

# Groton Daily Independent

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## JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

[www.johnsonagencygroton.com](http://www.johnsonagencygroton.com)

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424  
Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565



## Henry Township Review Board Notice

Henry Township Equalization Meeting Notice:  
Notice is hereby given that the governing body section will serve as review board of Henry Township, Brown County. They will be meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, March 19, 2018, at Doug Abeln Seed Company office for the purpose of reviewing and correcting of the assessment set of the tax districts for the year 2018. All persons considering disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk of the board no later than March 15, 2018. Hearings are by appointment only.

Darlene Sass  
13120 403 Ave, Groton  
Henry Township Clerk

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## Columbia City Review Board Notice

The Columbia City Board of Equalization will meet on Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the finance officer prior to the meeting. Cara Dennert, Finance Officer

## Bates Township Review Board Notice

Bates Township Equalization Meeting Notice:

The Bates Township Board of Equalization will meet at the Clerk's home on Tuesday, March 20th, 2018 at 7 pm.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk prior to the meeting.

Betty Geist

Bates Township Clerk

14523 409th Ave, Conde, SD 57434

**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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## DJ Pollard Honored with NCAA Elite90 Award

Sioux Falls S.D. – Northern State University senior, DJ Pollard, was honored Sunday evening with the NCAA Elite 90 award at the 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball Elite Eight banquet. The award is given to the student-athlete at each NCAA Championship with the highest GPA. Pollard is the first Northern State recipient of the award in school history.

Pollard holds a 3.97 GPA at Northern State and is majoring in Biology, with plans to attend dental school following graduation in May. He has started all 36 games for the Wolves this season, and is averaging 12.8 points and 4.3 rebounds per game. He is shooting 49.7 percent from the floor, 42.0 percent from the arc, and 82.4 percent from the foul line. The St. Louis Park native, has tallied 30 game in double figure scoring this season, and 22 games shooting 50.0 percent or better from the floor. He finished the NSIC regular season 23rd in scoring (13.3) and eighth in free throw percentage (82.2).

Pollard ranks 18th all-time in scoring at Northern State with 1,483 total points. He leads the team in total points, scoring average, and free throws made. Pollard was named the NSIC/Sanford Health Tournament MVP after Northern's championship victory over Southwest Minnesota State. In addition he was named to the NSIC All-Conference second team, and was the first NSU men's basketball player to be named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America® first team.

## 2018-19 The Carnival of Silver Skates Executive Board

Chairperson: Lindsey Tietz  
Co-chair: Tina Kosel  
Costumes: Deb Schuelke  
Secretary: Kristie Fliehs  
Treasurer: Dawn Imrie  
City Liaison: Jodi Weigel  
Skating Instruction Coordinator: Coralea Wolter  
Publicity/Communications: Sarah Hanten

## Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

March 19, 2018 – 7:00pm  
Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. February Finance Report
4. Garbage Routes Effective March 27th
5. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
6. Equalization Meeting

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup – Free Agency Edition

By Jordan Wright

Entering the offseason, the Minnesota Vikings had three goals in mind: hire an offensive coordinator, solidify the quarterback position, and upgrade at defensive tackle. It's safe to say the Vikings have crushed those goals already.

The biggest story surrounding the Vikings was what they would do to fill the vacant quarterback position. The team must not have been comfortable that Case Keenum could continue his amazing play from the previous season, and they must have also felt that Teddy Bridgewater and Sam Bradford would never be fully healthy, and therefore they couldn't be trusted long term. So instead of re-signing their own guys, the team decided to go the free agent route. After doing their due diligence on all the available quarterbacks, they decided Kirk Cousins is the player who can come in and elevate the team and hopefully bring home a championship. Cousins is signed for three years and \$84 million guaranteed.

Cousins was drafted out of Michigan State in the fourth round of the 2012 NFL draft. The Washington Redskins drafted him to be the backup for Robert Griffin III, who the team drafted with the number two overall pick in the same draft. After only starting nine games over his first three seasons, Cousins was eventually elevated to the full-time starter in 2015. Over the past three seasons Cousins has started every game for Washington – while averaging 4,392 passing yards and 27 touchdowns per season. He also does a good job using his mobility, as evidenced by his 13 career rushing touchdowns. One area of his game he will need to clean up is his penchant for turnovers. Cousins has thrown 36 interceptions and has fumbled the ball 31 times the past three seasons, which averages out to over 22 turnovers per year.

After finding his offensive coordinator and franchise quarterback, Rick Spielman turned his attention to making Mike Zimmer happy – which came in the form of a defensive tackle. Zimmer wanted to upgrade the defensive line, and specifically the defensive tackle spot next to Linval Joseph. That spot was supposed to be Sharrif Floyd's, but after have a botched surgery on his knee, Floyd will likely never play football again. So, Zimmer went out and lured the best available defensive tackle to Minnesota, signing Sheldon Richardson to a one-year deal worth up to \$11 million.

Sheldon Richardson was drafted in the first-round – 13th overall – by the New York Jets in 2013 (which was the same draft Sharrif Floyd went to the Vikings in the first round – 23rd overall). Richardson quickly became known as one of the most disruptive defensive tackles in the NFL and earned a pro bowl invite in 2014. He might not have the stats – with only 19 sacks and six forced fumbles in his career – but that didn't deter Mike Zimmer. Richardson will join a defensive line that features Linval Joseph, Everson Griffen and Danielle Hunter. His addition instantly makes the Vikings defensive line the best in the NFL and will surely provide opposing offenses with plenty of nightmares.

To give the team a little breathing room after signing both Cousins and Richardson, the Vikings released Sharrif Floyd and wide receiver Jarius Wright, while also restructuring Latavius Murray's contract to reduce his cap hit. As of now, the Vikings still have around \$20 million in available cap space. However, the team will likely not be bringing in any more big-time free agents and will instead turn their attention to the upcoming draft. The team will still keep an eye on free agency though, and will try to bring in a few bargain players to help with the team's depth. Check out next week's article, where we will look at any other players the Vikings have signed to play in the purple and gold. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@SkolJWright).

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## Dodd-Frank Reform Bill Provides Regulatory Relief to Community Banks and Credit Unions, Includes Consumer Protections

The Senate recently voted to pass the first major overhaul of our financial system since the Dodd-Frank Act was signed into law in 2010. S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act, is a bipartisan effort that begins to roll back the unnecessary and burdensome regulations placed on small banks and credit unions following the financial crisis. This has hindered the ability of those institutions to serve their customers, particularly in rural areas. Our legislation will help make sure families and businesses have access to credit when they need it, which is critical as we continue to grow a healthy American economy.

As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, I was happy to be an original cosponsor of our bipartisan effort. In fact, S. 2155 includes seven provisions I took the lead on, such as the Home Mortgage Disclosure Adjustment Act, which will provide small banks and credit unions with data reporting relief. It also includes a provision to help small, local federal savings associations, known as FSAs or thrifts, expand their ability to offer loans to more families and businesses without going through a costly charter conversion process.

Our legislation also takes steps to help veterans, as it includes my Protecting Veterans Credit Act, so that

### 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

## BDM RURAL WATER SYSTEM, INC.

### 38th Annual Meeting



Monday, March 26, 2018

6:00 p.m.

BDM Building, Britton, SD

*Lunch after the meeting • Door Prizes*

- **Board and Management Report**
- **Election of Directors**

***Please attend your water system's annual meeting!***



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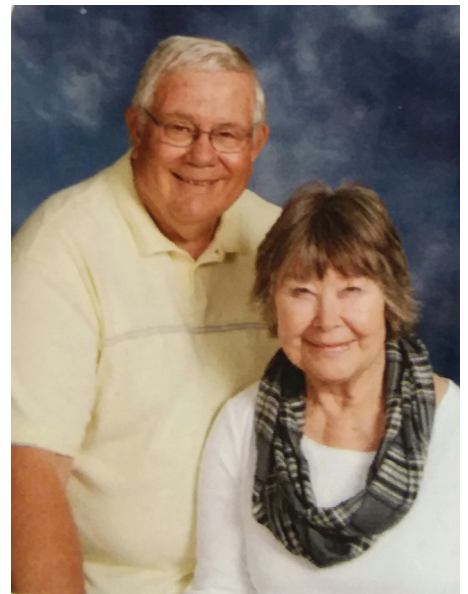
vets who are waiting on delayed payments from the VA Choice Program cannot be penalized by creditors. We were also able to secure a provision to protect seniors by removing legal liability for individuals who report the financial abuse of vulnerable senior citizens. These are just a few of the items included in the bill to protect consumers and relieve small financial institutions from time-consuming and costly layers of bureaucracy that they currently face under Dodd-Frank.

Some regulatory recalibration was necessary in response to the financial crisis, but Dodd-Frank's crippling new rules and regulations have limited the ability of our financial system to best serve the American people. Without question, no one wants to repeat the events that contributed to the economic recession that began in 2008. We are only now beginning to lift out of that nearly decade-long economic slump thanks to the tax relief law and President Trump's focus on regulatory reform. There is still work to be done to get back to a healthy American economy and that's why our legislation is so important. Every step we can take to provide relief to our lenders is a win for families and businesses who rely on those lenders to provide the tools that they need to grow our economy and create jobs.

The Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act will strengthen our financial system and allow small banks and credit unions to focus on serving their communities - their friends, neighbors, store owners and job providers. I'm pleased the Senate was able to come together in a truly bipartisan fashion to provide much-needed relief. We remain optimistic we will be able to work with the House of Representatives to get this legislation to the president's desk in a timely manner.

## **Brolins celebrate 50th Anniversary**

Gene and Aloise Brolin were surprised with a 50th Wedding Anniversary party at Tropic Winds RV resort in Harlingen, Texas. Their Winter Texan friends celebrated with food and surprises. Many wishes for Gene and Aloise for many more years to come! Their 50th anniversary is officially March 23rd.



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## Today in Weather History

March 19, 1968: During a severe weather event, hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter fell 2 miles south of Brookings. Also, hail 1.00 inch in diameter fell 3 miles northeast of Sioux Falls.

March 19, 2006: Heavy snow of 7 to as much as 20 inches fell on the afternoon of the 18th until around noon on the 20th. The South Dakota Department of Public Safety issued a travel advisory for any travel but especially for the State Basketball Tournament travelers. Interstate-90 was closed on Sunday into Monday morning with many people stranded. Many cars and trucks were stuck on the roads. Many schools and meetings were postponed or canceled. Snowfall amounts included 8 inches at Blunt, Onida, and Lake Sharpe, 9 inches at Mission Ridge, 10 inches at Pierre, 11 inches at Fort Pierre and near Stephan, 12 inches at Eagle Butte, 14 inches northwest of Presho, 16 inches at Murdo, and 20 inches near Iona.

1907: The highest March temperature in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was set when the temperature soared to 97 degrees. Dodge City, Kansas also set a March record with 98 degrees. Denver, Colorado set a daily record high of 81 degrees.

1948: An estimated F4 tornado moved through Fosterburg, Bunker Hill, and Gillespie, Illinois, killing 33 people and injuring 449 others. 2,000 buildings in Bunker Hill were damaged or destroyed. Total damage was \$3.6 million.

2003: One of the worst blizzards since records began in 1872, struck the Denver metro area and Colorado's Front Range started with a vengeance. Denver International Airport was closed stranding about 4,000 travelers. The weight of the snow caused a 40-foot gash in a portion of the roof forcing the evacuation of that section of the main terminal building. Winds gusting to 40 mph produced drifts six feet high in places around the city. Snowfall in foothills was even more impressive. The heavy wet snow caused numerous roofs of homes and businesses to collapse. The estimated cost of property damage alone, not including large commercial buildings, was \$93 million, making it the most costly snowstorm on record for the area. In Denver alone at least 258 structures were damaged. Up to 135,000 people lost power during the storm, and it took several days for power to be restored. Mayor Wellington Webb of Denver said, "This is the storm of the century, a backbreaker, a record breaker, a roof breaker." Avalanches in the mountains and foothills closed many roads, including Interstate 70, stranding hundreds of skiers and travelers. The Eldora Ski area 270 skiers were stranded when an avalanche closed the main access road. After the storm, a military helicopter had to deliver food to the resort until the road could be cleared. Two people died in Aurora from heart attacks after shoveling the heavy wet snow. The National Guard sent 40 soldiers and 20 heavy-duty vehicles to rescue stranded travelers along a section of I-70. The storm made March 2003 the snowiest March on record, the fourth snowiest month on record and the fifth wettest March on record. The total of 22.9 inches is the most significant 24-hour total in March. The storm also broke 19 consecutive months of below average precipitation for Denver. The 31.8 inches of snow was recorded at the former Stapleton Airport in Denver for its second greatest snowstorm on record (the greatest was 37.5 inches on 12/4-12/5/1913) with up to three feet in other areas in and around the city and more than seven feet in the foothills. Higher amounts included: Fritz Peak: 87.5 inches, Rollinsville: 87.5 inches, Canin Creek: 83 inches, Near Bergen Park: 74 inches, Northwest of Evergreen: 73 inches, Cola Creek Canyon: 72 inches, Georgetown: 70 inches, Jamestown: 63 inches, Near Blackhawk: 60 inches, Eldora Ski Area: 55 inches, Ken Caryl Ranch: 46.6 inches, Aurora: 40 inches, Centennial: 38 inches, Buckley AFB: 37 inches, Southwest Denver: 35 inches, Louisville: 34 inches, Arvada: 32 inches, Broomfield: 31 inches, Westminster: 31 inches and Boulder: 22.5 inches. This storm was the result of a very moist intense slow moving Pacific system which tracked across the four corners and into southeastern Colorado which allowed a deep easterly upslope to form among the front-range.

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| Mon<br>Mar 19 | Tue<br>Mar 20 | Wed<br>Mar 21 | Thu<br>Mar 22 | Fri<br>Mar 23 | Sat<br>Mar 24 | Sun<br>Mar 25 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| 36°F          | 36°F          | 42°F          | 44°F          | 42°F          | 42°F          | 38°F          |
| 26°F          | 24°F          | 26°F          | 32°F          | 28°F          | 26°F          | 28°F          |
| NNE 8 MPH     | N 5 MPH       | SE 7 MPH      | ESE 11 MPH    | ESE 18 MPH    | E 13 MPH      | E 15 MPH      |
| Precip 80%    | Precip 20%    |               |               | Precip 70%    | Precip 40%    | Precip 30%    |



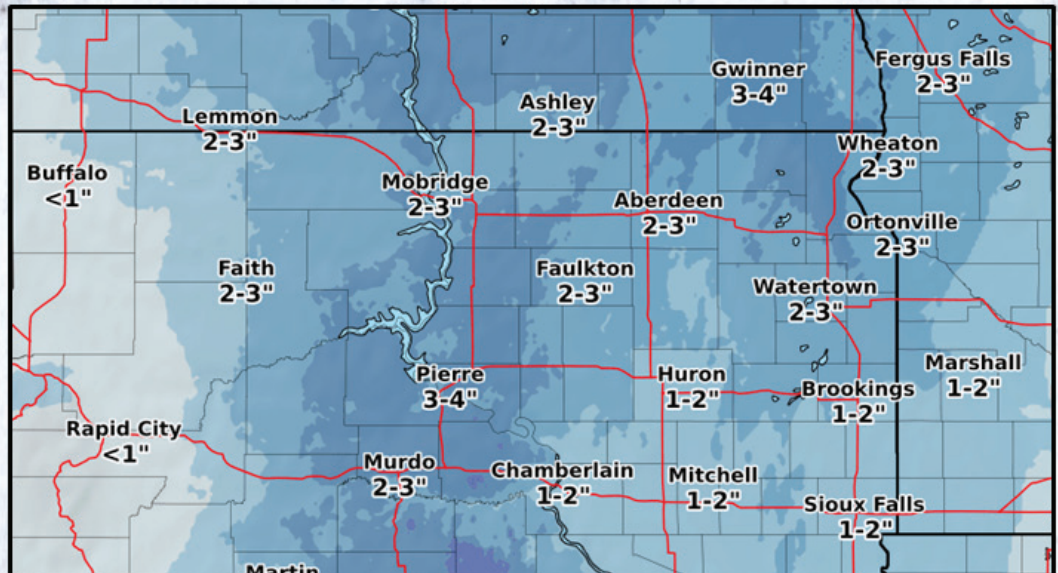
## More Snow Today through Tonight

Be Ready For Light Snow

&

Expect Minor Travel Headaches

Expected  
Snowfall  
Amounts



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Graphic Created  
3/19/2018 4:45 AM

Published on: 03/19/2018 at 4:51AM

A storm system will slowly spread light snow across the region from west to east today through tonight. Snowfall amounts of one to three inches are expected with isolated higher amounts possible.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 37.6 F at 4:51 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 31.9 F at 4:49 AM**

**Wind Chill:**

**High Gust: 12.0 Mph at 8:30 PM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 73° in 2012**

**Record Low: -11° in 1965**

**Average High: 41°F**

**Average Low: 21°F**

**Average Precip in March: 0.63**

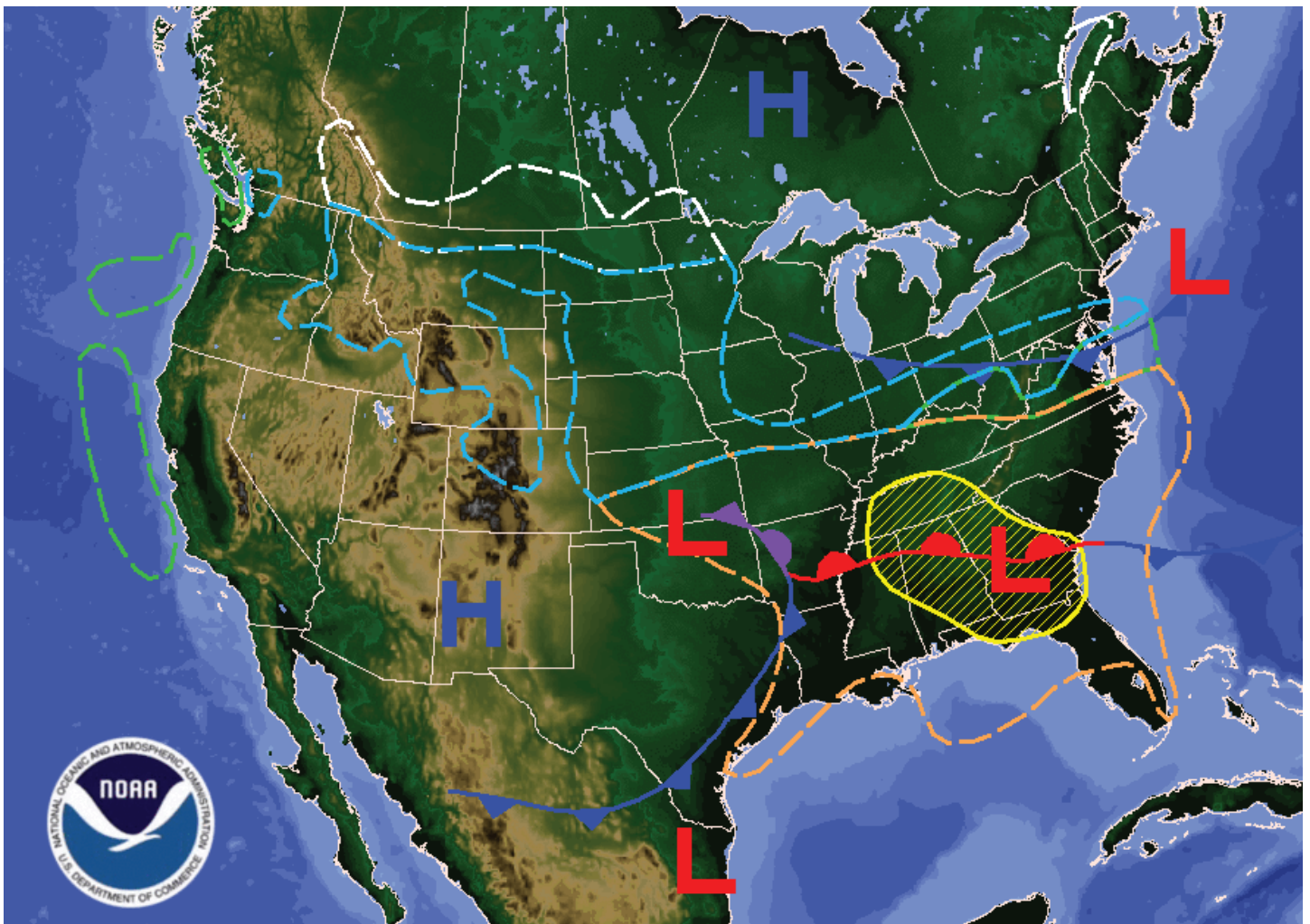
**Precip to date in March: 0.94**

**Average Precip to date: 1.65**

**Precip Year to Date: 1.35**

**Sunset Tonight: 7:44 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:36 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Mar 19, 2018, issued 4:49 AM EDT  
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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## LIGHT IN DARK PLACES

It was Jim's birthday and his dad wanted it to be one he would long remember. So he decided to take him to the Christian book store to buy him a picture of Jesus that he could hang in his room.

Upon entering the store he said, "Son, which picture of Jesus do you want for your room? Look around carefully and then tell me which one you want."

After looking at most of the pictures in the store very carefully, he said, "Dad, I want a picture of Jesus that will shine in my room when it is dark."

We live in a world filled with darkness that would, if it could, put out the light of God. But this is nothing new. Jesus said, "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds are evil."

Jesus brought the light of God into a world that has been darkened by sin. But His light has a condition to it: it must be received through faith in what He did for us on the cross. Those who receive Him are made righteous.

Hear what the Psalmist said, "Light is shed upon those who are righteous - the godly." His light dissipates the darkness of despair and brings the hope of eternal life.

In Him we are no longer victims but victors and through Him we need no longer fear the darkness and despair that surround the lost and those facing death.

It was King David who once said, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for You are with me" ... "shedding Your light."

Prayer: What a comfort it is, Lord, to know that You are the Light of the world and will always be our Guide. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 97:11a Light is sown for the righteous,

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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)
- 5/27/2018 Historic Trinity Church Pump Organ Concert.
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
  
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

## News from the Associated Press

### Noise complaints reveal Sioux Falls development issues

By JOE SNEVE, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Downtown boosters and economic development officials have long touted Sioux Falls' core as a place where people can live, work and play.

It's a vision that became a reality in the last decade as the number of people living in apartments, lofts and condominiums downtown doubled to about 2,000. And with at least a half-dozen new residential projects on the horizon, that number will only continue to go up.

But with more entertainment venues following suit, from a planned outdoor music venue across the street from apartments to an event center planned in the mixed-use Village on the River building, is "live-work-play" a practical pursuit?

The Icon Lounge this month suspended concerts after getting several noise complaints from residents of a new apartment complex next door, shining a spotlight on the challenges that arise when "live" and "play" collide.

The incident also raised questions about the rules for building downtown and the sound restrictions that govern the city, the Argus Leader reported .

"(It's unclear) if this is a one-off or if this is exposing a larger problem," Councilor Greg Neitzert said. "We need to have a wider discussion about downtown and what it should be and the collisions you start to run into when you have mixed-use."

When it comes to sound, city ordinance caps the level of decibels that a property can be exposed to based on land use. In residential neighborhoods, the limit is 60 decibels during the day and 55 decibels in the late night and early morning hours. For commercial property, it's 65 decibels 24 hours a day.

Those standards apply regardless of building type — residential or commercial, which means when the apartments went up, the Icon Lounge became bound by the residential limit, not the commercial.

There's also nothing requiring developers, contractors and home builders to modify protocol based on location. In other words, whether a building goes up in a green field on the city's outskirts or in the heart of downtown, the building codes and the soundproofing standards are static.

That's the way it's been since the late 1970s when the city first adopted its noise ordinance, which has twice been modified — once to create a special permit for outdoor entertainment events and another time to clean up the original ordinance language.

Even without a nudging from city government, developers know a "live, work, play" neighborhood calls for different building designs for both residential and commercial projects.

Jim Dunham, owner of Dunham Company, said floors are insulated, and walls and windows are thicker when building downtown due to the noisy nature of an urban setting.

"All the nuances are different downtown," Dunham said. "People know that."

The source of the noise complaints against Icon is from the renovated Jones Building next door that opened in September. Sioux Falls Planning Director Mike Cooper said while there have long been other apartment complexes in the vicinity of the Icon Lounge, the Jones Building was designed with patios and sliding glass doors facing the nightclub.

There were no zoning changes necessary to allow the Jones Building to be used as residential property, and Cooper contends because apartments already existed in the neighborhood, the Icon was always bound by the residential standard.

He said the city's ordinances are adequate to foster mixed-use neighborhoods if everyone adheres to the rules, but it never hurts to study possible improvements to the rule books, especially with more building concepts that are new to Sioux Falls.

Cooper pointed to a planned rooftop bar on top of a Lewis Drug-Sanford Health location at 10th Street and Phillips Avenue that will be within earshot of dozens of apartment units and lofts.



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"We've got the noise standards, and as long as people are able to meet those noise standards . those different types of uses should be able to coexist within the downtown area," Cooper said. "But if there's going to be a desire to take another look at the standards, it's probably not a bad idea."

The planned Levitt Shell at the Falls, which will hold 50 free outdoor concerts each summer, will also share a neighborhood with apartments and lofts.

Parks Director Don Kearney said that facility, which will be able to hold up to 5,000 concertgoers, is being designed to push music away from downtown and the neighboring apartments. The seating area will also be constructed with canopies and trees to better confine the sound projecting from the stage.

While entertainment venue designs can help with noise nuisances — the Icon Lounge is in the process of beefing up its sound-proofing so it can resume concerts there — Neitzert said the Council could consider establishing more stringent soundproofing standards for residential building downtown as long as changes don't disincentive development there.

Another solution could be doing away with the old noise standards in favor of a one-size-fits-all decibel level for all of downtown, said Joe Batcheller, executive director of Downtown Sioux Falls, Inc.

For example, the Old Market in Omaha, Nebraska, allows 70 decibel during the day and 65 decibel at night. "Whatever it is ... it'll be a balancing act of trying to promote live music and culture and entertainment with living downtown," Batcheller said.

But Batcheller also cautioned against adding cost-prohibitive hurdles for developers downtown by mandating thicker walls and triple window panes.

"It's already a challenge ... so I'd hate to make it any more cost-prohibitive to develop downtown," he said.

Stacy Newcomb-Weiland, co-owner of the Icon Lounge, said city planning staff should work with developers to make sure they're aware of the types of buildings already in the neighborhood before they build and identify potential conflicts before they happen.

"We needed to be notified that our sound ordinance was going to change dramatically .... with residential being built next door," she said. "If we had been part of the process, we could have worked with the city and the new neighbors to try to find some mutually beneficial solutions before the residents moved in."

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

## Nonprofit hopes to help cash-strapped Yankton events

By BEN WHEELER, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR) is a relatively new organization, and Dennis Menke, one of its newest members, is hoping a new campaign can help relieve the financial pressure of Yankton's Missouri River events.

As previously reported in the Press and Dakotan, planners for events such as the Watershed School Festival and the Missouri River Cleanup — believe that, after all costs are factored for the events, they should have roughly \$400 to spend, although officials had said they were still hoping to receive donations to help with the budget.

"We're going to start knocking on doors," Menke said. "So far, we're pretty new, but we haven't really gone out and banged on doors. So that's one thing that I am trying to do."

The FOMNRR is an independent support group for activities of the Missouri National Recreation River. The group's website describes its mission as dedicated "to build awareness, enhance and advocate for the scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, ecological, geological, cultural/historical values and economic and recreational opportunities of the Missouri River, a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System."

Menke hopes that the new initiative can help alleviate some of that financial burden through sponsorships, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported .

"For business sponsorships, we're really wanting to find people to foster a long relationship," Menke said. "You're not asking for a huge sum of money up front, but a partnership over a long period of time so that we can build these events up, similar to what happened with Riverboat Days."

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One of the main holdups on the amount of sponsors of events is lack of awareness for the organization, and what the organization does.

The FOMNRR members are hoping that, with a "boots on the ground" marketing technique, they can get people to learn about their group.

"We need to find people that want to be a part of the organization, so more people are involved in our community," Menke said. "Plus, (we want) to help show people the value of having a national park in our backyard."

Menke believes that the implementation of new monthly events, such as the Third Thursday event, will help convince people to join. The next Third Thursday event will take place at Cheer's Bar and Grill in Yankton on March 15.

The FOMNRR membership perks may not have much of a tangible value, but Menke said it's helping that is the real perk.

"In my mind, one of the perks is helping the park and making new friends at our events," Menke said. "Knowing that you're helping your community and kids, is the real draw. The perk is knowing that your community is being taken care of."

For more information on the FOMNRR, visit its Facebook page or its website [www.fomnrr.org](http://www.fomnrr.org).

"I think we're on the right track but it's just a slow process," Menke said.

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Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## 5-year-old girl dies after falling into water in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a 5-year-old girl has died after falling into the Big Sioux River at Falls Park.

Authorities were called at noon Sunday. Two rescue swimmers dived into the water and began to break the ice where she was last seen. Police say the girl was found unresponsive and without a pulse, and attempts to revive her failed.

The name of the girl was not immediately released.

Justin Frantzen of Sioux Falls tells the Argus Leader he was at the park taking pictures when he saw a woman taking off her coat and jumping into the water. Frantzen says the woman told him she needed help because her daughter had fallen in. He says it was about a half-hour before the girl was pulled from the water.

## Sioux Falls man pleads guilty but mentally ill in wife death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has pleaded guilty but mentally ill in the death of his wife more than two years ago.

Thirty-five-year-old Garrett Michael Solorzano entered his plea Friday to first-degree manslaughter in the death of Jennie Lee Smith-Solorzano. As part of a plea agreement, charges of first- and second-degree murder and possession of a controlled substance were dismissed.

Solorzano was accused of killing his wife in their apartment in February 2016. Smith-Solorzano had multiple stab wounds to her neck and head. She was likely dead for about 12 hours before 911 was called, according to the coroner's report.

Solorzano served in the military from 2000 until his honorable discharge in 2012. He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in 2010.

The Argus Leader reports sentencing is set for June.

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## How 3 governor hopefuls fared in legislative session

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — During the 2018 legislative session, they were South Dakota's attorney general, congresswoman and state Senate Democratic leader. Next year, one of them will likely be governor.

The state's top gubernatorial candidates pushed for legislation to crack down on drug dealers, improve access to public records and promote free speech on college campuses during the session.

Attorney General Marty Jackley and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem are competing to win the Republican primary in June, while state Sen. Billie Sutton is the only Democrat vying to replace retiring GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Here's a look at the candidates' views on the session and their priorities if elected governor:

### MARTY JACKLEY

The outgoing attorney general burnished his law enforcement credentials this session, shepherding through bills to impose harsher penalties on meth distributors and drug dealers whose product kills someone. He worked with legislators to approve a data breach notification bill.

"Certainly, it shows South Dakotans that as attorney general and as a hopeful governor, I will work with the Legislature to find solutions," Jackley said. "It won't be gridlock in Washington where we can't balance a budget or pass a bill."

Jackley praised a major new precision agriculture facility at South Dakota State University. He also supported a law establishing legislative findings that Sioux Falls Planned Parenthood officials have provided pre-abortion counseling that violates state mandatory disclosure requirements.

Turning to next year, Jackley said he wants to improve school safety and examine education funding to ensure the state is helping both "metropolitan" and rural South Dakota. Lawmakers could also expect a friendlier reception for legislation allowing people to carry concealed weapons without a permit than they've had from Daugaard.

If unsuccessful in arguing to the U.S. Supreme Court next month that South Dakota should be able to collect sales taxes from out-of-state internet retailers, Jackley said he would work with lawmakers to give "main-street businesses a fair playing field."

### KRISTI NOEM

Noem said she was happy to see state lawmakers this session approve a state veterans cemetery in Sioux Falls and a National Guard Readiness Center at the Rapid City airport. She said the new veterans cemetery would allow families to have their loved ones closer to home.

Noem lent her support to several unsuccessful conservative causes this year, including campus free speech legislation and permitless concealed carry. If elected governor, Noem has promised to work with legislators and law enforcement to get "constitutional carry" signed into law.

Both Noem and Jackley have committed to not raising taxes. Noem said her other priorities as governor for the 2019 session include dealing with crime and drug use and boosting mental health services, including those for "struggling" students. She said South Dakota's education system should be shaken up to spend more money in the classroom and less on administrators.

"I would be excited to spend a lot more time in South Dakota," said Noem, who was first elected to Congress in 2010. "It's been a privilege for me to represent South Dakota in the House, but to be home and in our state more often is something I'm very much looking forward to."

### BILLIE SUTTON

The Senate Democratic leader focused this year on government transparency, early-childhood education and economic development — but came out of the Republican-controlled Legislature with few victories. One win was a new transparency law requiring state contracts to include the printed names of those who sign them.



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But he said there's more to be done on government accountability and overhauling campaign finance regulations. If he takes the governor's office, Sutton said he would also pursue creating a council to examine early childhood education and a new need-based scholarship program for college students.

Sutton said he disagrees with placing a constitutional fix for the "Marsy's Law" victims' bill of rights before voters at the June primary, rather than waiting for the November general election. Democrats support the changes, but argue turnout will be lower in the primary election.

He also criticized the Legislature's "constant attack" this session on South Dakota's ballot question system. The lawmaker from Burke wants to become the first Democratic governor elected in South Dakota since 1974.

"We are a state divided, too often, based on party affiliation," Sutton said. "We've got to find ways to come together around shared values, and that's really what my campaign stands for, is shared values of honesty and integrity and hard work."

## South Dakota agency considers elk hunting license decrease

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks commissioners are considering a proposal to decrease elk hunting licenses in the Black Hills.

The proposal would lower the number of licenses available for both any elk and antlerless elk for all of the Black Hills over the next two years, the Rapid City Journal reported. The agency would decrease licenses to 425 any elk and 700 antlerless elk, from the 443 any elk and 1,150 antlerless elk licenses available last year.

"Our current population objective for the Black Hills is 6,000 elk. For the winter of 2018, we estimate that we'd have approximately 6,900 elk," said John Kanta, GF&P regional terrestrial resources supervisor. "We look at what will happen to the population with that current license allocation, and it showed that we'd have a declining population and would put us more at that lower end, closer to 6,000. What we'd like to do is stabilize that population and get it right around to 7,000."

Kanta said there were more than 450 antlerless elk licenses issued last year because the Black Hills elk population has been more than 7,000 in the past few years.

"We were putting a lot of pressure on that population through hunter harvest, and that was intentional," he said. "You could say we achieved our goal, we brought the population down to around 7,000, and now we're hoping to maintain that population."

Kanta said the proposal intends to keep a high female population in order to maintain population numbers at a manageable level.

He said the license reduction might not come as welcome news to hunters, but he thinks they'll understand it's good for the population.

The department will vote on the proposal April 5.

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

## White House says Trump isn't considering firing Mueller

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is not considering firing the special counsel investigating Russian election interference, a top White House lawyer said, after a cascade of Trump tweets revived chatter that the deeply frustrated president may be preparing to get rid of the veteran prosecutor.

The late-Sunday statement from White House lawyer Ty Cobb came after top congressional Republicans warned of repercussions if Trump fired special counsel Robert Mueller, who is looking into contacts between Trump's 2016 campaign and Russia and Russian meddling in the presidential election.

In a series of weekend tweets, Trump jabbed directly at Mueller by name for the first time. The president challenged the investigation's existence and suggested political bias on the part of Mueller's investigators. Trump has long been frustrated by the lengthy and intensifying probe, and insists his campaign did not

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collude with Russia to influence the election in his favor.

"The Mueller probe should never have been started in that there was no collusion and there was no crime," he said in a late Saturday tweet he ended with "WITCH HUNT!"

Likely contributing to Trump's sense of frustration, The New York Times reported last week that Mueller had subpoenaed the Trump Organization for Russia-related documents. Trump had said Mueller would cross a red line with such a step.

"Why does the Mueller team have 13 hardened Democrats, some big Crooked Hillary supporters, and Zero Republicans?" he tweeted Sunday.

Some of Mueller's investigators indeed have contributed to Democratic political candidates, but Justice Department policy and federal service law bar discrimination in the hiring of career positions on the basis of political affiliation. Mueller is a Republican.

The tweets revived talk that Trump may, in an attempt to end the investigation, move to have Mueller fired. Cobb sought to tamp down the speculation.

"In response to media speculation and related questions being posed to the Administration, the White House yet again confirms that the President is not considering or discussing the firing of the Special Counsel, Robert Mueller," he said.

Earlier Sunday, members of Congress, including some top Republicans, warned Trump to not even think about terminating Mueller.

"If he tried to do that, that would be the beginning of the end of his presidency," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a Trump ally.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform panel, warned Trump that a Mueller firing would be a distraction from the president's agenda.

"Let it play out its course," Gowdy said on "Fox News Sunday." "If you've done nothing wrong, you should want the investigation to be as wholesome and thorough as possible.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., called for passage of stalled bipartisan bills designed to protect Mueller, saying Trump "is engaged in desperate and reckless conduct to intimidate his law enforcement agencies of this country and to try and stop the special counsel. That is unacceptable in a democracy."

Trump cannot directly fire Mueller, who can only be dismissed for cause. Any dismissal would have to be carried out by Rod Rosenstein, the Trump-appointed deputy attorney general who has publicly expressed support for Mueller.

Trump has fumed to confidants that the Mueller probe is "going to choke the life out of" his presidency if allowed to continue unabated indefinitely, according to an outside adviser who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations with the president.

Trump has long believed that the entrenched bureaucracy, particularly at the Justice Department and FBI, is out to thwart him. He fumed to one confidant after seeing a promotion for a forthcoming book by James Comey, the FBI director he fired last year, believing Comey will seek to enrich himself by besmirching Trump's reputation. Comey's book, "A Higher Loyalty," topped Amazon.com's best-seller list on Sunday.

The president also has long been torn over how to approach the probe. His legal team, namely Cobb, has counseled Trump to cooperate with Mueller. But some former campaign advisers have urged Trump to be combative, warning that the investigation poses an existential threat to his presidency.

Aides and friends say they understand Trump's frustration.

"When he says it's a political witch hunt, I think he's right," said Christopher Ruddy, CEO of the conservative news website Newsmax and a longtime Trump friend.

Marc Short, Trump's congressional liaison, said the frustration is "well-warranted" because "there has been no evidence whatsoever of collusion."

Trump may have felt emboldened after Attorney General Jeff Sessions fired former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe on Friday, something Trump had clamored for out of a belief that McCabe was part of the entrenched, anti-Trump bureaucracy. "A great day for Democracy," Trump tweeted afterward. Trump asserted without elaboration that McCabe knew "all about the lies and corruption going on at the highest

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levels of the FBI!"

The Associated Press later reported that McCabe kept personal memos detailing interactions with Trump that have been provided to Mueller's office and are similar to notes compiled by Comey. Trump sought to cast doubt on their veracity, tweeting Sunday that he spent "very little time" with McCabe "but he never took notes when he was with me."

"I don't believe he made memos except to help his own agenda, probably at a later date. Same with lying James Comey. Can we call them Fake Memos?" Trump tweeted. It wouldn't be unusual for a senior official to make notes soon after meeting with the president.

The contents of McCabe's memos are unknown, but they could help substantiate McCabe's assertion that he was unfairly maligned by a White House he says had declared "war" on the FBI and Mueller's investigation.

Sessions said he dismissed McCabe on the recommendation of FBI disciplinary officials who said McCabe had not been candid with a watchdog office investigation. An upcoming inspector general's report is expected to conclude that McCabe had authorized the release of information to the media and was not forthcoming with the watchdog office as it examined the bureau's handling of an investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails.

McCabe has vigorously disputed the allegations and said his credibility came under attack as "part of a larger effort not just to slander me personally" but also the FBI and law enforcement.

Mueller is investigating whether Trump's actions, including Comey's ouster, constitute obstruction of justice.

Associated Press writers Chad Day and Eric Tucker in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

## 2 injured in 4th recent explosion in Texas capital

By PAUL J. WEBER and WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Another explosion tore through Texas' capital city and injured two people, leading police to warn nearby residents to remain indoors overnight as investigators try to determine if it is linked to three package bombings in Austin earlier this month.

The latest blast occurred around 8:30 p.m. Sunday in a southwestern Austin residential neighborhood known as Travis Country, which is far from the sites of the three earlier bombings, which happened in residential neighborhoods in east Austin. Though investigators wouldn't immediately confirm what caused the blast, Austin's police chief, Brian Manley, said it was caused by "a device" and again warned the public not to touch any unexpected packages left at their homes.

"What we have right now is a scene where it is obvious that an explosion has taken place," Manley said at a hastily organized news conference near the site of the latest blast.

Responding to reports that the latest explosion may have been detonated by a tripwire, Manley said it was possible that it was "activated by someone either handling, kicking or coming into contact with a tripwire that activated the device."

He urged people within half a mile to stay in their homes and said authorities would keep the surrounding area blocked off at least until daybreak Monday, "given the darkness and size of the area that we want to go in and check."

"We want to put out the message that we've been putting out and that is, not only do not touch any packages or anything that looks like a package, do not even go near it at this time," Manley said. Because "we have not had an opportunity to look at this blast site to really determine what has happened."

Manley also said authorities were still working to "clear" a suspicious backpack found in the area that was part of a separate report.

"It is important right now for anyone in the neighborhood behind us to remain inside and give us time



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to work through this," he said, adding that any witnesses should call 911 and report what they saw.

Two men in their 20s were hurt in the latest blast. Police said they were hospitalized with injuries that weren't life-threatening. It was the fourth explosion to rock Austin in less than three weeks.

The first was a package bomb that exploded at a northeast Austin home on March 2, killing a 39-year-old man. Two more package bombs then exploded farther south on March 12, killing a 17-year-old, wounding his mother and injuring a 75-year-old woman.

Police said all three of those were likely related and involved packages that had not been mailed or delivered by private carrier but left overnight on doorsteps. Manley originally suggested they could have been hate crimes since all the victims were black or Hispanic, but now says that investigators aren't ruling out any possible motive.

Manley last week urged residents receiving unexpected packages to call authorities without touching or opening them, and police responded to hundreds of calls about suspicious packages but didn't find anything dangerous.

On Sunday, police blocked entrances to the neighborhood where the latest blast occurred and put up yellow tape about half a mile from the home where it happened.

Despite the order for those living nearby to stay in their homes, neighbors milled around just outside the tape. Some reported hearing loud booms but couldn't provide many details. FBI agents arrived to conduct interviews.

The latest explosion came hours after authorities raised the reward by \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest of whoever is responsible for the first three explosions. It now totals \$115,000.

Sunday is the final day of the South By Southwest music festival, which draws hundreds of thousands to Austin every March. It is also the end of spring break for many area school districts, meaning families who were out of town in recent days are returning to a city increasingly on edge.

The explosions occurred far from the main South By Southwest activities, though a downtown concert by hip-hop band The Roots was canceled Saturday night after a bomb threat. Authorities later arrested a 26-year-old man, and the incident did not appear to be related to any previous explosions.

## 4 people injured when trains collide, derail in Kentucky

By ADAM BEAM, Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (AP) — Two freight trains collided and derailed shortly before midnight, injuring four people and igniting a fire that forced nearby residents to evacuate, authorities said Monday.

Nearby residents were evacuated "out of an abundance of caution after the crash was reported at 11:14 p.m., Lexington Fire Lt. Jessica Bowman told The Associated Press. Bowman said she couldn't confirm what substance had spilled and was burning, but the people were allowed to return home once safety risks were ruled out.

Police told the Scott County School superintendent, Kevin Hub, to open schools as emergency shelters, and buses were sent to the neighborhood to collect people without transportation. Hub said he could see smoke billowing from the scene and they were prepared to receive hundreds of people. The Red Cross even arrived with snacks. Shortly after many residents arrived, they were able to return home.

Bowman said she had no information about the four injured and their conditions. The crash remains under investigation.

At Lemons Hill Elementary, Christina Griffen said she was asleep when neighbors called her around 11:30 p.m. to say they needed to evacuate. As she and her son were leaving, an officer warned them to get out of the neighborhood, she said.

Betty Boyner had just laid down when she heard what she thought was something exploding.

"We thought, what the hell was that? Was it a train? Was it a trailer? We didn't see any smoke," she said. Then she then got a call from her son in Missouri asking if they were being evacuated. He'd apparently received a text from a friend who saw the accident on Facebook, she said.

She grabbed her purse and a pillow and headed over to the elementary school.

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"I'm supposed to be up at 6 a.m. in the morning to go to work," she said. "That ain't happening."

## What to expect from Putin and a resurgent Russia

By ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Putin now has a stronger hold on Russia — and stronger place in the world — thanks to an overwhelming mandate for yet another term as president.

His domestic opponents are largely resigned to another six years in the shadows. His foreign opponents are mired in their own problems, from Britain's messy exit from the European Union to chaos and contradiction in the Trump administration.

Even widespread voting violations are unlikely to dent Putin's armor. And accusations that he meddled in the U.S. election and sponsored a nerve agent attack in Britain have only bolstered his standing at home.

Here's a look at what to expect from Putin's next six years in power, for Russia's rivals, neighbors and its own 147 million citizens.

### NEW COLD WAR?

Relations between Russia and the West are already at their lowest level since the collapse of the Soviet Union 26 years ago.

Despite a friendly-ish relationship with President Donald Trump, Putin's new mandate gives him little incentive to seek entente with Washington, especially as the investigation of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election intensifies.

Putin-friendly leaders have made gains in recent Italian and German elections. Western countries are likely to see more Russia-linked hacking and propaganda aimed at disrupting elections or otherwise discrediting democracy — including the U.S. midterm elections in November.

Since Putin's domestic popularity bumps whenever he stands up to the West, expect more tough talk from Putin the next time he faces threats at home, and bolder Russian vetoes at the U.N. Security Council of anything seen as threatening Moscow's interests.

His claim several weeks ago that Russia has developed new nuclear weapons that can evade missile defenses clearly showed Putin's adamant determination to boost Russia's power to intimidate.

### SYRIA AND THE EXTREMIST THREAT

Russian-backed Syrian forces helped rout the Islamic State group from Syria, and Putin argues that Russia saved the day in a conflict that had confounded U.S.-led forces fighting against IS.

Now those Russian-backed Syrian forces are closing in on the last strongholds of Western-backed rebel forces.

Viewing that as a geopolitical and military victory over an illegal Western-led intervention, Russia is unlikely to pull out of Syria anytime soon.

An emboldened Putin could position the resurgent Russian military as a peacemaker in other regional conflicts — for example in Libya, where Russia has oil interests and where a disastrous Western invasion seven years ago left a lawless state now seething with extremists.

### RUSSIA'S NEIGHBORS

To Russians, Putin's biggest victory in 18 years in power was annexing Crimea and crushing Ukraine's ambitions to move closer to the EU and NATO.

Putin is frustrated at the resulting U.S. and EU sanctions but appears unwilling to make concessions that would bring them to an end. Ukraine is split between a volatile government in Kiev and a Russia-backed separatist region stuck in a frozen but still deadly conflict that serves Putin's interests.

Moscow's actions in Ukraine sent a warning signal to other countries in Russia's orbit that reaching westward is dangerous. And former Soviet bloc states within the EU are increasingly drifting back toward

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Moscow, from Hungary and Poland to the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

## FELLOW RUSSIANS

Putin's new mandate could theoretically hand him the power to make bold reforms that Russia has long needed to raise living standards and wean itself from its oil dependence.

But Putin has convinced Russian voters that drastic change is dangerous, and that protecting the country from threats takes precedence over improving daily life.

Experts predict he may enact some changes like expanding affordable housing and fighting corruption on a local level.

But less likely are bigger changes such as overhauling the pension system, which is unpopular among a strong Putin voting base, or spending cuts in the security sector, unpopular among the ex-KGB friends in Putin's entourage.

Russia has weathered a two-year recession, and inflation and the deficit are low. But personal incomes have stagnated, the health care system is crumbling and corruption is rife.

## HIS OWN FUTURE

The biggest question for Russians over the next six years is what happens after that.

Putin is constitutionally required to step down in 2024, but he could change the rules to eliminate term limits, or anoint a malleable successor and continue to run things behind the scenes.

Asked at an impromptu news conference Sunday night if he would seek the presidency again in 2030, when he would be eligible again, the 65-year-old Putin snapped back: "It's ridiculous. Do you think I will sit here until I turn 100?"

Opposition leader Alexei Navalny, Putin's most serious foe, will face further pressure from authorities as he works to expose corruption and official lies.

Other Putin rivals such as candidate Ksenia Sobchak and oligarch-turned-dissident Mikhail Khodorkovsky will try to gain a foothold through upcoming local elections and the parliament.

And members of Putin's inner circle will be jockeying for position for the day when he is no longer in the picture.

Putin may revive efforts to promote artificial intelligence and other innovation as part of a focus on the younger generation, whose loyalty he needs to ensure his legacy outlives him.

## Trump opioid plan includes death penalty for traffickers

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's plan to combat opioid drug addiction nationwide calls for stiffer penalties for drug traffickers, including the death penalty where appropriate under current law, a top administration official said. It's a fate for drug dealers that Trump, who aims to be seen as tough on crime, has been highlighting publicly in recent weeks.

Trump also wants Congress to pass legislation reducing the amount of drugs needed to trigger mandatory minimum sentences for traffickers who knowingly distribute certain illicit opioids, said Andrew Bremberg, Trump's domestic policy director, who briefed reporters Sunday on the plan Trump is scheduled to unveil Monday in New Hampshire, a state hard-hit by the crisis.

The president will be joined by first lady Melania Trump, who has shown an interest in the issue, particularly as it pertains to her focus on child welfare.

Death for drug traffickers and mandatory minimum penalties for distributing certain opioids are just two elements under the part of Trump's plan that deals with law enforcement and interdiction to break the international and domestic flow of drugs into and across the U.S.

Other parts of the plan include broadening education and awareness, and expanding access to proven treatment and recovery efforts.

Trump has mused openly in recent weeks about subjecting drug dealers to the "ultimate penalty."

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The president told the audience at a Pennsylvania campaign rally this month that countries like Singapore have fewer issues with drug addiction because they harshly punish their dealers. He argued that a person in the U.S. can get the death penalty or life in prison for shooting one person, but that a drug dealer who potentially kills thousands can spend little or no time in jail.

"The only way to solve the drug problem is through toughness," Trump said in Moon Township.

He made similar comments at a recent White House summit on opioids. "Some countries have a very, very tough penalty — the ultimate penalty. And, by the way, they have much less of a drug problem than we do," Trump said. "So we're going to have to be very strong on penalties."

The Justice Department said the federal death penalty is available for several limited drug-related offenses, including violations of the "drug kingpin" provisions of federal law.

Doug Berman, a law professor at Ohio State University, said it was not clear that death sentences for drug dealers, even for those whose product causes multiple deaths, would be constitutional. Berman said the issue would be litigated extensively and would have to be definitively decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Opioids, including prescription opioids, heroin and synthetic drugs such as fentanyl, killed more than 42,000 people in the U.S. in 2016, more than any year on record, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Trump has declared that fighting the epidemic is a priority for the administration but critics say the effort has fallen short.

Last October, Trump declared the crisis a national public health emergency, short of the national state of emergency sought by a presidential commission he put together to study the issue.

"We call it the crisis next door because everyone knows someone," said Kellyanne Conway, a Trump senior adviser. "This is no longer somebody else's community, somebody else's kid, somebody else's co-worker."

Other elements of the plan Trump will discuss Monday call for a nationwide public awareness campaign, which Trump announced last October, and increased research and development through public-private partnerships between the federal National Institutes of Health and pharmaceutical companies.

Bremberg said the administration also has a plan to cut the number of filled opioid prescriptions by one-third within three years.

The stop in New Hampshire will be Trump's first visit as president. He won the state's 2016 Republican presidential primary but narrowly lost in the general election to Hillary Clinton. It follows a visit to the state last week by retiring Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a persistent Trump critic. Flake told New Hampshire Republicans that someone needs to stop Trump — and it could be him if no one else steps up.

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Associated Press writer Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

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## What's an NCAA Tournament upset worth? Units = big bucks

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Sports Writer

UMBC made more than history in the NCAA Tournament.

By becoming the first No. 16 seed to beat a No. 1, the Retrievers made about \$1.7 million for the America East Conference. Loyola-Chicago's buzzer-beating run to the Sweet 16 will be worth double that to the Missouri Valley Conference. Nevada's consecutive comebacks were also worth about \$3.4 million for the Mountain West. The MVC and Mountain West will pocket at least as much from NCAA Tournament units as the Pac-12, which had three teams in the field, all bounced after one game each.

Units are what the NCAA calls its revenue distributions from the basketball performance fund, which rewards teams for tournament performance. The NCAA Tournament generates more than \$700 million in revenue for the association and its schools, the vast majority from its media rights deal with CBS and Turner.

Units for this year's tournament are worth approximately \$273,000, according to the NCAA, but their value ends up being greater than that.

The units are paid out annually each of the next six years, increasing in value each year by about 2-3



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percent. The payout system means that one upset by UMBC should be worth more than \$1.7 million. Units are earned every game a team appears in, with the exception of the first game played by an automatic qualifier and the NCAA championship game.

The money goes to the conferences, unless the school is an independent in basketball. The NCAA encourages equal distribution by conferences among its members, but it is not required. Most do.

The Missouri Valley has in the past received multiple bids, but only champion Loyola-Chicago got in as an automatic qualifier this year. The MVC distributes the units revenue equally among 10 members — though the NCAA Tournament participants receive an additional half-share to cover travel expenses, MVC spokesman Ryan Davis said Sunday.

The Atlantic Coast Conference has been rolling in units in recent years, with a total of 64 from 2015-17, worth more than \$100 million. This season, the ACC got nine teams into the field, more than any other conference, and placed four teams in Sweet 16. Two of them — Duke and Syracuse — play in the regional semifinals, limiting the conference's earning potential.

The Big 12 also placed four teams in the round of 16. The Southeastern Conference and Big Ten each have two.

For the ACC — and other Power Five conferences — NCAA units account for less than 10 percent of conference revenue. The ACC reported \$373.4 million in revenue for fiscal year 2016 — most of which comes from a television rights deals with ESPN — and paid out about \$25 million to each of its members.

For low-major Division I schools such as UMBC and the eight other members of the America East, those units are real money.

UMBC's athletic budget for 2017 was \$9.3 million. NCAA records from 2010-15 show the America East earned a total of eight units and \$2,086,514 in basketball revenue.

Over that same period of time, the Missouri Valley earned 21 units and \$5,477,099. The Mountain West earned 33 and \$8,606,870.

All that money helps explain why the American Athletic Conference lured tournament-regular Wichita State from the MVC last year, despite the Shockers not having a football team, and why the Mountain West is trying to strike a similar deal to pull Gonzaga out of the West Coast Conference.

The Shockers went out in the first round, upset by Marshall, Conference USA's only tournament team. But Gonzaga is back in the Sweet 16 after padding the WCC coffers with a Final Four appearance last year.

More AP college basketball: <https://collegebasketball.ap.org> ; [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25) and <https://www.podcastone.com/ap-sports-special-events>

## After 2016 election, US poised to fight fake news - in Kenya

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Just ahead of Kenya's disputed 2017 election, video clips started spreading on social media of a slick-looking CNN broadcast asserting that President Uhuru Kenyatta had pulled far ahead in the polls. But the CNN broadcast was fake, splicing together real coverage from CNN Philippines with other footage with the network's iconic red logo superimposed in the corner.

It happened with a BBC video, too, and with a photo purportedly of Kenyan security forces killing protesters that was actually from Tanzania, and with thousands of spurious blog posts and other false reports that flooded the popular messaging app WhatsApp, fueling further divisions and turmoil in an election that morphed into a major political crisis.

So the U.S. government is gearing up to fight fake news — not at home, where it's the subject of heated debate following the 2016 presidential campaign, but in Kenya, where America has sought to nurture a vibrant but volatile African democracy.

"Information is, of course, power, and frankly, fake news is a real danger," U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Robert Godec said in an interview, adding that it had eroded confidence in Kenya's real news media. "It's being weaponized. It's undermining democracy in Kenya."

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Godec kicked off the awareness campaign this past week with an email to the 47,000 members of the State Department's Young African Leaders Initiative asking them to pledge to prevent the spread of fake media by pausing to verify the source and validity before passing information along to others through social media. For a while this week, the hashtag #StopReflectVerify was the No. 2 trending hashtag on Twitter in Kenya, where the U.S. Embassy pushed it to its 256,000 followers.

In addition to offering resources for discriminating between fact and fake, the campaign involves three-day training sessions for public affairs officials in Kenya's counties, encouraging local governments to be more responsive and forthcoming so that journalists on deadline can fact-check information they hear. Though it's starting in Kenya, the program is expected to expand, with an Africa-wide international fact-checking day and a global, virtual event on World Press Freedom Day in May anchored out of Nairobi.

The focus on fighting fake news in Kenya stands in contrast to what's happening in the United States, where President Donald Trump uses the term to denigrate credible news outlets that publish critical coverage about him or his Republican administration. Trump has also continually downplayed the role that false information from illegitimate sources may have played in affecting the outcome of the election. Last month, special counsel Robert Mueller indicted 13 Russians accused of using a network of fake social media accounts and targeted political messages to stir up turmoil in the 2016 race.

The campaign also comes as the U.S. has been warning Kenya's government about worrisome restrictions on the legitimate news media. The group Human Rights Watch has said Kenyan officials try to stop critical coverage by threatening, intimidating and harassing journalists. The United States was particularly concerned in February when Kenya shut down major broadcasters after opposition leader Raila Odinga held a mock inauguration on television.

In Kenya, the fake news problem has also raised fears about violence being stoked by false facts that often mushroom on social media before they can be stopped.

At election time, a fake but realistic-looking U.S. diplomatic cable circulated that appeared to show embassy officials predicting instability, celebratory violence, "severe unrest and a massive breakdown of law and order" if Odinga were to defeat Kenyatta in the election. The U.S. embassy quickly tweeted its own version of the cable with the word "FAKE" slapped across it in bold red font.

Yet there are risks for the U.S. in appearing to tell people what to believe, say or not say in Kenya, a former British colony. So the embassy is taking pains to show it's a locally driven operation, partnering with groups like AfricaCheck, a fact-checking website similar to the U.S. site Snopes.com.

"We're not asking them to believe any particular thing," Godec said. "We're just saying, don't take everything you see on your phone via WhatsApp as the truth because it may not be."

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

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, March 19, the 78th day of 2018. There are 287 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 19, 1918, Congress passed the first law establishing daylight saving time in the United States, with clocks to be moved forward one hour from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October. (This law was repealed in August 1919.)

On this date:

In 1687, French explorer Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle — the first European to navigate the length of the Mississippi River — was murdered by mutineers in present-day Texas.

In 1863, the Confederate cruiser Georgiana, was scuttled off Charleston, South Carolina, on its maiden voyage to prevent it from falling into Union hands.

In 1920, the Senate rejected, for a second time, the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') by a vote of 49 in

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favor, 35 against, falling short of the two-thirds majority needed for approval.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1945, during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the carrier USS Franklin off Japan (the ship was saved). Adolf Hitler ordered the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands in his so-called "Nero Decree," which was largely disregarded.

In 1953, the Academy Awards ceremony was televised for the first time; "The Greatest Show on Earth" was named best picture of 1952.

In 1958, "South Pacific," starring Rossano Brazzi and Mitzi Gaynor in an adaptation of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, opened in New York.

In 1965, the wreck of the Confederate cruiser Georgiana was discovered by E. Lee Spence, 102 years to the day after it was scuttled.

In 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its floor proceedings; the live feed was carried by C-SPAN (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network), which was making its debut.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

In 1993, Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White announced plans to retire. (White's departure paved the way for Ruth Bader Ginsburg to become the court's second female justice.)

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

Ten years ago: Five years after launching the invasion of Iraq, President George W. Bush strongly signaled he wouldn't order troop withdrawals beyond those already planned because he refused to "jeopardize the hard-fought gains" of the past year. In an audio message, Osama bin Laden denounced the publication of drawings insulting to the Prophet Muhammad and warned Europeans of a strong reaction to come. Death claimed science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke at age 90 and actor Paul Scofield at age 86.

Five years ago: Pope Francis officially began his ministry as the 266th pope, receiving the ring symbolizing the papacy and a wool stole exemplifying his role as shepherd of his 1.2-billion strong flock during a Mass at the Vatican. Insurgents carried out a wave of bombings across Iraq that killed at least 65 people. Harry Reems, 65, co-star of the 1972 adult-film classic "Deep Throat," died in Salt Lake City.

One year ago: Fire broke out in the foothills near downtown Boulder, Colorado, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of residents. Author-columnist Jimmy Breslin, the legendary street-smart chronicler of wise guys and underdogs, died at his Manhattan home at age 87.

Today's Birthdays: Former White House national security adviser Brent Scowcroft is 93. Theologian Hans Kung is 90. Author Philip Roth is 85. Actress Renee Taylor is 85. Actress-singer Phyllis Newman is 85. Actress Ursula Andress is 82. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 81. Singer Ruth Pointer (The Pointer Sisters) is 72. Actress Glenn Close is 71. Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is 66. Actor Bruce Willis is 63. Actress-comedian Mary Scheer is 55. Playwright Neil LaBute is 55. Actor Connor Trinneer is 49. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 48. Rapper Bun B is 45. Rock musician Zach Lind (Jimmy Eat World) is 42. Actress Virginia Williams is 40. Actress Abby Brammell is 39. MLB pitcher Clayton Kershaw is 30. Actor Craig Lamar Traylor is 29. Actor Philip Bolden is 23.

Thought for Today: "No one is such a liar as the indignant man." — Friedrich Nietzsche (NEE'-chuh), German philosopher (1844-1900).