

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Feb. 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 224 ~ 1 of 53

**"Love recognizes no barriers.  
It jumps hurdles, leaps  
fences, penetrates walls  
to arrive at its destination  
full of hope."**

-Maya Angelou



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**605.290.1535**

custom homes | remodels | additions

## Kassube, Thompson accepted at Honor Band

Kylie Kassube and Emily Thompson have been accepted into the Concordia College Honor Band in Minnesota. The event will be April 6-8.

### Honor Band Highlights

Making music in an artistically rigorous and nurturing environment

Performing chamber repertoire coached by Concordia's distinguished wind and percussion faculty

Rehearsing and performing challenging repertoire under the direction of Dr. Peter Haberman, the director of bands at Concordia College, and an internationally renowned guest composer/conductor Jim Stephenson

**Today**  
Debate in Brookings  
State Wrestling in Sioux Falls

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

**The cardboard/paper**  
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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## The Moscow Times

As media continue to report on mercenary deaths in Syria, Russia's Foreign Ministry said this week that "several dozen" nationals had been injured in U.S. airstrikes.

It added that none of the victims were Russian servicemen and they had come to Syria "of their own volition and for various purposes." Clearly, not all defenders of the Fatherland are celebrated equally.

Russia has lost its first Olympic medal in curling after Alexander Krushelnitsky tested positive for melonin in a story that has left many confounded.

If you're looking for justice in Russia, stay away from the courtroom: just 0.3 percent of those who went before a judge in 2017 were acquitted.

Alexei Navalny and his team know this better than anyone — campaign manager Leonid Volkov was sentenced to 30 days for tweeting a video of Navalny's arrest on Tverskaya Ul. at a boycott rally in January.

With the elections less than a month away, a mysterious video has gone viral calling on Russians to vote or face a future in which ethnic minorities serve in the army, homosexuals invade Russians' kitchens and the number of bathroom visits are suddenly limited.

If that doesn't make you want to do your civic duty, nothing will.

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## Week 7 Legislative report by Jason Frerichs

Debating legislation and determining the outcome continues to dominate our activity as state lawmakers. I have been working diligently on creating a legislative water management committee, an ethanol blender pump bill, and the precision agriculture building at South Dakota State University.

SB 211 would create a Legislative Water Management Committee. The committee would review state operations concerning flooded private land, irrigation, water quantity, water quality, and water recreation, as well as local government involvement in water issues. The Committee would consist of ten members, 5 from each house, two of which must be from the Ag & Natural Resources standing committee, and no more than three of whom are from the same political party.

A Water Management Committee is important, as water will be an important issue looking down the road. The Legislature has spent a lot of time debating nonmeandered water access, water management, and created a statute for voluntary buffer strips. Creating a specific committee to hear water issues would ensure that the Legislature is poised and prepared to tackle water issues head-on. I appreciated the support in our senate agriculture and natural resources committee for the no recommendation designation on SB 211. The entire Senate voted and decided not to hear the debate on SB 211.

SB 210 is a bill that would provide an annual \$1 million transfer from the ethanol fuel fund to the ethanol infrastructure incentive fund. There are \$1.2 million of extra funds in the ethanol fuel fund so this request was equitable and fair. 2 cents on every gallon of fuel are the funding source for the ethanol fuel fund. The Ethanol Infrastructure Incentive Fund was created in 2011 to incentivize the purchase and installation of ethanol blender pumps, tanks, hoses, and other infrastructure that allows for the sale of ethanol as fuel. The fund also provides marketing and retail incentives for the sale of mid-range blends of ethanol in South Dakota.

Using higher blends of ethanol as fuel is good for South Dakota's farmers and economy. Currently, the U.S. leads the world in ethanol production and exports. Rural farming states like South Dakota are the backbone of ethanol production in the United States. And farmers are in a tough spot right now. According to Scott Irwin, the Chair of Agricultural Marketing at the University of Illinois, more of the status quo for farmers will generate long-term problems. Financial conditions will continue to worsen, and farms will be forced to close. Luckily, the education and advocacy for ethanol has begun to pay off. I will continue to fight for ethanol production and use because it helps South Dakota farmers and contributes to the South Dakotan economy. I am disappointed that six of my fellow members of the senate agriculture and natural resources committee voted to defeat SB 210. The opponents to SB 210 have essentially turned off the spigot for any state support to build infrastructure for higher blends of ethanol. I want to thank South Dakota Farmers Union and Glacial Lakes Energy for their support of SB 210.

SB 162 is a bill that would stop the practice of lunch shaming in public schools. Lunch shaming occurs when a student who does not have lunch money has their lunch taken from them, thrown away, and is subsequently stamped, made to do chores, or publicly stigmatized in another way. This practice is harmful to children, because it both takes food away from hungry children and shames them for something that they have no control over. Children should not be punished or humiliated because of their parents' inability to pay for lunch. SB 162 is a bill that would separate children from their parents' financial situation.

And SB 162 has had a unique path to the Senate floor. The Education Committee originally killed the bill. But, Senator Troy Heinert worked to organize what's called a smokeout. A legislator may smoke out a bill that has been killed if they have the support of one-third of the body. If a smokeout is supported, the bill must be sent to the Senate floor. Because Senator Heinert and I, along with twenty-two other senators, supported the smokeout, the bill came to the floor for debate. But, the bill still had another hurdle to clear before receiving a final vote. We had to vote to put the bill on the calendar. A calendaring vote

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must be taken to put the bill on the docket. Only bills on the docket may receive a final vote. Because we had enough votes to calendar the bill, SB 162 was ultimately decided on the senate floor. Only eleven of us senators supported SB 162 and we missed an opportunity to end the practice of school lunch shaming.

As we approach the final weeks of session, identifying some one-time funding and bond payment for the new precision agriculture building at South Dakota State University continues to be one of my focus areas. Since the budget projections are a little more optimistic, I will advocate for a 1% increase to the community support providers, along with K12 education, and adequate extra funds to pay our state employees better.

Thank you for contacting me with your opinions and thoughts on the issues important to you. I can be reached at 949-2204 or Jason.Frerichs@sdlegislature.gov.

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Groton City Council will be meeting in special session on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Groton Community Center. The purpose of this meeting is for Executive Session – Personnel – 1-25-2 (1) and Hiring a full-time Police Officer.

### Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Shih Tzus 8, Cheetahs 8, Foxes 6, Jackelopes 5, Chipmunks 5, Coyotes 4

**Men's High Games:** Doug Jorgensen 233, Roger Spanier 228, Randy Stanley 222, Mike Wiley 208

**Women's High Games:** Brenda Waage 186, Sue Stanley 184, Darci Spanier 174

**Men's High Series:** Doug Jorgensen 588, Randy Stanley 579, Roger Spanier 576

**Women's High Series:** Darci Spanier 491, Vicki Walter 477, Sue Stanley 470

### More snow falls overnight

Another 4" of light fluffy snow fell in the Groton Area overnight. There was no wind during the snow event and there was little moisture content.

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## Protecting Free and Fair Elections

Free and fair elections are a vital part of our democracy. Being able to cast a ballot, beginning at the age of 18, gives us a voice in the decisions being made at all levels of government. With the U.S. midterm elections coming up in November, it's important to uphold our democratic election process by preventing interference from outside actors.

In the 2016 election, there was clear evidence that Russia attempted to undermine our elections by hacking political entities and manipulating social media platforms to spread misinformation, or 'fake news.' While there is no evidence that the Russians were effective in manipulating the outcome of the 2016 election, their attempts served as a wake-up call to our cyber vulnerabilities.

As the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Cybersecurity Subcommittee, one of my top priorities is to increase and improve the defensive and offensive cyber capabilities of the Department of Defense (DoD) to make sure it is fully able to defend against cyberattacks whether on military or non-military entities. The DoD has a critical role to play in challenging and influencing the mindset of our cyber adversaries and defending the homeland from attacks—attacks that could include cyber-attacks by other nations against our election infrastructure. We want to be sure DoD has all the tools it needs to do this, particularly as we enter another election year. We recently held a subcommittee hearing focusing exclusively on the DoD's role in protecting democratic elections.

Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats recently warned that he has already seen signs that Russia is targeting our November 2018 election process. During a Congressional hearing, Coats said that "there should be no doubt that Russia perceives its past efforts as successful and views the 2018 U.S. midterm elections as a potential target for Russian influence operations." There is also evidence of Russian meddling in the 2018 Mexican presidential campaign. And all of this comes after confirmed attempts by Russia to influence the elections in France and Germany last year.

We must have a plan to seize the strategic high ground in cyberspace. We need a strategy that moves out of the trenches and imposes meaningful, devastating costs on our adversaries. The lack of consequences for the countless cyber-attacks by those who wish to do us harm has not only emboldened our adversaries, it has left us even more heavily targeted by their emboldened behavior. As long as our adversaries feel that they can act with impunity they will press further.

At our recent subcommittee hearing, the panel of witnesses confirmed that we must tailor our strategies to the uniqueness of the cyber domain if we are to prevent our adversaries from exploiting us. The attack attempts we experienced during the 2016 election are just the latest rung on an escalation ladder of cyber-attacks.

As the 2018 election gets closer, my colleagues and I will continue doing our part to help make sure we protect a free and fair election process. As Chairman of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee, I will also continue to work with the administration, to include its military and intelligence community leaders, to craft and implement a strong, clear strategy to deter bad actors from attacking us in cyberspace.

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## Paint – South Dakota Campaign Seeking Volunteers

PIERRE, SD – “Paint – South Dakota” is underway and South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA) is seeking volunteer painters and nominations for houses in need of painting.

To get involved, an individual or group of people nominate someone in their community whose home is in need of a fresh coat of exterior paint and then pick a Saturday in June to pick up paint brushes and set aside some free time to help residents in their communities.

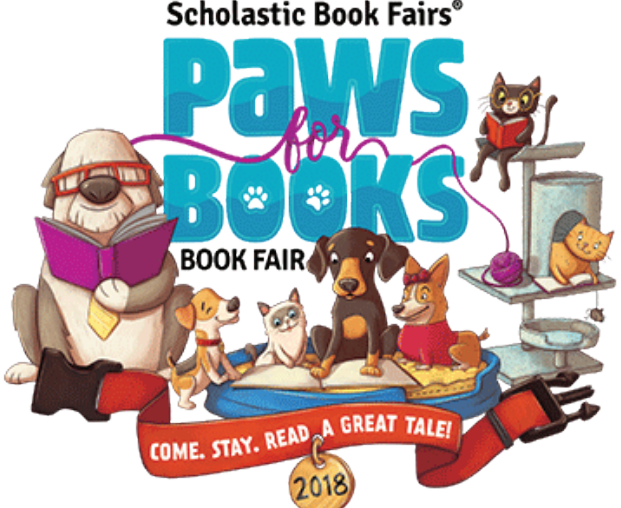
The nominated home must be a single family, owner-occupied residence whose owner is physically or financially unable to paint their home themselves.

In the past 20 years, over 500 homes across South Dakota have been painted, resulting in more than 9,801 gallons of paint and primer being applied by 7,346 local volunteers.

“We continue this campaign because of its success in cities and towns of all sizes,” said Executive Director Mark Lauseng. “This campaign promotes volunteerism, benefits our neighbors and beautifies the community.”

Applications may be submitted to SDHDA and must be received by 5 p.m. CDT, April 13, 2018. Applicants will be able to select from one of five weekends in June to complete the painting of the home.

Additional information and a link to the poster and application can be found at [www.sdhda.org](http://www.sdhda.org). Questions can be directed to Sheila Ricketts at 605.773.7603.



**Scholastic Book Fairs®**  
**PAWS for BOOKS**  
BOOK FAIR  
COME. STAY. READ. A GREAT TALE!  
2018

**"Paws for Books"**  
**Scholastic Book Fair**  
**When: Monday, March 5, 2018**  
**3:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Where: Groton Area Elementary**  
**School Library**

## Maintenance Supervisor Wanted:

Under the direction of the Facility Administrator, the Maintenance Supervisor oversees the daily operations of the Maintenance. Performs maintenance and repair of physical structures of buildings.

## Day Shift C.N.A. Wanted

**Sign-on Bonus**  
☆☆☆ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ☆☆☆  
Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.  
EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



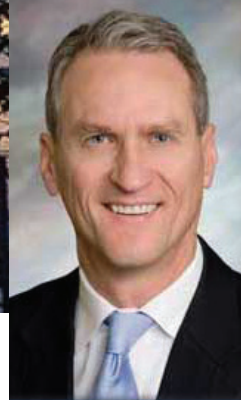
**GROTON**  
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER  
**1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton**

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South Dakota Governor  
Dennis Daugaard



## Good Reason To Be Hopeful

On Tuesday, February 13th, the state legislature's Joint Committee on Appropriations adopted revenue projections for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and FY2019 state budgets. Fortunately, since I offered my budget proposal in December, more recent months of revenue collections have been stronger. These months of improved revenue, coupled with the economic stimulus expected from federal tax cuts, portend better future revenue. For the current fiscal year, FY2018, the revenue projection has increased by \$16.3 million. For FY2019, the revenue projection has increased by \$18.8 million. As we plan spending within these projections, we must remain committed to principles of fiscal responsibility and conservative management. It is important that we use non-recurring revenue for one-time expenses only, and that we appropriate dollars for recurring expenses only with revenue which is expected also to recur. South Dakotans expect their government to be prudent with state spending.

There is no better place than South Dakota to live, work and raise a family. South Dakota is a state where people can succeed. If you show up and work hard, you can make a good life for yourself. This is why Site Selection magazine named South Dakota the number one state for achieving the American dream.

We also have a high quality of life, with an abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities, safe communities, good schools and quality post-secondary education opportunities. Based on EPA standards, we have one of the best safe drinking water records in the nation. Our air is clean, too. We are one of just five states in the country that has never had a "nonattainment area" under the Clean Air Act. We have good roads. Our highways rank second in the nation for overall performance and cost-effectiveness. Among many recreational opportunities, we saw record attendance at our State Fair last year and our state park visitor numbers increased again.

The safety net programs we administer are well-managed. Take Medicaid, for instance. Our Medicaid program is run so well that we are the only state in the nation that has had a continuous exemption from federal audit requirements. Our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – or "food stamps" – has been ranked #1 in the nation for its procedural accuracy. This earned us half a million dollars in rewards from the federal government last year. And our child support program is #2 in the nation for overall performance and cost effectiveness.

If we consider all of these things and what we have achieved in the last seven years – structurally balancing the budget every year, securing AAA status, raising teacher pay, investing in our roads, improving our criminal justice system – then we have good reason be proud of the state that we call home, and good reason to be hopeful for the future. Take a minute today and appreciate your state. I know there is nowhere else I would rather be and no other people I would rather be with.

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## Today in Weather History

February 23, 1977: A storm center developed over Colorado the morning of the 22nd and moved to southeast Nebraska by midnight Wednesday the 23rd with snow and rain entering southern Minnesota. The low-pressure center advanced to Iowa by sundown and weakened somewhat with precipitation across all of Minnesota. Snow over the north and combination of rain and freezing rain were in the south. The low then intensified over southeast Minnesota during the nighttime of Thursday the 24th before continuing northeast into Wisconsin with snow and blowing snow continuing over much of the state before ending on the 26th. There was a combination of rain, freezing rain and the winds over southern Minnesota with 4 to 12 inches of snow in the north. Freezing rain and the heavy icing on power lines caused the worst power failure in a decade in the twin cities with 125,000 homes affected. Power outages occurred over numerous areas of southern and central Minnesota. Many roads were ice-covered with numerous vehicle accidents and many cars in the ditch. Many roads were blocked or closed with numerous schools closed. The ice storm also damaged many trees.

February 23, 2007: A strong area of low pressure tracking across the central plains brought widespread snowfall to parts of central and much of northeast South Dakota along with west central Minnesota. The precipitation initially began as freezing rain and sleet late in the evening of the 23rd as it lifted across the area through the morning of the 24th. The freezing rain and sleet then changed over to snow during the morning hours of the 24th. Thundersnow also occurred at some locations across the area. Snowfall amounts of 6 to 15 inches occurred by the end of the storm. With the roads slippery from the freezing rain and then the heavy snow, travel conditions became very difficult. The South Dakota State Emergency Management, Highway Patrol, and Department of Transportation issued a travel advisory for no travel for Interstate-90 and many highways in central South Dakota. There were numerous accidents along the interstate. Some snowfall amounts included, 7 inches at Browns Valley, 9 inches at Bryant, Webster, Wheaton, Artichoke Lake, and Tintah, 10 inches at Toronto, Roy Lake, Garden City, and Ortonville, 11 inches at Faulkton, 12 inches at Watertown, and 15 inches at Clear Lake.

February 23, 2010: Pierre sets a new record with a streak of 84 consecutive days with high temperatures failing to reach 40 degrees.

February 23, 2012: An area of low pressure sliding across the region brought heavy snow to much of central and north-central South Dakota. Travel became difficult with many schools canceled. Click [HERE](#) for snowfall reports.

1887: The Central Bureau of Meteorology of Rome began receiving the first reports of a massive earthquake from northern Italy Observers. This estimated magnitude earthquake of 6.0 kills more than 2,000 people in southern France and northern Italy.

1977: A very rare February tornado touched down briefly in Mason City, Iowa, inflicting F1 damage on a home and injuring one person inside. This is the only known February tornado on record in Iowa.

1991: A black rain falls on eastern Turkey as soot from the Kuwait oil field fires mixes with the precipitation.

1995: Cyclone Bobby slams into the Western Australia coast causing widespread flooding. Some areas report up to 12 inches of rain from the storm.



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Fri Feb 23	Sat Feb 24	Sun Feb 25	Mon Feb 26	Tue Feb 27	Wed Feb 28	Thu Mar 1
24°F	24°F	30°F	31°F	30°F	28°F	30°F
-3°F	8°F	11°F	10°F	10°F	10°F	7°F
NW 9 MPH	SSE 6 MPH Precip 80%	WSW 14 MPH	SSW 10 MPH	N 5 MPH	W 8 MPH	NNW 8 MPH



## Another System Headed Our Way **Saturday**

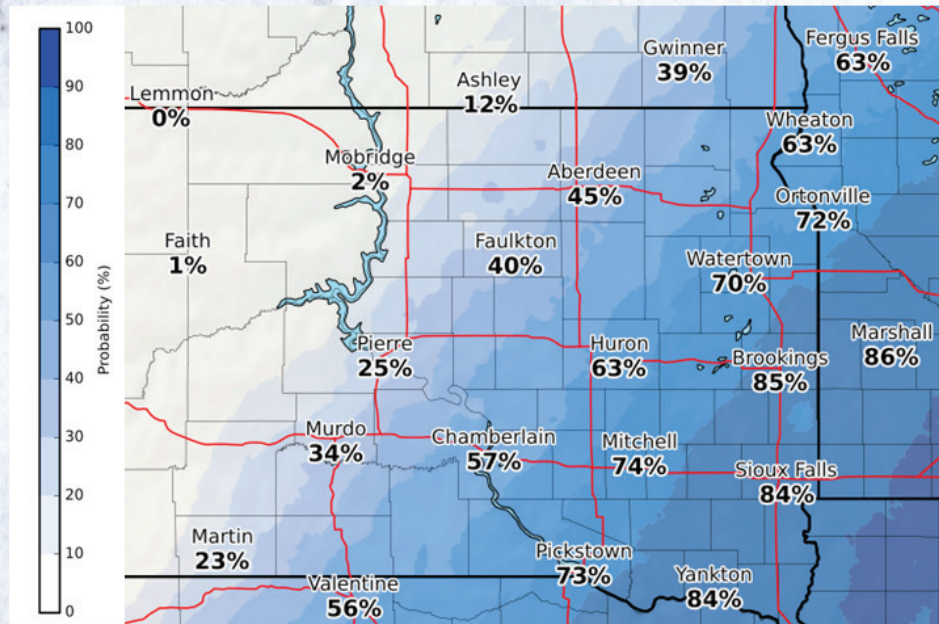
Be Ready For More Light Snow  
&  
Expect Minor Travel Headaches

Chance Of  
Seeing 2"  
or More



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Graphic Created  
2/23/2018 5:00 AM



Published on: 02/23/2018 at 5:04AM

Another storm system is headed our way, mainly for eastern and southern South Dakota into Minnesota. Snowfall amounts look to taper to the north and west which covers most of our forecast area. Snow to develops early to mid-day Saturday and will finish in the evening and overnight hours.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 28.6 F at 3:10 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 4.2 F at 12:00 AM**

**Wind Chill:**

**High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 1:15 AM**

**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 60° in 1976**

**Record Low: -25° in 1910**

**Average High: 31°F**

**Average Low: 11°F**

**Average Precip in Feb: 0.42**

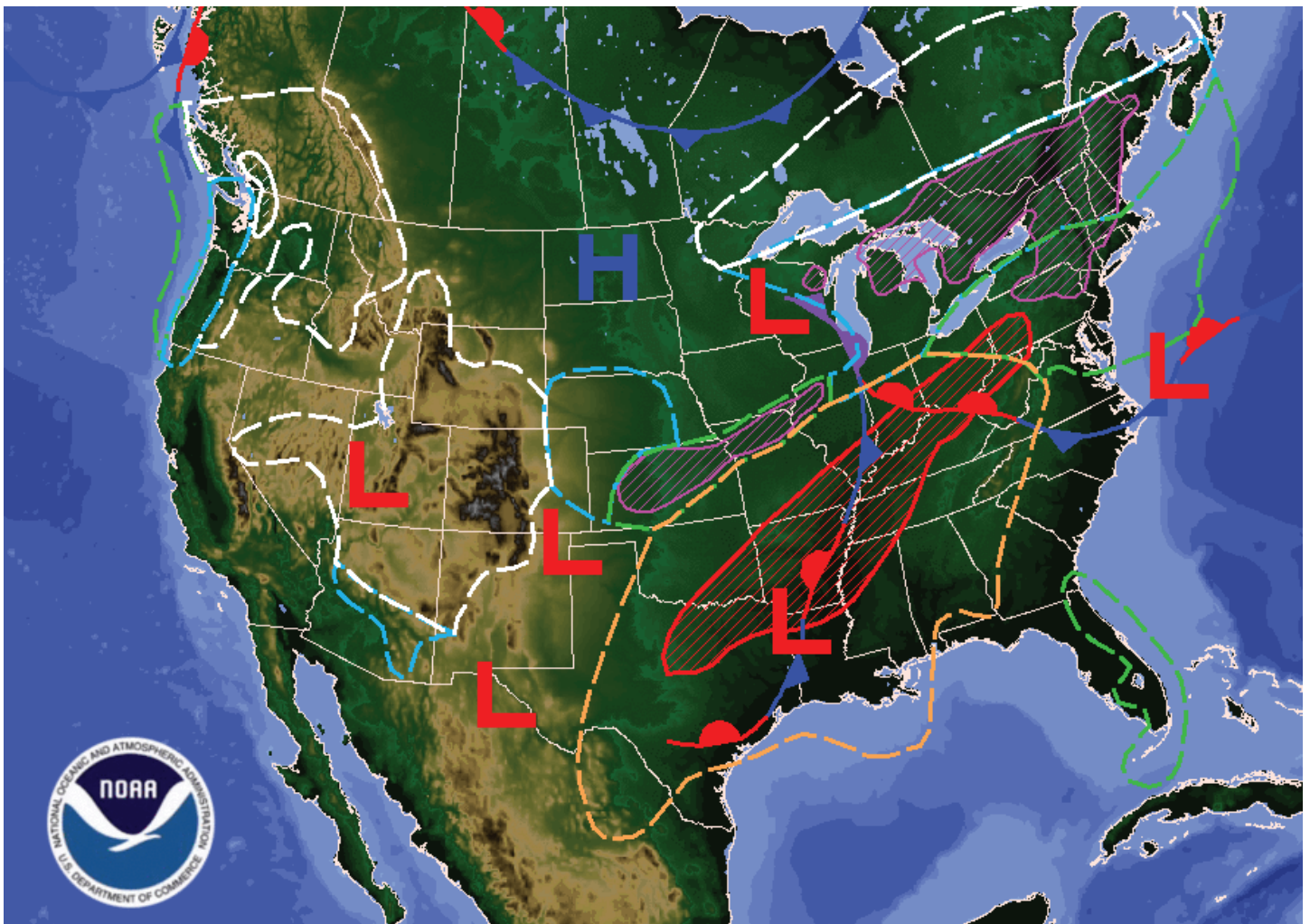
**Precip to date in Feb: 0.09**

**Average Precip to date: 0.89**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.09**

**Sunset Tonight: 6:12 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:20 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Feb 23, 2018, issued 4:51 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds 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)



## FLOURISH LIKE A PALM TREE

The word "righteous" in Scripture carries with it the idea of meeting God's standards of doing what is right in the sight of God – being obedient to Him and being just and fair to others. If the "righteous are to flourish like palm trees" what does that mean?

1. Palm trees grow straight up – always looking upward to heaven for light and nourishment. Likewise the Christian looks to God to find His will for their life.

2. Each and every part of a palm tree is useful. The leaves not only provide shelter from the elements but the tree itself has many nourishing and medicinal qualities. The Christian is expected to give life and hope and nourishment to others.

3. Palm trees are not affected by drought. A palm tree is not affected by the weather and can survive nearly every surface injury. The Christian rooted in Christ draws his strength and well-being from God.

4. The palm tree is an evergreen tree because it draws its life flow within its being, keeping it fresh.

5. The palm tree cannot be grafted into any other tree because it has its own unique identity. Christians have one Master and cannot be grafted to any other identity.

6. Palm trees are an emblem of victory. This was seen when Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem.

7. Palm trees always show a place where water can be found. Christians find their "living water" in Christ who can quench their thirst.

Prayer: We ask, Father, that every part of our lives will be useful in proclaiming Your grace and mercy to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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## News from the Associated Press

### Supreme Court says warrant needed for urine sample

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court says police need a search warrant to obtain a urine sample from someone who is arrested.

The high court ruled privacy issues outweigh the state's interest in pursuing evidence. The case involves a man who was a passenger in a vehicle stopped from a broken headlight in 2015. Officers ordered Hi Ta Lar to provide a urine sample which tested positive for methamphetamine. He was arrested, charged and eventually sentenced to three years in prison.

The Argus Leader says Lar appealed, raising the issue of the warrantless urine sample.

### Mission couple plead not guilty to wire fraud

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man and woman from Mission have pleaded not guilty to federal wire fraud charges.

Mark Edward O'Leary and Sharli Colombe, both 35, were indicted by a federal grand jury earlier this month.

KOTA-TV reports the indictment alleges that from February 2011 and June 2017 the two passed at least 544 checks drawn on a bank account that did not belong to them. Prosecutors say the checks were used for personal items.

A conviction carries up to 20 years in prison. They have been released on bond.

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

### Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 51, Watertown 46

Dupree 69, Wakpala 56

Faith 62, Rapid City Christian 49

Mobridge-Pollock 62, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 49

Rapid City Stevens 60, Sturgis Brown 45

Spearfish 53, Douglas 42

#### POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

West Central vs. Elk Point-Jefferson, ppd. to Feb 22nd.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 73, Watertown 60

Montrose 59, Mt. Vernon 31

Sioux Falls Lincoln 39, Harrisburg 32

Spearfish 53, Douglas 42

Region 1A

Final

Aberdeen Roncalli 51, Tiospa Zina Tribal 17

Redfield 59, Milbank 41

Region 2A

Final

Flandreau 58, Sioux Valley 41

Region 3A

Final

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Dell Rapids 52, Sioux Falls Christian 40  
West Central 55, Tri-Valley 30  
Region 4A  
Final  
Lennox 52, Beresford 41  
Vermillion 62, Dakota Valley 40  
Region 5A  
Final  
McCook Central/Montrose 59, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 31  
Wagner 46, Parker 31  
Region 6A  
First Round  
McLaughlin 43, Chamberlain 38  
Miller 53, Stanley County 27  
Region 7A  
First Round  
Pine Ridge 80, Bennett County 43  
Red Cloud 63, Little Wound 58  
Winner 74, St. Francis Indian 30  
Region 8A  
First Round  
Custer 64, Rapid City Christian 24  
Hill City 46, Lead-Deadwood 27  
St. Thomas More 58, Hot Springs 11  
Region 1B  
Final  
Warner 49, Florence/Henry 44  
Waubay/Summit 43, Waverly-South Shore 31  
Region 2B  
Final  
Ipswich 50, Potter County 40  
Sully Buttes 64, Leola/Frederick 43  
Region 3B  
Final  
Castlewood 74, Hitchcock-Tulare 48  
DeSmet 41, Deubrook 31  
Region 4B  
Final  
Ethan 58, Howard 30  
Hanson 61, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 32  
Region 6B  
Semifinal  
Avon 51, Scotland 25  
Corsica/Stickney 55, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 45  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 74, Marty Indian 46  
Region 7B  
Semifinal  
Kadoka Area 55, Lyman 52  
Lower Brule 82, Oelrichs 40  
New Underwood 50, White River 42

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Wall 48, Philip 39  
Region 8B  
Semifinal  
Dupree 50, Newell 47  
Faith 68, Tiospaye Topa 38  
Lemmon 46, McIntosh 35  
Timber Lake 58, Harding County 28

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## The 'Garlic Girls': South Korean curlers a global sensation

By KRISTEN GELINEAU and HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP) — Forget Lindsey Vonn and Adam Rippon. The real rock stars of the Pyeongchang Olympics are a humble group of Korean curlers who have no idea they've become a global sensation.

They are known as the "Garlic Girls," the South Korean women's curling team with the fairy-tale story whose moniker reflects the locally-famed garlic grown in their hometown. Never considered a medal contender coming into Pyeongchang, they have risen to No. 1 in the rankings, earning worldwide attention for their fierce talent and funny personalities.

And yet the Garlic Girls have been almost totally sheltered from the international frenzy both by personal choice — they switched off their phones during the games to block outside attention — and by a protective coach who is keenly aware that curling is as much a mental game as a physical one.

After a recent match, the women were quickly shuffled past waiting reporters, giving journalists apologetic smiles and greetings of "Anyonghaseyo!" (hello) before vanishing. None of them, says coach Kim Min-jung, are aware that they've become superstars.

"I'm sorry that I could not bring the athletes today, because I'm worried there will be too much pressure and burden on them," Kim said. "Even the crowd is too interested in them."

That interest is understandable. The Garlic Girls seem tailor-made for stardom.

The wildly skilled underdogs came into the Olympics ranked eighth in the world and went on to crush curling heavyweights including Canada and Sweden. They are cute and comical, referring to themselves by quirky nicknames such as "Pancake" and "Steak."

Two teammates are sisters and all are longtime friends, creating irresistible chemistry on the ice. The team's "skip," or captain, has a steely gaze and funky, owl-eyed glasses that have become fodder for endless Internet memes.

Many Koreans who have never seen a curling match have nonetheless traveled to remote Gangneung to peek at their nation's new darlings in person.

"I'm very proud of them," said Lee Ji Sun, a 26-year-old who had never been inside a curling arena before Wednesday's match. "They are showing we can do well even in new sport events."

Every match featuring the team is packed with screaming, flag-fluttering Koreans who leap to their feet to cheer on the women's stunningly precise shots. One fan in the crowd Wednesday waved what appeared to be a hand-drawn portrait of skip Kim Eun-jung with her trademark spectacles.

The excitement surrounding the women even prompted a few dozen senior citizens from the southern city of Jaecheon to charter a bus to the arena so they could revel in the country's newfound curling prestige.

"I actually don't know curling rules, so I have to find out what's going on from people sitting next to me," said Yang Chang-nam, 77. "I feel very good as the South Korean team is doing well."

That curling has gained any prominence in Korea is surprising in itself. Korea didn't even have a team in Olympic curling until the 2014 Sochi Games.

It took Koreans awhile to wake up to curling, largely because the country lacked sufficient facilities until recent years, Kim Young, a curling legend who started the Korean Curling Club in 1988, said by email.

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Now, he says, Korea has six dedicated curling arenas, and many schools have curling teams.

In 2006, South Korea's first curling center was built in the rural town of Uiseong. Four of the five team members attended Uiseong Women's High School, where they were on the school's curling team. Uiseong's reputation as the nation's default curling capital slowly grew, and the curling center has hosted about 15 major domestic and international curling events.

Still, until the women's team began their surprise winning streak in Pyeongchang, Uiseong was better known for its prolific garlic production.

Koreans consider garlic a health food that boosts stamina. Seo Eun Ha, a 26-year-old Garlic Girls fan, believes garlic may have contributed to the team's success. (She also credits the women's good teamwork and strong relationships.)

Like many fans at Gangneung, Seo is particularly fond of the curlers' unusual nicknames: Sunny, Steak, Pancake, Annie (a brand of yogurt) and ChoCho (a type of cookie).

"I think their nicknames go well with their lively images," Seo said. "I like 'Steak' the most. It sounds so funny and unique."

The nicknames started as a gag over breakfast one day, said Kim, the coach. The women were talking about how difficult it was for other countries' athletes to pronounce their names at international competitions. All five team members and their coach also share the same surname — Kim, which is very common in Korea — making their names even more confounding for foreigners.

Kim Seon-yeong, who was eating a sunny-side-up fried egg, joked that she could go by the name "Sunny." The other women loved the idea. They each opted to nickname themselves after the English words for their favorite breakfast foods, figuring that would be easier for others to grasp.

Though the women's team is getting the most attention, Korean fans have been going wild for the men, too. After Wednesday's men's match, a player from the Korean team began throwing T-shirts into the crowd, which surged forward with outstretched arms.

Kim Heae Darm, a fan who leaped up and managed to snag a shirt sailing overhead, pressed it to her face and screamed with glee. She then turned to capturing the attention of Korean mixed doubles player Lee Ki-jeong, who scrawled his autograph in her notebook.

As she struggled to catch her breath, she explained her excitement by noting that Lee was strong, athletic and "very handsome."

"I like them so much!" she squealed.

Kim believes the exposure the sport has received in Pyeongchang will lead to an influx of new curlers in the country, particularly because parents will support children taking it up.

As for the success of the women's team, Kim, the founder of the curling club, couldn't be prouder. "They are heroes!" he said.

Yet the Garlic Girls do have one request: Maybe someone could come up with a nicer team name for them?

"We would prefer the name 'Team Kim,'" Kim, the coach, said with a laugh. "Because although our hometown is Uiseong — which is related to garlic — we have no relationship with garlic at all."

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Kristen Gelineau and Hyung-jin Kim, Australia bureau chief and Seoul correspondent respectively for The Associated Press, are on assignment at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. Follow them on Twitter at @KristenGelineau and @hyungjin1972.

## South Dakota State tops in Summit, beats South Dakota 76-72

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, David Jenkins Jr. added 18 points and a key 3-pointer late, and South Dakota State beat South Dakota 76-72 on Thursday night to win its first outright Summit League regular-season championship.

The Jackrabbits shared the title in 2012-13, 2014-15 and 2015-16 and will be the No. 1 seed in next month's Summit League Championships.

Lane Severyn scored 14 points with four 3s and Reed Tellinghuisen added 13 points for the Jackrabbits



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(24-6, 12-1), who have won 20 straight at home for the nation's longest active home winning streak.

Trailing by as many as 14 in the first half, the Coyotes tied it at 53 on Matt Mooney's layup, and led 61-57 on his 3 with 6:04 left to play. The lead traded hands until Jenkins' 3 sparked a 9-0 run for a 71-63 Jackrabbits lead. Mooney hit back-to-back 3s and the Coyotes closed to 74-72 on Brandon Armstrong's free throw with two seconds left, but Jenkins iced it with two from the stripe.

Skyler Flatten's dunk put South Dakota State up 33-19 and the Jackrabbits led 40-30 at halftime after 3s by Daum and Jenkins.

Mooney scored 33 points with five 3s for the second-place Coyotes (24-7, 11-3), who saw their six-game win streak end in their regular-season finale. Tyler Peterson added 12 points with 10 boards.

## First National Bank to halt production of NRA credit card

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The nation's largest privately-owned bank holding company will stop producing credit cards for the National Rifle Association in response to customer feedback, a spokesman said Thursday.

The Nebraska-based First National Bank of Omaha will not renew its contract to issue the group's NRA Visa Card, spokesman Kevin Langin said in a statement.

"Customer feedback has caused us to review our relationship with the NRA," Langin said.

Langin declined to say when the contract would expire and would not elaborate on what sort of feedback the company had received. The company released the same statement dozens of times on Twitter in response to other users who called on the company to sever its ties with the NRA. Some users who identified themselves as customers pledged to take their business elsewhere.

The announcement came after the progressive news website ThinkProgress listed the bank as a company that supports the NRA. ThinkProgress noted that First National Bank offered two NRA cards, each with a \$40 bonus, and touted it as "enough to reimburse your one-year NRA membership!"

On Thursday, the bank webpage that advertised the NRA card had been disabled. A cached version of the site touted the card as "the official credit card of the NRA" and noted the benefits of membership.

The NRA credit cards are part of a larger business in which the bank issues cards branded with organizations' logos, such as the sporting-goods store Scheels and the Best Western hotel chain.

The NRA has faced intense criticism following the school shooting in Parkland, Florida that left 17 people dead, the latest in a string of high-profile mass killings in the U.S.

An NRA spokeswoman referred questions Thursday to the group's licensing department. A phone message left with that office was not immediately returned.

A group that tracks the credit industry said the move could carry significant risks for First National Bank of Omaha.

"Many will applaud the move, but NRA members are famously loyal and the organization has shown itself as being very good at mobilizing its members," said Matt Schulz, a senior industry analyst at CreditCards.com. "However, banks are in the business of managing risks of all kinds, and First National clearly sees this as one they're willing to take."

First National Bank has banks in Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Texas.

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Associated Press writer Sarah Skidmore Sell contributed from Portland, Oregon.

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Follow Grant Schulte on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

## Lawmakers hop to give craft brewers barrels of room to grow

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — It's happy hour for South Dakota's craft brewers.

The Senate unanimously passed a bill Thursday that would ease a state production limit and other rules for microbreweries.

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Gov. Dennis Daugaard has pushed for the overhaul, arguing state regulations are stifling the industry in South Dakota.

Tony Venhuizen, the governor's chief of staff, said Daugaard believes the bill gives craft brewers the "tools they need to grow and thrive." The bill's passage comes after competing plans at the Capitol pit powerful beer distributors against the burgeoning craft brewing industry.

But senators united around a compromise, sending it to the House. Republican Sen. Jack Kolbeck, a beer distributor, called it an "industry partnership bill."

South Dakota operates under a three-tiered system of brewers, distributors and retailers. The bill would create a microbrewery license allowing the businesses to produce 30,000 barrels of beer annually, up from 5,000 barrels currently, and let craft brewers bypass distributors to sell up to 1,500 barrels of their beer each year directly to bars and stores.

Right now, breweries that exceed the 5,000-barrel limit would lose privileges such as being able to sell growlers — large refillable jugs — for customers to take home and operating multiple locations.

Current law also prohibits a craft brewer from even moving beer between two locations it owns, a convenience that would be allowed under the new rules. The bill would cap breweries at operating five additional locations.

After the Senate vote, Sam Papendick, co-owner and brewer at Hay Camp Brewing Company, poured himself the Rapid City microbrewery's flagship beer: Victory Stout. He said the small brewery, which produced about 150 barrels last year, would likely start self-distribution "as soon as we can" if the bill passes.

"We're within blocks of several locations where we could just take a two-wheel cart and throw a keg on there and wheel it over within, you know, a couple minutes," Papendick said. "That's nice for us, and people have asked for it."

Derek Fernholz, co-founder of Fernson Brewing Company, expects the craft brewery to push past 5,000 barrels for the first time this year. That growth jeopardizes its licenses to carry other beverages such as cider and wine, sell beer to take away and keep running a new taproom in downtown Sioux Falls.

He said the overhaul, and the higher barrel limit, gives the business "room to plan and grow."

"That allows us to dream and think a little bit more about opportunities that just weren't there before this bill," said Fernholz, thinking aloud about the potential of opening a satellite brewery in the Black Hills.

"We have a very spread out state here, and it'd be really nice to be able to feel like the local hometown beer, you know, other places than just Sioux Falls."

## South Dakota Senate votes down Yankton casino plan

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota senators have voted down a measure that would have put a proposed casino complex in Yankton on the November ballot.

The chamber voted 23-12 Thursday against the proposal, which would have asked voters to change the state constitution.

A coalition of Nebraska and South Dakota tribes and a Deadwood gambling association oppose the Port Yankton casino and entertainment complex project.

The amendment would have asked voters to allow a nonprofit group one gaming license in the southeastern South Dakota city.

Democratic Sen. Craig Kennedy, of Yankton, urged lawmakers to approve the resolution to allow supporters to take the issue to South Dakota voters.

Supporters argued it would help the community compete with Iowa and Nebraska for tourists. Sen. Larry Tidemann, the sponsor, moved to reconsider the vote later.

## Sioux Falls mayoral candidate's video warns of zombie menace

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A candidate for mayor of South Dakota's largest city promises to protect it against zombies.

The Argus Leader reports that David Zokaites (zoh-KIGH'-tess) has released a video based on a song he

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wrote about zombies taking over Sioux Falls City Hall. The 56-year-old data analyst penned the tongue-in-cheek tune a few months to boost his campaign.

The ghoulish song goes: "Zombie undead coming our way. Evil monsters, make them pay. They want to rule our town. But they're going down, down."

As the video shows zombies wandering the streets, the song continues: "You see David he's standing tall. We'll make the zombies small. Mister Zokaites will excite us. Zombies undead won't bite us."

Zokaites says it's an allegory about the modern political climate and his mission to change it.

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

## Navajos settle Utah voting rights case over mail-in ballots

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Navajos who once worried they would have to drive hours to cast their ballots in Utah say a court settlement is a step forward as tribes challenge what they call discriminatory voting practices around the United States.

The agreement that requires tribally accessible polling places and Navajo-language help is a victory for voting rights after a switch to mail-in balloting in southern Utah's San Juan County left behind native voters, the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah said Thursday.

County officials, though, said they're committed to fair elections and took the steps themselves without the lawsuit they criticized as a waste of taxpayer money.

San Juan County is also appealing an order to re-draw voting districts that a federal judge found were discriminate against native voters in separate case.

Similar legal clashes have been waged recently over early-voting access in Nevada, native language assistance in Alaska and voter ID laws in North Dakota.

They come as advocates gather stories from Washington state to Oklahoma, hoping to allow more Native Americans reach ballot boxes and ultimately improve conditions in populations with huge disparities in health, education and economics.

"We're seeing a lot of the same access issues throughout the country," said James Tucker, an attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, part of a coalition holding field hearings nationwide.

The growing push toward mail-in ballots in states around the U.S., for example, can affect voter access in remote native communities where the mail service can be intermittent or unreliable. For older tribal elders who may not speak or read English, the reading of ballots and specific instructions on how to seal and mail them can be particularly challenging, he said.

In Utah, the ALCU and the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission sued southwestern Utah's San Juan County in 2016, after officials closed polling places and switched to a mail-in ballot system. Navajos could vote in person in Monticello, but they said the distance Navajos have to travel is more than twice as far as white residents — a three-hour round-trip drive.

Shortly after the case was filed, San Juan County re-opened three polling places in and around the Navajo Nation, which has its northern tip in Utah and stretches into Arizona and New Mexico.

San Juan County, for its part, said the 2014 switch to voting by mail increased voter turnout by allowing Navajos who work out of town or go away to college or the military to cast ballots.

County officials said in a statement Thursday they decided to open the new polling places themselves, and have taken a number of other steps to ensure equal access, including a Navajo liaison.

## Senate committee rejects campus free speech proposal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota senators have shelved a bill that would have allowed students to sue public universities if they were blocked from protesting.

The Argus Leader reports the Senate Education Committee voted 4-3 Thursday to reject the bill.

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The sponsors say they proposed the bill after seeing an editorial in the University of South Dakota's student-run newspaper pushing the institution to reconsider its free speech areas and learning about a 2015 controversy over a film showing.

Supporters say the bill was necessary to stop policies that would abridge campus free speech rights. Critics say it was redundant.

Board of Regents General Counsel Guilherme Costa says he plans to examine the board's policies on free speech this year.

A House committee earlier this month killed a twin version of the plan.

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

## Man involved in Sioux Falls building collapse leaves company

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The man at the center of a federal criminal investigation into the 2016 building collapse in Sioux Falls is no longer employed with the building's developer.

Aaron Hultgren had been serving as director of operations and development with Legacy Development, the developer of the Copper Lounge. His construction company, Hultgren Construction, also had been remodeling the Copper Lounge when it collapsed Dec. 2, 2016, leaving one of his employees dead and a woman trapped in rubble for hours.

Legacy Development spokeswoman Stacy Jones told the Argus Leader that Hultgren left the development company "to pursue other opportunities."

Last month, Hultgren had been replaced as guarantor on a \$50 million construction project between Legacy Developments and the city of Sioux Falls. Jeff Lamont, an Aberdeen hotel developer, filled Hultgren's place on the plan to build a hotel, commercial space and parking garage downtown.

The newspaper's investigation revealed in December that Hultgren Construction violated federal and state law by removing asbestos from the Copper Lounge without proper permits and dumping the hazardous material in the city's landfill.

Hultgren Construction has appealed civil penalties of more than \$200,000 issued by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. The company's appeal has been stayed pending the criminal investigation's findings.

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

## 2 years in prison for Kyle man who stabbed boy

KYLE, S.D. (AP) — A Kyle man has been sentenced to two years in federal prison for stabbing a boy after ingesting methamphetamine.

Adam Lucas Brown earlier pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon. The 19-year-old admitted punching and stabbing a boy in the head last February at Brown's home in Kyle. Brown confronted the boy, identified in court documents only by the initials D.L.S., believing that he was trying to rob him.

The Rapid City Journal says Brown had also tried to stab the boy in the chest, but the knife blade got caught in the boy's shirt. The victim survived the attack.

Brown was also been sentenced to three years of supervised release.

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

## AP sources: Adelson offers to help pay for Jerusalem embassy

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is considering an offer from Republican mega-donor Sheldon Adelson to pay for at least part of a new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, four U.S. officials told The

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Associated Press.

Lawyers at the State Department are looking into the legality of accepting private donations to cover some or all of the embassy costs, the administration officials said. The discussions are occurring as the new embassy clears its final bureaucratic hurdles. On Thursday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson ended weeks of delay by signing off on a security plan for moving the embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city, according to the officials, who weren't authorized to discuss the issue publicly and demanded anonymity.

In one possible scenario, the administration would solicit contributions not only from Adelson but potentially from other donors in the evangelical Christian and American Jewish communities, too. One official said Adelson, a Las Vegas casino magnate and staunch supporter of Israel, had offered to pay the difference between the total cost — expected to run into the hundreds of millions of dollars — and what the administration is able to raise.

Under any circumstance, letting private citizens cover the costs of an official government building would mark a significant departure from historical U.S. practice. In the Jerusalem case, it would add yet another layer of controversy to Trump's politically charged decision to move the embassy, given Adelson's long-standing affiliation with right-wing Israeli politics.

It's not clear if there is any precedent, nor whether government lawyers would give the green light to accept Adelson's or anyone else's donations for the embassy.

Adelson's unconventional offer was made around the time Trump announced in December he would move the embassy to the disputed city of Jerusalem. It would address the president's stated distaste for shelling out eye-popping sums for overseas diplomatic facilities. Although Trump has promoted the Jerusalem move as fulfilling a key campaign promise, he also was outspoken last month in blasting the \$1 billion price tag for a new embassy in London.

Since Trump's announcement, his administration has been sifting through options for fast-tracking the Israel embassy's relocation. Last month, Vice President Mike Pence announced during a visit to Israel that the embassy would move by the end of 2019 — possibly earlier. Ambassador David Friedman, who lobbied for Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, has advocated moving the embassy as soon as possible.

The U.S. has looked at several possible sites. The most likely plan involves a phased approach to opening the embassy in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood at an existing U.S. facility that handles consular affairs like passports and visas. The U.S. could initially retrofit a small suite of offices in that facility to accommodate Friedman and one or two top aides such as his chief of staff.

That would allow the administration to hang an "embassy" sign over the door and formally open it, perhaps in the next few months. The ribbon could be cut in time for Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, which takes place in April.

The rest of the embassy staff would remain at first in America's current facility in Tel Aviv. Over time, the Arnona facility would be expanded to accommodate more embassy personnel. The expansion could ultimately involve an adjacent property that currently houses a home for senior citizens, officials said. That property is already set to come under U.S. control in the next few years under a previous arrangement.

Retrofitting just a few offices could be accomplished at minimal cost. But expanding the new embassy into a full-fledged complex that houses the bulk of America's diplomatic staff in Israel would easily cost more than \$500 million dollars, officials familiar with the process said. Particularly pricey are the strict security requirements for embassies that are written into U.S. law.

It's unclear how much of the cost Adelson might be willing to cover.

The White House declined to comment. An Adelson spokesman didn't respond to multiple requests for comment.

The State Department said it had "nothing to announce" about the Jerusalem embassy move and would not "get ahead of any decisions by the secretary."

"We have no confirmation or details about this hypothetical proposal," the State Department said.

Kathy Bethany, the former cost management director for the State Department's Bureau of Overseas

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Building Operations, said she couldn't recall any instances of the U.S. government accepting donations to build embassies during her tenure, which ended in 2014.

"I don't know how well that would work," Bethany said. "Would we be beholden to putting their name on the building? I've never heard of that."

There are several ways, in theory, that it could happen. Short of donating directly to the embassy, citizens could always cut a general check to the U.S. Treasury, as politicians occasionally do to make a point about the national debt. The donors could unofficially " earmark " their dollars as being intended to offset the embassy's cost.

The State Department's Foreign Affairs Manual also lays out a formal process for accepting gifts from private citizens, including real estate. The process says gifts must be rigorously evaluated on a case-by-case basis and only allowed when the gift "would not give the appearance of a conflict of interest."

Adelson, who donated \$5 million to Trump's inaugural committee, is one of the Republican Party's biggest donors and a major supporter of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Adelson also finances Israel Hayom, a pro-Netanyahu newspaper that is distributed free throughout Israel.

If lawyers decide to allow donations for the embassy, it would come with significant political risk for Trump. The president already faces major criticism from Palestinians and others who say his decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem — also claimed by the Palestinians for the capital of their future state — tipped the scales unfairly in Israel's favor.

Mort Klein, president of the pro-Israel group Zionist Organization of America and a close associate of Adelson, said accepting donations would be ill-advised. Klein said he knew Adelson was "deeply interested" in seeing the embassy relocate to Jerusalem but was unaware that the casino mogul had offered to help pay for it himself.

"This is a government project. It's a government-run embassy," Klein said. "I don't want people to be able to say it was Jewish money."

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

## Missouri governor defiant after indictment linked to affair

By **JIM SALTER, DAVID A. LIEB and SUMMER BALLENTINE, Associated Press**

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens remains defiant, even amid calls for impeachment or resignation, after a St. Louis grand jury indicted him for felony invasion of privacy, alleging the Republican took a compromising photo of a woman during an extramarital affair the year before he was elected.

St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner on Thursday announced the indictment that followed an investigation launched in January, a day after Greitens admitted to an affair with his St. Louis hairdresser that began in March 2015.

Greitens, in a statement, said he made a mistake but "did not commit a crime." He accused Gardner, a Democrat who was also elected in November 2016, of playing politics.

"With today's disappointing and misguided political decision, my confidence in our prosecutorial system is shaken, but not broken," Greitens said. "I know this will be righted soon. The people of Missouri deserve better than a reckless liberal prosecutor who uses her office to score political points."

Gardner's spokeswoman, Susan Ryan, responded: "Despite the Governor's personal attacks, the Circuit Attorney believes the courtroom is the appropriate place to argue the facts, not the media."

Greitens' attorney, in a separate statement, called the indictment "baseless and unfounded." Attorney Edward L. Dowd Jr. filed a motion to dismiss the indictment on the grounds that any relationship with the woman was consensual.

A few lawmakers from both parties suggested that Greitens should consider resigning, just as they did after he admitted to the affair on Jan. 10.

House Republican leaders announced they were forming a group of lawmakers to investigate the charges "and answer the question as to whether or not the governor can lead our state while a felony case moves

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forward." Dowd said the governor welcomes the review.

The joint statement from House Speaker Todd Richardson, Speaker Pro Tem Elijah Haahr and Majority Leader Rob Vescovo did not specifically mention impeachment, a process that must begin in the House with an investigation.

But for some lawmakers, impeachment is on the table.

"Gov. Greitens has to go," Democratic state Sen. Jamilah Nasheed of St. Louis said. "Missourians thought they voted for a person of character and integrity, and instead they got a liar and alleged criminal."

Greitens, 43, has frequently vowed that he won't step down. He indicated Thursday he intends to stay and fight.

"This will not for a moment deter me from doing the important work of the great people of Missouri," Greitens said in the statement.

The indictment states that on March 21, 2015, Greitens photographed a woman identified only by her initials "in a state of full or partial nudity" without her knowledge or consent. The indictment said Greitens "transmitted the image contained in the photograph in a manner that allowed access to that image via a computer."

Soon after the affair began, the woman's husband secretly recorded a conversation in which she described the alleged incident. She said Greitens had bound her hands and blindfolded her in his St. Louis home, taken a photo of her partially nude, and then warned her to remain silent.

"I saw a flash through the blindfold and he said, 'You're never going to mention my name,'" she said.

Greitens has repeatedly denied blackmailing the woman, but has repeatedly refused to answer questions about whether he took a photo.

Greitens was taken into custody in St. Louis and released on his own recognizance. He is due in court for his first hearing on March 16, before Circuit Judge Rex Burlison. He could face up to a four-year sentence if convicted.

The statute of limitations for invasion of privacy in Missouri is three years, which means it was due to expire in less than a month.

Ryan, asked if additional charges could be filed, said the matter is still under investigation. Several lawmakers were questioned last week by investigators from Gardner's office.

Greitens, the father of two young boys, came into office as a political outsider, a brash Rhodes Scholar and Navy SEAL officer who was wounded in Iraq, emerging as the winner in a crowded and expensive GOP primary.

A former boxer and martial arts expert, he has embraced the role of maverick. He responded to a Democratic attack ad in the fall of 2016 with one of his own in which he fired more than 100 rounds from a machine gun as an announcer declared he'd bring out "the big guns" to fight Democratic policies championed by then-President Barack Obama.

Greitens surprised many experts by defeating Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster in the November 2016 election. Some saw him as a rising Republican star with potential presidential aspirations.

But governing hasn't always been easy, even though Republicans now control both houses as well as the governor's mansion. Greitens and GOP lawmakers have often clashed, with him comparing some to third-graders and labeling them "career politicians."

He has also faced questions about so-called "dark money" campaign contributions and criticism for stacking the state board of education. His use of a secretive app that deletes messages is under investigation by Republican Attorney General Josh Hawley.

Greitens' charity, The Mission Continues, faced scrutiny during the campaign when Democrats accused him of insider politics for accessing the donor list to raise about \$2 million through its top contributors.

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Lieb and Ballentine reported from Jefferson City, Missouri. Associated Press reporter Blake Nelson in Jefferson City contributed to this report.

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## Trump Jr.'s foreign policy speech in India boosts concerns

NEW DELHI (AP) — As criticism mounted that the American president's eldest son was pushing an ethics boundary by making a foreign policy speech at an Indian business summit, conference organizers hurriedly changed the speech's title.

Donald Trump Jr. was slated to speak Friday evening on "Reshaping Indo-Pacific Ties: The Era of Co-operation."

But a few hours before he was set to speak, the agenda for the Global Business Summit had changed, announcing instead "A Fireside Chat with Donald Trump Jr. "

With summer already approaching, it's already far too warm to be lighting cozy fires in New Delhi.

The summit, where Trump Jr. is sharing space with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is part of his whirlwind trip promoting Trump-brand luxury real estate.

Critics had said that Trump Jr. airing his views on international relations, especially while sharing a platform with senior Indian government officials, was problematic because of the implication that he has his father's ear.

"I am concerned that Mr. Trump's speech will send the mistaken message that he is speaking on behalf of the president, the administration or the United States government, not as a private individual, or that he is communicating official American policy," Sen. Robert Menendez, ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a letter earlier this week to the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

Menendez said he expects that the U.S. State Department and the embassy will treat Trump Jr. like any other American on private business and "will take every effort to avoid any perception of special treatment or a conflict of interest."

On Thursday, White House spokeswoman Lindsay E. Walters said the Trump administration "takes seriously its obligation to ensure that government resources are not used to provide a private benefit to anyone."

"Donald Trump Jr. is a private individual and neither the State Department nor the White House has provided any support for this trip beyond coordinating with his Secret Service protection," Walters said.

Trump Jr.'s India visit has already raised ethical concerns.

President Trump has pledged to stay away from any new foreign business deals during his term in office to avoid potential ethical conflicts. While the projects that Trump Jr. is promoting in India were inked before his father was elected, ethics experts have long seen the use of the Trump name to promote even existing business ventures as tricky territory.

Trump Jr. and his brother Eric have been running the Trump Organization, the family's real estate business, during their father's presidency.

Since Tuesday, Trump Jr. has been traveling to four Indian cities to meet business partners and buyers in the luxury residential projects that bear his family's name.

With five ventures under the Trump brand, India has the company's largest number of projects outside the United States. The Trump Organization charges a licensing fee to its Indian partners who build the properties under the Trump name. A luxury complex is already open in the central city of Pune while the others are in varying stages of construction in Mumbai and Kolkata and two in the New Delhi suburb of Gurgaon.

Trump Jr. has dismissed claims that his family business is benefiting from his father's presidency.

## Florida school shooting: 'abject breakdown at all levels'

By GARY FINEOUT, JENNIFER KAY and JOSH REPLOGLE, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida high school where a former student shot and killed 17 people with an assault-type rifle is reopening for teachers Friday as the community grappled with word that the armed officer on campus did nothing to stop the shooter.

That failure, plus reports of a delay in security camera footage scanned by responding police and several records indicating the 19-year-old suspect displayed behavioral troubles for years added to what the



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Florida House speaker described as an "abject breakdown at all levels."

The Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School has reignited national debate over gun laws and school safety, including proposals by President Donald Trump and others to designate more people — including trained teachers — to carry arms on school grounds. Gun-control advocates, meanwhile, have redoubled calls for bans or further restrictions on assault rifles.

Teachers were told they could return to the school Friday to collect belongings from classrooms that have been off-limits since the slayings more than a week earlier. The school plans an orientation Sunday for teachers and students, and to restart classes Wednesday.

"Our new normal has yet to be defined, but we want to get back to it," said geography teacher Ernest Rospierski, whose classroom is on the third floor of the three-story building attacked Feb. 14. Officials have said that building will be torn down.

History teacher Ivy Schamis was teaching a Holocaust class when the shooter fired into her classroom. She's planning to return Monday to collect items from the room, including a big yellow banner that reads, "Never Again," referring to the Holocaust. She wants it hanging in her next classroom. "That's a Holocaust banner and now that's what our slogan is becoming after this tragedy."

The school resource officer on Feb. 14 took up a position viewing the western entrance of that building for more than four minutes after the shooting started, but "he never went in," Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said at a news conference. The shooting lasted about six minutes.

The officer, Scot Peterson, was suspended without pay and placed under investigation, then chose to resign, Israel said. When asked what Peterson should have done, Israel said the deputy should have "went in, addressed the killer, killed the killer."

The sheriff said he was "devastated, sick to my stomach. There are no words. I mean these families lost their children. We lost coaches. I've been to the funerals. ... I've been to the vigils. It's just, ah, there are no words."

A telephone message left at a listing for Peterson by The Associated Press wasn't returned. An AP reporter who later went to Peterson's home in a suburb of West Palm Beach saw lights on and cars in the driveway, but no one answered the door during an attempt to seek comment.

Meanwhile, new information has emerged that there was a communication issue between the person reviewing the school's security system footage and officers who responded to the school.

Coral Springs Police Chief Tony Pustizzi said during a news conference Thursday that the footage being reviewed was 20 minutes old, so the responding officers were hearing that the shooter was in a certain place while officers already in that location were saying that wasn't the case. Pustizzi said the confusion didn't put anyone in danger.

Shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz, 19, has been jailed on 17 counts of murder and has admitted the attack, authorities have said. Cruz owned a collection of weapons. Defense attorneys, state records and people who knew him have described troubling incidents going back years.

Broward County incident reports show that unidentified callers contacted authorities with concerns about Cruz in February 2016 and November 2017. The first caller said they had third-hand information that Cruz planned to shoot up the school. The information was forwarded to the Stoneman Douglas resource officer. The second caller said Cruz was collecting guns and knives and believed "he could be a school shooter in the making."

Also in November 2017, Cruz was involved in a fight with the adult son of a woman he was staying with shortly after his mother died, according to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office report. On Nov. 28, a 22-year-old man at the Lake Worth home told the responding deputy the he tried to calm down Cruz, who had been punching holes in walls and breaking objects, but Cruz hit him in the jaw, and the man hit Cruz back.

The deputy found Cruz a short time later at a nearby park. Cruz told the deputy he had been angry because he misplaced a photo of his recently deceased mother, and he apologized for losing his temper.

The other man told the deputy he didn't want Cruz arrested. He just wanted Cruz to calm down before

coming home.

Politicians under pressure to tighten gun laws in response to the mass shooting floated various plans Thursday, but most fell short of reforms demanded by student activists who converged Wednesday on Florida's Capitol.

Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran said Thursday night that his chamber is going to recommend creating a special commission to investigate the "abject breakdown at all levels" that led to the shooting deaths. The Republican said the commission, likely be led by a parent of one of the slain children, would have subpoena power.

Corcoran said the news about the resource officer's failure to respond did not dissuade him from moving ahead with what he was calling the "marshal" plan to let local law-enforcement officials train and deputize someone at the school who would be authorized to carry a gun.

State Sen. Bill Galvano, who is helping craft a bill in response to the shooting deaths, insisted the idea is not the same as arming teachers. He said the program would be optional and the deputized person would have to be trained by local law-enforcement agencies.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida said a visit to Stoneman Douglas prompted him to change his stance on large capacity magazines. The Republican insisted he is willing to rethink his past opposition on gun proposals if there is information the policies would prevent mass shootings.

"If we are going to infringe on the Second Amendment, it has to be a policy that will work," Rubio said in an interview Thursday with AP.

Fineout reported from Tallahassee, Florida, Jennifer Kay from Miami; Curt Anderson and David Fischer contributed from Miami, as well as Rhonda Shafner at the AP News Research Center.

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

## More deaths in Syria bombing campaign near Damascus

By ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government warplanes supported by Russia continued their relentless bombardment of the rebel-controlled eastern suburbs of Damascus for a sixth day Friday, killing five people, opposition activists and a war monitor reported. The death toll from the past week climbed to more than 400.

The number of casualties has overwhelmed rescuers and doctors at hospitals, many of which have also been bombed. World leaders a day earlier called for an urgent cease-fire in Syria to allow relief agencies to deliver aid and evacuate the critically sick and wounded from besieged areas to receive medical care.

But Russia's U.N. ambassador Vassily Nebenzia, who called Thursday's meeting, put forward last-minute amendments, saying the proposed resolution was "simply unrealistic." A new vote was likely Friday.

The United States accused Syrian President Bashar Assad of planning "to bomb or starve" opponents in besieged eastern Ghouta into submission — just as it did in Aleppo.

Kelley Currie, U.S. ambassador for economic and social affairs, told the U.N. Security Council that the Syrian leader is counting on Russia, a key ally and veto-wielding member of the council, to make sure it "is unable to stop their suffering."

The opposition's Syrian Civil Defense rescue group reported Friday new airstrikes in Douma, Arbeen and other towns that make up the eastern suburbs of Damascus known as eastern Ghouta.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least five people were killed in raids on Hammouriyeh, Zamalka, Douma and al-Marj. The Britain-based group monitors the Syria war through a network of activists on the ground.

Separately, Human Rights Watch on Friday criticized the way Turkey is conducting its offensive in northern Syria, saying it has failed to take necessary precautions to avoid civilian casualties. The New York-based group cites three attacks in the Afrin region in late January that it says killed a total of 26 civilians, includ-

ing 17 children. In a statement, it called on Turkey to thoroughly investigate these strikes and make the findings public.

Turkey launched an air and ground offensive in the Kurdish-controlled region on Jan. 20, saying it aims to clear Afrin of Syrian Kurdish militia known as the YPG which Turkey considers to be an offshoot of its own outlawed Kurdish rebels fighting within Turkey.

According to several estimates around 120 civilians have been killed so far in the offensive. Turkey denies hitting civilians.

The YPG on Friday accused Turkey of bombing a convoy of civilians that was crossing into Afrin to protest Turkey's offensive, resulting in multiple casualties who were moved to hospitals in Afrin for treatment.

Syrian state TV had on Thursday night said a convoy carrying aid and heading toward Afrin has been targeted by Turkish artillery, inflicting casualties.

The TV gave no further details about Thursday's incident, which came two days after pro-government fighters began entering the predominantly Kurdish town to shore up the Kurdish forces, after reaching an agreement with the YPG. Turkey has threatened to bomb the forces if they work together with the Kurds.

## Trump bucks NRA, backs raising age for buying assault rifles

By JILL COLVIN and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation should keep assault rifles out of the hands of anyone under 21, President Donald Trump says, defying his loyal supporters in the National Rifle Association amid America's public reckoning over gun violence. He also pushed hard for arming security guards and many teachers in U.S. schools.

"There's nothing more important than protecting our children," Trump said, adding that he'd spoken with many members of Congress and NRA officials and insisting they would go along with his plans in the wake of last week's school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people dead.

But there were no words of support from the NRA for his minimum-age proposal — and outright opposition from organizations of teachers and school security guards for the idea of arming schools to deal with intruders.

"The NRA will back it and so will Congress," Trump contended as he called for raising the legal age of purchase for "all" guns from 18 to 21. A spokesman later said Trump was speaking specifically about semi-automatic weapons. The president's proposal came just hours after the NRA affirmed its opposition, calling such a restriction an infringement on gun owners' rights.

Trump has spent the past two days listening to ideas about how to stem gun violence at schools after last week's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. On Wednesday, he heard from students and family members of those killed in recent shootings and on Thursday from local and state officials.

In Florida, meanwhile, funerals continued. And a sheriff's deputy who had been on duty at the school but never went inside to confront the shooter resigned after being suspended without pay.

Trump has been proposing a growing list of ideas, including more stringent background checks for gun buyers, reopening some mental institutions to hold potential killers and banning "bump stock" devices that allow semi-automatic rifles to mimic machine guns.

He said Thursday that many teachers have military experience and suggested they be paid bonuses for the added responsibility of carrying weapons. He also appeared open to other proposals to "harden" schools, such as fortifying walls and limiting entry points.

One idea he didn't like: the "active shooter" drills that some schools hold. He called that "a very negative thing" and said he wouldn't want his own son participating.

Spokesman Raj Shah later said Trump was concerned about the name and would prefer calling them safety drills.

In Florida, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio said he now is open to raising age requirements for long-gun purchases. That was the day after he was confronted at a CNN town hall by Parkland students and parents over his pro-gun votes and support from the NRA.

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Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts, another Republican, told reporters during a visit to the Kansas Statehouse that he supported raising age requirements, saying, "Certainly, nobody under 21 should have an AR-15."

NRA leaders emerged in unannounced appearances at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, blaming the FBI and local reporting failures for the Florida shooting.

"Evil walks among us and God help us if we don't harden our schools and protect our kids," said Executive Vice President and CEO Wayne LaPierre. "The whole idea from some of our opponents that armed security makes us less safe is completely ridiculous."

The NRA was an early supporter of Trump's campaign, and it remains unclear how far the president will go to cross them.

Shortly before LaPierre took the stage, Trump offered a rallying cry on Twitter, calling NRA leaders "Great People and Great American Patriots. They love our Country and will do the right thing."

"I don't think I'll be going up against them," he said of the politically influential group. "I really think the NRA wants to do what's right."

In Congress, a bill being drafted by Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., would apply more broadly than just to assault rifles such as the AR-15 used in the Florida shootings. It would raise the age requirements for all rifles.

In the end, Trump did not stray too far from conservative Republican orthodoxy. His focus when it comes to background checks is on mental health concerns and not loopholes that permit loose private gun sales on the internet and at gun shows. And he remains opposed to a full ban on assault rifles, Shah said.

Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said he was skeptical the president would follow through.

"The last time he showed support for sensible gun reform — no fly, no buy — he quickly dropped his support once the NRA opposed it. I hope this time will be different," Schumer said in a statement, referring to a measure backed by Democrats to prevent people on a terrorism-related "no fly" list from buying guns.

Indeed, it is not clear that the GOP-controlled Congress, which is in recess, will take up or act on a variety of legislative proposals that have been made to address gun violence. Those include measures to expand federal background checks, allow authorities to issue emergency orders to take guns from people identified as a threat to themselves or others, and raise the minimum age for rifle purchases to 21.

Polls show growing support for gun control measures, including 97-percent backing for universal background checks in a Quinnipiac University survey released Tuesday.

But recent mass shootings, including the 2012 mass murder of elementary school children in Newtown, Connecticut, and the killing of 58 people in Las Vegas last fall, have not resulted in significant legislation. In fact, a bill passed by the House in December would make it easier for gun owners to carry concealed weapons across state lines.

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Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey, Ken Thomas, Darlene Superville, Alan Fram and Sadie Gorman in Washington, Zeke Miller in Oxon Hill, Maryland, and John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas, contributed to this report.

## Florida man screams, yells 'murderers!' as he's put to death

By JASON DEAREN, Associated Press

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — As the execution drugs were being administered, inmate Eric Scott Branch let out a blood-curdling scream. Then he yelled "murderers! murderers! murderers!" as he thrashed on a gurney as he was being put to death for the 1993 rape and slaying of a college student.

The drugs included a powerful sedative Thursday evening and the 47-year-old inmate, following the outburst, gave a last guttural groan and turned silent. Minutes earlier, he had just been addressing corrections officers, saying it should fall to Florida Gov. Rick Scott and his attorney general to carry out the death sentence — not to those workers present.

"Let them come down here and do it," Branch said. "I've learned that you're good people and this is not what you should be doing."

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Branch was pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m. Thursday after receiving the injection at Florida State Prison in Starke. The governor's office made the announcement.

Asked later whether Branch's scream could have been caused by the execution drugs, Department of Corrections spokeswoman Michelle Glady said "there was no indication" that the inmate's last actions were a result of the injection procedure. She said that conclusion had been confirmed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Branch was convicted of raping and fatally beating University of West Florida student Susan Morris, 21. Her naked body was found buried in a shallow grave — a crime whose brutality was noted by the Florida Supreme Court in denying one of Branch's appeals.

"She had been beaten, stomped, sexually assaulted and strangled. She bore numerous bruises and lacerations, both eyes were swollen shut," the justices wrote.

Evidence in the case shows Branch approached Morris after she left a night class on Jan. 11, 1993, so he could steal her red Toyota and return to his home state of Indiana. He was arrested while traveling there.

Branch also was convicted of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl in Indiana and of another sexual assault in the Florida Panhandle that took place just 10 days before Morris was killed, court records show.

The jury in his murder case recommended the death penalty by a 10-2 vote under Florida's old capital punishment system, which was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2016. The high court said juries must reach a unanimous recommendation for death and judges cannot overrule that. Florida legislators subsequently changed the system to comply.

One of Branch's final and unsuccessful appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court involved whether he deserved a new sentencing hearing because of that jury's 10-2 vote in his 1994 trial. The Florida Supreme Court has ruled that the new system of sentencing did not apply to inmates sentenced to death before 2002.

Elsewhere, Texas' governor spared a convicted killer's life shortly before the inmate was to have been executed Thursday for masterminding the fatal shootings of his mother and brother. Gov. Greg Abbott accepted the state parole board's rare clemency recommendation and commuted the sentence of Thomas "Bart" Whitaker to life without parole. Whitaker's father also was shot in the 2003 plot at the family's suburban Houston home but survived. He led an effort to save his son from execution.

And in Alabama, officials postponed the execution of Doyle Lee Hamm, who was scheduled to die Thursday evening for the 1987 death of a motel clerk during a robbery. Hamm fought his death sentence, arguing there was a risk of a botched execution because of damage to his veins from lymphoma and other illnesses. The U.S. Supreme Court delayed the execution Thursday evening to consider Hamm's request to block it, but then gave the go-ahead about 9 p.m. Corrections spokesman Bob Horton said there was not enough time to prepare Hamm before the death warrant expired at midnight.

In Florida, relatives of victim Susan Morris said they remain profoundly grieved by her violent death. Though Morris was 21 when she was killed, more time has passed than the number of years she lived, the family statement said. Still, the pain remains.

"Twenty-five years ago, Susan's life was suddenly and brutally extinguished. We have grieved for her longer that she was with us. Yet because of who she was ... she will never be forgotten by those who love her," said the statement, read out by her sister Wendy Morris Hill shortly after Branch was put to death.

Associated Press writer Curt Anderson in Miami contributed to this story

## Myanmar bulldozes what is left of Rohingya Muslim villages

By TODD PITMAN and ESTHER HTUSAN, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — First, their villages were burned to the ground. Now, Myanmar's government is using bulldozers to literally erase them from the earth — in a vast operation rights groups say is destroying crucial evidence of mass atrocities against the nation's ethnic Rohingya Muslim minority.

Satellite images of Myanmar's troubled Rakhine state, released to The Associated Press by Colorado-based DigitalGlobe on Friday, show that dozens of empty villages and hamlets have been completely leveled by authorities in recent weeks — far more than previously reported. The villages were all set ablaze

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in the wake of violence last August, when a brutal clearance operation by security forces drove hundreds of thousands of Rohingya into exile in Bangladesh.

While Myanmar's government claims it's simply trying to rebuild a devastated region, the operation has raised deep concern among human rights advocates, who say the government is destroying what amounts to scores of crime scenes before any credible investigation takes place. The operation has also horrified the Rohingya, who believe the government is intentionally eviscerating the dwindling remnants of their culture to make it nearly impossible for them to return.

One displaced Rohingya woman, whose village was among those razed, said she recently visited her former home in Myin Hlut and was shocked by what she saw. Most houses had been torched last year, but now, "everything is gone, not even the trees are left," the woman, named Zubairia, told AP by telephone. "They just bulldozed everything ... I could hardly recognize it."

The 18-year-old said other homes in the same area that had been abandoned but not damaged were also flattened. "All the memories that I had there are gone," she said. "They've been erased."

Myanmar's armed forces are accused not just of burning Muslim villages with the help of Buddhist mobs, but of carrying out massacres, rapes and widespread looting. The latest crisis in Rakhine state began in August after Rohingya insurgents launched a series of unprecedented attacks on security posts.

Aerial photographs of leveled villages in northern Rakhine State were first made public Feb. 9 when the European Union's ambassador to Myanmar, Kristian Schmidt, posted images taken from an aircraft of what he described as a "vast bulldozed area" south of the town of Maungdaw.

Satellite imagery from DigitalGlobe indicates at least 28 villages or hamlets were leveled by bulldozers and other machinery in a 30-mile (50-kilometer) radius around Maungdaw between December and February; on some of the cleared areas, construction crews had erected new buildings or housing structures and helipads. A similar analysis by Human Rights Watch on Friday said at least 55 villages have been affected so far.

The images offer an important window into what is effectively a part of Myanmar that is largely sealed off to the outside world. Myanmar bars independent media access to the state.

The government has spoken of plans to rebuild the region for months, and it has been busily expanding roads, repairing bridges, and constructing shelters, including dozens at a large transit camp at Taungpyo, near the Bangladesh border. The camp opened in January to house returning refugees; but none have arrived and Rohingya have continued to flee.

Myint Khine, a government administrator in Maungdaw, said some of the new homes were intended for Muslims. But that does not appear to be the case for the majority of those built or planned so far, and many Rohingya fear authorities are seizing land they've lived on for generations.

One list, published by the government in December, indicated 787 houses would be constructed, most of them for Buddhists or Hindus. Only 22 of the houses were slated for "Bengalis" — the word Myanmar nationalists often use to describe the Rohingya, who they say are illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

Myint Khine said the government had no ulterior motive.

"Of course we have been using machines like earth removers and bulldozers because we have to clear the ground first before building new houses," he said.

Chris Lewa, whose Arakan Project monitors the persecuted Muslim minority's plight, said the degree to which the villages had been razed would make it even harder for the Rohingya, who have no citizenship and few rights, to ever reclaim their land.

"How will they identify where they lived, if nothing is left, if nothing can be recognized?" Lewa said. "Their culture, their history, their past, their present — it's all being erased. When you see the pictures, it's clear that whatever was left — the mosques, the cemeteries, the homes — they're gone."

Richard Weir, a Myanmar expert with Human Rights Watch, said on the images he had seen, "there's no more landmarks, there's no trees, there's no vegetation."

"Everything is wiped away, and this is very concerning, because these are crime scenes," he said. "There's been no credible investigation of these crimes. And so, what we're talking about really is obstruction of justice."

Both Weir and Lewa said no mass graves were known to have been destroyed. But, Weir added: "We don't know where all the graves are ... because there is no access."

Zubairia, who asked that only one of her names be used to protect her identity because she feared reprisals, said she did not believe any of the newly constructed homes were intended for Rohingya.

"Even if they give us small houses to live in, it will never be the same for us," she said. "How can we be happy about our houses being ripped off from our land?"

## Russians get 1st gold thanks to 15-year-old Zagitova

By **BARRY WILNER, AP Sports Writer**

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP) — A few years back, Alina Zagitova nearly was sent home from training for not working hard enough.

Now, she heads home with Olympic gold, the first for the Russians at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

A grateful nation — upset that their flag, anthem and dozens of athletes were banned from the games because of a doping scandal — can thank the 15-year-old who beat the 18-year-old who had inspired her to become a figure skater, Evgenia Medvedeva. And thank their coach, Eteri Tutberidze, who gave the less-than-diligent Zagitova one more chance to prove herself when she wanted to quit.

"My hands were shaking, but my body was doing everything I'd trained to do," Zagitova said Friday after a rare tie in the free skate earned her the top spot because she beat Medvedeva in the short program two days earlier, when both women broke the previous world record score.

"I can't believe I am the champion."

Kaetlyn Osmond, who had considered quitting the sport, won bronze to give Canada four overall medals in figure skating.

"I felt strong and in the best shape that I've ever been in my entire life, she said. "I can't believe that I ever thought about retiring."

Zagitova's victory in one of the games' spotlight events ended the gold drought for the Russians and added another chapter to her battle with her friend and training partner. It could become a skating rivalry for the ages.

"I've got a big life in sports ahead of me and I want to keep going for many years," Medvedeva said.

"I can do more in this sport," Zagitova added. "There are a lot of titles to win and the Olympics is the biggest."

Medvedeva seemed well on her way to Olympic gold as she went unbeaten for two seasons. But she battled a cracked bone in her right foot this season and Zagitova emerged, eventually surpassing Medvedeva.

Medvedeva had set a world mark in the short program, and a few minutes later her countrywoman beat it. The difference in the short program wound up being the exact margin — 1.31 points— between gold and silver.

On Friday, Zagitova went first, greeted by loud chants and cheers from the Russian fans desperate for that first gold.

She nailed everything with fluid flair and technical brilliance. Zagitova earned 156.65 points for her program to "Don Quixote," laying down the challenge for her countrywoman.

"I didn't feel competition, I felt I didn't have the right to a mistake," she said. "That gave me a boost, and nerves, too."

Medvedeva matched the performance, but that was not enough.

"I wanted to leave everything out there on the ice," she said. "I've got no regrets."

Zagitova backloaded her program that featured 10 jumps, earning bonus points for difficult tricks late in the free skate. She needed every point.

Her poise on the ice and off — unlike many of the other competitors, no tears flowed from Zagitova — belied her years. Whether she can follow up this triumph with more, unlike 2014 Sochi winner Adelina Sotnikova, who has struggled since — will be fascinating to watch.

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Other than Mirai Nagasu's triple axel, it was not a memorable Olympics for the American women. They finished ninth, 10th and 11th, their weakest showing since World War II. Sixth place had been the low point.

Nagasu, fourth at the Vancouver Games in 2010, became the first American woman to land that 3 1/2-revolution jump in an Olympics, helping the United States take the team bronze. From there, it was downhill. She never got elevation for the triple axel Friday and ended up 10th. She was one spot in front of Karen Chen, the 2017 U.S. champion. Bradie Tennell, this year's winner at nationals, was ninth.

Chen fell once and had bobbles on other jumps and moves. Tennell, who heading to South Korea hadn't missed a jump all season, twice stepped out on planned combinations.

"I think we all could have skated better, but you know, you knock us down and we get up to fight," Tennell said.

Both Chen and Tennell are expected to keep skating and will need vast improvement to catch up to the Russians, Japanese and Canadians who have come to dominate the women's event.

Italy's Carolina Kostner, the 2014 bronze medalist, was fifth, one spot in front of Japan's Kaori Sakamoto.

AP Sports Writers Dave Skretta and James Ellingworth contributed.

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

## Grand jury indicts Missouri governor who admitted affair

By JIM SALTER, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A St. Louis grand jury on Thursday indicted Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens on a felony invasion of privacy charge for allegedly taking a compromising photo of a woman with whom he had an affair in 2015. The Republican governor responded that he made a mistake but committed no crime.

St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner launched an investigation in January after Greitens admitted to an affair with his St. Louis hairdresser that began in March 2015. He was elected governor in November 2016.

Thursday's indictment was followed with an announcement by House Republican leaders that they were forming a group of lawmakers to investigate the charges "and answer the question as to whether or not the governor can lead our state while a felony case moves forward."

In a statement following the indictment, the Republican governor was defiant and attacked the prosecutor who brought the charge.

"As I have said before, I made a personal mistake before I was Governor," he said. "I did not commit a crime. With today's disappointing and misguided political decision, my confidence in our prosecutorial system is shaken, but not broken. I know this will be righted soon. The people of Missouri deserve better than a reckless liberal prosecutor who uses her office to score political points."

Greitens' attorney, in a separate statement, called the indictment "baseless and unfounded."

"In 40 years of public and private practice, I have never seen anything like this," attorney Edward L. Dowd Jr. said.

Gardner's spokeswoman, Susan Ryan, responded: "Despite the Governor's personal attacks, the Circuit Attorney believes the courtroom is the appropriate place to argue the facts, not the media."

Greitens' legal team immediately filed a motion to dismiss the indictment on the grounds that any relationship with the woman was consensual.

Some lawmakers renewed suggestions that Greitens should consider resigning, as they had done when the affair first became public last month.

Democratic state Sen. Jamilah Nasheed of St. Louis called for an impeachment process to begin immediately.

"Gov. Greitens has to go," Nasheed said. "Missourians thought they voted for a person of character and integrity, and instead they got a liar and alleged criminal."

Any impeachment process must begin in the House with an investigation.



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The joint statement from House Speaker Todd Richardson, Speaker Pro Tem Elijah Haahr and Majority Leader Rob Vescovo did not specifically mention impeachment while noting that they were initiating an investigation.

The indictment states that on March 21, 2015, Greitens photographed a woman identified only by her initials "in a state of full or partial nudity" without her knowledge or consent. The indictment said Greitens "transmitted the image contained in the photograph in a manner that allowed access to that image via a computer."

In 2015, the woman told her husband, who was secretly taping the conversation, that Greitens took the compromising photo of her at his home and threatened to use it as blackmail if she spoke about the affair.

The penalty for first-degree invasion of privacy in Missouri is a sentence of up to four years behind bars.

Greitens was taken into custody in St. Louis and released on his own recognizance. He is due in court for his first hearing on March 16, before Circuit Judge Rex Burlison.

Greitens has repeatedly denied blackmailing the woman, but has repeatedly refused to answer questions about whether he took a photo.

The indictment came about a month before the statute of limitations would have run out. The statute of limitations for invasion of privacy in Missouri is three years.

Ryan, asked if additional charges could be filed, said the matter is still under investigation. Several lawmakers were questioned last week by investigators from Gardner's office.

Greitens, the 43-year-old father of two young boys, came into office as a political outsider, a brash Rhodes Scholar and Navy SEAL officer who was wounded in Iraq, emerging as the winner in a crowded and expensive GOP primary.

A former boxer and martial arts expert, he has embraced the role of maverick. He responded to a Democratic attack ad in the fall of 2016 with one of his own in which he fired more than 100 rounds from a machine gun as an announcer declared he'd bring out "the big guns" to fight Democratic policies championed by then-President Barack Obama.

Greitens surprised many experts by defeating Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster in the November 2016 election. Some saw him as a rising Republican star with potential presidential aspirations.

But governing hasn't always been easy, even though Republicans now control both houses as well as the governor's mansion. Greitens and GOP lawmakers have often clashed, with him comparing some to third-graders and labeling them "career politicians."

He has also faced questions about so-called "dark money" campaign contributions and criticism for stacking the state board of education. His use of a secretive app that deletes messages is under investigation by Republican Attorney General Josh Hawley.

Greitens' charity, The Mission Continues, faced scrutiny during the campaign when Democrats accused him of insider politics for accessing the donor list to raise about \$2 million through its top contributors.

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AP reporters Summer Ballentine, David A. Lieb and Blake Nelson in Jefferson City, Missouri, contributed to this report.

## **Sheriff: School officer never went inside to confront gunman**

**By BRENDAN FARRINGTON, GARY FINEOUT and TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The armed officer on duty at the Florida school where a shooter killed 17 people never went inside to engage the gunman and has been placed under investigation, officials announced Thursday.

The Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School by a gunman armed with an AR-15 style assault rifle has reignited national debate over gun laws and school safety, including proposals by President Donald Trump and others to designate more people — including trained teachers — to carry arms on school grounds. Gun-control advocates, meanwhile, have redoubled their push to ban assault rifles.

The school resource officer at the high school took up a position viewing the western entrance of the

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building that was under attack for more than four minutes, but "he never went in," Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said at a Thursday news conference. The shooting lasted about six minutes.

The officer, Scot Peterson, was suspended without pay and placed under investigation, then chose to resign, Israel said. When asked what Peterson should have done, Israel said the deputy should have "went in, addressed the killer, killed the killer."

A telephone message left at a listing for Peterson by The Associated Press wasn't immediately returned. An AP reporter who later went to Peterson's home in a suburb of West Palm Beach saw lights on and cars in the driveway, but no one answered the door when AP attempted to get further comment.

The sheriff said he was "devastated, sick to my stomach. There are no words. I mean, these families lost their children. .... I've been to the funerals. ... I've been to the vigils. It's just, ah, there are no words."

There was also a communication issue between the person reviewing the school's security system footage and officers who responded to the school.

Coral Springs Police Chief Tony Pustizzi said during a Thursday news conference that the footage being reviewed was 20 minutes old, so the responding officers were hearing that the shooter was in a certain place while officers already in that location were saying that wasn't the case.

"There was nothing wrong with their equipment. Their equipment works," Pustizzi said. "It's just that when the person was reviewing the tape from 20 minutes earlier, somehow that wasn't communicated to the officers that it was a 20-minute delay."

Pustizzi said the confusion didn't put anyone in danger.

Shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz, 19, has been jailed on 17 counts of murder and has admitted the attack. He owned a collection of weapons. Defense attorneys, state records and people who knew him indicate that he displayed behavioral troubles for years.

Broward County incident reports show that unidentified callers contacted authorities with concerns about Cruz in February 2016 and November 2017. The first caller said they had third-hand information that Cruz planned to shoot up the school. The information was forwarded to the Stoneman Douglas resource officer. The second caller said Cruz was collecting guns and knives and believed "he could be a school shooter in the making."

Also in November 2017, Cruz was involved in a fight with the adult son of a woman he was staying with shortly after his mother died, according to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office report. On Nov. 28, a 22-year-old man at the Lake Worth home told the responding deputy the he tried to calm down Cruz, who had been punching holes in walls and breaking objects, but Cruz hit him in the jaw, and the man hit Cruz back.

The deputy found Cruz a short time later at a nearby park. Cruz told the deputy he had been angry because he misplaced a photo of his recently deceased mother, and he apologized for losing his temper.

The other man told the deputy he didn't want Cruz arrested. He just wanted Cruz to calm down before coming home.

Politicians under pressure to tighten gun laws in response to the mass shooting floated various plans Thursday, but most fell short of reforms demanded by student activists who converged Wednesday on Florida's Capitol.

Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran said Thursday night that his chamber is going to recommend creating a special commission to investigate the "abject breakdown at all levels" that led to the shooting deaths.

The Republican said the commission, likely be led by a parent of one of the slain children, would have subpoena power.

Corcoran also said the news about the resource officer's failure to respond did not dissuade him from moving ahead with what he was calling the "marshal" plan to let local law-enforcement officials train and deputize someone at the school who would be authorized to carry a gun.

"He's not indicative of the law enforcement community; that's not going to change our behavior at all," Corcoran said.

State Sen. Bill Galvano, who is helping craft a bill in response to the shooting deaths, insisted the idea

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is not the same as arming teachers. He said the program would be optional and the deputized person would have to be trained by local law-enforcement agencies.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida said a visit to Stoneman Douglas prompted him to change his stance on large capacity magazines. The Republican insisted he is willing to rethink his past opposition on gun proposals if there is information the policies would prevent mass shootings.

"If we are going to infringe on the Second Amendment, it has to be a policy that will work," Rubio said in an interview Thursday with AP.

A day after an emotional meeting with survivors and their families, Trump tweeted his strongest stance yet on gun control. He said he would endorse strengthening background checks, banning "bump stock" style devices and raising the minimum age to 21 for buying certain rifles.

At a conference of conservative activists Thursday near Washington, Vice President Mike Pence said the administration would make school safety "our top national priority" after the shooting at the school in Parkland, Florida.

Calling school shootings "evil in our time," Pence exhorted those in positions of authority "to find a way to come together with American solutions."

It was a markedly different tone than that deployed on stage minutes earlier by NRA Executive Vice President and CEO Wayne LaPierre, who delivered an unbowed defense of gun ownership and lashed out at Democrats — saying they are using the tragedy for "political gain."

Spencer reported from Parkland, Florida. Associated Press writers Freida Frisaro and Curt Anderson in Miami, Kelli Kennedy in Coral Springs, Florida, Joe Reedy in Tallahassee, Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg and Alex Sanz in Atlanta contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to fix the spelling of the high school's name.

## Trump says raise age for buying assault rifles, defying NRA

By JILL COLVIN and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation should keep assault rifles out of the hands of anyone under 21, President Donald Trump declared Thursday, defying his loyal supporters in the National Rifle Association amid America's public reckoning over gun violence. He also pushed hard for arming security guards and many teachers in U.S. schools.

"There's nothing more important than protecting our children," Trump said, adding that he'd spoken with many members of Congress and NRA officials and insisting they would go along with his plans in the wake of last week's school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people dead.

But there were no words of support from the NRA for his minimum-age proposal — and outright opposition from organizations of teachers and school security guards for the idea of arming schools to deal with intruders.

"The NRA will back it and so will Congress," Trump contended as he called for raising the legal age of purchase for "all" guns from 18 to 21. A spokesman later said Trump was speaking specifically about semi-automatic weapons. The president's proposal came just hours after the NRA affirmed its opposition, calling such a restriction an infringement on gun owners' rights.

Trump has spent the past two days listening to ideas about how to stem gun violence at schools after last week's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. On Wednesday, he heard from students and family members of those killed in recent shootings and on Thursday from local and state officials.

In Florida, meanwhile, funerals continued. And a sheriff's deputy who had been on duty at the school but never went inside to confront the shooter resigned after being suspended without pay.

Trump has been proposing a growing list of ideas, including more stringent background checks for gun buyers, reopening some mental institutions to hold potential killers and banning "bump stock" devices that allow semi-automatic rifles to mimic machine guns.

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He said Thursday that many teachers have military experience and suggested they be paid bonuses for the added responsibility of carrying weapons. He also appeared open to other proposals to "harden" schools, such as fortifying walls and limiting entry points.

One idea he didn't like: the "active shooter" drills that some schools hold. He called that "a very negative thing" and said he wouldn't want his own son participating.

Spokesman Raj Shah later said Trump was concerned about the name and would prefer calling them safety drills.

In Florida, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio said he now is open to raising age requirements for long-gun purchases. That was the day after he was confronted at a CNN town hall by Parkland students and parents over his pro-gun votes and support from the NRA.

Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts, another Republican, told reporters during a visit to the Kansas Statehouse that he supported raising age requirements, saying: "Certainly, nobody under 21 should have an AR-15."

NRA leaders emerged in unannounced appearances at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, blaming the FBI and local reporting failures for the Florida shooting.

"Evil walks among us and God help us if we don't harden our schools and protect our kids," said Executive Vice President and CEO Wayne LaPierre. "The whole idea from some of our opponents that armed security makes us less safe is completely ridiculous."

NRA officials also accused Democrats and media outlets of exploiting the Florida shooting.

"Many in legacy media love mass shootings," spokeswoman Dana Loesch said at CPAC. "Now I'm not saying that you love the tragedy, but I am saying that you love the ratings. Crying white mothers are ratings gold."

She and LaPierre did not mention the age requirement issue in their fiery remarks at CPAC. But Loesch said Wednesday night the NRA opposes the higher minimum age for rifles because, "if we are asking young men and women to go and serve their country (in the military) they should be able to also have a firearm."

She added, "I'm also thinking of young women" who may need a rifle for self-protection.

The NRA was an early supporter of Trump's campaign, and it remains unclear how far the president will go to cross them.

Shortly before LaPierre took the stage, Trump offered a rallying cry on Twitter, calling NRA leaders "Great People and Great American Patriots. They love our Country and will do the right thing."

"I don't think I'll be going up against them," he said of the politically influential group. "I really think the NRA wants to do what's right."

In Congress, a bill being drafted by Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., would apply more broadly than just to assault rifles such as the AR-15 used in the Florida shootings. It would raise the age requirements for all rifles.

In the end, Trump did not stray too far from conservative Republican orthodoxy. His focus when it comes to background checks is on mental health concerns and not loopholes that permit loose private gun sales on the internet and at gun shows. And he remains opposed to a full ban on assault rifles, Shah said.

Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said he was skeptical the president would follow through.

"The last time he showed support for sensible gun reform — no fly, no buy — he quickly dropped his support once the NRA opposed it. I hope this time will be different," Schumer said in a statement, referring to a measure backed by Democrats to prevent people on a terrorism-related "no fly" list from buying guns.

Indeed, it is not clear that the GOP-controlled Congress, which is in recess, will take up or act on a variety of legislative proposals that have been made to address gun violence. Those include measures to expand federal background checks, allow authorities to issue emergency orders to take guns from people identified as a threat to themselves or others, and raise the minimum age for rifle purchases to 21.

The current federal minimum for buying handguns from registered dealers is 21, but the requirement in most places is 18 for rifles, including assault-type weapons such as the AR-15. In some states — mostly rural states with a strong tradition of hunting — young people can buy a rifle at age 14 or 16.

Polls show growing support for gun control measures, including 97-percent backing for universal background checks in a Quinnipiac University survey released Tuesday.

But recent mass shootings, including the 2012 mass murder of elementary school children in Newtown, Connecticut, and the killing of 58 people in Las Vegas last fall, have not resulted in significant legislation. In fact, a bill passed by the House in December would make it easier for gun owners to carry concealed weapons across state lines.

Still, Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Fla, said the president has a "unique ability right now to maybe really do something about these school shootings" because, at least in some districts, "nobody is more popular," including the NRA.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey, Ken Thomas, Darlene Superville, Alan Fram and Sadie Gorman in Washington, Zeke Miller in Oxon Hill, Maryland, and John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas, contributed to this report.

## **NRA accuses gun-control advocates of exploiting FL shooting**

**By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leaders of the National Rifle Association on Thursday accused gun control advocates of exploiting the deadly Florida school shooting, striking a defiant tone amid a renewed debate over guns and school safety.

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, in his first public comments since the shooting in Parkland, Florida, said NRA members mourn for the Florida victims but at the same time issued a searing indictment of gun control proponents for attempting to "exploit tragedy for political gain."

"They hate the NRA. They hate the Second Amendment. They hate individual freedom," LaPierre said at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Oxon Hill, Maryland, near the nation's capital.

LaPierre addressed the conservative activists shortly before President Donald Trump held a listening session with state and local leaders on gun safety at the White House.

The president said he had spoken to NRA leaders and expressed optimism that the nation's most prominent gun-owners organization would support his calls for raising the federal minimum age for buying or possessing certain weapons, enhancing background checks, addressing mental illness and banning the sale of bump stock devices.

NRA leaders did not address whether the federal government should raise the age requirement for young adults to buy weapons. A day earlier, the organization issued a statement saying it opposes raising the age limit.

"Evil walks among us and God help us if we don't harden our schools and protect our kids," LaPierre said. "The whole idea from some of our opponents that armed security makes us less safe is completely ridiculous."

LaPierre said Democrats such as House minority leader Nancy Pelosi of California and Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut were eagerly blaming the NRA. He also assailed the FBI for failing to follow up on warnings about the school shooter.

"Their solution is to make you, all of you, less free," LaPierre said of gun control advocates. "They want to sweep right under the carpet the failure of school security, the failure of family, the failure of America's mental health system, and even the unbelievable failure of the FBI."

The longtime face of the NRA was preceded on stage by the group's spokeswoman, Dana Loesch, a prominent conservative radio host. She accused media outlets of focusing heavily on school shootings involving white and affluent neighborhoods instead of those occurring in inner cities.

"Many in legacy media love mass shootings, you guys love it," Loesch said. "Now I'm not saying that you love the tragedy but I am saying that you love the ratings. Crying white mothers are ratings gold."

On Twitter follow Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

## New charges brought against ex-Trump campaign associates

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dramatically escalating the pressure and stakes, special counsel Robert Mueller filed additional criminal charges Thursday against President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman and his business associate.

The filing adds allegations of tax evasion and bank fraud and significantly increases the legal jeopardy facing Paul Manafort, who managed Trump's campaign for several months in 2016, and longtime associate Rick Gates. Both had already faced the prospect of at least a decade in prison if convicted at trial.

The two men were initially charged in a 12-count indictment in October that accused them of a multimillion-dollar money-laundering conspiracy tied to lobbying work for a Russia-friendly Ukrainian political party. Manafort and Gates, who also worked on Trump's campaign, both pleaded not guilty after that indictment.

The new charges, contained in a 32-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Virginia, allege that Manafort and Gates doctored financial documents, lied to tax preparers and defrauded banks — using money they cycled through offshore accounts to spend lavishly, including on real estate, interior decorating and other luxury goods.

The new criminal case, assigned to U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III, comes a week after a separate Mueller indictment charged 13 Russians and three companies in a conspiracy to undermine the 2016 U.S. presidential election through a hidden social media propaganda effort. The charges against Manafort and Gates don't relate to any allegations of misconduct related to Trump's campaign, though Mueller is continuing to investigate potential ties to the Kremlin.

Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni said in a statement that the former Trump campaign chairman is innocent and stressed that the charges "have nothing to do with Russia and 2016 election interference/collusion."

Manafort "is confident that he will be acquitted of all charges," Maloni said.

The charges against Manafort and Gates arise from their foreign lobbying and efforts that prosecutors say they made to conceal their income by disguising it as loans from offshore companies. More recently, after their Ukrainian work dwindled, the indictment also accuses them of fraudulently obtaining more than \$20 million in loans from financial institutions.

The new indictment increases the amount of money Manafort, with the assistance of Gates, is accused of laundering to \$30 million. It also charges Manafort and Gates with filing false tax returns from 2010 through 2014 and in most of those years concealing their foreign bank accounts from the IRS.

The indictment contains references to other conspirators who are accused of helping Manafort and Gates in obtaining fraudulent loans. It doesn't name the conspirators but notes that one of them worked at one of the lenders.

In a document that accompanied the new indictment, prosecutors said they had filed the charges in Virginia, rather than Washington where the other case is pending, because the alleged conduct occurred there and one of the defendants objected to them being brought in Washington. It did not say which defendant objected.

The indictment comes amid ongoing turmoil in the Manafort and Gates defense camps. Manafort has been unable to reach an agreement with prosecutors over the terms of his bail and remains under house arrest, while Gates' lawyers withdrew from the case after acknowledging "irreconcilable differences" with their client. A new lawyer, Thomas Green, entered an appearance Thursday on Gates' behalf.

Green confirmed to The Associated Press on Thursday evening that he represented Gates but did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the new charges.

Mueller was appointed in May to investigate potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign. He took over an ongoing FBI investigation into Manafort's foreign lobbying work.

After a two-month stretch that produced no charges, the new indictment is part of a flurry of activity for Mueller's team within the past week.

Besides the charges against the Russians, Mueller's team on Tuesday unsealed a guilty plea from a Dutch

lawyer who admitted he lied to investigators about his contacts with Gates.

Two other people who aided Trump in the campaign or in the White House — former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos — have pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about their foreign contacts. Neither man has been sentenced. Both are cooperating with the investigation.

Mueller is also examining whether Trump obstructed justice through actions including the firing last May of FBI Director James Comey. His team has expressed interest in interviewing the president.

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Associated Press writer Jeff Horwitz contributed to this report.

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Read the indictment: <http://apne.ws/Nz0Rco6>

## Vonn scatters grandfather's ashes near downhill course

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press**

JEONGSEON, South Korea (AP) — Lindsey Vonn came to South Korea with the goal of taking home an Olympic medal and leaving behind something even more special.

She did both.

The American ski great said Thursday she recently scattered some of the ashes of her grandfather, who served during the Korean War, on a rock near the mountain where the downhill races were run.

"I know that it would mean a lot to him to be back here, a part of him is in South Korea always," said Vonn, who shared her story with The Associated Press and the Chosun Ilbo newspaper.

Vonn said she sprayed parts of Don Kildow's ashes "just a few days ago" on a rock that she was told was special when she visited South Korea last year to be named a Pyeongchang Olympic ambassador. She described the location as "right by the men's downhill start."

Vonn burst into tears when she was asked about her grandfather during a news conference in Pyeongchang this month before the Olympics. He lived in Milton, Wisconsin, and died in November.

"I miss him so much," she said. "He's been such a big part of my life. And I really had hoped that he would be alive to see me (at this year's Olympics). But I know he's watching, and I know that he's going to help me and I'm going to win for him."

Vonn won a bronze medal in the downhill, but skied out of Thursday's slalom leg of the Alpine combined in what was likely her last Olympic race. Later in the day, a group of elderly South Korean men gave her family some gifts and a letter of thanks to mark her grandfather's service during the 1950-53 Korean War.

"To be able to race for him in these Olympics was very special for me. And I tried everything I could to win for him," Vonn said. "I got a bronze, which, you know, to me was very special. And I think he would be proud of that."

During Thursday's brief meeting with seven elderly South Korean men, Vonn nodded a greeting several times and repeated "thank you so much" to them. In their letter of appreciation, the South Korean men said they expressed their thanks for what they call her grandfather's contribution for the freedom of South Korea. They also gave her traditional Korean fashion accessories and gloves.

Kildow served two years in South Korea in the Army Corps of Engineers in areas near Jeongseon, one of the three Olympic venues. He never had a chance to return to South Korea, but he had talked about the country in a "very favorable" way, according to his son, Alan Kildow, who attended Thursday's event with his two other daughters.

Alan Kildow broke into tears while talking about his father's memories of South Korea during the war. He said he separately scattered parts of his father's ashes in the country.

After the Olympics, Vonn plans to go home to get ready for the World Cup finals. She said she's "enjoying the last remaining days of the Olympics" with her family.

At the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, Vonn won gold in the downhill and bronze in the super-G. She missed the 2014 Sochi Games because of injury.

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The elderly South Koreans are from a fraternal society in Seoul called Yongsan Club, named after a neighborhood in the capital where the U.S. military command is headquartered.

About 37,000 U.S. troops were killed during the war, which ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty, technically leaving the Korean Peninsula in a state of war. The United States still stations about 28,000 soldiers in South Korea to deter potential aggression from North Korea.

Its military presence and cultural influence have been a long-running source of anti-American sentiments among many South Koreans who want greater footing in relations with Washington.

The Yongsan Club members were about 7 or 8 years old during the war but still vividly recall the devastation, saying South Korea could not have defended itself without the American-led U.N. forces.

"We were starving and we truly suffered lots of difficulties," club member Kim Soung Soo said. "Given that South Korea's economic prosperity wouldn't be possible without the support from the United States and other U.N. member states, we determined we must hold this kind of event to express our gratitude toward them."

Follow Hyung-jin Kim on Twitter at @hyungjin1972

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

## California senator quits as Legislature grapples with #MeToo

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A California state senator accused of sexual misconduct resigned Thursday just ahead of a possible vote to expel him, delivering a scathing resignation letter that called the investigation a farce and underscored the Legislature's struggle to respond to the #MeToo movement.

Democratic Sen. Tony Mendoza of the Los Angeles area said he may still run for the seat this fall, putting his party in an uncomfortable spot. His resignation letter takes aim at the leader of the Senate, a fellow Democrat and his former roommate in Sacramento who was leading the effort to kick him out.

"It is clear that Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon will not rest until he has my head on a platter to convince the MeToo movement of his 'sincerity' in supporting the MeToo cause," Mendoza wrote as he resigned.

De Leon, who is running for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democrat Dianne Feinstein, said the Legislature "won't tolerate abuse of power and a pattern of behavior that violates our harassment standards."

An investigation found that Mendoza likely engaged in unwanted "flirtatious or sexually suggestive" behavior with six women, including four subordinates, a lobbyist and a young woman in a fellowship with another lawmaker. He is the third California lawmaker to resign over sexual misconduct allegations since the #MeToo movement erupted nationally last fall, leading millions of women to share their experiences on social media.

Mendoza has consistently denied wrongdoing and blasted an investigation that he claimed was unfair, illegal and racially motivated. His complaints illustrate the Legislature's struggle to respond to growing demands for a change in a culture perceived as burying complaints and sheltering offenders.

"Removing senators from the process of deciding cases of sexual harassment involving their friends and roommates is imperative," said Sen. Andy Vidak, a Republican who first moved to expel Mendoza in January. "The Mendoza mess has brought to light all of the flaws of our sexual harassment policies but hopefully will lead us to some resolution."

The Legislature still hasn't adopted fair and transparent policies for sexual misconduct four months after dozens of women who work at the Capitol sent a letter calling for a change in culture, said Samantha Corbin, a lobbyist and co-founder of a group called We Said Enough that formed in the wake of the letter.

"There's a lot of room for interpretation, there's a lot of ambiguity, and it does neither the victims nor the perpetrators any type of justice," she said. "It's unfair for everyone."

Mendoza's resignation was the best solution for the women who accused him of misconduct, but it hasn't



delivered justice or due process, Corbin said.

Leaders of the Legislative Women's Caucus said more work remains to be done to ensure clear sexual harassment policies. Assemblywoman Susan Talamantes Eggman and Sen. Connie Leyva said the Legislature must ensure harassment claims are dealt with transparently and "no one is beyond reproach."

Mendoza's resignation letter was hand-delivered by an aide moments after the Senate Rules Committee lifted his suspension so he could return to the Capitol and publicly defend himself against expulsion. His photo was quickly removed from a wall showing the sitting lawmakers and replaced with the seal of the Senate.

Mendoza wrote that he wasn't able to see the evidence against him and was ordered to remain silent about the allegations. He said he couldn't get a fair hearing with so many of his fellow Democrats running for higher office and thinking about their own political futures.

Lawyers who conducted the investigation released Tuesday found that Mendoza "more likely than not" engaged in behavior such as offering a 19-year-old intern alcohol in a hotel suite at a Democratic event, suggesting a young woman in a Senate fellowship take a vacation with him and rent a room in his house, and asking several women about their romantic lives.

Mendoza, who is 46 and married, said in his resignation letter that "more likely than not" was a low standard of proof that didn't merit a penalty as high as expulsion. He called the Senate's process "farcical."

Mendoza had taken leave and then days before he was set to return in January, the Senate Rules Committee suspended him because the independent investigation had not yet concluded.

He doesn't plan to drop a lawsuit he filed last week seeking reinstatement. He alleged his suspension was unconstitutional, among other arguments.

Elected officials need to hold themselves to a higher standard, and the Senate doesn't need to hold itself to the same standard as a court of law, said Kim Nalder, director of the Project for an Informed Electorate at California State University, Sacramento.

"So long as there's a process that's transparent and rigorous, that's what we should expect of them."

The Senate could be challenged again soon. An investigation has concluded into Sen. Bob Hertzberg, whom at least three female colleagues say made them uncomfortable with hugs. The findings have not been made public.

Two other Los Angeles-area Democratic representatives, Raul Bocanegra and Matt Dababneh, resigned last fall. Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia has taken leave after she was accused of groping.

## Texas governor accepts recommendation, spares inmate

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Thursday spared the life of a convicted killer shortly before the man's scheduled execution for masterminding the fatal shootings of his mother and brother.

In sparing the life of Thomas "Bart" Whitaker about an hour before he was scheduled for lethal injection, Abbott accepted the state parole board's rare clemency recommendation. Whitaker's father, Kent, also was shot in the 2003 plot at the family's suburban Houston home but survived and led the effort to save his son from execution. Abbott commuted the sentence to life without parole.

"I'm thankful not for me but for my dad," Bart Whitaker told prison officials after getting the word in a tiny holding cell a few feet from the death chamber. "Any punishment that I would have or will receive is just, but my dad did nothing wrong. The system worked for him today. And I will do my best to uphold my role in the system."

The seven-member Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, whose members are appointed by the governor, recommended unanimously Tuesday that Abbott commute the sentence. Abbott, a Republican had the option of accepting the recommendation, rejecting it or doing nothing.

"Mr. Whitaker's father, who survived the attempt on his life, passionately opposes the execution of his son. Mr. Whitaker's father insists that he would be victimized again if the state put to death his last re-

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maintaining immediate family member," Abbott said in a proclamation issued Thursday evening, adding that Whitaker had also agreed to waive all further rights to parole.

Abbott, also citing the parole board's recommendation, added: "The totality of these factors warrants a commutation of Mr. Whitaker's death sentence to life in prison without the possibility of parole."

It was only the fourth time since the state resumed executions in 1982 that the parole board has recommended clemency within days of an inmate's scheduled execution. In the previous cases, then-Gov. Rick Perry, also a Republican, accepted the board's decision in one case and rejected the other two, who subsequently were put to death in the nation's most active capital punishment state.

Kent Whitaker said he was "humbled" and looked forward to hugging and touching his son.

"It was overpowering," he said of the governor's decision, which he learned in a phone call from Keith Hampton, one of his son's lawyers. He and supporters were nearby the prison in a home used by inmate visitors and were standing and praying, Whitaker said. He put Hampton's call on his speakerphone.

"The room erupted," he said.

Hampton said he was "very relieved (Abbott) did the right thing."

Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark said Bart Whitaker placed his arm through the bars of the holding cell after he was finished speaking with prison officials and asked to shake his hand.

"I haven't touched another person in 13 years," Whitaker told Clark, who said he accepted the prisoner's request. Death row inmates in Texas are kept alone in their cells for 23 hours a day and their one hour of recreation also is alone in a concrete wall enclosure.

Agency spokesman Jeremy Desel said Whitaker would not be returned to death row but would be taken to a prison processing facility where he'd be treated as a new incoming inmate and eventually assigned to a unit in general population, a process that likely would take a couple of weeks.

Kent and Patricia Whitaker and their two boys had returned home the night of Dec. 10, 2003, following a restaurant dinner to celebrate Bart Whitaker's college graduation when they were confronted by a gunman wearing dark clothes and a ski mask. Patricia Whitaker and her 19-year-old son, Kevin, were killed. Kent Whitaker and Bart were wounded.

Nearly two years later, Bart Whitaker was arrested in Mexico after investigators determined he arranged the plot in hopes of collecting a family estate he believed was worth more than \$1 million.

"I'm 100 percent guilty," Whitaker testified at his trial in 2007. "I put the plan in motion."

He hated his parents and brother at the time, he said.

Whitaker's father said he loves and has forgiven his son, calling him a changed person.

"As the greatest victim in this case, you don't have to convince me how awful this crime was," Kent Whitaker said.

Evidence showed the plot included two of Bart Whitaker's friends and was at least his third attempt to kill his family. Whitaker's wound to his arm was meant to draw attention away from his involvement. Unknown to his parents, the dinner celebration marking his graduation was a fraud. He'd dropped out of school months earlier.

The gunman, Chris Brashear, pleaded guilty in 2007 to a murder charge and is serving life in prison. Steve Champagne, who drove Brashear from the Whitaker house the night of the shootings, took a 15-year prison term in exchange for testifying at Whitaker's trial.

## World leaders urge Syria cease-fire as fighting escalates

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — World leaders called Thursday for an urgent cease-fire in Syria as government forces pounded the opposition-controlled eastern suburbs of the capital in a crushing campaign that has left hundreds of people dead in recent days.

The U.N. Security Council heard a briefing from U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock on what he called "the humanitarian disaster unfolding before our eyes" in the rebel-held suburbs known as eastern Ghouta.

Sweden and Kuwait were seeking a vote on a resolution ordering a 30-day cease-fire to allow relief agen-

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cies to deliver aid and evacuate the critically sick and wounded from besieged areas to receive medical care.

But Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, who called Thursday's meeting, put forward last-minute amendments, saying the proposed resolution was "simply unrealistic."

Russia's amendments would rule out an immediate cease-fire and instead demand that all parties "stop hostilities as soon as possible," and "work for an immediate and unconditional de-escalation of violence" and 30-day "humanitarian pause."

The Russian proposal would also condemn the "relentless shelling" of Damascus from eastern Ghouta, and deplore "the ongoing attempts by terrorist groups to retake areas and attack civilians and civilian objects."

Several council diplomats who examined the draft, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said it was unacceptable.

Nebenzia accused global media outlets of a massive disinformation campaign that ignored what he claimed were thousands of fighters, including al-Qaida-linked militants, that were shelling Damascus from eastern Ghouta and taking refuge in hospitals and schools.

Council members said they needed to study the Russian proposals.

"We will try and find a way forward that works for everyone," Sweden's U.N. Ambassador Olof Skoog told reporters, adding that a vote was likely on Friday.

In eastern Ghouta, medical workers said they hadn't been able to see their families for days as they worked round the clock at hospitals that have been moved underground to protect them from bombing, while their spouses and children stay in shelters.

"You can't be above ground for even 15 minutes," said a nurse in the town of Kafr Batna, who spoke on condition of anonymity to protect the identity of family members still living in government areas. "At any moment I expect to have to treat my relatives for wounds," he said.

In the background the deep boom of a bomb could be heard exploding as the nurse spoke by Skype to The Associated Press. He said a barrel bomb had fallen less than half a kilometer (one-third mile) away.

A spokesman for the Syrian Civil Defense search-and-rescue group said eastern Ghouta was being targeted for "extermination."

"This is a war against civilians," said the spokesman, Siraj Mahmoud. "The civil defense is being targeted as they rescue women and children, evacuate civilians from targeted areas and put out fires."

Four rescue workers of the organization, also known as the White Helmets, have been killed since Sunday, Mahmoud said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said 400 people, including dozens of children, have been killed since Sunday.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said al-Qaida-linked fighters were using civilians as human shields in the rebel-held suburbs outside Damascus.

Al-Qaida's Syria affiliate is not known to have many fighters in eastern Ghouta, and government forces on Thursday concentrated their fire on hospitals, ambulances, apartment blocks and other civilian sites, according to rescue workers, war monitors, human rights groups, and several videos emerging from the war-scarred region.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an immediate suspension of "all war activities" in the area where he said people were living "in hell on Earth."

The Russian military is supporting Assad's forces in the assault on eastern Ghouta, as it did in the 2016 campaign that drove the rebels from the enclaves they controlled in Syria's largest city, Aleppo. Then, as now, it cited the presence of al-Qaida-linked groups as grounds for the sweeping operation.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called on the European Union to step up pressure on Russia and Iran to end the violence in Syria.

"The regime is not fighting against terrorists, but against its own people, killing children, destroying hospitals, and this is a massacre to be condemned," she told Parliament.

Besides President Bashar Assad, Merkel said "Iran and Russia have a particular responsibility" as they are both supporting the government forces.

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"We need to do everything in our power to put an end to this massacre," she said.

Lavrov said in remarks in Belgrade, Serbia, that an al-Qaida-linked group blocked a proposal by Russia's military earlier this week to allow opposition fighters to leave eastern Ghouta in exchange for ending the government's offensive.

That contradicted an assertion by one of the largest rebel groups in eastern Ghouta, which told the AP that Russia refused to allow al-Qaida fighters to leave in November, and accused Moscow of wanting to keep the fighters there as a pretext for a comprehensive military campaign.

Russian news reports said Moscow has beefed up its forces in Syria with additional warplanes, including its latest fighter jets. The Kremlin wouldn't comment on the reports, referring questions to the military, which has remained mum about the deployment.

Russia has rejected allegations it was responsible for the mounting civilian casualties in eastern Ghouta, but anger has grown along with the death toll.

On Thursday, scores of protesters, including prominent Syrian opposition figures, gathered outside the Russian Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, chanting, "Russia get out of Syria" and "Iran get out of Syria" in Turkish and Arabic.

Syria's conflict, which has killed more than 400,000 people and displaced millions in the past seven years, has escalated in recent weeks as Assad and his allies push to retake remaining rebel-held areas in the country.

Turkey has also opened a new front against Syrian Kurdish fighters in the north, launching an air and ground offensive on the Kurdish-controlled enclave of Afrin last month.

Hundreds of pro-Syrian government fighters entered Afrin this week as part of an agreement with the Kurdish militia, known as the YPG, to bolster resistance to Turkey's assault.

Hundreds of people gathered in Afrin's main square Thursday, celebrating the pro-government fighters' arrival. TV footage showed fighters in camouflage uniforms standing among scores of men who gathered in the square waving posters of Assad.

Turkish warplanes could be heard flying overhead, sending some fleeing the area.

The pro-government daily Al-Watan said some 500 pro-government fighters have entered Afrin since Tuesday, taking positions along the region's borders.

A YPG spokesman, Nuri Mehmud, said the pro-government fighters brought in armored vehicles but said more was needed to withstand Turkey's military campaign.

"There needs to be a no-fly zone," Mehmud said. "The Syrian army must protect Syrian lands."

Turkey launched the operation to uproot the YPG from Afrin on Jan. 20, saying the group is linked to a Kurdish insurgency inside its own borders.

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Associated Press writers Zeina Karam and Bassem Mroue in Beirut, Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations, Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow and Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

## US women beat Canada for gold in a 3-2 shootout thriller

By TERESA M. WALKER, AP Sports Writer

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP) — Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson skated slowly back and forth toward the net, showing forehand, then leaning quickly to the left to fake a backhand that pulled Canadian goalie Shannon Szabados out of the crease.

On the sport's biggest stage, against the Americans' greatest rival, with all her teammates leaning eagerly over the boards watching her every move, the three-time Olympian came back to her forehand to finish off a dazzling, triple-deke move by sliding the puck into the net past the outstretched glove of Szabados for the deciding goal in the sixth round of a shootout thriller.

"I knew when that went in that Maddie was going to stop the next one," Lamoureux-Davidson said.

That would be 20-year-old goalie Maddie Rooney, who stuffed the last two Canadian shooters to wrap up a 3-2 victory Thursday that snapped the Americans' 20-year gold medal drought and ended Canada's

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bid for a fifth straight title in the first shootout in an Olympic women's final.

The Americans piled over the boards, throwing gloves in the air before piling on top of Rooney on the ice — 20 years after their last gold medal in women's hockey and 38 years to the day after the men's famous "Miracle on Ice" victory over the Soviet team in group play at Lake Placid.

"Joy's the only word that comes to mind," said Gigi Marvin, a three-time Olympian and at 30 the oldest American on the roster.

Even President Donald Trump, who has been mostly silent on Twitter about the Olympics, got in on the celebration. He tweeted his congratulations to the team.

This victory capped a year that started with the Americans threatening a boycott of the world championships to secure more money and the same kind of treatment that USA Hockey gives to the men's team.

"They should make a movie on it," forward Hilary Knight said. "We had all the drama and everything. It's sort of a storybook ending to an incredible series of accomplishments."

Nothing was more incredible than the move by Lamoureux-Davidson, who decided to use the deke called "Oops, I did it again" — something she had practiced uncounted times in practice, skating around tires set up on open ice to mimic defenders.

"I'm just thrilled beyond words," the beaming Lamoureux-Davidson said with a U.S. flag draped around her shoulders and gold hanging on her chest. "I've butchered it a thousand times, just ran into tires, tripped over tires just working on my hands. Just glad it worked out this time."

Her twin, Monique Lamoureux-Morando, said coach Peter Elander, now at Ohio State, had taught the sisters the shootout move when the three were at the University of North Dakota.

"Not everyone can take the pressure like that, and she took it like a champ," she said.

Marvin and Amanda Kessel also scored in the shootout, another nail-biter ending four years after Canada won its fourth-straight gold medal in Sochi after rallying to stun the Americans in overtime.

Knight gave the U.S. a 1-0 lead with 25.4 seconds left in the first, redirecting a shot from Sidney Morin through Szabados' pads to give the Americans a jolt of energy.

That lasted only 2 minutes into the second when Haley Irwin tipped a midair pass from Blayre Turnbull over Rooney's left leg for Canada. And when Morin lost the puck, Melodie Daoust grabbed it and passed to Meghan Agosta who hit Marie-Philip Poulin for the wrist into the left side of the net at 6:55 for a 2-1 lead.

Lamoureux-Morando tied it up with a breakaway with 6:21 left in regulation. Knight also had a goal and Rooney was spectacular, making 29 saves for the win. Rooney stopped the last two Canadian shooters in the shootout in Brienne Jenner and then Agosta on her second attempt.

Pressure? Rooney's grin was clear to see throughout the shootout.

"Right before she came down, I just looked over at the bench and saw my teammates like pointing at me, just one more," Rooney said. "And to have their support made it a whole lot easier. I just reacted to her, and then everything kind of went into a blur."

It was sweet redemption for the 10 Americans who watched the Canadians snatch gold away in Sochi. Not only did the Americans end the Canadians' stranglehold on Olympic gold, they ended a skid of five straight against their rival coming into this game, including a 2-1 loss in the tournament a week ago.

"It is everything for our country," U.S. coach Robb Stauber said. "I am just so thankful for the outcome. It was a thrilling final. It was unreal."

Poulin and Irwin each scored goals for Canada. Agosta and Daoust scored in the shootout.

The Canadians, who had pushed the Americans around for much of the game and taken penalties for it, wept on the ice as they accepted their silver medals. Jocelyne Larocque took hers off immediately and held it in her hands as the Americans stood nearby awaiting their gold.

"It's just hard," Larocque said. "You work so hard. We wanted gold but didn't get it."

The Canadians said they didn't like the shootout format, preferring overtime to settle a game of such magnitude.

"We've trained so hard," Agosta said. "It's unfortunate this had to come down to a shootout. When it comes down to a shootout it can be anybody's game."

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Added Canada coach Laura Schuler: "There's not a lot of words that can describe how you feel. It was a great game of hockey. It's what we expected: back and forth hockey."

The Americans had dominated the women's game in non-Olympic years, winning the last four and eight of the last 10 world championships, including a 3-2 overtime victory over Canada last spring.

It only made the lack of gold at the Olympics all the more noticeable, and Canada has been in their way since losing the inaugural gold in Nagano in 1998. Canada had won 24 straight Olympic games to go along with those four consecutive gold medals — a streak of success in a women's team sport second only to the U.S. basketball team's current streak of six straight gold.

This was the eighth time these North American rivals had met in the Olympics and the fifth with gold on the line. None has been decided by more than two goals.

Stauber went with Rooney in net after she won the only three games the U.S. took from Canada last fall during a pre-Olympic exhibition tour.

And like Lamoureux-Davidson, the youngster delivered in the biggest moment.

"Everything got into a blur, seeing my teammates sprinting at me," Rooney said. "It's an indescribable feeling."

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

Follow Teresa M. Walker at [www.twitter.com/teresamwalker](http://www.twitter.com/teresamwalker)

## US may never see another spiritual leader like Billy Graham

By JEFF KAROUB and JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

MONTREAT, N.C. (AP) — In the wake of the Rev. Billy Graham's death, religion scholars say this much is clear: There will never be another American spiritual leader with his reach and influence.

The evangelical movement that Graham helped solidify and embodied for much of the second half of the 20th century has splintered. The media he used so effectively has fragmented, too, since the days when baby boomers had a choice of only three TV stations in their living rooms. And politics has become more polarized, even toxic.

It's hard to imagine another U.S. religious leader like Graham filling a stadium for days on end and moving so deftly through the corridors of power that he could minister to Democratic and Republican presidents alike.

"I think his legacy will be the inclusiveness of his understanding of the Gospel," said Grant Wacker, a retired professor at Duke University's divinity school and author of the 2014 biography "America's Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation." "Bring as many people in as possible."

Graham, who died Wednesday at 99, reached hundreds of millions of people worldwide through his preaching engagements and his pioneering use of modern mass media, especially television.

Bill Leonard, a professor at Wake Forest University Divinity School in North Carolina, said there will never be an evangelist as influential as Graham, owing partly to the fracturing of audiences and media since the pre-cable, pre-internet era in which Graham commanded his large audiences.

"The media that Graham used so well early in his crusades then became so pluralistic, so diverse, that there was no longer room for one central person who could pull together those evangelical subgroups," Leonard said.

Even by the 1980s, Leonard said, it was clear there wouldn't be a single evangelist after Graham who could wield such broad clout, because of the emergence of "a variety of 'Billy Gramahs'" with their own followings and because of the rise in politics of the hard-line religious right, from which Graham kept a certain distance.

"Evangelicalism itself became more polarized," Leonard said. "Graham came of age at a more ecumenical sort of time."

Leonard said Graham's own son, the Rev. Franklin Graham, is representative of how the movement has

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changed in the past generation. The younger Graham is seen as more ideological than his father; he has criticized Islam and backed President Donald Trump's call to bar Muslims from entering the U.S.

"Franklin's evolution is illustration of the way in which the religious culture changed between his father and himself," Leonard said.

Some of the biggest changes happened in the last decade or so of Graham's life, after he had all but retired. When he held his last crusade in 2005, gay marriage was allowed in only a couple of places in America, and the rise of Trump and the corrosive political environment of recent years were still in the future.

Even Charlotte, North Carolina, the world headquarters of Graham's evangelical empire, has moved in a more liberal direction, the result of an influx of non-Southerners. In 2016, the city passed an ordinance allowing transgender people to use restrooms of their choice, triggering a fierce statewide battle.

For all his efforts to promote ecumenicism, there were, of course, limits to Graham's inclusiveness. As the civil rights movement took shape, he did not join his fellow clergymen in taking part in marches. Later, his ministry took out full-page ads calling for a ban on gay marriage.

Still, Faisal Khan, a Muslim-American and founder of a youth advocacy and peace organization near Chapel Hill, North Carolina, credited Graham for admitting his mistakes and for making conciliatory statements about Islam.

"He was generally very receptive and forthcoming — he openly said Islam is much closer to Christianity than people think," Khan said.

Jeremiah Chapman, a 40-year-old student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, said Graham's legacy remains relevant — despite, or perhaps because of, the current divisions inside evangelicalism.

"He was moral guidance to generations regardless of which side. If you're a Democrat or Republican or liberal or conservative, he was willing to step in and be ... God's voice in culture," Chapman said.

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Karoub reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers Allen G. Breed in Durham, North Carolina, and Walter Ratliff in Washington contributed to this report.

## After a year, Trump holds firm grip on conservative movement

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — Donald Trump's outsider candidacy rattled the conservative movement. But more than a year into his presidency, the onetime Democrat now holds what seems to be a near-total grip.

The largest annual gathering of conservatives has all the looks of a Trump festival, with Republican critics absent from the event outside the nation's capital. Republicans are facing a challenging election season, and the Trump administration wants to motivate conservative activists so they will give endangered Republicans another term.

Vice President Mike Pence addressed the Conservative Political Action Conference on Thursday, offering a defense of the Trump agenda and trying to rally activists for the fall elections.

"Your president and I need you to show up," Pence told activists as he urged them to "defend all that we've accomplished."

"It's been a year of promises made and promises kept," Pence added.

But a year in power has seen some of the enthusiasm around the gathering wane, with large swaths of empty space in a ballroom already narrowed from previous conferences.

Conservatives hope it won't bode ill for their November prospects.

Tim Phillips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, said Pence's efforts amounted to a "pep rally" for potentially unmotivated conservatives. Echoing Pence's call that the administration's first year was the "most consequential" since at least President Ronald Reagan's, Phillips said, "That's a great point that I hope our base hears."

Frequent past attendees such as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Speaker Paul

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Ryan, R-Wis., are skipping the event, as is Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, the libertarian-leaning Republican who once brought massive followings of young people to the CPAC halls.

Even Steve Bannon was absent. The ex-White House chief strategist whose falling out with Trump cost him his perch atop the conservative Breitbart website has featured prominently at past gatherings.

"Clearly the interest is: What is Trump doing and what are their policies and what are they doing," said Saul Anuzis, a longtime CPAC gadfly and GOP operative from Michigan.

The hallways were filled with well-dressed attendees adorned with Trump campaign hats and buttons. Top government officials, Cabinet secretaries, outside allies and conservative media boosters dominate the CPAC agenda, with appearances by Labor Secretary Alex Acosta, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, and White House counsel Don McGahn.

Paired with supportive interviewers, they highlighted the administration's work over the last year and its future plans.

"Thank you President Trump for bringing us someone as wonderful as Secretary DeVos," said Kay Coles James, president of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, after a friendly interview with DeVos on her overhaul efforts.

Trump was to return to the conference for the second year in a row Friday.

"He's the president, this should be about him," said Lisa Blankenship, a real estate agent from San Diego. She wore a Trump hat and scarf, and brought a small Trump figurine for posing for photos with conservative media personalities.

To Anthony Del Vescovo, 19, a student at Northeastern University, the conference was "very structured to look like a Trump event."

The focus on Trump-ism marks a shift for an event that had long held itself up as a resolute advocate for conservative principles. During the George W. Bush administration, CPAC prominently featured criticism of the president's economic and immigration proposals — particularly sounding the alarm on soaring deficits under his tenure.

There was no such criticism audible Thursday.

Sebastian Gorka, a former White House aide and Trump booster, explained the conversion onstage, saying that "the GOP is starting to understand that this president was only accidentally the GOP candidate."

"He was the rank outsider, he owed nothing to the swamp," he added of Trump, saying the rest of the party is "riding his coattails."

## Science Says: European art scene began with Neanderthals

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — From the murky depths of Spanish caves comes a surprising insight: Neanderthals created art.

That's been proposed before, but experts say two new studies finally give convincing evidence that our evolutionary cousins had the brainpower to make artistic works and use symbols.

The key finding: New age estimates that show paintings on cave walls and decorated seashells in Spain were created long before our species entered Europe. So there's no way Homo sapiens could have made them or influenced Neanderthals to merely copy their artwork.

Until now, most scientists thought all cave paintings were the work of our species. But the new work concludes that some previously known paintings — an array of lines, some disks and the outline of a hand — were rendered about 20,000 years before H. sapiens moved into Europe.

That's a surprise that "constitutes a major breakthrough in the field of human evolution studies," said Wil Roebroeks of Leiden University in the Netherlands, an expert on Neanderthals who didn't participate in the new work.

Now, he said in an email, Neanderthal "ownership of some cave art is a fact."

The second study provided evidence that Neanderthals used pigments and piercings to modify shells some 115,000 years ago, which is far earlier than similar artifacts are associated with H. sapiens anywhere.



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That shows Neanderthals “were quite capable of inventing the ornaments themselves,” said Paola Villa of the University of Colorado Museum in Boulder, who also didn’t participate in the new work.

Neanderthals lived in Europe and Asia before disappearing about 40,000 years ago, around the time H. sapiens moved into Europe from Africa.

The research, released Thursday by the journals *Science* and *Science Advances*, focused on determining the ages of previously known artifacts.

One team of European researchers concentrated on painted artwork in three caves in northern, southern and west-central Spain. They carefully removed tiny bits of rocky crust that had formed on the artwork surfaces and analyzed them in a lab. Results indicated artwork from all three were around 65,000 years old, much older than the arrival of H. sapiens in Europe, which occurred some 45,000 to 40,000 years ago.

The artwork is rudimentary, but a study author, Dirk Hoffmann of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, said it’s symbolic. One work is a collection of lines that look like a ladder, and others include red dots and disks on curtainlike rock formations. Another is a stenciled outline of a hand, made by spewing pigment over a hand held against the wall, Hoffmann said.

Making the hand stencil involves so many steps, including preparation of the pigment, that it’s clearly a deliberate creation, he and other authors wrote in the paper. What’s more, a number of hand stencils seem to have been placed with care rather than randomly, so they are certainly “meaningful symbols,” the authors wrote.

The other study sought to find the age of shells that had been colored and punctured in another cave, in southeast Spain. Previous studies had estimated an age of 45,000 to 50,000 years old, too young to rule out a link to H. sapiens.

For the new work, researchers analyzed rock that had formed above where the shells had been found.

Results indicated the shells were around 115,000 years old. That is some 20,000 to 40,000 years older than comparable artifacts in Africa or western Asia that are attributed to H. sapiens. The finding shows Neanderthals shared symbolic thinking with H. sapiens, and suggests the two species were “indistinguishable” in terms of overall mental ability, the researchers wrote.

Nobody knows what the shells symbolized. Maybe they indicated membership in a group like a clan, said Joao Zilhao of the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies in Barcelona, Spain, who did the study with Hoffmann and others.

Not all experts were convinced by the studies. Harold Dibble, an archaeologist at the University of Pennsylvania who studies Neanderthal behavior, wondered if the shell color and holes could have occurred naturally. And he said he’d like to see the dating in the cave art paper confirmed by another lab.

Warren Sharp of the Berkeley Geochronology Center in California, an expert on the dating technique used in both papers, said he found the results of both studies to be “very solid.”

They show “we are not the only ones capable of ‘modern’ behavior,” he wrote in an email.

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Follow Malcolm Ritter at @MalcolmRitter His recent work can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/RitterAP>

\_\_\_\_ This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## **Superagers’ youthful brains offer clues to keeping sharp**

**By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — It’s pretty extraordinary for people in their 80s and 90s to keep the same sharp memory as someone several decades younger, and now scientists are peeking into the brains of these “superagers” to uncover their secret.

The work is the flip side of the disappointing hunt for new drugs to fight or prevent Alzheimer’s disease. Instead, “why don’t we figure out what it is we might need to do to maximize our memory?” said neuroscientist Emily Rogalski, who leads the SuperAging study at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Parts of the brain shrink with age, one of the reasons why most people experience a gradual slowing of

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at least some types of memory late in life, even if they avoid diseases like Alzheimer's.

But it turns out that superagers' brains aren't shrinking nearly as fast as their peers'. And autopsies of the first superagers to die during the study show they harbor a lot more of a special kind of nerve cell in a deep brain region that's important for attention, Rogalski told a recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

These elite elders are "more than just an oddity or a rarity," said neuroscientist Molly Wagster of the National Institute on Aging, which helps fund the research. "There's the potential for learning an enormous amount and applying it to the rest of us, and even to those who may be on a trajectory for some type of neurodegenerative disease."

What does it take to be a superager? A youthful brain in the body of someone 80 or older. Rogalski's team has given a battery of tests to more than 1,000 people who thought they'd qualify, and only about 5 percent pass. The key memory challenge: Listen to 15 unrelated words, and a half-hour later recall at least nine. That's the norm for 50-year-olds, but the average 80-year-old recalls five. Some superagers remember them all.

"It doesn't mean you're any smarter," stressed superager William "Bill" Gurolnick, who turns 87 next month and joined the study two years ago.

Nor can he credit protective genes: Gurolnick's father developed Alzheimer's in his 50s. He thinks his own stellar memory is bolstered by keeping busy. He bikes, and plays tennis and water volleyball. He stays social through regular lunches and meetings with a men's group he co-founded.

"Absolutely that's a critical factor about keeping your wits about you," exclaimed Gurolnick, fresh off his monthly gin game.

Rogalski's superagers tend to be extroverts and report strong social networks, but otherwise they come from all walks of life, making it hard to find a common trait for brain health. Some went to college, some didn't. Some have high IQs, some are average. She's studied people who've experienced enormous trauma, including a Holocaust survivor; fitness buffs and smokers; teetotalers and those who tout a nightly martini.

But deep in their brains is where she's finding compelling hints that somehow, superagers are more resilient against the ravages of time.

Early on, brain scans showed that a superager's cortex — an outer brain layer critical for memory and other key functions — is much thicker than normal for their age. It looks more like the cortex of healthy 50- and 60-year-olds.

It's not clear if they were born that way. But Rogalski's team found another possible explanation: A superager's cortex doesn't shrink as fast. Over 18 months, average 80-somethings experienced more than twice the rate of loss.

Another clue: Deeper in the brain, that attention region is larger in superagers, too. And inside, autopsies showed that brain region was packed with unusual large, spindly neurons — a special and little understood type called von Economo neurons thought to play a role in social processing and awareness.

The superagers had four to five times more of those neurons than the typical octogenarian, Rogalski said — more even than the average young adult.

The Northwestern study isn't the only attempt at unraveling long-lasting memory. At the University of California, Irvine, Dr. Claudia Kawas studies the oldest-old, people 90 and above. Some have Alzheimer's. Some have maintained excellent memory and some are in between.

About 40 percent of the oldest-old who showed no symptoms of dementia in life nonetheless have full-fledged signs of Alzheimer's disease in their brains at death, Kawas told the AAAS meeting.

Rogalski also found varying amounts of amyloid and tau, hallmark Alzheimer's proteins, in the brains of some superagers.

Now scientists are exploring how these people deflect damage. Maybe superagers have different pathways to brain health.

"They are living long and living well," Rogalski said. "Are there modifiable things we can think about today, in our everyday lives" to do the same?

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## Newly pet-friendly General Mills spends \$8B on Blue Buffalo

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Its sales under pressure with fewer grocery lists including processed foods, General Mills will try to balance its own shift in that direction, and its revenues, with the \$8 billion acquisition of Blue Buffalo, a higher end pet food products company.

It's the first foray into pet foods of any kind for the Minneapolis company, and a potentially lucrative one.

Blue Buffalo Pet Products Inc. had nearly \$1.3 billion in net sales last year and General Mills sees consistent growth of between 3 percent and 4 percent in the \$30 billion pet food market.

"The addition of BLUE to our family of well-loved brands provides General Mills with the leading position in the large and growing wholesome natural pet food category and represents a significant milestone as we reshape our portfolio to drive additional growth and value creation for our shareholders," said Chairman and CEO Jeff Harmening in a company release Friday.

General Mills has suffered three consecutive years of declining revenue as it follows customers seeking more fresh food on the dinner table.

As it transitions to accommodate changing tastes, General Mills said the Blue Buffalo acquisition will become accretive by fiscal 2020.

General Mills Inc. will pay \$40 per Blue Buffalo share. That's a 17 percent premium to the pet food company's Thursday closing price of \$34.12.

Shares of Blue Buffalo surged more than 5 percent in premarket trading Friday.

Once the deal closes, Blue Buffalo will be run as a new pet operating segment, General Mills said, and it will continue to operate out of its Wilton, Connecticut headquarters.

The acquisition is targeted to close by the end of General Mills' fiscal year 2018.

## Asian stocks advance after Wall Street rebounds

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks advanced Friday after Wall Street rebounded from a two-day losing streak and Japanese inflation edged higher.

KEEPING SCORE: The Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.3 percent to 3,279.74 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 advanced 0.4 percent to 21,814.31. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.3 percent to 31,364.80 and Seoul's Kospi rose 1.1 percent to 2,441.40. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 rose 1.1 percent to 5,998.20 and benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also advanced.

WALL STREET: Gains in industrial companies and other sectors outweighed losses in banks and health care stocks. Energy companies rose after crude oil prices recovered from an early slide. Bond yields declined from four-year highs amid fears of higher inflation and interest rates. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.1 percent to 2,703.96. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.7 percent to 24,962.48. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.1 percent to 7,210.09.

CHINA INSURANCE: Regulators took control of Anbang Insurance, one of China's biggest insurers, and said its founder had been charged with unspecified economic offenses. Anbang owns New York City's Waldorf Astoria Hotel and had discussed investing in a Manhattan skyscraper owned by the family of Jared Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser, but those talks ended last March with no deal. Founder Wu Xiaohui turned over control of the company to his deputies in June following news reports that he had been detained by investigators.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Macro leads point to a stronger day for investors in the Asia Pacific region. Rallies in global shares and industrial commodities indicate a pro-growth stance for markets," said Michael McCarthy of CMC in a report. "Oil and copper markets rallied. Stocks also rose although the temporary disdain for tech stocks showed in the negative performance of the Nasdaq."

JAPAN INFLATION: Japanese inflation edged up but stayed well below the central bank's target. The headline measure of consumer prices rose 1.4 percent in January, up from the previous month's 1 percent and its highest level in 3½ years. The central bank's measure of core inflation, which strips out energy and fresh food, advanced to 0.4 percent from December's 0.3 percent. "The upshot is that the Bank of Japan's

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2 percent inflation target remains out of reach," said Marcel Thieli of Capital Economics in a report.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 10 cents to \$62.87 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract surged \$1.09 on Thursday to close at \$62.77. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed 4 cents to \$66.35. It jumped 97 cents the previous session to \$66.39.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 106.90 yen from Thursday's 106.75 yen. The euro edged down to \$1.2313 from \$1.2330.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2018. There are 311 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 23, 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised two American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph.)

On this date:

In 1685, composer George Frideric Handel was born in present-day Germany.

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1848, the sixth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, died in Washington D.C., at age 80.

In 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.

In 1927, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill creating the Federal Radio Commission, forerunner of the Federal Communications Commission.

In 1934, Leopold III succeeded his late father, Albert I, as King of the Belgians.

In 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.

In 1954, the first mass inoculation of schoolchildren against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh as some 5,000 students were vaccinated.

In 1965, film comedian Stan Laurel, 74, died in Santa Monica, California.

In 1970, Guyana became a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations.

In 1981, an attempted coup began in Spain as 200 members of the Civil Guard invaded Parliament, taking lawmakers hostage. (However, the attempt collapsed 18 hours later.)

In 1992, the XVI Winter Olympic Games ended in Albertville, France.

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other U.S. officials held daylong meetings with Australian leaders in Canberra. Former United Auto Workers president Douglas A. Fraser died in Southfield, Michigan, at age 91.

Five years ago: Some 30 NASCAR fans were injured when rookie Kyle Larson's car was propelled by a crash into the fence at Daytona International Speedway, and large chunks of debris flew into the grandstands. The Ultimate Fighting Championship held its first women's bout as Ronda Rousey beat Liz Carmouche on an armbar, her signature move, with 11 seconds left in the first round of their bantamweight title fight at UFC 157 in Anaheim, California.

One year ago: Seeking to tamp down growing unease in Latin America, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly pledged during a visit to Mexico City that the United States would not enlist its military to enforce immigration laws and that there would be "no mass deportations." Lottery officials said the sole winning ticket for an estimated \$435 million Powerball jackpot was sold at a Lafayette, Indiana, convenience store.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Fonda is 78. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff is 75. Author John Sandford is 74. Country-rock musician Rusty Young is 72. Actress Patricia Richardson is 67. Former NFL player Ed "Too Tall" Jones is 67. Rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith) is 66. Singer Howard Jones is 63. Rock musician Michael Wilton (Queensryche) is 56. Country singer Dusty Drake is 54. Actress Kristin Davis is 53. Tennis player Helena Sukova is 53. Actor Marc Price is 50. TV personality/businessman Daymond John (TV: "Shark Tank") is 49. Actress Niecy Nash is 48. Rock musician Jeff Beres (Sister Hazel)

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is 47. Country singer Steve Holy is 46. Rock musician Lasse (loss) Johansson (The Cardigans) is 45. Actress Kelly Macdonald is 42. Rapper Residente (Calle 13) is 40. Actor Josh Gad is 37. Actress Emily Blunt is 35. Actor Aziz Ansari is 35. Actor Tye White (TV: "Greenleaf") is 32. Actress Dakota Fanning is 24.

Thought for Today: "If you wish to avoid seeing a fool you must first break your mirror." — Francois Rabelais (ra-beh-LAY'), French satirist (1494-1553).