

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 225 ~ 1 of 47

“Miracles happen to those who believe. If you believe in something with all your heart and mind, you bring it to life.”

- Leon Brown



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605.290.1535

custom homes | remodels | additions

No elections in Groton

There will be no election for either school board or city council this year.

Marty Weismantel and Kara Pharis filed petitions for the two three-year terms on the Groton Area School Board.

On the city council, David Blackmun and Burt Glover filed petitions for their two-year spot. No one filed a petition in Ward 2 being held by David McGannon. Mayor Scott Hanlon will have to appoint someone to fill the spot for a one-year term.

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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"Sweet 16" is out

It is a terminology that was used when the "Sweet 16" format for volleyball began last year. But you will not hear that term used any more.

Dan Swartos, South Dakota High School Activities Association Executive Director, issued the following statement on Friday.

"Please note that it was brought to our attention during the volleyball postseason that the term "Sweet 16" is trademarked and therefore, cannot and should not be used when referring to the State Tournament qualifying round of competition in South Dakota. We ask that you please refer to this round of play as the "Round of 16" to avoid any possible trademark infringement consequences."

The "Sweet 16" is trademarked by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, and can only be used when referring to the NCAA Division I men's and women's basketball championships.

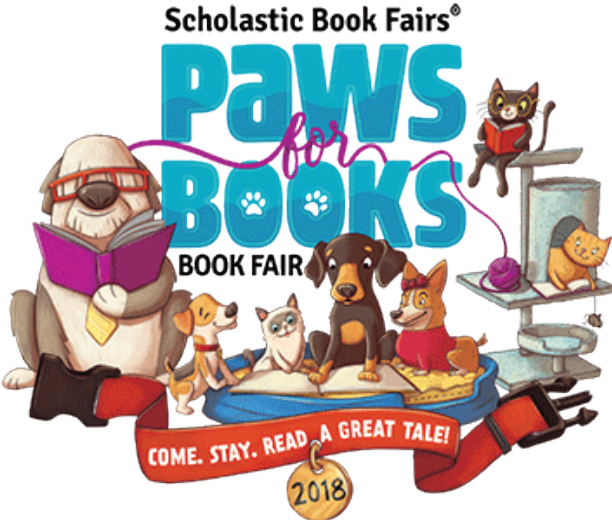
Here are a few other terms that you may not know are trademarked and cannot be used.

"Three-Peat": According to Business Insider, when the 1988 Los Angeles Lakers fought for their third straight NBA title, Lakers coach Pat Riley used the now-well-known phrase, and trademarked it in 1988.

"You cannot be serious!": Hot-headed tennis star John McEnroe shouted this phrase after he disagreed with a call at Wimbledon 1981. Business Insider reported that McEnroe not only trademarked the phrase, he named his book after it.

"Unbelievably believable": Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III (or "RG3" for short, which is also trademarked) filed the trademark for this phrase after his 2013 Heisman Trophy speech, along with six others—"No Pressure, No Diamonds," "Dream Big, Live Bigger," "Light You Up" and "Know Your Why," according to Business Insider.

"Mr. October": Reggie Jackson is objectively one of the greatest baseball players to ever live. He gained the nickname "Mr. October" because of his unbelievable postseason performances for the New York Yankees and Oakland Athletics. Unfortunately, according to ESPN, he now owns that trademark, so someone who wants to battle Jackson for the title of Mr. October by putting it on a T-shirt is out of luck.



"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



1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

Johnsons catch a shark on their vacation



Here is the King Mackerel that Peyton caught. The Mackerel would then be used as bait to catch a shark.

It is one family vacation that will not soon be forgotten. Matt and Tanya Johnson and family went fishing in the Atlantic Ocean through Sea Leveler in Cape Canaveral, Fla., last weekend.

The captain of the boat, Ronny, took the family on the fishing exhibition. Peyton Johnson caught a king mackerel that took him 20 minutes to reel in. "He was really tired afterwards," Tanya said. Peyton hooked the mackerel in the side what is called the foul-hooked. Trying to reel those in can take a very long time. The mackerel was about 25 pounds. They put the Mackerel on ice and then sliced it up for bait while trying to catch a shark.

They had three lines out with slices of King Mackerel on them. They did hook an 8-footer, but it broke the line. A short while later, they hooked another shark. It was a battle to reel it in. Matt and the boys along with the captain. The Johnson's took turns reeling it in. The captain had to go up to the front of the boat with the pole a couple of times because the shark was circling the boat. It was an effort to keep the shark facing the boat for if it turns away, it would snap the line.

The 20 minute battle with the shark was, as Peyton said, "Very intense." Tanya said, " They all got a workout!"

The captain grabbed the shark and pulled it on board. The captain would grab the tail to make it move so it would get tired. Once the shark was tired, it would be easier to hold it. The boys took turns having their photo taken with the shark. "Ronny was very careful about how we held the shark and that we stayed back when he pulled it in," Tanya said. The way they held the shark was important as well as it helped to immobilize the shark.

Once the photos were all done, the shark was released back into the ocean.

- Paul Kosel (Photos by Tanya Johnson)



Matt showing Deylon the shark.



Peyton Johnson is pictured with the captain of the boat holding the shark they had caught.



Aeydon Johnson and Captain Ronny hold the shark.



Trey Johnson holds the shark after the big catch.



City hold retirement party for Officer Hunter

A retirement party was held Friday at City Hall for Police Officer David Hunter. The Groton City Council will be holding a special council meeting on Wednesday for the purpose of hiring Hunter's replacement. (Photo from Groton SD Community Facebook Page)

Anderson at state champion semifinals, Locke going for fifth place

Brandyn Anderson is just one match away from the championship match at the state wrestling tournament in Sioux Falls. In the first round match, he pinned Micah DeBoer, BHSA, 0:47, and in the second round, he pinned Chase Sigdestad, Webster Area, 2:26. Today, he faces Braydon Peterson, LEMC, in the championship semifinal match.

Dragr Monson at 113 pounds, he was decisioned by Blair Blasius, Philip, 10-5; and he pinned Hunter Witte, Flandreau, in 30 seconds; and he was pinned by Jacob Steiger, Mobridge-Pollock, 2:34.

Wyatt Locke, at 220 pounds, decisioned Preston Worth, POCO, 6-3; he was decisioned by Kaeden Metz, Sisseton, 3-2; he then decisioned Caleb Maciejewski, HOSP, 3-2; and today, he faces Tristen Bent of Webster for the right to wrestle in the fifth place match.

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SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM

MARCH 2018

month/year

GROTON / CONDE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 DRI-24 Hot Turkey Sandwich Macaroni Salad Mandarin Orange Dessert Peanut Butter Cookie	2 DRI-1 Roast Beef Potatoes/Gravy Carrots Peaches Dinner Roll
5 DRI-36 Beef Stroganoff Noodles Mixed Vegetables Fruit Sauce Whole Wheat Bread	6 DRI-51 Creamed Chicken Buttermilk Biscuit Peas Pineapple/Mandarin Orange Sauce Cookie	7 DRI-30 Ham Baked Potato/S.Cream Green Beans Peach Cake Whole Wheat Bread	8 DRI-11 Swiss Steak Mashed Potatoes Cauliflower Apricots Whole Wheat Bread	9 DRI-26 Salmon Loaf Creamed Peas Fruit Brownie Whole Wheat Bread
12 DRI-23 Meatballs Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Carrots Mixed Fruit Whole Wheat Bread	13 DRI-47 Ham and Bean Soup Egg Salad Sandwich Tomato Spoon Salad Oatmeal Raisin Cookie	14 DRI-39 Tuna Noodle Casserole Peas Swedish Apple Pie Square Whole Wheat Bread	15 DRI-3 Turkey & Dressing Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Broccoli Carrot Bar Whole Wheat Bread	16 DRI-32 Goulash Green Beans Apple Crisp Whole Wheat Bread
19 DRI-37 Beef Stew Buttermilk Biscuits Waldorf Salad Rainbow Sherbet	20 DRI-55 Baked Pork Chop AuGratin Potatoes Peas and Carrots Cookie Whole Wheat Bread	21 Honey-Glazed Chicken Breast Parsley Buttered Potatoes Winter-Blend Vegetables Ambrosia Salad Whole Wheat Bread	22 DRI-16 Hearty Vegetable Beef Soup Chicken Salad Sandwich Mandarin Oranges Cookie	23 DRI-27 Lemon Baked Fish Rice Pilaf California Blend Veggies Peach Crisp Whole Wheat Bread
26 DRI-58 Chicken Tetrazzine Green Peas Honey Fruit Salad Vanilla Pudding Whole Wheat Bread	27 DRI-6 Meatloaf Baked Potato/S.Cream Squash Fruited Jello Whole Wheat Bread	28 NEW Basil Baked Fish Sweet Potato Broccoli Five-cup Salad Whole Wheat Bread	29 DRI-52 Roast Pork Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Carrots Applesauce Cookie Whole Wheat Bread	30 HOLIDAY GOOD FRIDAY

Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
Sisseton	43.737	14-5
Aberdeen Roncalli	41.950	12-8
Tiospa Zina	41.550	12-8
Redfield/Doland	41.350	10-10
Milbank	40.250	8-12
Groton Area	40.100	8-12
Webster Area	37.300	4-16

Regional pairings getting close, but not official yet.

As of last night's games, Aberdeen Roncalli reclaimed the number two spot in the region as Tiospa Zina dropped to third. So at the moment, if all holds the same, Groton Area will be traveling to Tiospa Zina for the first round game with Webster Area going to Roncalli and Milbank to Redfield.



Trucking Toward the American Dream

South Dakota is a big state with two major interstates running through. We rely heavily on our local trucking operations, so I take it very seriously when the federal government starts imposing regulations like the electronic logging device (ELD) mandate. This U.S. Department of Transportation rule makes it more difficult to reliably move livestock, commodities, and goods through the state.

Time and again, I've spoken to South Dakota truckers with deep concerns about the added burden. No one wants to compromise when it comes to safety - especially those who make their living behind the wheel. But no one is looking to change the safety protocols. The Hours of Service Regulations, which limit the amount of time truckers can spend on the road, remain in place no matter what. The question is really about whether to require those hours to be recorded by a costly electronic device or by hand with old-fashioned pen and paper.

In December, I co-sponsored legislation that would put a two-year delay on this mandate. This would give additional time for further research into the impact on trucking operations, particularly small companies and those that haul live animals.

Earlier this month, I also sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation to request exemptions for small trucking businesses with exemplary safety records, saving these drivers with the tightest profit margins the \$500 it costs annually to comply with the ELD mandate.

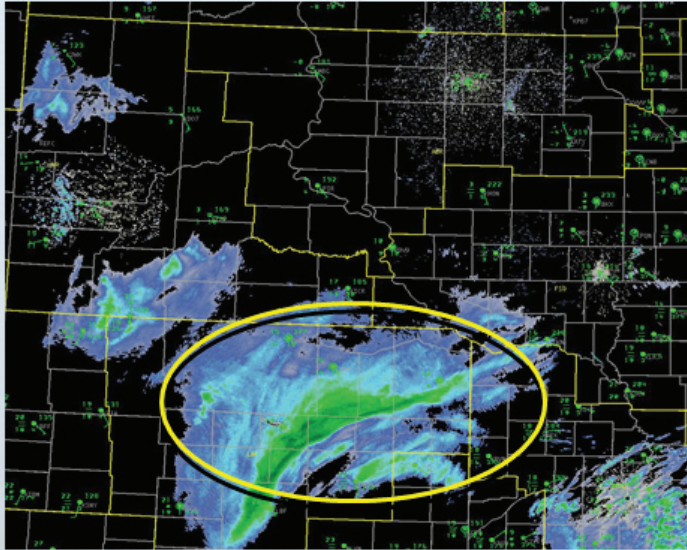
I believe strongly in evidence-based policymaking, and I have significant concerns about the questions left unanswered regarding the ELD mandate. Until more can be learned about the mandate's efficacy and practical impact, I believe we need to delay this rule and work toward a solution in which South Dakota truckers can continue operating safely while pursuing their American Dream

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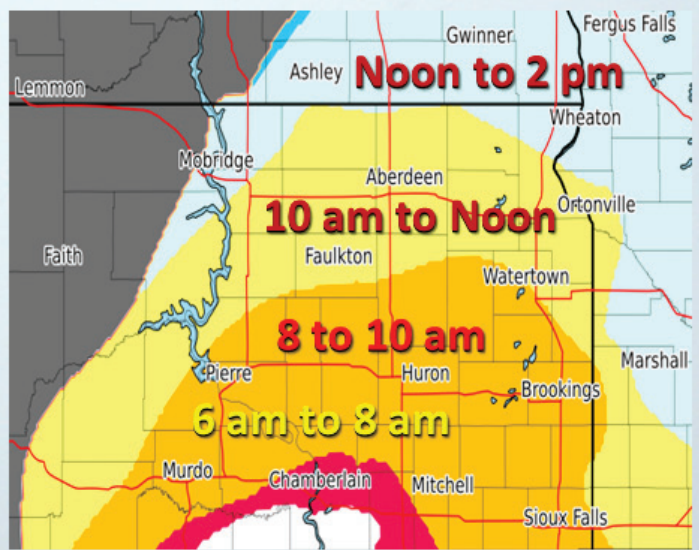
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Snow Progression Today

5am RADAR



Onset Time



Band Of Snow In Nebraska Represents Start Of Storm System That Lifts Into Eastern South Dakota & Western Minnesota Today



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
2/24/2018 5:16 AM

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

As snow continues to move towards the forecast area, we have updated the timing which has been pushed back a little from the previous forecast. Snow will rapidly expand north and east during the late morning and afternoon hours. See the previous post for snow totals.

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Today in Weather History

February 24, 2001: Heavy snow of 6 to 14 inches fell across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Along with the heavy snow came blizzard conditions across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota during the morning hours of the 25th as northwest winds increased to 25 to 45 mph. As a result of the heavy snow and blizzard conditions, travel became difficult, if not impossible, resulting in some accidents and stranded motorists. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Waubay, Onida, Murdo, and Artas, 7 inches at Aberdeen, Faulkton, Ipswich, Kennebec, and Clark, 8 inches at Miller, Castlewood, 23 N Highmore, and Pierre. Nine inches of snow fell at Browns Valley, Wheaton, Clinton, Graceville, Dumont, Roy Lake, Mellette, Blunt, and Watertown. Other snowfall amounts included, 10 inches near Summit, 11 inches at Webster, Ortonville, and Artichoke Lake, and 14 inches at Milbank.

1969: The famous "100-Hour Storm" began in Boston, MA. Snow fell much of the time between early on the 25th through noon on the 28th. The 26.3 inches at Logan Airport is the 2nd greatest snowstorm in Boston's history. 77 inches fell at Pinkham Notch Base Station in New Hampshire bringing their February total to 130 inches. Their snow cover on the 27th was 164 inches. Mt. Washington, NH received 172.8 inches of snow in the month.

2001: Over a dozen tornadoes spawned in central and eastern Arkansas. The strongest tornado (F3) was in Desha County, with parts of a farm shop found six miles away from where it was blown apart. An 18-month-old was killed in Fulton County by an F2 tornado.

1852 - The Susquehanna River ice bridge at Havre de Grace, MD, commenced to break up after forty days of use. A total of 1738 loaded freight cars were hauled along rails laid on the ice. (David Ludlum)

1936 - Vermont and New Hampshire received brown snow due to dust from storms in the Great Plains Region. A muddy rain fell across parts of northern New York State. (24th-25th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A massive winter storm began to overspread the western U.S. In southern California, Big Bear was blanketed with 17 inches of snow, and Lake Hughes reported four inches of snow in just one hour. Snow pellets whitened coastal areas of Orange County and San Diego County, with three inches at Huntington Beach. The storm also produced thunderstorms with hail and waterspouts. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Strong winds produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region which created "white-out" conditions in eastern Upper Michigan. Squalls produced up to 14 inches of snow in Geauga County of northeastern Ohio. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A total of thirty-three cities in the eastern U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date, and an Atlantic coast storm spread heavy snow from Georgia to southern New England. Snowfall totals in New Jersey ranged up to 24 inches in May County, with 19 inches reported at Atlantic City. Totals in North Carolina ranged up to 18 inches in Gates County, and winds along the coast of North Carolina gusted to 70 mph at Duck Pier. Strong winds gusting to 52 mph created blizzard conditions at Chatham MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

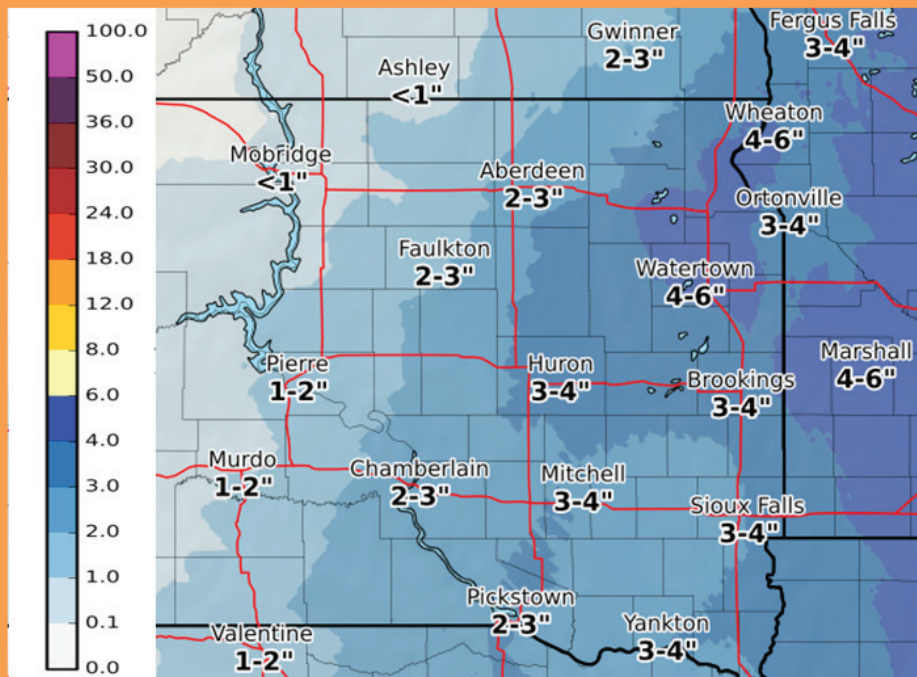
1990 - Strong northerly winds prevailed from Illinois to the Southern and Central Appalachians. Winds gusted to 68 mph at Sewickley Heights PA. High winds caused considerable blowing and drifting of snow across northern and central Indiana through the day. Wind gusts to 47 mph and 6 to 8 inches of snow created white-out conditions around South Bend IN. Traffic accidents resulted in two deaths and 130 injuries. Sixty-five persons were injured in one accident along Interstate 69 in Huntington County. Wind gusts to 60 mph and 4 to 8 inches of snow created blizzard conditions in eastern and northern Ohio. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Sat Feb 24	Sun Feb 25	Mon Feb 26	Tue Feb 27	Wed Feb 28	Thu Mar 1	Fri Mar 2
						
24°F	29°F	34°F	31°F	28°F	30°F	32°F
4°F	12°F	10°F	10°F	13°F	12°F	28°F
S 7 MPH Precip 100%	WSW 13 MPH	SSW 10 MPH	ESE 6 MPH	ENE 7 MPH Precip 20%	NNW 10 MPH Precip 20%	ENE 9 MPH

Snow Today



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

2/24/2018 4:47 AM



TODAY

Highs: Teens/20



TONIGHT

Lows: Single Digits

Published on: 02/24/2018 at 4:52AM

An area of snow will lift into south central South Dakota later this morning continuing north through the late morning and afternoon. Heaviest snow is expected over the Sisseton hills into western Minnesota, with lesser amounts to the west. Snow will wind down in the late afternoon and evening as the system moves out of the area. Winds are not expected to be too strong, so blowing and drifting is not expected to be significant.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 22.1 F at 3:18 PM

Low Outside Temp: -4.5 F at 10:52 PM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 11.0 Mph at 11:45 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 62° in 1976

Record Low: -26° in 1940

Average High: 31°F

Average Low: 11°F

Average Precip in Feb: 0.45

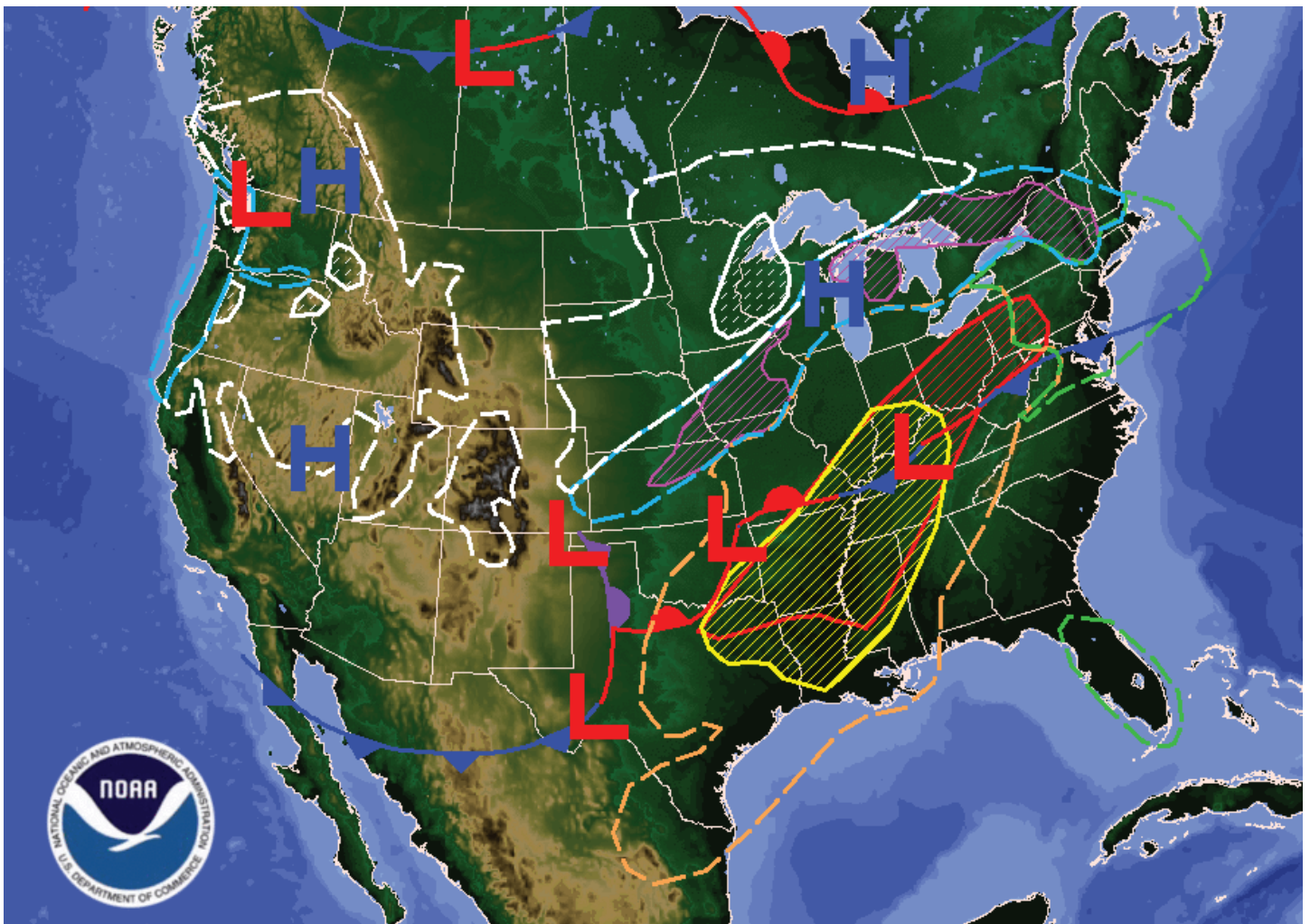
Precip to date in Feb: 0.09

Average Precip to date: 0.92

Precip Year to Date: 0.09

Sunset Tonight: 6:13 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:18 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Feb 24, 2018, issued 4:24 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by oravec with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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AGING IN GOD'S GRACE

Watching children grow into adulthood can be a marvelous experience. From crawling to walking, from uttering sounds that make no sense to carrying on an intelligent conversation is almost breathtaking. Growth is a gift of God and can bring blessings and happiness – especially when we grow into the likeness of Christ and share His grace with those around us.

The Amplified Bible provides a rich translation of Psalm 92:14. "Growing in grace," writes the Psalmist, "they shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be full of spiritual vitality and rich in expressing trust, love and contentment."

Growth, for the Christian, is a lifelong journey. And those who grow in His grace and are filled with His mercy have much to live for and share with others. Imagine the satisfaction of having lived a life that honors God's Word, lives God's gospel and expresses His love. Can there be anything more important for the Christian than becoming stronger in our faith, clearer in our convictions, warmer in our love, purer in our thoughts and kinder in our words and deeds as we grow older and more mature in Christ?

We live in a broken world. Everywhere we look, we see people who have been betrayed by those whom they dearly loved and trusted. We see people writhing in pain and anguish as they search for someone to offer them hope and encouragement. We dare not let them down.

What a wonderful opportunity God has given us.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to see the world as You see it and work with You to share Your love and grace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 92:14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

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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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 54, Gayville-Volin 51
Arlington 63, Clark/Willow Lake 61
Brandon Valley 61, Huron 45
Colome 59, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 54
Crazy Horse 71, Marty Indian 58
Dakota Valley 59, Lennox 46
Elk Point-Jefferson 71, West Central 41
Faith 59, Wall 46
Florence/Henry 53, Estelline 33
Hankinson, N.D. 62, Wilmot 53
Harding County 51, Bison 47
Hot Springs 72, Rapid City Christian 39
Kadoka Area 56, Philip 21
Langford 61, Waverly-South Shore 22
Lemmon 93, Wakpala 57
Leola/Frederick 57, Ipswich 41
Lower Brule 77, Little Wound 65
Menno 62, Centerville 35
Miller 82, Highmore-Harrold 71
Mitchell 47, Pierre 45
Rapid City Central 75, Spearfish 43
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 82, Wessington Springs 44
Sioux Falls Christian 82, Tri-Valley 44
Sioux Falls Lincoln 67, Harrisburg 61
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 74, Sioux Falls Washington 65
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 53, Brookings 41
Sunshine Bible Academy 71, Iroquois 59
Takini 72, Edgemont 33
Tea Area 64, Beresford 47
Timber Lake 86, Tiospaye Topa 44
Vermillion 68, Canton 64
White River 77, Lyman 46

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Brandon Valley 62, Huron 41
Pierre 50, Mitchell 36
RC Central 67, Spearfish 56
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 42, Sioux Falls Washington 41
Region 5B
Semifinal
Freeman 54, Canistota 20
Irene-Wakonda 66, Bridgewater-Emery 41
Region 6B
Quarterfinal

Burke/South Central 61, Kimball/White Lake 38
Region 8B
Semifinal
Faith 71, Lemmon 41
Timber Lake 63, Dupree 33

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

Exchange program places foreign students in South Dakota

By VICTORIA LUSK, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Melissa Erlenbusch has children all over the world.

That's because she and her husband, Larry, have hosted two foreign exchange students every school year since 2014, the year Melissa began her journey with the nonprofit Forte International Exchange Association.

"We hosted two (students) that year, and we've had two every year since," said Erlenbusch, a local Forte representative. "We always have a German. I'm half German and my husband is full German."

There are nine exchange students placed through Forte at Central High School this year, Aberdeen American News reported. Both Clark and Eureka high schools have six Forte students, Erlenbusch said.

But foreign exchange numbers are dipping nationally.

According to the U.S. Department of State, there will be about 8,000 fewer students traveling to the U.S. for the 2018-19 school year than there are for the current year, said Heidi Naasz-Morlock, of Eureka, regional development director for Forte.

Part of that is because students are choosing to go to other countries, Erlenbusch said.

Furthermore, since the President Trump administration took over, there has been a decline in students being allowed to come to the U.S. through the exchange program, Naasz-Morlock said.

Forte's goal is to bring culture to the area and teach others more about acceptance and diversity, Erlenbusch said.

Patricia Mack, 16, of Germany, is one of the Erlenbuschs' students this year. Patricia is a junior at Central High School.

"I just watched movies and (saw) American high school. I just wanted to do that, too," Patricia said.

Turns out the movies aren't completely accurate about what high school life is like in the U.S.

"No, not really, but kind of yes, kind of no," Patricia said.

School, for example, isn't as cliquey as in the movies in which cheerleaders and football players sit together at lunch, she said. But it is similar in that American kids can choose "fun" classes that they most like. That's what she did with her first block: a cappella and band.

The six months Patricia has been in the U.S. have been long, but good, she said. She arrived just in time for the Brown County Fair in August, which was the perfect spot to meet new people.

Patricia has a sister in Germany, and sometimes it's hard to be so far away from her family, she said. But she talks to them weekly while enjoying her time in South Dakota.

International students exchange with a J-1 student visa. While in the U.S., they have to follow all laws and cannot date, drive or get a D grade or lower in any class.

When students apply with an international exchange agency, they must be between 15 and 18 years old and have good grades, health insurance and families who can financially support their stay. Host families are strictly volunteers, Erlenbusch said, though they must provide meals.

As is, Forte supervisors must be in monthly contact with exchange students, their parents and the school, said Keri Kline, an area director from Clark. She hosts two students.

Schools have restrictions on how many foreign exchange students they can accept at once. The cap is 12 at Central, Erlenbusch said. Most smaller schools allow just one or two, she said, though there are exceptions.

Naasz-Morlock said exchange students offer cultural diversity to sparsely populated rural South Dakota.

Kline said it's sometimes easier to place students in smaller towns where they have a greater opportunity to play sports or get involved in other ways.

Naasz-Morlock placed Erlenbusch's first two students in 2014 before recruiting her as a local representative.

Both hosting and placing exchange students is rewarding, Erlenbusch said.

"May is the hardest time of year because we say bye to all of these students we've placed and the ones that live with me," she said.

But she and her husband already have two students selected for the next school year.

That means her newest team member, Rob Williams of Aberdeen, has earned his first two placements, she said.

Williams was recently hired as a local representative. On Jan. 1, Erlenbusch and Kline were promoted to their roles of area director when Naasz-Morlock was promoted to regional development director.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Rogue tweets draw more visitors to Badlands National Park

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Badlands National Park saw its third straight year of increased attendance in 2017, and at least part of the bump in visitation can be attributed to unintended publicity from a rogue tweet storm.

The 1,054,324 visitors made 2017 the busiest year at the park since 2000, according to a National Park Service release.

The increase marks a 5.83 percent jump — 58,061 more visitors — than in 2016, partially thanks to a former NPS employee with password access to the park's Twitter account.

The former employee posted a series of pro-climate change messages on the social media platform in late January 2017, apparently in response to the newly inaugurated Trump Administration instituting a temporary media blackout at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Badlands National Park officials removed the rogue tweets because the account had been compromised, but not before the Park's Twitter following jumped from less than 10,000 before the Tweet storm to more than 200,000 afterward, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"Obviously, that was more publicity, however you view that," Park superintendent Mike Pflaum said.

Pflaum said it would be difficult to say all those extra followers didn't translate into a boost of inquiries about the park. "I don't have the hard numbers to back it up, but I'd say the number of phone calls and emails increased over the ensuing weeks over what we would expect," he said.

Other factors, including increased attention from the National Park Services' Centennial celebration in 2016 and low fuel costs for travelers, also contributed to the visitation increase, he said.

Social media publicity notwithstanding, Pflaum said the allure of Badlands National Park speaks for itself.

He spoke at length of the park's stunning, almost otherworldly landscapes, combined with the largest area of native and mixed-grass prairie in the NPS system.

Then there is abundant wildlife, from bison, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, deer, bobcats, black-footed ferrets to prairie dogs; world-class geology and paleontology; and the human history of Native Americans, homesteaders, pioneers and cowboys.

According to a release, the park will host several special events in the coming year, including a "Discover Badlands" event on June 20, the park's annual Astronomy Festival from July 6-8, and a Badlands Heritage Celebration on Aug. 18-19.

The Ben Reifel Visitor Center at Cedar Pass is open year-round and the White River Visitor Center in the South Unit, which is on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and managed in cooperation with the Oglala Sioux Tribe, will be open from approximately May 15 through Oct. 15.

"When you put that all together and swirl it around in a pretty big chunk of landscape, it does make for a world-class national park," Pflaum said. "I think it's been discovered anew with all the publicity," he said.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

07-11-13-19-58, Mega Ball: 9, Megaplier: 4

(seven, eleven, thirteen, nineteen, fifty-eight; Mega Ball: nine; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$204 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$269 million

South Dakota House to investigate GOP lawmaker's conduct

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House decided Friday to investigate a first-term Republican representative over allegations that he made a fellow lawmaker fearful for her safety during a heated argument this week at the Capitol.

Members voted 45-13 to establish a special committee on discipline and expulsion to investigate Rep. David Johnson. He apologized publicly to Republican Rep. Lynne DiSanto before the vote, saying his emotions got the better of him.

"I have been working with my family on this already. I have been consulting with my religious advisers on this already, and I am truly sorry," said Johnson, who was first elected to the House in 2016. "I'll take whatever this body decides that they want to do."

Republican Rep. Dan Kaiser, one lawmaker who moved to form the investigative panel, said DiSanto and two witnesses told him Johnson approached DiSanto loudly and with a posture that made her fear being assaulted during Wednesday evening's incident on the House floor. A witness escorted Johnson off the floor out of concern the situation would escalate, Kaiser said.

DiSanto didn't immediately return a text message from The Associated Press for comment.

"This is very emotional. This weighs very heavy on her heart," Kaiser said. "This weighs very heavy on all the legislators' hearts that one individual put us in a position that could possibly be construed to make the entire body look bad."

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm described the altercation as a "heated argument" after the two had discussed insurance legislation. He said they were "moving back and forth towards each other a little bit."

Johnson didn't describe his actions in detail during his apology and declined to comment further after the House ended its Friday session. Johnson also apologized privately, Qualm said.

"He's admitted that he's in the wrong on this," Qualm said. "He knows that he stepped over the line, that he should not have done what he did."

A spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety cited an exemption in South Dakota's public records law in denying the AP access to security footage from the House chamber.

The panel will investigate Johnson's conduct and could recommend penalties such as discipline or expulsion. Qualm said he doesn't think it rises to expulsion.

South Dakota's Legislature has rules requiring an atmosphere of civility and professional conduct. Lawmakers last month attended ethics, professionalism and sexual harassment training from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

House lawmakers last formed such a committee in 2017 to investigate a Republican representative who admitted to sexual contact with two interns. He later resigned.

South Dakota Supreme Court: warrant needed for urine sample

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court ruled that police need a search warrant to obtain a urine sample from someone under arrest.

The high court issued the ruling Thursday that said privacy issues outweigh the state's interest in pursuing evidence. The case involves Hi Ta Lar, who was a passenger in a vehicle stopped for a broken headlight in 2015.

After finding marijuana and paraphernalia in the vehicle, police ordered Lar to provide a urine sample without consent or a search warrant. The urine sample tested positive for methamphetamine. He was arrested, charged with ingestion and eventually sentenced to three years in prison.

Lar appealed, raising the issue of whether law enforcement can demand a warrantless urine sample as a search incident to arrest, the Argus Leader reported .

According to a 1969 decision in *Chimel v. California*, an officer can search a person when an arrest is made for any weapons that would harm the officer or help the arrestee escape. Officers also can search the individual for evidence that could be tampered with or destroyed.

This week, the high court ruled in favor of privacy concerns over the state's interest in preserving evidence. "Although requiring an arrestee to urinate into a specimen container does not involve a physical intrusion into the body, such a search is both more informative and more embarrassing than the breath test," the ruling stated.

Supreme Court arguments set in South Dakota's sales tax case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments for April in South Dakota's case seeking to collect sales taxes from out-of-state internet retailers.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says arguments are calendared for April 17.

South Dakota is asking the high court to review whether retailers can be required to collect sales taxes in states where they lack a physical presence. The case could have national implications for e-commerce.

Jackley says it's a "fight to save main street" and give South Dakota businesses an even playing field with out-of-state businesses on taxes. He will argue the case before the Supreme Court.

The state is seeking to overturn legal rulings issued mostly before the online shopping boom.

Some companies such as Amazon have decided to collect state sales taxes despite the precedent.

Officials say suicide bomber kills 2 in Afghan capital

By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide bomber killed at least two and wounded seven in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group in the diplomatic area of Afghanistan's capital on Saturday, and at least 18 soldiers died in an attack on a checkpoint by Taliban insurgents in the country's west, authorities said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said the Kabul attack took place in the Shash Darak area near NATO headquarters and not far from the U.S. Embassy. Danish said the initial casualty count could rise.

The Islamic State group in a statement on its website claimed responsibility.

U.S. Gen. John Nicholson, commander of Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, said at a news conference he expected IS and the Taliban to continue such attacks.

"We will work hard with our Afghan security counterparts and teammates to help protect the civilians of Afghanistan as much as possible," he said.

In western Farah province, at least 18 soldiers were killed when their checkpoint came under attack by Taliban insurgents, said Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Defense Ministry. He said two other soldiers were wounded in the attack in the Bala Buluk district.

Qari Yusouf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement.

Meanwhile, an Afghan official said at least three security personnel were killed in separate suicide bomb-

ing attacks in southern Helmand province.

Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor in Helmand, said a car bomber early Saturday was shot by Afghan army soldiers but his vehicle managed to reach the entrance of the army base in Nad Aali district, killing two soldiers and wounding another.

In a second suicide bombing attack near another military base in Helmand's capital city Lashkar Gah, one security person was killed and seven civilians wounded, Zwak said.

Qari Yusouf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility for both suicide attacks in Helmand.

The resurgent Taliban and the newer IS affiliate have been blamed for increased violence in Afghanistan after U.S. and NATO forces concluded combat missions in 2014 that began after the 9/11 attacks in the U.S.

On Jan. 27, a Taliban attacker drove an ambulance filled with explosives into the heart of the city, killing at least 103 people and wounding as many as 235.

The Taliban claimed the ambulance attack, as well as an attack a week earlier in which militants stormed a luxury hotel in Kabul, killing 22 people, including 14 foreigners, and setting off a 13-hour battle with security forces.

The recent attacks have underscored the weaknesses of Afghan security forces more than 16 years after the U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban.

They also raise questions about President Donald Trump's strategy for winning America's longest war, which was announced in August but has changed little on the ground. That strategy was based on ramping up military pressure on the Taliban to eventually force them into peace talks with the government.

Associated Press writers Mirwais Khan in Kandahar and Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

Police experts urge intensive training if teachers are armed

By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press

The idea of arming teachers to take out a shooter is alarming some law enforcement experts, who say it takes more than just being a good shot at a gun range.

They say it would require specialized and repeated training to teach educators the proper tactics and enable them to conquer their fear and remain calm and clear-thinking in a fast-moving, life-or-death situation.

"Simply putting a gun on the premises and hoping someone's going to do the right thing with it is baseless," said Chris Grollnek, a former law enforcement officer who specializes in security issues, especially active shooter situations. "All you're doing is signing people up for PTSD."

The idea of arming teachers isn't new. Some schools around the country already allow educators to bring guns onto school grounds.

But the notion is gaining momentum after the shooting rampage at a high school in Parkland, Florida, last week that left 17 students and adults dead. It turned out the only armed officer on duty at the school stayed outside rather than go in to confront the gunman.

President Donald Trump suggested even paying bonuses to teachers willing to be trained to carry firearms at schools.

Still, law enforcement experts note that police are trained for months in the academy and then are put through drills during their careers on such things as making split-second decisions in a crisis and dealing with the mentally ill.

Experts who have spent careers on SWAT teams or other specialized units say it isn't something that comes naturally. It can take not just training but real-life experience in pressure-cooker situations before the instruction takes hold and they're able to respond effectively.

"What an individual officer or a team of officers will do in an active shooter incident calls on every aspect of their overall training and policing. And that's one of the reasons why you'd be hard-pressed to find someone in policing who thinks it's a good idea to arm teachers," said Rick Myers, executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

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"Teachers' training and expertise has nothing to do with police tactics — shoot-don't-shoot decision making, the psychological trauma that accompanies violence, all the things that are built into what police officers deal with on a daily basis."

Around the country, in places like Ohio and Texas, some schools post warnings that staffers are armed, while others keep potential attackers guessing.

Chris Cerino, a former law enforcement officer, now offers training to educators through his Cerino Consulting and Training Group. The program has taught 1,300 educators over five years. They spend 28 hours learning not just how to fire a gun but such things as ambush tactics, responding under stress, and treating wounds.

Students on occasion have left the class within the first few hours after realizing they're not cut out for it.

Cerino said teachers realize that the usual tactics taught in school — lockdowns and throwing books and other objects at a gunman — are simply "not going to stop a determined killer with a gun. And all that's going to do is delay in the inevitable."

Christopher Albrecht, a fourth-grade teacher from Brockport, New York, and the state's 2018 teacher of the year, said there is already high anxiety in schools with lockdown drills and fears of shooters. He said he is not convinced arming educators is the solution.

"I can't imagine if I had a gun that was visible on me what that would do to anxiety levels. If anything right now, I'm trying to lower anxiety levels in my classroom. I think that would just raise them," he said.

Mo Canady, executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers, urged every school to first get an armed officer posted before it considers arming teachers. Those officers are highly trained, he said. Also, he said, arming teachers could make it difficult for police rushing to the scene of a shooting to tell who the bad guy is.

"We see one person or six people with weapons drawn in plainclothes — that could go bad in a hurry," Canady said.

The tactics for dealing with active shooters changed after the Columbine High School attack in 1999 in which two students killed 13 people. At the time, it was general practice for law enforcement to wait for a team of officers to assemble before going in to confront a gunman.

Since then, officers have been trained to go in immediately — even if it's a lone officer without backup.

Why the school resource officer stayed outside rather than try to stop the Parkland shooter hasn't been disclosed. But one possible factor, law enforcement experts said, is the limited daily experience those officers have with high-pressure situations.

Is it then unreasonable to expect educators to perform any differently?

"Just being a gun enthusiast doesn't mean you're going to perform well under stress," said John Bostain, a former police officer in Virginia who now travels the country training law enforcement. "You can't just tell people what it's going to feel like. You have to experience it."

Associated Press journalists Carolyn Thompson contributed from Buffalo, New York, and Robert Ray from Atlanta.

Follow Lisa Marie Pane on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/lisamariepane>

Latest Mueller indictment spells trouble for bankers, too

By JAKE PEARSON and JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Recently filed federal charges against President Donald Trump's ex-campaign chairman Paul Manafort could also pose legal and regulatory risks for the banks that loaned him millions of dollars against his New York real estate in recent years.

The most serious exposure may be for a Rhode Island-based bank that employed a "conspirator" in Manafort's scheme to obtain a loan he couldn't afford, according to the 32-count new indictment unsealed this week.

Dubbed "Lender B" in court papers, Citizens Bank not only lent Manafort \$3.4 million based off of fraudu-

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lent documents but, in another case, appeared to help Manafort avoid being caught by sending back a crudely falsified financial statement that had been sent to them from a Manafort associate, according to federal prosecutors.

"Looks Dr'd," the unnamed banker allegedly wrote. "Can't someone just do a clean excel doc and pdf to me??"

Peter Lugcht, a bank spokesman, declined to acknowledge that Citizens was "Lender B" or answer questions about whether Citizens had reported the alleged loan application fabrications to the government. He also wouldn't say whether it still employed the person identified as a conspirator.

The Associated Press identified "Lender B" and other unidentified banks referenced in court papers by cross-referencing loan amounts and dates described in the indictment with publicly available property records in New York City.

Experts told the AP the bank's behavior as described in the indictment will cause problems for it beyond a possible loss on its loan, drawing scrutiny from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

"I would expect the OCC upon reading this indictment or news accounts of the indictment to immediately launch an investigation of what went on," said Kevin Handy, a banking lawyer and former senior attorney for the Federal Reserve Board.

Details of Manafort's banking habits were laid bare in the court papers filed this week by Robert Mueller, the special prosecutor investigating Russian ties to Trump. Manafort has pleaded not guilty to money laundering and other charges.

His longtime deputy, Rick Gates, who was similarly charged with banking violations, tax evasion, unregistered lobbying and other crimes, pleaded guilty Friday and will be cooperating with Mueller's probe.

Along with the prospect that one of Citizens' employees allegedly aided an attempt to commit loan fraud, the details in the indictment indicate the bank failed to heed the results of its basic due diligence, eventually lending Manafort \$3.4 million despite twice having reason to be wary of Manafort's creditworthiness, prosecutors said.

In the first case, Citizens noticed that Manafort failed to disclose loans on other properties in New York in his application for a \$3.4 million loan, using a condo in Manhattan's trendy SoHo neighborhood as collateral.

That's when Manafort asked Gates to find an insurance broker to hand over an old insurance report that didn't list one of the loans, making it appear as if he didn't have as much debt as he did, according to the indictment.

"Good job on the insurance issues," Manafort wrote to Gates, the court papers show.

In a second instance, Citizens was apparently unwilling to loan Manafort money after noticing \$1.5 million on his balance sheet from another account. But the bank's concern was apparently mollified after Manafort and Gates asked their tax accountant to send the bank a back-dated document falsely stating the \$1.5 million had been forgiven, court papers show.

In the case involving the "conspirator" at Citizens, it doesn't appear the bank made the \$5.5 million loan that Manafort had sought for a property in Brooklyn. In that case, according to court papers, "another conspirator on Manafort's behalf" sent the bank a fake profit-and-loss statement. The person wasn't identified in court papers.

Handy said that bank regulators would likely want to know why a bank hadn't caught on to such a ruse.

"That they could make a loan thinking they had the collateral in place is a failing of the bank's internal operating procedures and controls," he said. "Ordinary due diligence should have uncovered that."

Manafort has properties in Florida, Virginia, Manhattan, Brooklyn and New York's Long Island.

He was represented on multiple real estate transactions named in the indictment by New Jersey lawyer Bruce Baldinger, property records show.

Baldinger was reprimanded by the New Jersey Supreme Court in 2008 for violating attorney conflict-of-interest rules and again in 2013 by the New York for not reporting his past disciplinary history, according to records. He didn't return messages seeking comment.

Horwitz reported from Washington.

Trump talks new gun measures, gun owners talk 'betrayal'

By RICHARD LARDNER and NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — As President Donald Trump talked this week about banning “bump stocks” and curbing young people’s access to guns, the gun owners and advocates who helped propel his political rise talked about desertion and betrayal.

Trump’s flirtation with a set of modest gun control measures drew swift condemnation from gun groups, hunters and sportsmen who banked on the president to be a stalwart opponent to any new gun restrictions. In his pledge to make schools safer and curb gun violence after the massacre at a Florida high school, gun advocates see a weakening resolve from the man they voted for in droves and spent millions to elect.

“Out in the firearms community there is a great feeling of betrayal and abandonment, because of the support he was given in his campaign for president,” Tony Fabian, president of the Colorado Sports Shooting Association, said Friday.

The comments highlight how little room the president and his party have to maneuver without angering and activating the politically powerful gun rights community. Trump has not yet formally proposed any legislative plan and he spent much of the week endorsing the notion of arming teachers and school officials — a plan the gun lobby supports. Still, just floating proposals that defy the National Rifle Association and other groups drew threats of political retribution and legal action.

The confrontation is set to test whether Trump, a figure deeply popular with his party’s base, is willing to risk his political capital to take on a constituency few Republicans have challenged.

“The president has a unique ability right now to maybe really do something about these school shootings,” said Rep. Tom Rooney, a Republican from Florida. “Nobody is more popular in my district — and I know in a lot of other people’s districts — than Donald Trump. He’s more popular than the NRA. ... So it’s up to him whether or not anything happens with guns.”

After 17 people were killed by a teenager, Trump declared that assault rifles should be kept out of the hands of anyone under 21. He endorsed more stringent background checks for gun buyers, and ordered his Justice Department to work toward banning rapid-fire “bump stock” devices.

Gun Owners of America issued an alert earlier this week urging its 1.5 million members to call the White House and “Tell Trump to OPPOSE All Gun Control!” The organization said anti-gun activists aided by congressional Democrats are trying to convince the president he should “support their disastrous gun control efforts,” the message said. “And sadly, it may be working.”

Michael Hammond, legislative counsel for the Virginia-based group, said the organization doesn’t hesitate to oppose Republican incumbents and candidates whom it deems not sufficiently “pro-gun.” Motivating gun owners to go to the polls — not campaign funding — is the source of the gun lobby’s strength, according to Hammond.

“When they feel gun ownership is threatened, then they’re going to respond as if that’s the pre-eminent issue,” he said.

Paul Paradis, who owns a gun store in Colorado Springs, was enthusiastic about letting teachers carry firearms on campus. But he was incredulous about the notion of outlawing bump stocks and increasing the age requirement for buying a long gun.

“Trump can propose anything he wants but it’s got to get through two houses of Congress and the Supreme Court,” Paradis said.

Colorado has been a test case for the politics of gun control and the ability of gun groups to retaliate against those who vote for it. In 2013, after the Aurora theater shooting was followed by the elementary school massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, Colorado’s Democrat-controlled state legislature passed a package of gun restrictions, including universal background checks and a ban on magazines that hold more than 15 bullets.

Gun control advocates hoped to roll the program out to other states after showing a libertarian, Western

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state could pass the bills. But then the NRA backed successful recalls of two Democratic state lawmakers who backed the legislation. The momentum ended.

Democrats won back those seats in the 2016 election. Still, the message has lingered: Democrats have not proposed any major gun legislation since the recalls.

There are an estimated 55 million gun owners in the United States, according to a 2016 national survey conducted by Northeastern and Harvard universities.

The influential National Rifle Association, which spent about \$30 million in support of Trump's presidential campaign, is firmly opposed to raising the legal age for the purchase of long guns from 18 to 21. After floating the idea earlier in the week, Trump declined to reiterate his proposal to increase age restrictions during wide-ranging remarks Friday before the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Trump's call to restrict bump stocks like the ones used in last year's Las Vegas massacre triggered outrage among gun owners. The devices allow a shooter's semi-automatic rifle to mimic a machine gun. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is conducting a review to determine if it can regulate bump stocks without action from Congress.

But several gun rights advocates said the answer is an unequivocal no. Only Congress has the power to make such a move. ATF has received thousands of comments as part of the review and many are from gun owners who see potential regulation as a slippery slope that will lead to administrative bans on triggers, magazines and even firearms themselves.

"If there was an art of the deal, then this would be a deal breaker," said Brandon Combs, president of the California-based Firearms Policy Coalition, making a reference to the title of Trump's 1987 book on business. The coalition said in a statement Tuesday that it would take legal action if necessary to resist Trump's "outrageous lawlessness."

"Gun owners have been burned too many times over the years," Combs said. "Politicians do whatever they want when they get into office."

Riccardi reported from Denver. Associated Press writer Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

Graham's body to make journey from mountains to Charlotte

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — The Rev. Billy Graham's body will be brought to his hometown of Charlotte on Saturday as part of a procession expected to draw crowds of well-wishers.

The procession begins late Saturday morning with a ceremonial departure from a mountain chapel at the training center operated by his evangelistic association in Asheville and ends in the afternoon at Graham's library in Charlotte.

Crowds are expected to watch the procession pass through the town of Black Mountain as it leaves the training center on its way to the interstate for the approximately 130 mile (210 KM) journey. Graham often shopped or caught trains in Black Mountain, next to the community of Montreat where he maintained his home.

Authorities in North Carolina's largest city, where Graham grew up, are also making preparations with designated viewing areas for well-wishers when the procession ends there.

The procession is part of more than a week of mourning for "America's Pastor," culminating with his burial next week at his library in Charlotte.

Graham, who died Wednesday at his home in North Carolina's mountains at age 99, reached hundreds of millions of listeners around the world with his rallies and his pioneering use of television.

A viewing will be held at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte on Monday and Tuesday.

Graham will also lie in honor in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda next week, on Feb. 28 and March 1, the first time a private citizen has been accorded such recognition since civil rights hero Rosa Parks in 2005.

He will be laid to rest March 2 at the foot of a cross-shaped walkway at the Billy Graham Library in

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Charlotte, buried in a simple prison-made plywood coffin next to his wife, Ruth, who died in 2007. His coffin was built by inmates at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana, who typically construct caskets for fellow prisoners who cannot afford one.

The funeral will be held in a tent in the main parking lot of Graham's library in tribute to the 1949 Los Angeles tent revivals that propelled him to international fame, family spokesman Mark DeMoss said. About 2,000 people are expected at the private, invitation-only funeral.

Ivanka Trump at Olympics for politics, to back athletes

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump's daughter toured the 2018 Winter Olympics on Saturday, the morning after telling South Korea's president that she would use her visit to the Pyeongchang Games to advocate maximum pressure on North Korea to halt its nuclear program.

Ivanka Trump, one of her father's close advisers and a winter sports enthusiast herself, is leading the U.S. delegation at Sunday's closing ceremony for the Pyeongchang Games. Under cloudy skies, she watched her first event Saturday morning — Big Air snowboarding — before heading over to the American team's headquarters, USA House, to interact with some Olympians.

Among those she met: Garrett Hines, a former U.S. bobsledder and Army reservist.

"I heard you are part of the reserves. That's incredible," Trump said. "Thank you for your service, and thank you for serving as an inspiration to so many people in this capacity."

Before coming to the Olympic city in northeastern South Korea, Trump met and dined in the capital with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who highlighted to her how the Olympics have served as a vehicle for dialogue between the two Koreas. Moon said the U.S. and South Korea should make use of the current mood of rapprochement between the Koreas in seeking denuclearization.

At a closed-door meeting before a banquet Friday night at the presidential compound, Moon told Trump that talks on denuclearization and the inter-Korean dialogue must move forward side by side, Moon's press secretary, Yoon Young-chan, told reporters.

Trump responded by pushing for joint efforts by the U.S. and South Korea to apply maximum pressure on North Korea, Yoon said.

The meeting and Olympic visit come as the Trump administration announced sanctions on more than 50 vessels, shipping companies and trade businesses to turn up the pressure on North Korea. U.S. officials said the president had discussed the action with Moon ahead of the announcement in Washington.

Differences in how the U.S. and South Korea hope to achieve denuclearization were apparent during the banquet. In her remarks, Ivanka Trump said she was in South Korea to celebrate the Olympics and to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to a "maximum pressure campaign to ensure that the Korean Peninsula is denuclearized."

Moon, for his part, hopes to make the Olympics an avenue for peace on the divided Korean Peninsula.

In Pyeongchang on Saturday, Trump toured Olympic venues. She watched snowboarders go on runs at the Big Air jump and saw American snowboarder Kyle Mack take a silver medal.

A smiling Trump, wearing a Team USA hat and red snowsuit, chatted with members of her delegation and South Korea first lady Kim Jung-suk. Also with her was IOC board member and 1998 hockey gold medalist Angela Ruggiero.

After the event ended, Trump spoke with some of the South Korean athletes who were guests of the delegation and posed for selfies.

Ivanka Trump's appearance at the closing on behalf of the White House and the United States is a softer bookend to Vice President Mike Pence's awkward visit during the opening ceremony.

She has some popularity in Asia, and the perception of her as a smoother player in her father's administration — and, not inconsequentially, a younger one as well — allows the United States a photogenic representative at the end of a games dominated by unusually adept PR moves from North Korea.

In addition to her presence at the Olympics' closing ceremony Sunday, a high-level North Korean del-

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egation will also attend. So the big question is this: Will she end up in the same position as Pence — in a VIP box with a North Korean delegation nearby? And if so, how will she respond? Will she, unlike Pence, choose to interact?

The answer will provide a coda to an extraordinary two weeks of Olympic political optics — and offer hints of the Trump administration's approach in coming weeks when it comes to the recent thawing of North-South relations on the Korean Peninsula.

"North Korea's participation in the Winter Olympic Games has served as an opportunity for us to engage in active discussions between the two Koreas and this has led to lowering of tensions on the peninsula and an improvement in inter-Korean relations," Moon said Friday during his meeting with Trump.

Moon met Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and Kim Yong Nam, North Korea's nominal head of state, a day after the opening ceremony earlier this month and urged North Korea to do more to engage in a dialogue with the United States.

While the games appear to have paved the way for possible rapprochement between the Koreas, U.S. and North Korean officials have yet to make direct contact. Earlier this week, the U.S. government said Pence had been set to meet North Korean officials during his visit to South Korea, but that the North Korean side canceled at the last minute.

For now, there are no signs that Ivanka Trump would meet Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party Central Committee, who is to attend the closing ceremony.

Back in Washington, Trump tweeted praise about his offspring as she touched down in Seoul. "My daughter, Ivanka, just arrived in South Korea. We cannot have a better, or smarter, person representing our country."

Errin Haines Whack is a national writer for The Associated Press. Associated Press writer Youkyung Lee contributed to this report from Seoul.

Ex-Trump aide pleads guilty, will cooperate in Russia probe

By CHAD DAY, TOM LoBIANCO and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rick Gates' guilty plea to federal conspiracy and false-statements charges turns him from defendant to cooperating witness in the special counsel's probe of President Donald Trump's election campaign and Russia's interference.

The plea by Gates, a former senior adviser to President Donald Trump's election campaign, revealed he will help special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation in "any and all matters" as prosecutors continue to probe the 2016 campaign, Russian meddling and Gates' longtime business associate, one-time campaign chairman Paul Manafort.

With his cooperation, Gates gives Mueller a witness willing to provide information on Manafort's finances and political consulting work in Ukraine — and someone who had access at the highest levels of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Gates, 45, of Richmond, Virginia, made the plea at the federal courthouse in Washington. He stood somberly beside his attorney and did not speak during his hearing, except to answer routine questions from the judge about whether he understood the rights he was giving up.

He admitted to charges of conspiring against the U.S. government related to fraud and unregistered foreign lobbying, as well as lying to federal authorities in a recent interview. Under the terms of the plea, he is estimated to face between 57 and 71 months behind bars and a possible fine ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000. Prosecutors may seek a shortened sentence depending on his cooperation.

The plea came a day after a federal grand jury in Virginia returned a 32-count indictment against Gates and Manafort, accusing them of tax evasion and bank fraud. Gates is the fifth defendant to plead guilty in Mueller's investigation.

The indictment in Virginia was the second round of charges against Gates and Manafort, who were initially charged last October with unregistered lobbying and conspiring to launder millions of dollars they

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earned while working on behalf of a pro-Russian Ukrainian political party.

Manafort continues to maintain his innocence.

"I had hoped and expected my business colleague would have had the strength to continue the battle to prove our innocence. For reasons yet to surface he chose to do otherwise," Manafort said Friday. "This does not alter my commitment to defend myself against the untrue piled-up charges contained in the indictments against me."

In court filings over the past few months, Gates gradually began to show the strain the case was placing on him and his family.

He frequently pleaded with U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson for leniency in his house arrest to let him attend sporting events with his four children. Even on Friday, ahead of his plea, Gates had asked the judge to let him take his children to Boston for spring break so they could "learn about American history in general, and the Revolutionary War in particular."

Gates' plea comes on the heels of last week's stunning indictment that laid out a broad operation of election meddling by Russia. It began in 2014, and employed fake social media accounts and on-the-ground politicking to promote Trump's campaign, disparage Hillary Clinton and sow division and discord widely among the U.S. electorate.

The charges to which Gates is pleading guilty don't involve any conduct connected to the Trump campaign. They largely relate to a conspiracy of unregistered lobbying, money laundering and fraud laid out in his indictments.

But his plea does newly reveal that Gates spoke with the FBI earlier this month and lied during the interview. That same day, his attorneys filed a motion to withdraw from representing him for "irreconcilable difference."

Gates served on the Trump campaign at the same time that Manafort, Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner met with a team of Russians in Trump Tower in June 2016. He was also involved in the campaign when then-Sen. Jeff Sessions held a pair of undisclosed meetings with Russian ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak.

For a few months in 2016, Gates was indispensable to Trump, leading the ground effort to help Trump win the Republican nomination and flying from state to state to secure Republican delegates in a scramble that lasted all the way until the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

But his power and influence waned once Trump fired Manafort in August 2016 after The Associated Press disclosed how Gates and Manafort covertly directed a Washington lobbying campaign on behalf of Ukrainian interests.

Gates survived his mentor's ouster, serving as the campaign's liaison to the Republican National Committee and later working on Trump's inaugural committee. Gates also worked briefly with America First Policies and America First Action, outside political groups supporting Trump's agenda, but was pushed out of that job last year.

When he was indicted last October, Gates was working for Tom Barrack, a close friend of Trump.

Friday's court papers accuse Gates of lying to federal agents about a March 19, 2013, meeting involving Manafort, a lobbyist and a member of Congress. Gates said the meeting did not include discussion of Ukraine; prosecutors say it did.

The charges don't name the lobbyist or the lawmaker, but filings with the Justice Department show Manafort and Vin Weber of Mercury Public Affairs met with Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., on that date as part of a lobbying campaign on behalf of Ukrainian interests.

Also Friday, Mueller's team unsealed a new indictment solely against Manafort that included an allegation that he, with Gates' assistance, secretly paid former European politicians to lobby on behalf of Ukraine.

The indictment accuses Manafort of paying the former politicians, informally known as the "Hapsburg group," to appear to be "independent" analysts when in fact they were paid lobbyists. Some of the covert lobbying took place in the U.S.

The indictment says the group was managed by a former European chancellor. Court papers accuse

Manafort of using offshore accounts to pay the group more than 2 million euros.

Associated Press writer Jeff Horwitz contributed to this report.

Read Gates' plea agreement: <http://apne.ws/P8ZpD6h>

Students: More gun control needed after school shooting

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON, GARY FINEOUT and CURT ANDERSON, Associated Press**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida officials have outlined their plans to make schools safer after a shooting that left 17 people dead last week, but some say they don't go far enough. Talia Rumsky is one of them.

Rumsky was among those who traveled to Tallahassee on Wednesday to lobby lawmakers about gun control. She said Gov. Rick Scott's plan to make it illegal for anyone under 21 to purchase a gun is a start, but shouldn't be the end of gun control efforts.

"This is a great first step, and we appreciate it," the sophomore said. "But it's not enough, and we're going to make sure they know it's not enough and is not solving our problems."

Scott announced plans Friday to put more armed guards in schools and to make it harder for young adults and some with mental illness to buy guns, responding to days of intense lobbying from survivors of the shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland nine days ago. Scott unveiled his school safety proposals as teachers returned for the first time to the school.

While criticized by some as not going far enough, the measures are significant in a state that hasn't passed any type of gun control since Republicans took control of state government in 1999.

After days of funerals for those killed in the attack, teachers began the emotionally fraught process of returning to the school Friday to collect belongings from classrooms that have been off-limits since the slayings. Following an orientation Sunday for teachers and students, classes resume Wednesday.

Broward teachers union president Anna Fusco met with the teachers as they returned to campus Friday hailing them as "incredibly brave and strong."

"I met with one that was grazed with a bullet. ... She has a hole in her arm and a bruise from her shoulder to her elbow that looks like somebody whacked her with a bat and she's like, 'I'm here because we need to get things ready,'" Fusco said.

President Donald Trump said repeatedly Friday that he favored arming teachers to protect students, an idea many educators rejected out of hand.

"I am totally against arming teachers," Broward schools Superintendent Robert Runcie said. "They have a challenging job as it is."

Trump told reporters Friday that schools need some kind of "offensive" capability to deter and respond to attackers.

"If they're not gun-free, if there are guns inside, held by the right people, by highly trained professionals, you're going to see this end. It won't be happening again. Our schools are essentially gun-free zones and that makes them very dangerous places," the president said.

Scott, a Republican widely expected to run for the Senate, outlined his plan at a Tallahassee news conference. In addition to banning firearm sales to anyone under 21, the governor called for a trained law enforcement officer for every school — and one for every 1,000 students at larger schools — by the time the fall 2018 school year begins.

Stoneman Douglas, with more than 3,000 students, had one armed resource officer who never entered the building under attack while a gunman was shooting people inside, officials said.

That failure was compounded by confusion about what was being shown to police on school security cameras the day of the shooting and the lack of meaningful response to reports to the FBI and local police that 19-year-old suspect Nikolas Cruz might become violent, had guns and possibly would attack a school.

Florida's House speaker called it an "abject breakdown at all levels." Cruz is jailed on 17 counts of murder and has confessed to the shootings, investigators say.

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A woman close to Cruz warned the FBI on Jan. 5 that he had rifles and said, "I know he is going to explode," according to a transcript of the tip to the FBI's call center, which was obtained Friday by The Associated Press. The FBI has acknowledged it failed to investigate the tip. The woman described Cruz's short temper and said he had the "mental capacity of a 12- to 14-year-old." She said Cruz posted pictures of weapons on social media and he wrote, "I want to kill people."

Among other things, the governor's \$500 million plan would create a "violent threat restraining order" that would let a court prohibit a violent or mentally ill person from purchasing or possessing a firearm or any other weapon under certain circumstances.

The proposal would also strengthen gun purchase and possession restrictions for mentally ill people under the state's Baker Act, which allows someone to be involuntarily hospitalized for up to 72 hours. Scott is seeking \$50 million for initiatives that include expanding mental health services by providing counseling, crisis management and other mental health services for youth and young adults.

"No one with mental issues should have access to a gun. It is common sense," Scott said.

The governor's plan made no mention of arming teachers on school grounds.

However, the Legislature's Republican leadership proposed letting teachers carry a gun if they have had law enforcement training. The legislators' plan also calls for a three-day waiting period for most gun purchases, with exceptions.

Democrats said neither plan goes far enough.

"Unfortunately, both plans omit a third, critically important piece of legislation Democrats have been and continue to push for: a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines," said state Senate Democratic Leader Oscar Braynon. He added that recent mass shootings show that "so long as these high-powered weapons of war remain available for purchase these killings will continue."

On Friday evening, Marion P. Hammer, former president of the National Rifle Association and longtime Florida lobbyist, issued an appeal to gun enthusiasts titled, "EMERGENCY ALERT! Don't Let Them Blame You For Parkland." She mentioned several proposals they could support, such as "hardening our schools," putting officers in schools and training volunteer teachers to use guns. But she said a three-day waiting period would not have stopped the Parkland shooter; bump stocks had nothing to do with it; and raising the age limit for gun purchases would be unfair.

Fineout and Farrington reported from Tallahassee, Florida; Anderson from Miami; Freida Frisaro and Jennifer Kay contributed from Miami; Kelli Kennedy from Parkland; and Jason Dearen from Gainesville.

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

After school shooting, Florida leaders propose new gun laws

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON, GARY FINEOUT and CURT ANDERSON, Associated Press**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida's governor announced plans Friday to put more armed guards in schools and to make it harder for young adults and some with mental illness to buy guns, responding to days of intense lobbying from survivors of last week's shooting at a Florida high school.

Gov. Rick Scott unveiled his school safety proposals as teachers returned for the first time to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School since the shooting nine days ago that killed 17 people. While criticized by some as not going far enough, the measures were significant in a state that hasn't passed any type of gun control since Republicans took control of state government in 1999.

The shooting sparked an intense push to restrict access to assault rifles fueled by student activists who swarmed the state Capitol demanding concrete gun control measures.

President Donald Trump said repeatedly Friday that he favored arming teachers to protect students, an idea many educators rejected out of hand.

"I am totally against arming teachers," Broward schools Superintendent Robert Runcie said. "They have

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Scott, a Republican widely expected to run for the Senate, outlined his plan at a Tallahassee news conference. In addition to banning firearm sales to anyone under 21, the governor called for a trained law enforcement officer for every school — and one for every 1,000 students at larger schools — by the time the fall 2018 school year begins.

Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, which has more than 3,000 students, had one armed resource officer who never entered the building under attack while a gunman was shooting people inside, officials said.

That failure was compounded by confusion about what was being shown to police on school security cameras the day of the shooting and the lack of meaningful response to reports to the FBI and local police that 19-year-old suspect Nikolas Cruz might become violent, had guns and possibly would attack a school.

Florida’s House speaker called it an “abject breakdown at all levels.” Cruz is jailed on 17 counts of murder and has confessed to the shootings, investigators say.

A woman close to Cruz warned the FBI on Jan. 5 that he had rifles and said, “I know he is going to explode,” according to a transcript of the tip to the FBI’s call center, which was obtained Friday by The Associated Press. The FBI has acknowledged it failed to investigate the tip. The woman described Cruz’s short temper and said he had the “mental capacity of a 12- to 14-year-old.” She said Cruz posted pictures of weapons on social media and he wrote, “I want to kill people.”

Among other things, the governor’s \$500 million plan would create a “violent threat restraining order” that would let a court prohibit a violent or mentally ill person from purchasing or possessing a firearm or any other weapon under certain circumstances.

The proposal would also strengthen gun purchase and possession restrictions for mentally ill people under the state’s Baker Act, which allows someone to be involuntarily hospitalized for up to 72 hours. Scott is seeking \$50 million for initiatives that include expanding mental health services by providing counseling, crisis management and other mental health services for youth and young adults.

“No one with mental issues should have access to a gun. It is common sense. It for their own best interest, much less the best interest of our communities,” Scott said.

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Talia Rumsky, a 16-year-old Stoneman Douglas High student who was at school during the shooting, was among those who travelled to Tallahassee on Wednesday to lobby lawmakers about gun control.

She said Scott’s plan to make it illegal for anyone under 21 to purchase a gun is a start, but said she doesn’t think it goes far enough.

“This is a great first step and we appreciate it,” the sophomore said. “But it’s not enough and we’re going to make sure they know it’s not enough and is not solving our problems.”

Trump told reporters Friday that schools need some kind of “offensive” capability to deter and respond to attackers.

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Fineout and Farrington reported from Tallahassee, Florida; Anderson from Miami; Freida Frisaro and Jennifer Kay contributed from Miami; Kelli Kennedy from Parkland; and Jason Dearen from Gainesville.

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

Caller told FBI Florida shooting suspect 'going to explode'

By SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A woman close to the man charged with killing 17 people at a Florida high school warned the FBI in chilling detail that he had a growing collection of guns and a temper so uncontrollable she worried about him "getting into a school and just shooting the place up."

The Associated Press on Friday obtained a transcript of the Jan. 5 tip to the FBI's call center. The FBI acknowledged it failed to investigate the tip about 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, but the transcript provides the fullest glimpse yet into the seriousness of the woman's concerns.

"I know he's going to explode," she told the call-taker.

The FBI briefed congressional staff Friday about its failure to act on the alarming tip, as well as why it did not delve into a September 2017 YouTube comment posted by a "Nikolas Cruz" that said, "Im going to be a professional school shooter." The FBI linked the January call to the report of the YouTube comment, but an FBI intake specialist and a supervisor at the call center took no further action, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley's office said Friday.

Google, which owns YouTube, also briefed congressional staffers.

The tips were among a series of what authorities now describe as the clearest missed warning signs that Cruz, who had a history of disturbing behavior, posed a serious threat. The FBI declined to comment on the transcript, which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

During the phone call, which spanned more than 13 minutes, the woman described a teenager prone to anger with the "mental capacity of a 12 to 14 year old" that deteriorated after his mother died last year. She pointed the FBI to several Instagram accounts where Cruz had posted photos of sliced-up animals and rifles and ammunition he apparently purchased with money from his mother's life insurance policy.

"It's alarming to see these pictures and know what he is capable of doing and what could happen," the caller said. "He's thrown out of all these schools because he would pick up a chair and just throw it at somebody, a teacher or a student, because he didn't like the way they were talking to him."

The woman said she called the local police in Parkland, Florida, after Cruz began posting online that he wanted to kill himself. Then, she said, the threat changed to "I want to kill people." She said he had killed animals and once held his mother at rifle-point.

"I just want to, you know, get it off my chest in case something does happen," the woman said. "And I do believe something's going to happen."

The revelation of the FBI's failure to refer the tip to agents in the field who could have investigated comes as the agency is already facing intense political pressure. Lawmakers, including Grassley, immediately

sought more information from FBI Director Chris Wray on what went wrong.

Acting Deputy Director David Bowdich told reporters Thursday the bureau is still trying to determine exactly how the tip got botched.

As for the YouTube post, Grassley's office said the FBI opened a counterterrorism lead but closed it less than a month later because agents were unable to identify the person behind it. Google told congressional staff it could have helped, if the FBI had asked last year.

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

Emoluments suit vs. Trump now personal as well as official

By TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorneys general of Maryland and the District of Columbia on Friday expanded their lawsuit accusing President Donald Trump of accepting gifts from foreign and state governments, suing him not only as president but in his personal capacity as a businessman.

Legal experts say the move takes the "emoluments" clause of the Constitution into uncharted legal waters, since it has been interpreted as only applying to presidents in their official capacity.

"The conventional understanding is that once the president is sworn in ... everything he does is official, so he doesn't have a personal capacity any longer. That's kind of the assumption, but that could be wrong," said Mark Brown, a constitutional law expert at Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Maryland, is one of several recent cases challenging Trump's ties to his business ventures and his refusal to divest from them. The suits allege that foreign governments' use of Trump's hotels and other properties violates the Constitution's emoluments clause, which bans the president's acceptance of foreign gifts and money without Congress' permission. The clause has never been fully tested in federal court and Trump's Justice Department attorneys have argued that hotel room stays do not represent "foreign gifts."

Last month, during a five-hour hearing in a Maryland courthouse, U.S. District Judge Peter Messitte went round and round on the issue of official versus individual capacity, actually suggesting that the plaintiffs amend their lawsuit to include the president in his personal capacity.

"They're not talking about things he's doing as president, they're talking about something he's doing benefiting from as a private owner of a business," Messitte said in court, noting that the provision of hotel rooms has nothing to do with Trump's role as president. "Are you saying it does? ... Should he be sued in his official and private capacity?"

The move Friday to amend the lawsuit also potentially opens the doors to Trump's personal lawyers to join the case.

"While we continue to believe that the complaint would be sufficient as to the president in his official capacity, the court's questions at the hearing suggested that as an independent and alternate ground, it might be sound to proceed against the president in his personal capacity as well," said Norman Eisen, chairman of the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, which is co-counsel on the case.

Judge Messitte has yet to make a decision on the government's motion to dismiss the case. If Messitte allows the case to proceed, it would likely move on to discovery. Some legal observers contend that getting to the discovery stage of the litigation, which would shed significant light on Trump's opaque and sprawling business empire, is the actual goal of the lawsuits.

Seth Tillman, a lecturer at Ireland's Maynooth University Department of Law who has written a brief in support of the government, criticized the plaintiffs for not suing the president in his individual capacity from the start and said that indicated the suit was mostly about getting new information through the discovery process.

"We've never seen litigation like this before," Tillman said, questioning why they didn't do this from the start.

Rob Marus, a spokesman for the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, said the case is about getting the president to stop violating the Constitution, not merely about getting to discovery.

According to Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh: "This is the first time that anyone has had to sue a president for violating or nation's original anti-corruption law — the emoluments clause.

"During the hearing on the motion to dismiss, the judge's questions led us to the conclusion that it is advisable and perhaps necessary to sue Donald Trump as an individual," he told The Associated Press. "We took that step today."

The Associated Press emailed both the Trump Organization and the Justice Department for comment on the new motion. A Justice Department spokeswoman declined comment and the Trump Organization's spokesperson was not immediately available for comment

Late last year, a judge in New York threw out one such lawsuit filed by the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, saying emoluments is an issue that Congress should address first. That case was appealed last week. A third federal lawsuit has been filed against Trump on the issue by nearly 200 Democratic members of Congress.

Associated Press writer Stephen Braun contributed to this report.

Follow Tami Abdollah on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/latams>

Myanmar bulldozes what was 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 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

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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?"

Trump Jr. 'loves' Indian media covering his business visit

By MUNEZA NAQVI, Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The U.S. president's son heaped praise on the Indian media and complained of coverage at home, as he neared the end of a whirlwind trip across India promoting Trump-brand luxury real estate.

Donald Trump Jr. said at an Indian business summit Friday that life since his father's election "has been difficult from a family standpoint," but that he'd enjoyed the coverage he'd received during this trip.

"I love the Indian media. They are so mild and nice," he said to audience laughter, describing how he felt his comments have at times been twisted by some U.S. news outlets. Even when Indian outlets are aggressive in their coverage: "They've at least been fair," he said.

Trump has met only with Indian reporters carefully selected by his team, and the media coverage of his visit often focused on the promised luxury of the real estate developments he is selling.

With summer already approaching, New Delhi is far too warm for cozy fires, but flames flickered on a

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video screen behind Trump Jr. as he was interviewed by a TV anchor with the channel co-hosting the Global Business Summit.

His speech was retitled by conference organizers only hours before it was delivered amid criticism he was pushing an ethics boundary by talking about foreign policy during a private trip focused on the family business. Very quickly, "Reshaping Indo-Pacific Ties: The Era of Cooperation" became "A Fireside Chat with Donald Trump Jr."

Critics had said an international relations speech, especially while sharing a platform with Indian government officials, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 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 expected the U.S. State Department and the embassy would treat Trump Jr. like any other American on private business.

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."

The State Department and the White House have said the only support that was given for the trip was related to Secret Service protection for Trump Jr.

His 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.

Speaking to an Indian TV station during his visit, Trump Jr. dismissed as "nonsense" claims that his family business is benefiting from his father's presidency and that critics forget the opportunities lost and don't give the family credit for doing the right thing.

Shiffrin jokes about whether Vonn's Olympic career is over

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Sports Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin is not quite convinced Lindsey Vonn's Olympic career is done.

"Whenever I hear anybody say something about this," Shiffrin said Friday, "it's like, 'most likely,' 'probably,' 'maybe,' 'we'll see,' 'not sure.' I'm like, 'Knowing Lindsey, I don't believe her.'"

And with that, Shiffrin let out a big laugh.

She is, without a doubt, the heir apparent to Vonn as the leader of U.S. ski racing. They were the only two members of the country's Alpine team to earn a medal at the Pyeongchang Games — and the only two to hold news conferences a day after the sport's last two individual events.

First came Vonn, 33, wearing her downhill bronze medal. After she left the room, it was time for Shiffrin, 22, whose gold from the giant slalom and silver from the combined dangled from her neck.

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Vonn spent much of her session taking questions about her, um, extensive experience — “You’re not getting any younger,” was the way one reporter put it, to which the skier replied with a smile, “Come right out and say it, why don’t you!” — and the emotions of her (presumably) last Olympics.

Then Shiffrin discussed what she called the frustration of dealing with schedule changes that contributed to a fourth-place finish in her top event, the slalom, and forced her to enter only three of five races.

When asked about being Vonn’s successor, she was deferential.

“I don’t necessarily feel like I’m taking over something for the sport. I don’t know if I could fill Lindsey’s shoes, the way that she has worn them,” Shiffrin said. “I’m going to do my best to help the sport grow in whatever way that I can. The best way that I can do that, as far as I see right now, is just to ski my best and to keep taking ski racing to a new level.”

Shiffrin also was asked about what sort of advice she might have received from Vonn when it comes to taking over as the face of Alpine skiing in the United States.

“I haven’t had a lot of advice about what to do because, first of all, I don’t think Lindsey sees herself as being done yet or passing the baton,” she answered. “And I don’t see myself as taking the baton.”

Shiffrin is now what Vonn once was: a multiple Olympic medalist in her 20s with a bright future.

After Vonn won a gold and bronze at the 2010 Vancouver Games, the assumption was she would go on to add medal upon medal to her career total. Instead, she was forced to miss the 2014 Olympics after tearing knee ligaments.

So after an eight-year wait, Vonn stepped back on the stage, but has said this would be her last Olympics. As it is, she became the oldest woman to win an Alpine medal.

Vonn said the woman who took the gold in the downhill, good friend Sofia Goggia of Italy, wrote a note trying to lobby for a return in 2022.

“I told her ... if I physically could continue for four years, then I probably would, as long as I considered myself still a competitor,” Vonn said. “But four years is a really long time. I told her that. She said she’s going to keep trying to convince me.”

In the meantime, there are other goals Vonn will pursue before retiring. She reiterated she is “not going to stop ski racing until I break” Ingemar Stenmark’s World Cup record for most career race wins. She has 81; he had 86.

“I think next season,” Vonn said, “I can get it done.”

She also intends to pursue a chance to compete against men, something she’s sought for years.

The sport’s governing body is supposed to consider her request in a few months, but if that doesn’t work out, Vonn said she would think about trying to set up an exhibition race.

All of that will be put on hold for a bit, though.

Instead of joining the skiing circuit when it resumes in Switzerland next weekend, Vonn will wait until the World Cup Finals in Are, Sweden, on March 14-18, to try to overtake Goggia for the season downhill title.

“I need a break,” Vonn said. “I need a moment to breathe. I’ve never actually had time after an Olympics to enjoy it, so I’m going to.”

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

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

Ex-Trump aide pleads guilty, will cooperate in Russia probe

By CHAD DAY, TOM LoBIANCO and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former senior adviser to President Donald Trump’s election campaign pleaded guilty Friday to federal conspiracy and false-statements charges, switching from defendant to cooperating witness in the special counsel’s probe of Trump’s campaign and Russia’s election interference.

The plea by Rick Gates revealed that he will help special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation in “any and all matters” as prosecutors continue to probe the 2016 campaign, Russian meddling and Gates’ long-

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time business associate, one-time Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort.

With his cooperation, Gates gives Mueller a witness willing to provide information on Manafort about his finances and political consulting work in Ukraine, and also someone who had access at the highest levels of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Gates, 45, of Richmond, Virginia, made the plea at the federal courthouse in Washington. He stood somberly beside his attorney and did not speak during his hearing except to answer routine questions from the judge about whether he understood the rights he was giving up.

He admitted to charges accusing him of conspiring against the U.S. government related to fraud and unregistered foreign lobbying as well as lying to federal authorities in a recent interview. Under the terms of the plea, he is estimated to face between 57 and 71 months behind bars and a possible fine ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000. Prosecutors may seek a shortened sentence depending on his cooperation.

The plea came a day after a federal grand jury in Virginia returned a 32-count indictment against Gates and Manafort, Trump's former campaign chairman, accusing them of tax evasion and bank fraud. Gates is the fifth defendant to plead guilty in Mueller's investigation.

The indictment in Virginia was the second round of charges against Gates and Manafort, who were initially charged last October with unregistered lobbying and conspiring to launder millions of dollars they earned while working on behalf of a pro-Russian Ukrainian political party.

Manafort continues to maintain his innocence.

"I had hoped and expected my business colleague would have had the strength to continue the battle to prove our innocence. For reasons yet to surface he chose to do otherwise," Manafort said Friday. "This does not alter my commitment to defend myself against the untrue piled-up charges contained in the indictments against me."

In court filings over the past few months, Gates gradually began to show the strain the case was placing on him and his family.

He frequently pleaded with U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson for leniency in his house arrest to let him attend sporting events with his four children. Even on Friday, ahead of his plea, Gates had asked the judge to let him take his children to Boston for spring break so they could "learn about American history in general, and the Revolutionary War in particular."

Gates' plea comes on the heels of the stunning indictment last week that laid out a broad operation of election meddling by Russia, which began in 2014, and employed fake social media accounts and on-the-ground politicking to promote Trump's campaign, disparage Hillary Clinton and sow division and discord widely among the U.S. electorate.

The charges to which Gates is pleading guilty don't involve any conduct connected to the Trump campaign. They largely relate to a conspiracy of unregistered lobbying, money laundering and fraud laid out in his indictments.

But his plea does newly reveal that Gates spoke with the FBI earlier this month and lied during the interview. That same day, his attorneys filed a motion to withdraw from representing him for "irreconcilable difference."

Gates served on the Trump campaign at the same time that Manafort, Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner met with a team of Russians in Trump Tower in June 2016. He was also involved in the campaign when then-Sen. Jeff Sessions held a pair of undisclosed meetings with Russian ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak.

For a few months in 2016, Gates was indispensable to Trump, leading the ground effort to help Trump win the Republican nomination and flying from state to state to secure Republican delegates in a scramble that lasted all the way until the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

But his power and influence waned once Trump fired Manafort in August 2016 after The Associated Press disclosed how Gates and Manafort covertly directed a Washington lobbying campaign on behalf of Ukrainian interests.

Gates survived his mentor's ouster, serving as the campaign's liaison to the Republican National Commit-

tee and later working on Trump's inaugural committee. Gates also worked briefly with the outside political groups supporting Trump's agenda, America First Policies and America First Action, but was pushed out of that job last year.

When he was indicted last October, Gates was working for Tom Barrack, a close friend of Trump.

Friday's court papers accuse Gates of lying to federal agents about a March 19, 2013, meeting involving Manafort, a lobbyist and a member of Congress. Gates said the meeting did not include discussion of Ukraine, when in fact prosecutors say it did.

The charges don't name the lobbyist or the lawmaker but filings with the Justice Department show Manafort and Vin Weber of Mercury Public Affairs met with Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., on that date as part of a lobbying campaign on behalf of Ukrainian interests.

Also Friday, Mueller's team unsealed a new indictment solely against Manafort that included an allegation that he, with Gates' assistance, secretly paid former European politicians to lobby on behalf of Ukraine.

The indictment accuses Manafort of paying the former politicians, informally known as the "Hapsburg group," to appear to be "independent" analysts when in fact they were paid lobbyists. Some of the covert lobbying took place in the U.S.

The indictment says the group was managed by a former European chancellor. Court papers accuse Manafort of using offshore accounts to pay the group more than 2 million euros.

Associated Press writer Jeff Horwitz contributed.

Read Gates' plea agreement: <http://apne.ws/P8ZpD6h>

Greitens blames politics, but even some in GOP concerned

By JIM SALTER, DAVID A. LIEB and BLAKE NELSON, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens is blaming his felony invasion of privacy indictment on a "reckless liberal prosecutor," holding fast to the assertion that any case stemming from his admitted extramarital affair is politically driven.

The Republican governor and St. Louis' Democratic circuit attorney, both just a little more than a year into their offices, certainly are political opposites. But a growing number of GOP lawmakers on Friday were questioning whether Greitens can continue to effectively lead while facing the indictment.

The indictment — handed down by a grand jury and stemming from an investigation launched by Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner — alleges that Greitens took a compromising photo of a woman without her consent and transmitted the image to a computer. Greitens has admitted being unfaithful to his wife before he won election as governor but has denied criminal wrongdoing and has insisted that the affair with his former hairdresser was consensual. His attorney filed a motion to dismiss the indictment.

Greitens claims the criminal case is politically motivated.

"The people of Missouri deserve better than a reckless liberal prosecutor who uses her office to score political points," Greitens said in a statement Thursday.

Gardner didn't respond, but her spokeswoman Susan Ryan said the prosecutor "will not be playing political games during this process."

"These personal attacks, while disappointing, will not distract her from her duty to serve justice and the citizens of this community," Ryan said Friday.

While the state Republican Party was still supporting Greitens, some lawmakers, including some Republicans, were calling on him to resign or face legislative impeachment proceedings.

"In the wake of the grand jury criminal indictment, and with legal proceedings to come, I cannot see how he could effectively perform the duties of his office, let alone to lead with the kind of moral authority needed to make a positive impact," said Sen. Kevin Corlew, of Kansas City, one of at least four Republicans who were newly calling for Greitens' resignation.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Kehoe, a Republican from Jefferson City, said the indictment "causes me to

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question whether the governor has the ability to effectively lead the state going forward," but he stopped short of calling for Greitens' resignation.

Other Republicans remained reserved in their judgment but expressed support for a legislative investigation into Greitens announced Thursday by GOP House leaders. An investigation is a necessary first step before an impeachment proceeding but does not necessarily lead to one.

Former Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Wolff said it's up to the House to decide whether a state official can be impeached for conduct that occurred before he took office.

The only statewide Missouri official to be convicted, impeached and ousted from office was Democratic Secretary of State Judy Moriarty in 1994. She was convicted of a misdemeanor for backdating her son's candidacy paperwork for a state House seat, then later impeached by the House and removed by the state Supreme Court.

The prosecutor pursuing the case against Greitens was once a Missouri House member herself, serving two terms starting in 2012. Gardner came to politics after serving as a prosecutor in the circuit attorney's office under her predecessor, Jennifer Joyce, from 2005 to 2010.

Missouri Republican Party executive director Sam Cooper called the indictment of Greitens a "political hit job."

But Democratic Rep. Alan Green of St. Louis County, chairman of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus, defended Gardner, noting that it was an independent grand jury that "found probable cause to indict the governor."

The circuit attorney is an elected official. Gardner's office reviews up to 13,000 cases brought by police each year and files charges in roughly half of them, Ryan said.

Gardner, who grew up in St. Louis and earned a law degree from St. Louis University, decided to run for the job leading an office of about 60 prosecutors when Joyce opted not to seek a fifth term in 2016. With unrest in nearby Ferguson still on the minds of people in St. Louis, where black residents slightly outnumber whites, Gardner, who is black, pledged to restore trust in the criminal justice system.

Gardner, 42, defeated three other Democrats in the August primary, aided by \$200,000 in late donations from a national super PAC partly funded by liberal billionaire George Soros.

Her career path has some precedent: Democratic U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill also began as an assistant prosecutor before winning election to the Missouri House and later being elected the Jackson County prosecutor.

The indictment has Greitens at a standstill. He canceled plans to go to Washington this weekend for a National Governors Association meeting, and the Republican Governors Association said Greitens "no longer intends to serve" on its executive committee.

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 on the tape that Greitens invited her downstairs at his home because he wanted to show her "how to do a proper pull-up."

She said Greitens "taped my hands to these rings and then put a blindfold on me," took a photo of her partially nude, 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, a married father of two young boys, has repeatedly denied blackmailing the woman. He has declined to say whether he took a photo.

According to the Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator, 274 felony invasion of privacy charges have been filed in the state since 2004. But the data lists only one in St. Louis city — apparently Greitens' case.

Greitens is a Rhodes Scholar and former Navy SEAL who entered the 2016 race as a brash outsider. He won an expensive primary, then defeated Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster in the general election.

He has faced questions about "dark money" campaign contributions. His use of a secretive app that

deletes messages is under investigation by Republican Attorney General Josh Hawley.

Lieb and Nelson reported from Jefferson City, Missouri. AP reporter John Hanna contributed from Topeka, Kansas.

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More companies end ties with NRA as pressure mounts

By DAMIAN TROISE and ALEXANDRA OLSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Three more companies said Friday they had ended discount programs with the National Rifle Association, as U.S. corporations take a closer look at investments, co-branding deals and other ties to the gun industry after the latest school massacre.

Petitions are circulating online targeting companies that offer discounts to NRA members on its website. #BoycottNRA has trended on Twitter.

Members of the NRA have access to special offers from partner companies on its website, ranging from life insurance to wine clubs. For a second consecutive day, companies listed on the site have cut ties to the group as it aggressively resists calls for stricter gun control in the wake of the mass shooting last week at a Florida high school that left 17 dead.

The insurance company MetLife Inc. discontinued its discount program with the NRA on Friday. The car rental company Hertz and Symantec Corp., the software company that makes Norton Antivirus technology, did the same.

Insurer Chubb Ltd. said Friday it is ending participation in the NRA's gun-owner insurance program, but it provided notice three months ago. The program that provided coverage for people involved in gun-related incidents or accidents had been under scrutiny by regulators over marketing issues.

Those defections arrived a day after car rental company Enterprise Holdings, which also owns Alamo and National, said it was cutting off discounts for NRA members. First National Bank of Omaha, one of the nation's largest privately held banks, announced that it would not renew a co-branded Visa credit-card with the NRA.

Other companies, including Wyndham Hotels and Best Western hotels, have let social media users know they are no longer affiliated with the NRA, though they did not make clear when the partnerships ended.

The swiftness of the corporate reaction against the NRA has differed from that of past shootings, including the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre that claimed 26 lives and the killing of 58 people in Las Vegas last fall, said Bob Spitzer, a political scientist at SUNY Cortland and a scholar on gun politics. Spitzer said the reaction was likely a reaction to the student mobilization that followed the Florida shooting, but he said it was too soon to tell how significantly it will sway the country's wider gun debate.

"If this is as far as it goes, it probably won't have any measurable effect. If other companies continue to (cut ties) it can start to have an adverse public relations effect," Spitzer said. "Usually what happens is that the storm passes, and the NRA counts on that."

Spitzer noted that it was not the first time big business has been pulled into the gun debate. In 2014, Chipotle asked customers not to bring firearms into its stores after gun rights advocates brought military-style rifles into one of its Texas restaurants. A year earlier, Starbucks Corp. made a similar statement after the Newtown, Connecticut, shooting.

Larry Hutcher, an attorney who specializes in commercial law and litigation, said companies are reacting to a perception that public opinion is shifting on gun regulation. Polls show growing support for gun control measures, including 97 percent backing for universal background checks in a Quinnipiac University survey released Tuesday.

"It's based on the fact that these companies and their marketing officers are reading the tea leaves. It makes economic sense to get on the side of the majority of Americans," said Hutcher, co-managing

partner of Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP.

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre said this week at the Conservative Political Action Conference, that those advocating for stricter gun control are exploiting the Florida shooting.

President Donald Trump has aligned himself with the NRA, suggesting some teachers could be armed so that they could fire on any attacker. However, Trump has also called for raising the minimum age for purchasing semi-automatic rifles, a move the NRA opposes.

On Friday, a large Wall Street money management firm said that it wanted to engage with major weapons manufacturers about what comes next.

Blackrock Inc., which manages \$6 trillion in assets, has become one of the largest stakeholders gun manufacturers like Sturm Ruger & Co., American Outdoor Brands Corp. and Vista Outdoor Inc. through indirect investments. The money is placed in index funds, so Blackrock cannot sell shares of individual companies within the index. Its fund clients invest in indexes that might contain companies like Ruger.

On Friday, spokesman Ed Sweeney said Blackrock will be "engaging with weapons manufacturers and distributors to understand their response to recent events."

Blackrock, through indirect investments, holds a 16.18 percent stake in Sturm Ruger, an 11.91 percent stake in Vista, and a 10.5 percent stake in American Outdoor, according to the data firm FactSet.

Trump says arm US teachers; they love kids as others don't

By KEN THOMAS and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump told conservatives Friday that even Second Amendment supporters can get behind steps to fight gun violence in schools, offering a red-meat call for arming teachers and suggesting they would be more likely to protect students than a security guard who "doesn't love the children."

Trump said the armed officer who failed to confront the gunman in last week's school shooting in Parkland, Florida, was either a "coward" or "didn't react properly under pressure."

"He was not a credit to law enforcement," Trump told the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Trump tailored his talking points Friday to his conservative audience, pushing the idea of arming some teachers who are "gun-adept people" but making no mention of another proposal he's advanced in recent days that is opposed by the National Rifle Association: increasing the minimum age for buying assault rifles from 18 to 21.

During a later appearance with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in which he again addressed gun violence, Trump declared the United States was "well on our way to solving that horrible problem" — even though the administration has yet to deliver a firm plan to Congress.

As for arming teachers, Trump said, the U.S. needs "people that can take care of our children" in schools. "A security guard doesn't know the children, doesn't love the children. This man standing outside of the school the other day doesn't love the children, probably doesn't know the children. The teachers love their children. They love their pupils."

His comments drew a rebuke from a top teachers' union leader. "Denigrating the work of campus security guards is reprehensible," said National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen García.

Trump got pushback, too, from Florida's Broward County, where last week's shootings took place. Said Superintendent Robert Runcie: "I am totally against arming teachers. They have a challenging job as it is."

Separately, Florida Gov. Rick Scott announced plans to put more armed guards in schools and to make it harder for young adults and some with mental illness to buy guns. He favors barring sales of all firearms to anyone under 21.

Trump, long supported by the NRA, has sought to maintain his backing among gun rights activists even as he has called for strengthening background checks and raising the minimum age for certain weapons purchases.

Trump said that past efforts to address school safety and gun violence had faded and "nothing ever gets done. We want to see if we can get it done." He added, "Most of it's just common sense. It's not 'do you

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love guns, do you hate guns.' It's common sense."

His remarks came at the end of a week that included meetings with students and teachers and state and local officials on ways to bolster school safety and address gun violence. He said the "evil massacre" of 17 people at the Florida high school had "broken our hearts."

Trump has advanced a variety of ideas to counter gun violence, and the White House this week asked the Justice Department and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for recommendations: everything from faster ballistics testing to more prosecutions for those who lie on gun background check forms.

The White House has said Trump will soon lay out a package of school and gun safety proposals for Congress to consider.

While Trump the president did not mention his proposal to increase age restrictions for the purchase of firearms, Vice President Mike Pence did at a separate event with the nation's governors. He said Trump had called for raising the age limit in an effort to work "with leaders in the Congress to bring this evil in our time to an end."

Democratic Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, an outspoken advocate for more gun restrictions after the 2012 elementary school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, said he expected to meet with White House aides next week. "I'm here to hear the White House out," Murphy said.

Trump said designating schools as "gun-free zones" has put students in "far more danger." He reiterated his push for "gun-adept teachers and coaches" to be able to carry concealed firearms and said it was "time to make our schools a much harder target for attackers — we don't want them in our schools."

If a teacher had been carrying a concealed firearm when a former student began firing at the Florida school, "the teacher would have shot the hell out of him before he knew what happened," Trump said.

Officials announced Thursday that Sheriff's Deputy Scot Peterson never went inside to engage the gunman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School while the shooting was underway. Peterson has resigned.

Addressing conservatives in Oxon Hill, Maryland, Trump offered a greatest-hits recap of his campaign themes during wide-ranging remarks to CPAC. He urged activists to help Republicans in the fall midterm elections.

He said Republicans must not be complacent in the fall midterms, warning of terrible consequences if Democrats take control of Congress.

Trump predicted Democrats would "take away those massive tax cuts," referencing to his signature tax law signed in December, "and they will take away your Second Amendment." Trump then surveyed the audience of conservatives on which issue was more important to them, and listened as the crowd cheered loudly in support of the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

Near the end of a roughly 75-minute speech, Trump recited the lyrics from the 1960s song, "The Snake," a campaign staple that served as an allegory to warn of what he views as the dangers of some refugees and immigrants being allowed into the United States. He reiterated his campaign pledge to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border and charged Democrats with failing to engage on a plan to provide protections for young immigrants, even though he ended the protection program.

Trump argued that his administration has kept his campaign promises, boasting as he often does that he "had the most successful first year in the history of the presidency."

And he re-aired rhetoric from his 2016 campaign, citing a "very crooked media, we had a crooked candidate, too, by the way," referencing former Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. The crowd chanted, "lock her up," a common refrain at Trump campaign rallies.

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Sadie Gurman contributed to this report.

Deaths mounts in Syria as UN weighs cease-fire resolution

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **EDITH M. LEDERER**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government warplanes carried out a sixth day of airstrikes Friday in the rebel-held

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suburbs east of Damascus, killing 32 people, activists said, as the death toll from a week of bombardment soared over 400.

At the United Nations, a vote on a Security Council resolution demanding a 30-day humanitarian cease-fire across Syria was delayed until Saturday to try to close a gap over the timing of a halt to fighting.

The new bombings came a day after Syrian army helicopters dropped leaflets over the rebel-controlled areas of eastern Ghouta, urging residents of those suburbs to leave for their own safety and calling on opposition fighters to surrender because they were surrounded by government troops.

Opposition activists reported airstrikes and artillery shelling on a string of towns on the edge of Damascus or eastern Ghouta.

At least 32 people were killed in raids on areas including Hammouriyeh, Zamalka, Douma and al-Marj, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group that monitors the civil war through a network of activists in Syria.

The Ghouta Media Center, an activist collective, also reported 32 killed, saying the victims included 13 people in the Damascus suburb of Douma, five in Ein Tarma and five in Shiefouniyeh.

Syrian state TV reported that insurgents fired 70 shells on Damascus, killing one person and wounding 60 others. It said one of the shells hit a hospital, damaging its intensive care unit as well as cars parked nearby.

The opposition's Syrian Civil Defense rescue group reported new airstrikes in Douma, Arbeen and other towns east of Damascus.

At the White House, U.S. President Donald Trump blamed Russia, Iran and the Syrian government for the recent violence in Syria, calling it a "humanitarian disgrace." His comments came at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

U.N. Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura called again for an urgent cease-fire to relieve the "appalling suffering" of civilians in eastern Ghouta by stopping the bombing there and the "indiscriminate" shelling of Damascus. He said the cease-fire must be followed by an "immediate, unhindered humanitarian access to eastern Ghouta and evacuation of sick and injured."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also had urged an immediate suspension of "all war activities" in eastern Ghouta, saying 400,000 people are living "in hell on Earth."

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said "unhindered humanitarian access and the protection of civilians is a moral duty and a matter of urgency."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia has called an immediate cease-fire unrealistic and proposed an amendment to delay it. But the Russian amendment was rejected by Sweden and Kuwait, sponsors of the proposed Security Council resolution that demands a 30-day cease-fire to start 72 hours after the measure's adoption.

Kuwait's U.N. Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaiba, the current council president, and Sweden's U.N. Ambassador Olof Skoog told reporters Friday evening after six hours of negotiations that members were very close to agreement on a text — but there was still a gap.

"We all agree there needs to be a cease-fire and it has to be urgent, immediately," Sweden's U.N. Ambassador Olof Skoog told reporters. "There are still some discussions on exactly how to define that. So that's what we're working on."

Skoog said he was "extremely frustrated" that the council was unable to adopt the resolution on Thursday or Friday because the situation on the ground is dire.

Al-Otaiba said the council will meet Saturday at noon EST (1700 GMT) and there will be a vote.

The draft resolution demands that as soon as the cease-fire takes effect, all parties should allow humanitarian convoys and medical evacuations in areas requested by the U.N. It states that 5.6 million people in 1,244 communities are in "acute need," including 2.9 million in hard-to-reach and besieged locations.

It would authorize one exemption from the cease-fire: attacks directed at extremists from the Islamic State group and all al-Qaida affiliates, including the Nusra Front, would be allowed to continue.

The Syrian government and its Russian allies say they are pursuing Islamic extremists they call "terror-

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ists" — and U.S.-backed forces are also going after IS and al-Qaida militants.

Skoog stressed earlier that the resolution "is about saving lives."

"U.N. convoys and evacuation teams are ready to go," he said. "It's time for the council to come together and shoulder its responsibility to urgently avert a situation that is beyond words in its desperation."

The final draft does include several other Russian proposals.

It stresses the need for "guarantees" from countries with influence on government and opposition forces to support and create conditions for a lasting cease-fire. The sponsors also added language expressing "outrage" at the shelling of Damascus, including on diplomatic premises, which is a proposal Russia wanted.

Russia has been a main backer for Syrian President Bashar Assad and has joined the battle on his side since 2015, tipping the balance of power in his favor. Opposition activists say Russian warplanes are taking part in the bombing of eastern Ghouta.

A main Syrian opposition group said the international community should prevent Russia from voting on the Security Council resolution, saying Moscow is part of the conflict.

Salwa Aksoy, vice president of the Syrian National Coalition, told reporters in Turkey that according to the U.N. Charter, countries that are part of a conflict have no right to vote on draft resolutions.

Aksoy said that "what is happening in Ghouta is a war of annihilation and crimes against humanity." She blamed Assad's government as well as Russia and Iran for the violence.

Also on Friday, Human Rights Watch criticized the way Turkey is conducting its offensive in northern Syria, saying it has failed to take the necessary precautions to avoid civilian casualties. The New York-based group cited three attacks in the Afrin region in late January that it says killed 26 civilians, including 17 children. It urged Turkey to thoroughly investigate these strikes and make the findings public.

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

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 the offensive, resulting in multiple casualties who were taken to hospitals.

Syrian state TV said Thursday night an aid convoy heading toward Afrin has been targeted by Turkish artillery, inflicting casualties.

Turkey's military said Friday it hit a convoy of weapons and ammunition in the countryside of a Kurdish-held enclave in northern Syria.

The army said in a statement that Turkish artillery hit the 30- to 40-vehicle convoy of the YPG in south-eastern Afrin. Aerial video accompanying the statement showed the alleged strike.

Lederer reported from the United Nations. Associated Press writers Zeina Karam in Beirut and Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul contributed.

Report: FBI probe docs list range of payments to top players

By AARON BEARD, AP Basketball Writer

New details of payments to athletes in a federal investigation that has lurked in the shadows since first rocking college basketball last fall mark the latest threat to the sport's basic foundation, showing the breadth of alleged corruption.

Bank records and other expense reports that are part of the investigation list a wide range of impermissible payments from agents to at least two dozen players or their relatives, according to documents obtained by Yahoo Sports.

The depth of the violations raises questions about the structure of college athletics, a business funded primarily through college football and basketball, including \$19.6 billion in TV money for the NCAA Tournament over the past 22 years — a hoops extravaganza American sports fans know as March Madness.

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NCAA President Mark Emmert said in a statement Friday the allegations "if true, point to systematic failures that must be fixed and fixed now if we want college sports in America."

Yahoo said Friday that the documents obtained in discovery during the investigation link current players including Michigan State's Miles Bridges, Duke's Wendell Carter and Alabama's Collin Sexton to potential benefits that would be violations of NCAA rules.

Michigan State and Duke officials said Friday they didn't believe their players did anything wrong, and Alabama coach Avery Johnson said Sexton, who was held out of the season opener for violating NCAA rules, will play Saturday against Arkansas.

According to the report, players over the past several years and family members allegedly received cash, entertainment and travel expenses from former NBA agent Andy Miller and his agency ASM Sports. Line items in four pages of documents released by Yahoo showed a wide range, including some five-figure payments and two dinners for less than \$40 each.

Don Jackson, an Alabama-based attorney who has worked on numerous college eligibility cases, said the root of the problem is that the NCAA's model of amateurism doesn't work.

"This problem can be solved if players are compensated," Jackson said. "The NCAA is not capable of adequately policing tens of thousands of athletes around the country."

A balance sheet from December 2015 lists several payments under "Loan to Players," including \$43,500 to Dallas Mavericks guard Dennis Smith, who played one season at North Carolina State in 2016-17. Another document says Smith received \$73,500 in loans.

N.C. State athletic director Debbie Yow said the school disassociated itself from Miller in 2012.

Documents also said Brooklyn Nets guard Isaiah Whitehead received \$26,136 while a freshman at Seton Hall, and Tim Quarterman, now playing for the Agua Caliente Clippers of the NBA G League, received at least \$16,000 while a junior at LSU.

The story said the mother of Bridges received \$400 in a cash advance. Current Kentucky player Kevin Knox, Carter and Sexton are listed among players or families meeting or having meals with former ASM Sports associate Christian Dawkins.

Coaches and athletic officials at several schools, including Clemson, North Carolina State, South Carolina, Southern California, Utah and Wichita State said they did not know of the alleged payments until Yahoo's report was released, but pledged to cooperate in any investigation. Several coaches distanced themselves from Miller.

"Personally, I welcome the scrutiny on the sport of men's basketball because the behavior of some agents, along with reports of other illegal recruiting activities, is hurting the sport," Utah athletic director Chris Hill said.

Tennessee coach Rick Barnes said he isn't surprised by anything that happens in college hoops.

"We can sit here and talk about it for days on end if we wanted to, all the things that have gone on in college basketball," Barnes said. "I'm not surprised by any of it."

Lawyers for two of the 10 defendants arrested in the federal cases said it was inappropriate for Yahoo to have the documents.

"An effort was clearly made to embarrass some defendants and cast aspersions on some current student athletes whose only 'crime' may be that their relatives didn't reimburse an agent for a single steak dinner," said Jeffrey Lichtman, who represents former Southern California assistant basketball coach Tony Bland, who was fired last month after his arrest. Bland is accused of receiving a \$13,000 bribe for steering the team's players to Dawkins and a financial adviser when they became professionals. Bland pleaded not guilty in November to charges related to bribery and wire fraud.

Dawkins attorney Steven Haney Sr. said the report doesn't mean Dawkins broke the law.

"In the most simple of legal terms; prove it," Haney said in an email.

Jackson said the NCAA or the schools would need to conduct their own investigations as opposed to making any rulings based on the documents from the FBI probe.

"They can't just automatically accept the credibility of this document," the Alabama-based attorney said.

Emmert said the NCAA Board of Governors and recently formed independent Commission on College Basketball are committed to "making transformational changes" and will cooperate with the federal prosecutors to "identify and punish the unscrupulous parties seeking to exploit the system through criminal acts."

AP sports writers Steve Megargee in Knoxville, Tennessee, Gary B. Graves in Lexington, Kentucky, John Marshall in Phoenix, Joedy McCreary in Raleigh, North Carolina, Pete Iacobelli in Columbia, South Carolina, and Associated Press writer Larry Neumeister in New York contributed to this report.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <http://collegebasketball.ap.org> and http://twitter.com/AP_Top25

US weighs Sheldon Adelson offer to fund 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 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 officials said. The discussions are occurring as the administration plans a ribbon-cutting for a scaled-down, temporary embassy that will open in May — more than a year ahead of schedule.

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 Israel supporter, 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 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 longstanding affiliation with right-wing Israeli politics.

The move of the embassy from Tel Aviv to the disputed holy city cleared a final bureaucratic hurdle this week when Secretary of State Rex Tillerson signed off on the security plan. In a letter sent to Congress, the State Department said the interim facility's inauguration will coincide with the 70th anniversary of Israel's independence on May 14.

"It's the right thing to do," Trump said Friday of the embassy relocation.

Adelson's unconventional offer, made around the time Trump announced in December that the embassy would move, 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.

How quickly to move the embassy has been a source of intense debate within Trump's administration, said the officials, who weren't authorized to discuss the issue publicly and demanded anonymity.

Tillerson, who opposed moving the embassy in the first place, advocated a go-slow approach and said it could take years. But Ambassador David Friedman, who lobbied Trump to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, has pushed to move it sooner.

To enable a May opening, the administration settled on a phased approach to building out the embassy at an existing U.S. facility in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood that currently handles consular affairs like passports and visas.

Initially, the U.S. will merely retrofit a small suite of offices there to accommodate Friedman and one or two top aides. The rest of the staff will remain at first in America's current facility in Tel Aviv.

The Arnona facility will be expanded accommodate a regular contingent of embassy personnel by the end of 2019, and ultimately is likely to spill into an adjacent U.S.-controlled property that currently houses

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a home for senior citizens, officials said. The State Department said a separate search was starting "in parallel" to eventually plan and build a permanent embassy.

Israel's government hailed the impending move, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying on Twitter that it would turn Israel's anniversary "into an even greater national celebration." But Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said the move showed Trump was determined to destroy prospects for a two-state solution and "provoke the feelings of the Palestinian people."

Retrofitting just a few offices can be accomplished at minimal cost. But expanding to allow the bulk of America's diplomatic staff in Israel to work out of Jerusalem 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" and "no confirmation or details about this hypothetical proposal." Undersecretary of State Steve Goldstein added that there had been no "formal talks" with private citizens about funding.

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.

Kathy Bethany, the former cost management director for the State Department's Bureau of Overseas Building Operations, said she couldn't recall the U.S. government ever 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 work. Citizens could cut a general check to the U.S. Treasury and 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, including real estate, requiring a rigorous review to ensure 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 Netanyahu supporter. Adelson also finances Israel Hayom, a pro-Netanyahu newspaper that is distributed free throughout Israel.

Allowing donations from Adelson or others 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 didn't know whether 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."

Associated Press writers Ian Deitch in Jerusalem and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

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

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Feb. 24, the 55th day of 2018. There are 310 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 24, 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson by a vote of 126-47 following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

On this date:

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII issued an edict outlining his calendar reforms. (The Gregorian Calendar is the calendar in general use today.)

In 1761, Boston lawyer James Otis Jr. went to court to argue against "writs of assistance" that allowed British customs officers to arbitrarily search people's premises, declaring: "A man's house is his castle." (Although Otis lost the case, his statement provided early inspiration for American independence.)

In 1918, Estonia issued its Declaration of Independence.

In 1920, the German Workers Party, which later became the Nazi Party, met in Munich to adopt its platform.

In 1937, Mexico observed the first holiday honoring its national flag.

In 1942, the SS Struma, a charter ship attempting to carry nearly 800 Jewish refugees from Romania to British-mandated Palestine, was torpedoed by a Soviet submarine in the Black Sea; all but one of the refugees perished.

In 1955, the Cole Porter musical "Silk Stockings" opened at the Imperial Theater on Broadway.

In 1968, "Fleetwood Mac," the group's debut album, was released in the United Kingdom on the Blue Horizon label.

In 1975, the Congressional Budget Office, charged with providing independent analyses of budgetary and economic issues, began operating under its first director, Alice Rivlin.

In 1983, a congressional commission released a report condemning the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II as a "grave injustice."

In 1988, in a ruling that expanded legal protections for parody and satire, the Supreme Court unanimously overturned a \$150,000 award that the Rev. Jerry Falwell had won against Hustler magazine and its publisher, Larry Flynt.

In 1996, Cuba downed two small American planes operated by the group Brothers to the Rescue that it claimed were violating Cuban airspace; all four pilots were killed.

Ten years ago: "No Country for Old Men" won Academy Awards for best picture, best director and best screenplay adaptation for Joel and Ethan Coen and best supporting actor for Javier Bardem (HAH'-vee-ayr bahr-DEHM'); Daniel Day-Lewis won best actor for "There Will Be Blood," while Marion Cotillard (koh-tee-YAHR') was named best actress for "La Vie en Rose." Cuba's parliament named Raul Castro president, ending nearly 50 years of rule by his brother Fidel.

Five years ago: Pope Benedict XVI bestowed the final Sunday blessing of his pontificate on a cheering crowd in St. Peter's Square. At the Academy Awards, "Argo" won best picture while Ang Lee was named best director for "Life of Pi"; Daniel Day-Lewis won best actor for "Lincoln" while Jennifer Lawrence received the best actress award for "Silver Linings Playbook." Jimmie Johnson won his second Daytona 500, beating his Hendrick Motorsports teammate Dale Earnhardt Jr., who made a late move to finish second. Danica Patrick, the first woman to win the pole, finished eighth.

One year ago: Vice President Mike Pence assured the Republican Jewish Coalition meeting in Las Vegas that he and President Donald Trump would work tirelessly on foreign and domestic issues important to the group, such as enacting business-friendly policies at home and supporting Israel abroad. President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru said he and President Donald Trump had a "cordial and constructive conversation" during their meeting at the White House.

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Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Dominic Chianese (kee-uh-NAY'-see) is 87. Movie composer Michel Legrand is 86. Opera singer-director Renata Scotto is 84. Singer Joanie Sommers is 77. Actress Jenny O'Hara is 76. Former Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., is 76. Actor Barry Bostwick is 73. Actor Edward James Olmos is 71. Singer-writer-producer Rupert Holmes is 71. Rock singer-musician George Thorogood is 68. Actress Debra Jo Rupp is 67. Actress Helen Shaver is 67. News anchor Paula Zahn is 62. Baseball Hall of Famer Eddie Murray is 62. Country singer Sammy Kershaw is 60. Actor Mark Moses is 60. Actress Beth Broderick is 59. Singer Michelle Shocked is 56. Movie director Todd Field is 54. Actor Billy Zane is 52. Actress Bonnie Somerville is 44. Jazz musician Jimmy Greene is 43. Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brandon Brown (Mista) is 35. Rock musician Matt McGinley (Gym Class Heroes) is 35. Actor Wilson Bethel is 34. Actor Alexander Koch is 30. Actor Daniel Kaluuya (Film: "Get Out") is 29. Rapper-actor O'Shea Jackson Jr. is 27.

Thought for Today: "It is the individual who is not interested in his fellow men who has the greatest difficulties in life and provides the greatest injury to others. It is from among such individuals that all human failures spring." — Alfred Adler, Austrian psychoanalyst (1870-1937).