

Groton Daily Independent

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Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

Tuesday
Region 1A Boys Basketball
Groton Area at Tiospa Zina, 7 p.m.
Will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM

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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How to Live Long

By Richard P. Holm, MD

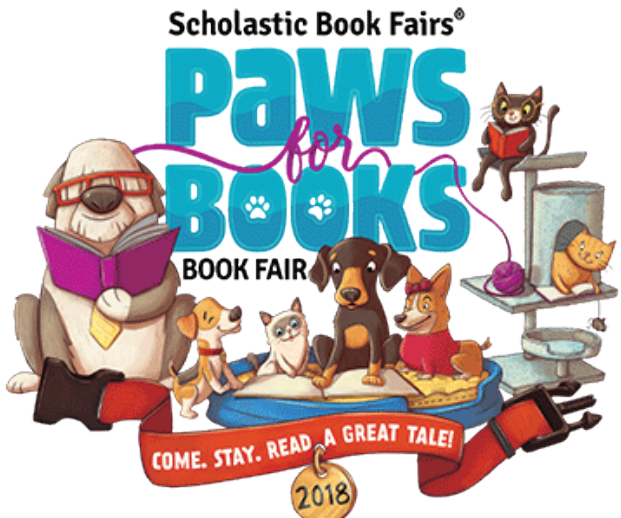
A college friend of mine recently had a heart attack and I found myself in an email conversation with my buddies, talking about his condition and reflecting about our own wellness. I recently read that only 20% of our potential lifespan is determined by genetics. This then begs the question: what can each of us do to improve our longevity and protect ourselves from my friend's fate?

Preventive medications and supplements have been widely advertised by the pharmaceutical and supplement industry, but unfortunately are at best minimally helpful in protecting people from vascular disease. Rather than taking pills, making simple life-style changes can be considerably more effective. This starts with realizing the huge benefits that can come from something as simple as a daily walk. Walking 12 blocks (one mile) a day can be the goal, and if this is out of your range, start slowly and build. Even a little is good. A recent study found that people who walked three miles a day (or ran 45 minutes three times per week) lowered their risk of death by over 30%. The greatest benefit to their health, however, came with that first mile. Side effects of daily walking include increased strength and energy, strong bones, improved mood, better balance, and superior sleep.

There is a lot of talk about treating obesity, but studies show that the best weight loss programs usually fail after five years. Therefore, I never encourage people to have weight loss as their goal. Solid science shows a lower calorie diet (20-30% less than usual) and emphasizing beans and vegetables, will enhance longevity, even without weight loss. In general, a person who is heavy, but is also strong and physically fit, has a life expectancy like a thin person.

Longevity also seems to be improved in those who are well connected to friends and family. The same goes for those who nap daily and in those who have a religious or spiritual center. Physician stress studies have also shown that people with a creative outlet do better. There is also scientific data to show that those who drink one or two glasses of wine daily, and not to excess, live significantly longer.

Of course, bad things can happen to people who are doing everything right. However, it's hard to beat a day that includes taking a brisk walk, making something creative, eating balanced smaller meals, taking an afternoon nap, enjoying a glass of wine with a friend, and then saying a prayer of thanks before bed. The goal shouldn't necessarily be to live long, but to live well.



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

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

Maintenance Supervisor Wanted:

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

Day Shift C.N.A. Wanted

Sign-on Bonus

☆☆☆ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ☆☆☆

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

View Black Hills Snowmobile Trails with New Trail Cameras

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) officials say snowmobile trail conditions are in good shape after recent snowfall in the Black Hills. Thanks to new trail cameras, snowmobilers can see real-time trail images online through the trail conditions map on the GFP website.

“We are excited about the installation of our first dedicated trail camera located near the Kirk trailhead just south of Lead,” said Ryan Raynor, GFP snowmobile trails coordinator. “We are also making use of two South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) cameras at Hardy Station and Savoy to give snowmobilers a look at snow conditions in those areas.”

The images can be accessed through the trail conditions map on the GFP website.

The newly installed camera uses the same technology DOT uses for road conditions. The DOT camera images can be viewed on the Safe Travel USA website (safetravelusa.com/sd) and on the SDDOT 511 mobile phone app.

Currently, GFP is assessing plans to use the DOT cameras in the eastern half of the state to provide the same level of service to those trail riders.

To view trail conditions, visit gfp.sd.gov and search “snowmobiling.”

-GFP-

Fish Houses Must be Removed by March 1

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) reminds ice anglers that all fish houses, shelters and other structures must be removed from the ice by midnight on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018. Fish houses, shelters and other structures may be used after Feb. 28, but must be removed from the ice on a daily basis.

\$20,000 Lotto America ticket sold in Wilmot

Pierre, S.D. –The South Dakota Lottery’s weekend drawings featured the state’s first big Lotto America winner since the game returned in November.

Saturday’s winning ticket worth \$20,000 was sold at the Jurgens Oil Company on Highway 15 in Wilmot. The second-prize ticket matched all five winning numbers but not the star ball. The winning numbers were 14, 23, 35, 50 and 52. Odds of winning the second prize were 1-2,887,733.

If you are Saturday’s winner, please sign the back of your ticket immediately and claim your prize at the nearest South Dakota Lottery office. Lotto America drawings take place each Wednesday and Saturday night with the overall odds of winning a prize at 1-9.6. For more information on the game, visit <https://lottery.sd.gov/games/lotto/games/lottoamerica/>.

Smith Seals the Deal as the No. 11 Wolves Advance to NSIC Title Game

Sioux Falls, S.D. – Down one with 14 seconds remaining, the No. 11 Northern State University men's basketball team had ball with the game on the line. Junior Ian Smith stepped up big, driving the lane and hitting the game winner with just five seconds left on the clock. The 79-78 victory over Minnesota State propels the Wolves into the NSIC/Sanford Health Basketball Tournament Championship. With the win, Northern notches their 30th victory of the season and hands the Mavericks their ninth loss.

It was a grind as the Mavericks out-shot the Wolves from the floor and the 3-point line. Northern shot 45.3 percent from the floor and 31.6 percent from the arc, hitting all six made 3-pointers in the second half. The Wolves out-rebounded the Mavericks 41-30 and tallied 11 second chance points off of 17 offensive boards.

NSU tallied 38 points in the paint, 17 points of the bench, 12 points off turnovers, and two fast break points. They combined for 15 assists, four steals, and three blocks in the win. The victory marks the second time this season the Wolves have recorded a win on their final possession of the game. Four Wolves scored in double figures, while three shot 50.0 percent or better from the floor.

Smith not only hit the game winner, but also led the team with 16 points. He added a team leading seven assists, as well as six rebounds and a 43.8 field goal percentage. Carter Evans was second on the team notching 15 points, shooting 5-of-7 from the field. The senior added three rebounds, a team high two blocks, and one assist.

Darin Peterka added 14 points, 12 of which came in the second half. Peterka hit three from beyond the arc and added three rebounds and four assists. Logan Doyle was the final Wolf in double figures, leading the team off the bench with ten points. Doyle shot 57.1 percent from the floor and tallied a team high eight rebounds.

DJ Pollard and Gabe King rounded out the starting five with nine and eight points respectively. Pollard tallied four rebounds and one steal, while King added five rebounds and two assists. Bo Fries and Andrew Kallman combined for the final seven team points, with Fries going 2-of-4 from the floor and 2-of-2 from the foul line.

The Wolves will face the winner of the Southwest Minnesota State and St. Cloud State game at 5 p.m. tomorrow in the championships from the Sanford Pentagon. Northern last appeared in the NSIC Tournament title game back in 2007-08, where they fell to Winona State. The Wolves won the tournament championship in both 2003-04 and 2004-05.

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Turkeys, Topples and Tumbleweeds

History is often made when things don't go quite as expected. Consider these incidents in South Dakota history that, while maybe serious at the time, are now cause for amusement.

In March 1973, the first Farmers Day celebration in Gettysburg did not go as organizers planned.

The plan was for a pilot to maneuver his Super Cub over downtown Gettysburg the afternoon of Saturday, March 24. Another man would push live turkeys out of the airplane. Whoever caught a turkey would get to keep it.

"One Gettysburger who appears to know something about the aerodynamics of this particular feathered species, seems to think they'll go into a long glide without particular difficulty. But how far, and where?" wrote Randall Braden in the March 22, 1973 Potter County News.

The question was answered when the first turkey left the airplane.

"Right then I knew it would be a bad day," wrote Jerry Larson in his Larsony column in the March 29, 1973, Potter County News. "At 75 miles or so an hour, before the first turkey could get oriented he had already hit ground – No flying, no gliding, just thud – The plane went higher for the remaining ones – (thankfully only six in all). Whoever said the turkeys would glide was right – Like a projectile they came down – legs back and head stretched out – They became living battering rams."

Two turkeys hit power lines, two fell on roofs and two landed near Main Street.

"I am sorry it happened – And I am sure it will be a long time before anyone brings up a 'turkey drop' again," Larson wrote.

Another "drop" where the outcome was different than expected took place in Sioux Falls.

"OOPS!" proclaimed the Sioux Falls Argus Leader headline on Dec. 4, 2005.

The Zip Feed Tower had refused to fall after an attempted demolition the previous day.

The Zip Feed Tower was a 202-foot grain elevator and feed mill in Sioux Falls. Built in 1956 and closed in 2000, the mill was scheduled for demolition to make way for new construction.

According to an article in the Nov. 25, 2005, Argus Leader, "This one is a slam dunk. This is about as easy as they come," said demolition crew chief Jim Wutzke.

Crowds gathered at various locations throughout Sioux Falls on Saturday, Dec. 3, to watch the implosion of the tallest building in Sioux Falls, and possibly, the state.

At the scheduled time, there was a siren, a boom and the realization that the building was not coming down.

"Groans gave way to laughter as soon as it became apparent that the thing wasn't coming down and within moments, the jokes started," read an article in the Argus Leader.

"We came up with the Leaning Tower of Zip within 15 seconds," said Rick Knobe, the KSOO radio anchor and Sioux Falls celebrity who emceed the event.

"I'm standing there watching the building," Knobe said, "and I turned back and looked at the crowd, and I wish I had a camera. Everybody's mouths were open, and their eyes were the size of silver dollars, and immediately they all started laughing."

The concrete tower had fallen into its own basement and the now 150- to 160-foot building tipped eastward.

The great Zip tip became fodder for newspapers, websites and talk shows worldwide.



Photo of the Zip Feed Mill is from the South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives.

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The building did eventually come down, by crane and wrecking ball.

Mobridge was attacked from the west in November 1989.

"Darlene Zahn of Mobridge was awakened Wednesday morning by what sounded like rocks striking against the side of her mobile home," read a Mobridge Tribune article about a Nov. 8 event.

"When she turned on her light, she saw her deck full of tumbleweeds, blown off the shores of Lake Oahe by wind gusts of 50 mph."

Low water had exposed ground that had been formerly under water. Plants such as Russian thistle typically die in late summer or early fall. They break away from their roots and are blown about by the wind. The tumbleweeds blocked streets and alleys and buried homes and vehicles.

Mobridge residents turned lemons into lemonade.

Customers at Rick's Cafe were invited to "tumble in" for a taste of tumbleweed chili. The Palace Lounge created a tumbleweed drink. High school juniors were given the assignment to come up with uses for the tumbleweeds.

The tumbleweed invasion made national and international news.

The broadcasts and printed articles about the event were presented, for the most part, with good-natured humor that laughed with Mobridge residents, not at them, according to Mobridge Tribune editor/publisher Larry Atkinson.

Atkinson's own tongue-in-cheek ideas for the famous tumbleweeds included tumbleweed riding at the annual Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo and changing the city's motto from "Walleye Capital of the World" to "Tumbleweed Capital of the World."

"Keep laughing, Mobridge, it's good medicine," he wrote.

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

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Today in Weather History

February 27, 1969: Snowfall of up to 15 inches blocked many roads in South Dakota. Freezing rain formed a glaze on many utility lines resulting in extensive damage to the lines. The greatest damage occurred in the north central part of the state.

February 27, 1996: Across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota, a strong area of low pressure brought 4 to 11 inches of snow from the late afternoon of the 26th to the late evening of the 27th. Along with the snow came strong cold north winds of 20 to 40 mph, creating near blizzard conditions at times. Wind chills were from 20 below to 60 below. Some schools were closed or started late the 27th along with some activities canceled. Snowfall amounts included, 4 inches at Sisseton, 5 inches at Aberdeen, Redfield, near Reliance, Wheaton, Browns Valley, Britton, and Gettysburg. Other snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Lebanon, Hoven, Miller, Webster, Eden, Frederick, and Seneca, 7 inches near Chelsea and Mellette, 8 inches at Roscoe and east of Hosmer, Tulare and near Milbank, 9 inches south of Ree Heights, 8 to 10 inches in the Ortonville area, and 11 inches at Wilmot.

1717 - What was perhaps the greatest snow in New England history commenced on this date. During a ten day period a series of four snowstorms dumped three feet of snow upon Boston, and the city was snowbound for two weeks. Up to six feet of snow was reported farther to the north, and drifts covered many one story homes. (David Ludlum)

1969 - A record snowstorm in Maine came to an end. Two to four feet of snow buried southern and central Maine, with a state record of 57 inches reported at West Forks. Drifts covered many single story homes, and the weight of the snow collapsed many roofs. Two to four feet of snow also buried northeastern Vermont and northeastern Massachusetts. In New Hampshire, Mount Washington NH reported 97.8 inches of snow, a record storm total for New England. (24th-28th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm spread heavy snow into the Central High Plains Region, and produced severe thunderstorms in the Southern Plains. Snowfall totals in western Nebraska ranged up to 19 inches at Sydney. Severe thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced baseball size hail at Stringtown and Atoka. A storm in the eastern U.S. produced heavy rain over the Carolinas and heavy snow in the southern Appalachians and piedmont region. Five inches of rain left four feet of water in the streets of Greenville SC. Snowfall totals in southwestern Virginia ranged up to 20 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms along a cold front produced heavy rain in southern California, with up to 2.52 inches reported in Ventura County. Strong winds accompanying the rain gusted to 55 mph in the Tehachapi Mountains. Rapid City SD established a February record with an afternoon high of 75 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Rain and snow prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Up to eight inches of snow blanketed north central Tennessee, and snowfall totals in western North Carolina ranged up to 14 inches at Mount Mitchell. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A winter storm produced heavy snow in southeastern Colorado, with 12 inches reported at Lamar. The same storm produced severe thunderstorms over the Southern High Plains, with wind gusts to 93 mph reported at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. Low pressure brought high winds to the Prince William Sound area of Alaska. Big River Lakes reported wind gusts to 92 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2010 - A weak EF0 tornado causes no damage as it moved across California's southern San Joaquin Valley. However it is the only tornado reported in the United States during the month. According to the Storm Prediction Center only five months since 1950 have lacked a tornado report. The Weather Doctor

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Tue Feb 27	Wed Feb 28	Thu Mar 1	Fri Mar 2	Sat Mar 3	Sun Mar 4	Mon Mar 5
30°F	29°F	30°F	34°F	36°F	34°F	27°F
5°F	7°F	11°F	24°F	22°F	19°F	21°F
NNE 6 MPH	SW 5 MPH	W 5 MPH	SE 16 MPH	SSE 16 MPH	NNE 14 MPH	NW 16 MPH
					Precip 50%	Precip 40%



Issued: Jan. 3, 2018
Updated: 3 pm Central

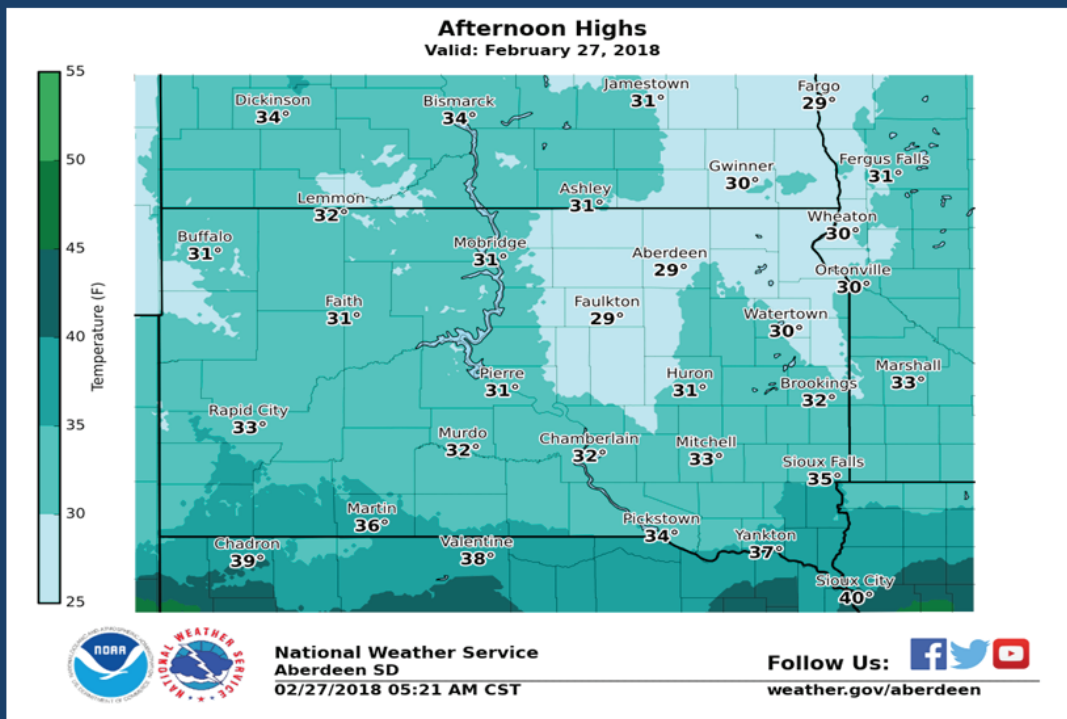
weather.gov/aberndeen

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



Today's High Temperatures

Temperatures Near to Slightly Below Normal



Published on: 02/27/2018 at 5:34AM

Surface high pressure will move across the region today and bring light winds and dry conditions. Highs will rise into the upper 20s to lower 30s. There will be some patchy fog to contend with this morning across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota, with visibility dropping below one-half mile at times.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 31.3 F at 4:16 PM

Low Outside Temp: 11.9 F at 11:13 PM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 9:07 AM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 68° in 2016

Record Low: -23° in 2001

Average High: 32°F

Average Low: 12°F

Average Precip in Feb: 0.52

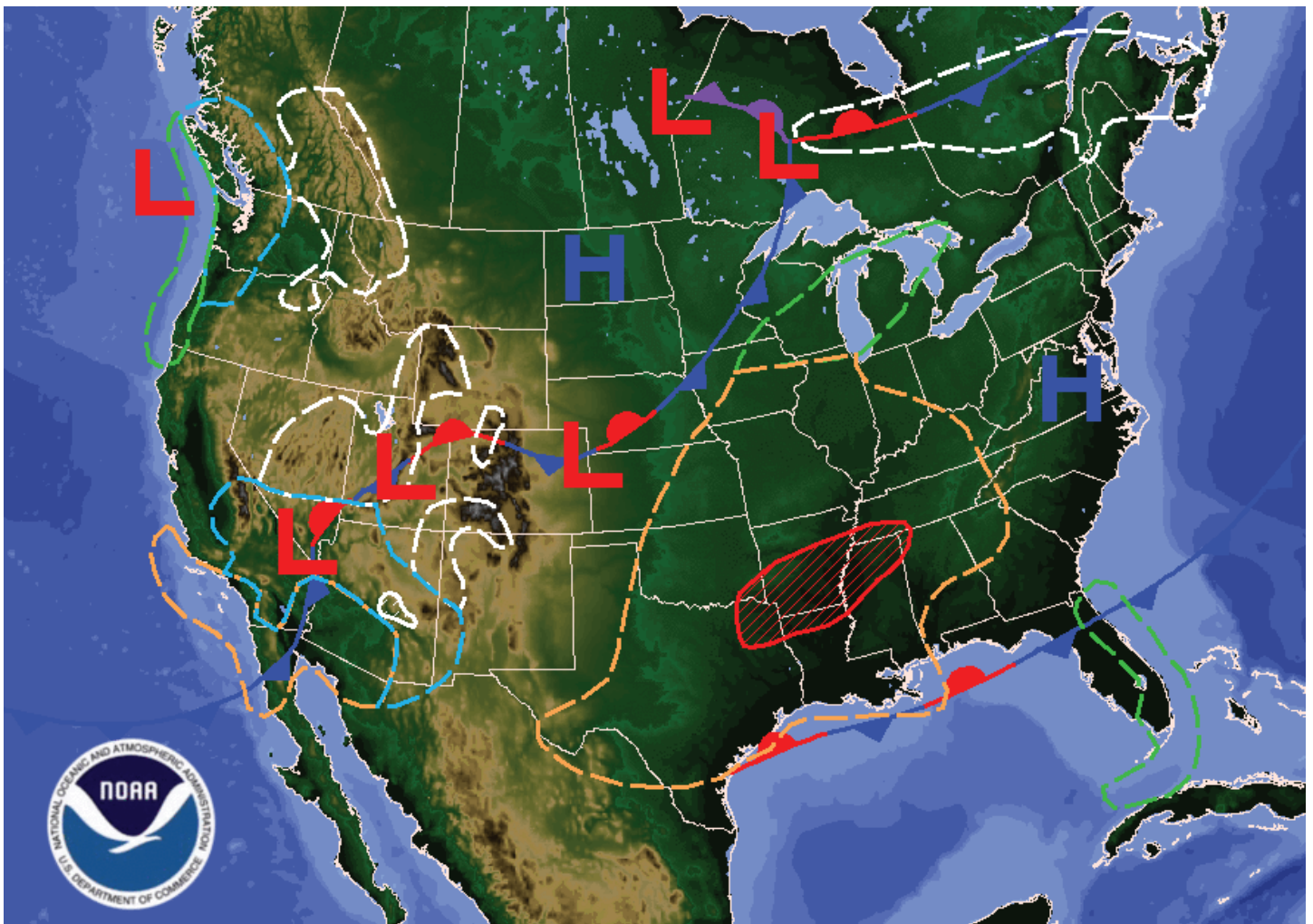
Precip to date in Feb: 0.57

Average Precip to date: 0.99

Precip Year to Date: 0.57

Sunset Tonight: 6:18 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:13 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Feb 27, 2018, issued 4:47 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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WORDS YOU CAN DEPEND ON

Shortly before leaving for college my saintly pastor came to visit me and offer me a few words of advice on the importance of being well prepared to serve God. During our conversation he advised me to take every course that had anything to do with speaking or writing. "Larry," he said in a voice that reflected sincerity and compassion, "it does not matter how much you know about the Bible, if you can't explain it so people can understand it, accept it and live it, you'll be letting God down." It made good sense to me and I followed his recommendation carefully.

One of the classes I took emphasized the difficulty of people hearing what a speaker says and interpreting it correctly. It is easy to hear what someone says but quite difficult to pass it on without changing the words and the meaning that the speaker intended. When this happens something is lost in "transmission" and it could be a matter of life and death if the message passed on is incorrect or inconsistent.

The importance of the integrity of God's message is clearly presented in Psalm 92:5, "Your statutes stand firm!" That means "Whatever God said is so." His Word contains no errors, no mistakes and no information that can lead us astray if accepted as written. In fact, the word for statues emphasizes the fact that Scripture rests on the integrity of God our Creator. His statements, promises, warnings and commands are not to be changed to meet the desires of man but to proclaim and present the everlasting covenant between God and man.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for the trustworthiness of Your Word that declares the Way, the Truth and the Life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 93:5 Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, forever.

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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

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

RC Central 61, Sturgis Brown 55
Rapid City Stevens 92, Spearfish 55
Region 1B
First Round
Northwestern 52, Waubay/Summit 41
Waverly-South Shore 55, Florence/Henry 46
Wilmot 79, Great Plains Lutheran 64
Region 2B
First Round
Eureka/Bowdle 59, Edmunds Central 39
Highmore-Harrold 92, Sunshine Bible Academy 66
Region 3B
First Round
Iroquois 44, Hitchcock-Tulare 31
James Valley Christian 83, Estelline 55
Lake Preston 65, Wessington Springs 53
Region 4B
First Round
Elkton-Lake Benton 56, Mitchell Christian 53
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 61, Howard 42
Region 5B
First Round
Freeman Academy/Marion 48, Centerville 29
Gayville-Volin 58, Alcester-Hudson 30
Region 6B
First Round
Scotland 77, Marty Indian 57
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 54, Burke/South Central 41
Region 7B
First Round
Kadoka Area 70, New Underwood 50
Philip 53, Crazy Horse 34
Wall 73, Edgemont 51
Region 8B
First Round
Dupree 66, Tiospaye Topa 33
Lemmon 55, McIntosh 15
Newell 68, Wakpala 53

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sturgis Brown 53, RC Central 50
Region 6A
Semifinal
Crow Creek 69, McLaughlin 45

Miller 49, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 41
Region 6B
Semifinal
Avon 50, Burke/South Central 39
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 56, Corsica/Stickney 41

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

Q&A: West Virginia sees rare statewide teacher walkout

By CAROLYN THOMPSON, Associated Press

West Virginia's teachers are refusing to go to school for a fourth day Tuesday in protest of pay that is among the lowest in the nation.

Such statewide strikes are unusual but not unprecedented — West Virginia teachers last walked out in 1990. Most teacher labor disputes start and end at the district level, where teacher salaries are more typically set. The strike in West Virginia has closed schools in all 55 counties.

As the state's labor unions and lawmakers hash out their differences, here is a look at how teacher pay is decided, what it looks like across states, the legal dilemma teachers face in walking out and why it all matters, especially amid teacher shortages felt by schools around the country:

Q: Why are West Virginia teachers taking up their fight with Republican Gov. Jim Justice and the state Legislature?

A: West Virginia is one of 17 states that use teacher salary schedules, which put state legislatures in charge of setting the pay scale for teachers. In the face of limited or no collective bargaining at the local level, the idea is to make sure that teachers are paid fairly no matter where in the state they teach, which makes it easier for districts to retain their employees.

Q: How much do teachers earn?

A: That depends on where they teach — and it varies widely. The U.S. Education Department's data show that the average annual salary for K-12 teachers ranged from \$42,668 (South Dakota) to \$79,637 (New York) in the 2016-17 school year. West Virginia's average of \$45,701 put it near the bottom. Educators there say they have no choice but to consider working in neighboring states that pay significantly more, including Maryland, where the average salary is \$66,961, and Ohio, where teachers are paid an average of \$57,000. The teachers say the governor's proposal for minimal raises will not make up for years of stagnant salaries and rising health care costs.

Q: How big of a factor is pay in the teacher shortages that districts are facing? The Education Commission of the States in 2016 reported that fewer high school graduates are going to college to become teachers and those who do enter the profession often leave it. Math and special education teachers are in especially short supply.

A: Compensation is a big part of the profession's challenges, but not the only one, National Education Association Vice President Becky Pringle said. Policies around standardized testing continue to dampen the joy around teaching, she said, along with proposals to lower standards so that people other than highly trained professionals can teach.

"We don't go into the profession for the big bucks," Pringle said. "We go into the profession because we love children, we love students and we want to try to do our best to make a difference in their lives and help them be successful. But we do also have our own families, ourselves, to take care of so salaries and benefits, the compensation of teachers is a huge part of whether or not, not only can we attract teachers but can we retain them."

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Q: Can teachers legally go on strike?

A: The rules vary among states. At least half of all states prohibit public employees from going on strike while other states allow strikes under certain circumstances. West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said last week that the teachers' work stoppage there was unlawful and the governor has not ruled out seeking a court injunction to force the teachers back to work.

Q: Are teachers in other states dissatisfied to the point they may follow West Virginia's lead and walk out?

A: Teachers in Oklahoma last week floated the idea of a walkout to get the attention of lawmakers who are considering cuts to public schools after failing to reach a deal on tax increases that would have given teachers a \$5,000 pay raise. On Monday, the Pittsburgh teacher's union said its members would go on strike for the first time in 40 years unless an agreement could be reached on issues including smaller class sizes. St. Paul, Minnesota, teachers narrowly averted a strike earlier this month after negotiations went down to the wire.

Teachers and their unions all over the country are fed up with salaries that have not kept pace with other professions and the erosion of benefits, Pringle said.

House ends inquiry into representative who scared colleague

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House decided Monday to end an investigation into Republican state Rep. David Johnson at the request of a lawmaker who said he made her fear for her safety last week at the Capitol.

House members voted 64-1 to disband a special committee on discipline and expulsion established just days earlier to investigate Johnson's conduct toward GOP Rep. Lynne DiSanto.

DiSanto asked lawmakers to dissolve the panel, saying she accepted a personal apology from Johnson. "Actions do, however, have consequences, and we privately have talked regarding what some of those consequences might possibly be," DiSanto said. "I wish Rep. Johnson nothing but the best of luck moving forward, and I would like to publicly say that Rep. Johnson is not just my colleague, but he is my friend."

The confrontation occurred Wednesday evening on the House floor. Republican Rep. Dan Kaiser, one lawmaker who moved to form the investigative panel last week, told reporters Friday that DiSanto and two witnesses told him Johnson approached DiSanto loudly and with a posture that made her fear being assaulted.

DiSanto said Johnson's behavior was "unacceptable and unprofessional," calling it a scary event for her.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm has previously described the altercation as a "heated argument" after DiSanto and Johnson had discussed insurance legislation.

Johnson told reporters Monday that he and DiSanto are looking forward to effectively working together in the future on a professional and friendly basis. The first-term representative said he was ready to cooperate with the special House committee, but he's glad that it has been dissolved.

Johnson also apologized publicly to DiSanto Friday on the House floor, 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," Johnson told the chamber.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said in a statement that the Highway Patrol requested the Division of Criminal Investigation's assistance in "reviewing" the matter.

But Jackley noted South Dakota's constitution states that lawmakers in all cases except "treason, felony or breach of the peace," are privileged from arrest during the legislative session.

Mystery remains for South Dakota rancher's poisoned cattle

HOWARD, S.D. (AP) — The case of an eastern South Dakota rancher whose 44 cattle were mysteriously poisoned and killed on Halloween remains unsolved.

The state Department of Criminal Investigation has not been able to track down the cattle-killer.

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Bernard Donahue told KELO-TV that his family had been keeping 65 cattle on a rented pasture in Miner County when someone poisoned the water tank last October. By the next day, 44 of their cattle were dead, including a bull.

Veterinarian Tom Heirigs was called to the property near Howard. By the time he arrived, seven cattle had already died. He said the water tank's smell burned his nose and was "almost enough to make you puke."

Donahue said water samples were taken for testing, but there hasn't been confirmation of what chemical was used.

"The water was definitely tainted," said Heirigs. "If you put an ammonia source like that in the water, it's going to dissolve and the ammonia source is going to disappear."

It's possible that Donahue's landlord could have been the target of the attack because the owners received a threatening anonymous letter, which was turned over as evidence. The letter stated, "You two are the most hated two in the area...I know karma comes around.... I hope you get what you deserve."

County Sheriff Lanny Klinkhammer said no one reported seeing anything suspicious that night, but he's confident the killer will be caught eventually.

"The DCI has been involved. They've also interviewed some individuals," Klinkhammer said. "There's nothing that has come of that as of yet. But they're not giving up."

The Donahues are offering a reward of \$5,000 for any information that leads to an arrest.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

Senators shelve constitutional amendment on lawmakers' pay

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota Senate panel has shelved a measure that would have asked voters to give legislators a significant pay raise and tied their salaries to the state's median household income.

The Senate State Affairs Committee voted unanimously Monday to table the resolution. It would have gone to November voters.

But senators will instead debate the proposal in bill form, which would require Gov. Dennis Daugaard's signature.

Assistant Senate Majority Leader Ryan Maher says it's not the responsibility of voters to raise lawmakers' salaries.

The bill would set legislators' salaries at one-fifth of the South Dakota median household income. U.S. Census numbers for 2015 show that would mean a raise of 70 percent for the state's 105 lawmakers to nearly \$10,200.

State lawmakers are currently paid \$6,000 per session plus a per diem allowance.

Bill taking aim at university collective bargaining advances

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would end collective bargaining at South Dakota's public universities is one vote away from Gov. Dennis Daugaard's signature after a Senate committee approved it Monday.

The Senate State Affairs Committee voted 5-4 to advance the legislation to the chamber's floor for a likely final vote. It has already narrowly passed through the House, and the Republican governor supports the proposal.

House Speaker Mark Mickelson, the bill's sponsor, said that it would save money and make the institutions more efficient. He said that there's nothing "nimble or adaptive or responsive" about collective bargaining agreements.

Patrick Weber, a policy adviser to the governor, said Daugaard believes the measure would help universities focus on serving students and preparing them for their careers.

Democratic Sen. Troy Heinert, an opponent of the plan, said the bill is based on a "made-up crisis." Critics contend the measure would make it harder for universities to attract and keep faculty.

Alan Aldrich, state president of the Council of Higher Education, the faculty labor union, told lawmakers that recruitment and retention are an important "part of life at a university."

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"I need good colleagues to work with, to collaborate with and to teach with, and our students need and deserve the same," he said.

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

Daugaard last year signed a bill banning collective bargaining at the four technical institutes in right-to-work South Dakota.

Girl's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school girl's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Aberdeen Central	(22)	19-1	110	1	
2. Sioux Falls Lincoln	-	16-3	86	2	
3. Rapid City Stevens	-	17-3	61	3	
4. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	-	15-5	50	4	
5. Brandon Valley	-	13-7	17	RV	

Others receiving votes: Harrisburg 6.

Boy's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school boy's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Rapid City Central	(17)	14-3	104	1	
2. Rapid City Stevens	(5)	15-3	93	2	
3. Aberdeen Central	-	13-7	57	5	
4. Sioux Falls Lincoln	-	12-6	38	RV	
5. Harrisburg	-	16-4	30	3	

Others receiving votes: Sioux Falls O'Gorman 5, Sioux Falls Washington 3.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Sioux Falls Christian	(22)	20-0	110	1	
2. Madison	-	19-1	88	2	
3. Sioux Valley	-	18-2	64	3	
4. Dell Rapids	-	16-4	31	4	
5. Tea Area	-	15-5	25	5	

Others receiving votes: Miller 9, Crow Creek 2, Dakota Valley 1.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Bridgewater-Emery	(17)	17-3	104	1	
2. Sully Buttes	(5)	19-1	92	2	
3. White River	-	18-2	60	4	
4. Corsica-Stickney	-	18-2	40	5	

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5. Clark/Willow Lake - 15-5 22 3

Others receiving votes: Canistota 8, Colman-Egan 2, Warner 2.

Vermillion girl drowns in Brookings hotel swimming pool

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A girl from Vermillion has drowned in the swimming pool of a Brookings hotel. Police Lt. Derrick Powers tells KBRK-AM that first responders were called to the Days Inn just before 9 p.m. Saturday after a preteen girl was found unresponsive in the pool.

She was taken to the Brookings Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

The girl's name and age have not been released.

Information from: KBRK-AM.

Governor's push to extend expiring lake use law advances

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard's proposal to extend an expiring law that governs the use of lakes on private land for recreation is headed to the full state House.

The House State Affairs Committee voted Monday to approve the plan, which has already passed through the Senate. It would move the law's June sunset to 2021.

The law restored access to nearly 30 specific lakes for public recreation after a 2017 state Supreme Court decision hampered that access.

It also said that lakes on private property are open for recreational use unless a landowner installs signs or buoys saying an area is closed.

Supporters say the law should be given more time to work.

House panel backs making state constitution harder to change

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota voters may decide in November if the state constitution should be harder to change.

The House State Affairs Committee voted Monday to send the measure to the chamber's floor. It has already passed through the Senate.

It would put a constitutional amendment before voters that would increase the majority vote threshold required for a constitutional change to 55 percent of the votes cast on the amendment.

Republican Sen. Jim Bolin, the resolution's sponsor, says it's designed to add an additional protection for the state constitution.

Democrats opposed the measure. Republicans have discussed changes to the ballot question system after the 2016 election season brought millions of dollars from out-of-state groups.

Another lawsuit filed over fatal Pine Ridge duplex explosion

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Another lawsuit has been filed over a duplex explosion that killed four people on the Pine Ridge reservation.

The lawsuit filed in Oglala Lakota County Court this month on behalf of 13 plaintiffs names Nebraska-based Western Cooperative Company and South Dakota-based C. Brunsch Inc., doing business as Lakota Plains Propane.

The Rapid City Journal reports the lawsuit says each company supplied propane to one unit of the duplex, which was destroyed in the Oct. 2016 explosion that killed four and maimed three others. It seeks unspecified damages. The plaintiffs include survivors of three victims. The defendants have not yet filed a response.

A separate lawsuit was filed earlier against the two companies by the mother of a fourth person who died. A judge recently dismissed Western Cooperative as a defendant.

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

First Dakota Access deer poaching case resolved

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — One of four men charged with poaching deer during the Dakota Access pipeline protests has reached a deal with prosecutors to dismiss his case.

Danny LeClaire of Pocatello, Idaho, was charged last year with a misdemeanor count of unlawful taking of a big game animal. The Bismarck Tribune reports that a judge last week approved a pretrial diversion agreement.

Under the deal, Morton County State's Attorney Al Koppy will dismiss the case after six months if LeClaire commits no other crimes in North Dakota and pays \$350 to the state's Report All Poachers program. LeClaire will also forfeit his \$150 bond to help pay \$710 in court fees.

Three other men have been charged in poaching cases related to the pipeline protests.

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

Russia-ordered 'pause' goes into effect east of Damascus

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A brief, Russia-ordered "humanitarian pause" went into effect on Tuesday as Syrian and Russian forces set up a corridor to allow civilians to leave a rebel-held enclave near Damascus, but by the end of the five-hour pause, no civilians had crossed over from the embattled territory.

The lull gave a brief respite to the estimated 400,000 residents of besieged eastern Ghouta, which has been under intense attack by the Syrian government for weeks.

The United Nations and aid workers criticized the unilateral arrangement, saying the situation was not such that convoys can go in or people in need of medical evacuations can come out of the enclave.

The enclave's residents also fear their region would meet the same fate as the eastern, rebel-held half of the city of Aleppo, where a similar Russian-ordered pause in 2016 called on residents to evacuate the area and for gunmen to lay down their arms. A full ground assault followed, finally bringing Aleppo under government control.

Footage on Tuesday from a crossing point manned by the Syrian military between eastern Ghouta and Damascus showed preparations were under way to allow civilians to leave, including small buses waiting at a parking area and soldiers milling about. Syria's state-run Al-Ikhbariya TV said a restaurant was also set up there, but there were no signs of anyone emerging.

Russia's state news agency Tass said Russian military police on the ground have set up the humanitarian corridor with the Syrian troops.

The Wafideen crossing point is near Douma, one of the largest towns in eastern Ghouta, and is about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the center of Damascus.

Al-Ikhbariya's journalist on the ground said mortar shells had targeted the crossing, preventing civilians from leaving. It was not immediately possible to verify the claim. At least a couple of mortars were heard as the broadcast was live, some appeared to be outgoing from government areas.

The director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Rami Abdulrahman, said about five shells from government areas fell on the enclave. One shell fell in an area where the government had begun a ground offensive, and it was not clear if it was fired by the government or the rebels.

Russian Gen. Viktor Pankov told Tass that residents can't leave because of the shelling.

The Russian five-hour humanitarian pause, ordered by President Vladimir Putin, comes as a U.N. cease-fire failed to take hold in eastern Ghouta. Residents and aid groups criticized such unilateral truces for lacking international monitoring and consensus of all the parties.

Ingy Sedky, spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said humanitarian corridors need to be well planned and must be implemented with the consent of parties on all sides.

"This is essential so that people can leave safely, if they chose to do so," she said. "And for those who decide to leave, all measure should be taken to provide assistance, protection and shelter to them. And those who remain must be protected from any attacks."

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The U.N. coordinator for humanitarian affairs also said conditions were not conducive for any aid deliveries. "We have reports this morning that there is continued fighting in eastern Ghouta, so clearly the situation on the ground is not such that, for example, convoys can go in or medical evacuations can come out," Jens Laerke said at a U.N. briefing in Geneva.

The enclave's residents fear they could face harassment and possibly arrest if they go into government areas, after years of living in the rebel-held enclave.

A weekend resolution unanimously approved by the U.N. Security Council for a 30-day cease-fire across Syria failed to stop the carnage in eastern Ghouta where more than 500 people have been killed since last week.

At least 34 people were killed on Monday by airstrikes and shelling, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The U.N. estimates that nearly 400,000 people live in dire conditions from the siege in eastern Ghouta, which has been under intensive bombing by government forces for weeks.

Aburrahman of the Observatory said violence has dramatically declined in eastern Ghouta overnight but reported a number of shells on Tuesday morning. It was not immediately clear where they landed or who fired them, he said.

Firas Abdullah, a Douma activist, said a bomb landed in the town after the pause began, as well as three ground missiles.

Civilians caught in the violence have mocked Putin's order of a five-hour open corridor, saying it gives only a couple of hours of calm before violence resumes. The Army of Islam, which is the largest insurgent group in Ghouta, said the Russia-ordered pauses circumvents the U.N. resolution.

"The only ones who will leave are the occupiers and Assad's regime, we are the owners of the land," Mohammed Alloush of the Army of Islam told The Associated Press.

Russia's military campaign to support Syrian President Bashar Assad has helped turned the tide of the war in the Syrian government's favor.

Abu Ammar Dalwan, an Army of Islam member in Ghouta, said government shelling continued after the cease-fire and helicopters were flying overhead. He denied his group was shelling the Wafideen corridor.

Dalwan said Ghouta residents had decided to stay following years of violence, even though they had the option of leaving through tunnels which were operational until the recent assault began.

Dalwan said evacuating people under the threat of shelling amounted to a war crime. "We want the international community to stop such a war crime," he said.

Associated Press writers Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow and Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed to this report.

Florida shooting suspect case heads back to court

By **KELLI KENNEDY, BRENDAN FARRINGTON and CURT ANDERSON, Associated Press**

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — The criminal case against the gunman accused in the Florida high school shooting returns to court Tuesday with prosecutors seeking hair samples, fingerprints, DNA and photographs of the suspect.

Nikolas Cruz, who has been charged with 17 counts of murder, will not appear in court because he waived his right to attend the hearing. He is being held without bail at the Broward County Jail.

In a separate court matter, Cruz's lawyers are seeking to disqualify a judge from presiding over the case. The defense says in court papers that Circuit Court Judge Elizabeth Scherer is biased in favor of prosecutors, threatening Cruz's right to a fair trial.

Cruz, who is 19, signed an affidavit in a barely legible printed scrawl that resembled the writing of a young child.

As the case moves through the courts, it has fueled a debate over gun control in the halls of the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee, hours from where the shooting took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

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On Monday, a state Senate committee approved a bill Monday to raise the age for buying a gun from 18 to 21 and imposing a three-day waiting period for all gun purchases. The bill would also allow teachers to carry guns in schools if their school district approves and the teachers undergo law enforcement training and are deputized by the local sheriff's office.

About 300 gun safety advocates packed the room and dozens pleaded with senators to include an assault weapons ban in the bill. That idea was rejected on a 6-7 vote.

Stoneman Douglas students Katherine Guerra and Bela Urbina, both 15, stood together to argue for a ban on assault-style rifles.

"This weapon has killed so many people. It is a militarized weapon that we don't need. We don't need civilians to have it," Urbina said.

In reference to hunting, Guerra added, "Do you think that your sport is more important than human lives? And if you believe that, you need to reassess yourselves." The students received thunderous applause.

A similar House bill was going to be considered by a committee on Tuesday.

Bused in from around the state, protesters wore orange T-shirts saying #GunReformNow. One held a sign with an image from the movie "The Sixth Sense," with the words "I SEE DEAD PEOPLE ... THANKS TO THE GOP AND NRA." Another said "Hey Lawmakers! Take the Pledge. No NRA Money."

Students are scheduled to return to school Wednesday, for the first time since the Feb. 14 shooting.

The Florida House is expected to subpoena records from Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel and several agencies that interacted with Cruz. Florida Gov. Rick Scott's office has asked the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to investigate the police response, and the agency confirmed it would begin the probe immediately.

Also Monday, the attorney for the sheriff's deputy assigned to guard the high school said that his client never entered the building to confront the suspect because he believed the gunfire was coming from outside.

Scot Peterson has been called a coward and worse for failing to stop the massacre. The criticism intensified as President Donald Trump blasted the deputy and other officers who were there, saying they "weren't exactly Medal of Honor winners."

If he had been there, Trump said, he would have raced into the school during the attack even if he were unarmed.

Peterson's attorney issued his first public statement about the attack, saying it was "patently untrue" that the deputy failed to meet sheriff's department standards or acted with cowardice at the scene of the Feb. 14 assault. He resigned after Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said he felt sick to his stomach over his deputy's failure to intervene.

"Let there be no mistake, Mr. Peterson wishes that he could have prevented the untimely passing of the 17 victims on that day, and his heart goes out to the families of the victims in their time of need," attorney Joseph DiRuzzo said in the statement.

The sheriff's account of Peterson's actions that day was a "gross oversimplification" of the events, the attorney said.

The sheriff's office declined to comment, explaining that Peterson's conduct is being investigated by its internal affairs division. Under state law, the agency is prohibited from discussing the matter until that investigation has concluded.

Associated Press writers Freida Frisaro and Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami; Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Florida; Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida; and Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina; contributed to this report.

Student protests resonate with Columbine shooting survivors

By P. SOLOMON BANDA and JAMES ANDERSON, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Patrick Neville was outside, sneaking off to smoke with friends, and avoided the outburst of gunfire at Columbine High School nearly two decades ago, but he did not dodge the heartbreak. A close friend died, and the anguish in his father's eyes is seared in Neville's memory.

Samantha Haviland was fundraising in the cafeteria and froze, uncomprehending, at the sound of screams just outside the window. Trance-like, she and others fled the room, then pressed against a wall of lockers, windows shot out down the hall. She, too, lost a close friend.

The horror of April 20, 1999 — 13 died when two student gunmen attacked the suburban Denver school — changed Neville and Haviland's lives in different ways but inspired both to take action and serve others. It's a calling they sadly share with survivors of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, who are demanding the nation take action on school violence.

"Nineteen years ago when Columbine happened, we didn't understand it. We were shocked by it. We didn't think this was a thing. We thought we were outliers," Haviland said. "We adults, myself and my generation, have failed these students where we have learned this is a thing and we still haven't done anything."

Haviland, now director of counseling for Denver Public Schools, disagrees with the notion that guns in teachers' hands would deter mass shootings she fears have become all too common. Neville became a Republican state legislator whose repeated attempts to arm teachers and school employees have been rejected by Democrats.

Both insist they'll keep fighting. And both concede a solution is far from reach.

"The vitriol behind this debate is pretty kind of nasty," said Neville, whose answering machine in his Capitol office was full of angry messages, some threatening, over his failed legislation, which he plans to introduce again next year. "That's how they operate, these nasty bullying tactics."

"Theaters. Shopping malls. Concerts. Churches. All of these places that we go to, and we feel safe, and we should feel safe, and we have made them unsafe," Haviland said. "We have failed to make decisions to make those places safe."

Neville was a 15-year-old sophomore when the gunfire began. He fled the school grounds and gathered with others at a nearby elementary school as the ordeal played out on TV.

His close friend — Neville won't use his name publicly as a gesture of respect amid the "hyper-political" school shootings debate — was killed.

"I was probably not making good life choices at that time," Neville said. "The friend who passed was doing everything right. Straight As. For me, it was a wakeup call that I needed to get my act together and that life is precious."

He graduated, enlisted in the Army, served in Iraq, earned a Bronze Star and attained captain's rank before leaving in 2013, completing college and entering politics. Now Colorado's state House minority leader, Neville's concealed carry legislation is one of his dearest political priorities — a way to safeguard children, including his three daughters, by deterring would-be shooters.

Neville's bill was defeated last week — the fourth time he's tried. The next day he was in Washington, D.C., meeting with President Donald Trump and others on school violence. Trump has suggested arming teachers as one strategy.

"The folks who are thinking about committing such a heinous act would be forced to know that they're not going inside a gun-free zone," Neville said. "Right now we just throw a sign above the door that says, 'gun-free zone,' which I think just welcomes them."

"Schools are doing everything we can to keep your students safe," said Haviland, who was a 16-year-old junior when Columbine happened. "I can't imagine being a teacher, being responsible for all of these lives, and also carting a weapon."

Like Neville, Haviland became more determined to serve others after the Columbine tragedy. She sees no straightforward solutions to mass shootings — only a lack of will by residents and officeholders to shed politics and vitriol and calmly address every aspect of a confounding issue.

A self-described dorky kid who captained the speech club, was a peer counselor and played golf, Haviland

escaped with other panicked students. She says a teacher saved her life by pulling an alarm that closed a fire door that kept her from running into the gunmen.

"Smiles and IDs, kids. Smiles and IDs," she fondly remembers a reassuring FBI agent telling them when school reopened.

The tragedy strengthened Haviland's conviction that she would be a school counselor one day. She went to college, spoke to high school kids around the country, got her doctorate. As chief of counseling for Denver schools, she's seen it all: the gun debates, the mental health debates, the school security measures. The shock and horror of Columbine has become a norm nearly two decades later.

"I wonder sometimes if our students don't start to expect it," Haviland said.

She sees hope and is inspired by the protests, the outcry, led by the student survivors from Florida.

"They're angry, and they have every right to be angry," she said. "If I could talk to the Florida students, I would say: Don't let us get away with it again."

Saudi military leaders replaced amid stalemated war in Yemen

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia replaced its military chief of staff and other defense officials early on Tuesday morning in a shake-up apparently aimed at overhauling its Defense Ministry during the stalemated and ruinous war in Yemen.

The kingdom also announced a new female deputy minister of labor and social development as it tries to broaden the role of women in the workplace.

Saudi Arabia made the announcement in a flurry of royal decrees carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency. As with many announcements in the ultraconservative Sunni kingdom, it was short on details.

King Salman "approved the document on developing the Ministry of Defense, including the vision and strategy of the ministry's developing program, the operational pattern targeting its development, the organizational structure, governance and human resources requirements," one statement said.

That restructuring was part of a "multi-year effort," Prince Faisal bin Farhan, a senior adviser at the Saudi Embassy in Washington, wrote on Twitter.

Prominent among the personnel changes was the firing of military chief of staff Gen. Abdulrahman bin Saleh al-Bunyan. Another announcement said the general would become a consultant to the royal court.

Al-Bunyan was replaced by Gen. Fayyadh bin Hamid al-Rwaili, who once had been the commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force, among the nation's premier military forces.

Also appointed as an assistant defense minister was Khaled bin Hussain al-Biyari, the CEO of the publicly traded mobile phone and internet service provider Saudi Telecom Co.

The decisions come as the Saudi-led coalition, chiefly backed by the United Arab Emirates, remains mired in a stalemate in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country. Over 10,000 people have been killed in the war in which Saudi-led forces back Yemen's internationally recognized government against Shiite rebels and their allies who are holding the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and much of the north of the country.

The kingdom faces wide international criticism for its airstrikes killing civilians and striking markets, hospitals and other civilian targets. Aid groups also blame a Saudi-led blockade of Yemen for pushing the country to the brink of famine.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the heir to the throne after his father King Salman, is the Saudi defense minister and architect of the Yemen war. While the crown prince has burnished his reputation abroad with promises of business-friendly reforms and other pledges, his role in Yemen haunts that carefully considered public personae.

But the overhaul in the Saudi defense forces should not be seen only as a reaction to the Yemen war, said Becca Wasser, a Washington-based RAND Corp. analyst specializing in Gulf security who has traveled to Saudi Arabia in the past.

The war in Yemen functions "to push these reforms forward, but it's not the driver," Wasser told The Associated Press.

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In general, Wasser said such an overhaul would include improving training and recruitment of troops, allocating better resources and changing a military's leadership to one willing to hear new ideas and make changes.

Also noticeable was an effort to include a "careful balancing" of appointments of others in the Al Saud royal family, said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University

"It seems the Saudi shake-up is more about moving forward with Mohammed bin Salman's attempt to put in place a new generation of leadership in tune with his vision to transform the structure of Saudi decision making," Ulrichsen told the AP.

The appointment of a woman in a ministerial position, Tamadhir bint Yosif al-Rammah as deputy minister of labor and social development, comes as the kingdom prepares to allow women to drive this year and pushes to have more women in Saudi workplaces.

Also appointed was Prince Turki bin Talal Al Saud as deputy governor of the Asir region. The prince's brother is billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, who recently was detained for months at the Ritz-Carlton in Riyadh as part of what the government described as an anti-corruption campaign.

As with the anti-corruption purge, Wasser said the military overhaul also fit into the consolidation of power by Crown Prince Mohammed.

"Reform is a tricky thing to do. To create change in a larger bureaucratic structure like a military is difficult. To create change in Saudi Arabia ... is incredibly difficult," she said. "It is not going to be easy and change is not going to happen tomorrow. This is much more of a long-term endeavor."

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellap . His work can be found at <http://apne.ws/2galNpz> .

Parents worried about abuse in youth sports take charge

By SALLY HO, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — With Olympic prodigies having just dazzled audiences worldwide, parents in the U.S. are reconciling the thrill of the gold with their fears from recent sexual abuse scandals in elite youth sports.

Shannon Stabbert said her 6-year-old daughter wants to be a gymnast, but the Seattle mother has decided to put her in a martial-arts program instead.

"I have no doubt she will be quite amazing at gymnastics," Stabbert said. "I just don't feel like it's a mentally, physically, emotionally healthy sport for girls."

High-profile cases of sexual abuse and other predatory behavior in gymnastics, swimming and other sports have jolted many parents who believe athletics can be an important part of their child's development. Some now feel compelled to be more cautious in monitoring their child's contact with coaches and other adults.

Experts say the spotty rules and certifications for coaches and glorification of sports culture can make children who feel pressure to achieve even more vulnerable. No longer a casual pastime, sports teams can leave kids as young as 5 in the care of undertrained, undersupervised coaches.

Emmett Gill, a professor at the University of Texas and expert on the personal development of student-athletes, said success often means children leave their communities to compete, which can leave them at more risk.

"It's clear that the coach's responsibility, and their permanent goal, is to win, and that can sacrifice protecting vulnerable children," Gill said. "We really have forgotten about that good, old neighborhood team. Now youth sports is a bunch of strangers on teams with the best athletes, with the purpose of winning."

One national organization trying to prevent abuse of young athletes is the U.S. Center for SafeSport, a Denver-based nonprofit that formed last year.

It launched following the initial allegations of sexual abuse against Larry Nassar, the disgraced sports doctor for USA Gymnastics who will spend his life in prison after admitting he molested some of the na-

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tion's top gymnasts under the guise of medical treatment.

The U.S. Olympic Committee developed SafeSport, but it's now an independent organization that works with law enforcement to investigate abuse allegations for the 49 Olympic and Paralympic sports.

In addition to offering an online link for anonymous abuse reports, SafeSport also provides educational and training material for youth leagues nationwide. The goal is to prevent abuse altogether.

"We have got to get upstream and do more to educate athletes, to educate parents, to educate coaches and to educate sport administrators," SafeSport CEO Shellie Pfohl said. "I want every parent to know what questions they should be asking when they sign their child up."

Since its inception, SafeSport has received 470 reports of either emotional or physical abuse, including 165 reports this year and 222 active investigations overall. In some cases, the organization didn't have jurisdiction over a youth league to investigate an allegation.

Youth leagues outside Olympic and Paralympic sports don't have a national organization to investigate reports of physical abuse, harassment, hazing and other issues. Many of those leagues have spent years trying to mute overreaching parents through codes of conduct but now have to walk the line between input and child safety.

"There's a balance between appropriate parental involvement and engagement, meaning are there overzealous parents who may upset the team dynamic or be inappropriate in terms of their treatment of the coach or athletes, and balancing that with parental due diligence," Pfohl said. "We want parents to be empowered to not only ask these questions but to hold people accountable."

Gill, the expert on student-athlete development, urges all sports programs to create safety guidelines that clearly indicate the protocol for adults who suspect abuse. Though teachers and doctors must report it, coaches and volunteers do not.

"If we're really about youth development and character development, this is going to be in front — and the most important part — of our bylaws," Gill said.

Even the regulators are not immune. The chief safety officer of USA Swimming, Susan Woessner, announced last week that she was resigning after revealing she had kissed a coach accused of sexual abuse and later assisted in the governing body's investigation of him.

Sean Hutchison is under criminal investigation after Olympic swimmer Ariana Kukors said he abused her as a minor. Woessner said she wasn't in a relationship with Hutchison.

USA Swimming also issued a letter to parents saying it had failed members and its system was "not flawless" and vowing to "ensure that there is never a lapse of a support system again."

For many parents, they say they will look to set more boundaries and ask more questions.

"Sometimes you kind of wonder: Am I missing something as parent? Am I not looking? Am I not asking the right questions? Am I trusting too much?" said Lara Mae Chollette, a Seattle mother of three.

Chollette, who works in human resources, said she's also wondered lately whether parents should stay for lengthy practices. If someone else is watching her kids, she finds out the ages of the other siblings who may come along. Her husband also has made a rule against taking responsibility for another child for overnight trips.

As a coach herself of youth soccer and basketball, Chollette said she knows the schedules, other parents and how people come and go from the sports facilities, which is helpful.

"It's truly a commitment for us," Chollette said of attending every practice, game and trip. "We see it as an educational element for our kids. There are things in sports that a teacher can't teach. There are things in sports that life can't teach."

This story corrects the spelling of Sean Hutchison's last name.

Associated Press writer Kurt Voigt contributed from Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Follow Sally Ho at https://twitter.com/_sallyho .

Trump urges lawmakers to buck NRA every once in a while

By LISA MASCARO and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump declared he's willing to take on the National Rifle Association over gun legislation, but Republicans who control Congress aren't so sure. They prefer to consider only modest changes to firearms limits in response to the mass shooting at a Florida high school.

Congress returned to work Monday without following Trump's lead on any of the major initiatives he has tossed into the debate since the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Despite public calls for stricter gun laws, Republican leaders have largely kept quiet after the shooting which left 17 dead and ushered in another phase in the gun debate, prompted in large part by the activism of the young survivors. Some students visited with lawmakers Monday.

Over the weekend, Trump spent time talking to Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, and the White House is inviting lawmakers from both parties for meetings this week. But Trump's ideas to arm many teachers, lift the minimum age for purchasing assault rifles to 21 and impose stricter background checks were falling flat.

"You guys, half of you are so afraid of the NRA," the president said Monday at a meeting with the nation's governors. "There's nothing to be afraid of. And you know what? If they're not with you, we have to fight them every once in a while. That's OK."

Instead, Senate Republicans are hoping to consider more modest legislation from Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Chris Murphy, D-Conn., to strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS. The "Fix NICS" bill, similar to one approved last year in the House, would penalize federal agencies that don't properly report required records used to determine whether someone can legally buy a gun.

Cornyn, the Senate's No. 2 Republican, questioned Trump's proposal to raise the age limit for assault weapons, noting that the minimum age to enlist in the military is 18.

"I'm not sure I understand the 21 age. I think there are better ways to address it than just an arbitrary age increase," he told The Washington Times.

Trump insisted Monday that sometimes political leaders need to buck the NRA, which builds its political power by major campaign spending and motivating gun rights supporters to vote. Though he did not mention increasing the minimum age for rifle purchases, he wants to toughen the Cornyn bill with stricter background checks, a change the NRA has opposed.

"We're going to strengthen it," Trump said. "We're going to make it more pertinent to what we're discussing."

Democrats have long pressed for more sweeping changes toward a universal background check system, including requiring inquiries for online and gun show purchases.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Monday that if all Congress can accomplish is passage of the "Fix NICS" bill "it would be an abject failure and a dereliction of our duty."

Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Pat Toomey, R-Pa., are reviving their background check bill, which failed earlier, including after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012. Manchin said opponents at the time worried then-President Barack Obama would impose even stricter restrictions. "Well they're not having that fear right now with President Trump," he said.

At a minimum, Congress should approve universal background checks, Schumer said, denouncing "NRA-backed bills that make Republicans feel better without meaningfully addressing the issue of gun safety."

In the House, many Democrats want to reinstate an assault weapons ban that expired more than a decade ago.

But House Republican leaders believe it's up to the Senate to take the next steps, according to a top House GOP aide, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss legislative strategy.

The House passed legislation in December that included changes to the background-check system. It was part of a broader package that stalled in the Senate because it included expanded gun rights by requiring states to recognize conceal-carry permits issued by other states.

The House package also included a measure to study bump stocks, the devices that turn rifles into

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automatic-style weapons and were used in the Las Vegas assault last fall, the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

In the Senate, Republican leaders see the best route to passage in separating the issues of background checks and state reciprocity measures. They were testing support Monday for quick consideration of the background checks bill, which was introduced last fall after the shooting of churchgoers in Texas. At the time, authorities acknowledged having failed to report the Texas gunman's domestic violence conviction to the National Criminal Information Center database.

"I'm for doing what's achievable," Cornyn told reporters.

But even the "Fix NICS" bill faced resistance from some in the GOP ranks.

Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Rand Paul of Kentucky said the bill would encourage federal agencies "to encroach upon constitutionally guaranteed rights without affording robust due-process protections."

At the same time, some Republican lawmakers appeared willing to go further, particularly in outlawing bump stocks, which the Trump administration wants to do through administrative action as the NRA prefers, rather than legislation.

Rep. Ryan Costello of Pennsylvania said he supports a ban on bump stocks, whether it's done through legislation or a change in federal regulations.

"That's sort of simple stuff that we should get done for the American public," he told The Associated Press.

Costello, who faces a stiff re-election challenge in a district that has been redrawn to favor Democrats, also supports the Fix NICS bill and a measure to raise age limits on purchases of certain assault weapons.

At the White House, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, one of two Democrats to address Trump publicly, expressed his concerns over the idea of arming teachers as a response to the school shootings. "We need a little less tweeting, a little more listening," Inslee said.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram, Ken Thomas, Andrew Taylor and video producer Padmananda Rama contributed to this story.

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Report: Inequality remains 50 years after Kerner Report

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Barriers to equality are posing threats to democracy in the U.S. as the country remains segregated along racial lines and child poverty worsens, says a study examining the nation 50 years after the release of the landmark 1968 Kerner Report.

The new report released Tuesday blames U.S. policymakers and elected officials, saying they're not doing enough to heed the warning on deepening poverty and inequality as highlighted by the Kerner Commission a half-century ago, and it lists a number of areas where the country has seen "a lack of or reversal of progress."

"Racial and ethnic inequality is growing worse. We're resegregating our housing and schools again," former U.S. Sen. Fred Harris of Oklahoma, a co-editor of the new report and last surviving member of the original Kerner Commission created by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967. "There are few more people who are poor now than was true 50 years ago. Inequality of income is worse."

The new study titled "Healing Out Divided Society: Investing in America Fifty Years After the Kerner Report" says the percentage of people living in deep poverty — less than half of the federal poverty level — has increased since 1975. About 46 percent of people living in poverty in 2016 were classified as living in deep poverty — 16 percentage points higher than in 1975.

And although there has been progress for Hispanic homeownership since the Kerner Commission, the homeownership gap has widened for African-Americans, the report found. Three decades after the Fair Housing Act of 1968 passed, black homeownership rose by almost 6 percentage points. But those gains were wiped out from 2000 to 2015 when black homeownership fell 6 percentage points, the report says.

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The report blames the black homeownership declines on the disproportionate effect the subprime crisis had on African-American families.

In addition, gains to end school segregation were reversed because of a lack of court oversight and housing discrimination. The court oversight allowed school districts to move away from desegregation plans and housing discrimination forced black and Latino families to move into largely minority neighborhoods.

In 1988, for example, about 44 percent of black students went to majority-white schools nationally. Only 20 percent of black students do so today, the report says.

The result of these gaps means that people of color and those struggling with poverty are confined to poor areas with inadequate housing, underfunded schools and law enforcement that views those residents with suspicion, the report said.

Those facts are bad for the whole country, and communities have a moral responsibility to address them now, said Harris, who now lives in Corrales, New Mexico.

The new report calls on the federal government and states to push for more spending on early childhood education and a \$15 minimum wage by 2024. It also demands more regulatory oversight over mortgage leaders to prevent predatory lending, community policing that works with nonprofits in minority neighborhoods and more job training programs in an era of automation and emerging technologies.

"We have to have a massive outcry against the state of our public policies," said the Rev. William J. Barber II, a Goldsboro, North Carolina pastor who is leading a multi-ethnic "Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival" next month in multiple states. "Systemic racism is something we don't talk about. We need to now."

The late President Johnson formed the original 11-member Kerner Commission as Detroit was engulfed in a raging riot in 1967. Five days of violence over racial tensions and police violence would leave 33 blacks and 10 whites dead, and more than 1,400 buildings burned. More than 7,000 people were arrested.

That summer, more than 150 cases of civil unrest erupted across the United States. Harris and other commission members toured riot-torn cities and interviewed black and Latino residents and white police officers.

The commission recommended that the federal government spend billions to attack structural racism in housing, education and employment. But Johnson, angry that the commission members didn't praise his anti-poverty programs, shelved the report and refused to meet with members.

Alan Curtis, president of the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation and co-editor of the new report, said this study's attention to systemic racism should be less startling to the nation given the extensive research that now calls the country's discriminatory housing and criminal justice systems into question.

Unlike the 1968 findings, the new report includes input from African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and women who are scholars and offer their own recommendations.

"The average American thinks we progressed a lot," said Kevin Washburn, a law professor at the University of New Mexico, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and one of the people who shared his observations for the report. "But there are still some places where Native people live primitive lives. They don't have access to things such as good water, electricity and plumbing."

Like the 1968 report, the new study also calls out media organizations for their coverage of communities of color, saying they need to diversify and hire more black and Latino journalists.

News companies could become desensitized to inequality if they lack diverse newsrooms, and they might not view the issue as urgent or newsworthy, said journalist Gary Younge, who also gave input to the report.

"It turns out that sometimes 'dog bites man' really is the story," Younge said. "And we keep missing it."

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>.

Supreme Court declines to decide fate of 'Dreamers' just yet

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the Trump administration's highly unusual bid to bypass a federal appeals court and get the justices to intervene in the fate of a program that protects hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation.

The announcement means the case affecting "Dreamers" will have to work its way through the lower courts before any Supreme Court ruling is possible. The case could also become moot if Congress takes action in the meantime. Right now, however, efforts to address the issue in Congress have hit a stalemate.

The Supreme Court's decision for now to stay out of the case on the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, wasn't surprising. It's highly unusual for the Supreme Court to hear a case before a lower appeals court has considered it.

But DACA supporters hailed the decision as a significant — if only temporary — win. Trump said the case would now be heard by an appeals court and "we'll see what happens from there."

"You know, we tried to get it moved quickly because we'd like to help DACA. I think everybody in this room wants to help with DACA," he said to visiting governors. "But the Supreme Court just ruled that it has to go through the normal channels."

DACA has provided protection from deportation and work permits for about 800,000 young people who came to the U.S. as children and stayed illegally.

In September, Trump argued that President Barack Obama had exceeded his executive powers when he created the program. Trump announced he was ending the program effective March 5 and gave lawmakers until then to come up with a legislative fix.

But in recent weeks, federal judges in San Francisco and New York have made Trump's deadline temporarily moot for people who have sought and been granted renewals; the rulings do not extend to people who are applying for the first time. Judges issued injunctions ordering the administration to keep DACA in place while courts consider legal challenges to Trump's termination. As a result, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services resumed accepting and processing DACA renewals in January, just as it had before Trump's September announcement.

The Trump administration has not tried to block the injunctions that force it to continue operating the program. Though the March 5 date is now moot, Greisa Martinez, policy and advocacy director for United We Dream, said DACA supporters planned to demonstrate in Washington on that day in part to continue to pressure Congress to act.

The Senate two weeks ago blocked a bipartisan bill offering Dreamers potential citizenship and providing \$25 billion for President Donald Trump to build his proposed border wall with Mexico. A more conservative House proposal that sharply reduces legal immigration and imposes other restrictions has languished short of the GOP votes it would need to pass, leaving its fate in question.

The Supreme Court's announcement Monday that it wouldn't step in to the case now means the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will likely be the first appeals court to weigh in on the topic, the step before the case would return to the Supreme Court.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who has led the multistate lawsuit in California to keep DACA in place, cheered the Supreme Court announcement Monday.

"It's a victory for all Dreamers, certainly a great victory for California," Becerra said during a phone call with reporters. "It's a victory for the rule of law and it's a victory for our economy."

The Ninth Circuit has set no date to hear arguments but has given lawyers dates by which they must file briefs that run through April. Andrew Pincus, an attorney who represents more than 100 businesses that intervened in support of DACA, said June is probably the earliest that the court would rule.

Trump on Monday didn't seem to hold out much hope of winning at the Ninth Circuit, criticizing the liberal-leaning court by saying "nothing's as bad as the Ninth Circuit."

"I mean, it's really sad when every single case filed against us is in the 9th Circuit we lose, we lose, we lose and then we do fine in the Supreme Court," he said.

Associated Press writers Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Jill Colvin, Mark Sherman and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump says he's willing to buck NRA; Congress not so sure

By LISA MASCARO and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump declared Monday he's willing to take on the National Rifle Association over gun legislation, but Republicans who control Congress aren't so sure. They prefer to consider only modest changes to firearms limits in response to the mass shooting at a Florida high school.

Congress returned to work Monday without following Trump's lead on any of the major initiatives he has tossed into the debate since the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Despite public calls for stricter gun laws, Republican leaders have largely kept quiet since the shooting, which left 17 dead and ushered in another phase in the gun debate, prompted in large part by the activism of the young survivors. Some students visited with lawmakers Monday.

Over the weekend, Trump spent time talking to Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, and the White House is inviting lawmakers from both parties for meetings this week. But Trump's ideas to arm many teachers, lift the minimum age for purchasing assault rifles to 21 and impose stricter background checks were falling flat.

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Thousands pay their respects to the Rev. Billy Graham

By JEFFREY COLLINS, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Thousands of people from all walks of life — including a former president — filed slowly past the casket of the Rev. Billy Graham on Monday to pay their final respects to a man who reached millions with his message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

A light drizzle greeted mourners on hand at 8 a.m. when the doors opened to Graham's boyhood home, but it had tapered by the late afternoon when former President George W. Bush arrived with his wife, Laura. The viewing was expected to last late into the night for the famed evangelist, who died Wednesday at age 99.

Mourners of all races, young and old, some in suits and some in T-shirts and flip-flops, walked through the parlor where Graham's closed casket lay on a black pedestal. They walked past family photos and a cross made of white lilies to see the simple plywood container made by prison inmates. At the door for the first few hours was Graham's grandson, Roy, shaking the hand of every person who came to see his grandfather.

"I just wanted to tell them how much I appreciated the love for my family," Roy Graham said.

And they responded with stories. Roy Graham said what moved him the most Monday were the dozens who paused and told him the exact moment and place Billy Graham came into their lives through his

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hundreds of crusades around the world.

Cecily Turner is one of them. Her mother was at Billy Graham's 1957 New York crusade and she said he led her mother to salvation that day.

"I know she is in heaven thanking him right now," she said.

Mother passed her faith on to daughter, and Turner said she passed it down to five children and four great-grandchildren.

"That's an amazing thing," she said.

Graham's funeral is Friday, and President Donald Trump said he will attend. Invitations were sent to all ex-presidents of the U.S.

Bush has said he chose Monday because he had a scheduling conflict with the funeral. He was greeted by Graham's son Franklin and spent about 30 minutes with the family during a private viewing.

"Laura and I are honored to be able to come and pay our respects to the Graham family and, more importantly, to be able to say goodbye to a person who was influential in our lives and influential in the lives of millions," Bush told reporters afterward.

He also brought condolences from his father, George H.W. Bush, whom he described as a great friend of Graham's.

"I know he wished he could come too, but he's not moving around much these days," Bush said.

Former President Barack Obama is not planning to attend memorial services for Graham this week, his office said. Obama tweeted last week after that Graham was "was a humble servant who prayed for so many — and who, with wisdom and grace, gave hope and guidance to generations of Americans."

Public viewing was to continue Monday and Tuesday until 10 p.m. at Graham's Charlotte library on the campus of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. His body will then be taken to the U.S. Capitol, where Wednesday and Thursday he will be the first private citizen to lie in honor there since civil rights hero Rosa Parks in 2005.

The funeral will be held in a giant tent as a nod to Graham's 1949 Los Angeles crusade. That revival, which Graham said propelled him to worldwide fame, was held in a circus tent dubbed the "Canvas Cathedral." The man called "America's Pastor" would eventually preach to an estimated 210 million people in person and many more through his pioneering use of prime-time telecasts, network radio, daily newspaper columns, evangelistic films and satellite TV hookups.

Billy Wayne Arrington was a boy when he first encountered Graham on a TV screen in Kingsport, Tennessee. He now does Christian theater. Arrington wiped tears from his eyes as he exited after saying a prayer for Graham and for the world he leaves behind.

"I'm just overwhelmed, not by sadness — just overwhelmed to see so many lives touched," Arrington said.

Graham will be buried beside his wife, Ruth, who died in 2007, at the foot of a cross-shaped walkway at Graham's library in Charlotte.

Online: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association: <http://www.billygraham.org>

Billy Graham Center archives: <http://www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/archhp1.html>

Follow Jeffrey Collins on Twitter and see his work on apnews.com

Trump says he would have rushed into Florida school, unarmed

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, who's been highly critical of the law enforcement response to the Florida school shootings, says he would have rushed in, unarmed, if he'd been there.

Speaking to a roomful of governors at the White House, Trump said Monday, "You don't know until you're tested, but I think I really believe I'd run in there even if I didn't have a weapon, and I think most of the people in this room would have done that, too."

Trump's heroic hypothetical vividly demonstrated his frustration at the way the deadly events unfolded at the school in Parkland, Florida.

His session with the governors, in Washington for their annual winter meeting, was heavily focused on finding ways to address the massacre of 17 students and teachers in a Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. It was the latest gathering in which the president spoke of a need to enact new gun-control measures as well as act to improve school safety.

Trump said his recent calls for the arming of many teachers wasn't a universal one, instead likening it to taking advantage of educators with athletic talents to provide additional protection within schools.

"The headline was 'Trump wants all teachers to have guns. Trump wants teachers to have guns.' I don't want teachers to have guns," the president said. "I want highly trained people that have a natural talent, like hitting a baseball or hitting a golf ball or putting."

As for his statement about what he would have done personally, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, "He was saying that he would be a leader and would want to take a courageous action, and a lot of the individuals that helped protect others that day weren't carrying firearms, which I think shows that you can be helpful in that process."

Trump said anew that he was disappointed in officers who didn't stop the gunman, calling their performance "frankly disgusting."

"They really weren't exactly Medal of Honor winners," Trump said.

He renewed his criticism of former Broward County Sheriff's deputy Scot Peterson, though Peterson's lawyer said in Florida that accusations are untrue that he acted unprofessionally and cowardly during the shooting.

Lawyer Joseph DiRuzzo said Monday that the school resource officer didn't enter the high school because it sounded like the shooting was happening outside the building.

Trump wasn't impressed.

"Look what he did in Broward where he thought he was probably a brave guy, but he wasn't a brave guy under pressure," the president said. "He choked and other people choked. A lot of people choked in that case."

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Darlene Superville contributed.

Follow Thomas at <http://www.twitter.com/KThomasDC>.

Ivanka Trump's dual roles as senior adviser, first daughter

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ivanka Trump expects to be treated seriously as a senior White House adviser. But when faced with uncomfortable questions about her father's treatment of women, she'd prefer to be viewed as just a daughter.

President Donald Trump's elder daughter drew fresh scrutiny Monday for an NBC interview in which she argued that a query to her about the women accusing the president of inappropriate behavior was "pretty inappropriate."

The comment highlighted her complicated roles as both first daughter and advocate for women and families, serving in an administration led by a president accused of inappropriate behavior by more than a dozen women.

Asked if she believed the accusations against her father, Ivanka Trump said: "I think it's a pretty inappropriate question to ask a daughter if she believes the accusers of her father when he's affirmatively stated that there's no truth to it. I don't think that's a question you would ask many other daughters."

Trump has denied the allegations, and his daughter said she stood by him.

"I believe my father, I know my father," she said. "I think I have that right as a daughter, to believe my father."

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She was interviewed after leading the U.S. delegation at the closing ceremony for the Winter Olympics, Katherine Jellison, who heads the history department at Ohio University, said Ivanka Trump appeared to be trying to have it both ways.

"You're either a senior adviser or a daughter. She's in this unique position that she's still trying to work out," said Jellison, an expert on first families. "Especially since she was last in the news as a senior adviser going to the Olympics."

Ivanka Trump's trip to Asia included a private meeting with the South Korean president and a pledge that she would use her visit to advocate maximum pressure on North Korea to halt its nuclear program. Trump documented her journey on social media, posting photos and messages to athletes.

Before she left Asia, Trump wrote: "Thank you to President Moon, First Lady Kim & the people of South Korea for the warm hospitality you showed me, our Presidential Delegation & #TeamUSA during the #WinterOlympics."

Trump worked on the president's tax overhaul last year and successfully pressed for a beefed-up child tax credit. She has also promoted issues such as STEM education and workforce development.

But she has struggled to find the right tone to respond to the rising #MeToo moment. She recently got pushback for a tweet offering support for Oprah Winfrey's message of female empowerment at the Golden Globe awards.

She said: "Just saw @Oprah's empowering & inspiring speech at last night's #GoldenGlobes. Let's all come together, women & men, & say #TIMESUP! #UNITED."

Actress Alyssa Milano and others quickly chimed in, pointing out that the tweet didn't mention her father's accusers. Milano responded to Ivanka Trump's tweet: "Great! You can make a lofty donation to the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund that is available to support your father's accusers."

Ivanka Trump is not the first presidential family member who has sought to play down personal questions. Jellison recalled that former first lady Barbara Bush once pushed back on a question about her granddaughters after they received citations for underage drinking.

Jellison said the situation with Ivanka Trump was different, adding, "she did choose to play this senior advisory role."

Americans say Congress is listening to all the wrong people

By LAURIE KELLMAN and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking for common ground with your neighbor these days? Try switching subjects from the weather to Congress. Chances are, you both agree it's terrible.

In red, blue or purple states, in middle America or on the coasts, most Americans loathe the nation's legislature. One big reason: Most think lawmakers are listening to all the wrong people, suggests a new study by researchers at Stanford University and the University of California-Santa Barbara with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"We have the best Congress you can buy and pay for," said Chester Trahan, 78, of Palm Coast, Florida. "Congress, they're subject to the special interest groups and that's really who's running the show."

Hating Congress has become a lasting feature of American politics, regardless of which party is in power or whether the 435 House members and 100 senators pass lots of legislation — or don't do much of anything at all.

A new poll from the AP-NORC Center found that 85 percent of Americans, including 89 percent of Democrats and 82 percent of Republicans, disapprove of the job Congress is doing. That might matter in this midterm election year, as Republicans defend their majorities in the House and Senate.

In the study by Stanford, UC-Santa Barbara and the AP-NORC Center, which was conducted in 2015 and again in 2017, only about 2 in 10 said they think Congress pays much attention to their own constituents or Americans as a whole, or even give much consideration to the best interests of those people.

Instead, most said Congress does listen to lobbyists, donors and the wealthy.

That's exactly the opposite of the way people think Congress should function, the study found. The high-

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est levels of disapproval came from Americans who felt the largest sense of disconnect between whom they think Congress should listen to and whom they believe Congress actually listens to.

That disconnect played out in the public square last week as the nation reeled from yet another mass shooting — this time, the Valentine's Day killing of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Many raged over what they see as the National Rifle Association's power to stifle efforts to tighten gun laws, including a ban on assault rifles.

"Can you tell me right now that you will not accept a single donation from the NRA?" student Cameron Kasky demanded of Sen. Marco Rubio, the Florida Republican who appeared on CNN's "Stand Up" town hall.

Rubio, one of the gun rights groups' top beneficiaries over his political career, would not make that pledge. Nor have other congressional Republicans, who are overwhelmingly favored by gun rights supporters when it comes to campaign contributions.

The disillusionment is not just about guns, and it's not new. Democrats and Republicans alike see members of Congress as mostly listening to elites and donors rather than the ordinary people they represent.

Congress has rarely been especially popular in polls conducted over the past several decades, but approval of the House and Senate's performance has been particularly low over the past several years. In polling by Gallup, Congress' approval rating has been below 20 percent for eight straight years.

Americans are more likely to approve of their own member of Congress than of Congress generally, but even that rating is less than stellar. In the latest AP-NORC poll, 44 percent of Americans — 41 percent of Democrats and 50 percent of Republicans — approve of the person representing their district.

American apathy toward their lawmakers has become an area of scholarly study, with some researchers contending that when Congress doesn't act, it's often representing a divided electorate that can't resolve disagreements, either.

That certainly describes the United States now, which is deeply divided over such uncomfortable matters as immigration, gun control and President Donald Trump. Even with Republicans in control of the presidency and the House and Senate, Congress passed just one significant piece of legislation during Trump's first year in office — a \$1.5 trillion overhaul of U.S. tax laws that Republicans hope will begin to boost American paychecks this year.

"It is not crumbs," Trump said earlier this month in a brushback to Democratic efforts to campaign against the tax cuts.

In November, voters cast ballots for every House seat and 34 in the Senate. And it's fair to say plenty of members of Congress have had enough of Congress, too — including more than 50 House members who have opted to leave rather than seek re-election.

Among the other reasons for all the Congress hate, fewer than 2 in 10 Americans in the new study said they think Congress passes mostly good laws. The remainder considers congressional output to be at best neutral, with over a third seeing it as mostly bad. At the same time, Americans who felt Congress should be passing either more laws or fewer of them were far more likely to disapprove of Congress than those who felt the number of laws passed by Congress is about right.

"Most of them have got it wrong," said David Peterson, 67, a Republican-leaning Vietnam veteran from Torrance, California. "The fact that Congress can't seem to come to grips with health care, can't seem to come to grips with immigration, can't seem to come to grips with legislating firearms. It makes me less optimistic."

The study was conducted in 2015 and 2017 using samples drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Funding was provided by the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University and by NORC.

The most recent AP-NORC poll of 1,337 adults was conducted Feb. 15-19 using a sample drawn from NORC's AmeriSpeak Panel, and has a margin of sampling error for all respondents of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research: <http://www.apnorc.org>

Follow Kellman and Swanson on Twitter at: <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman> and http://www.twitter.com/EL_Swan.

Still no cease-fire in Syrian enclave; Russia orders a pause

By SARAH EL DEEB and BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — As a U.N. cease-fire failed to take hold in Syria, Russia on Monday ordered a daily “humanitarian pause” to allow civilians to evacuate an embattled rebel-held enclave near Damascus, while airstrikes continued and Syrian ground forces fought to push into the besieged area from the west.

But civilians caught in the violence mocked Russian President Vladimir Putin’s order of a limited, five-hour daily truce.

“It is like legitimizing the strikes on civilians,” said activist Firas Abdullah, a resident of Douma, a town in the region where at least 13 members of a family were killed Monday when their home collapsed after an airstrike.

“They will be so kind to grant us a mere five hours when they will not bomb us. Then the rest of the day, they will bomb us as usual. It is like a permission to kill,” Abdullah said.

A weekend resolution approved by the U.N. Security Council for a 30-day cease-fire across Syria failed to stop the carnage in the eastern Ghouta region that has killed more than 500 people since last week.

At least 34 people were killed Monday by airstrikes and shelling, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The U.N. estimates that nearly 400,000 people live in dire conditions from the siege in eastern Ghouta, which has been under intensive bombing by government forces for weeks.

Other Ghouta residents also scoffed at the Russian move, saying it reminded them of a similar one for a besieged eastern district of Aleppo in 2016.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Putin has ordered daily “humanitarian pauses” between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., starting Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko, head of the Russian military’s Center for Reconciliation in Syria, said Syrian authorities set up a “humanitarian corridor” for evacuating civilians and would distribute leaflets with specific information. He said the al-Qaida-linked militants and some rebel groups in eastern Ghouta are preventing civilians from leaving and using them as human shields while continuing to shell Damascus.

The political leader of the Army of Islam, the strongest rebel group in eastern Ghouta, called the Russian order “regrettable,” saying Moscow sought to circumvent the Security Council’s unanimously approved resolution.

“This (Russian) decision nullifies the legitimacy of the United Nations,” Mohammed Alloush of the Army of Islam told The Associated Press. “We want a total and lasting cease-fire in accordance with the U.N. resolution and one that opens corridors for humanitarian aid.”

On Sunday, activists reported a suspected poison gas attack in eastern Ghouta’s town of Sheifouniyeh, where at least one person — an infant — was killed.

The attack also left several people and paramedics with breathing difficulties, according to the opposition’s Syrian Civil Defense, a group known as the White Helmets. The Ghouta Media Center, an activist collective, also reported the incident, saying chlorine gas was used. The Observatory said it could not confirm the reports.

The Syrian American Medical Society, a medical relief organization working with doctors in Syria, said it was the fourth time this year that a chemical weapon was used in Ghouta. SAMS also said 24 health facilities in Ghouta came under attack over the last week.

Meanwhile, Syrian TV reported a three-pronged ground attack on Harasta, a major town in the region. The state TV broadcast live video from the town as it was pounded by airstrikes and artillery.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to the warring sides to abide by the cease-fire.

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"Eastern Ghouta cannot wait," Guterres said at the start of a session of the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council in Geneva, his first remarks to the U.N. body since the Security Council resolution was adopted Saturday. "It is high time to stop this hell on Earth."

Guterres said he welcomed such resolutions but added that they "are only meaningful if they are effectively implemented."

He said he expects the resolution "to be immediately implemented and sustained" and also called for safe, unimpeded and sustained delivery of humanitarian aid and services, as well as evacuations of the sick and wounded.

Jonathan Allen, the British ambassador to the U.N., said Russia and all other Security Council members are "obliged" to do everything possible to implement the U.N. resolution.

The Russian announcement of five-hour daily pauses in eastern Ghouta "is not compliance, that is not implementation of the resolution passed on Saturday, but it does show that it can be implemented," Allen said.

At the Geneva gathering, U.N. human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein echoed calls for a "full implementation" of the U.N. truce.

"However, we have every reason to remain cautious" about the cease-fire because airstrikes were continuing on the Damascus suburbs, he said.

Abdullah, the Douma activist, also derided the U.N. cease-fire, saying it was "confined to the U.N. Security Council corridors." He noted his town was hit Monday by at least 50 mortar rounds, as well as artillery shells and airstrikes.

Russia supports the forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad in their assault on eastern Ghouta, as it did in the 2016 campaign that drove the rebels from the enclaves they controlled in Syria's largest city, Aleppo.

At that time, a humanitarian pause also was implemented by Russia while the Syrian government called on residents to evacuate and for gunmen to lay down their arms. A full ground assault followed, finally bringing Aleppo under government control.

Then, as now, Assad's government and Russia cited the presence of al-Qaida-linked groups as grounds for the sweeping operation.

In the ground offensive in Ghouta, Syrian TV said the fighting, mostly concentrated in an area known as Harasta Farms, also was aimed at al-Qaida-linked militants.

Eyad Srewel, a 27-year-old resident of Douma, said the situation in Ghouta looks more and more like Aleppo.

"I don't know what will happen in the next two minutes. But I know I am not leaving, I am not going anywhere," he said.

Associated Press writers Jamey Keaten in Geneva, Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow and Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, contributed.

Gorsuch silent as divided Supreme Court spars over unions

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the justice holding the decisive vote silent, a divided Supreme Court sparred Monday over a case that could undermine the financial footing of labor unions that represent government workers.

The justices heard arguments in a challenge to an Illinois law that allows unions representing government employees to collect fees from workers who choose not to join.

Amid colorful, occasionally angry comments from his colleagues, Justice Neil Gorsuch asked no questions during the hourlong session.

The court split 4-4 the last time it considered the issue in 2016 following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Gorsuch joined the court in April and has yet to weigh in on union fees. Organized labor is a big supporter of Democratic candidates and interests. Unions strongly opposed Gorsuch's nomination by

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President Donald Trump.

The unions say the outcome could affect more than 5 million government workers in 24 states and the District of Columbia.

In many respects, Monday's arguments were a replay of what happened in 2016, when the court took up so-called fair share fees and appeared to be ready to overrule a 1997 high court decision that serves as their legal foundation. But Scalia's death left the court tied, and a lower court ruling in favor of the fees remained in place.

"You're basically arguing, do away with unions," Justice Sonia Sotomayor told William Messenger, a lawyer with the National Right to Work Legal Foundation. The group is representing Illinois worker Mark Janus in his Supreme Court challenge.

On the other side, Justice Anthony Kennedy, who has voted against unions in past related cases, scoffed at labor's argument that there is a difference between collective bargaining over government employees' pay and benefits, and unions' political activities, which nonmembers do not have to support.

If the unions lose, won't they have less political influence, Kennedy asked David Frederick, representing the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Illinois affiliate. Yes, Frederick said.

"Isn't that the end of this case?" Kennedy replied.

Janus says he has a constitutional right not to contribute anything to a union with which he disagrees. Janus and the conservative interests that back him contend that everything unions representing public employees do is political, including contract negotiations.

Janus and Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, a Republican who has had a contentious relationship with the state's unions since taking office in 2015, were both in the courtroom Monday. "I am confident that they will side with free speech for the people of our great nation," Rauner said of the justices, following the arguments.

The Trump administration is supporting Janus in his effort to persuade the court to overturn its 1977 ruling allowing states to require fair share fees for government employees.

The unions argue that so-called fair share fees pay for collective bargaining and other work the union does on behalf of all employees, not just its members. More than half the states already have right-to-work laws banning mandatory fees, but most members of public-employee unions are concentrated in states that don't, including California, New York, and Illinois.

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said wealthy conservative business interests are behind the legal challenge. "They're attacking us because they see a strong labor movement as a threat to their wealth and power," Weingarten said.

Labor leaders fear that not only would workers who don't belong to a union stop paying fees, but that some union members might decide to stop paying dues if they could in essence get the union's representation for free.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg suggested it would be natural for union members to say "I would rather keep the money in my own pocket," potentially seriously cutting union revenues.

"I submit that's a perfectly acceptable result," Messenger said.

The lawyers' arguments and some of the justices' comments appeared to be pitched to attract Gorsuch. Frederick, a former law firm colleague of the justice, made an originalism appeal on the unions' behalf, borrowing a typically conservative argument that judges should look to what the Constitution meant when it was written.

Gorsuch has spoken of his fidelity to reading the Constitution and laws as they were originally intended.

But Justice Samuel Alito, who has written two opinions attacking fair share fees, said Frederick's argument was "something I thought I would never see in a brief filed by a public employee union."

Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan stressed again and again how much might be upset if Janus wins, which might appeal to Gorsuch if he is reluctant to overturn the 1977 decision, *Aboud v. Detroit Board of Education*.

"Property and contract rights, the statutes of many states and the livelihoods of millions of individuals affected all at once," Kagan said. "When have we ever done something like that?"

A decision in Janus v. AFSCME Council 31, 16-1466, is expected by late June.

2 lions from Mideast war zones reach South African refuge

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

LIONSROCK BIG CAT SANCTUARY, South Africa (AP) — Two lions rescued from neglected zoos in war zones in Iraq and Syria arrived in South Africa on Monday to live at a sanctuary with other animals that survived harsh conditions in captivity elsewhere in the world.

The male lions were transported in metal crates on a Qatar Airways flight after leaving an animal refuge in Jordan on Sunday. They were loaded onto vehicles for a drive of several hours to their new home at the Lionsrock facility near the town of Bethlehem. The lions emerged into separate grassy enclosures, and other lions behind nearby fences let out deep-throated growls and moans.

"They are already saying, 'Hello,'" said Hildegard Pirker, head of the animal welfare department at Lionsrock. As one of the new arrivals bounded around his new home, Pirker said: "You're in Africa, finally."

Born in captivity, the lions had never been on the continent. They were emaciated and dehydrated after the international animal welfare group Four Paws extracted them from a zoo in eastern Mosul in Iraq and an amusement park near Aleppo in Syria. The two cities have experienced some of the worst fighting that has hit both countries in recent years, killing large numbers of people and leaving neighborhoods in ruins.

Most of the 40 animals at the Mosul zoo died of starvation or were killed in bombings while some escaped from their enclosures, according to Four Paws. The group's members reached the location a year ago and evacuated the only two animals they found, a bear and the roughly 4-year-old lion named Simba.

The other lion, 2-year-old Saeed, was rescued in July along with 12 other animals from Syria's Magic World amusement park. The animals reached Jordan after staying for two weeks in Turkey, whose government assisted with the evacuation.

Both lions were traumatized when they arrived at the Al-Ma'wa Animal Sanctuary in Jordan, Four Paws said. Since then, they have received medical care, including vasectomies and dental work, and have gained weight on a steady diet that included lamb meat treats.

The lions can expect similar treatment at Lionsrock, whose 80 lions came from a German circus and zoos in France, Romania, Congo and elsewhere. Some are from South African captive-bred lion operations that often earmark the predators for "trophy" killings by customers.

Some of the captive-bred residents of Lionsrock have deformities from inbreeding and none can be released into the wild, said Fiona Miles, director of Four Paws' South Africa operation.

She said a key goal is to raise awareness about the conditions of lions and other animals in captivity around the world.

Conservationists point to broader challenges facing Africa's wild lions, whose population has plummeted. Problems include shrinking habitats and poaching, in which lions get trapped in snares laid down indiscriminately.

Another concern is demand in some Asian countries for lion bones used in traditional medicine. Currently, South Africa allows the legal, annual export of bones from hundreds of captive-bred lions to China and Southeast Asia.

There are nearly 2,900 wild lions and about 7,000 captive lions in South Africa, according to the government.

Security at Lionsrock is tight, a necessary precaution in a country where poaching is a frequent threat. Last year, poachers broke into another wildlife sanctuary in South Africa, killing two of its big cats.

Follow Christopher Torchia on Twitter at www.twitter.com/torchiachris

The day after: Pyeongchang breathes, bids Olympics farewell

By TED ANTHONY, Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — From volunteers to support staff to the joint Korea women's hockey team, people from many cultures bid farewell to each other and to the 2018 Winter Olympics on Monday as a swath of the eastern Korean Peninsula readied itself for something novel: relative normalcy.

Seven years after a successful Olympic bid that changed its people and its landscape forever, Pyeongchang exhaled.

"Farewell! Bye bye! Gamsahamnida!" volunteers using the Korean word for "thank you" shouted to departing buses in Gangneung, the coastal city near Pyeongchang where many events were held.

Workers yanked down paper signs by the hundreds and busloads of Olympians, journalists and support workers rolled toward train stations and highways Monday in the aftermath of a Winter Games that was as political as it was athletic.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach echoed that sentiment in the closing ceremony Sunday night, saying that the centerpiece political event of the games — a joint Korea team marching together and, in some cases, competing together was a beacon for a troubled world.

"With your joint march you have shared your faith in a peaceful future with all of us," Bach said. "You have shown our sport brings people together in our very fragile world. You have shown how sport builds bridges."

The Korean women's hockey team did that for sure.

Thrown together a just few weeks before the games, players from North and South were thrust together to make a go of it. With the help of their Canadian coach, they came together as a competent, if not particularly effective, team that captured the attention of many Olympics watchers.

Along the way, they developed what they uniformly say was camaraderie, and even great affection. On Monday morning, at the athletes' village, they said their goodbyes with tears and extended hands.

"I feel really strange," said South Korean hockey player Choi Ji-yeon. "I told them to take care and not get sick and meet again later."

She added: "If they were people whom we can continue to keep in touch and meet again, then I would feel better, but I might never be able to meet them again."

Their governmental counterparts were showing signs of communication as well. The detente achieved through the Olympic connections between North and South Korea fits the longtime goals of the South's president, Moon Jae-in, who has advocated engagement with Kim Jong Un's Pyongyang regime.

That happened at the opening and closing ceremonies, both with U.S. representatives looking on from nearby — Vice President Mike Pence for the opening, first daughter and presidential adviser Ivanka Trump for the closing Sunday night.

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, a patron of South Korea and a loud opponent of the North's nuclear program, is watching the contacts closely, particularly after South Korea's presidential office said during the closing ceremony that the North was willing to hold talks with the United States.

Washington viewed that development warily. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, with Ivanka Trump on her South Korea Olympic trip, issued a written statement to that effect after the closing ceremony.

"We will see if Pyongyang's message today, that it is willing to hold talks, represents the first steps along the path to denuclearization," she said. "In the meantime, the United States and the world must continue to make clear that North Korea's nuclear and missile programs are a dead end."

North Korea's official news agency, KCNA, known for its invective toward the United States and the Seoul government, has been playing it low key when it comes to these Olympics. On Monday, it issued a synopsis of the games that was notable for its anodyne tone.

"When the players of the north and south of Korea participating in the 23rd Winter Olympics and other players and agents of different countries and region from across the world entered the stadium, the spectators welcomed them with applause," it practically whispered.

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Contrast that with this dispatch hours earlier about the United States: "We will never have face-to-face talks with them even after 100 years or 200 years. This is neither an empty talk nor any threat. The U.S. will have to pay dearly for stupid and wild vituperation."

Twelve hours later, news of its willingness to talk emerged from Seoul.

North Korea's delegation to the games, including more than 200 cheerleaders whose perfect synchronicity made for some of the Olympics' most popular visuals, returned over land in buses to the North on Monday.

The group — whose members experienced more of the world this month than many of their fellow North Koreans do in a lifetime — also included 45 athletes, four Olympic officials and 21 journalists.

As for the Olympics and the attention and people they bring to this relatively remote plateau of north-eastern South Korea, it's not quite finished yet. The Paralympic Games, held immediately after the Olympics using the same facilities, will be staged from March 9 to 18, albeit with a lower profile and attendance.

But for a few days, at least, with traffic cones down and most Olympic checkpoints removed, Pyeongchang can take a breather as the eyes of the world shift somewhere else.

Ted Anthony has been Asia-Pacific news director for The Associated Press since 2014. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram at @anthonyted.

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

New study finds diverse audiences drive blockbusters

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Just as "Black Panther" is setting records at the box office, a new study finds that diverse audiences are driving most of the biggest blockbusters and many of the most-watched hits on television.

UCLA's Bunche Center released its fifth annual study on diversity in the entertainment industry Tuesday, unveiling an analysis of the top 200 theatrical film releases of 2016 and 1,251 broadcast, cable and digital platform TV shows from the 2015-2016 season. Among its results: minorities accounted for the majority of ticket buyers for five of the top 10 films at the global box office, and half of ticket buyers for two more of the top 10.

"There has been some progress, undeniably. Things are not what they were five years ago," said Darnell Hunt, director of the center, which focuses on African American studies, at the University of California, Los Angeles. "People are actually talking about diversity today as a bottom-line imperative as opposed to just the right thing to do. We've amassed enough evidence now that diversity does, in fact, sell."

Minorities make up nearly 40 percent of the U.S. population, but Hispanic and African-American moviegoers over-index among moviegoers. According to the Motion Picture Association of America, Latinos make up 18 percent of the U.S. population but account for 23 percent of frequent moviegoers. Though African Americans are 12 percent of the population, they make up 15 percent of frequent moviegoers.

UCLA found that films with casts that were 21 to 30 percent minority regularly performed better at the box office than films with the most racially and ethnically homogenous casts.

Hunt believes that the wealth of data, as well as box-office successes like "Black Panther," have made obvious the financial benefits of films that better reflect the racial makeup of the American population.

"I think the industry has finally gotten the memo, at least on the screen in most cases, if not behind the camera," said Hunt. "That's where there are the most missed opportunities."

The report, titled "Five Years of Progress and Missed Opportunities," covers a period of some historic high points for Hollywood, including the release of the best picture-winning "Moonlight," along with fellow Oscar nominees "Hidden Figures" and "Fences."

But researchers found the overall statistical portrait of the industry didn't support much improvement in diversity from 2015 to 2016.

"With each milestone achievement, we chip away at some of the myths about what's possible and what's not," said Hunt. "Every time a film like this does really well, every time we see a TV show like 'Empire,' it

makes it harder for them to make the argument that you can't have a viable film with a lead of color. Or you can't have a universally appealing show with a predominantly minority cast. It's just not true anymore because the mainstream, itself, is diverse."

Some of the largest disparities for minorities detailed by the UCLA report were in roles like film writers (8.1 percent of 2016's top films) and creators of broadcast scripted shows (7.1 percent). Hunt blamed the lag behind the camera on, among other factors, executive ranks that are still overwhelmingly male.

"It's a white-male controlled industry and it hasn't yet figured out how to incorporate other decision-makers of color and women into the process. So you have these momentary exceptions to the rule," said Hunt, pointing to "Black Panther," which has grossed \$700 million worldwide in two weeks of release.

Such films, he said, show the considerable economic sense of making movies and television series that don't ignore nearly half of their potential audience.

"It's business 101," Hunt said.

5 things to watch for as new Fed chair Powell meets Congress

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Jerome Powell testifies to Congress on Tuesday in his first public appearance as chairman of the Federal Reserve, investors will be paying close attention to his every word.

Financial markets are always on high alert for any hints of policy shifts when the leader of the world's most powerful central bank speaks publicly. But in this case, they will be listening with particular care. It will be the first time they will hear Powell articulate his views since he succeeded Janet Yellen.

Most of all, investors will be parsing Powell's words for any signal of when or how quickly the Fed will continue to raise interest rates. The Fed had forecast in December that it would raise rates three times in 2018. But many analysts think economic developments might lead it to accelerate that pace.

Powell will be offering his thoughts on the Fed's twice-a-year monetary report to Congress, which lays out its thinking on the economy and interest rates. He will testify Tuesday to the House Financial Services Committee and on Thursday to the Senate Banking Committee.

Here are five things to listen for:

MARKET TURBULENCE

The financial markets threw a rotten welcoming party for Powell. On Feb. 5, his very first day as Fed chairman, the Dow Jones industrial average plunged by 1,100 points — and fell further in subsequent days. After that wild start to the month, the markets have since stabilized and regained much of the lost ground that had put stocks into correction territory.

Powell is sure to face questions about just what the market turbulence means and whether he worries that the volatility will harm the economy. Does Wall Street's long bull market — and the surge in stocks that followed the 2016 election — leave him worried that share prices have formed a dangerous asset bubble that could pop with disastrous consequences?

If Powell does think so, the Fed might be prepared to accelerate its rate hikes this year to try to further deflate stock prices. On the other hand, the Fed might feel that the stock market plunge at the start of February has already served as a prudent warning to investors that will ease pressure to quicken its pace of rate hikes.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The minutes of the Fed's most recent meeting in January showed that many of the policymakers were upgrading their forecasts for economic growth based on a brightening global picture and the prospect that the Republicans' tax cuts could quicken growth.

Stronger growth would follow years in which the recovery from the Great Recession has plodded along with expansion of only around 2 percent annually — the slowest recovery since World War II. But some economists say the subpar pace of growth has actually contributed to the recovery's durability. It is now

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the third-longest economic expansion on records dating to the 1850s.

Powell will likely be asked about how the Fed might respond to a pickup in growth at a time when unemployment is at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent and the Fed is gradually raising rates to ensure that inflation doesn't pose a problem. Will the Powell-led Fed be pleased with stronger growth? Or might it feel compelled to accelerate its rate hikes to prevent faster growth from igniting inflation later on?

James Bullard, president of the Fed's St. Louis regional bank, said Monday, "I have been a little bit concerned if the (Fed) goes too far, too fast." Bullard suggested that the Fed needs to avoid becoming overly aggressive with rate hikes if not warranted by the latest economic data.

INFLATION

A key factor triggering the market turbulence earlier this month was a surprise report that average wages rose in January compared with a year ago at the fastest pace in eight years. Some other barometers of inflation have also shown increases. Still, the Fed's preferred measure of inflation remains stubbornly below its target of 2 percent annually.

Investors will want to know whether Powell is becoming convinced that the Fed is finally on the verge of achieving its 2 percent inflation target — and, if so, whether it might soon feel the need to speed up its rate increases. With the current 4.1 percent unemployment rate well below the Fed's own 4.6 percent designation for full employment, how much of an acceleration in inflation might the central bank tolerate before deciding to step up its rate hikes?

BUDGET DEFICITS

When President Donald Trump proposed a budget two weeks ago, it forecast a dramatic jump in deficits over the next decade compared with his first budget last year. The new budget expects deficits will total \$7.1 trillion over the next decade, more than double the deficits the administration projected last year.

Much of the increase will come from the \$1.5 trillion tax cut Trump pushed through Congress in December. And critics contend that even the expected sizable jump in deficits understates the amount of red ink that will likely flow. That's because the administration's budget didn't include the \$300 billion in increased spending that was included in a government funding deal Congress passed right before Trump released his budget.

What's more, Trump's new budget is counting on growth to accelerate from the 2 percent pace seen since the recovery began to rates of 3 percent or better. The Fed has a far dimmer view: More in line with most economists, the Fed projects the long-run growth rate at around 1.8 percent.

Powell will likely be quizzed about this discrepancy and about whether the Fed worried about potential economic overheating and inflation from the increased government stimulus.

POWELL'S AGENDA

At his Senate confirmation hearing, Powell indicated support for the tougher bank regulations in the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, which was enacted after the 2008 financial crisis. But he also said he could see areas where the regulations could be eased, especially for community banks.

Powell's stance didn't go as far as Trump's position. Trump has called Dodd-Frank a disaster that should be scrapped because of the harm he said it was doing to the economy by making it harder for banks to make loans. Lawmakers will likely press the new Fed chairman on the issue of bank regulations, given that both the House and the Senate have put forth bills that would overhaul Dodd-Frank.

That effort could be bolstered by support from Powell and other Trump nominees to the Fed. The central bank has four vacancies on its seven-member board that Trump will be able to fill.

Most Asian markets higher after Wall Street gains

By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian markets mostly extended gains on Tuesday after Wall Street finished

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higher overnight. The upcoming Federal Reserve chair's testimony at U.S. Congress later in the day, his first public appearance as chair of the Fed, was in focus.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 jumped 1.4 percent to 22,460.85 and South Korea's Kospi rose 0.4 percent to 2,467.68. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was flat at 31,487.55 while China's Shanghai Composite Index slumped 1.2 percent to 3,291.82. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.5 percent to 6,073.00. Stocks in Taiwan, Singapore and other Southeast Asian countries were higher.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Riding on the wave of positive sentiment from the start of the week, Asian markets look set to continue in gains," said Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG in Singapore. "The focus is no doubt set ahead to Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech, though the market continues to reflect little concern over the possibility of any overtly hawkish comments."

FED WATCH: Powell's public debut as chair of the Fed starts later on Tuesday when he is due to testify to the House Financial Services Committee. Investors will be looking for clues about when and how quickly the Fed will continue to raise interest rates. In December, the Fed forecast that it would raise rates three times in 2018 but many think the Fed may accelerate that pace. Investors will also want to know whether Powell is becoming convinced that the Fed is finally on the verge of achieving its 2 percent inflation target and if so, whether it might soon feel the need to speed up its rate increases.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks jumped on Monday. The Standard & Poor's 500 gained 32.30 points, or 1.2 percent, to 2,779.60. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 399.28, or 1.6 percent, to 25,709.27, and the Nasdaq composite gained 84.07, or 1.1 percent, to 7,421.46.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 5 cents to \$63.86 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 36 cents to settle at \$63.91 per barrel on Monday. Brent crude, the international standard, gained lost 7 cents to \$67.22 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar weakened to 106.89 Japanese yen from 106.93 yen. The euro rose to \$1.2329 from \$1.2316.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2018. There are 307 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Feb. 27, 1968, at the conclusion of a CBS News special report on the Vietnam War, Walter Cronkite delivered a commentary in which he said that the conflict appeared "mired in stalemate." Former teen singing idol Frankie Lymon, known for such songs as "Why Do Fools Fall in Love" and "Goody Goody," was found dead of a drug overdose in New York at age 25.

On this date:

In 1700, English explorer William Dampier became the first known European visitor to the island of New Britain in the Southwest Pacific.

In 1801, the District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.

In 1911, inventor Charles F. Kettering demonstrated his electric automobile starter in Detroit by starting a Cadillac's motor with just the press of a switch, instead of hand-cranking.

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in *Leser v. Garnett*, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag (RYKS'-tahg), was gutted by fire; Chancellor Adolf Hitler, blaming the Communists, used the fire to justify suspending civil liberties.

In 1943, during World War II, Norwegian commandos launched a successful raid to sabotage a German-operated heavy water plant in Norway. An explosion inside a coal mine near Bearcreek, Montana, killed 74 miners and one rescue worker. The U.S. government, responding to a copper shortage, began circulating one-cent coins made of steel plated with zinc (the steel pennies proved unpopular, since they were easily mistaken for dimes).

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In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.
In 1960, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until the following May.)

In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved telecasts of its debates on a trial basis.

In 1991, Operation Desert Storm came to a conclusion as President George H.W. Bush declared that "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army is defeated," and announced that the allies would suspend combat operations at midnight, Eastern time.

In 1993, actress Lillian Gish died in New York at age 99.

Ten years ago: William F. Buckley Jr., 82, the author and conservative commentator, was found dead at his home in Stamford, Connecticut. Civil rights leader John Lewis, a Democratic congressman from Atlanta, dropped his support for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton in favor of Barack Obama.

Five years ago: The Senate confirmed Jacob Lew to be Treasury secretary by a vote of 71-26. President Barack Obama unveiled a statue of civil rights icon Rosa Parks at the U.S. Capitol. Van Cliburn, the internationally celebrated pianist whose triumph at a 1958 Moscow competition launched a spectacular career that made him the rare classical musician to enjoy rock star status, died in Fort Worth, Texas, at age 78.

One year ago: President Donald Trump proposed a huge \$54 billion surge in U.S. military spending for new aircraft, ships and fighters in his first federal budget while slashing big chunks from domestic programs and foreign aid to make the government "do more with less." The Senate confirmed billionaire investor Wilbur Ross as commerce secretary by a vote of 72-27.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joanne Woodward is 88. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is 84. Opera singer Mirella Freni is 83. Actress Barbara Babcock is 81. Actor Howard Hesseman is 78. Actress Debra Monk is 69. Rock singer-musician Neal Schon (Journey) is 64. Rock musician Adrian Smith (Iron Maiden) is 61. Actor Timothy Spall is 61. Rock musician Paul Humphreys (Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) is 58. Country singer Johnny Van Zant (Van Zant) is 58. Rock musician Leon Mobley (Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals) is 57. Basketball Hall of Famer James Worthy is 57. Actor Adam Baldwin is 56. Actor Grant Show is 56. Rock musician Mike Cross (Sponge) is 53. Actor Noah Emmerich is 53. Actor Donal Logue (DOH'-nuhl LOHG) is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chilli (TLC) is 47. Rock musician Jeremy Dean (Nine Days) is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Roderick Clark is 45. Country-rock musician Shonna Tucker is 40. Chelsea Clinton is 38. Actor Brandon Beemer is 38. Rock musician Cyrus Bolooki (New Found Glory) is 38. Rock musician Jake Clemons (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bobby Valentino is 38. Singer Josh Groban is 37. Banjoist Noam (cq) Pikelnny is 37. Rock musician Jared Champion (Cage the Elephant) is 35. Actress Kate Mara is 35. Actress Lindsey Morgan is 28.

Thought for Today: "There is no inevitability in history except as men make it." — Felix Frankfurter, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1882-1965).