

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 220 ~ 1 of 41

Chicken Soup
for the Soul.

“VERY LITTLE
IS NEEDED TO MAKE
A HAPPY LIFE; IT IS ALL
WITHIN YOURSELF, IN
YOUR WAY OF THINKING.”

- MARCUS AURELIUS
ANTONINUS

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Oven Fresh
Sandwiches



Hot Desserts



Snack Melts



11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627

Girls' State Representatives

The following Junior girls have been selected to attend Girls' State in Vermillion – May 28th – June 2nd: Jodi Hinman, Shyla Larson, Alexis Simon, Taylor Holm, Kaitlyn Anderson, and Sam Menzia. They will be representing the Auxiliary Units from Groton, Columbia, Claremont, and Conde.

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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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The 2017 Minnesota Vikings was a team known for having one of the best defenses in the league. Head coach Mike Zimmer is one of the best defensive minds in the NFL, and his fingerprints are all over this team – and defense in particular. The unit ranked as one of the best in every important statistical measurement, leading many to compare this Vikings defense with some of the best in the history of the NFL. This team may not quite be there yet – and won't be until they are hoisting a Lombardi trophy – but there is no doubt the Vikings defense is very good and only getting better.

As an overall defense, the Vikings were ranked as the best in the NFL. The most important stat for a defense is how many points it gives up, and the Vikings only allowed 15.8 points per game – best in the league. The second most important stat is how often a defense gives up a first down on third downs – and the Vikings were once again the best, only giving up a first down 25 percent of the time. Some people say the barometer of a defense is how many yards it gives up, and while I don't subscribe to that train of thought (since a game is won by points, not yards), the Vikings were still tops in the league, allowing only 275.9 per game.

When the NFL first started, it was all about stopping the run on defense. Nowadays, however, teams are more inclined to pass the ball – meaning stopping the pass is paramount to any great defense. In 2017, the Vikings only allowed 192.4 passing yards per game, 2nd in the NFL. Even more impressive was that the team led the league by only allowing 13 passing touchdowns the entire regular season. Two areas the team could improve upon are interceptions and sacks. The team finished 2017 with only 14 interceptions (13th in the NFL) and only 37 sacks (17th). The Vikings' defensive backfield is led by two All-Pros – Harrison Smith at safety and Xavier Rhodes at cornerback.

Since the Vikings were obviously doing everything they could to shut down the pass, then teams should have been able to run the ball against them, right? Wrong. The Vikings were number two in the NFL in rushing yards allowed per game (83.6) and fifth in yards per carry allowed (3.7). For the entire season, the Vikings only allowed six runs of 20 yards or more, and only two runs that went for 40 yards or more. One area the Vikings will look to improve is rushing touchdowns given up, even though the team only allowed 10 all season (9th best in the league). Pro Bowl defensive tackle Linval Joseph is a big reason why the Vikings were one of the best against the run in 2017. Another reason was linebacker Eric Kendricks, who led the team with 113 tackles.

When Mike Zimmer took over the Minnesota Vikings, he inherited a defense that gave up the most points per game (30) in the NFL. The defense has improved every year since:

2014 – 21.4 points allowed (11th in the NFL)

2015 – 18.9 points allowed (5th)

2016 – 19.2 points allowed (6th)

2017 – 15.8 points allowed (1st)

Zimmer's defense was the best in the NFL in 2017, but there are still areas where it can improve. The best part is that the defense is young and should only get better with time. The team was unable to make it to the Super Bowl this past season, but there is no doubt the future is bright. Skol!

Next week, we'll do a free agency primer that focuses on the offense. Have any questions or comments? Reach out to me on Facebook ([facebook.com/SkolJWright](https://www.facebook.com/SkolJWright)) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright)



Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

Last week in Health and Human Services, we heard testimony on SB 190, which called for the state legislature to approve any expansion of Medicaid services under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Many of you have followed this debate in recent years. On one hand, it would sweep in more people to be eligible for Medicaid coverage. In most cases, these are people who have been frozen out of the

health insurance marketplace because of the way Obamacare was structured. On the other hand, it would expose South Dakota to tens of millions of dollars more in state expenditures due to increased utilization of the federal program that requires state matching funds. This would pit the Medicaid program against other budgetary priorities for already scarce taxpayer resources. The bill specifically called for any changes to the Medicaid program in excess of 5% to be dealt with by virtue of a special appropriations bill. Such a bill requires a 2/3 vote in each chamber during the deliberation process, whereas under current practice any such change could arguably be dealt with through the general appropriations act, thus requiring only a majority vote. I supported the bill, and it came out of committee 4-3. However, on the floor, an amendment was passed that essentially gutted the bill and took it back to only a majority vote threshold, thus rendering the bill moot. Subsequently, the bill died on a 14-20 vote.

We also took up two House Bills that passed out of committee and off the floor and await the Governor's signature. HB 1079 would allow physical therapists to perform dry needling as part of their scope of practice. We heard really good testimony as to the procedure and the results it has yielded for patients. It was pointed out that dry needling is NOT acupuncture. The only similarity is the instrument used. HB 1205 would extend dental coverage to certain persons not currently covered in the instance that they have to be treated in a hospital or ambulatory surgery center because of disability or medical condition that requires them to be treated in a facility other than a dental office. This bill was supported by both the Dental Association and the Medical Association, and there was not opposition testimony from anybody, including the insurance industry. Both bills sailed out of committee and off the floor on unanimous votes.

While the Health and Human Services Committee had a relatively light bill load last week, such was not the case for the Judiciary Committee. Judiciary heard nine Senate measures and eleven House Bills in three separate meetings, including one that was held Weds after the floor proceedings had concluded. SB 155 would insert new language into existing law regarding what counties may require prisoners to repay them for. In addition to all other charges that a judge may require a prisoner to pay for, this bill would insert the cost of transportation when the county has to transport a prisoner. Specifically, some counties do not maintain their own jails, and sheriffs offices may be responsible for traveling hundreds of miles a year to find available space for those arrested for and/or convicted of crimes. This bill would recognize that not all people are capable of compensating the counties for the costs associated with transportation, but it would allow judges to exercise discretion to levy a sentence that requires those with more means to pay back the county for the costs they incur. I supported the bill, as I know the budgetary constraints many counties are under, and this provides one more tool to help ease those burdens. The bill passed, 5-2, and it awaits action by the full Senate.

Most of the other Senate Bills heard in Judiciary were killed or have been extensively amended and await further amendment when they come to the floor. Therefore, I will hold off on reporting on them until their fate and final form is more certain.

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A I mentioned last week, the Lieutenant Governor was out of state most of last week. In his absence, I presided over the Senate some or all of each day of Session. On Monday, I did one more practice-run with the LG present on the floor but with me presiding. On both Tuesday and Thursday, I presided gavel-to-gavel. On Wednesday, I turned the gavel over to the Senate Majority Leader, Blake Curd, for much of the day and only took the gavel when he had a bill to pitch. As the presiding officer, I was not able to engage in any debates, but I remained able to vote on the issues. A brief look at some of the bills we dealt with follows. SB 83 would ensure that recognized patriotic societies are allowed access to address public school students about civic involvement and participation in the patriotic society during school hours in the first quarter of the school year. I supported this bill, and it passed, 26-9. SB 199, which sought to rewrite the nonmeandered water law of last summer to be predominately in favor of the sportsmen failed to be calendared on a 16-19 vote, thus resulting in the bill's failure. Subsequently, SB 24, which seeks to extend the nonmeandered water law's effective date at least another three years passed, 26-9. There is a House Bill that would remove the sunset altogether that awaits a hearing in Senate Ag & Natural Resources. Also, there are a few other bills dealing with some element of the nonmeandered water issue awaiting further action. SJR 3, which calls for the federal government to convene an Article V Convention of the States to propose amendments to the US Constitution is an issue that has a storied history in SD. This Joint Resolution failed 16-18. In 2015, SD passed a similar bill calling for a convention to take up a Federal Balanced Budget Amendment. That remains on the books. In 2010, SD passed HB 1135, which rescinded ten prior calls for some sort of Constitutional Convention. I suspect promoters will be back in the future with measures similar to SJR 3. This is a very well-intentioned effort to rein-in the federal government, but it comes with some uncertainty as to what the net effect will be. Many people are concerned that important existing Constitutional Amendments will come under fire at such a convention. They note that the federal government often finds loopholes to get around the spirit of the law, so they have a sense of distrust that an Article V Convention would yield positive results. Others argue that the current system is effectively broken, and something needs to be done sooner than later to save us from a bloated and borderline tyrannical federal government. SB 63, which I touched on last week, deals with imposing mandatory sentences for distribution of methamphetamines. The bill was amended on the floor, and it passed 20-9. We all recognize the scourge that meth is on society, and this is one more attempt at trying to be responsive to dealing with the drug epidemic. Finally, SB 214 calls for a Legislative Compensation Commission to address the issue of legislative salaries. The legislative salary has been \$6,000/year since 1999. There was a Joint Resolution that sought to change the legislative salary to 1/5 of the median SD income. While that measure appears to be destined to fail, SB 214 offers one more way of addressing it without the legislators being directly involved in the process. I voted against SB 214, but it passed, 22-7 and now heads over to the House for their consideration.

Due to the threat of a bad winter storm, Monday's cracker barrels slated for Clark and Redfield were cancelled as many legislators chose to travel back to Pierre a day early. My apologies that we were not able to take part in the scheduled events. This coming Saturday, we will be in Aberdeen at NSU at 10:00 a.m., followed by Lake Norden at 2:30. Please feel free to join us at either event.

I hope this finds you well. Until next time, may God bless and keep you.

Brock

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The Perseverance Of Our Largest Industry

Last year was another tough year for agriculture. After seeing a lack of moisture in the spring, we declared a statewide emergency in June. The drought persisted throughout the summer, and even today, as I write this, over 90 percent of the ground in the state is abnormally dry with almost 60 percent of the state in moderate to severe drought.

The drought conditions have exacerbated the impact farmers and ranchers were already feeling from low prices over the last few years, making 2017 a near low in terms of farm income. Our economists anticipate some marginal improvement this year if normal production levels return, but this will depend on the weather and federal trade policy.

Even though we don't know what this year will bring, there is still reason to be hopeful.

During the good times our farmers and ranchers invested in themselves. Farmers adopted new technologies and upgraded their equipment, added grain storage, and other new facilities while our ranchers also invested in new equipment, fencing and corrals, along with better genetics. Those investments have positioned them to seize opportunities when times are good again.

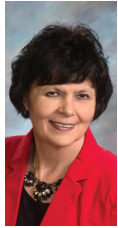
Even in times like these, young people are still finding a way to get back to the family farm. I recently heard a story about a young man named Greg who found a way to come back home to Hutchinson County and work with his dad on the farm. Greg knew he would need to supplement his income, so he built a hog finishing facility. The facility provides a guaranteed revenue stream and the manure has benefited the soil health and fertility of their land – which means increased yields and profit for the farm. Greg says he doesn't always accept things as they are. He challenges the norm, but also knows his costs and where the biggest risks are.

We can be encouraged by Greg's story and the stories of others like him. They're a testament of the adaptiveness and determination of South Dakota's farmers and ranchers, and a sign of the industry's promising future.

Agriculture is our largest industry and it's been that way since statehood. It's an industry peopled with generations of resilient individuals who gave their all working the land – combining until dark, checking for calves at two in the morning, getting up before dawn to milk the cows or feed the hogs, and moving livestock in subzero temperatures. Through hard work and determination, agriculture grew to what it is today. And that's how we'll make it through the next year and the years to come.

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Lana's Annals

Lana
Greenfield
District 2
State
Representative

Greetings! If one thinks the weather lately is a roller coaster ride, the atmosphere in the capitol is much the same as bills advance or meet their demise.

The bills regarding wind towers were all tabled this week, except for one. HB1234 makes sure that there is a pre-agreement in place for decommissioning wind towers should they be allowed to be built. In other words, if energy companies build wind towers but later on shut down or towers need replacement, the language will state who is responsible for the cost involved. That way, the landowner does not suffer the liability.

HB1120, the home school bill to allow for participation in public school activities, was defeated on the house floor. It was a very emotional bill for people on both sides. I cast a nay vote as I have learned in my life that I am unable to carve out the best of all things, and I feel it is a solemn, but realistic, lesson to pass along to future generations. It was a difficult vote as one of my very best friends presented the bill, but I had to set that aside.

My bill, HB1266, which call for increased pay for nursing home and community service providers to get increased wages, went up in flames. I had to appear before appropriations at 7:45 a.m., and the room was packed. Let me try to explain: some people can be eligible for Indian Health Services and Medicaid at the same time. IHS has had some institutional trouble, so they would now outsource their people to our regular medical systems. In doing so, there would be considerable Medicaid savings. The IHS system, for making referrals, and hospitals (big three), for taking the referrals, would both be incentivized. This is where entered to muddy up the watersmy plea was that the big hospitals could give the savings over to the nursing home workers and csp's. Why? They are multi-million (billion) dollar industries already. We have one hospital owner (most would know of whom I am speaking) who gives large amounts of money away to benevolent causes and continually builds specialty buildings to improve healthcare. It makes no sense then to have the savings continually going in that direction. I pointed out the low hourly wages and the unending responsibilities tied to nursing home and group home workers. I also went on to tell them that these places are in trouble. Some homes are closing. I challenged them to consider how many nursing homes would still be around when they got ready for long term care and how many workers would still be within the existing facilities. The testifiers of all the large health groups, including our state health and DSS departments, showed up to protest the bill, and it was defeated. A fellow legislator from a more populated district then presented a bill to suggest that 30 per cent of the savings should go to the same group as I had mentioned. His also died. I can hardly wait to be able to re-introduce this bill within the next two years when there is a "new sheriff in town." I am not going to just give up on this one.

HB1241, which proposed charging electric vehicles a fee for road usage, was an interesting bill. Proponents pointed out that these vehicle owners are not paying their fair share in road taxes as they use no gas. I cast a nay vote as I assumed that next year there would be a bill to assess owners of gas and diesel vehicles an additional electrical fee as they are not pay their fair share in that area!! It sometimes gets really crazy, folks. The vote was 35-30 so as it needed 36, it failed.

HB1252 asked for permission to wear certain tribal regalia at certain special events. The eagle feather is very sacred to our tribes, and some students wish to wear them at graduation exercises. I voted in favor, and it passed our House chamber.

HB1146 allows provisions regarding consumption of alcoholic beverages by passengers aboard vehicles operated by licensed carriers (i.e. party buses and limos). The bill allows the passengers to carry and consume their refreshments onboard as long as they are of legal age. It passed by a large majority. It makes sense as, obviously, a party bus owner or driver is not in the business to sell liquor or serve it.

I have tried to touch on a variety of bills here. Remember, while some may not be important to all, they are important to somebody! We are descending upon crossover day, which is Friday the 23rd. All of our House bills have to be voted on at the finish of that day, no matter how long it takes.

With that, I wish you a very productive week. Let us try to maintain an attitude of gratitude. When we look at our wants and concerns, they sometimes do not even begin to compare with some grief and battles that others are enduring. Stay in touch!

Rep. Lana Greenfield, District 2 ~ lanagreenfield@sdlegislature.gov ~ lane.greenfield@gmail.com
635-6932 on weekends



America's Workhorses

Mission after mission, whether we need to respond to terrorists in the Middle East or deter a tyrannical North Korean dictator, America turns to Ellsworth Air Force Base. I'm awfully proud of that.

Still, when I began representing South Dakota in the U.S. House, there was widespread concern that Ellsworth was on the Obama administration's list of potential base closures. With our national security at stake, I couldn't allow that to happen. We fought back and were able to make sure the option was taken off the table.

In the years since, we've only enhanced Ellsworth's value to the U.S. military. The South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority has done tremendous work building a community of support around the base, which is an important factor when the U.S. Defense Department looks at maintaining its bases.

We have also expanded the Powder River Training Complex, which is reserved air space near the base. Nothing can replace the value of air time for our airmen. Proper training and readiness are critical to our airmen's safety and success in the field. With the expansion of air space at Powder River, Ellsworth and the U.S. Air Force now have critical access to one of the largest training ranges in the country. Moreover, by expanding the training facility near Ellsworth, taxpayers will save about \$23 million in fuel costs every year.

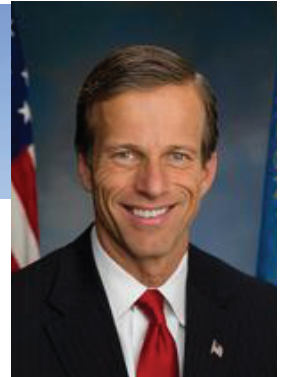
Most recently, the U.S. Air Force announced existing bomber bases like Ellsworth will remain bomber bases when the new B-21 bomber comes online. For decades, Ellsworth has been home to the B-1 bomber, among other planes. The bomber helped us both win the Cold War in the 1980's and keep North Korea at bay today. But with a bomber's average age around 40 years old, the fleet must be modernized. That upgrade will come in the form of the B-21.

When I first arrived in Congress, a modernized bomber wasn't a guarantee. Months into my first term, an amendment was made on the House floor to delay the B-21's development by a decade. Once again, I fought back, and the amendment was defeated.

In the years since, I've continued to push for a 21st Century upgrade to the Air Force's bomber fleets. Finally, that looks to be around the corner. We expect the B-21 to begin arriving on bases in the mid-2020's and Ellsworth is on the list. Over time, the B-21 will fully replace the B-1 and B-2 bombers: a much-needed modernization.

Our men and women in uniform serve with bravery, courage and patriotism, so we have an indisputable responsibility to provide them with the skills, training and equipment needed to win on modern-day battlefields. Ellsworth has long played an important role in that mission. With the Air Force's most recent announcement, I'm thrilled Ellsworth will continue to serve a mission-critical role as home to America's next-generation workhorse: the B-21 bomber.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Bigger Paychecks and More Opportunities on the Way

Exactly two weeks after the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law, which represents the first major successful tax reform effort in a generation, business after business was lining up to announce they were awarding bonuses to more than 1 million workers around the country. More take-home pay for American workers means more opportunities for them and their families to succeed.

Now, just a few weeks later, less than two months after our pro-growth bill became law, more than 350 companies from all corners of the country, including South Dakota, have announced that more than 4.2 million American workers are receiving bonuses, higher wages, or expanded benefits thanks to tax reform.

The list of companies seems to grow by the day: Charter Communications, Inc., Walmart, Cigna Corporation, Capital One, Webster Financial Corporation, Humana, and of course, Great Western Bancorp and Aaladin Industries, Inc., right here in South Dakota, just to name a few.

And then there are all of the companies that are deciding to invest or reinvest in the United States as a result of tax reform becoming the law of the land.

For example, Apple announced it will bring home and invest nearly \$250 billion – that's billion with a "b" – in cash it has been keeping overseas because of our uncompetitive tax system. It also announced that it will create 20,000 new jobs, too. Fiat Chrysler announced that it will be adding 2,500 jobs in the United States to produce pickups that it has been making in Mexico. And JP Morgan Chase is adding 4,000 new jobs and opening 400 new branches.

In addition, companies are finding other ways to channel the benefits they are seeing from tax reform back into the economy. For instance, utility companies, like Black Hills Energy in South Dakota, are working with utility regulators to pass along tax savings to customers through rate reductions.

All of these examples, which only begin to scratch the surface of the positive tax reform stories that have been reported lately, are good news for the U.S. economy, but they're even better news for the American workers and consumers who help support it.

One of my top priorities during the tax reform debate was to help create a system that made it easier for businesses to increase investments here in the United States, hire new workers, and increase wages and benefits. At least in the short term, as evidenced by the growing list of companies that are citing tax reform as their reason to boost worker compensation or expand their operation, it's working.

It's working because we lowered tax rates across the board for owners of small and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches. We expanded business owners' ability to recover investments they make in their businesses, which will free up cash that can be reinvested in their operations and their workers. We lowered our nation's massive corporate tax rate, which up until January 1 was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. And we finally brought our international tax system into the 21st century.

Aside from the bonuses, higher wages, and expanded benefits, a majority of American workers will soon see an additional boost in their paycheck thanks to lower individual tax rates, too, which is why I'm confident the good news we're hearing today is just the beginning.

At the end of the day, tax reform is really about giving the American taxpayer greater control over the money they work so hard to earn. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act returned a lot of that control to taxpayers, which means they are the real winners here, and that is exactly the way it should be.

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Today in Weather History

February 19, 2000: Due to the extremely dry and windy conditions, a fire believed to be started by a discarded cigarette, burnt about 40 square miles of grassland between Kennebec and Lower Brule. The fire threatened a ranch but changed directions before anyone had to be evacuated.

February 19, 2008: An Arctic airmass along with blustery northwest winds brought extreme wind chills during the evening and early morning hours to northeast South Dakota. Wind chills ranged from 35 to 50 degrees below zero. The winds diminished in the early morning hours of the 20th allowing air temperatures to fall to record or near record lows across northeast South Dakota. Ten new record lows, ranging from 23 to 30 degrees below zero, were set for February 20th. Several water pipes were broken in Aberdeen and Roslyn. In Roslyn, 225 people were without water for much of the day on the 20th as the water main broke during the night. Also, many vehicles did not start along with late school starts or closings.

1884: Severe thunderstorms spawned sixty tornadoes in the southeastern U.S., killing more than 420 people and causing three million dollars damage. The tornado outbreak hit Georgia and the Carolinas the hardest.

1888: Severe thunderstorms over southern Illinois spawned a violent tornado which touched down in Jefferson County and devastated the southeast half of Mount Vernon. The tornado killed 24 people, injured 80 others, and destroyed or damaged 300 homes and 50 businesses. Overturned wood stoves ignited many fires in the wreckage. This tornado currently stands as the 9th deadliest Illinois tornado on record. This event was one of the first disasters to which the American Red Cross responded.

1884 - Severe thunderstorms spawned sixty tornadoes in the southeastern U.S., killing more than 420 persons and causing three million dollars damage. Georgia and the Carolinas hardest were hit in the tornado outbreak. (David Ludlum)

1888 - A tornado struck Mount Vernon IL. The tornado killed sixteen persons along its 62 mile path. (David Ludlum)

1954 - High winds across the southern half of the Great Plains, gusting to 85 mph, caused the worst duststorms since the 1930s. Graders were needed in places to clear fence high dirt drifts. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm over the southern and central Rockies produced 28 inches of snow at Echo Lake CO, and two feet of snow at Gascon NM and Los Alamos NM. Mora County NM was declared a disaster area following the storm. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Showers and thunderstorms in the southeastern U.S. drenched Valdosta GA with more than five inches of rain, and the 24 hour rainfall total of 7.10 inches at Apalachicola FL more than doubled their previous 24 hour record for February. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - An upper level weather disturbance brought heavy snow to parts of Nebraska, with six inches reported at Loup City and Surprise. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

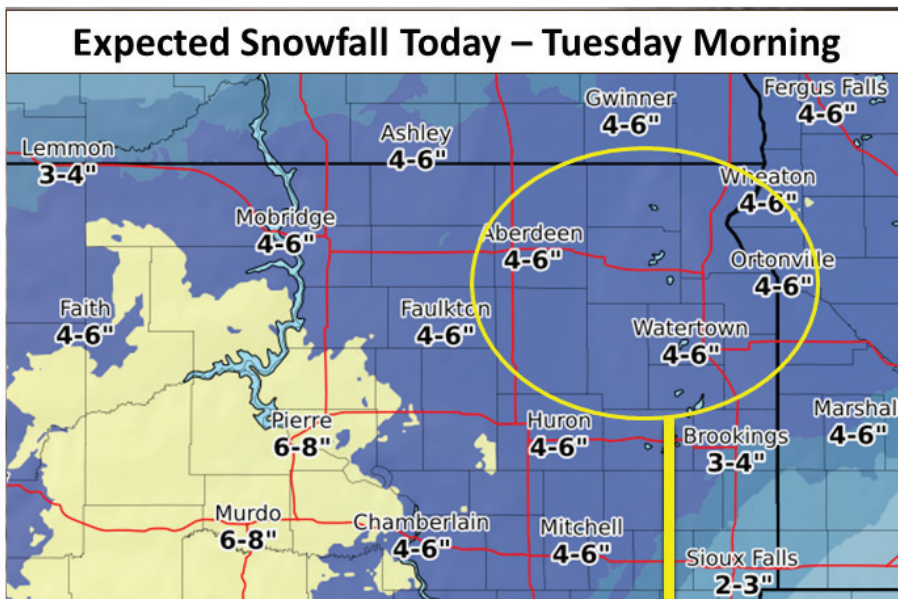
1990 - A moist Pacific storm worked its way into New Mexico and southern Colorado. Up to 36 inches of snow blanketed the Wolf Creek and Red Mountain passes of southwest Colorado, and up to 15 inches of snow was reported around Trinidad. In New Mexico, the eastern slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains were blanketed with 9 to 28 inches of snow, and 50 to 60 mph wind gusts were reported from Taos to Albuquerque. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2011 - Strong winds reaching as high as 40 mph with gusts to 53 mph topple the 48 year old National Christmas tree. The 42 foot tall Colorado blue spruce sat just south of the White House on the Ellipse. It was transplanted there from York, Pennsylvania in 1978. The Weather Doctor

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Mon Feb 19	Tue Feb 20	Wed Feb 21	Thu Feb 22	Fri Feb 23	Sat Feb 24	Sun Feb 25
10°F	10°F	15°F	23°F	25°F	29°F	29°F
0°F	-13°F	-3°F	5°F	9°F	9°F	19°F
N 21 MPH	N 13 MPH	SSW 9 MPH	S 9 MPH	S 7 MPH	SSW 10 MPH	W 9 MPH
Precip 60%	Precip 40%					



Central and Western South Dakota
Light to moderate snow through this afternoon.
Additional snow expected tonight.
Blowing and drifting today through Tuesday.

Eastern SD and Western MN
Snow this morning will diminish this afternoon.
Additional snow expected tonight.
Blowing and drifting today through Tuesday.

Published on: 02/19/2018 at 5:11AM

2/19/2018 5:02 AM

Eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota could see a break in the light snow this afternoon before snow moves back in tonight. Additional 3 to 6 inches will be possible. Western South Dakota will see light to moderate snow today through tonight. All areas will see blowing and drifting snow.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 32.6 F at 10:03 AM

Low Outside Temp: 10.4 F at 11:23 PM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 32.0 Mph at 7:41 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 62° in 1930

Record Low: -34° in 1929

Average High: 29°F

Average Low: 9°F

Average Precip in Feb: 0.33

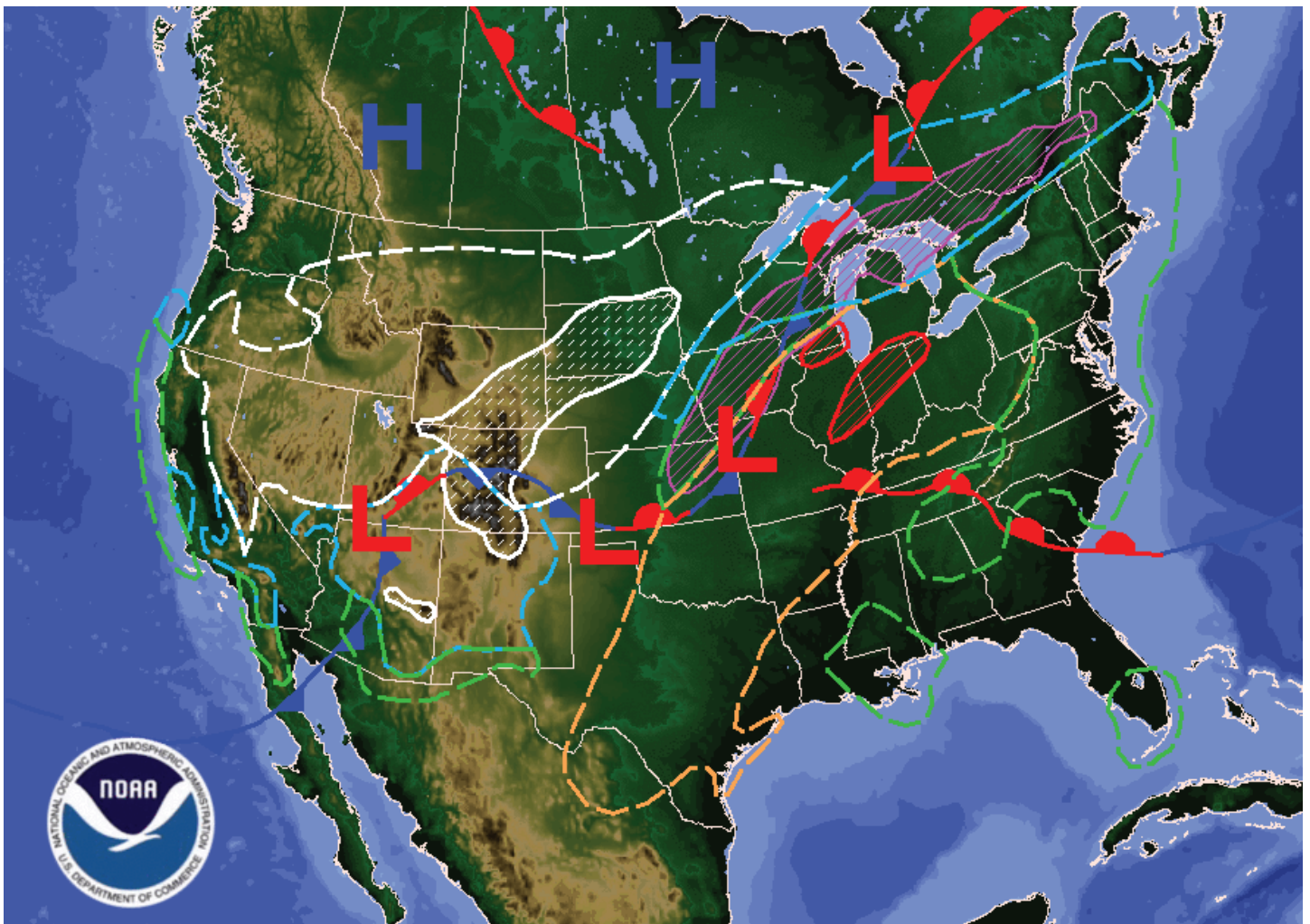
Precip to date in Feb: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.80

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 6:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:27 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Feb 19, 2018, issued 7:02 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)



"TOO BIG FOR ME, DAD"

Young Timothy was helping his Dad clear a lot next to their home for a garden. Things went well until Tim ran into a large stone that he couldn't budge. After struggling for a few moments he called to his Dad and said, "Dad, this one is too big for me to handle. What should I do?"

"Well," said his Dad wanting him to learn a lesson, "what have you tried to do?"

"I've pulled on it with both hands," he said looking down at the stone. "And I've tried to pull it with a hoe, too, but that didn't work either."

"Sounds like you've tried to move it with all the strength that's within you," his Dad said patiently.

"Sure have, Dad. There's nothing else for me to do but up give up on it," he said with discouragement.

"Give up, son? Why would you give up?" he asked.

"There's nothing else to I can do," said Tim.

"Oh, but there is. You can always call on me to help you, Son," he said with compassion.

Often God allows us to realize how weak we are without Him. We struggle and fail. We try and give up. We worry and become depressed. We think and realize that many things are beyond us. We practice and still make mistakes. We work and still can't make ends meet.

Then suddenly we realize that God has put a "gap" between us and the solution to our problem. It's His way of saying, "You can always call on me for help. And when you do, I will answer you and I will be with you and strengthen you!"

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for being just a "prayer away" whenever we need Your help. We are truly grateful. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 91:15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

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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

News from the Associated Press

8 people, including young children, escape house fire

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Eight people, including five children, escaped from a house fire in Rapid City. Fire officials say the family had an escape plan and the children, ages 3 to 13, following the route to safety Sunday afternoon. The fire apparently started in a garage below the home and spread to the living area. The cause is under investigation.

KOTA-TV says crews from four stations battled the fire that began about 4:30 p.m. for about two hours.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

Sioux Falls cultural center launches new programs, exhibits

By ALEXA GIEBINK, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Change is on the horizon for the Washington Pavilion.

The Sioux Falls cultural center is rolling out a series of new programs and exhibits in 2018 aimed at breathing new life into the institution.

"A lot of the focus group feedback was that our exhibits were really never changing," said Darrin Smith, Pavilion president and CEO.

"Oftentimes they were getting beat up, or they had an 'out of order' sign on them," continued Smith. "That was happening too much, and so it was time to reinvest."

The changes will primarily take place in the Kirby Science Discovery Center and the Visual Arts Center.

As the new year began, the nonprofit wasted no time implementing measures to enhance visitors' experiences, starting with a new patron engagement model.

"One of the things we recognized that other very successful science centers, children's museums and art museums do is they have daily schedules," said Smith.

"They engage directly with their patrons on a regular basis."

The Pavilion already hosts popular monthly events, such as Free First Friday and Super Second Saturday, but guests were craving more. Members especially were requesting more value for their money, the Argus Leader reported.

Pavilion member Amity Neff, 39, is pleased with the recent changes.

"Right now I think they are doing such an amazing job with their new programming and how they're matching the science with the visual arts," said Neff, who is a stay-at-home mom of four. "Honestly, that's the one thing I thought they could improve on, and they're doing it."

Smith hopes the facility's new direction will help with membership retention, which he said is currently far below industry standard.

Each week, the scheduled programs will have a different theme geared toward children, such as outer space or monsters, and will be included with daily admission.

"Something is new every week," said Neff. "That's really great for people who have younger children or have an alternate education program like homeschooling."

The new activities will encourage families to explore all areas of the facility. From story time to science experiments, a whole day of programming will be available for those who wish to participate.

"We want to connect more of the physical elements in the Pavilion that historically have really operated separately, and even in silos at times, and view the Pavilion as one facility," said Smith, who joined the nonprofit staff in 2016.

The Kirby Science Discovery Center is one of the most popular attractions at the Pavilion, but parts of it have grown stale in recent years.

To captivate a new generation of children, two of the three floors in the science center will be completely

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redone in 2018.

The third floor, sponsored by Avera, will have a South Dakota theme and is set to reopen by Christmas break. The exhibits will highlight all things native to South Dakota, from wildlife habitats and genetics research to geology and weather.

The fourth floor will have a health and wellness theme, sponsored by Sanford Health. The Pavilion hopes to reopen the floor by the end of April, just in time for school to get out.

"One of the things I really want to do is get our sponsors more involved," said Smith. "Their financial support obviously is very important, but the other layer we want is to have their staff more involved. They have all kinds of expertise that we don't."

Smith envisions cardiovascular physicians or neurosurgeons making guest appearances at the Pavilion on the weekends to educate and engage the public.

Other new sponsors include Scheels, which has taken over the rock climbing wall, and South Dakota State University, which is currently renovating the gift shop.

A year and a half ago, the Pavilion made a significant investment in the science center's space-themed floor. This year, Smith wants to go back and add more interactive elements, as well as visually pleasing exhibits.

"We placed some great exhibits there and didn't do much with environment, and we should have," Smith said. "On the two new floors this year, we are going to make sure we put new exhibits and a really cool environment to match it, and programming with staff."

The Pavilion is also looking at rejuvenating parts of the Visual Arts Center, although not as dramatically as the science area.

"We want to implement a concept where we get more kids and families into the Visual Arts Center," said Smith, who hopes to boost attendance numbers by 25 percent in 2018.

"I think historically it's been more of an adult-oriented area," continued Smith. "Certainly much of it will continue to be focused on high quality art that adults are interested in, but we really need to get more young people interested in visual art and coming so they become lifelong patrons."

Staff members are working on building a new exhibit for the Raven Children's Studio, located outside of the center's seven art galleries.

One concept includes a crayon coloring station with the ability to project children's artwork onto a monitor. Kids will be able to do hands-on activities like drawing, with more sophisticated programming coordinated for older children.

In addition to an enhanced focus on children, the Visual Arts Center will give one of its galleries a local and regional focus.

"I personally think that's something we've been missing for a long time," said Smith. "I've studied other art museums and found that quite a few of them don't run from where they are, what they are and who they are. They embrace it. That's what we need to do, something that reflects South Dakota."

The Visual Arts Center already has a gallery dedicated to Native American art, but the Pavilion wants to expand its showcasing of local artists in all themes and mediums.

"It's not throwing the baby out with the bath water. It's just introducing change, really in a minimal way, but I think it'll make a big difference," said Smith.

Although the fine arts and science centers could use some work, the performing arts programs at the Pavilion are thriving.

In 2017, the nonprofit broke all of its performance records including number of season subscribers, which has tripled since 2009. Over 112,000 tickets were sold to performance events at the Pavilion last year.

"The Book of Mormon," part of the 2016-2017 performance series, now holds the record for most single tickets sold. It is the all-time No. 1 show in Pavilion history.

This year, the Pavilion's performance series expanded to a three-show night minimum, a result of successful ticket sales.

"We are always striving to get the best quality shows we can, and the great news is this market has really demonstrated demand," said Smith.

With its 20th anniversary approaching on June 1, 2019, the Washington Pavilion is running full speed ahead with better ways to fulfill its mission.

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

Adult day care center fills demand in South Dakota community

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — They come with slow but steady steps, or by wheelchair, walker, or sometimes on the arm of a caregiver to take a place at dining room tables at Shirley's Adult Day Center.

They come, with anticipatory smiles, because it's time for lunch.

Christina Tsitrian not only cooks for more than 30 clients and nearly 20 employees at the center, but she also serves the noontime repast with accompanying music, a simple a cappella tune, something like "You are my Sunshine," said day center floor manager Jayne Thompson.

That's part of the personal touch Shirley's Adult Day Center is charged to provide for those placed in their care, mostly the elderly suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's, physical disabilities, Parkinson's Disease or Autism spectrum disorders.

"We are the best-kept secret in town," said Thompson, "But we're working hard to change that."

The center opened at 4110 Winfield St. in south Rapid City a few months ago, taking the place of another adult day care facility operated in the same location by Western Resources for Independent Living, the Rapid City Journal reported .

Western Resources continues to offer independent living services for the elderly and disabled through offices in Rapid City, Spearfish and Pierre, but when WRIL announced in early October plans to close its adult day care centers, citing financial reasons, a group of individuals formed a limited liability corporation and began working toward taking over those services.

Shirley's opened on Oct. 28. Another WRIL adult day center in Spearfish remains closed.

Namesake of the center is CEO Shirley Allen, who brings 35 years of experience in the disability field, including 20 years working with adult services.

Betty Bowers, a business owner, retired school administrator and long-term caregiver for her husband, serves as board president.

"Both of us have a passion for what we're doing, the adult services," said Bowers. "I have it from the viewpoint of a caretaker who had a husband with a traumatic brain injury. He needed significant assistance, and I needed assistance."

The center currently serves between 30 and 35 clients (Bowers and Allen prefer to call them guests), in the former WRIL facility, now owned and leased from the neighboring Morningstar Assisted Living Center.

Nearly 30 donors, families and local businesses, chipped in with monetary or in-kind services to ease the transition, Bowers said. Volunteers are still being sought, and fundraising, including a benefit pancake supper last week, continues.

The building remains unmarked, with signage along Minnesota Street still referencing its former ownership by WRIL. A white passenger van parked in front still shows faint outlines of the former WRIL signage on the sides of the vehicle.

"We'd love a big sign, but we're just not going to get into that big of a financial thing," Allen said.

The emphasis for Allen and Bowers and the other 14 board members, is to establish the day center as a nonprofit. An extensive permitting process has been completed with an application for federal tax-exempt status filed and awaiting review, Bowers said.

"We're considered private until we get that nonprofit (designation)," Bowers said.

The center's 18 full- and part-time employees include a registered nurse and licensed practical nurse. A licensed hairdresser is also available.

Services for guests include personal and hygiene care (a full handicapped-accessible and walk-in shower is available) education, memory/cognitive care, exercise and mobility, nutrition and recreation.

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The center charges \$17 per hour and \$4.50 a meal, and 40 cents per mile transportation costs for each guest, most of whom come from Rapid City, Black Hawk and Box Elder.

The center accepts private pay, long-term care and other insurance, Medicaid, Veteran's Administration assistance. About 60 percent of guests are veterans, Allen said.

Overnight and weekend respite care is available and a caregiver support group also meets once a month. Most important for those coming to the center, Allen said, is the chance to socialize, and a chance for caretakers to get a break.

"We just want to be that place for the caregivers to get the relief they need," she said.

The center can legally take 70 guests, but plans are to limit that number to 50, with a look at expansion or moving to a larger facility once that number is reached.

"The biggest thing we want to get out is there is another nonprofit taking over an existing program that helps the elderly," Bowers said.

"We don't want to think of this as a business as much we think of it as a home away from home. We want to be the extension of their family," she said.

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

Former Standing Rock program leader accused of embezzlement

FORT YATES, N.D. (AP) — The former director of an elder abuse prevention program on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation is accused of embezzling more than \$100,000.

Federal prosecutors in North Dakota have charged Kenneth Red Bear with embezzlement and theft from an Indian tribal organization and theft in Indian Country.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brandi Russell tells KFGO radio that the money was stolen from the tribe's federally funded Elderly Protection Team, which is responsible for investigating reports of elder abuse.

Russell says the thefts allegedly occurred between June, 2009 and February, 2017. She says additional charges are possible.

Court documents do not list an attorney for Red Bear.

The Standing Rock Reservation straddles the North Dakota and South Dakota border.

Information from: KFGO-AM, <http://www.kfgo.com>

Sioux Falls mayor has many goals for last days in office

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether has written himself an ambitious to-do list before he steps down from his role of eight years on May 15.

Huether told the Argus Leader that he's sprinting to the finish line and hoping to accomplish at least 30 more "wins" before leaving City Hall.

Huether didn't share all of his agenda items, but he said he wants to announce the first private partner in the rail yard redevelopment project and open bids for a bike trail project. He also plans to help city councilors with gifting city-owned land for a veterans' cemetery and putting finishing touches on a mixed-use parking ramp project.

Huether said he doesn't expect many obstacles to accomplishing his to-do items since many of his goals have been publicly debated. But he said he's learned from his time as mayor that hurdles always find a way of popping up.

"There's no such thing as a no-brainer in politics," he said.

Huether has a long list of accomplishments, including repairing nearly 500 miles of the city's streets. Though his final two years in office have coincided with many challenges between his administration and the City Council.

Councilor Greg Neitzert said the council will vet all of the mayor's agenda items as if it's his first months in office.

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"Mayor Huether is a go-getter and ... it's undeniable he's been very productive with his time, and I wouldn't expect anything less from him here at the end," said Neitzert.

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

Dakota Wesleyan announces initiative, partnership with Apple

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Dakota Wesleyan University has unveiled an initiative and a partnership with international technology company Apple.

University President Amy Novak announced Tuesday that all full-time, on-campus students would receive an iPad on the first day of class this fall under the initiative called Digital DWU, the Daily Republic reported .

Novak also announced that tuition will not increase next school year, but students will see a technology fee.

"Digital DWU is our comprehensive, university-wide digital learning initiative that will be at the forefront of educational innovation," she said. "It is our commitment to a model of learning that combines innovation and analysis, knowledge while leveraging the power of a digital revolution that changes the way we teach, learn and work."

University officials said the partnership with Apple is the first of its kind in South Dakota, giving students the experience and technological skills necessary to compete in the real world.

"(Technology is expanding our world in ways we couldn't have imagined, even a decade ago," Novak said. "It's fundamentally changing how we learn, how we work and how we communicate."

Students can expect a person iPad, Apple TV in classrooms across campus, faster bandwidth and an engaging education, according to the president.

Morgan Ziegler is a junior in the university's athletic training program, and is one of several students in a pilot class as part of Digital DWU. Ziegler and her classmates have been creating their own personalized textbook using the iPads they were given last month.

"I don't think DWU's ever done anything like this and it'll help a lot with learning styles," she said. "I'm just excited for the campus. It's big."

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Prison inmate sentenced to 8 years for attack at state pen

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge says an inmate at the South Dakota State Penitentiary accused of assaulting another inmate must serve eight years in prison.

Authorities say 39-year-old Esteven Cruz-Febus and two other inmates, Daniel Augustine and Christian Witt, assaulted an inmate in the recreational yard at the penitentiary.

Cruz-Febus and the co-defendants allegedly stomped, punched and kicked the victim in the head and body multiple times.

Augustine and Witt were sentenced earlier.

Iranian rescuers find wreckage from plane crash

By AMIR VAHDAT, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian search and rescue teams on Monday reached the site of a plane crash that authorities say killed all 65 people on board, Iran's Press TV reported.

The Aseman Airlines ATR-72, a twin-engine turboprop used for short-distance regional flying, went down on Sunday in foggy weather, crashing into Mount Dena in a remote area of southern Iran. The airliner said all on board Flight EP3704 were killed, including six crew members.

The crash of the aircraft, brought back into service only months ago after being grounded for seven years, was yet another fatal aviation disaster for Iran, which for years was barred from buying necessary

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airplane parts due to Western sanctions over its contested nuclear program.

Press TV said search teams reached the crash site before dawn on Monday. The station said the weather had improved, though it was still windy. The semi-official Tasnim news agency cited the military as saying Russia had helped locate the crash site. Russia and Iran are close military allies.

The TV broadcast footage of a helicopter joining the search and showed ambulances and rescue vehicles preparing to reach the site on Mount Dena, which is about 4,400 meters (14,400 feet) tall. The site is reportedly at a height of 3,500 meters (11,500 feet).

Other Iranian news outlets and officials did not confirm that the crash site had been reached. State radio said five helicopters and five drones are active in the search operation. Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency said that more than 150 climbers have joined the operation.

Transport Minister Abbas Akhoundi left Tehran on Monday to visit the site of the crash, state TV reported. Footage posted on independent news websites showed him in the cockpit of a plane taking part in the search. State TV quoted him as saying the cause of the crash was still "not clear."

High winds have made it difficult to fly helicopters and drones, hampering search efforts.

The 2015 nuclear accord with world powers lifted international sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear enrichment program, allowing Iran to purchase airplanes and airplane parts. The country has since signed deals to purchase tens of billions of dollars' worth of new aircraft. However, President Donald Trump's refusal to recertify the deal has injected uncertainty into those sales.

The ATR-72 went down near its destination, the southern city of Yasuj, some 780 kilometers (485 miles) south of the capital, where it took off.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash, although weather was severe. Dense fog, high winds and heavy snow in the Zagros Mountains made it impossible for rescue crews in helicopters to reach the site in the immediate aftermath, state TV reported.

Aseman Airlines spokesman Mohammad Taghi Tabatabai told state TV that all on board Flight EP3704 were killed. The plane had 59 passengers and six crew members, the state-run IRNA news agency reported late Sunday, lowering the initially reported death toll of 66.

The United States expressed condolences over the crash in a Farsi-language statement posted on social media Sunday.

Shooting survivors on potential collision course with Trump

By **JASON DEAREN, TERRY SPENCER and ALLEN G. BREED, Associated Press**

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — Student survivors of the deadly Florida school shooting who hope to become the face of a revived gun control movement are on a potential collision course with President Donald Trump.

Several of the students have criticized the president, whose election was strongly supported by the National Rifle Association and who ran on a platform opposing gun control. Trump spent the weekend at his estate in South Florida, only an hour's drive from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School where 17 people were fatally shot last week. His only mentions of the massacre came in tweets Saturday contending that the FBI was too focused on the Russia investigation to respond to warnings about the alleged shooter and mocking Democrats for failing to pass gun control.

"You're the president. You're supposed to bring this nation together, not divide us," said David Hogg, a 17-year-old student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"How dare you," he added.

After more than a day of criticism from the students, the White House said the president would hold a "listening session" with unspecified students Wednesday and meet Thursday with state and local security officials.

Florida politicians, meanwhile, scrambled to produce legislation in response to the Feb. 14 attack that killed 17 people. Nikolas Cruz, a 19-year-old who had been expelled from the school, is being held without bail in the Broward County Jail, accused of 17 counts of first-degree murder.

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In a TV interview, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio embraced a Democratic bill in the Florida legislature to allow courts to temporarily prevent people from having guns if they are determined to be a threat to themselves or others.

Gov. Rick Scott, also a Republican, attended a prayer vigil at the First Church Coral Springs, blocks from the shooting site. He is expected to announce a legislative package with GOP lawmakers this week.

Emma Gonzalez, another student survivor, gave an impassioned speech at a weekend rally with a stinging citation of the NRA's \$30 million in expenditures on Trump's behalf in the presidential election. On Sunday she cited Trump, Rubio and Scott by name in a warning to politicians backed by the NRA.

"Now is the time to get on the right side of this, because this is not something that we are going to let sweep under the carpet," she said on "Meet the Press."

Seeking to increase pressure for gun control, the students plan to visit the state capitol in Tallahassee this week to demand immediate action. They are also calling for anti-gun violence demonstrations in Washington and other cities March 24.

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.

Chris Grady, a 19-year-old senior at the Florida school, was one of several students at Sunday's rally near the campus. "The kids in Newtown were too young to understand what happened and were too young to have their own voice," Grady said, referring to the 20 first-graders killed in the 2012 Connecticut school shooting. "We want to be the voice for those kids and thousands of others."

Not every student at the Florida school was calling for more gun control. James Ciaramello, a freshman in the school's JROTC program, was heartbroken by the massacre but skeptical firearms regulations could have prevented it.

"He's just messed up," Ciaramello said of Cruz, another JROTC member. "I mean, tighter gun control, it's not gonna help. There's always a way around it."

School and government records obtained Sunday show Cruz was diagnosed as developmentally delayed at age 3 and had disciplinary issues dating to middle school. In February 2014, while in 8th grade, Cruz was transferred to a special school for children with emotional and behavioral issues. He stayed there until 10th grade, when he was transferred to Stoneman Douglas. Last year, Cruz was expelled.

On Sept. 28, 2016, an investigator from the Florida Department of Children and Families visited Cruz and his mother, Lynda Cruz, after he posted video on Snapchat showing him cutting himself. The report showed that Cruz had written a racial epithet against African-Americans and a Nazi symbol on his book bag, which his mother had forced him to erase. The investigator said Cruz was suffering from depression and on medication and had told Lynda Cruz he planned to buy a gun, but she couldn't determine why.

A school counselor told the investigator that Lynda Cruz had always tried to help her son and followed through on his therapy and medication, but the counselor was concerned about the youth's desire to buy a gun.

A crisis counselor told the DCF investigator he had visited the school and that he did not believe Cruz was a danger to himself or others. The case was closed, with the investigator concluding that Cruz was receiving help from his mother and counselors, and "no other referrals or services were needed."

After Lynda Cruz died in November, Cruz moved into the home of a teenage friend. The friend's parents told the Sun-Sentinel newspaper they had no idea the extent of Cruz's issues.

"We had this monster living under our roof and we didn't know," Kimberly Snead told the newspaper in an interview published Sunday. "We didn't see this side of him."

James Snead added: "Everything everybody seems to know, we didn't know. It's as simple as that."

The teen kept the AR-15 he allegedly used in the massacre locked in a gun safe with a few other firearms. James Snead thought he had the only key to the cabinet but says Cruz must have had another key. The family kept their own rifles, bought after a burglary a few years ago, in a separate locked cabinet.

They told Cruz he needed to ask permission to take out the guns. He had asked only twice since November. They said "yes" once and "no" once.

Speaking Monday on ABC's "Good Morning America," the Sneads said they have only seen Cruz once since the shooting when they briefly saw him at the police station. Kimberly Snead says she yelled at him and "really wanted to strangle him more than anything." The couple says Cruz told them he was sorry.

Associated Press writers Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Florida, Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Nicholas Riccardi in Denver contributed to this report.

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

Doping charge could hurt Russia's chance at reinstatement

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH and STEPHEN WADE, AP Sports Writers

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Russia could lose its chance to be reinstated before the end of the Winter Olympics because of a doping charge against curling bronze medalist Alexander Krushelnitsky.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said in a statement Monday that it has "initiated a procedure involving" Krushelnitsky, who finished third in mixed doubles with his wife, Anastasia Bryzgalova.

Russian officials said he tested positive for meldonium, which was banned in 2016, and has left the Olympic village. No date has been set for a hearing.

IOC spokesman Mark Adams says a failed doping test could keep Russia's banned team from marching under the national flag at the closing ceremony.

Russian athletes are participating in the Pyeongchang Olympics as "Olympic Athletes from Russia." The IOC suspended the Russian Olympic committee last year in connection with a massive doping scheme at the 2014 Olympics in Sochi but allowed 168 athletes to compete under neutral uniforms and without the Russian national flag.

Adams confirmed the positive test and says it could have "consequences" in evaluating the behavior the Russian team, which was required to abide by restrictions — including bans to some medal favorites — and to undergo extra drug tests.

"If confirmed this will be taken into account along with many other factors" regarding Russian behavior," Adams said.

Russian Curling Federation president Dmitry Svishchev told The Associated Press that Krushelnitsky tested clean as recently as January 22, the day before he flew to a pre-Olympic training camp in Japan.

Svishchev said it was possible someone spiked Krushelnitsky's food or drink. He suggested that rival Russian athletes or Russia's political enemies could be responsible.

"It can't happen at the Olympic Village because everyone eats the same canteen food," he said. "It could happen at training camp or in the intervening period. ... There's a possibility of it being something within the team, that something happened during training camp, or as a political means to achieve some goal."

The curling team trained in Japan in January, bringing in some Russian athletes who had not qualified for the Olympics as practice partners.

The federation senior vice-president Andrei Sozin confirmed to the AP that Krushelnitsky tested positive for meldonium, a substance which was banned in sport in 2016.

"Alexander has left the Olympic village and given up his accreditation," Sozin said. "We have information from our sources that the substance found was meldonium, which has not been used by Russian athletes and teams since 2015."

Meldonium is the substance that Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova was suspended for after testing positive at the Australian Open in 2016. Before it was banned, many Russian athletes used the drug, which is designed for people with heart problems and some believe can help athletes increase stamina.

Krushelnitsky's "A sample" tested positive. Adams said a second sample would be tested, and results could be announced within 24 hours.

The Norwegian team finished fourth, and could get the bronze if the positive test is confirmed.

Adams says Russians at the games have undergone "rigorous testing" and adds that "Russians were tested to a significant level more than others."

The case was the talk of the rink at curling.

Russian women's curling coach Sergei Belanov said he didn't believe that a young and "clever man" would dope. "It's stupid. But Aleksandr is not stupid, so I don't believe it."

The skip of the Russian women's team, Viktoria Moiseeva wanted to comfort Krushelnitsky and Bryzgalova but "we thought that there are no words to comfort now. We just tried to stay away."

Though to the uninitiated, the idea of a curler using performance-enhancing drugs may seem bizarre, the sport does demand a high level of athleticism at the Olympic level. Curlers need to have strong core muscles and upper body strength in order to manage the often rigorous sweeping that helps them guide the rock down the ice.

Fitness is even more important in mixed doubles, the event Krushelnitsky was competing in. Because there are just two curlers on each team instead of the four in traditional curling, there is little rest between throws, and both teammates are often heavily involved in sweeping.

"It's physically demanding out there. It's not like you don't need any muscles," said Swiss curler Silvana Tirinzoni, whose team beat the Russian women's team 11-2 at Monday's round robin. "We have to be fit and we have to be working out. My sweepers are working out like five times a week, go to the gym, so it (performance-enhancing drugs) can help, but we shouldn't do that. I think that's stupid."

Tirinzoni said if the reports were confirmed, they would be disappointing. But she said she still had no reservations about playing against the Russian athletes on Monday.

"I think clean athletes have the right to compete," she said. "It's not about me to make those kind of decisions. So I believe the team we played today, they are as clean as we are."

Kristen Gelineau in Gangneung, South Korea, contributed to this report.

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

Turkey warns it may hit Syrian troops in Kurdish enclave

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **KARIN LAUB**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Turkey threatened on Monday to hit back at Syrian pro-government troops if they deploy in an enclave in northern Syria to protect a Kurdish militia that Ankara is battling there.

The warning by the Turkish foreign minister came shortly after Syrian state media said pro-government forces will begin entering the Kurdish-controlled enclave of Afrin in the country's northwest "within hours," after reaching an agreement with the Kurdish militia in control of the region.

The official SANA news agency said the forces will deploy in Afrin to "bolster" local forces in confronting Turkish "aggression," suggesting the Syrian government and Kurdish fighters have struck a deal under which the government forces would help repel an ongoing Turkish offensive on the enclave.

The agreement may prompt Turkey to pull out and end a month-long air and ground offensive that aims to oust the Syrian Kurdish militia known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG, from Afrin. Ankara considers the YPG a "terrorist group" linked to its own Kurdish insurgency within Turkey's borders.

Turkey's foreign minister promptly issued the warning, saying that his country is ready to battle Syrian government troops if they enter Afrin to protect the Kurdish fighters.

Speaking in the Jordanian capital of Amman, Mevlut Cavusoglu added that "if the regime is entering to protect the YPG, then no one can stop us, stop Turkey or the Turkish soldiers."

On the other hand, he said that Ankara would have no problem if Syrian government forces enter Afrin to clear the area from YPG fighters.

The announcements came as violence continued in Afrin.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Syria's state media reported that Turkish troops pounded villages in the enclave with artillery shells.

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SANA gave no further details about the deployment of the troops, known as "popular forces," to the area. The Syrian government withdrew from much of the border area with Turkey in 2012 and maintains no presence in Afrin.

"The popular forces joining the resistance against Turkish occupation in Afrin comes in the framework of supporting residents as well as defending Syria and its sovereignty," SANA said, adding that the deployment aims to "frustrate attempts by (Turkish President Recep Tayyip) Erdogan's regime and its mercenaries of terrorist organizations to occupy the area," referring to Turkish-backed Syrian insurgents.

A Syrian Kurdish official told The Associated Press that Syrian troops will enter Afrin from the Shiite villages of Nubul and Zahraa through the Ziyara crossing that links government-held parts of the country with those held by the YPG.

"The army will deploy in several border areas in coordination with the People's Protection Units and the Syrian Democratic force," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal details of the agreement. "The army will set up military positions in the border area and the agreement is that the Syrian army and the YPG will defense Syria together."

He added that the agreement so far does not include anything about running the administration affairs in Afrin, saying this will be discussed in the future.

The move could be a first step toward restoring Syrian government presence along the border with Turkey, which has been an active supporter of President Bashar Assad's opponents and sponsored rebels fighting to oust him throughout the seven-year Syrian civil war.

However, Turkey in recent years has focused more on limiting expanding Kurdish influence along its borders.

Turkey's private Haberturk newspaper said the Syrian government forces were expected to deploy at 52 locations within the week and to four locations in the next two days. The paper claimed that under the deal, the YPG had agreed to hand over heavy weapons it holds.

The paper did not provide a source for the report.

The Kurdish official told the AP that the reports about the YPG handing over their weapons are "totally untrue."

Laub reported from Amman, Jordan. Associated Press writers Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, and Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

Trump stays quiet on shooting victims, fumes over Russia

By CATHERINE LUCEY and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump spent the holiday weekend hunkered down at his Florida estate, watching cable television news, grouching to club members and advisers and fuming over the investigation of Russian election meddling.

In a marathon series of furious tweets from Mar-a-Lago, Trump vented about Russia, raging at the FBI for what he perceived to be a fixation on the Russia investigation at the cost of failing to deter the attack on a Florida high school. He made little mention of the nearby school shooting victims and the escalating gun control debate.

The president has grown increasingly frustrated since the indictment from special counsel Robert Mueller on Friday charged 13 Russians with a plot to interfere in the U.S. presidential election.

Trump viewed Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein's declaration that the indictment doesn't show that any American knowingly participated as proof of his innocence and is deeply frustrated that the media are still suggesting that his campaign may have colluded with Russian officials, according to a person who has spoken to the president in the last 24 hours but is not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

Trump was last seen publicly Friday night when he visited the nearby Florida community reeling from a school shooting that left 17 dead and gave rise to a student-led push for more gun control. White House aides advised the president against golfing so soon after the tragedy. Instead, he fired off tweets Saturday

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and Sunday and met with House Speaker Paul Ryan Sunday afternoon.

Trump fumed to associates at Mar-a-Lago that the media "won't let it go" and will do everything to delegitimize his presidency. He made those complaints to members who stopped by his table Saturday as he dined with his two adult sons and TV personality Geraldo Rivera.

Initially pleased with the Justice Department's statement, Trump has since griped that Rosenstein did not go far enough in declaring that he was cleared of wrongdoing, and grew angry when his national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, gave credence to the notion that Russia's meddling affected the election, the person said.

Amid a growing call for action on guns, the White House said Sunday the president will host a "listening session" with students and teachers this week, but offered no details on who would attend or what would be discussed.

On Monday, 17 Washington students plan a "lie-in" by the White House to advocate for tougher gun laws. Students who survived the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland are planning a march on Washington next month to pressure politicians to take action on gun violence.

On Twitter, Trump stressed that the Russian effort began before he declared his candidacy and asserted that the Obama administration bears some blame for it. He also insisted he never denied that the Kremlin interfered in the 2016 U.S. campaign, although in fact he has frequently challenged the veracity of the evidence.

The president declared "they are laughing their asses off in Moscow" at the lingering fallout from the Kremlin's election interference.

James Clapper, a former director of national intelligence, said on CNN's "State of the Union" that the president was not focusing on the bigger threat.

"Above all this rhetoric here, again, we're losing sight of, what is it we're going to do about the threat posed by the Russians? And he never — he never talks about that," said Clapper. "It's all about himself, collusion or not."

Trump tweeted about the nation's "heavy heart" in the wake of the shooting in Parkland and noted the "incredible people" he met on his visit to the community. But he also sought to use the shooting to criticize the nation's leading law enforcement agency.

Trump said late Saturday that the FBI "missed all of the many signals" sent by the suspect and argued that agents are "spending too much time trying to prove Russian collusion with the Trump campaign."

The FBI received a tip last month that the man now charged in the school shooting had a "desire to kill" and access to guns and could be plotting an attack. But the agency said Friday that agents failed to investigate.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican and frequent Trump critic, called that tweet about the FBI an "absurd statement" on CNN's "State of the Union," adding that the "FBI apparently made a terrible mistake, and people should be held accountable. But we need leadership out of the executive."

Lemire contributed from Paradise Island, Bahamas.

High court asked to iron out polling place clothing dispute

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A "Make America Great Again" hat. A tea party T-shirt. A MoveOn.org button.

Wear any one of those items to vote in Minnesota, and a poll worker will likely ask you to remove it or cover it up.

Like a number of states, Minnesota bars voters from wearing political items to the polls to reduce the potential for confrontations or voter intimidation. But that could change. The Supreme Court on Feb. 28 will consider a challenge to the state's law, in a case that could affect other states, too.

Wen Fa, a lawyer with the Pacific Legal Foundation, the group behind the challenge to Minnesota's law, says voters wearing political apparel shouldn't have to hang up their hats, turn their T-shirts inside out or

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put their buttons in their bags just to cast a ballot.

Wearing political clothing is “a passive way to express core political values,” said Fa, who said the case is “about the free speech rights of all Americans.”

Minnesota sees it differently. In court papers, it says the law is a “reasonable restriction” that preserves “order and decorum in the polling place” and prevents “voter confusion and intimidation.”

“I think what’s important to understand is the purpose of this prohibition is to protect the fundamental right to vote,” said Daniel Rogan, who is arguing the case for the state and said he doesn’t know of anyone issued a fine of up to \$300 allowed under the law. Lower courts have sided with the state.

Beyond Minnesota, state laws vary in their fashion policing of the polls.

Some states allow voters to wear whatever they want. Others bar campaign clothing directly related to candidates or issues on the ballot. Minnesota has a broad law that also bans “political” attire, including clothing promoting a group with understood political views, such as the tea party or MoveOn.org.

The sides in the Supreme Court case disagree about which states have laws similar to Minnesota’s, but each side’s number is roughly 10.

Elections officials in states with restrictions say it’s not a big issue. Most people who wear prohibited items to the polls just aren’t aware of the law or forget, officials say, and comply with requests to cover up.

Will Senning, Vermont’s elections director since 2013, said he can’t remember any Election Day calls about people refusing to comply with his state’s law. Elaine Manlove, who has headed elections in Delaware since 2007, couldn’t think of a single prosecution under her state’s statute nor could Mark Goins, who has overseen Tennessee elections since 2009.

But Goins said he’d be concerned about allowing clothing supporting candidates or political parties at polling places.

“I think you run the risk of having political disputes inside the polling location and sometimes these disputes can get pretty loud,” Goins said.

The Supreme Court last considered the issue of free speech at polling places in 1992 when the court upheld a Tennessee law prohibiting the display or distribution of campaign materials within 100 feet of a polling place.

The case now before the justices began in 2010 when several groups sued after Minnesota officials made clear they wouldn’t permit residents to vote while wearing tea party apparel or buttons that said, “Please I.D. Me.” The buttons referred to legislation then under discussion in the state and ultimately defeated that would have required residents to show photo identification to vote.

Two voters who defied elections officials — one who wore a “Please I.D. Me” button and another who wore both a button and tea party T-shirt — were asked to cover up or remove the items. Both were ultimately allowed to vote wearing the apparel, though their names were taken down for potential prosecution. Andy Cilek, one of the voters confronted by poll workers, called the policy “absurd.”

Now, at the Supreme Court, Cilek’s side has both the support of the libertarian Cato Institute and the liberal American Civil Liberties Union, and his lawyer believes the case is not one that will divide the court along ideological lines.

“The American electorate is surely hardy enough to vote their conscience even if they notice their fellow citizens wearing, say, a Black Lives Matter or AFL-CIO T-shirt, a Women’s March hat, or a pro-life or peace-sign button,” the ACLU told the court in a brief.

Texas resident Brett Mauthe agrees. In 2016, the Donald Trump supporter was arrested outside his polling place after he refused to cover up a black T-shirt he was wearing that said “50% basket of deplorables,” a reference to a comment Hillary Clinton had made about Trump supporters. He argued his shirt was ambiguous in its support.

Mauthe, who didn’t know about Texas’ law when he went to vote and whose case was ultimately dismissed, says he’s moved on. He’s passionate about his politics, he said, but if given the opportunity to lawfully wear political clothing to the polls, “I probably would just wear regular street clothes,” he said.

Few states let courts take guns from people deemed a threat

By RYAN J. FOLEY and DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The warnings around Nikolas Cruz seemed to flash like neon signs: expelled from school, fighting with classmates, a fascination with weapons and hurting animals, disturbing images and comments posted to social media, previous mental health treatment.

In Florida, that wasn't enough for relatives, authorities or his schools to request a judicial order barring him from possessing guns.

Only five states have laws enabling family members, guardians or police to ask judges to temporarily strip gun rights from people who show warning signs of violence. Supporters of these measures, deemed "red flag laws" or gun-violence restraining orders, say they can save lives by stopping some shootings and suicides.

Florida, where Cruz is accused of using an AR-15 assault weapon to kill 17 people at his former high school, lacks such a law. He was able to legally own the semi-automatic rifle, even though his mother, classmates and teachers had at times described him as dangerous and threatening, and despite repeated police visits to his home.

Red flag legislation has been introduced by Democratic state lawmakers, but it hasn't been heard during this year's session, and its fate is uncertain in a state Legislature controlled by Republicans who generally favor expanding gun rights.

After Wednesday's shooting, Republican Gov. Rick Scott said he will work to make sure people with mental illnesses don't have access to guns, but offered no specifics. Florida's GOP Sen. Marco Rubio — facing criticism from support he has received from the National Rifle Association — is going a step further now.

Rubio said on a Sunday morning show that state legislators should "absolutely" consider enacting a law enabling family members or law enforcement officials to ask a court to remove guns from a person who poses a danger. Rubio, who once served as Florida's House speaker, told Miami CBS affiliate WFOR that it's an "example of a state law" that could have helped prevent the Florida shooting.

In 2014, California became the first state to let family members ask a judge to remove firearms from a relative who appears to pose a threat. Its legislature took action after a mentally ill man, Elliot Rodger, killed six students and wounded 13 others near the University of California, Santa Barbara, before killing himself.

California's law also empowers police to petition for the protective orders, which can require authorities to remove firearms for up to one year. Connecticut, Indiana, Oregon and Washington also have some version of a red flag law.

More than a dozen others, including Hawaii, New Jersey and Missouri, are considering bills to enable family members or police to petition the courts to take weapons away from people showing signs of mental distress or violence.

The Florida shooting has revived debate about whether teachers and school administrators should have that authority as well, given that people at Cruz's high school witnessed much of his erratic behavior.

California lawmakers voted to expand their law in 2016 so that high school and college personnel, co-workers and mental health professionals can seek the restraining orders, but Gov. Jerry Brown called the effort premature and vetoed it.

State Assemblyman Phil Ting, a San Francisco Democrat, said he plans to reintroduce the bill.

"We need to make sure that when people see signs, they have every ability to do something about getting guns out of the hands of mentally ill and dangerous people," Ting told The Associated Press.

Circumstances similar to those in Florida played out seven years ago in the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Arizona. Jared Loughner had become increasingly disruptive and erratic at his community college in the months leading up to the shooting, frightening students and causing teachers to request campus police officers be on hand during his classes. Eventually, the school threatened him with suspension.

Soon after, he went to a gun store and legally bought the weapon he used to attack Giffords as she met with constituents, shooting her in the head and killing six people.

Without red flag laws, the main recourse available to family members is to have a troubled loved one

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committed to a psychiatric institution. Federal law permanently bans anyone who has been involuntarily committed from owning guns, but such actions are more difficult to carry out than red flag laws, which are intended to be quick and temporary and have a lower standard of proof.

Without such a commitment, formal adjudication of serious mental illness or a felony conviction, many people can pass background checks and possess guns they already own.

The red flag laws act as a sort of timeout, so someone in psychological distress can get counseling while their fitness to possess a gun is evaluated, said Laura Cutilletta, legal director of the Giffords Law Center.

"It's a way to allow for temporary removal of firearms in a situation just like this: where somebody has made threats, where they have been expelled from school because of those threats, they're in counseling, and parents or the school or whoever it is understands that this person poses a threat," she said.

Many gun-rights activists oppose the laws. They say they can be used to unfairly take away rights from people who have not been convicted of crimes, nor professionally evaluated for mental illness.

The NRA's lobbying arm has said such laws enable courts to remove Second Amendment rights "based on third-party allegations and evidentiary standards" that are lower than what's required in criminal proceedings.

Connecticut led the way with a 1999 law, passed after an employee shot and killed four executives at state Lottery headquarters. It allows police to remove guns based on probable cause that a person poses a "risk of imminent personal injury."

In a study published last year, researchers at Duke, Yale, Connecticut and Virginia estimated that dozens of suicides have been prevented by the law, roughly one for every 10 gun seizures carried out. They said such laws "could significantly mitigate the risk" posed by the small number of legal gun owners who might suddenly pose a significant danger.

Foley reported from Iowa City, Iowa.

Associated Press writers Jonathan J. Cooper in Sacramento; Gary Fineout and Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida; and Lisa Marie Pane in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Austin Dillon takes No. 3 back to victory lane at Daytona

By JENNA FRYER, AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The No. 3 is No. 1 again at Daytona, on a day, in a race and at a place forever linked with the great Dale Earnhardt.

Austin Dillon won the Daytona 500 on Sunday night driving the iconic No. 3 Chevrolet that Earnhardt piloted for most of his career. Earnhardt was behind the wheel of No. 3 when he won his only Daytona 500 in 1998, and when he was killed in an accident on the final lap of the race three years later.

Dillon's victory, in the 60th running of "The Great American Race," came 17 years to the day of Earnhardt's fatal crash.

"Man, this place is awesome," said Dillon. "I don't know what it is about storylines and Daytona. This place just creates history and I'm proud to be a part of it and make some history here."

Dillon wasn't a factor in his Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet until the final lap in overtime when he got a push from Darrell "Bubba" Wallace Jr. that helped him get to leader Aric Almirola. Dillon spun Almirola then whizzed on by to give Childress, his grandfather, another iconic victory in the beloved No. 3.

"My grandfather has done everything for me and everybody knows it," Dillon said. "There's a lot of pressure on me to perform because I've had a little bit of everything. But I like that pressure, the same with the No. 3, there's a lot of pressure behind it, but I'm willing to take it and go with it."

As for the aggressive move that wrecked Almirola? Dillon was doing what has to be done to win at Daytona, where he led just once for one lap — the final one.

"I think I blacked out and just everything just kind of kept going, and we were staying in the gas, and things were happening fast. The last lap of the Daytona 500, you just don't lift, actually the last couple

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laps," Dillon said, adding his only other option was to ease off the gas and avoid Almirola.

"I guess I could have lifted and gave it to him," he said. "I guess that was my other option, give up a Daytona 500 ring that I'm wearing. If he needs to do it to (retaliate) at Talladega for everybody to feel good, I've got a Daytona 500 championship trophy, ring, whatever. I don't care. I've got the 3 back in victory lane at Daytona."

Almirola, in his debut race for Stewart-Haas Racing, was devastated.

"My heart is broken. I thought I was going to win the Daytona 500," Almirola said.

Childress was overjoyed.

"To come back 20 years later after Dale's great victory, and to be able to celebrate 20 years later, with my grandson, it is just a storybook tale," Childress said. "It's tough on him running that 3, but we had, I'd say, 97 percent support from Earnhardt fans who wanted him to run that number."

The No. 3 was dormant in the Cup Series from Earnhardt's death until Childress brought it back in 2014 for his grandson.

The final scoring tower showed the No. 3 on top, then the No. 43 — two of the most seminal numbers in NASCAR.

"I looked up, seen the board up here, the 3 and the 43, I thought, how special is that for the history," Childress said.

Wallace, the first black driver in the Daytona 500 field since 1969, finished second in a 1-2 finish for Chevrolet and Childress' engine program. Wallace drives the No. 43 car for Richard Petty and sobbed in his post-race news conference after his mother came to the front of the room to give him a hug. The two had a long embrace in which she told Wallace repeatedly "you've waited so long, baby."

After another moment with his sister, Wallace sat at the dais sobbing into a towel. His finish is the highest for a black driver; Wendell Scott finished 13th in 1966.

"Pull it together, bud, pull it together. You just finished second," he told himself.

Wallace, from Mobile, Alabama, received a telephone call from Hank Aaron before the race and Lewis Hamilton, the four-time Formula One world champion and only black driver in that series, tweeted his support to Wallace.

Denny Hamlin, the 2016 winner, finished third in a Toyota.

Ryan Blaney, who led a race-high 118 laps, faded to seventh after giving the win away in regulation. He wrecked Kurt Busch, the defending race winner, trying to reclaim his lead and the contact damaged Blaney's Ford. It spoiled what should have been a Team Penske party — car owner Roger Penske had three contenders, all considered favorites — but all came up empty. Brad Keselowski wrecked early racing for the lead and although Joey Logano finished fourth, it wasn't the victory Penske expected from one of his drivers.

"It's a shame you don't close it out, but you try to just learn from your mistakes and try to do better next time," Blaney said. "This one definitely stings, but hopefully we can get another shot at it one day."

The day was also a bust for Danica Patrick, who made the Daytona 500 her final NASCAR race. With new boyfriend NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers cheering her on, Patrick was collected in an accident and finished 35th. The only woman to lead laps in the Daytona 500 and win the pole for this race then told a story about an exchange she had earlier this week with four-time NASCAR champion Jeff Gordon.

"He said his last Daytona didn't go well, either, and I was like 'Oh wow, I don't remember that. I remember your career.' So I hope that is how it is with me with everybody," she said.

Meanwhile, on this celebratory day for Dillon and Childress, the late Earnhardt had a very large presence.

Dillon was 7 when Earnhardt won his Daytona 500 and was photographed alongside his brother with The Intimidator on that victorious day in 1998. Earnhardt credited 6-year-old Wessa Miller, a fan he met through the Make-A-Wish Foundation following the final practice for the race, for helping him get that elusive win. Wessa gave Earnhardt the penny and told him she had rubbed it and that it would bring him good luck. The lucky penny the little girl gave him is still on the dash of the car at the RCR museum.

Inspired by the good-luck coin, Dillon also had a penny in the No. 3 on Sunday, this one given to him

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by a young boy he met at an autograph session earlier in Speedweeks.

"I had a fan, actually he had no favorite driver, I told him, I said, 'I'll give you my hat if I'm your favorite driver.' I gave him the hat," Dillon said. "The next day he saw me in the infield, he said, 'Here's a lucky penny I found heads up.' I said, 'Man, we've gotta put that in the car.' Put it in the car and here we are in victory lane."

More AP auto racing: <https://racing.ap.org/>

All 65 aboard plane feared dead in crash in southern Iran

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

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An Iranian airplane brought back into service only months ago after being grounded for seven years crashed Sunday in a foggy, mountainous region of southern Iran, and officials feared all 65 people on board were killed.

The crash of the Aseman Airlines ATR-72 was yet another fatal aviation disaster for Iran, which for years was barred from buying necessary airplane parts due to Western sanctions over its contested nuclear program.

Its nuclear accord with world powers allows it to get those parts and the country has made deals worth tens of billions of dollars for new aircraft. However, President Donald Trump's refusal to recertify the deal has injected uncertainty into those sales while Iranians still fly in aging aircraft.

The ATR-72, a twin-engine turboprop used for short-distance regional flying, went down near its destination of the southern city of Yasuj, some 780 kilometers (485 miles) south of the capital, Tehran, where it took off.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash, although weather was severe. Dense fog, high winds and heavy snow in the Zagros Mountains made it impossible for rescue crews in helicopters to reach the site, state television reported.

Aseman Airlines spokesman Mohammad Taghi Tabatabai told state TV that all on board Flight EP3704 were killed. It had 59 passengers and six crew members, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Sunday night, lowering the toll to 65 from an initially reported 66.

"After searching the area, we learned that unfortunately ... our dear passengers had lost their lives," Tabatabai said.

Both Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani offered their condolences.

Tabatabai said the plane crashed into Mount Dena, which is about 4,400 meters (14,435 feet) tall. The plane's last signal, at 0555 GMT (12:35 a.m. EST), showed it at 16,975 feet and descending, according to airplane-tracking website FlightRadar24. The pilot was in contact with the tower 14 miles from the airport, state TV said.

One previous passenger on the route posted a video Sunday showing that the flight typically comes in just over the mountain peaks. Aeronautical charts for the airport warn pilots to keep an altitude of 15,000 feet in the area. The airport itself is at nearly 6,000 feet.

The Iranian Red Crescent said it has deployed to the area. Locals described hearing the crash, but no one has reached the crash site due to weather.

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

The carrier has a fleet of 29 aircraft, including six ATR aircraft, according to FlightRadar24. The ATR-72 that crashed Sunday, with the tail number EP-ATS, had been built in 1993, Aseman Airlines CEO Ali Abedzadeh told state TV.

On Instagram, Aseman Airlines highlighted the doomed aircraft in October, saying it had been "grounded" for seven years but would be "repaired and will be operational after checking and testing." It wasn't clear

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what led to the grounding, though Iran only recently regained access to the airplane parts market after the nuclear deal.

European airplane manufacturer ATR, a Toulouse, France-based partnership of Airbus and Italy's Leonardo SpA., said it had no immediate information about the crash.

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

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.

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.

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

Iran has suffered a series of major aviation disasters in recent decades. Its last major crash 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 shortly after taking off from Tehran, killing all 168 on board. A Russian-made Ilyushin 76 carrying members of the Revolutionary Guard crashed in southeastern Iran in February 2003, killing 302 people.

In February 1993, an Iranian airliner with 132 people aboard collided with an air force jet after takeoff from Tehran's main airport, killing everyone on 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 aboard.

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).

Cities pitching diversity in efforts to lure businesses

By COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

Some cities and regions are highlighting racial diversity along with positive business climates, competitive tax rates and available land in pitches to lure tech companies and high-paying jobs to town.

Places such as Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Detroit are touting their populations of people of color to chief executives and other corporate officials as part of being open for business.

"For Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania, ethnic and racial diversity has been an integral part of our history and a rich part of our narrative," said Stefani Pashman, CEO of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are among 20 cities still under consideration by online retail giant Amazon as locations for the company's second headquarters.

Pashman said to succeed as a player in a global economy, Pittsburgh "must be a place where there's a base of talent that looks and thinks like the world because the world is the customer in today's economy."

When Seattle-based Amazon sought proposals for its second headquarters, more than 240 cities and regions submitted bids and pitches about what they could offer the retailer. Many pitches came with sleek, professionally filmed videos of bright and busy downtowns, historic landmarks and recreational opportunities.

Some also featured snapshots of racial diversity in neighborhoods, shops and classrooms. That's something sought by younger workers who will come to dominate a more tech-driven global economy, according

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to marketing experts.

Companies generally are looking to employ a lot of millennials and those hires are saying they "want to be able to work and live in a place where there are these interesting and diverse cultures," said Matthew Quint, director of Columbia Business School's Center on Global Brand Leadership.

But tech-based corporations are lacking in diversity, according to some data.

High-tech employment of African-Americans in the U.S. was 7.4 percent compared with 14.4 percent employment of blacks in the public sector overall, according to 2014 data collected by the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Hispanic high-tech employment was 8 percent compared to 13.9 percent in the public sector overall.

The data also showed that less than 1 percent of executives at some leading Silicon Valley tech firms were black and fewer than 2 percent were Hispanic.

"All tech companies are under this lens, presently, for their lack of diversity," Quint said. "CEOs are talking about 'we know we need to change.'"

Meanwhile, he said, cities recognize the racial diversity they offer is attractive and they're telling companies, "You are going to have this diverse population to choose from as you're looking to change your brand."

Pittsburgh is in Allegheny County. About 202,000 of Pittsburgh's 305,000 residents are white, and about 74,000 are black, according to census data. An additional 16,000 are Asian.

In its pursuit of Amazon's \$5 billion second headquarters project, which could result in possibly 50,000 jobs, Pittsburgh's video entry is titled "Future. Forged. For all."

In Philadelphia's pitch to Amazon, a half-dozen or so non-white professionals tell why it would be the best place for the company's new headquarters.

Dallas-Fort Worth also is among the more than 240 cities and regions to make a run at Amazon and also made the cut down to 20. A video that's part of Dallas-Fort Worth's proposal shows a boy of eastern Indian heritage holding a sign that reads: "Diversity."

Detroit's pitch included a 240-page "Move Here. Move the World" book that featured blacks and other minorities who own businesses and also highlighted Hispanic heritage events. But the Motor City, which is 80 percent black and anchors a metropolitan area that also has sizable Arab-American and Hispanic populations, didn't make Amazon's cut.

Officials in Detroit say the city's promotion of its diversity didn't start with its run at Amazon and won't stop now that the company has its eyes elsewhere.

"We are going to use that material as much as we can with all of our other business opportunities," said Jed Howbert, the city's group executive for Planning, Housing and Development. "We think the diversity of Detroit and the whole metro area is one of the most important assets we have in attracting companies."

Tina Wells, founder and CEO of Haddonfield, New Jersey-based Buzz Marketing Group, said she's not aware of other instances in which cities pushed their diversity to companies like some have to Amazon. But, she said, it's "less about marketing a city's blackness and more about showing a city is diverse and open to everyone."

"When you think about vibrant cities you want to make sure you tell people, 'You're welcome here,'" Wells said. "I just think we're a little slow in reflecting what these cities look like."

Associated Press writer Jamie Stengle in Dallas contributed to this story.

'Three Billboards' wins, women make waves at UK film awards

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Ferocious female-led tragicomedy "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" was the big winner Sunday at the British Academy Film Awards in London, where women demanding an end to harassment, abuse and inequality dominated the ceremony.

Martin McDonagh's film about a bereaved mother seeking justice won five trophies including best film, outstanding British film and best actress, for Frances McDormand.

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Producer Graham Broadbent said the movie is "the story of a woman taking on the establishment and status quo."

"It seems more timely now than we could ever have imagined," he said.

Writer-director McDonagh said it was fitting, in the year of the "Time's Up" campaign, that "Three Billboards" is "a film about a woman who refuses to take any s(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk) anymore."

"Our film is a hopeful one in lots of ways, but it's also an angry one," McDonagh said. "As we've seen this year, sometimes anger is the only way to get people to listen and to change."

McDonagh won the original screenplay prize for "Three Billboards," which also netted Sam Rockwell the supporting actor trophy. Allison Janney was named best supporting actress for playing ice skater Tonya Harding's domineering mother in "I, Tonya."

Guillermo del Toro won the directing prize for monster fantasy "The Shape of Water," which also took trophies for music and production design.

Gary Oldman, the favorite among bookies, won the best actor prize for playing British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in "Darkest Hour."

The British prizes, known as BAFTAs, are considered a key indicator of likely success at Hollywood's Oscars in two weeks' time.

The film awards season in the United States and elsewhere has been overshadowed by the allegations of sexual harassment and abuse leveled at scores of entertainment figures since women began coming forward to accuse Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein last year.

England's Old Vic Theatre has been rocked by allegations against former artistic director Kevin Spacey. London police are also investigating nine claims of sexual assault by Weinstein.

The red carpet and the auditorium at London's Royal Albert Hall were a sea of black as actresses such as Lupita Nyong'o, Angelina Jolie, Jennifer Lawrence and Margot Robbie eschewed color as a statement against sexual misconduct and gender inequality.

Several actresses brought feminist activists as guests, and men showed solidarity with "Time's Up" lapel pins.

McDormand opted to wear black and red rather than all black, and noted: "I have a little trouble with compliance."

"But I want you to know that I stand in full solidarity with my sisters tonight in black," she said.

On the red carpet, actress Andrea Riseborough, who brought U.K. Black Pride founder Phyll Opoku-Gyimah as her guest, said she also hoped the film industry was on the road to greater equality and diversity.

"It's more likely we'll see an alien onscreen than we'll see an Asian woman at the moment, which is disgraceful," Riseborough said.

Prince William — the British Academy's president — and the Duchess of Cambridge were guests of honor at Sunday's ceremony, hosted by "Absolutely Fabulous" star Joanna Lumley. Kate acknowledged the evening's muted fashion by wearing a dark green Jenny Packham dress with black belt.

The call to wear black put Kate in a delicate position, because the royal family is careful to avoid political statements.

Ahead of the ceremony, almost 200 British women in entertainment called for an international movement to end sexual misconduct.

Kate Winslet, Emma Thompson, Naomi Harris, Emma Watson and Gemma Arterton were among signatories to a letter saying that 2018 should be "the year that time was up on sexual harassment and abuse."

The stars called for an end to impunity for abusers and announced a fund to support women and men battling workplace abuse, modeled on the "Time's Up" movement in the U.S.

Former "Harry Potter" star Watson has given the fund 1 million pounds (\$1.4 million), according to its page on the Go Fund Me website.

The ceremony honored several generations of talent. Filmmaker James Ivory, 89, took the adapted screenplay prize for "Call Me By Your Name."

The 80-year-old director Ridley Scott, whose films include "Blade Runner," "Alien," "Thelma and Louise" and "Gladiator," received the academy's highest honor, the BAFTA Fellowship.

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Daniel Kaluuya, the 28-year-old British star of "Get Out," won the rising star award and made a plea for public arts funding, which helped him get his start.

Kaluuya, who is also Oscar-nominated, joked that success meant taking Ubers rather than the subway. "I get that Prius everywhere," he said.

For full coverage of awards season: <https://apnews.com/tag/AwardsSeason>

Russia: 5 dead in church shooting; police kill suspect

MAKHACHKALA, Russia (AP) — A gunman opened fire with a hunting rifle on churchgoers leaving a service in Russia's Dagestan region, killing five people and wounding four others, then was shot and killed by police, authorities say.

The shootings took place Sunday evening in Kizlyar, a town of about 50,000 people on the border with Chechnya.

Four people died at the scene and a fifth died at a hospital, regional Interior Ministry spokesman Ruslan Gadzhiibragimov said. The gunman was a local resident, and his wife has been detained for questioning, he said.

The motive for the attack was not immediately known.

Dagestan is a predominantly Muslim region between Chechnya and the Caspian Sea. Following two separatist wars in neighboring Chechnya, an Islamist insurgency spread to Dagestan.

What will Meghan wear? Royal wedding dress a top UK secret

By SYLVIA HUI, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Where does one shop for a wedding gown set to be the dress of the year — an outfit chic enough for a fashion-loving bride but suitable for a church so regal it's the burial place of monarchs?

Everyone at London Fashion Week — and elsewhere — is dying to know.

With only three months to go before Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's May 19 wedding at Windsor Castle, both the fashion and bridal worlds are abuzz with talk of who the bride will pick to design her dress and what kind of look she would go for.

It's no wonder: There's not been a bigger royal wedding since Harry's brother Prince William married Kate Middleton in 2011 in an extravaganza broadcast around the world. Seven years later, Kate's lacy, long-sleeved Alexander McQueen gown is still influencing bridal designs today.

"It's going to be the greatest fashion commission of 2018. There'll be millions of eyeballs on it," said Jade Beer, editor at the British edition of Brides magazine. "It's her major fashion moment."

"She'll definitely need an upgrade from the dress she wore for her first wedding," Beer added, referring to the simple strapless white gown the American actress wore at her 2011 Jamaica beach wedding to film producer Trevor Engelson. The couple divorced in 2013.

While the design — as well as the designer — of the dress is a closely guarded secret, many are positive that Markle will choose a British designer.

Kate wasn't the only bride in Britain's extended royal family sticking with a British designer. Zara Phillips, Queen Elizabeth II's second-eldest grandchild, wore royal couturier Stewart Parvin. In 1981, then-Lady Diana Spencer — the late mother of groom Harry — surprised many when she chose David and Elizabeth Emanuel, a pair of designers fresh out of college.

Front-runners for Markle's choice include British-Canadian Erdem Moralioglu, known for his elegant, feminine styles; Ralph & Russo, the couture designers Markle chose for her engagement dress; heritage fashion powerhouse Burberry; as well as McQueen and Giles Deacon, who designed the wedding gown for Kate's sister Pippa Middleton.

Victoria Beckham has denied rumors that she's been asked. French designer Roland Mouret has also been cited as a possible pick.

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"I mean, she could surprise us all and choose a Canadian brand — she was so loyal to them while she was filming up there," said Miles Socha, editor-in-chief at Women's Wear Daily, referring to the time Markle spent in Toronto filming the TV series "Suits." "But probably we would have to place our bets on a British designer."

Some are hoping Markle will pick something less traditional because she has more leeway. After all, Harry is only fifth in line to the throne — and will be sixth after Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, gives birth to her third child in April. In addition, their wedding venue, St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, is less imposing than St. Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey in London.

"I really expect something different from her. Her style is so clean, really modern, and bridal has been so traditional in the past few years," said London-based bridal designer Naomi Neoh. "I think — I hope — it would be clean, simple with beautiful detailing."

Neoh hopes Markle will choose a dress that celebrates her individuality.

"Meghan's very different from the English tradition. She's got her career, she's half-black," she said. "She's not going to be queen. It has to be respectful and appropriate of course, but it can be a bit more exciting with the cut and the lines. I think maybe a high neck, low back — that'd be demure enough."

Still, it's a dress that needs to live up to the grandeur of its surroundings. St. George's Chapel is intimate only by royal proportions. It seats 800 guests and has a very important place in British history as the resting place of scores of kings and queens — including both of the queen's parents.

"She's going to be walking over dead monarchs on the way up the aisle," said Beer. "There's a huge sense of occasion."

Markle has already signaled a break from the conservative styles that dominate British royal wardrobes, ditching stuffy frock coats for sleek trousers. Many admired the sharp trouser suit she wore to match Harry's outfit at a recent official event.

The actress herself has offered some clues about her dream wedding dress.

In March 2016, before she met Harry, she told Glamour magazine that she favored "classic and simple" styles with "a modern twist," and that she preferred "wedding dresses that are whimsical or subtly romantic." She named Ellie Saab and J. Mendel among her favorite designers, and said her favorite celebrity wedding dress was the simple slip of a gown that Carolyn Besette Kennedy wore in 1996.

Circumstances have changed since then — but whatever style she picks, Markle's choice will soon be seen in bridal salons everywhere.

Referring to Kate's gown, Neoh said: "Literally the next day, everyone wanted long lace sleeves — the year after getting lace was impossible. It was bananas."

Many say with Markle's looks and the young royals' popularity, she could get away with nearly anything.

"I think everybody here loves her so dearly," said designer Jasper Conran. "She can wear a dishcloth and people won't mind."

Hilary Fox and Gregory Katz in London contributed to this story.

The Latest: Germany, Canada tie for gold in 2-man bobsled

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — The Latest on the Pyeongchang Olympics (all times local): 11 p.m.

Canada and Germany have tied for the gold medal in two-man bobsledding. It's the second time two countries have shared gold in this event in Olympic history.

The Canadian sled driven by Justin Kripps and pushed by Alexander Kopacz will share the gold with the German sled driven by Francesco Friedrich and pushed by Thorsten Margis.

Both finished in 3 minutes, 16.86 seconds at the Pyeongchang Games.

It's the third time the top two sleds have finished tied in an Olympic two-man race. Canada and Italy shared gold in 1998 — and Italy got the gold over West Germany in 1968, even though both sleds had the same time. The Olympics then utilized a fastest-heat tiebreaker, which gave the Italians the nod.

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Latvia got bronze Monday, with Oskars Melbardis and Janis Strenga finishing 0.05 seconds back in the closest three-sled finish in Olympic history.

This item has been corrected to show that it's the second time two countries have shared gold in the two-man bobsled in Olympic history, not the second dead heat in the two-man bobsled in Olympic history.

10:15 p.m.

The curling world was floored when word broke that a Russian Olympic curler was facing a doping charge because doping goes against the very essence of what curling is all about.

The charge against Alexander Krushelnitsky stands in stark contrast to curling's noteworthy adherence to good sportsmanship, an ethos known as "The Spirit of Curling."

The World Curling Federation's rules state that a true curler would prefer to lose than to win unfairly.

On Monday, Krushelnitsky's fellow curlers were trying to make sense of the scandal, with some openly questioning whether Krushelnitsky had been slipped a banned substance without his knowledge.

Though to the uninitiated, the idea of a curler using performance-enhancing drugs may seem bizarre, the sport does demand a high level of athleticism at the Olympic level.

9:50 p.m.

Havard Lorentzen of Norway has skated an Olympic record to beat Cha Min-Kyu of South Korea by 0.01 seconds and take gold in 500-meter speedskating.

Lorentzen crossed in 34.41 seconds for the record. Cha took silver, and Gao Tingyu of China took bronze.

Three years after a Dutch sweep, none of their three skaters made it on the podium Monday at the Pyeongchang Games.

Lorentzen symbolized the revival of Norway's skating program after it was shut out of the medals at Sochi in 2014. He was the first Norwegian champion over the distance since 1948.

9:35 p.m.

Spain's newest Olympic medalists are hoping their feats at the Pyeongchang Games will help boost winter sports back home.

Snowboarder Regino Hernandez and figure skater Javier Fernandez have returned to home soil after winning historic bronze medals in South Korea, saying now it's time to get Olympic winter sports to grow across Spain.

Hernandez says in Spain, people participate in winter sports as a hobby, not professionally. He says, "The repercussion of this medal has been amazing. We hope it will help get more people on board."

Hernandez won his medal on snowboardcross, while Fernandez won in men's figure skating.

Spain has only four winter medals in total. The last one had been won in 1992.

9:10 p.m.

Short-track speedskater Elise Christie of Britain has returned to training for the first time since a dramatic crash in the women's 1,500 meters at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Christie was back on the ice Monday and hopes to be able to compete in the 1,000-meter race Tuesday.

She crashed into the pads during Saturday's race and had to be stretchered off. She was taken to the hospital for X-rays on her right ankle, which showed no broken bones.

The chef de mission for Britain says Christie has soft tissue damage to her ankle.

It's not the first time Christie has experienced trouble at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

She collided with Chinese skater Li Jinyu in the 1,500-meter semifinals and also crashed in the 500-meter final.

In Sochi, Christie was disqualified three times.

9 p.m.

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Two-time Olympic gold medalist Mikaela Shiffrin is dropping out of the downhill at the Pyeongchang Games so she can focus on the combined event that was moved to the following day.

Shiffrin's decision was announced shortly after officials said they were moving the combined up a day to Thursday because of strong winds in Friday's forecast.

The downhill is Wednesday, so the 22-year-old American suddenly would have had to race on consecutive days. When she tried that earlier at these Olympics, she followed up her gold in the giant slalom by finishing fourth in the slalom.

Shiffrin had talked at the Sochi Games about aiming for five gold medals in 2018. Now she will end up competing in only three of the five individual events in South Korea.

8:45 p.m.

The most frantic finish in Olympic bobsled history may be happening.

There are five sleds all within 0.13 seconds of one another going into the final heat of the two-man competition Monday at the Pyeongchang Olympics. Canada's Justin Kripps leads over Germany's Francesco Friedrich, Germany's Johannes Lochner, Latvia's Oskars Melbardis and Germany's Nico Walther.

That's only the second time in Olympic history that five sleds have been within a quarter-second going into the last heat of a four-run race — in any sliding sport.

It's also the second time it's happened the last three days. There were five sleds within 0.23 seconds of the lead going into the final run of women's skeleton on Saturday night.

8:40 p.m.

The women's Alpine combined skiing event is being pushed up a day to Thursday because Friday's forecast calls for strong wind.

That means the final women's individual Alpine race will now share billing with the last men's individual Alpine race. Competitors include 2010 Olympic downhill champion Lindsey Vonn and two-time gold medalist Mikaela Shiffrin.

The men's slalom features Austria's Marcel Hirscher, who's trying to become only the fourth ski racer in history to win three gold medals at a single Olympics.

This is the latest in a series of adjustments to the Alpine schedule because of concerns over fierce winds. It's the third time during the Pyeongchang Games there will be a doubleheader of sorts, with one men's race and one women's race contested on the same day.

8:30 p.m.

The U.S. women have advanced to the semifinals of team pursuit with a chance to win a speedskating medal at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Heather Bergsma, Brittany Bowe and Mia Manganello were timed in 2 minutes, 59.75 seconds on Monday. They finished fourth in the quarterfinals. The top four teams moved on.

The Americans have yet to win a medal at the big oval.

The Netherlands qualified fastest in an Olympic-record time of 2:55.61. Japan was second and Canada third.

The U.S. will be paired against the Dutch in the semis on Wednesday.

8:15 p.m.

The Netherlands has won its heat in the women's team pursuit speedskating quarterfinals in Olympic-record time.

Marrit Leenstra, Ireen Wust and Antoinette de Jong were clocked in 2 minutes, 55.61 seconds on Monday at the Pyeongchang Games. That bettered the old mark of 2 minutes, 58.05 seconds set by the Netherlands four years ago in Sochi.

The teams with the four fastest times advance to the semifinals.

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7:30 p.m.

The surprise winner of the super-G in Alpine skiing at the Pyeongchang Olympics is not even attempting to compete in the downhill.

Ester Ledecka of the Czech Republic will be the first women's super-G champion to not enter the downhill at the same Winter Games since Diann Roffe in 1994.

Ledecka stunned Lindsey Vonn, defending champion Anna Veith and everyone else by coming out of nowhere to win the super-G on Saturday after never finishing better than seventh in 19 career World Cup ski races.

She is also a snowboarder and is expected to enter qualifying for the parallel giant slalom in that sport on Thursday.

That would make her the first Olympic competitor in Alpine skiing and snowboarding.

6:20 p.m.

U.S. Olympic curler Matt Hamilton says a Russian bronze medalist who is facing a doping charge should lose his medal from the Pyeongchang Games.

Hamilton played against Russia's Alexander Krushelnitsky in mixed doubles curling last week. Russian officials say he tested positive for meldonium.

Hamilton says he would feel bad if Krushelnitsky had not intentionally taken a banned substance. But Hamilton says athletes are ultimately responsible for what goes into their bodies.

Russian Curling Federation president Dmitry Svishchev says it's possible someone spiked Krushelnitsky's food or drink with meldonium.

The drug's manufacturer says it is mostly aimed at people with heart conditions, though it can also be used for "physical and psycho-emotional overload" in otherwise healthy people.

Meldonium's inventor has said it was given to Soviet soldiers fighting in Afghanistan to boost their stamina.

4:45 p.m.

One of hockey's most time-honored traditions is in danger of not happening at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Officials have told players to fist-bump one another rather than shaking hands to prevent transmission of norovirus, which is highly contagious. U.S. defenseman James Wisniewski's father tested positive for norovirus last week and is one of 49 of 283 confirmed Olympic cases still in quarantine.

The U.S. men's team definitely isn't shaking hands.

Women's teams have decided to continue shaking hands, including the U.S. and Finland after their semifinal Monday. Players know about the warning and decided the meaning behind the postgame ritual outweighs the risks.

International Ice Hockey Federation president Rene Fasel is not sure it's necessary for players to stop but figures it's better to be safe than sorry.

4:15 p.m.

French ice dancer Gabriella Papadakis' costume has come unhooked at the neckline, exposing her breast, during her performance at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

The first notes of Ed Sheeran's "Shape of You" had just played Monday when Papadakis suddenly became aware that people were about to see a whole lot more of her shape than she had planned.

She calls it her "worst nightmare happening at the Olympics."

The performance was being shown live on international television, and people immediately began posting screen grabs on social media.

An NBC spokesman says the network has edited the video for future television broadcasts and online replays.

Papadakis and her partner, Guillaume Cizeron, are in second place behind Canadian stars Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir.

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Papadakis says she's proud of their performance despite the wardrobe malfunction.

3:50 p.m.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport has confirmed that Russian curling medalist Alexander Krushelnitsky has been charged with a doping offense at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

The court said Monday that it has "initiated a procedure" involving Krushelnitsky, who won bronze in the mixed doubles event along with his wife, Anastasia Bryzgalova.

The court says no hearing date has been set.

If confirmed, a doping violation could affect Russian athletes' chances of being allowed to march under their own flag at the closing ceremony.

It's the second doping case of the Pyeongchang Olympics after a Japanese short-track speedskater tested positive for a banned diuretic.

Krushelnitsky was not with the curling team at the arena Monday.

3:35 p.m.

The Americans are back in the Olympic gold medal game in women's hockey.

Dani Cameranesi scored two goals and an assist, and the United States advanced to the gold medal game for a third straight Olympics after beating Finland 5-0 in the semifinal Monday.

The Americans will play the winner of the other semifinal between Canada and the Russians. That game is Monday night.

Gigi Marvin started the scoring. Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson and Hilary Knight had a goal apiece as they turned a 5-on-3 into two goals 34 seconds apart in the second.

Maddie Rooney made 14 saves for the shutout.

Finland remains winless now in eight games against the Americans in the Olympics and now will play for the bronze medal on Wednesday.

3:20 p.m.

A spokesman for the International Olympic Committee says a failed doping test by a Russian curler could keep the country's banned federation from being reinstated and marching under the national flag at the closing ceremony of the Pyeongchang Olympics.

The Associated Press has identified the curler as mixed doubles bronze medalist Alexander Krushelnitsky. The IOC has declined to name him.

IOC spokesman Mark Adams says Russian athletes and staff must follow "the letter and the spirit of the law. If they haven't, there will obviously be consequences."

The IOC suspended the Russian Olympic committee last year in connection with a massive doping scheme but said it would allow "clean athletes to participate."

The IOC has allowed about 160 Russians to compete under neutral uniforms and without the national flag.

2:40 p.m.

Finland defenseman Ronja Savolainen is back in the game, the very next period after a scary, face-first collision into the boards.

Savolainen needed to be helped off the ice at the Gangneung Hockey Center as her legs dangled helplessly beneath her in the first period of Monday's women's hockey semifinal against the United States. But she returned to the game in the second.

There was no immediate announcement about her condition. The International Ice Hockey Federation lists "rubber legs" as one sign of a concussion that should lead to an evaluation by a team physician. A player can only return to the game if the team physician determines that she did not sustain a concussion.

The Americans led 4-0 heading into the final period.

2:15 p.m.

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American Lindsey Vonn was third-fastest on the second day of Olympic downhill training, despite easing up and standing tall with arms spread at the finish.

The 2010 Vancouver Games gold medalist, who missed the 2014 Olympics after knee surgery, finished the 1¾-mile (2.8-kilometer) course at the Jeongseon Alpine Center in 1 minute, 40.10 seconds on Monday. That was nearly a second faster than the time she turned in Sunday to lead the opening training run.

There is more training Tuesday. The race is Wednesday.

Austria's Stephanie Venier, the runner-up at last year's world championships, led Monday's session at 1:39.75, with Italy's Sofia Goggia next.

Pyeongchang Olympics giant slalom champion Mikaela Shiffrin was 16th-fastest. She and Vonn are assured of being picked for the four-woman U.S. downhill team, and Alice McKennis earned a spot by having the best time of other contenders Monday, arriving ninth overall.

Surprise super-G gold medalist Ester Ledecka of the Czech Republic has not participated in either downhill training run and is expected to instead compete in her other sport, snowboarding, where qualifying for the parallel giant slalom is Thursday.

2 p.m.

Finland defenseman Ronja Savolainen went face-first into the boards and had to be carried off the ice during the women's hockey semifinal against the U.S. at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Savolainen got her legs tangled with American captain Meghan Duggan inside the Finnish zone midway through the first period Monday and went hard into the boards. She crumpled to the ice, while teammates surrounded her and the training staff rushed to her aid.

After a few minutes, two people helped her off, with her arm around their shoulders and her legs dangling between them.

There was no immediate announcement about her condition.

Duggan was not penalized, drawing a jeer from the Finnish fans in the crowd.

The heavily favored Americans were up 2-0 at the beginning of the second period.

1:50 p.m.

Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir lead the ice dance competition at the Pyeongchang Olympics after a record-breaking short program set to the rock music of the Rolling Stones, the Eagles and Santana.

The Canadian duo scored 83.67 points to lead their training partners and biggest rivals, Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron, by more than a point heading into Tuesday's free dance.

The French couple scored 81.93 points for their Latin short program.

Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue of the U.S. are third, two-hundredths of a point ahead of their compatriots, Alex and Maia Shibutani. Fellow Americans Madison Chock and Evan Bates are seventh.

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

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2018. There are 315 days left in the year. This is Presidents Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 19, 1968, the children's program "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," created by and starring Fred Rogers, made its network debut on National Educational Television, a forerunner of PBS, beginning a 31-season run.

On this date:

In 1473, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

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In 1915, during World War I, British and French warships launched their initial attack on Ottoman forces in the Dardanelles, a strait in northwestern Turkey. (The Gallipoli Campaign that followed proved disastrous for the Allies.)

In 1934, a blizzard began inundating the northeastern United States, with the heaviest snowfall occurring in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the relocation and internment of people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S.-born citizens. Imperial Japanese warplanes raided the Australian city of Darwin; at least 243 people were killed.

In 1945, Operation Detachment began during World War II as some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful month-long battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces.

In 1959, an agreement was signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence.

In 1963, "The Feminine Mystique" by Betty Friedan was first published by W.W. Norton & Co.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, calling the issuing of Executive Order 9066 in 1942 "a sad day in American history," signed a proclamation formally confirming its termination.

In 1984, the Winter Olympics closed in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved, 83-11, the Genocide Convention, an international treaty outlawing "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group," nearly 37 years after the pact was first submitted for ratification.

In 1997, Deng Xiaoping (dung shah-oh-ping), the last of China's major Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

Ten years ago: An ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power; his brother Raul was later named to succeed him. President George W. Bush, visiting Rwanda, pleaded with the global community for decisive action to stop grisly ethnic violence plaguing other African nations like Kenya and Sudan. Democrat Barack Obama cruised past Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Wisconsin primary and Hawaii caucuses.

Five years ago: The United Nations said the number of U.S. drone strikes in Afghanistan had risen sharply in 2012 compared with 2011. A bail hearing began in Pretoria, South Africa, for double-amputee Olympian Oscar Pistorius, charged with killing Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day; the defense said Pistorius had mistaken his girlfriend for an intruder while prosecutors said he had deliberately opened fire on Steenkamp as she cowered behind a locked bathroom door.

One year ago: A SpaceX rocket soared from NASA's long-idled moonshot pad, sending up space station supplies from the exact spot where astronauts embarked on the lunar landings nearly a half-century earlier. Hundreds of scientists, environmental advocates and their supporters held a rally in Boston to protest what they saw as increasing threats to science and research. More than a thousand people of various faiths rallied in New York City for an "I Am A Muslim Too" event to support Muslim Americans. Three former elite U.S. gymnasts, including 2000 Olympian Jamie Dantzscher, appeared on CBS' "60 Minutes" to say they were sexually abused by Dr. Larry Nassar, a volunteer team physician for USA Gymnastics. Anthony Davis had an All-Star Game for the record books, scoring 52 points as the Western Conference beat the Eastern Conference 192-182 — the highest-scoring game in league history.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 78. Actress Carlin Glynn is 78. Former Sony Corp. Chairman Howard Stringer is 76. Singer Lou Christie is 75. Actor Michael Nader is 73. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) is 70. Actor Stephen Nichols is 67. Author Amy Tan is 66. Actor Jeff Daniels is 63. Rock singer-musician Dave Wakeling is 62. Talk show host Lorianne Crook is 61. Actor Ray Winstone is 61. Actor Leslie David Baker is 60. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is 59. Britain's Prince Andrew is 58. Tennis Hall of Famer Hana Mandlikova is 56. Singer Seal is 55. Actress Jessica Tuck is 55. Country musician Ralph McCauley (Wild Horses) is 54. Rock musician Jon Fishman (Phish) is 53. Actress Justine Bateman is 52. Actor Benicio Del Toro is 51. Actress Bellamy Young is 48. Rock musician Daniel Adair is 43. Pop singer-actress Haylie Duff is 33. Christian rock musician Seth Morrison (Skillet) is 30. Actor

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Luke Pasqualino is 28. Actress Victoria Justice is 25. Actor David (dah-VEED') Mazouz (TV: "Gotham") is 17. Actress Millie Bobby Brown is 14.

Thought for Today: "There is, I think, nothing in the world more futile than the attempt to find out how a task should be done when one has not yet decided what the task is." — Alexander Meiklejohn (MIHK'-ul-jahn), American educator (1872-1964).