Seth Strong (Britton-Hecla) 7-8 (Fall 0:39)

1st Place Match - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 28-3 won in tie breaker - 1 over Chase Sigdestad (Webster) 26-12 (TB-1 4-1)

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No. 12 Wolves Roll to Sixth Straight Win in Regular Season Finale

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 12 Northern State University men's basketball team finished off the regular season on a 6-game win streak, defeating St. Cloud State 83-63. The Wolves snapped the Huskies 10-game win streak, improving to 27-3 overall and 20-2 in the NSIC.

The Wolves were out for revenge after a road loss to the Huskies earlier this season. Despite a few lead changes early in the first half, Northern ran away with the game, notching the 20-point victory. They held their largest lead, of 28-points with 6:32 remaining in regulation. The Wolves shot 51.5 percent from the floor and 78.6 percent from the foul line in the win.

Northern tallied a combined 58 points in the paint, 25 points off the bench, 19 points off turnovers, and 17 second chance points. They forced 14 turnovers, while only giving up eight and out-rebounded St. Cloud State by 17 in the game. The Wolves added 11 assists, six steals, and two blocks, while tallying 20 offensive and 20 defensive boards.

Carter Evans led the team with 20 points and a career high 15 rebounds. The senior tallied three assists as well, while shooting 58.8 percent from the field. Darin Peterka was close behind with 18 points of his own, shooting 53.3 percent from the floor. Peterka added five rebounds and two assists, as well as a team high five steals.

Logan Doyle led the team off the bench with 17 points, knocking down 8-of-10 from the floor. He added one block and one made free throw attempt. Bo Fries added seven points off the bench, while Andrew Kallman notched one. Fries and Kallman tallied five and four rebounds each, while the freshman added two assists and one steal.

DJ Pollard was the final Wolf in double figures, notching 11 points, three rebounds, one assist, and one block. Pollard shot 4-of-8 from the field and 3-of-4 from the foul line. Gabe King knocked down six points and grabbed four rebounds, while Ian Smith tallied three points and one rebound.

Northern concludes the regular season with 23 double figure victories, and 11 by 20 points or more. They shot 50.0 percent from the floor or better in 16 contests, and tallied 13 games with double figure 3-pointers made.

The Wolves return to action on Wednesday from Wachs Arena in the opening round of the NSIC Tournament. Northern will face off at 8 p.m. with their opponent still to be determined.

Ristau's Career High 35-points Leads Wolves to Victory

Aberdeen S.D. – Northern State University Women's Basketball team picked up a 71-55 victory on senior night against St. Cloud State. With the win the Wolves are Co-champs of the North Division and the NSIC. NSU improves to 24-4 overall and 19-3 in the NSIC.

It was back and forth in the first quarter, as no lead got bigger than four until the final bucket to take a five point lead heading into the second quarter. The Wolves shot 52.0 percent in the first half to take a seven point lead heading into the halftime break. The only quarter that the Wolves lost was the third quarter and they were out-scored 16-13. The Wolves out-scored the Huskies in the fourth quarter 20-8 to secure a 16-point win in the final regular season game.

Wolves shot 52.0 percent from the field for the game, 27.3 percent from the 3-point line, and had 36 rebounds as a team. Defensively, the Wolves held the Huskies to 38.5 percent from the field, 37.5 percent from behind the arc, and only allowed four offensive rebounds. NSU also added 22 points in the paint, 16 points off of 16 turnovers, and 11 second chance points off of eight offensive rebounds.

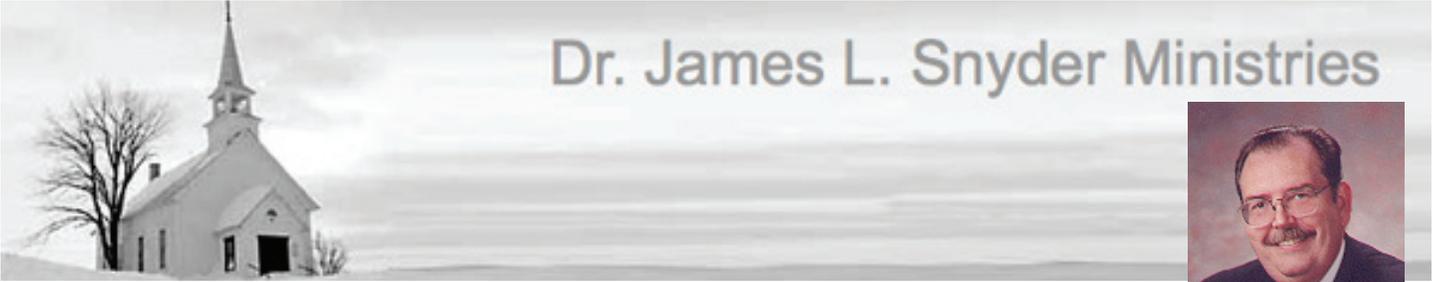
Miranda Ristau had a career night with 35 points, 12 rebounds, two assists, and two steals. The only other player in double figures was Jessi Marti, she had 11 points, two rebounds, one assist, and one steal. Alexis Tappe had seven points, seven rebounds, and five assists. Jill Conrad had six points for the Wolves with four rebounds, two assists, and one steal.

Gabby Laimer had six points, and two rebounds for Northern State. Brynn Flakus had two points, three assists, and the only two blocks for the Wolves. Off the bench, Brianna Kusler had four points, four assists, and four rebounds. Haley Froelich had three rebounds off the bench.

Wolves are back in action Wednesday night for the first round of the NSIC/Sanford Health Women's Basketball Tournament. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. against Upper Iowa University.

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Oh, Dem Golden Tones Of Silence

Last Saturday evening the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly were reclining on the living room sofa enjoying our evening cup of coffee. It is a wonderful way to unwind after a week of activity. No matter how hectic the week was, a few quiet moments with a cup of Joe can put everything in perspective.

After an extended time of silence my wife spoke.

"Listen. Do you hear that?"

"Hear what?" I enquired.

"That. Don't you hear it?"

The smile on her face indicated that what she was hearing was rather pleasing.

Well, I strained my ears as if they were corn and I still did not hear a thing. Usually, I am up on all the sounds echoing throughout our abode, mainly because I am the source of most of them, but this had me baffled. The more I strained the less I heard.

"You don't hear that?"

I put my coffee cup down so I could give all my attention to hearing exactly what she was hearing. It is a proven fact that women hear a lot more than men do. It probably is a genetic thing wives inherit from their mothers. The only things men inherit from their fathers are "pull my finger" jokes, which only come in handy at family reunions.

Then, to my delight, I heard it, too. It was the golden tones of silence whistling through the corridors of our house. Ah, silence, my old friend.

For the past week that sound was a stranger within our walls. But now, much to our delight, it had returned and what a return.

For the past week, all the Snyder grandchildren had invaded our home front. At last count, there were eight. I can't be sure because several of them, I'm not sure how many, were running around so much I could not count them. They ranged from 9 months all the way to 13 years. There are two girls and the rest are... well, not girls. When someone said that boys will be boys, they sure knew what they were talking about.

It was one glorious seven-day-period of activity, noise and, yes, something I had forgotten, smells. I can never figure out how something so cute and so small can smell...well...so bad. Why is it grandchildren always want to sit on grandpa's lap when they are in such a delicate condition? Do they think, as we get older our nose goes into hibernation? Mine hasn't, yet. Believe me.

My wife and I tried packing into those 7 days as much memories as humanly possible. It is a rare time when the grandchildren are all in one place – our place. We enjoyed some great times together and went to some local places of interest, interest to children. For some reason my suggestion of visiting some of my favorite used bookstores did not fly, but the beach was a resounding "Yeaaaaaa."

So, to the beach we went fully attired in the proper swimming gear. As the official family photographer, I could not go into the water. I actually made that rule up, but nobody objected. Everyone was too busy yelling, "Hey, grandpa, watch this," to worry about my swimming.



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Once back home I broke out my secret cache of water pistols and the water fight to end all water fights commenced. All I know is that next month when I get my water bill I will wonder who in the world used all that water. Then, I will smile when I remember how in the world it was used. Money well spent, I assure you.

Now, all of that is memory, and oh, what memories. For months, my wife and I will say to each other, "Do you remember what Owen said?" Then we will laugh again. Or, "do you remember what Simon did?" and the memory will have us in hysterics.

In some quiet moment one of us will say, "I was just thinking of what Dylan did at the beach when he they were all here." And the other will smile and nod remembering the incident.

"Remember when all the grandchildren were on the trampoline?"

We will and it will be hard to wipe the smile from our faces. Memories are better remembered in silent moments when they can rightly be appreciated.

Then my wife said, "Didn't Tyler and Taylor and Jordan and Olivia seem to enjoy playing with their cousins from Ohio? I've never seen them so happy."

In one of those pensive moments I thought about who had the good sense to invent grandchildren. There must have been a quiet moment in heaven when God looked around and said, "It's too quiet here. What can we do to liven things up a little?"

Everybody looked at each other and the silence got quieter. It was then that God had one of those moments that changes everything. He smiled and looked at everyone and said, "I know exactly what is needed." Then God created his greatest work, grandchildren.

I like what the Bible says along this line. "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers." (Proverbs 17:6).

God seems to like the idea of grandchildren. "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;" (Psalms 103:17).

Silence may be golden but it does not compare to the silver trumpet of grandchildren all talking at the same time.

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Today in Weather History

February 18, 1962: Rain started in the afternoon of the 18th, and by the late in the day, temperatures dropped to below freezing resulting in a glaze up to three-quarters of an inch on trees and power lines. Many utility lines were downed by the glaze or by falling trees and branches. Temperatures continued to drop during the night changing the rain to snow by the 19th. Strong winds accompanied this snow causing local blizzard conditions.

1965: A massive avalanche kills 26 men at the Granduc Copper Mine in British Columbia on this day.

1966: The temperature dropped to 49 degrees below zero at Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada, the city's all-time lowest recorded temperature.

1992: A thunderstorm spawned an unusually strong F4 tornado for so far north for the time of the year in southern Van Wert County in Ohio. The tornado touched down just west of US Route 127 and traveled northeastward for about 3 miles. One house was completely leveled, and nine others experienced severe damage. Six people were injured.

1899 - While much of the central and eastern U.S. was recovering from the most severe cold wave of modern history, the temperature at San Francisco soared to 80 degrees to establish a record for month of February. (David Ludlum)

1959 - Some of the higher elevations of California were in the midst of a five day storm which produced 189 inches of snow, a single storm record for North America. (13th-19th) (David Ludlum)

1987 - A small but intense low pressure system combined with northerly upslope winds to produce eight inches of snow in five hours at Meeteetsie WY, located southeast of Cody. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms soaked the Central Gulf Coast Region with heavy rain. Totals in southern Louisiana ranged up to 8.50 inches near the town of Ridge, with 6.55 inches at Plaquemine. Thunderstorms in northern Florida drenched Apalachicola with 5.41 inches of rain in 24 hours, and produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Mayo. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

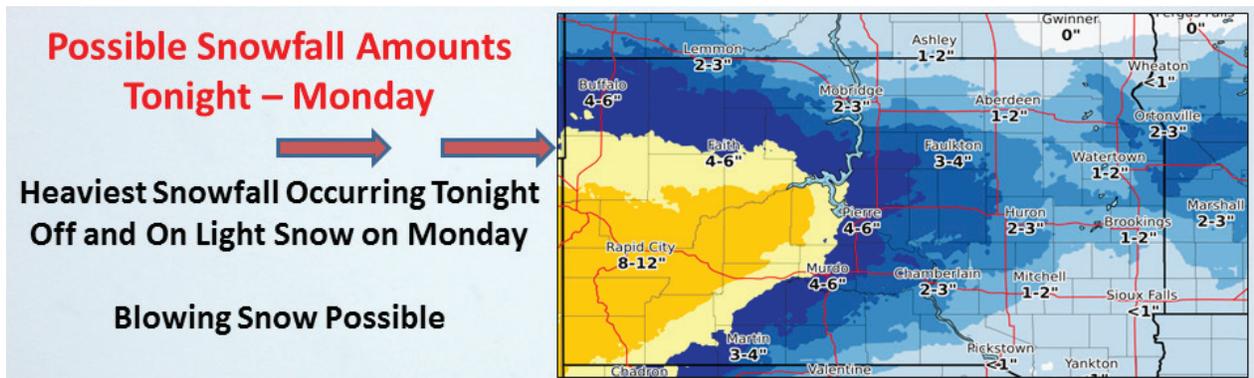
1989 - Low pressure off the coast of North Carolina brought freezing rain and heavy snow to Virginia and the Carolinas. Snowfall totals in Virginia ranged up to 18 inches at Franklin. Freezing rain reached a thickness of two inches around Charlotte NC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - An intense but slow moving Pacific storm worked its way across Utah over a two day period. The storm blanketed the valleys with 4 to 12 inches of snow, and produced up to 42 inches of snow in the mountains. Heavy snow also fell across northern Arizona. Williams received 22 inches of snow, and 12 inches was reported along the south rim of the Grand Canyon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

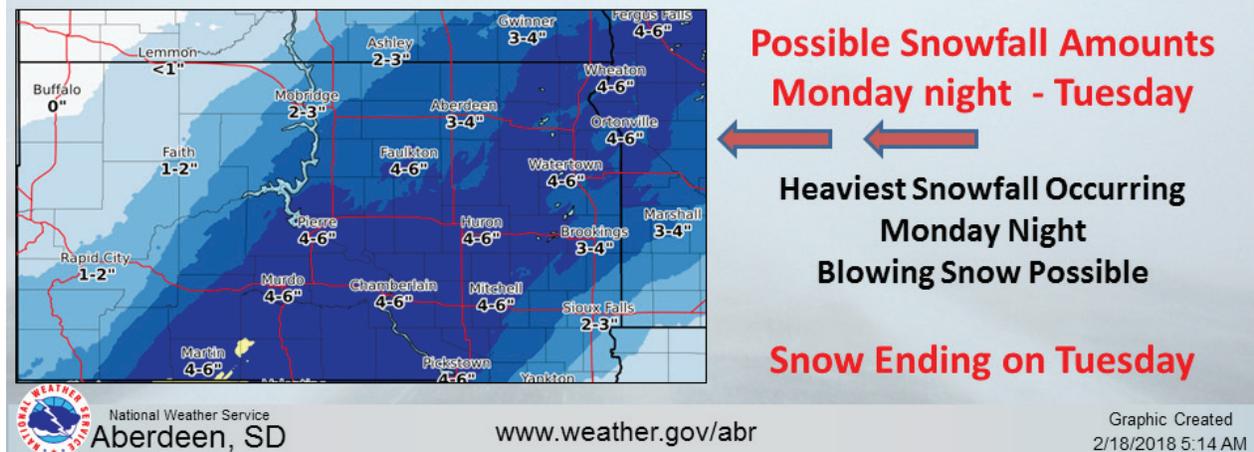
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Sun Feb 18	Mon Feb 19	Tue Feb 20	Wed Feb 21	Thu Feb 22	Fri Feb 23	Sat Feb 24
34°F	10°F	9°F	12°F	26°F	30°F	30°F
3°F	-2°F	-12°F	-2°F	8°F	9°F	10°F
SE 21 MPH	NNE 18 MPH Precip 70%	N 18 MPH Precip 30%	SW 9 MPH	SSW 11 MPH	NW 8 MPH	W 7 MPH



Long Duration of Winter Weather



Published on: 02/18/2018 at 5:24AM

A storm system over the Rockies will push east into the region later today through tonight. Snow is expected to develop in western South Dakota and then spread east tonight. Some heavy amounts appear possible, especially over southwest and central South Dakota. There should be a lull in snowfall on Monday, but more accumulations are expected Monday night into Tuesday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 30.9 F at 11:57 AM

Low Outside Temp: 13.2 F at 7:05 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 26.0 Mph at 12:06 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 67° in 1913

Record Low: -32° in 1903

Average High: 29°F

Average Low: 8°F

Average Precip in Feb: 0.31

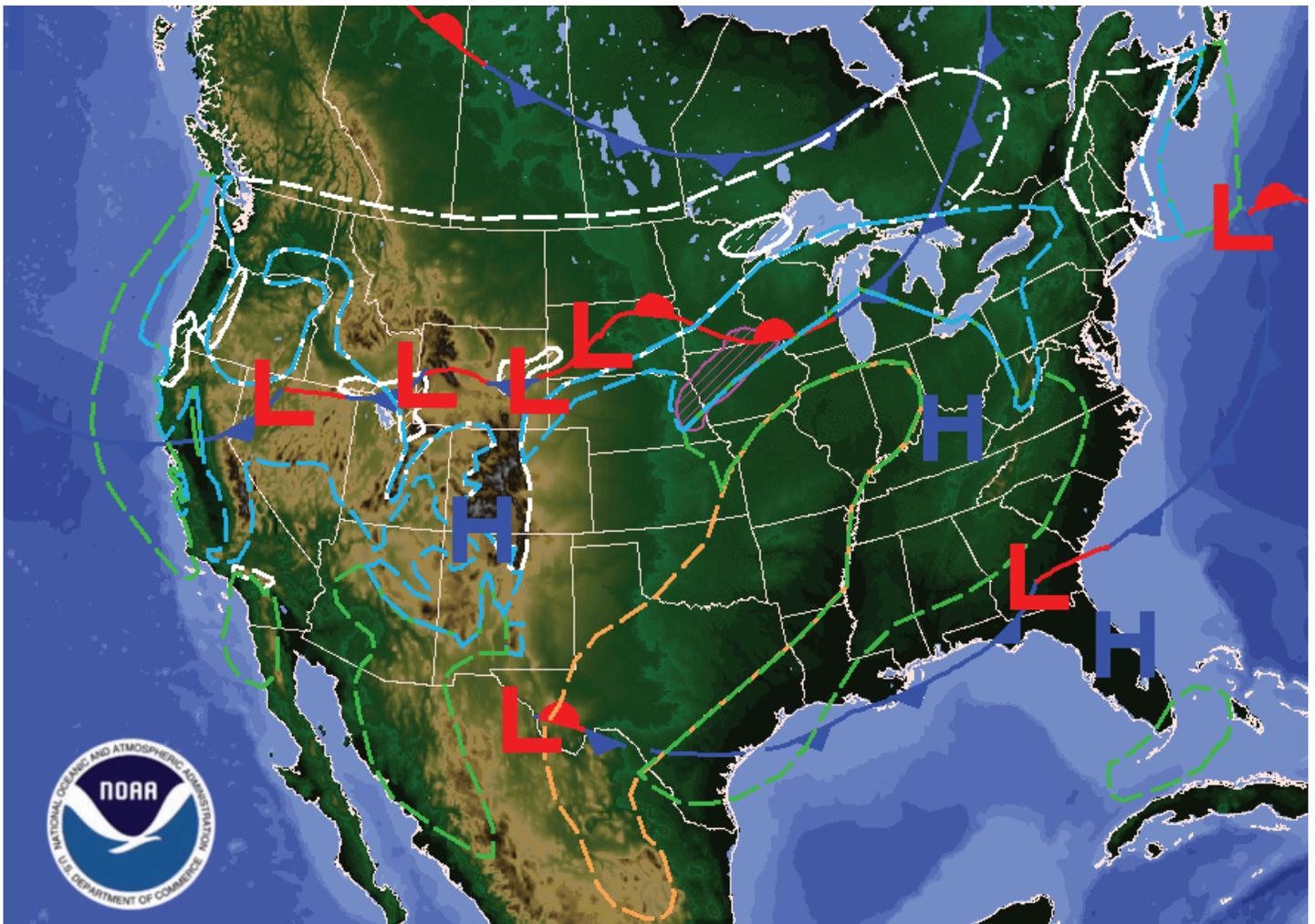
Precip to date in Feb: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.78

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 6:05 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:28 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Feb 18, 2018, issued 4:54 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hurley with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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WHY LOVE GOD?

There is nothing more precious than the "hug" of a child when it is given to us without our asking for it. It is so innocent and undefiled. It is given voluntarily with nothing expected in return. It is an expression of "thanks" for something we may have done that we can no longer remember. It is given freely, honestly, openly and joyfully because the child has no other way to express its feelings.

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him." The word love in this verse carries with it the idea of being hugged. In other words, God not only loves us by what He says, but by what He does. So, says the Psalmist, "He hugs us" – keeps us as close to Himself as He possibly can.

When God rescues us from sin and graciously and generously provides us with His salvation, we receive an eightfold blessing. After He rescues us, we have:

His protection: We are not exempt from difficulties but are assured of His presence and grace when they come.

He knows us by name: He recognizes us as unique individuals with a plan from Him for our lives.

He will hear us when we call upon Him and give us His solution for our problems.

He will be with us and deliver us when we are surrounded by life's troubles.

He will honor us when we honor Him.

He will satisfy our needs as long as we live and when our life is over join Him in heaven.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to love You as much as You love us – to love You with all of our hearts and minds and souls. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 91:14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

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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

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 88, Harrisburg 80
Aberdeen Roncalli 68, Chamberlain 53
Arlington 43, Warner 38, OT
Brandon Valley 49, Pierre 40
Bridgewater-Emery 91, Viborg-Hurley 63
Deubrook 65, Chester 59
Elkton-Lake Benton 47, Waubay/Summit 35
Faith 81, Philip 54
Flandreau 61, DeSmet 44
Gregory 64, Rapid City Christian 52
Hanson 54, Scotland 47
Lemmon 48, Bison 33
Lyman 74, Freeman 68
Oelrichs 75, Edgemont 43
Pine Ridge 94, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 63
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 53, Sioux Falls Lincoln 46
Sioux Falls Washington 71, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 55
St. Thomas More 47, Hill City 33
Wall 58, Newell 55
White River 83, Todd County 69
Wolsey-Wessington 53, Herreid/Selby Area 47
Yankton 54, Watertown 50

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Minot, N.D. 43, Spearfish 29
Pierre 54, Brandon Valley 50
Sioux Falls Lincoln 44, Marshall, Minn. 41
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 57, Mitchell 37
Sioux Falls Washington 71, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 52
Sturgis Brown 69, Hot Springs 29

Tribes call on Washington to respect Native sovereignty

By KYLEY SCHULTZ, Cronkite News

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal tax overhaul passed in December is “completely unacceptable” to Native Americans, just another example of what can happen when tribes are not included in federal decision-making, a tribal leader said Monday.

National Congress of American Indians President Jefferson Keel said in the annual State of Indian Nations address that the government-to-government relationship between tribes and Washington is even more important now, as the federal government pushes more control toward the states.

“Congress is thinking about shifting more authority and more funding to the states on the theory that states can more efficiently spend their funds — we too believe in local decision making, we’ve been doing it for thousand of years,” Keel said.

“We want to be engaged in all aspects of federal policy, and we have a right to be a huge participant in

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these matters," he said in his speech.

Despite ongoing problems with relations between governments, Keel said the state of Indian Country is "strong, resilient and everlasting," pointing to benefits that tribes bring to American agriculture and infrastructure, among other areas.

Franklin Pablo Sr., a Gila River Indian Community Council member who attended the address Monday, agreed with Keel that "overall, Indian nations are strong" but that more needs to be done.

"I hope senators and congressmen were listening, because we need that unity — to have a collaboration between tribal and federal sides," Pablo said. The address kicks off four days of NCAI meetings, which Pablo called "a place where we come to make things stronger, for all Indian to address some of these issues."

The issues range from tax reform to domestic violence, from rural broadband to farm policy, Keel said.

He cited statistics that show tribal agriculture is a \$3.2 billion industry that supports nearly 72,000 jobs, an industry that could be "significantly damaged" should farm and infrastructure bills pass without consulting with Indian Country.

"In Arizona, Native businesses generate hundreds of millions of tax dollars and pay \$1.9 billion in wages to thousands of both Native and non-Native employees," said Keel, who identified the state as one of many whose "tribes who serve as economic engines across this country."

"Native businesses don't pull up stakes, even when market conditions change. We root our businesses in our local communities — for good," he said. "You want to 'buy American'? Then do business with Indian Country."

Keel said that tribal concerns were "completely absent" in the tax overhaul passed in December. As a result, the bill gave tax benefits and tax-exempt bonds to state and local governments that he said leave tribal government at a disadvantage.

"This inequity significantly handicaps tribal authority to provide much-needed government revenue for tribal programs and infrastructure and prevents economic growth on tribal lands," Keel said. "Tax reform is a unique opportunity for Congress to promote tribal sovereignty, self-determination and self-sufficiency."

Keel said the federal-tribal relationship must "always be maintained and respected," arguing that state interference only limits tribal governance.

"It's time to respect our unique political status as real nations with capable governments, as enshrined in real treaties and the Constitution of the United States," Keel said.

Rory Wheeler, a representative for Mesa-based United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY), said tribes need a voice because they face many of the same problems as other Americans.

"As an emergency medical technician for my tribe, something I have noticed more and more in youth is the disastrous effects of the opioid epidemic," said Wheeler, a member of the Seneca tribe. "While I am based in New York, the opioid crisis is a problem I have heard effects almost all tribes — even those based across the country, like Arizona."

Wheeler said tribal sovereignty is important — and it's important for the next generation to continue the fight.

"What a lot of Indian youth need right now is motivation and a sense of identity," he said. "When the federal government recognizes us as sovereign nations who have a legitimate voice in what happens in our lands, the youth began to feel like they can actually have a voice in those lands too."

Keel said tribes are not asking for special treatment.

"All we want is a level playing field," Keel said. "We have inherent rights. Not only were we born with them — we have earned them. The right to be recognized as equal governments. The right to be seated at the table where key decisions are made."

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

21-28-29-30-34

(twenty-one, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

40-41-47-49-51, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 2

(forty, forty-one, forty-seven, forty-nine, fifty-one; Star Ball: ten; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$21.2 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$185 million

Powerball

13-26-39-44-62, Powerball: 2, Power Play: 3

(thirteen, twenty-six, thirty-nine, forty-four, sixty-two; Powerball: two; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$223 million

Mooney with 28 points leads South Dakota past Omaha 79-64

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Matt Mooney scored 28 points and South Dakota beat Omaha 79-64 on Saturday afternoon.

The Coyotes (24-6, 11-2 Summit League) are on a six-game streak and are a half game behind leader South Dakota State (23-6, 11-1) in the conference standings. The two teams meet on Thursday to decide the conference championship and the No. 1 seed at the upcoming Summit tournament.

Trey Burch-Manning added 15 points and eight rebounds for South Dakota and Nick Fuller had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

South Dakota shot 47 percent from the field compared to 35 percent for Omaha and had a 44-34 rebounding advantage.

A tip-in by Tyler Hagedorn capped an 18-8 start for the Coyotes and Mooney and Brandon Armstrong hit back-to-back 3-pointers late to help extend the lead to 39-24 at halftime.

South Dakota stretched it to 62-38 in the second half and cruised to the win.

Mitchell Hahn scored 16 points with seven rebounds for the Mavericks (9-19, 4-8). Daniel Norl added 15 points.

Daum powers South Dakota State past Western Illinois, 82-62

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum hit the 30-point plateau for the 10th time this season and South Dakota State won its 14th straight home game, beating Western Illinois 82-62 Saturday afternoon to hold onto first place in the Summit League standings.

The Jackrabbits have a one-game lead with two games left to play, including a first-place showdown with rival South Dakota Thursday and the regular-season finale at Fort Wayne Saturday.

South Dakota State (23-6, 11-1) took a 15-point lead at intermission and cruised to the win.

Daum hit 8 of 15 from the field, including 3 of 5 from beyond the 3-point arc, and converted 11 of 15 from the line. David Jenkins Jr. added 20 points and grabbed seven rebounds and Brandon Key and Tevin King added 11 and 10 points, respectively.,

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Isaac Johnson scored 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead the Leathernecks (11-14, 2-10). C.J. Duff added 12 points.

Bill would make it harder to get citizen proposals on ballot

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE, Associated Press**

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Maine lawmakers may make it tougher for citizens to get questions on ballots as Gov. Paul LePage this week renewed his call to reform a system he's called too representative of liberal-leaning Mainers.

In his final State of the State address Tuesday, the governor chastised out-of-state, special interests for pushing Maine ballot campaigns, and urged that lawmakers require the campaigns to get equal support across the state.

"Referendum is pure democracy and it has not worked for 15,000 years," the Republican governor said.

But critics call one GOP lawmaker's proposal to require signatures from each congressional district a short-sighted move that doesn't solve the underlying issue of rural voters wanting bigger voices. Paul McCarrier, who ran the successful marijuana legalization campaign in 2016, said it could make it more costly and time-consuming for grassroots campaigns and in turn, make them more reliant on big, out-of-state contributions.

"I think it disenfranchises the voters of the state in that it essentially says some signatures are going to count more than others," said Democratic Rep. Barbara Cardone.

Maine joins states like South Dakota, which is considering a Republican's bill to require signatures from a majority of the state's Senate districts. Two dozen states allow citizens to place issues on the ballot, and several, such as Mississippi, Alaska and Wyoming, require signatures to come from certain counties or congressional districts.

Courts have struck down such county-based requirements in Idaho, Nevada and Montana, while at times upholding efforts based on congressional districts. States with concerns about equal representation could also allow more time for signatures or reduce how many are required, said John Matsusaka, executive director of The University of Southern California's Initiative and Referendum Institute.

Maine Republicans sponsored a number of bills to reform the referendum process following the 2016 election when voters approved five out of six ballot questions and rejected a measure to require background checks for private firearm sales.

Lawmakers have since spent months dealing with the aftermath of initiatives, and repealed a voter-approved tax on the wealthy.

But a number of Democrats have voiced support for Republican Rep. Ellie Espling's proposed constitutional amendment to require signatures for ballot questions to come from each congressional district starting in 2019. A constitutional amendment would require two-thirds approval from lawmakers and the public in a statewide vote.

"I think it's fairly easy to get something on the ballot if you can pay for the process," Espling said, adding that the amendment won't fix everything wrong with the citizen initiative process.

The Maine Secretary of State's office has said it hasn't found constitutional issues with the proposed amendment. Under Espling's bill, such campaigns would need 31,942 signatures from District 1 and 29,181 signatures from District 2.

The National Rifle Association, Nestle Waters North America and Planned Parenthood have reported lobbying for and against the constitutional amendment. The NRA's advocacy arm is urging residents to get their lawmakers to support Espling's initiative, which has received resistance in the Senate and from Democratic House Speaker Sara Gideon.

The Legislature's Veterans and Legal Affairs committee voted 12-1 last month in support of Espling's bill, which awaits rounds of votes in the House and Senate. Democratic Rep. John Schneck voted against the bill and said it could decrease voter turnout, while it received support from Democrats such as committee House chair Louis Luchini, Rep. Craig Hickman, Rep. Thomas Longstaff and former Attorney General

Michael Carpenter.

AP writers Mead Gruver in Cheyenne, Wyo.; Emily Wagster Pettus in Jackson, Miss.; Grant Schulte in Lincoln, Neb.; Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska; and James Nord in Pierre, S.D. contributed to this report.

South Dakota volunteer association files countersuit to city

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A volunteer firefighters' association in western South Dakota has filed a countersuit to a city's lawsuit that alleges the association may have misused taxpayer funds.

The Spearfish Volunteer Firefighters' Association has described the city of Spearfish's lawsuit a month ago as a "grand misunderstanding," the Black Hills Pioneer reported. The city's suit questions whether the association used taxpayer money to create an endowment fund in January.

Court documents show the association contributed \$1 million to establish the Spearfish Volunteer Firefighters' Association Fund and \$50,000 to create a scholarship fund through the South Dakota Community Foundation last October.

In response, the association filed a counterclaim Wednesday seeking damages for unlawful seizure and theft of property and assets by the city.

The association was formerly the Spearfish's active volunteer fire department, and received the city's financial support. Spearfish now provides the operational side of fire protection and the association offers public safety preparedness and education.

The association denies the claims in the city's complaint. Its counterclaim says that the association is a separate legal entity from the city, though the city has taken "sole and exclusive possession and control of assets belonging, in whole or part, to the (association)."

Attorney Kassie McKie Shiffermiller, representing the city, said that the counterclaim was unexpected.

"The association's new position that the Spearfish Fire Department's use of firefighting equipment purchased with funds donated by the public amounted to theft and a violation of the association's constitutional rights is baseless and without merit, to say the least," she said.

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

Company begins exploratory drilling for gold in South Dakota

ROCHFORD, S.D. (AP) — A Canadian company has begun exploratory drilling for gold in western South Dakota.

Mineral Mountains Resources announced Monday that it began drilling near Rochford earlier this month, the Rapid City Journal reported. The company plans to drill at least 12 holes ranging in diameter from 2 to 4 inches (51 to 102 millimeters) and in depth from about 1,000 to 1,300 feet (305 to 396 meters). Mineral Mountains also has requested drilling sites in the Black Hills National Forest, which is under review by the U.S. Forest Service.

The project has been opposed by neighboring landowners, environmentalists and residents who fear the negative impacts of a large-scale gold mine.

"Everybody along Rapid Creek and Rapid City that drinks water should be concerned about this potential disaster," wrote Rapid City resident George Kruse, in a letter circulated by a group called Save Rochford & Rapid Creek From Gold Mining.

Some Native American tribes have called the drilling a desecration of the Black Hills, which are spiritually significant to them. Native Americans have also expressed concern over the project's proximity to Pe Sla, a large mountain meadow about 7 miles (11 kilometers) west of the drilling location.

Mineral Mountain received negative publicity in 2012 while exploring for gold in the mountains of Keystone, another historical Black Hills mining community. Drilling water and bentonite, a substance used to fill drill holes, leaked into Battle Creek. South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials said the milky substance in the creek wasn't harmful to people or fish.

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For this project, Mineral Mountain is only exploring for gold, rather than mining. The drilling is being conducted on privately owned land, which is covered by a state-approved exploration notice.

The company paid \$250 for an exploratory permit and must maintain a \$20,000 bond with the state government.

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

Trump mad at law enforcement, lawmakers over Iran payment

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump is railing against law enforcement and lawmakers — this time over an Obama-era payment to Iran.

Trump says in a tweet that he's "never gotten over the fact that Obama was able to send \$1.7 Billion Dollars in CASH to Iran and nobody in Congress, the FBI or Justice called for an investigation!"

The Obama administration transferred the money to Iran in 2016, using non-U.S. currency. The administration said it was the settlement of a decades-old arbitration claim between the countries. An initial payment was delivered the same day Tehran agreed to release four American prisoners.

The Obama administration eventually acknowledged the cash was used as leverage until the Americans were allowed to leave Iran. Congressional Republicans decried the payment as ransom, which the Obama administration denied.

Commercial plane crashes in southern Iran, killing 66 people

By **NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An Iranian commercial plane crashed on Sunday in a foggy, mountainous region of southern Iran, killing all 66 people on board, state media reported.

An Aseman Airlines ATR-72, a twin-engine turboprop used for short-distance regional flying, went down near its destination of the southern Iranian city of Yasuj, some 780 kilometers (485 miles) south of the Iranian capital, Tehran.

Aseman Airlines spokesman Mohammad Taghi Tabatabai told state TV that all on Flight No. EP3704 were killed.

"After searching the area, we learned that unfortunately ... our dear passengers had lost their lives," Tabatabai said. "This plane had 60 passengers, 59 adults and one child, as well as a pilot, a co-pilot, two flight attendants and two air marshals on board."

Due to foggy condition, rescue helicopters couldn't reach the crash site in the Zagros Mountains, state TV reported. Tabatabai said the plane crashed into Mount Dena, which is about 4,400 meters (14,435 feet) tall.

Aseman Airlines, owned by Iran's civil service pension foundation, is a semi-private air carrier headquartered in Tehran that specializes in flights to remote airfields across the country. It also flies internationally. It is Iran's third-largest airline by fleet size, behind state carrier Iran Air and Mahan Air. However, Aseman Airlines is banned from flying in the European Union over safety concerns.

The carrier has a fleet of 29 aircraft, including six ATR aircraft, according to FlightRadar24, a plane-tracking website. The ATR-72 that crashed Sunday had been built in 1993, Aseman Airlines CEO Ali Abedzadeh told state TV.

The plane took off from Tehran at 0433 GMT and gave its last signal at 0555 GMT, when the flight was at 16,975 feet and was descending, FlightRadar24 said.

Aseman Airlines has suffered other major crashes with fatalities. In October 1994, a twin-propeller Fokker F-28 1000 commuter plane flown by the airline crashed near Natanz, 290 kilometers (180 miles) south of Tehran, also killing 66 people on board. An Aseman Airlines chartered flight in August 2008, flown by an Itek Air Boeing 737, crashed in Kyrgyzstan, killing 74 people.

The Iranian Red Crescent said it has deployed to the area. Authorities said they would be investigating. Locals described hearing the crash, though no one had found the crash site yet, according to state TV.

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European airplane manufacturer ATR, a Toulouse, France-based partnership of Airbus and Italy's Leonardo S.p.A., said it had no immediate information about the crash. The manufacturer specializes in regional turboprop aircraft of 90 seats or less.

Under decades of international sanctions, Iran's commercial passenger aircraft fleet has aged, with air accidents occurring regularly in recent years.

Following the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers, Iran signed deals with both Airbus and Boeing to buy scores of passenger planes worth tens of billions of dollars. U.S. politicians have expressed concern about the airplane sales to Iran. President Donald Trump remains skeptical of the atomic accord overall and has refused to re-certify it, putting the deal in question.

Home to 80 million people, Iran represents one of the last untapped aviation markets in the world. However, Western analysts are skeptical that there is demand for so many jets or available financing for deals worth billions of dollars.

In April 2017, ATR sealed a \$536-million sale with Iran Air for at least 20 aircraft. Chicago-based Boeing also signed a \$3 billion deal that month to sell 30 737 MAX aircraft to Aseman Airlines.

Iran has suffered a series of major airplane crashes in recent decades. The last major airliner crash in Iran happened in January 2011, when an Iran Air Boeing 727 broke to pieces on impact while trying an emergency landing in a snowstorm in northwestern Iran, killing at least 77 people.

In July 2009, a Russian-made jetliner crashed in northwest Iran shortly after taking off from the capital, killing all 168 on board. A Russian-made Ilyushin 76 carrying members of the Revolutionary Guard crashed in the mountains of southeastern Iran in February 2003, killing 302 people aboard.

In February 1993, an Iranian airliner with 132 people onboard collided with an air force jet after takeoff from Tehran's main airport, killing everyone onboard the two aircraft. And in July 1988, the USS Vincennes in the Strait of Hormuz mistook an Iran Air flight heading to Dubai for an attacking fighter jet, shooting down the plane and killing all 290 people onboard.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

This story has been corrected to say the height of Mount Dena is about 4,400 meters (14,435 feet).

Biden, in public and private, tiptoes toward a 2020 run

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Joe Biden is tiptoeing toward a potential presidential run in 2020, even broaching the possibility during a recent gathering of longtime foreign policy aides.

Huddled in his newly opened office steps from the U.S. Capitol, Biden began a planning meeting for his new diplomacy center by addressing the elephant in the room. He said he was keeping his 2020 options open, considering it a real possibility. He insisted he had made no decision, and didn't need to yet, according to five people who either attended the meeting or were briefed on it by those who did.

Biden also expressed interest in bringing those in the room onto his team if he decides to launch a campaign. At the same time, he gave them an out: There would be no hard feelings if they decided they were content in their current roles outside of government, said the people, who demanded anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

The political world has long tried to game out Biden's plans for 2020. After all, he came close to running last time only to see President Donald Trump pull off a victory that many Democrats openly suggest wouldn't have happened had he, not Hillary Clinton, been their nominee. Several people came away from the meeting with the impression that if no strong Democratic candidate emerges in the next year or so, Biden would feel strongly compelled to run.

A presidential candidate twice before, Biden would be 78 on Inauguration Day if elected in 2020, a concerning prospect for some Democrats even though he's only a few years older than Trump. One possibility that Biden's longtime advisers have discussed privately is that he could announce his intention to

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serve only one term, clearing the path for his running mate to take over in 2024 and potentially setting up Democrats for a 12-year White House stretch.

Biden's brief discussion about his 2020 deliberations came as he brought foreign policy staffers together to set the 2018 agenda for the newly opened Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement — where many of them are now working, including Colin Kahl, his vice presidential national security adviser, and Steve Ricchetti, his former chief of staff. Eli Ratner, his former deputy national security adviser, and Mike Carpenter, the former Pentagon and State Department official who's now the center's senior director, also attended, as did Julianne Smith, a Biden adviser in the Obama administration's first term who now works at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington think tank.

A Biden spokesman declined to comment. But in a recent NBC News interview, Biden said he'd decide on running in 2020 based on whether it was "the right thing to do."

"I'm focused on one thing: electing a Democratic Congress to stop this erosion of the core of who we are," Biden said. "I'll look at that a year from now. I have plenty of time to consider whether or not to run."

The meeting was one of several signs that Biden is beginning to position himself as an alternative to Trump. Biden has started denouncing the current president's leadership more frequently in public, as he crisscrosses the United States and beyond to promote his new book, his cancer initiative, his new domestic policy institute in Delaware, the diplomacy center and his new political action committee, American Possibilities.

He's also been gearing up to play a major role campaigning for Democrats seeking to retake the House and Senate in the 2018 midterms.

"Donald Trump's looking out for Donald Trump. Republicans are looking out for Donald Trump. Who's looking out for everyone else? Democrats," Biden wrote in a recent fundraising pitch to the PAC's supporters. He said in 2018, he would "beat a path all across this country to stand up for leaders who will stand up for all of us."

In 2015, Biden's face was plastered across cable news channels and newspaper front pages for months as he carried out a lengthy deliberation about whether to challenge Clinton for the nomination. Ultimately, he decided he and his family weren't in position to run so soon after his son, former Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden, died from brain cancer earlier that year. Yet many Democrats have argued that his "everyman" brand and blue-collar appeal would make him particularly well-suited to challenge Trump.

This story has been updated to correct the spelling of Eli Ratner, not Ratney.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

Calls for gun control grow louder after Florida shooting

By JASON DEAREN, ALLEN G. BREED and TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — Pressure is growing for tougher gun-control laws after a mass shooting at a Florida high school, with thousands of angry protesters at state rallies demanding immediate action from lawmakers, and more demonstrations planned across the country in the weeks ahead.

Organizers behind the Women's March, an anti-Trump and female empowerment protest, called for a 17-minute, nationwide walkout by teachers and students on March 14. The Network for Public Education, an advocacy organization for public schools, announced a day of walkouts, sit-ins and other events on school campuses on April 20, the anniversary of the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado that left 12 students and one teacher dead.

Plans for the protests circulated widely on social media on Saturday, as students, parents, teachers and neighbors gathered to express their grief over the fatal shooting of 14 students and three staff members at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. Hundreds showed up at rallies in Fort Lauderdale, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) away, and in St. Petersburg, 250 miles (400 kilometers) northwest, to demand action on gun-control legislation.

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"The fact that we can't go to school and feel safe every day, when we're supposed to feel safe, is a problem," said Fabiana Corsa, a Florida high school student who attended the Fort Lauderdale gathering.

Corsa said legislators were "sacrificing students" in order to get money from the National Rifle Association. The crowd at the rally chanted: "Vote them out!" and held signs calling for action. Some read: "#Never Again," "#Do something now" and "Don't Let My Friends Die."

The rallies were held as new details emerged about the suspect, Nikolas Cruz. Authorities say Cruz, 19, was a former student at Stoneman Douglas who had been expelled, had mental health issues and had been reported to law enforcement before he used a legally purchased semiautomatic rifle to take the lives of 17 people on Wednesday.

From a mosaic of public records, interviews with friends and family and online interactions, it appears Cruz was unstable and violent to himself and those around him — and that when notified about his threatening behavior, law enforcement did little to stop it.

Cruz's mother died in November and his father died years ago. He reportedly left a suburban Palm Beach County mobile home where he had been staying after his mother's death because his benefactor gave him an ultimatum: you or the gun.

The Sun-Sentinel reported that Florida's Department of Children and Families investigated when Cruz posted a video on the social media network Snapchat showing him cutting his arms in 2016. "Mr. Cruz has fresh cuts on both his arms," the Florida DCF abuse hotline was told in August 2016, the paper reported. "Mr. Cruz stated he plans to go out and buy a gun. It is unknown what he is buying the gun for."

According to the paper, DCF's investigation was completed that Nov. 12. The agency concluded Cruz had not been mistreated by his mother, was receiving adequate care from a mental health counselor and was attending school.

At school, Cruz routinely fought with teachers, was accused of swearing at staff and was referred for a "threat assessment" in January 2017, two months after the DCF investigation concluded, The New York Times reported Saturday, citing school disciplinary records it obtained.

The records show he was suspended several times in the 2016-17 school year and was frequently absent. They also show Cruz attended at least six schools, including a school for students with emotional problems, the newspaper said.

Cruz had been diagnosed with autism, a neurological disorder that often leads to social awkwardness and isolation, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD.

The FBI said a person close to Cruz called the FBI's tip line and provided information about Cruz's weapons and his erratic behavior. The caller was concerned Cruz could attack a school. The agency acknowledged the tip should have been shared with the FBI's Miami office and investigated, but it was not.

Lush reported from St. Petersburg, Florida. Associated Press writer Sudhin S. Thanawala in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Follow the AP's complete coverage of the Florida school shooting here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Florida-schoolshooting> .

NBC's ski announcers attempt to explain their blunder

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Highlights from media coverage of the Pyeongchang Olympics:

OOPS: Instead of laughing off or owning up to making a wrong call the night before in the women's super-G, NBC's ski announcers seemed intent on justifying themselves Saturday night. In that Alpine race, little-known Ester Ledecka of the Czech Republic stunned everyone by edging Austria's Anna Veith for the gold medal. Ledecka, ranked No. 43 in the world, was considered to have so little chance that NBC's Dan Hicks declared Veith the winner and NBC switched away as if the race was over. But it wasn't. Returning

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to the subject a night later, Bode Miller declared that "in everyone's opinion, the race was over. It was one of the most incredible upsets I've seen in any sport." Hicks noted that even Ledecka couldn't believe she had won. "Neither could we," he said. Under the circumstances, producers had made a reasonable call to move on to a compelling figure-skating competition. But it was still wrong for Hicks to have expressed certainty that the race was over, and the way he and Miller revisited it Saturday only served to annoy viewers who had missed the miracle on snow.

IT'S HISTORY: We're convinced NBC's Leigh Diffey can narrate a Monday morning commute to work and make it sound thrilling and history-making. He and analyst Bree Schaaf turned the women's skeleton competition into high drama. "Lizzy Yarnold proves she is an Olympic legend," Diffey said of Britain's two-time gold-medal winner. He and Schaaf are a breakout team.

UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT: During the U.S.-Russia hockey game, analyst Mike Milbury described Slava Voynov's expulsion from the NHL after being jailed for kicking and choking his wife as an "unfortunate incident" that hurt the Los Angeles Kings. His choice of words earned NBC some online criticism for insensitivity. Milbury, in a statement, said his intention was to discuss the impact of the incident on hockey after partner Kenny Albert outlined the domestic violence charges. "As I said at the time he was suspended, the league made the right call, 100 percent," he said.

RATINGS: The 19.2 million people who watched the Olympics on NBC, NBCSN or on streaming services Friday was identical to the 19.2 million NBC viewers for the corresponding night in Sochi in 2014. In today's television world, that's a victory. The Nielsen company said 16.6 million people watched NBC alone on Friday. NBC notes that the dominance of Olympic coverage over other things on TV is unmatched; on Friday, competitors ABC, CBS and Fox combined reached just 8.1 million viewers.

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

Trump adviser: Russian meddling 'incontrovertible'

By **DESMOND BUTLER** and **DAVID RISING**, Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — President Donald Trump's national security adviser said Saturday there was "incontrovertible" evidence of a Russian plot to disrupt the 2016 U.S. election, a blunt statement that shows how significantly the new criminal charges leveled by an American investigator have upended the political debate over his inquiry.

The statement by H.R. McMaster at the Munich Security Conference stood in stark contrast to Trump's oft repeated claim that Russian interference in his election victory was a hoax.

"As you can see with the FBI indictment, the evidence is now really incontrovertible and available in the public domain," McMaster told a Russian delegate to the conference.

The detailed document presented the most compelling public evidence to date that the Russian operation was elaborate, expensive and real. Citing emails and conversations by the perpetrators of the plot, it also demonstrated that the ongoing probe may have access to explosive intelligence material gathered on the Russian operations.

McMaster also noted that special counsel Robert Mueller's team had shown that the U.S. was becoming "more and more adept at tracing the origins of this espionage and subversion."

Just minutes before, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had dismissed the indictment as "just blabber."

"I have no response," Lavrov said when asked for comment on the allegations. "You can publish anything, and we see those indictments multiplying, the statements multiplying."

But Lavrov did not say what he specifically disputed in the indictment.

Trump tweeted late Saturday that McMaster's mention of Russian election meddling forgot to include that the election results were not changed by the Russians efforts. And he said McMaster should have noted the only collusion was between Russia, Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and the Democrats. Trump frequently has tried to turn the tables on who tried to work closely with Russians.

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McMaster and Lavrov addressed the annual conference of world leaders, defense officials and diplomats, giving more general back-to-back opening remarks. But both were immediately hit with questions about the U.S. indictment and the broader issue of cyberattacks.

In Russia, news of the indictment was met with more scorn.

"There are no official claims, there is no proof for this. That's why they are just children's statements," Andrei Kutsikh, the presidential envoy for international information security, told Russian state news agency RIA Novosti.

McMaster also scoffed at the suggestion that the U.S. would work with Russia on cyber security issues.

"I'm surprised there are any Russian cyber experts available based on how active most of them have been undermining our democracies in the West," he said to laughter. "So I would just say that we would love to have a cyber dialogue when Russia is sincere."

Lavrov argued that U.S. officials, including Vice President Mike Pence, have said no country influenced the U.S. election results.

"Until we see the facts, everything else is just blabber. I'm sorry for this not very diplomatic expression," Lavrov said.

The indictment charged 13 Russians with running a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign combined with on-the-ground politicking aimed in part at helping Trump defeat his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

It outlined the first criminal charges against Russians believed to have secretly worked to influence the U.S. election's outcome.

According to the indictment, the Russian organization was funded by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a wealthy St. Petersburg businessman with ties to the Russian government and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Lavrov denounced "this irrational myth about this global Russian threat, traces of which are found everywhere — from Brexit to the Catalan referendum."

Russia's former ambassador to the United States, Sergei Kislyak, similarly dismissed the detailed allegations contained in the indictment as "simply fantasies." Kislyak's name has come up in the FBI and congressional investigations of possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Pressed on the election interference that is alleged to have occurred while he was Russia's envoy to Washington, Kislyak said, "I'm not sure I can trust American law enforcement to be the most precise and truthful source of information about what Russians know."

"I have never done anything of this sort, no one in my embassy did," he said during a panel discussion at the Munich conference. "So whatever allegations are being mounted against us are simply fantasies that are being used for political reasons inside the United States in the fight between different sides of the political divide."

Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, pleaded guilty in December to lying to the FBI about his conversations with Kislyak before Trump's inauguration.

In Russia, one of the 13 people indicted said the U.S. justice system is unfair.

Mikhail Burchik was quoted Saturday by the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda as saying that "I am very surprised that, in the opinion of the Washington court, several Russian people interfered in the elections in the United States. I do not know how the Americans came to this decision."

Burchik was identified in the indictment as executive director of an organization accused of sowing propaganda on social media to try to interfere with the 2016 election.

He was quoted as saying the Americans "have one-sided justice, and it turns out that you can hang the blame on anyone."

Butler reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Lolita Baldor in Munich, Jim Heintz in Moscow and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this report.

Florida, angry and grieving, takes gun protest to streets

By JASON DEAREN, ALLEN G. BREED and TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — Thousands of angry students, parents, teachers and neighbors of a Florida high school where 17 people were killed demanded Saturday that immediate action be taken on gun-control legislation, insisting they would not relent until their demands were met.

The rallies in Fort Lauderdale and St. Petersburg gave a political outlet to the growing feelings of rage and mourning sparked by the carnage. Authorities say a former student who had been expelled, had mental health issues and been reported to law enforcement, used a legally purchased semiautomatic rifle to kill students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

"Because of these gun laws, people that I know, people that I love, have died, and I will never be able to see them again," Delaney Tarr, a student at the school, told the crowd swamping the steps and courtyard at the federal courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Parkland.

The crowd chanted: "Vote them out!" and held signs calling for action. Some read: "#Never Again," "#Do something now" and "Don't Let My Friends Die."

Student Emma Gonzalez told the crowd politicians should stop taking donations from the National Rifle Association. "Shame on you," she yelled, and the crowd repeated her.

"A lot of people are saying that these kids are activists, these kids need to be politicians," she later told a reporter. "But a lot of us are just other students who figured there's strength in numbers. And we want to be sure that we end up having our message sent across. And then we can get back to our normal everyday lives, you know."

Laurie Woodward Garcia, the mother of a 14-year-old girl, echoed many in the crowd, who said they believed that this shooting would lead to change, though so many others had not.

"If there's something that we can unite on as Democrats and Republicans and Independents, it's our children. So it will happen," she said.

In St. Petersburg, on Florida's Gulf Coast 250 miles (400 miles) northwest of Parkland, hundreds of people gathered Saturday night in a park, where they lit candles in memory of the victims and called for legislative action on the state and federal level to end gun violence.

The rallies came as new details emerged about the suspect, Nikolas Cruz.

From a mosaic of public records, interviews with friends and family and online interactions, it appears Cruz was unstable and violent to himself and those around him — and that when notified about his threatening behavior, law enforcement did little to stop it.

Cruz's mother died in November and his father died years ago.

He reportedly left a suburban Palm Beach County mobile home where he had been staying after his mother's death because his benefactor gave him an ultimatum: you or the gun.

The Palm Beach Post reports Roxanne Deschamps said, "He bought a gun and wanted to bring it into my house" in public comments that have since been removed from her Facebook page.

Chad Bennett, a friend of Deschamps', said Cruz "chose the gun and he left."

He then went to live with another family.

Earlier, Florida's child welfare agency investigated after Cruz cut himself in an online video, but found him stable, according to state records.

The Sun-Sentinel reported that Florida's Department of Children and Families investigated when Cruz posted a video on the social media network Snapchat showing him cutting his arms in 2016. The agency was called to investigate. Cruz, then 18, was listed as an "alleged victim" of medical neglect and inadequate supervision; his adoptive mother, then-68-year-old Lynda Cruz, the "alleged perpetrator."

"Mr. Cruz was on Snapchat cutting both of his arms," the Florida DCF abuse hotline was told in August 2016, the paper reported. "Mr. Cruz has fresh cuts on both his arms. Mr. Cruz stated he plans to go out and buy a gun. It is unknown what he is buying the gun for."

According to the paper, DCF's investigation was completed that Nov. 12. The agency concluded Cruz had not been mistreated by his mother, was receiving adequate care from a mental health counselor and

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was attending school.

Mental health center staff "came out and assessed the (victim and) found him to be stable enough not to be hospitalized," the DCF report said.

At school, Cruz routinely fought with teachers, was accused of swearing at staff and was referred for a "threat assessment" in January 2017, two months after the DCF investigation concluded, The New York Times reported Saturday, citing school disciplinary records it obtained.

The records show he was suspended several times in the 2016-17 school year and was frequently absent. They also show Cruz attended at least six schools, including a school for students with emotional problems, the newspaper said.

Cruz had been diagnosed with autism, a neurological disorder that often leads to social awkwardness and isolation, and attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD.

The FBI said a person close to Cruz called the FBI's tip line and provided information about Cruz's weapons and his erratic behavior. The caller was concerned Cruz could attack a school. The agency acknowledged the tip should have been shared with the FBI's Miami office and investigated, but it was not.

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said his office had received more than 20 calls about Cruz in the past few years.

Lush reported from St. Petersburg, Florida.

Follow the AP's complete coverage of the Florida school shooting here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Floraschoolshooting> .

World's best male Alpine skier vies for 2nd Pyeongchang gold

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — The world's best male Alpine skier, Marcel Hirscher, will compete for his second gold medal of the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Hirscher starts as the favorite in the giant slalom Sunday at Yongpyong Alpine Center. He's already got a gold medal from his first event, the Alpine combined.

The 28-year-old Austrian is expected to duel with his main rival in World Cup races, Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway. American Ted Ligety will try to defend the title he won at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Also Sunday, there are men's preliminary-round hockey games between Canada and Korea and between Finland and Sweden, among others. In women's hockey, Switzerland will play Korea and Sweden will play Japan, though none is a medal contender.

And the bobsled competition kicks off with the first heats for the men's two-man teams, with medals to be awarded Monday.

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

Copter on quake mission flips in Mexico, kills 13 on ground

MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A military helicopter carrying officials who were assessing damage from a powerful earthquake flipped as it was attempting to land in southern Mexico, crashing on top of people who had fled their homes and were spending the night outside. Thirteen people were killed — the only known fatalities related to the quake — and 16 were injured.

No one aboard the helicopter, including Interior Secretary Alfonso Navarrete and Oaxaca Gov. Alejandro Murat, was seriously hurt. Jorge Morales, a local reporter who was aboard the helicopter when it crashed Friday night, described harrowing moments as the pilot lost control and the helicopter attempted to touch down in a swirl of dust in Jamiltepec, a city in Oaxaca state close to the epicenter of the earthquake that struck earlier Friday.

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"The moment the helicopter touched down it lost control, it slid — like it skidded — and it hit some vehicles that were parked alongside the area that had been defined for the landing," Morales told a Mexican television news program. "In that moment, you couldn't see anything, nothing else was heard beside the sound that iron makes when it scrapes the earth."

Navarrete told local media that "as the army helicopter we were travelling in tried to land, the pilot lost control, the helicopter fell and flipped."

A state government official who was not authorized to be quoted by name said the chopper crashed into a group of people who had been spending the night outside after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the area. Aftershocks, including one of 5.8 magnitude that struck about an hour after the first, had caused people to flee their homes for fear they would collapse.

The Oaxaca state prosecutor's office said in a statement that five women, four men and three children were killed at the crash site and another person died later at a hospital.

The Defense Department said the Blackhawk helicopter crashed as it was preparing to land in a vacant lot. The department said the victims had been waiting for the helicopter, but did not provide more details.

Navarrete and the defense department said they regretted the loss of life.

The quake damaged about 50 homes in Jamiltepec, as well as the town hall and church, according to the Interior Department. It also rocked buildings in Mexico City, about 240 miles northwest, and many other parts of the country.

But the damage was minimal compared to a massive 8.2 quake that struck in the same general area on Sept. 7 and a 7.1 magnitude quake on Sept. 19, which killed a total of 471 people between the two of them and damaged over 180,000 houses in eight states, including Mexico City.

The U.S. Geological Survey said Friday's quake was centered 33 miles (53 kilometers) northeast of Pinotepa in southern Oaxaca state and had a depth of 15 miles (24 kilometers).

Two people suffered fractures caused by the quake and were treated in Pinotepa Nacional. Their lives were not in danger.

Navarrete has led the Interior Department, which oversees most political and security issues, for little over a month. Earlier this month, an intelligence agent from an agency overseen by Navarrete's department was caught tailing an opposition presidential candidate.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 2018. There are 316 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 18, 1678, the first part of "The Pilgrim's Progress," a Christian allegory by English author John Bunyan, was published in London.

On this date:

In 1546, Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, died in Eisleben.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was sworn in as provisional president of the Confederate States of America in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1913, Mexican President Francisco I. Madero and Vice President Jose Maria Pino Suarez were arrested during a military coup (both were shot to death on Feb. 22).

In 1930, photographic evidence of Pluto (now designated a "dwarf planet") was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona.

In 1943, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, wife of the Chinese leader, addressed members of the Senate and then the House, becoming the first Chinese national to address both houses of the U.S. Congress.

In 1953, "Bwana Devil," the movie that heralded the 3D fad of the 1950s, had its New York opening.

In 1968, the Winter Olympic Games closed in Grenoble, France.

In 1970, the "Chicago Seven" defendants were found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968

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Democratic national convention; five were convicted of violating the Anti-Riot Act of 1968 (those convictions were later reversed).

In 1977, the space shuttle prototype Enterprise, sitting atop a Boeing 747, went on its debut "flight" above Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1988, Anthony M. Kennedy was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1997, astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery completed their tune-up of the Hubble Space Telescope after 33 hours of spacewalking; the Hubble was then released using the shuttle's crane.

In 2001, auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a crash at the Daytona 500; he was 49.

Ten years ago: The Pakistan People's Party of assassinated ex-prime minister Benazir Bhutto (BEN'-uh-zeer BOO'-toh) won the most seats in parliamentary elections. A suicide car bomber targeting a Canadian military convoy killed 38 civilians in southern Afghanistan. Republican John McCain picked up the support of former President George H.W. Bush. Writer Alain Robbe-Grillet died in Caen, France, at age 85.

Five years ago: The European Union imposed trade and economic sanctions on North Korea while condemning "in the strongest terms" the nation's latest nuclear test. Robbers stole a reported \$50 million worth of diamonds from the hold of a Swiss-bound plane at Brussels' international airport; more than 30 people were later detained and some of the loot recovered. President Hugo Chavez (OO'-goh CHAH'-vez) returned to Venezuela after more than two months of treatment in Cuba following cancer surgery.

One year ago: Four weeks into his administration, President Donald Trump led a rally in central Florida that mirrored the months leading up to Election Day, complete with a promise to repeal the health care law, a renewed pledge to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, and insults for the news media. Norma McCorvey, whose legal challenge under the pseudonym "Jane Roe" led to the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision that legalized abortion but who later became an outspoken opponent of the procedure, died in Katy, Texas, at age 69. Omar Abdel-Rahman, the so-called "Blind Sheik" convicted of plotting terror attacks in the United States in the 1990s, died at a federal prison in North Carolina where he was serving a life sentence; he was 78.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. John Warner, R-Va., is 91. Author Toni Morrison is 87. Movie director Milos (MEE'-lohsh) Forman is 86. Singer Yoko Ono is 85. Singer-songwriter Bobby Hart is 79. Singer Irma Thomas is 77. Singer Herman Santiago (Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers) is 77. Actress Jess Walton is 72. Singer Dennis DeYoung is 71. Actress Sinead Cusack is 70. Actress Cybill Shepherd is 68. Singer Randy Crawford is 66. Rock musician Robbie Bachman is 65. Actor John Travolta is 64. Actor John Pankow is 63. Game show host Vanna White is 61. Actress Jayne Atkinson is 59. Actress Greta Scacchi (SKAH'-kee) is 58. Actor Matt Dillon is 54. Rock musician Tommy Scott (Space) is 54. Rapper Dr. Dre is 53. Actress Molly Ringwald is 50. Actress Sarah Brown is 43. Country musician Trevor Rosen (Old Dominion) is 43. Actor Ike Barinholtz is 41. Actor Kristoffer Polaha is 41. Singer-musician Sean Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 41. Actor Tyrone Burton is 39. Rock-singer musician Regina Spektor is 38. Opera singer Isabel Leonard is 36. Roots rock musician Zac Cockrell (Alabama Shakes) is 30. Actor Shane Lyons is 30. Actress Sara Sutherland is 30. Actress Maiara Walsh is 30.

Thought for Today: "The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world." — Robert Penn Warren, American author, poet and critic (1905-1989).